

The room was warm and clean, the curtains drawn, the two table lamps alight – hers and the one by the empty chair opposite. On the sideboard behind her, two tall glasses, soda water, whiskey. Fresh ice cubes in the Thermos bucket.

Mary Maloney was waiting for her husband to come home from work.

What genre do you think the story will be?

Give reasons

What do you think will happen next?

What might the story be called?

Lamb to the Slaughter

What does the phrase mean?

What does the word slaughter make you think of?

Why would the writer call the story this?

Understand, describe, select or retrieve information

- **How does she feel about her husband?** Find two quotations to support your points
- **How can you tell from their conversation that there is something wrong with their relationship?** Find a quotation to support your point
- **What do you think her husband wants to tell her?**
- **Find a quotation that shows there is something wrong with her state of mind.**
- **How do the policemen treat her?** Find a quotation to support your point

Deduce, infer or interpret information, events or ideas from texts.

Why don't the police suspect Mary Maloney?

“She came out slowly feeling cold and surprised.”

“That’s the way she told herself. Do everything right and natural.”

“What were the laws about murderers with unborn children?....She wasn’t prepared to take the chance.”

“She looked at him with large, dark, tearful eyes.”

“She rehearsed it several times more.”

“the detectives kept asking her a lot of questions. But they always treated her kindly.”

“Get the weapon and you’ve got the man.”

**“And in the other room, Mary Maloney began
to giggle”**

What does she find so funny?

Does she deserve to get away with the crime?

Lamb to the Slaughter

Is Mary Maloney a cold-blooded murderer?

Success criteria:

- Explanation of the problems in the Maloney's relationship
- Description of the crime
- Comment on Mary Maloney's state of mind
- Explanation of how the policemen treat her
- Your opinion of whether Mary Maloney is a cold-blooded murderer and why.

Use quotations to support your points.

What did Mary Maloney do next?

- List 5 things you think Mary Maloney might have done after the policemen leave.
- Do you think she ever regretted what she did?
- What story might she have made up to tell her baby? When s/he asked about its father?

Imagine you are Mary Maloney.
It is 5 years after the murder
took place.

Tell your side of the events,
including what happened next.

Don't forget **capital letters** and **full stops, commas** and
apostrophes or **paragraphs**