

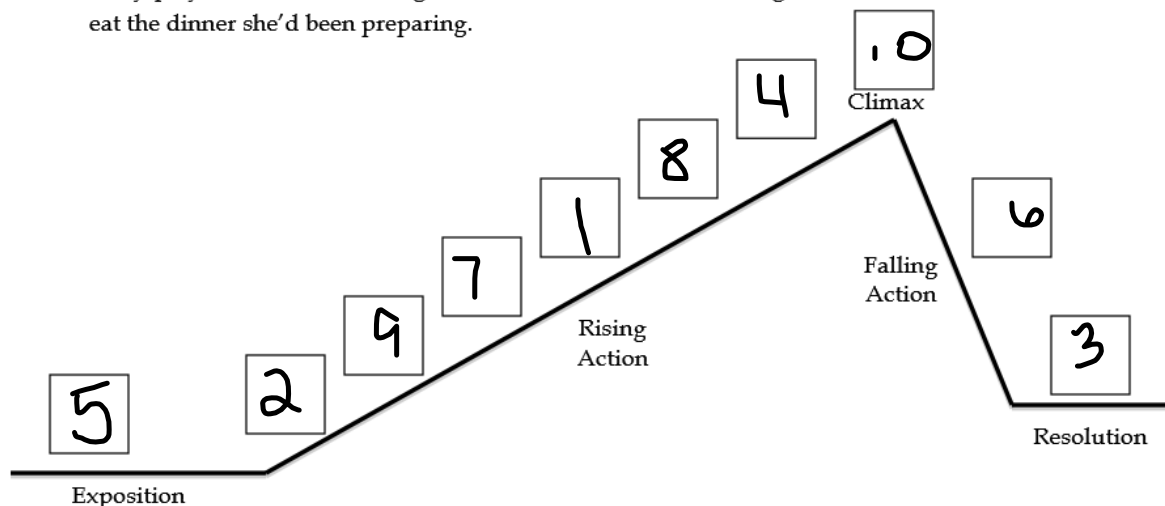
Name _____
 Eng. Foundations III – Silver

Date _____
 Short Story Unit

"Lamb to the Slaughter"
 By Roald Dahl

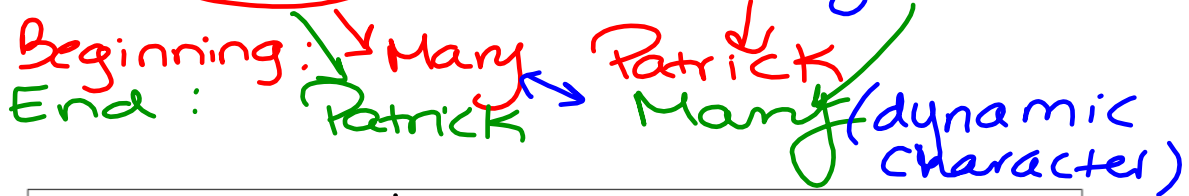
Consider the following events from the story "Lamb to the Slaughter". The events are out of sequence, or out of the order in which they occur in the story. To put the events in proper order, take the number to the left of each event and place it in the appropriate box on the plot diagram.

1. Mary, being a detective's wife, realizes that she needs to create an alibi; she does so by going to the grocery store and speaking with Sam, the grocer.
2. Patrick Maloney "breaks the news" to Mary, which the reader can infer is associated with the fact that he is leaving her; Mary is in denial.
3. Mary giggles; she has gotten away with murder.
4. The cops come to the Maloney household; they question Mary, search the premises, and check her alibi.
5. Patrick Maloney arrives home; he is cold and distant. A pregnant Mary attempts to be the picture-perfect doting housewife, which clearly annoys her husband.
6. The policemen have a discussion over dinner; they discuss how the evidence is probably "right under their noses".
7. Without facing his wife, Patrick tells her curtly that he's going out. Mary, without hesitation, walks up behind her husband and strikes him on the back of the head with the leg of lamb. He dies instantly.
8. Mary "acts natural" by calling the cops in hysterics to tell them her husband is dead.
9. Mary goes to the freezer and retrieves a leg of lamb for supper, and she returns upstairs.
10. Mary plays the role of distraught wife and asks Patrick's colleagues to – in Patrick's honor – at least eat the dinner she'd been preparing.



Situational irony in title

Lamb to the Slaughter



Setting: Maloney home

- Butcher shop
- Suburbs
- Maybe 1950s (in the past)

Protagonist: Mary Maloney (DYNAMIC character)

Initial Characterization:

- Sweet, affectionate, nice, respectful, innocent, about to become a mother

Final Characterization:

- Diabolical, smart, sneaky, violent, manipulative, aware of surroundings, fake, liar

Major Conflict:

- Patrick tells Mary he's leaving her
- Mary kills her husband + doesn't want to be arrested

Secondary Characters:

- Patrick Maloney -
- Sam, the grocer -
- Jack Noonan & other detectives -

Motivation for Murder:

- She's tired of his attitude?

IRONY

Situational Irony:

- Police are supposed to take their jobs seriously (they drink & eat on the job)
- Police are looking for the evidence AS THEY EAT IT!

Dramatic Irony:

- We know Mary killed Pat. but the police don't know
- We know police are eating the evidence, but they don't know
- "evidence is under our noses" !!!!!

Climax: (main event/turning pt)

- When police are about to eat the lamb

Why is this the climax?

- They are about to eat the only evidence! This changes everything

→ Mary is known as a sweet, loving wife, but she ends up being a murderer