**2 Short Story Review**

**A Personal information**

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**B Answer the following questions in English:**

***The writer***

1 a The story is written by Roald Dahl.

 b Roald Dahl is born in 1916 in Llandaff, Wales. Roald Dahl was a British noverlist, short story writer, poet, screenwriter and fighter pilot. Dahl has written several books and his books have sold more than 250 million copies worldwide. Some famous works of his are: [James and the Giant Peach](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_and_the_Giant_Peach), [Charlie and the Chocolate Factory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charlie_and_the_Chocolate_Factory), [Matilda](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matilda_%28novel%29),  [The Witches](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Witches_%28novel%29), [Fantastic Mr Fox](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fantastic_Mr_Fox), [The BFG](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_BFG), [The Twits](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Twits) and [George's Marvellous Medicine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George%27s_Marvellous_Medicine). His adult works include [Tales of the Unexpected](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tales_of_the_Unexpected_%28short_story_collection%29), that is a book with seventeen short stories in it including this one.

c I used Wikipedia.com

***The short story***

2 a The title of the short story is “Lamb to the slaughter”.

 b + c The phrase means ignorance and innocence. Generally, the phrase refers to a person who goes unconcernedly and innocently into a life-threatening or dangerous situation. The phrase is also used in the bible and has a biblical meaning. The main [theme](https://literarydevices.net/theme/) of this biblical phrase is betrayal to innocence; while in Dahl’s story, it is betrayal of the wife. So there is most certainly thought of the title and it really fits it.

d If I had to give this short story another title, I’d call it: betrayal because that is what the story is about.

3 a The story was published in 1953

b I don’t think that the story is significant for the time it was written in..

 c I did not use any (online) sources.

4 a The genres of this short story are horror and detective.

b I think horror is a theme that fits this story because the story is quite horrific. The wife murders her husband and says: “All right, So I’ve killed him.” The third part of the story is about how the detectives search for the person who killed the man, who was a detective himself. So that is why I think the story is also a kind of a detective story.

c I did not use any (online) sources.

5 a The story starts with a pregnant women, waiting for her husband to come home from work. When the husband finally arrives, the women thinks he’s really tired. That is because the couple normally eat out on Thursdays. The man doesn’t want to eat anything at all. The man then says that he wants to divorce. Then the women, who is quite in shock from her husband’s announcement, wants to prepare a frozen piece of lamb leg after all. The husband notices this and starts screaming at the women. Then the women walks to the man and hits him very hard with the frozen leg, it could have been a hit with a club as the narrator describes. The man dies instantly. Then the women finds an alibi by going to the supermarket and puts the leg in the oven. Then the women calls the police and the police start investigating. The women then offers the policeman a piece of lamb, which is actually the evidence, and the detectives eat it. The story ends with that one of the detectives says that the murder weapon might be under their noses (the lamb) and then the women giggles.

 b I do not think the writer means to give the reader a message with this story.

c The main theme of the story is the loss of innocence

 d I think the story doesn’t have any other themes actually.

 e The story starts with an innocent women and an innocent man, who are starting a family together. As the story goes on, the women kills her husband and acts like she did not kill him. So in this story the women loses her innocence.

f I did not use an online source.

6 a + b The story takes place in the house of the women and the man. It also takes place in the local supermarket, because the women goes to create an alibi. The story is published in 1953. I think the story takes place somewhere near that time, for example because the women from the story says this: Everything was automatic now, down the steps to the cellar, the light switch, the deep freeze, the hand inside the cabinet taking hold of the first object it met.

7 a This story consists of a third person narrator.

 b Here is an example from the text that proves that: “She took his coat and hung it in the closer. Then she walked over and made the drinks, a strongish one for him, a weak one for herself; and soon she was back again in her chair with the sewing, and he in the other, opposite, holding the tall glass with both hands, rocking it so the ice cubes tinkled against the side.”

8 a 1. The women -> Mary Maloney. Evil, Bad and Cruel.

 2. The man -> Patrick Maloney. Cranky, Dinstant and Irritable

 3. Seargant Noonant. Easy-going, kind, inattentive

 b There really are no heroes in this story. The story only gets worse as it follows, and nobody does something really good.

 c The man and women are both anti-heroes, because the man does something bad to the women (announcing the divorce he wants) and then the women kills the man.

9 a Very dark humour is used in this story. The story is told in a stream of consciousness. The title is a metaphor and the writer used comparisons.

b I did not use any (online) sources.

***C Your own opinion***

10 a I found the story quite fiercely. And apart from the fact that it is very well-written, I would not recommend it to people of my age (14 years). I do not like horror stories or stories where people are being killed for (almost) no reason. I was quite astonished by the ending of the story as it ends with that the women giggled. That means she does not regret killing her husband and that she finds it funny. That really disgusts me.

11 I would really like to change the end, so that the story is less horrific and evil. It was quite a fast and kind of plot-changing end and that really bothers me.