

THEOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY OF THE CARIBBEAN

ANALYSIS OF THE NECKLACE BY GUY DE MAUPASSANT

THIS WORK IS PRESENTED TO
PROFESSOR MARILIND ARROYO IN FULFILLMENT OF
THE COURSE REQUIREMENTS EG 111.551
ENGLISH CLASS

BY
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1. **Who are the characters? Brief description.**

Mathilde Loisel: The protagonist of the story, Mathilde is a woman who feels discontented with her modest life and yearns for luxury and status. She is depicted as vain and unhappy with her social position.

Monsieur Loisel: Mathilde's husband. He is a kind and practical man who works as a clerk and is devoted to his wife. He is content with their modest life and is supportive of Mathilde's desires.

Madame Forestier: Mathilde's wealthy friend who lends her the necklace for a fancy event. She represents the wealth and luxury Mathilde covets.

2. **Is the title symbolic/literal or both?**

The title *The Necklace* is both symbolic and literal. Literally, it refers to the piece of jewelry that Mathilde borrows for the ball. Symbolically, it represents the illusion of wealth and the consequences of vanity. The necklace is a key element that drives the plot and symbolizes Mathilde's desire for a higher social status.

3. **When and where does the story take place?**

The story takes place in Paris, France, in the late 19th century. The events occur primarily in Loisels' modest apartment and the glamorous ball where Mathilde borrows the necklace.

4. **How much time passes from the beginning to the end of the story?**

The story covers a period of about ten years. The action begins with Mathilde's dissatisfaction with her life and follows her through the years of hardship after losing the necklace until the final revelation.

5. What is the mood that prevails in the story?

The prevailing mood of the story is one of disillusionment and irony. It shifts from the excitement of the ball and the initial enjoyment Mathilde experiences to the despair and hardship of her subsequent years of struggle.

6. What is the conflict of the story?

The central conflict of the story is Mathilde's struggle with her desire for a wealthier and more glamorous lifestyle versus the harsh reality of her financial situation. This internal conflict drives the plot and leads to the external conflict of losing the necklace and the resulting hardship.

7. Describe Mathilde's conflict and feelings.

Mathilde's primary conflict is her dissatisfaction with her modest life and her yearning for luxury and social status. She feels envious and frustrated with her social standing, which causes her significant emotional distress. When she loses the necklace, her feelings of shame and desperation become overwhelming, leading to a life-altering struggle.

8. What clues, if any, anticipate how the story will end?

There are subtle clues that foreshadow the story's ending, such as Mathilde's obsession with appearance and her lack of appreciation for her own life. The heavy emphasis on the necklace and Loisels' sacrifices hint at a possible twist related to the necklace's true nature.

9. How does the story end?

In the end, it is revealed that the necklace Mathilde borrowed was a fake and worth very little. Mathilde and her husband spent ten years working to repay the debt incurred from replacing the necklace, during which they endured severe poverty. The story concludes

with the tragic irony that their sacrifices were all for nothing because the original necklace was not valuable.

10. Explain the theme of the story.

The theme of *The Necklace* revolves around the pitfalls of vanity, the illusions of wealth, and the harsh realities of life. It underscores how superficial desires and the quest for status can lead to one's downfall, highlighting the irony of fate and the consequences of not appreciating one's true circumstances. The story ultimately critiques the pursuit of materialism and the social pressure to maintain appearances.