“Lamb to the Slaughter”

Discussion Questions

Answer in as much detail as you can from the story for the following questions. Your answers can be in the form of short phrases, but they need to be well thought out and well founded in reason and textual evidence when appropriate. You must be ready to discuss any and all of the questions during a discussion in class. For homework tonight, you must pick one of the questions that we discussed in class and write two paragraphs about it TYPED. In one paragraph, summarize what we discussed in class and in the second paragraph, discuss why specifically you agree or disagree. This will be graded on your details of the class discussion and your ability to articulate your support of your point. Even if you agree with the tenor of the class discussion, you must still be able to explain why and support your point.

1. How do you think Mary feels about her husband? How do you know?
2. How do we know that something is bothering Patrick? IF you had to guess, what do you think is happening with Patrick and why don’t we ever find out why he is leaving?
3. Look at the dialogue between Mary and Patrick. What can we tell about their relationship from their dialogue?
4. What emotions do you think that Patrick is feeling as he is talking to his wife? How can you tell? Find specific quotes that give you insight to this.
5. What is Patrick most worried about when he is telling his wife the news? What does this say about Patrick?
6. What do you think Mary will do next with her life? How do you know?
7. Give one example of situational irony. What makes it ironic?
8. How is dramatic irony used in the passage?
9. What kind of irony is being used at the end when Mary asks the officers for a “small favor”? How is that irony?
10. Consider the title of the story. Now that you have read the story, how can the title be considered ironic?
11. How do you read the giggling at the end of the story? What possible reasons could Mary have for giggling like that?