Questions: "Lamb to the Slaughter" by Roald Dahl (English, 21st Century) Pages 317-324

DIRECTIONS: Read the story and answer the following questions (just write answers): Remember, use neat handwriting, and write your Name, Date and Period in the top, right hand corner of your paper.

Title: This is a Biblical reference. When a work of literature has a reference to another work of literature, this is called an ALLUSION. Write the word “Allusion” and the definition on your paper.

Pages 317-18
1. Write four things the woman does, says, or feels that shows her love for her husband.
2. What is a sign that something might be wrong with her husband?
3. Why might the man be drinking more than usual?
4. What is the man's profession?
5. Why does the wife offer to do a number of things for her husband? (There are several answers on this one)

Page 319
6. What does Patrick tell Mary?
7. Why do you think the author chose not to reveal more details about question 6?

Pages 320-21
8. Explain why Mary decides to make supper?
9. Give two explanations as to why Mary suddenly changes from the person first portrayed in the first part of the story.
10. Explain why Mary's behavior in the store is so important.
11. Think back on the beginning of the story. Mary is an example of a DYNAMIC CHARACTER (one who changes throughout the story.) Write two things that she has done that is very different from the person she was at the beginning of the story.

Pages 322-24
12. Why is Mary so comfortable talking to the detectives?
13. Why does Mary want to stay in the living room?
14. Why does the statement, "Get the weapon, and you've got the man" indicate VERBAL IRONY? (Verbal Irony is when something is said and there is an opposite, or hidden meaning to the statement).
15. What is unusual about the detectives drinking alcohol?
16. Why will their drinking alcohol be beneficial to Mary if this ever goes to court?
17. Why is the statement, "It would be a favor to me if you eat it up," an example of VERBAL IRONY?
18. How many policemen are there?
19. Why is she giggling at the end?
20. Explain how all of the characters (Mary, Patrick, the detectives, and the unborn baby) could be the 'lamb to the slaughter' (that means that the innocent lamb was given as a sacrifice in the Bible.) Give three individual answers.
21. Explain how all of the following examples are SITUATIONAL IRONY: (Situational Irony is when there is a situation, or something happens in the story and it is opposite, or different than the reader would expect).
   1. The "perfect" wife kills her husband
   2. A woman commits a violent crime
   3. The situation is involving a policeman and the crime probably won't be solved.
   4. The policeman creates a very unfair situation when he announces that he is leaving his wife.
22. Explain the TONE of the story (Tone is the feeling that the author wants to convey).
24. Explain the MOOD(s) of the story (Mood is the feeling the reader gets from the events of the story).