



The Necklace – Revision Notes

Summary

- The story is about Mathilde Loisel, a beautiful but dissatisfied woman.
- She feels she was born for a luxurious life but is married to a simple clerk, Monsieur Loisel.
- One day, Loisel gets an invitation to a grand ball. Mathilde is unhappy because she has nothing to wear.
- Her husband sacrifices his savings (meant for buying a gun) to buy her a dress.
- Still unhappy, Mathilde borrows a beautiful necklace from her wealthy friend Mme Forestier.
- At the ball, Mathilde is admired and enjoys herself, but later discovers the necklace is missing.
- The Loisels search everywhere but cannot find it.
- They decide to replace it with an identical necklace costing 36,000 francs.
- To pay for it, they borrow money, sell possessions, and live in poverty for ten years, working very hard.
- After ten years, Mathilde meets Mme Forestier again and tells her the truth.
- Shockingly, Mme Forestier reveals that the original necklace was a fake worth only 500 francs.

Theme

- Vanity and Pride → Mathilde's desire for wealth and beauty leads to her downfall.
- Irony of Fate → She sacrifices 10 years of her life for nothing.
- Appearance vs Reality → The necklace symbolizes false appearances.
- Contentment → We must be happy with what we have.

Characters

- Mathilde Loisel – Beautiful, dreamy, unsatisfied, vain but hardworking after tragedy.
 - Monsieur Loisel – Loving, caring husband, sacrifices his comfort for Mathilde.
 - Mme Forestier – Wealthy friend of Mathilde, lends the necklace, reveals the shocking truth at the end.
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Message of the Story

- Be content with what you have.
 - False pride and greed can ruin life.
 - Appearances are deceptive.
 - Honesty and gratitude are more valuable than material possessions.
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Literary Devices

- Irony – Mathilde loses her youth and beauty for a necklace that was fake.
 - Symbolism – The necklace represents vanity and false pride.
 - Foreshadowing – Hints at the tragic ending through Mathilde's dissatisfaction.
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Short Questions & Answers

1. Who is the author of *The Necklace*?
 Guy de Maupassant.
2. Why was Mathilde unhappy with her life?
 She longed for wealth and luxury but was married to a poor clerk.
3. How did Loisel help Mathilde prepare for the ball?
 He gave his savings to buy her a new dress.
4. What happened to the necklace after the ball?
 Mathilde lost it.
5. What did the Loiseles do to replace the necklace?
 They borrowed money, lived in poverty, and worked for 10 years to repay debts.

6. What was the shocking truth about the necklace?

👉 It was fake and worth only 500 francs.

🌟 Long Q&A

Q1. How did Mathilde's desire for wealth and beauty change her life?

Answer: Mathilde always felt she deserved a rich and glamorous life. Her vanity and pride made her borrow the necklace to look beautiful at the ball. Losing it led to ten years of hardship and suffering. In the end, she realized her life was wasted because the necklace was fake. Her unrealistic desires and dissatisfaction caused her downfall.

Q2. Discuss the use of irony in the story *The Necklace*.

Answer: The entire story is based on situational irony. Mathilde sacrifices ten years of her life to replace a necklace, only to discover it was worthless. She dreamed of luxury but ended up in poverty. The irony emphasizes the theme that appearances are deceptive and pride can lead to destruction.

🌱 Value-Based Q&A

1. What lesson do we learn from Mathilde's life?

👉 We should be content with what we have and avoid false pride.

2. What values are shown by Loisel's character?

👉 Love, sacrifice, patience, and responsibility.