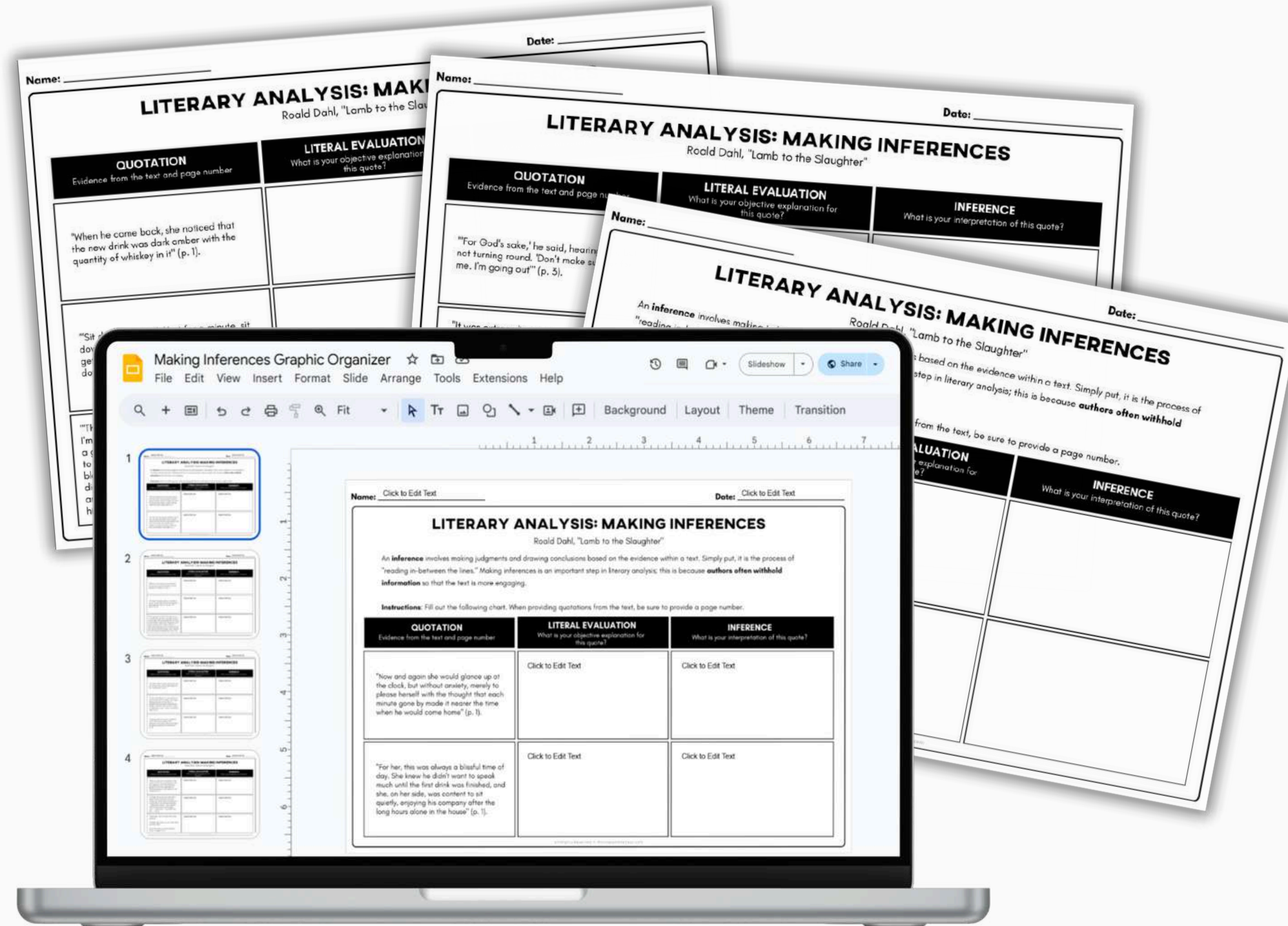


“Lamb to the Slaughter” Literary Analysis Activity

Prompt students to **make inferences** and dive deeper into this classic short story.



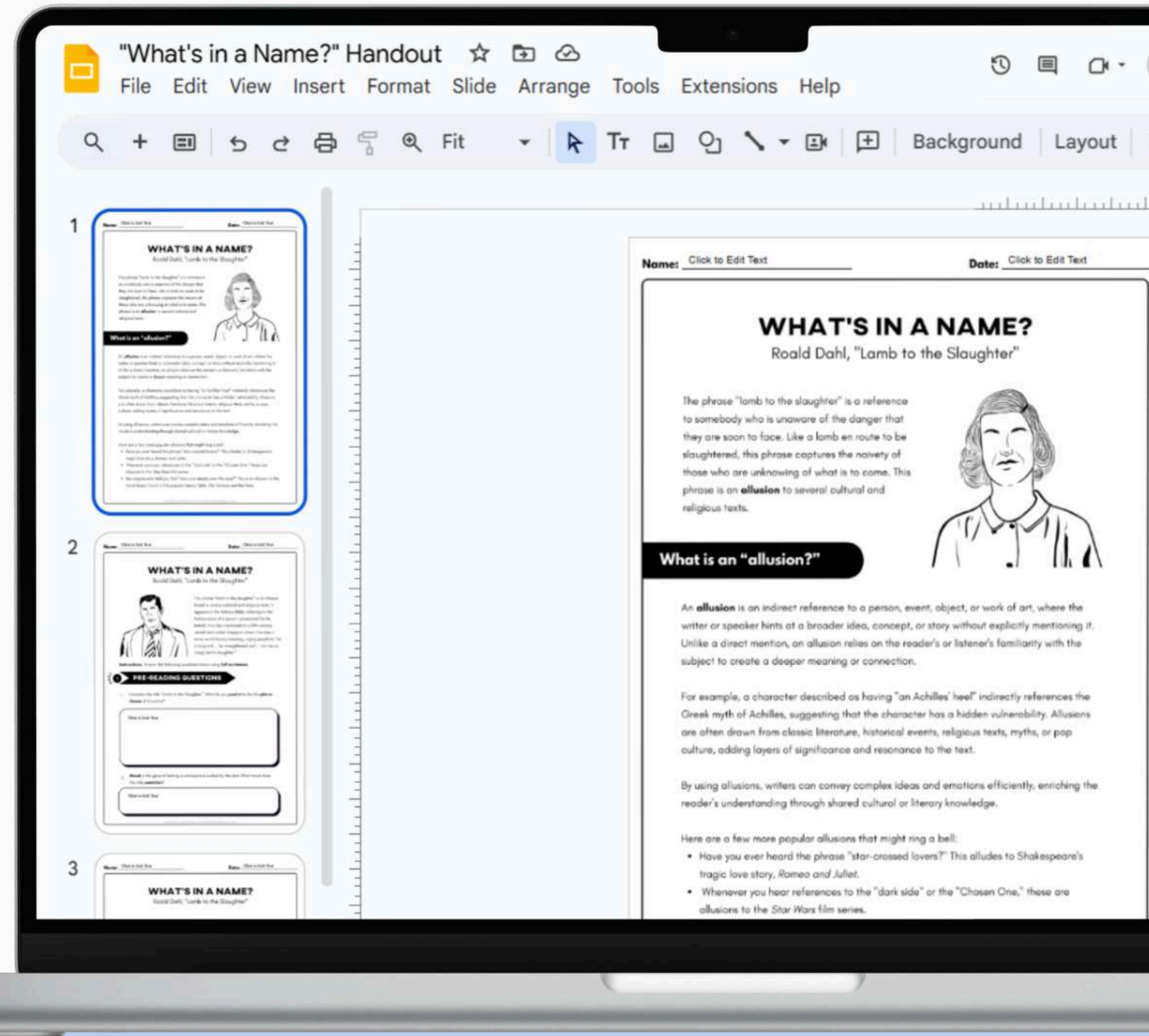
- **Guide deeper analysis** with a graphic organizer prompting students to make inferences from 11 key quotations in the story.
- **Enhance literary skills** using an informational handout and targeted pre- and post-reading questions to explore the story's title.
- **Streamline lesson prep** with ready-to-use digital and print resources, including a detailed answer key for modeling analysis.

Explore 11 key quotations from
“Lamb to the Slaughter”

PURCHASE HERE

Included with this resource:

- ✓ **Informational Handout** about the title, “Lamb to the Slaughter”
- ✓ **Pre-Reading Questions** and **Post-Reading Writing Prompts**
- ✓ Making Inferences **Graphic Organizer**
 - Highlights 11 quotations to examine key events from “Lamb to the Slaughter”
- ✓ Detailed **Answer Key** to model literary analysis of the short story
- ✓ **Teacher Instructions** for how to use this resource



Includes Digital Version for Google Drive®

Explore 11 quotations from “Lamb to the Slaughter”

Students will provide a **literal evaluation** and an **inference** about the interpretive meaning of each quote.

Date: _____

Name: _____

LITERARY ANALYSIS: MAKING INFERENCES

Roald Dahl, "Lamb to the Slaughter"

An **inference** involves making judgments and drawing conclusions based on the evidence within a text. Simply put, it is the process of "reading in-between the lines." Making inferences is an important step in literary analysis; this is because **authors often withhold information** so that the text is more engaging.

Instructions: Fill out the following chart. When providing quotations from the text, be sure to provide a page number.

QUOTATION Evidence from the text and page number	LITERAL EVALUATION What is your objective explanation for this quote?	INFERENCE What is your interpretation of this quote?
"Now and again she would glance up at the clock, but without anxiety, merely to please herself with the thought that each minute gone by made it nearer the time when he would come home" (p. 1).		
"For her, this was always a blissful time of day. She knew he didn't want to speak much until the first drink was finished, and she, on her side, was content to sit quietly, enjoying his company after the long hours alone in the house" (p. 1).		

All Rights Reserved © MondaysMadeEasy.com

Date: _____

LITERARY ANALYSIS: MAKING INFERENCES

Roald Dahl, "Lamb to the Slaughter"

QUOTATION Evidence from the text and page number	LITERAL EVALUATION What is your objective explanation for this quote?	INFERENCE What is your interpretation of this quote?
"She noticed that her watch was with the clock" (p. 1).		
"After a minute, she began to sit quietly" (p. 1).		
"She told him that she was going to the shop to buy a new dress" (p. 2).		
"She didn't take long, four or five minutes at most, and she sat very still through it all, watching him with a kind of dazed horror" (pp. 2-3).		

All Rights Reserved © MondaysMadeEasy.com

Includes Pre-Reading Activity: “What’s in a Name?”

This activity explains the origins of this phrase “Lamb to the Slaughter” to prompt students to **make predictions** about the short story.

Students will respond to **pre- and post-reading questions** to activate inferencing skills!

Name: _____ Date: _____

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Roald Dahl, "Lamb to the Slaughter"

The phrase "lamb to the slaughter" is a reference to somebody who is unaware of the danger that they are soon to face. Like a lamb en route to be slaughtered, this phrase captures the naivety of those who are unknowing of what is to come. This phrase is an **allusion** to several cultural and religious texts.



What is an "allusion?"

An **allusion** is an indirect reference to a person, event, object, or work of art, where the writer or speaker hints at a broader idea, concept, or story without explicitly mentioning it. Unlike a direct mention, an allusion relies on the reader's or listener's familiarity with the subject to create a deeper meaning or connection.

For example, a character described as having "an Achilles' heel" indirectly references the Greek myth of Achilles, suggesting that the character has a hidden vulnerability. Allusions are often drawn from classic literature, historical events, religious texts, myths, or pop culture, adding layers of significance and resonance to the text.

By using allusions, writers can convey complex ideas and emotions efficiently, enriching the reader's understanding through shared cultural or literary knowledge.

Here are a few more popular allusions that might ring a bell:

- Have you ever heard the phrase "star-crossed lovers?" This alludes to Shakespeare's tragic love story, *Romeo and Juliet*.
- Whenever you hear references to the "dark side" or the "Chosen One," these are allusions to the *Star Wars* film series.
- Has anyone ever told you that "slow and steady wins the race?" This is an allusion to the moral lesson found in the popular Aesop fable, *The Tortoise and the Hare*.

All Rights Reserved © MondaysMadeEasy.com

Making Inferences Graphic Organizer

Define inferences and expand on the importance of this literary skill!

Name: _____

Date: _____

LITERARY ANALYSIS: MAKING INFERENCES

Roald Dahl, "Lamb to the Slaughter"

An **inference** involves making judgments and drawing conclusions based on the evidence within a text. Simply put, it is the process of "reading in-between the lines." Making inferences is an important step in literary analysis; this is because **authors often withhold information** so that the text is more engaging.

Instructions: Fill out the following chart. When providing quotations from the text, be sure to provide a page number.

QUOTATION Evidence from the text and page number	LITERAL EVALUATION What is your objective explanation for this quote?	INFERENCE What is your interpretation of this quote?
"Now and again she would glance up at the clock, but without anxiety, merely to please herself with the thought that each minute gone by made it nearer the time when he would come home" (p. 1).		
"For her, this was always a blissful time of day. She knew he didn't want to speak much until the first drink was finished, and she, on her side, was content to sit quietly, enjoying his company after the long hours alone in the house" (p. 1).		

All Rights Reserved © MondaysMadeEasy.com

INCLUDES
ANSWER
KEYS!