“Lamb to the Slaughter” by Roald Dahl

Comprehension Questions

1. Describe Mary Maloney at the beginning of the story. What kind of wife does she appear to be?
2. Pick out several points that build up the idea of a comfortable routine and a genuine looking forward to her husband's return.
3. How do you know that she is happiest in her husband’s presence?
4. What is the first sign that something is different that Thursday night?
5. How can you tell that Patrick Maloney is not eager to have the conversation with his wife?
6. What do you think it was that Patrick told his wife? Explain why and give logical evidence.
7. How is her behaviour different after her husband talks with her about his future plans?
8. Why does Mary go ahead and make supper after all?
9. Do you think Mary planned to murder her husband with the leg of lamb?
10. What does Mary do to build her alibi and how does she act?
11. What helps confirm Mary’s story to the police?
12. Why does Mary giggle at the end of the story?