

“Lamb to the Slaughter,” by Roald Dahl

Radical Introduction

“Lamb to the Slaughter” is popular among Canada’s grade 9 English teachers – but goodness knows why. It’s a horrid and morbid story devoid of any redeeming moral. At best, it is a satire of police investigators, and even then, Mark Twain’s “The Stolen White Elephant” is a far superior satire of the police institution. The satirical element is the story’s only redeeming quality, and yet teachers generally don’t even recognize or explore it. Why do they avoid discussing its satire of a public or government institution? Is it because teachers belong to a government institution, too? Indeed, even if they work in a private school, their curriculum must abide by government requirements.

Well, our schools are more likely to invite police officers into their classrooms, where they are treated with utmost respect, regardless of the bullshit they spout about marijuana while they legally and privately poison themselves with alcohol – just like Dahl’s protagonist. Yes, teachers are keen to promote blind respect for government certified authority. Critical thinking stops in presence of the government.

Needless to say, the police deserve plenty of criticism in England and the U.S., not to mention most of the world. The profession attracts plenty of thugs who are eager to project power and authority. Of course, plenty of well-intentioned police officers exist, too, but they are often helpless to prevent corruption, and of course the entire profession serves no higher purpose than to protect the status quo and the wealthy elites who profit from the status quo, and this they accomplish through government sanctioned violence and barbaric prisons.

Could our modern civilization? exist without police and prisons? Perhaps not, but who said we should preserve our civilization?