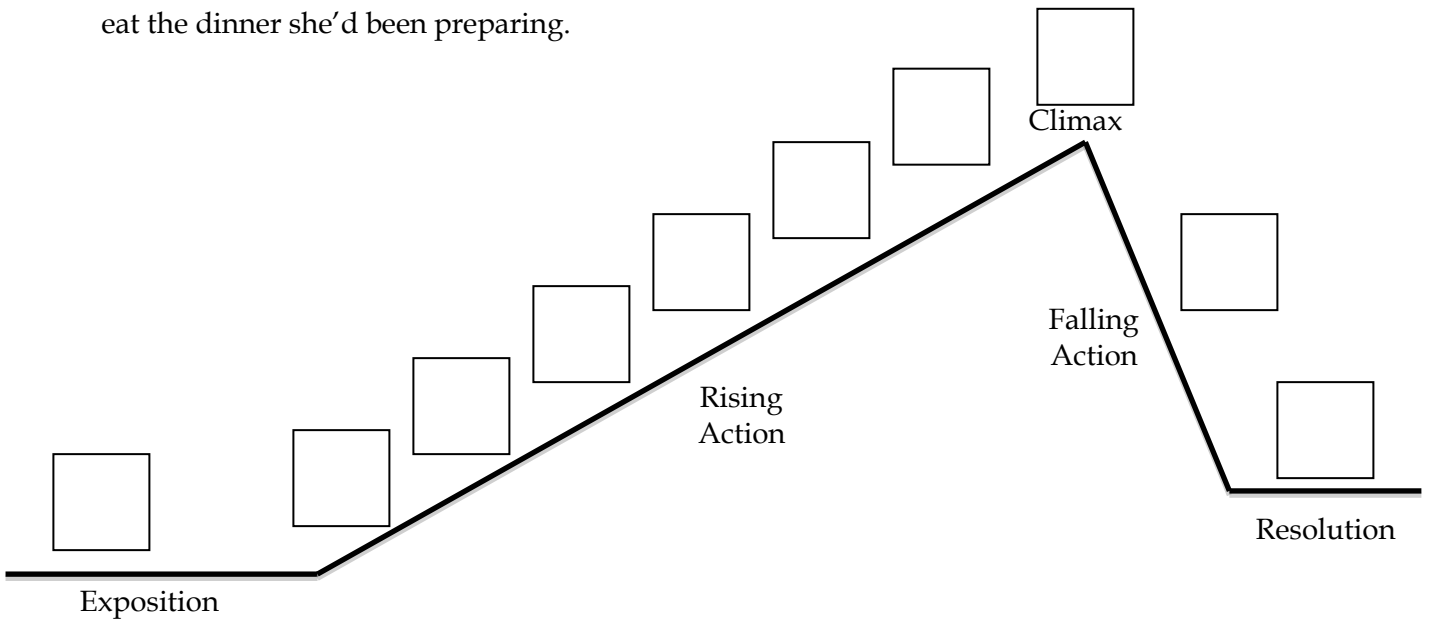


“Lamb to the Slaughter”
By Roald Dahl

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.



Setting:

Protagonist: _____

Initial Characterization:

Final Characterization:

Secondary Characters:

Patrick Maloney –

Sam, the grocer –

Jack Noonan & other detectives –

Major Conflict:

Motivation for Murder:

IRONY

Situational Irony:

Dramatic Irony:

Climax:

Why is this the climax?