**The Real Mary Maloney Cold Blooded Murderer vs. Temporarily Insane Housewife**

“Lamb to the Slaughter” is the tale of a devoted wife who lives to please and care for her husband. She watches the clock toward the end of each day because she can’t wait for him to come home. Unfortunately, her husband is not as devoted and asks for a divorce one evening. His wife is devastated by this news and snaps. She picks up the frozen leg of lamb she was going to fix for dinner and bashes him over the head with it, killing him instantly. She quickly formulates a plan to get away with his murder and the story culminates with the feeding of the murder weapon to the police.

Now, imagine that Mary has been apprehended and put on trial for what she has done. Is Mary Maloney a cold blooded murderer or is she a devoted housewife and soon to be mother who experiences a bout of temporary insanity upon hearing her husband say he is leaving her? You decide! After making your decision, you will assume the role of either the prosecuting attorney or the defense attorney and write a closing argument that convinces the jury of either Mary’s guilt or her innocence by reason of insanity.

Begin by re-reading the text to look for details to support your closing argument. You will need to gather at least three quotes from the story that support either your prosecution or defense of Mary. Your closing argument will be written in as standard five paragraph persuasive essay. Begin your piece with an introduction to a plea of temporary insanity or a charge of murder, followed by a paragraph for each of your three quotes, along with an explanation of how each relates to Mrs. Maloney’s guilt or innocence. Your ending paragraph should summarize your points and convince the judge/jury to spare Mary or send her to prison for this crime. Note: Your closing argument can be longer than 5 paragraphs, but not shorter. You will be presenting your arguments orally in small groups on Friday in the first round of a “speech off.” The best closing argument (as decided by your group) will move on to the final round to compete for a fabulous prize!

**The Real Mary Maloney Cold Blooded Murderer vs. Temporarily Insane Housewife**

“Lamb to the Slaughter” is the tale of a devoted wife who lives to please and care for her husband. She watches the clock toward the end of each day because she can’t wait for him to come home. Unfortunately, her husband is not as devoted and asks for a divorce one evening. His wife is devastated by this news and snaps. She picks up the frozen leg of lamb she was going to fix for dinner and bashes him over the head with it, killing him instantly. She quickly formulates a plan to get away with his murder and the story culminates with the feeding of the murder weapon to the police.

Now, imagine that Mary has been apprehended and put on trial for what she has done. Is Mary Maloney a cold blooded murderer or is she a devoted housewife and soon to be mother who experiences a bout of temporary insanity upon hearing her husband say he is leaving her? You decide! After making your decision, you will assume the role of either the prosecuting attorney or the defense attorney and write a closing argument that convinces the jury of either Mary’s guilt or her innocence by reason of insanity.

Begin by re-reading the text to look for details to support your closing argument. You will need to gather at least three quotes from the story that support either your prosecution or defense of Mary. Your closing argument will be written in as standard five paragraph persuasive essay. Begin your piece with an introduction to a plea of temporary insanity or a charge of murder, followed by a paragraph for each of your three quotes, along with an explanation of how each relates to Mrs. Maloney’s guilt or innocence. Your ending paragraph should summarize your points and convince the judge/jury to spare Mary or send her to prison for this crime. Note: Your closing argument can be longer than 5 paragraphs, but not shorter. You will be presenting your arguments orally in small groups on Friday in the first round of a “speech off.” The best closing argument (as decided by your group) will move on to the final round to compete for a fabulous prize!