**Mary Maloney character analysis**

Write down quotes and explain how they illustrate Mary’s changing character in the story ‘Lamb to the Slaughter’. Examples are provided to guide you.

**Mary at the beginning**

**You need to choose three strong quotes and explain them below**

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| --- | --- |
| Quote | What this suggests about Mary to the reader |
| **Example**  ‘”I’ll get it!”, she cried, jumping up.’ | **Example**  This tells the reader that Mary feels that it is her job to look after her husband. It is her responsibility to make sure he has a drink. The urgency in her voice and the fact that she ‘jumps’ up, even though she is pregnant, suggests she knows her place and wants to do this for him. |
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**Mary after Patrick’s death**

**You need to choose two strong quotes and explain them below**

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| --- | --- |
| Quote | What this suggests about Mary’s changing character to the reader. How do we feel about her? |
| **Example**  ‘she began thinking very fast’ | **Example**  This suggests that Mary is not simply the doting wife we first met at the beginning of the story. She has just killed her husband and she is now showing us by, ‘thinking very fast’ that she is capable of coming up with a plan. She is very aware of her situation and knows that only she can get herself out of it. Mary is not just a woman who looks after her husband, she has s sharp mind and is not to be messed with. |
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**Mary Victim or villain?.**

**You need to choose three strong quotes and explain them below**

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| --- | --- |
| Quote | Explain in detail if your quote suggests that Mary is a victim or a villain. |
| **Example for victim**  ‘she…began to cry her heart out. It was easy. No acting was necessary’ | **Example for victim**  Mary is clearly devasted at the death of her husband. The news he gave her sent her in to such a high level of shock she did not know what she was doing. Mary’s reaction when she returns home from the shop is of someone who has lost the love of their life and cannot help but sob and cry over her husband’s body. She is clearly a victim as she is now pregnant and alone. |
| **Example for villain**  ‘No, she said. She’d like to stay right where she was, in this chair.’  1. | **Example for villain**  Mary refuses the offer to go and lie down on her bed as she does not want to leave the police alone downstairs. She wants to keep an eye on all the activity in case she has to intervene and divert the police from uncovering the truth. This shows that Mary is the villain as she has killed her husband and is covering her tracks. |
| 2. |  |
| 3. |  |