“Lamb to the Slaughter” by Roald Dahl

**Directions-** Respond to the following questions in complete sentences.

1. a) What evidence is there early in the story that Mary Maloney loved her husband?

b) What motivates her to kill her husband?

c) Was the slaying premeditated or spontaneous?

2. Cite evidence that Patrick Maloney doesn't respect his wife.

3. Cite the evidence that Mary Maloney carefully planned her alibi.

4. Would this story have been strenthened or weakened

a) if Patrick Maloney was a banker instead of a policeman?

b) if the author told the reader what Patrick told Mary?

c) if the last line of the story had been eliminated?

5. The meaning of the title...

a) What it meant to you before you read?

b) What it meant after you read?

c) Are both meanings appropriate to the story?

6. What does the last line of the story seem to imply?

7. List at least 4 examples of dramatic irony.

a)

b)

c)

d)

8. Who is the metaphorical "lamb"? Who is the metaphorical "slaughterer"? Explain each.