

The Necklace by Guy de Maupassant

1. Find the phrase that shows the woman is not happy in her marriage. Write it below.
2. According to the narrator, what characteristics of womanhood are able to overcome a lack of money, education, or social status?
3. In your own words, how does the young woman make up for the modest way of life she lives?
4. What two things does the woman love?
5. How does she react to the invitation she receives? Why?
6. What does Mrs. Loisel's husband suggest she wear in place of jewelry?
7. Below is a list of the jewelry Mrs. Loisel is invited to choose from by her friend Madam Forestier. Check the one item she asks to borrow.
a. collar of pearls b. a ruby bracelet c. a necklace of diamonds d. Venetian cross of gold and jewels
8. Find at least one sentence that shows that, at the ball, Mrs. Loisel was in fact charming and beautiful, that her self-image was not completely vain imagination.
9. Why does Mrs. Loisel cry out when she looks at herself in the mirror?
10. List three things Mr. Loisel does to find the lost necklace. Is he successful?
11. What does Loisel then tell his wife she must do?
12. How is Loisel able to replace the lost necklace?
13. How does Mrs. Forestier react to Matilda when she returns the necklace?
14. Find one sentence that reveals Matilda had been living in a situation that was not quite as poor as her opinion of it.
15. How long does it take them to pay off the debt?
16. How do the years of hard work change Matilda?
17. What does Mrs. Loisel learn about the necklace when she speaks with Mrs. Forestier on the Champs Elysees?
18. What do you think Matilda's reaction is to learning that she had altered the complete course of her life unnecessarily?

The Necklace
Comprehension

Name _____
Date _____ Period _____

1. Describe Matilda's feelings about her life as the story opens.
2. What two "problems" make Matilda unwilling to go to the party? How are they resolved?
 - a. solution:
 - b. solution:
3. What extra work do Matilda and her husband do to repay the debt?
4. How long does it take?
5. When using a surprising ending, a careful author provides clues preparing the reader to accept that ending. Name some clues that hint at the story's surprise ending.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
6. In your opinion, are the things that happen to Matilda the result of fate or coincidence, or are they caused by her own character? Explain.
7. At the end of the story, the narrator asks, "How would it have been if she had not lost the necklace? ... How small a thing will ruin or save one!" Explain in what way Matilda was both ruined and saved.
8. In your opinion, is the ending of the story happy or unhappy? Discuss.

"The Necklace" writing assignment

You are Matilda's friend. You have heard about all of the work that Matilda has had to do to pay the debt of the necklace. Write a letter telling her all of the ways she has become a better person for all she has gone through. Describe how she was in the beginning of the story. Describe how she changed. Describe how she is now. Use facts from the story.

The Necklace
Vocabulary Test

Name _____

1. dowry a. something that continues without stopping
2. caste b. disappointment because something has not gone like you had hoped.
3. suppleness c. worried, annoyed
4. aristocracy d. money a women gives her husband when they marry
5. incessantly e. trying to gain attention or admiration of the opposite sex
6. coquettish f. a group of people who have the same position in society
7. chagrin g. very happy
8. elated h. so surprised, tired, or bored that you cannot think
9. stupefied i. people of the highest social class with money and power
10. vexation m. without stiffness or awkwardness, capable of bending easily
11. He tapped his pencil _____ until the teacher told him to stop.
12. She dreamed of being a princess so she could be part of the _____.
13. The teenage girl was very _____ with all the boys in school.
14. The mother realized with _____ that her daughters dreams of college would not be realized.
15. The teacher showed a great deal of _____ when the class would not be quiet.
16. All of the children were _____ when she screamed and lost her temper.
17. The kids were _____ when the teacher forgot to assign homework.
18. Her father did not have enough money to provide a _____ for his young daughter.
19. Matilda wanted to join the highest _____ of people.
20. You could tell by the softness and _____ of Matilda's dress that it was made of the finest material.

The Necklace
Test

Name _____

1. Matilda's husband does all of the following except
 - a. blame her for the loss of the necklace
 - b. attempt to please her
 - c. help search for a replacement necklace
 - d. agree that she may buy a new dress
2. When Mme. Forestier finds out how the Loisels replaced the necklace, she is
 - a. amused
 - b. angered
 - c. shocked
 - d. humiliated
3. How does Matilda try to make up for the poor way she lives?
 - a. she saves every penny she has
 - b. she spends her days dreaming
 - c. she tries to make her husband happy
 - d. she goes out to parties all the time.
4. What two things does Matilda love
 - a. her husband and money
 - b. jewelry and her husband
 - c. her husband and her friends
 - d.
5. How long does it take to pay for the necklace?
 - a. ten years
 - b. ten months
 - c. ten weeks
 - d. five years
6. How has Matilda changed at the end of the story?
 - a. she is pretty and content
 - b. she is hardened and bitter
 - c. she is unhappy
 - d. she is older, but satisfied

7. Which of the following was **not** a clue that the necklace was false?
- a. the jeweler on the box was not the maker of the necklace
 - b. Mme. Forestier was not upset when Matilda had to keep the necklace longer
 - c. Mme. Forestier lent the necklace to Matilda carelessly
 - d. no jewelry store in town had a necklace like it.

True or False

- 8. Mr. Loisel was angry with Matilda.
- 9. Mme. Forestier was a close, personal friend of Matilda's.
- 10. The men at the ball paid attention to Matilda.
- 11. Matilda was a beautiful woman worthy of praise.
- 12. Matilda was content with her husband and her home.