

The Necklace Questions - Stephanie Resendiz

1. Who are the characters? Brief description.
 - **Mathilde Loisel** – A woman who is unhappy with her simple life. She dreams of being rich and having fancy things, but she is stuck in a modest home with her husband.
 - **Monsieur Loisel** – Mathilde’s husband, a hardworking man who is satisfied with their life. He loves his wife and tries to make her happy, even though she always wants more.
 - **Madame Forestier** – Mathilde’s wealthy friend. She is kind enough to lend Mathilde a necklace for a fancy party, but in the end, she reveals something surprising about it.
2. Is the title symbolic/literal or both?
 - The title is both. It is literal because the story is about Mathilde borrowing and losing a necklace. But it’s also symbolic because the necklace represents appearance vs. reality—Mathilde thought it was valuable, but it turned out to be worthless, just like her idea of happiness.
3. When and where does the story take place?
 - The story is set in Paris, France, in the late 1800s, a time when social class was very important, and people cared a lot about wealth and status.
4. How much time passes from the beginning to the end of the story?
 - About ten years go by, from when Mathilde borrows the necklace to when she learns the truth about it.
5. What is the mood that prevails in the story?
 - The mood is sad and frustrating. Mathilde is unhappy with her life from the start, and as the story goes on, things only get worse for her. By the end, there is a strong feeling of irony and regret when she realizes all her suffering was for nothing.
6. What is the conflict of the story?
 - Mathilde is not happy with her life because she wants luxury and wealth. She borrows a necklace to feel rich for one night, but when she loses it, she and her husband work for ten years to pay for a replacement. In the end, she finds out the original necklace wasn’t even real, meaning all their suffering was unnecessary.

7. Describe Mathilde's conflict and feelings.
 - Mathilde faces both internal and external conflicts throughout the story. Internally, she constantly feels like she was meant for a better life and remains unhappy with what she has. Externally, losing the necklace forces her and her husband into years of hard work and suffering to repay the debt. By the end, she is completely exhausted, bitter, and full of regret, realizing that her obsession with wealth ultimately ruined her life.

8. What clues, if any, anticipate how the story will end?
 - One big clue is that Madame Forestier lets Mathilde borrow the necklace so easily. If it were really expensive, she probably would have been more careful about lending it out. This hints that the necklace might not be as valuable as Mathilde thinks.

9. How does the story end?
 - After ten years of struggling to pay off their debt, Mathilde runs into Madame Forestier and tells her the truth about what happened. That's when Madame Forestier shockingly reveals that the necklace was fake and not worth much at all. This means Mathilde's suffering could have been avoided if she had just told the truth from the beginning.

10. Explain the theme of the story.
 - The main theme of this story is the danger of valuing material wealth over honesty and contentment. The story also teaches several important lessons. It highlights the importance of being grateful for what you have, as Mathilde's obsession with wealth ultimately led to her downfall. It also emphasizes that things aren't always what they seem, shown by the necklace that appeared valuable but was actually worthless. Additionally, the story underscores the value of honesty—if Mathilde had told Madame Forestier the truth about losing the necklace, she wouldn't have wasted ten years of her life. Finally, it warns against the dangers of pride, as Mathilde's refusal to admit her mistake ended up costing her everything.