

First Last

Teacher Name

ENG 1D1

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**A Sample  
Argumentative  
Paragraph**

## A Crime without Concern

Roald Dahl's "Lamb to the Slaughter" is a chilling tale that shows how the main character—a seemingly pleasant and decent woman named Mary Maloney—can commit a calculated and cold-blooded murder and feel little or no remorse about her actions. For example, Mary's lack of remorse is revealed through her blatant disregard for the consequences of killing her husband. Although "she knew quite well what the penalty would be...that was fine. It made no difference to her" (Dahl, 13). This lack of concern reveals that Mary is so unbothered by her actions that she hardly cares if she ends up in prison. If she is so unconcerned about her own well-being, it is quite likely she hardly cares about what she has done to her husband. Similarly, Mary's lack of remorse is shown because she is able to convince herself that she never actually killed her husband in the first place. Although Mary admitted earlier that "she loved" (11) her husband, after killing him she is able to make herself believe that everything is normal. Her comment that if she "does everything right and natural...they'll be no need for acting at all" (15) once again shows that Mary's lack of remorse actually allows her to simply block her actions from her mind. Finally, Mary's lack of remorse is clear when she manipulates and then laughs at the detectives investigating the murder. When "Mary began to giggle" (18) she is clearly showing her disregard for the death of her husband. In fact, Mary never shows genuine emotion in the entire story; her laughter shows just how far she has removed herself from feeling guilt. Mary's remorse, therefore, is so clearly absent. She feels nothing, and is evidently unconcerned about the consequences of her actions.