



Learning Target: Students will learn how to create excellent constructed responses that answer the question and provide textual evidence to support their response.

Purpose: This academic school year, you will be required to read a variety of texts and complete short as well as extended constructed responses over the subject material.

Constructed-responses are questions that require students to supply their own answer to a prompt. They are used to check the reader’s understanding of a literary work and analyze their mastery of the standards.

Resource: This activity will use “Lamb to the Slaughter” (by Roald Dahl, 1953).

Task: After reading “Lamb to the Slaughter” by Roald Dahl, you are required to answer several reading comprehension questions and complete two constructed responses. Today, we will work on improving your written responses.

Practice Examples

Example Question (#8): How does Mary’s feelings about killing her husband in the beginning compare to the end of the story?

Use the R.A.P.P. Strategy to answer Example Question #8.

- 1) Restate the question.
- 2) Answer the question (topic sentence created).
- 3) Proof (textual evidence to support the answer).
- 4) Proofreading and editing complete. (I have produced my best product within the time limitations.)

Step 1: Restate or reword the question and turn it into a PQA statement. (*Note*-PQA means put the question in the answer.)

How would you restate the example question and turn it into a statement?

(*Example:* In regards to killing her husband, Mary’s feelings change drastically from the beginning to the end of the story.) Can you rephrase the example answer in Step 1 to make it more clear and concise?

(Insert your answer here.)

Step 2: Answer the question.

(Insert your answer here.)

Step 3: Prove it with text

(Insert your answer here.)

Step 4: Proofread and edit.

(Insert your answer here.)

Evaluate Your Response

On a scale where 1 is the worst and 4 is the best, rate your constructed response. How do you think you did? Why? (Explain your score.)

(Insert your answer here.)

Hint: In your response, you should discuss the initial shock that Mary experiences after killing her husband. For instance, she is described as “feeling cold and surprised” (Paragraph 45). Additionally, despite killing Patrick and the anger she felt towards him, she is also saddened by his death. When she comes back from the grocery store to “discover” his dead body, “she ran over to him, knelt down beside him, and began to cry her heart out. It was easy. No acting was necessary” (Paragraph 76). However, the end of the story presents a contrasting portrayal on Mary’s feelings about her husband’s death. Instead of remaining in shock or saddened by his death, she becomes gleeful. For instance, when the police officers finish eating the lamb leg that killed Patrick, Mary “began to giggle” (Paragraph 131).

Example Question (#9): What is ironic about this murder mystery that the police are attempting to solve?

Use the R.A.P.P. Strategy to answer Example Question #9

Step 1: Restate or reword the question and turn it into a statement (PQA).

How would you restate the question and turn it into a statement?

(Insert your answer here.)

Step 2: Answer the question.

(Insert your answer here.)

Step 3: Prove it with text

(Insert your answer here.)

Step 4: Proofread and edit.

(Insert your answer here.)

Evaluate Your Response

On a scale where 1 is the worst and 4 is the best, rate your constructed response. How do you think you did? Why? (Explain your score.)

(Insert your answer here.)

Hint: In an exemplary response, students will discuss the irony of the police’s inability to find the murder weapon. After hours of searching, Mary asks the officers to stay for dinner. The irony is that the police eat the very murder weapon that they have been searching for, destroying the evidence that would have incriminated Mary. As they eat, they discuss the elusive murder weapon, stating that it is “Probably right under our very noses” further adding to the humor and irony of the situation (Paragraph 130).