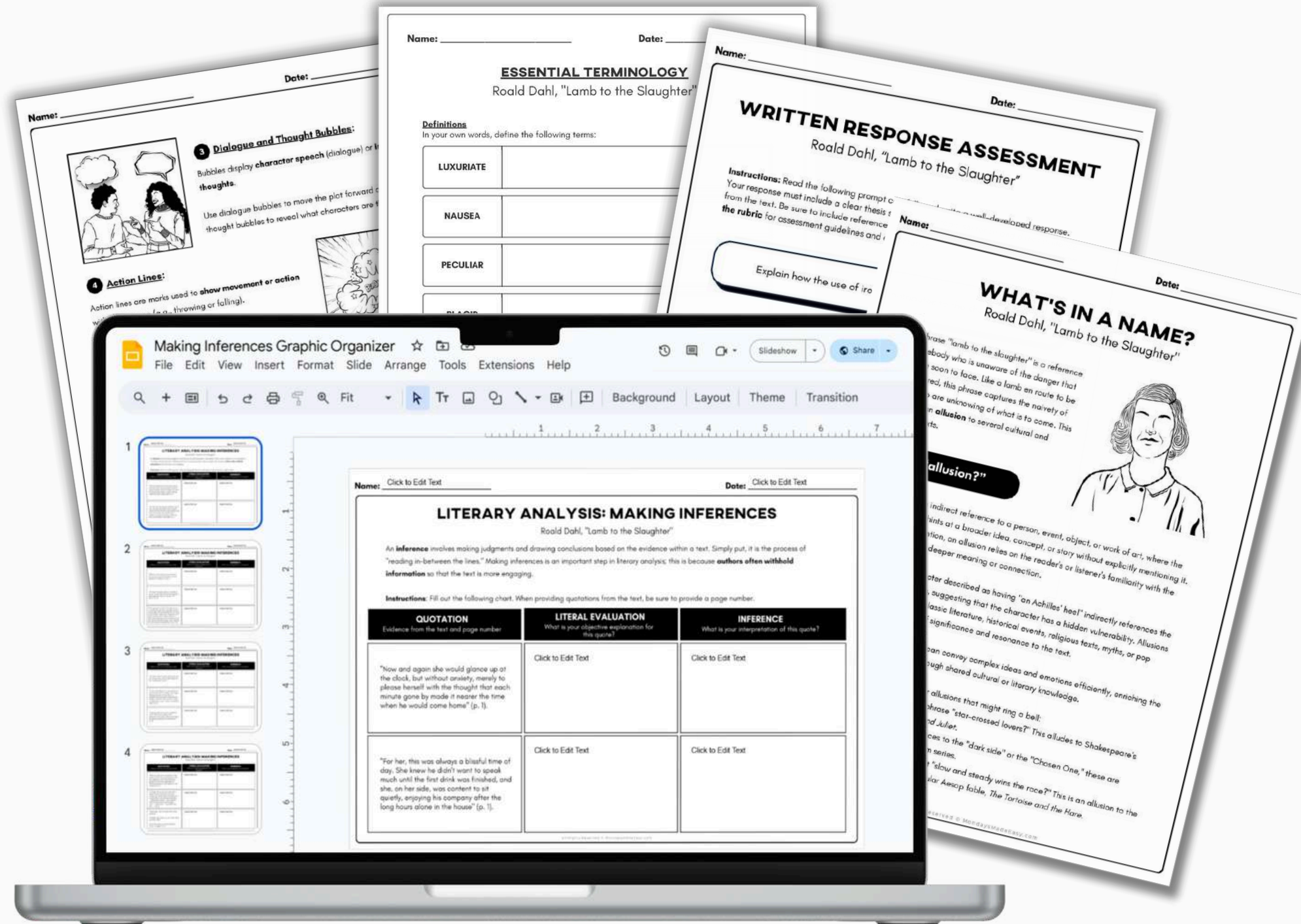


# “Lamb to the Slaughter” Short Story Unit

Explore Roald Dahl’s classic short story with this engaging literary analysis unit.



- **Engage students** with interactive activities, including a board game and comic strip project that combine creativity, teamwork, and literary analysis.
- **Support comprehension** with digital and print resources, featuring vocabulary worksheets, graphic organizers, and mini-lessons for characterization, inference, and irony.
- **Simplify assessment** with editable tools, offering essay prompts, rubrics, and differentiated response options for evaluating student understanding.

**Games, literary analysis activities, assessment tools, and more!**

**PURCHASE HERE**

# See what others are saying...

Here's what teachers like you are loving about this "Lamb to the Slaughter" unit!

★★★★★ **Extremely Satisfied**

I recently purchased this product, and I couldn't be happier with it! It exceeded my expectations in both quality and functionality. From the sleek design to the excellent performance, it's clear that a lot of thought and care went into making it. It's been incredibly reliable, and I've already recommended it to friends and family. If you're on the fence about buying it, don't hesitate—it's worth every penny!

– Anissa M.

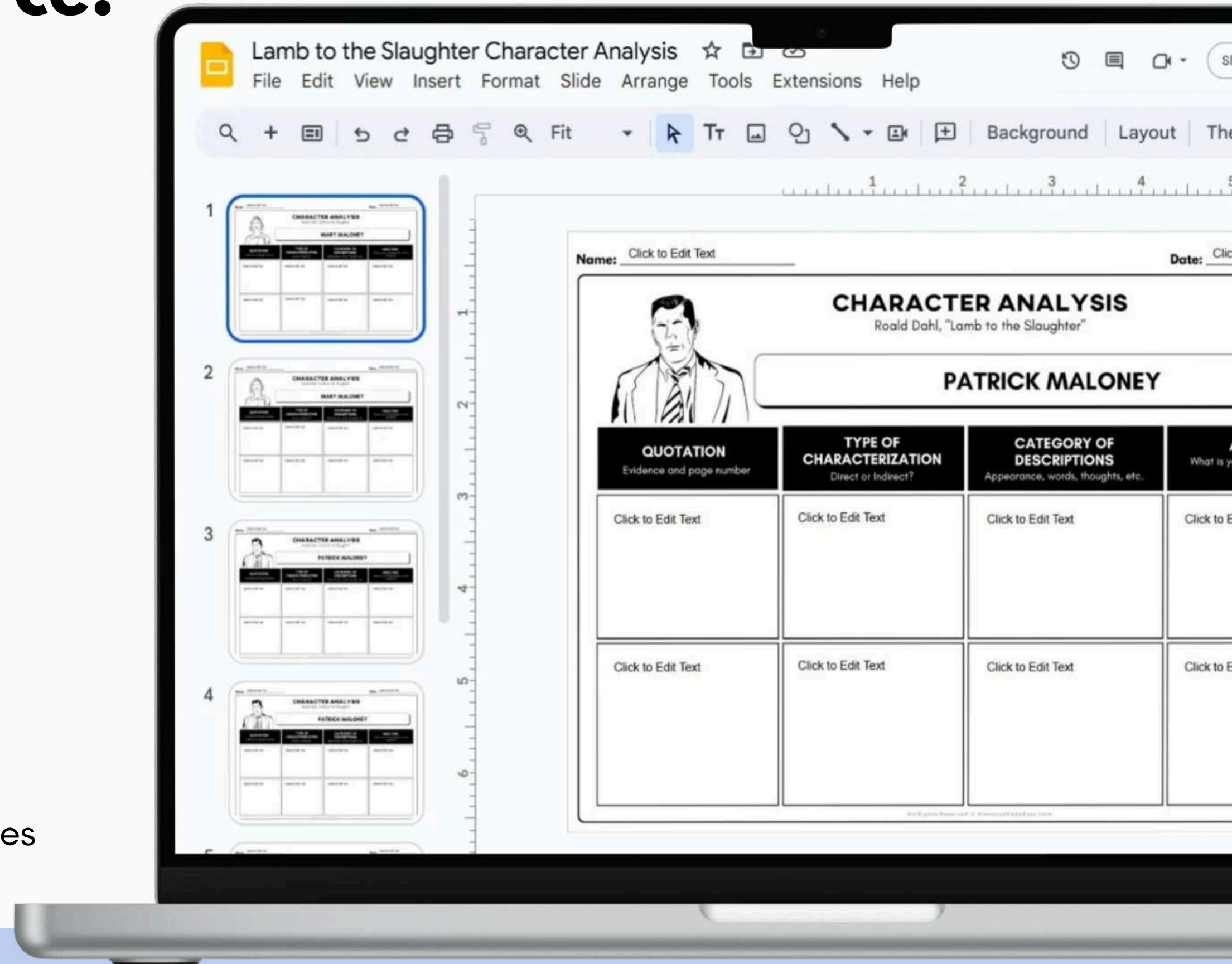
★★★★★ **Extremely Satisfied**

This was the perfect combination of everything. I appreciated the graphic organizers and all of the other helpful tools.

– Monica P.

# Included with this resource:

- ✓ **Character Analysis** Mini-Lesson & Activity
- ✓ **Making Inferences** Mini-Lesson & Activity
- ✓ Pre-Reading **Vocabulary Activity**
- ✓ **Types of Irony** Graphic Organizer
- ✓ “Lamb to the Slaughter” **Essay Prompts**
- ✓ Review **Board Game Activity**
- ✓ **Comic Strip** Final Project
- ✓ Editable and Ready-to-Print **4-Level Rubrics**
- ✓ **Teacher Instructions** for using these resources



Includes Digital Resources for Google Drive®



# “Lamb to the Slaughter” Pre-Reading Activities

Students will explore vocabulary and activate inferencing skills before reading.

Three worksheets for pre-reading activities for "Lamb to the Slaughter" by Roald Dahl.


**Worksheet 1: ESSENTIAL TERMINOLOGY**  
Roald Dahl, "Lamb to the Slaughter"

**Definitions**  
In your own words, define the following terms:

LUXURIATE	
NAUSEA	
PECULIAR	
PLACID	
PRECINCT	
PREMISE	
SIDEBORD	
SPANNER	
SUPPER	

**Worksheet 2: 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*.

**Worksheet 3: ESSENTIAL TERMINOLOGY**  
Roald Dahl, "Lamb to the Slaughter"

**Definitions**  
In your own words, define the following terms:


BEWILDERED	
BLISSFUL	
CONGEALED	
CONSOLING	
CORPSE	
EXASPERATED	
FRANTIC	
HOSPITALITY	
INTENT	

Support  
comprehension  
of "Lamb to the  
Slaughter"!

# Graphic organizers for Mary Maloney, Patrick Maloney, Jack Noonan, and Sam

Explore direct and indirect characterization for key characters in the story.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_Date: \_\_\_\_\_




CHARACTER ANALYSIS  
Roald Dahl, "Lamb to the Slaughter"

SAM

QUOTATION Evidence and page number	TYPE OF CHARACTERIZATION Direct or Indirect?	CATEGORY OF DESCRIPTIONS Appearance, words, thoughts, etc.	ANALYSIS What is your interpretation of this evidence?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_Date: \_\_\_\_\_




CHARACTER ANALYSIS  
Roald Dahl, "Lamb to the Slaughter"

JACK NOONAN

QUOTATION Evidence and page number	TYPE OF CHARACTERIZATION Direct or Indirect?	CATEGORY OF DESCRIPTIONS Appearance, words, thoughts, etc.	ANALYSIS What is your interpretation of this evidence?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_Date: \_\_\_\_\_




CHARACTER ANALYSIS  
Roald Dahl, "Lamb to the Slaughter"

MARY MALONEY

QUOTATION Evidence and page number	TYPE OF CHARACTERIZATION Direct or Indirect?	CATEGORY OF DESCRIPTIONS Appearance, words, thoughts, etc.	ANALYSIS What is your interpretation of this evidence?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_Date: \_\_\_\_\_



CHARACTER ANALYSIS  
Roald Dahl, "Lamb to the Slaughter"

PATRICK MALONEY

QUOTATION Evidence and page number	TYPE OF CHARACTERIZATION Direct or Indirect?	CATEGORY OF DESCRIPTIONS Appearance, words, thoughts, etc.	ANALYSIS What is your interpretation of this evidence?

Includes **Example**  
**Answers!**

# Explore text evidence from “Lamb to the Slaughter”

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

INCLUDES  
11 TEXT  
QUOTATIONS!

**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).		

**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 hair was a little messy, but she didn't care. She was too busy thinking about the man who had just come home."		
"She noticed that her hair was a little messy, but she didn't care. She was too busy thinking about the man who had just come home."		
"She noticed that her hair was a little messy, but she didn't care. She was too busy thinking about the man who had just come home."		
"She noticed that her hair was a little messy, but she didn't care. She was too busy thinking about the man who had just come home."		
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"She noticed that her hair was a little messy, but she didn't care. She was too busy thinking about the man who had just come home."		

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# Scaffolding Outlines & Graphic Organizers

Teach irony, practice inferencing skills, explore types of characterization, and more.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**FIGURE OF SPEECH: IRONY**  
Roald Dahl, "Lamb to the Slaughter"

**Instructions:** Irony is a literary technique that is commonly used in literature, film, and other forms of writing. Simply put, irony is a situation or statement that is **unpredictable** or **contrary to expectations**. There are three main types of irony: **verbal**, **situational**, and **dramatic**. Complete the flow chart below by finding examples of each type of irony within the text. Be sure to quote the section within the text, include a page number, and expand on why it qualifies as irony.

**IRONY**

**VERBAL IRONY**

Verbal irony involves the use of words that are opposite to their literal meaning.

- Ex: "I just love it when my phone dies."

**Example from the Text:**

Explanation:

**SITUATIONAL IRONY**

Situational irony involves a situation that is opposite to what is expected.

- Ex: A post on social media about how social media is ruining our lives.

**Example from the Text:**

Explanation:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**CHARACTER ANALYSIS**  
Roald Dahl, "Lamb to the Slaughter"

**MARY MALONEY**

TYPE OF CHARACTERIZATION	CATEGORY OF DESCRIPTIONS	ANALYSIS
Direct or Indirect?	Appearance, words, thoughts, etc.	What is your interpretation of this evidence?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**3 Theme or Message:** What is the underlying theme or message of your comic?

**4 Character List:** List your characters and describe their appearance and personality.

Character	Emotion/Action

Name: \_\_\_\_\_Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**COMIC STRIP VISUAL PLAN**  
Bringing Story to Life

**Instructions:**  
Use the provided planner to map out your scenes and dialogue, filling each panel with the corresponding scene.

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_


Name: \_\_\_\_\_Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**LITERARY ANALYSIS: MAKING INFERENCES**  
Roald Dahl, "Lamb to the Slaughter"

QUOTATION	LITERAL EVALUATION	INFERENCE
Evidence from the text and page number	What is your objective explanation for this quote?	What is your interpretation of this quote?
"When he came back, she noticed that the new drink was dark amber with the quantity of whiskey in it" (p. 1).		
"'Sit down,' he said. 'Just for a minute, sit down.' It wasn't till then that she began to get frightened. 'Go on,' he said. 'Sit down'" (p. 2).		
"'This is going to be a bit of a shock to you, I'm afraid,' he said. 'But I've thought about it a good deal and I've decided the only thing to do is tell you right away. I hope you won't blame me too much.' And he told her. It didn't take long, four or five minutes at most, and she sat very still through it all, watching him with a kind of dozed horror" (pp. 2-3).		

Name: \_\_\_\_\_Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Comic Strip Visual Plan**

Teach **literary analysis** with this modern unit!

These prompts and rubrics are editable to meet your unique classroom needs.





# Facilitate game-based learning

Reinforce comprehension, critical thinking, and teamwork with this board game activity!





# Comic Strip Project Outline and Instructions

This consolidating assessment includes graphic organizers, informational handouts, comic strip templates, and an editable 4-level rubric.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Creating A Comic Strip

Instructional Handout

A **comic strip** is a visual storytelling medium that uses a series of illustrations, arranged in panels, to tell a story. It combines text, images, and other elements to convey a sequence of events, emotions, and actions. Let's break down the essential components of a comic strip and how to use them effectively.

### Key Elements of a Comic Strip

1

**Panels:**

Each panel is a single frame in the comic that shows a **specific moment in time**. Panels are arranged in sequence to show the progression of the story.

Panels can vary in size. Use larger panels for important moments and smaller panels for minor details.

2

**Characters:**

The characters are the **people, animals, or objects** that play a role in driving the plot forward.

Characters should be expressive, showing clear emotions and actions to help tell the story visually.

3

**Theme or Message:**

What is the underlying theme or message of your comic?

4

**Plot:**

The plot is the **structure** of the storyline. Every comic strip has a beginning, middle, and end.

Focus on the main conflict and how it gets resolved over the course of the story.

5

**Character Design:**

Use Canva's illustration library to find or customize characters that match the traits of key characters in *Lamb to the Slaughter*.

6

**Modifying Expressions and Poses:**

Use Canva's character poses or elements to change facial expressions (e.g., happy, shocked, suspicious) and body language to reflect the character's emotions throughout the story.

7

**Props:**

Include relevant props like the leg of lamb, drinks, and household items. Canva has numerous graphics and illustrations that can be used to set the scene.

8

**Backgrounds and Settings:**

Use simple, changeable backgrounds like a cozy living room for the initial scenes, and a police investigation scene for the later parts of the story.

9

**Speech Bubbles and Narration:**

Canva has speech bubble elements where you can add dialogue. For narration, I would include text boxes outside the panels or below the illustrations to keep the flow of the story clear.

10

**Design Your Characters and Setting:**

- Create characters that express emotions and actions. Make sure they clearly show what's happening in the scene.
- Add simple backgrounds that support the setting of the story, without overwhelming the characters and action.

11

**Add Dialogue, Thought Bubbles, and Captions:**

- Write your characters' dialogue inside the speech bubbles. Keep it short and clear.
- Use thought bubbles to show characters' internal thoughts.
- Include captions to narrate any part of the story or provide additional context.

12

**Use Action Lines and Effects:**

- Add action lines to show movement, like running or throwing an object.
- Use effects such as exclamation marks or symbols to enhance emotional or intense moments.

13

**Steps for Creating a Comic Strip**

1

**Complete the Planning Sheet:**

- Use the Comic Strip Planning Sheet to outline your story before you start drawing.
- Write a brief summary of the main events, identify the conflict, and the message of your comic.
- Plan out what will happen in each panel, including the dialogue, action, and setting.

2

**Use the Comic Strip Template:**

- Transfer your ideas from the Planning Sheet to the Comic Strip Template using the following options:
  - Digital Version:** Use the digital Comic Strip Template in Canva to design your comic online.
  - Printable Version:** Use the printable Comic Strip Template to hand-draw your scenes and dialogue. Since the template already has pre-set panels, focus on filling each one with the corresponding scene from your plan.

14

**Comic Strip Template**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1

**Panel 1**

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**Panel 2**

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**Panel 3**

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**Panel 4**

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**Panel 5**

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**Panel 6**

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**Panel 8**

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