

Name: _____ Period: _____ Date: _____

“The Necklace” by Guy de Maupassant

Author Background:

Birth and death dates: 1850-1893

Type of writing: short story (social commentary, anti-war)

Facts from life: born in France; worked in departments of the French government; part of aristocratic, literary society

Comprehension Questions:

1. Describe the financial/social position of Mr. and Mrs. Loisel at the start of the story. Cite a quote from the story that helps you to know this.
2. How do Mr. Loisel and Mrs. Loisel’s personalities compare? How is Mr. Loisel different from his wife?
3. What is the symbolic meaning of the imitation necklace as it relates to Mathilde at the beginning of the story?
4. What two choices do the Loisel’s have when they realize the necklace is permanently lost? Which choice do they make?
5. Mathilde has changed in many ways by the end of the story. In what ways has she changed? What has she learned?
6. At the end of the story, we find out that the original necklace was made of imitation diamonds. What do you think Mathilde’s reaction would be to this realization if the story continued?

Theme

A **theme** in a literary work is the main thought or meaning which arises from the subject that the work develops. Themes are general and often difficult to state briefly or exactly. They may be thought of as a **message the author is sending to the reader** or an idea that the author would like the reader to think about.

Decide on a theme from “The Necklace” and write it in the center circle. Then, draw and write plot details from the story which help prove your theme in the outer circles.

