

Lamb to the Slaughter

Irony Chart The contrast between expectations and reality is referred to as **irony**. **Situational irony** occurs when events are the *opposite* of what we expected. **Dramatic irony** occurs when readers know something important that a character doesn't know. To help you appreciate the irony in "Lamb to the Slaughter," fill in the blanks in this chart.

How Passage Creates Irony	Story Passage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary's actions before this point in the story: • Mary's actions now: • What actions you expected: • What Mary actually does: 	<p>"At that point, Mary Maloney simply walked up behind him and without any pause she swung the big frozen leg of lamb high in the air and brought it down as hard as she could on the back of his head." (lines 135-138)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why the police think Mary wants them to finish the lamb: • Why she really wants the police to finish the lamb: • What is ironic about the police eating the lamb: 	<p>"Have some more, Charlie?" "No. Better not finish it." "She wants us to finish it. She said so. Be doing her a favor." (lines 353-355)</p>