

Name:

Date:

Pre-Reading Activities

Part 1: Using all of the following words, write a one paragraph short story in five minutes.

Luxury
Dishes

Borrow
Cab

Wardrobe
Friends

Dancing
Envy

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PREVIEW

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PREVIEW

Part 2: Can money buy happiness? Why or why not?

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PREVIEW

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Name:

Date:

Vocabulary
“The Necklace” (1884) by Guy de Maupassant

Vocabulary Word	Part of Speech	Definition
dowry	noun	PREVIEW
resentful	adj	NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE
gallantries	noun	PREVIEW
inscrutable	adj	NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE
distraught	adj	
ecstacy	noun	PREVIEW
rapturously	adv	NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE
odious	adj	
impoverished	adj	PREVIEW
fickle	adj	NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

Name:

Date:

Vocabulary
“The Necklace” by Guy de Maupassant

Vocabulary Word	Part of Speech	Definition
dowry	noun	the money, goods, or estate
resentful	adj	feeling bitterness at having been treated unfairly
gallantries	noun	polite attention or respect given by men to women
inscrutable	adj	impossible to understand or interpret
distraught	adj	deeply upset
ecstacy	noun	an overwhelming feeling of great happiness or excitement
rapturously	adv	full of manifesting ecstatic joy or delight
odious	adj	extremely unpleasant
impoverished	adj	reduced to being poor or in poverty
fickle	adj	changing frequently

Name:

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Reading Questions
“The Necklace” (1884) by Guy de Maupassant

1. What is the setting of the story?

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2. What is the point of view of the story?

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4. How did Madame Loisel respond to her husband's invitation to the evening reception at the Ministry of Education?

5. How much did Madame Loisel want to spend on a dress?

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6. According to Madame Loisel, what is the most humiliating thing?

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8. What did Madame Loisel think of the party?

9. After Madame Loisel arrived home and looked in the mirror, what did she notice?

10. What is the relationship like between Madame Loisel and her husband?

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11. How long did it take the Loisels to get out of debt?

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12. How has Madame Loisel changed throughout the story? How has she stayed the same?

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13. Who does Madame Loisel blame for all her trouble?

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14. How does the story end? What is the irony?

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15. Do you sympathize with Mathilde? Why or why not?

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16. Do you think Madame Forestier should return the diamond necklace to Mathilde? Why or why not?

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Reading Questions
“The Necklace” (1884) by Guy de Maupassant

1. What is the setting of the story?

The story takes place during the 1800s in Paris, France. The events occur mostly in the household of the Loiselets and around town.

2. What is the point of view of the story?

Third person omniscient

3. What does Madame Loisel feel like she's entitled to? Why is she suffering?

Madame Loisel is a beautiful woman so she feels like she deserves lots of money and nice things (even though she wasn't born into a wealthy or prestigious family). She is unhappy because she is poor and can't afford much. She feels entitled to more luxuries, as if she had once been wealthy. It causes her great pain to look around her house at her ugly/cheap furniture and possessions.

4. How did Madame Loisel respond to her husband's invitation to the evening reception at the Ministry of Education?

Madame Loisel is upset about the invitation because she does not want to go unless she can impress people; she does not have a nice dress to wear. She would rather not attend so people won't know she is poor. Madame Loisel is angry with her husband for even suggesting she go.

5. How much did Madame Loisel want to spend on a dress?

400 francs

6. According to Madame Loisel, what is the most humiliating thing?

Madame Loisel is self conscious and ashamed of her economic status. She believes "...there is nothing more humiliating than looking poor in the middle of a lot of rich women."

7. How does Madame Loisel handle her dilemma regarding her lack of jewelry?

Madame Loisel asks her friend Madame Forestier to borrow a necklace.

8. What did Madame Loisel think of the party?

Madame Loisel loved the party. She loved being adored and admired by other men. She danced wildly and stayed until four in the morning having fun.

9. After Madame Loisel arrived home and looked in the mirror, what did she notice?

Madame Loisel lost the necklace; it was no longer on her neck.

10. What is the relationship like between Madame Loisel and her husband?

Dresses and jewels were the “only things Madame Loisel loved.” She loved material possessions more than her husband who she “settled for” and is unappreciative of. Monsieur Loisel is generous and just wants to make his wife happy. He wants her to have an extravagant night of indulgence because that's what she wants; he gives up his hunting trip so that she can buy a nice dress. He also helps her look for the necklace all night after she's lost it. He compromised his life to borrow the money she needed to replace the necklace. The married couple get along fine, but they do not have the same priorities in life.

11. How long did it take the Loisels to get out of debt?

10 years

12. How has Madame Loisel changed throughout the story? How has she stayed the same?

At the beginning of the story, Madame Loisel is ambitious, self-centered, pretty, charming, and complains a lot. By the end of the story, she is worn out physically, but she's stronger. She still daydreams about the night at the Ministry where she was admired by many; she hasn't learned that appearing rich and beautiful is not important. Madame Loisel was humbled since she is no longer the beautiful woman she once was, but she did not mature emotionally since she still can't accept responsibility for her actions.

13. Who does Madame Loisel blame for all her trouble?

She tells Madame Forestier it was *her* fault that she lived in such misery for the last decade.

14. How does the story end? What is the irony?

Madame Forestier reveals that the necklace was only worth 500 francs because it was an imitation. It is ironic because you wouldn't expect someone wealthy like Madame Forestier to own fake diamonds. All this time, Mathilde wants to appear rich, but even the rich are faking it too sometimes. It is also ironic because Mathilde and her husband spent years working off their debt when it was completely unnecessary.

15. Do you sympathize with Mathilde? Why or why not?

Answers will vary.

16. Do you think Madame Forestier should return the diamond necklace to Mathilde? Why or why not?

Answers will vary.

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Analyze Theme
“The Necklace” by Guy de Maupassant

Directions: Fill out the following chart with examples from the text that demonstrate what message Guy de Maupassant is sending about each of the given themes.

Reality vs. Appearances

Greed and Material Possessions

Message:

Message:

Textual Evidence:

Textual Evidence:

Vanity and Beauty

Honesty vs. Deceit

Message:

Message:

Textual Evidence:

Textual Evidence:

Explanation:

Explanation:

ANSWERS WILL VARY

**Analyze Theme
“The Necklace” by Guy de Maupassant**

Directions: Fill out the following chart with examples from the text that demonstrate what message Guy de Maupassant is sending about each of the given themes.

Reality vs. Appearances	Greed and Material Possessions
<p>Message: Appearances can be deceiving.</p> <p>Textual Evidence:</p> <p>“She danced wildly, with passion, drunk on pleasure, forgetting everything in the triumph of her beauty, in the glory of her success, in a sort of cloud of happiness, made up of all this respect, all this admiration, all these awakened desires, of that sense of triumph that is so sweet to a woman’s heart.”</p> <p>Explanation: Madame Loisel looked rich at the party, but she borrowed the necklace from a friend and her husband made a sacrifice to afford the dress. Even her friend Madame Forestier appeared to have the nicest jewelry, but the diamond necklace she borrowed was a fake.</p>	<p>Message: Be grateful for what you have.</p> <p>Textual Evidence:</p> <p>“She had no dresses, no jewels, nothing; and these were the only things she loved. She felt she was made for them alone. She wanted so much to charm, to be envied, to be desired and sought after.”</p> <p>Explanation: Mathilde has a nice husband and a decent home. Instead of being grateful for her life, health and beauty, she needed more. She wanted other people to be jealous of her and her situation worsened because of this desire.</p>
<p>Message: Beauty doesn't last forever, there are more important things to life.</p> <p>Textual Evidence:</p> <p>“Madame Loisel looked old now. She had become strong, hard and rough like all women of impoverished households. With hair half combed, with skirts awry, and reddened hands, she talked loudly as she washed the floor with great swishes of water.”</p> <p>Explanation: Mathilde felt like she was owed more in life because of her beauty. If she had not been so focused on looking rich, she may have aged better and stayed beautiful longer. Her beauty couldn't save her when she needed to pay her debts.</p>	<p>Message: The truth is always best; lying causes more problems.</p> <p>Textual Evidence:</p> <p>“I brought you back another exactly like it. And it has taken us ten years to pay for it. It wasn't easy for us, we had very little. But at last it is over, and I am very glad.”</p> <p>Explanation: Things could have been settled right if Mathilde had confessed the loss of the necklace to the owner. Madame Forestier would have revealed that the necklace was only 500 francs before Mathilde went through a decade of misery.</p>

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Summary

“The Necklace” (1884) by Guy de Maupassant

Part A: Fill in the blanks with any words that make sense and accurately summarize the story “The Necklace.”

A woman named _____

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is feeling _____

because _____

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She dreams of _____ so her

husband _____

One evening, she attends a party wearing _____ but she loses it by

mistake. The woman and her husband then _____

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because _____

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When she runs into her friend years later, Madame Forestier acts _____

and reacts by _____

It turns out that _____

.. The moral of the story is _____

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Part B: 3-2-1

List three adjectives to describe the type of person Madame Loisel is.

List two big mistakes that Madame Loisel made.

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List one way the whole conflict could have been avoided.

ANSWERS WILL VARY

Summary

“The Necklace” (1884) by Guy de Maupassant

Part A: Fill in the blanks with any words that make sense and accurately summarize the story “The Necklace.”

Example Answers:

A woman named Mathilde or Madame Loisel is feeling unhappy because she is poor and she believes

she deserves much more in life. She dreams of living in a big house with nice things so her

husband buys her an expensive dress to wear to an exclusive event. One evening, she attends a party wearing

a diamond necklace but she loses it by mistake. The woman and her husband search the town for the lost

jewelry but then purchase a look-alike necklace because they can't find the original and they are going to

pretend like they never lost it. When she runs into her friend years later, Madame Forestier acts shocked by

the appearance of Mathilde and reacts by taking Mathilde's hands and confessing that the necklace was a

fake. It turns out that the necklace is only worth 500 francs and the moral of the story is be grateful for what

you have.

Part B: 3-2-1

Example Answers:

List three adjectives to describe the type of person Madame Loisel is.

Overworked, charismatic, beautiful, fun, tired, unhappy, narcissistic, whiny, attention-seeking, smug, desperate, forlorn, greedy.

List two big mistakes that Madame Loisel made.

- ungrateful for her life
- made her husband buy her a new dress
- loses the necklace
- didn't tell the truth about the necklace to her friend
- blamed her friend Madame Forestier for her problems

List one way the whole conflict could have been avoided.

- If Madame Loisel went to the party in clothes she could afford with flowers as accessories instead of borrowing the necklace... she would have never lost the jewelry.
- If she would have told Madame Forestier the truth about losing the necklace, she would have only had to pay her friend 500 francs... instead of 36,000 francs.

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THE NECKLACE

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PREVIEW

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

PREVIEW

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

- noun

- the money, goods, or
estate



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1 2 3 4 5 6

PREVIEW

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PREVIEW

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resentful

PREVIEW

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- adjective
- Feeling bitterness at having been treated unfairly

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PREVIEW NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

gallantries

- noun
- polite attention or respect given by men to women



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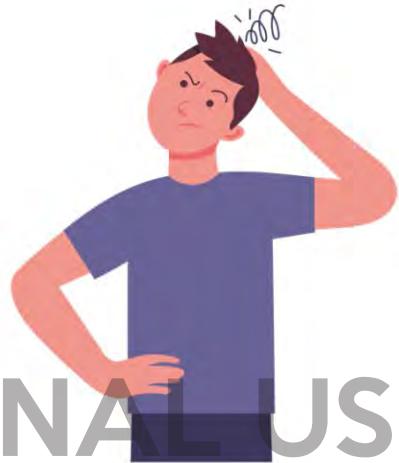
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inscrutable

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- adjective
- impossible to understand or interpret



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PREVIEW

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PREVIEW

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- adjective
- deeply upset



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PREVIEW

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PREVIEW NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

ecstasy PREVIEW
NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

• noun

• an overwhelming feeling of great happiness or excitement PREVIEW
NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE



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PREVIEW

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rapturously

PREVIEW

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- adverb
- full of manifesting
ecstatic joy or
delight

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PREVIEW

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PREVIEW

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odious

PREVIEW

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- adjective
- extremely unpleasant



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PREVIEW

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PREVIEW

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impoverished

PREVIEW

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- adjective
- reduced to being poor or in poverty



PREVIEW

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7

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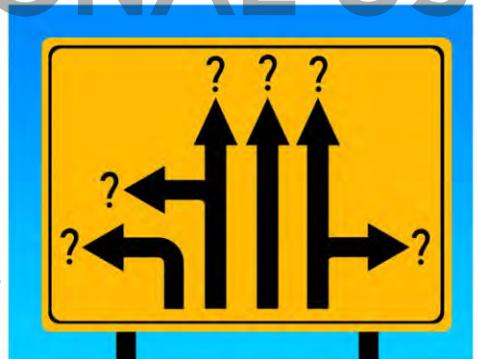
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fickle

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- adjective
- changing frequently



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