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English 10

Response Paper

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“Lamb to the Slaughter,” by Roald Dahl, is a short story told in the third person. Mary Maloney loves her husband and will do anything to please him. As she sits in her chair waiting for her husband, she has set up some ice, soda-water, and some whiskey for him to enjoy when he returns home from work. But this pregnant wife gets some bad news from her husband; he doesn’t want to be with her any more. She loves him too much to let go, so she takes care of business in a very tricky way, and gets away with it. She uses a frozen solid leg of lamb and kills him, cooks it for dinner, and then feeds it to the detectives.

A literary technique the Dahl uses in “Lamb to the Slaughter” quite effectively is black humor. He talks about a pregnant wife killing her husband with a leg of lamb and how innocently she does it. This is something you really wouldn’t expect a pregnant wife to do, or would you? Also, when the wife feeds the leg of lamb to the detectives, she is really thinking on her toes.

I liked Dahl’s short story “Lamb to the Slaughter.” It was quite a funny story, full of black humor and unexpected things. I really enjoyed the part after she smashes him in the head and plans to go down to the market get dinner, and act then be surprised. I also liked the part when she comes in the door and finds him lying on the ground, probably bleeding all over, and she starts crying and calls the cops to come, and acts like she doesn’t know a thing. At the end I like how the story just ends and we don’t know whether or not she gets caught.