

VOCABULARY WORKSHEET

*“Lamb to the Slaughter”***Part I:** Using Prior Knowledge and Contextual Clues - Reading Assignment

Directions: Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use any clues you can find in the sentence combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided.

1. “There was a slow smiling air about her, and about everything she did. The drop of her head as she bent over her sewing was curiously tranquil.”

2. & 3. “Her skin—for this was her sixth month with child—had acquired a wonderful translucent quality, the mouth was soft, and the eyes, with their new placid look, seemed larger and darker than before.”

4. “When the clock said ten minutes to five, she began to listen, and a few moments later, punctually as always, she heard the tires on the gravel outside, and the car door slamming, the footsteps passing the window, the key turning in the lock.”

5. “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.”

6. “She loved to luxuriate in the presence of this man, and to feel—almost as a sunbather feels the sun—that warm male glow that came out of him to her when they were alone together.”

7. “She lowered herself back slowly into the chair, watching him all the time with those large, bewildered eyes. He had finished the second drink and was staring down into the glass, frowning.”

8. “She sat down before the mirror, tidied her hair, touched up her lips and face. She tried a smile. It came out rather peculiar. She tried again.”

9. “...and if, when she entered the house, she happened to find anything unusual, or tragic, or terrible, then naturally it would be a shock and she’d become frantic with grief and horror.”

10. “While she was talking, crying and talking, Noonan discovered a small patch of congealed blood...”

11. “The four men searching the rooms seemed to be growing weary, a trifle exasperated.”

12. “They stood around rather awkwardly with the drinks in their hands, uncomfortable in her presence, trying to say consoling things to her.”

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*"Lamb to the Slaughter"***Part II:** Determining the Meaning

Directions: Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions. If there are words for which you cannot figure out the definition by contextual clues and by process of elimination, look them up in a dictionary.

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| ___ 1. tranquil | A. extremely happy (<i>adj.</i>) |
| ___ 2. translucent | B. strange; unusual (<i>adj.</i>) |
| ___ 3. placid | C. excited with strong emotion or frustration (<i>adj.</i>) |
| ___ 4. punctually | D. allowing light to pass through partially or diffusely; semitransparent (<i>adj.</i>) |
| ___ 5. blissful | E. undisturbed by turmoil or disorder (<i>adj.</i>) |
| ___ 6. luxuriate | F. performed or arrived on time (<i>adv.</i>) |
| ___ 7. bewildered | G. turned from liquid to solid (<i>adj.</i>) |
| ___ 8. peculiar | H. calm, peaceful (<i>adj.</i>) |
| ___ 9. frantic | I. annoyed; irritated (<i>adj.</i>) |
| ___ 10. congealed | J. providing comfort (<i>adj.</i>) |
| ___ 11. exasperated | K. confused (<i>adj.</i>) |
| ___ 12. consoling | L. to take great pleasure; to indulge oneself (<i>v.</i>) |