**“Lamb to the Slaughter” Name:**

**Review Questions Date:**

**DIRECTIONS: Answer all of the following questions in complete sentences.**

1. What does the first paragraph of the story suggest about Mary Maloney’s relationship with her husband?
2. Before the husband breaks the news, what three clues are there that this particular evening is going to be a break with routine?
3. What does Mr. Maloney announce? What reaction would you expect from Mrs. Maloney?
4. Are Mrs. Maloney’s reactions and actions after the murder believable? How are we first informed that she is planning to establish an alibi, and what is that alibi to be?
5. How does Mary Maloney create the alibi?
6. Is it reasonable that the policemen should be fooled by what she says (remember she is a policeman’s wife) or do you find the whole thing rather unlikely?
7. Do you find Mary Maloney to be very cunning? Why or why not? Provide evidence from the text to support.
8. Mrs. Maloney commits what her lawyer might call "a crime of passion". Does that justify her crime and what would your verdict be if you were a jury member at her trial?
9. Across time and cultures, one can find certain character types reappearing in literature. Heroes, villains, and clowns are examples of archetypal characters. Does this story include archetypal characters? If so, list them and tell what archetype you think each represent. Include details to support your answer.
10. What larger ideas might the conflicts in this story represent—for example, power versus powerlessness, goodness versus evil, love versus hate, or rationality versus emotion?