



# THE NECKLACE



**Introduction:** Once upon a time, there was a woman named Mathilde Loisel and her husband. They weren't rich but lived a simple life. However Mathilde, longer to be rich and own fancy things like a big house, pretty dresses, and lots of jewelry.

## **The Party Invitation Surprise:**

One day, Mathilde's husband got an invitation to a fancy party. He thought she would be happy, but she wasn't. She cried because she didn't have a nice dress for the party. Her kind husband gave her money that he had saved to buy a gun, so she could buy a pretty dress.

## **Borrowing Shine: The Necklace Trouble:**

As the party got closer, Mathilde worried again. This time, it was about not having jewelry. Her husband suggested borrowing from their friend, Jeanne Forestier. Mathilde borrowed a beautiful necklace and enjoyed the party, making everyone notice her. But things took a turn when they lost the necklace on the way home.

## **Paying a High Price for Deception:**

To fix the problem, they bought a new necklace, spending a lot of money they didn't have. It took them ten years of hard work and sacrifices to repay the borrowed money. Their life changed a lot during this time, moving to a smaller home and doing everything themselves.

## **The Shocking Truth Revealed:**

Years later, Mathilde met Jeanne Forestier and confessed. However, the shock came when Jeanne revealed that the necklace was fake, and not worth much. All the struggles and sacrifices were for nothing.

**Conclusion: Simple Joys Matter:** In the end, "The Necklace" it teaches us not to always want more and to be happy with what we have. It warns about the consequences of deception and the importance of being truthful. The story shows that true happiness comes from appreciating the simple things in life.

**Extract Based Questions:**

1. *"she learned the odious work of a kitchen. She washed the dishes. She washed the soiled linen, their clothes and dishcloths, which she hung on the line to dry; she took down the refuse to the street each morning and brought up the water, stopping at each landing to catch her breath. And, clothed like a woman of the people, she went to the grocer's, the butcher's and the fruiterer's, with her basket on her arm, shopping, haggling to the last sou of her miserable money. The husband worked evenings, putting the books of some merchants in order, and nights he often did copying at five sous a page. And this life lasted for ten years. At the end of ten years, they had restored all. Mme Loisel seemed old now. She had become a strong, hard woman, the crude woman of the poor household. Her hair badly dressed, her skirts awry, her hands red, she spoke in a loud tone, and washed the floors with large pails of water."*

A) Who seemed old now?.

*Ans. Matilda seemed old now.*

B) What had made her 'crude'?!.

*Ans. Ten long years of poverty, and a constant struggle and strife for survival had made her 'crude'.*

C) Which word in the given extract is an antonym to 'pleasant'?

*Ans. 'Odious' is the antonym of 'pleasant' in the extract.*

2. *"He threw around her shoulders those modest wraps they had carried whose poverty clashed with the elegance of the ball costume. She wished to hurry away in order not to be noticed by the other women who were wrapping themselves in rich furs. Loisel detained her, "Wait," said he. "I am going to call a cab." But she would not listen and descended the steps rapidly. When they were*

*in the street, they found no carriage; and they began to seek for one, hailing the coachmen whom they saw at a distance. They walked along toward the river, hopeless and shivering. Finally they found one of those old carriages that one sees in Paris after nightfall."*

**A) What precedes these lines?**

*Ans. These lines follow Matilda's success at the ball where she was admired by everyone. Her beauty and elegance were praised by everyone.*

**B) 'She' wished to hurry away. Why?**

*Ans. She, Matilda did not wish to shatter the illusion of her grandeur, which she had so successfully created, by wearing a shabby wrap. So, she wished to leave quickly to avoid being noticed by the wealthy women.*

**C) Which word in the given extract is a synonym for 'not expensive'?**

*Ans. 'Modest' is the synonym of 'not expensive' from the extract.*

### Top 10 PYQs:

#### Short Answer Questions (40-50 words each)

**1. What, do you think, were the feelings of Madame Forestier when she came to know that Mathilde returned her a diamond necklace in place of an artificial one?**

*Answer: Mathilde borrowed a necklace from Madame Forestier to wear to a party. She lost it and, without knowing it was fake, replaced it with a real diamond necklace. When Madame Forestier learned the truth, she was shocked. She realized that Mathilde had needlessly endured years of hardship due to a simple misunderstanding. She must have felt guilty, surprised, and regretful, thinking that the entire situation could have been avoided if Mathilde had been honest with her.*

**2. How would you feel if you were in Mathilde's place and had lost somebody's such a valuable possession?**

*Answer: If I were in Mathilde's place and had lost such a valuable possession, I would have been extremely anxious and distressed. Like Mathilde, I would have searched everywhere—through my dress folds, my pockets, and along the streets. I would have also informed the police, checked with the cab company, and even placed an advertisement in the newspaper, offering a reward for its return. Losing someone else's valuable item would have left me feeling guilty and responsible. However, unlike Mathilde, I would have chosen to confess the truth immediately rather than trying to replace it secretly.*

### **3. What changes occurred in M. Loisel after 10 years?**

**Answer:** Madame Loisel now knew the harsh realities of a life of necessity. She sent away her maid and learned to do the tedious household work herself. She washed the dishes and clothes on her own, took out the trash to the street, and carried water upstairs, stopping at each landing to catch her breath. They moved to a smaller lodging and rented a room in an attic. Over the years, she aged prematurely, becoming a strong but hardened woman. Her hair was poorly styled, her skirts were uneven, her hands had turned red from labor, and she spoke in a loud, coarse voice.

### **4. Why did Madame Loisel leave the ball in a hurry? What does it show about her character?**

**Answer:** Madame Loisel left the ball in a hurry because her husband placed a modest wrap around her shoulders, which looked cheap and clashed with the elegance of her ball gown. She did not want to be seen by the other women, who were wrapping themselves in luxurious furs. This shows her vanity, insecurity, and obsession with appearances. It highlights her dissatisfaction with life, as well as her desire to impress others rather than being content with reality.

### **5. How did M. Loisel and Madame Loisel manage to buy a diamond necklace to return it to Madame Forestier? What were the consequences?**

**Answer:** To replace the lost necklace, M. Loisel and Madame Loisel spent all their savings—18,000 francs, which M. Loisel's father had saved for him. They borrowed the remaining amount from moneylenders at high interest rates, promising to repay them over time. In total, they had to arrange 36,000 francs for the new diamond necklace.

This decision ruined their lives. Mme Loisel had to do all the household chores herself, as they could no longer afford a maid. They moved to a cheaper lodging, and M. Loisel had to work late nights, keeping financial records for merchants and copying documents for five sous per page to earn extra money. Their life became one of hardship and struggle, all because they never told the truth about the lost necklace.

### **6. What efforts did Matilda and her husband make to look for the lost necklace?**

**Answer:** Matilda and her husband searched everywhere for the lost necklace. They looked through the folds of her dress, inside her cloak, and in her pockets. M. Loisel retraced their entire route home in search of it. He returned at seven o'clock in the morning, exhausted and empty-handed.

They also reported the loss to the police, checked with cab offices, and even published an advertisement in the newspaper, offering a reward. However, despite their desperate efforts, they could not find the necklace.

### **7. Why did Matilda think that she was born in a family of petty clerks by some error of destiny?**

**Answer:** Matilda was a beautiful young woman with high dreams and aspirations. However, she had no dowry, no wealth, no social status, and no hopes of marrying into an elite family. This made her feel trapped in a life she did not desire.

She believed she was meant for a luxurious life but had been born into a family of clerks due to some cruel twist of fate. Feeling helpless and bitter, she resigned herself to marrying a low-paid clerk in the office of the Board of Education, believing she deserved a better destiny.

**8. How did Mr Loisel meet the demand for a suitable costume for his wife for going to the ball?**

**Answer:** Matilda refused to attend the ball without a suitable costume for the occasion. Her husband initially suggested she wear the dress she usually wore to the theatre. However, when Matilda reacted strongly, he asked how much a new dress would cost. She replied that it would cost 400 francs. Mr. Loisel turned pale, as he had saved that amount to buy a gun for hunting larks. Despite this, he sacrificed his savings and agreed to give her 400 francs for a pretty dress.

**9. Matilda realized that one little act of negligence can lead to total ruin. How would you prefer to be guided to move on in life?**

**Answer:** Matilda lost the necklace she borrowed from Mme. Forestier. To replace it, she had to buy a new one for thirty-six thousand francs, which drained all her savings. She and her husband had to change their lodgings, and Matilda took on household chores such as washing, cleaning, and grocery shopping, while her husband worked extra hours copying documents after office hours. She lost all her beauty and youth in the struggle. Through this hardship, she realized that even a small act of negligence can lead to total ruin.

In life, we should adapt to situations as they arise. If we make a mistake, we must take responsibility and face the consequences bravely. There is no shame in doing household work or earning extra money after office hours. If we are used to living in a big house, we should also learn to live in a smaller one when circumstances demand it.

**10. Loisel wished to keep his wife in good humor. Which values of Matilda impress him?**

**Answer:** Loisel truly loved his beautiful wife, Matilda. Even though they didn't have much money, he did everything he could to make her happy. When they received an invitation to a grand ball, he spent all his savings to buy her a new dress. Later, when she lost a borrowed diamond necklace, he worked extra hours after his regular job to replace it. Loisel's dedication and sacrifices showed how much he cared for his wife's happiness.