

Grade X Supplementary - 7

The Necklace

Main Points of the Story

- Matilda (Mrs. Loisel) was a beautiful young lady who was born in a family of clerks by some error of fate.
- She felt that she was born for all delicacies and luxuries of the world.
- She had a rich friend, Madam Forester, but did not like to visit her because she suffered so much in her ordinary existence.
- Matilda liked good food served in marvellous dishes, good frocks and jewels.
- One day, her husband gave her a printed card which was an invitation to a ball party.
- Instead of being happy, she threw away the card on the table.
- She thought that she didn't have a proper dress for the ball and didn't want to present her poverty-stricken image amid rich ladies.
- Mr. Loisel had to sacrifice his 400 francs for the dress which he had saved to buy a gun for hunting.
- The day of the ball came near, but Matilda put forward another demand and wanted to wear a necklace at the ball.
- Mr. Loisel suggested that she could borrow jewels from her friend, Madam Forestier.
- Mrs. Forestier placed her box of jewels before Matilda to choose, and she chose a superb diamond necklace.
- On the day of the ball, Mrs. Loisel was a great success and looked very beautiful, elegant and graceful.
- She attracted the attention of many men who wanted to be introduced to her.
- Returning from the party, she wanted to have a final view of herself in her glory, in the mirror.
- Suddenly she uttered a cry necklace was not around her neck.
- Mr. Loisel went out in the night in search of the lost necklace. He went to the police, cab offices and put an advertisement in the papers.
- At the end of the week, they lost all hopes and it was decided to buy a new necklace, similar to the lost one.
- Mr. Loisel had 18000 francs but had to borrow the rest of the money.
- The new diamond necklace, which was exactly the same as the old one, was given to Madam Forestier.
- They had to work hard and lead a miserable life to pay off the debts.
- They sent away the maid and rented some rooms in the attic.
- Mrs. Loisel washed dishes, clothes and lived like an ordinary woman.
- It took a period of ten years to pay off the debts completely and the necklace had completely changed their lives.

I. Multiple choice questions

I. "She suffered incessantly, feeling herself born for all delicacies and luxuries. She suffered from the Poverty of her Apartment, the Shabby and the Worn Chairs. All these things tortured and angered her.

When she seated herself for Dinner opposite her Husband who uncovered the Tureen with a delighted air, saying, "Oh! The Good Potpie! I know nothing better than that...", she would think of Elegant Dinners of Shining Silver; she thought of the Exquisite Food served in Marvellous Dishes. She had neither Frocks nor Jewels, nothing. And she loved only those things.

She had a Rich Friend, a Schoolmate at the Convent, who she did not like to visit. She suffered so much when she returned. She wept for whole days from despair and disappointment."

1. Choose the options that list the set of statements that are NOT TRUE according to the given extract:

1. Matilda was very pleased with her life.
2. Matilda envied her friend for being well-off
3. M Loisel didn't appreciate what Matilda cooked.
4. Matilda despised the fact that she lived a Life of Poverty.
5. Matilda never felt troubled, though she desired a Luxurious Life.
6. Matilda thought of Grand Dinners and Silverware sitting at the Dinner table.
7. Matilda felt depressed after visiting her friend.

A. Options 1, 3, & 6

B. Options 3, 5 & 7

C. Options 1, 3 & 5

D. Options 2, 4 & 7

2. Which word does 'delicacies' NOT correspond to?

A. Etherealness

B. Elegance

C. Exquisiteness

D. Robustness

3. Choose the answer that lists the correct option of what a 'Tureen' is?



(i)



(ii)



(iii)



(iv)

A. Option i

B. Option ii

C. Option iii

D. Option iv

4. Choose the characteristic displayed by M Loisel in the extract.

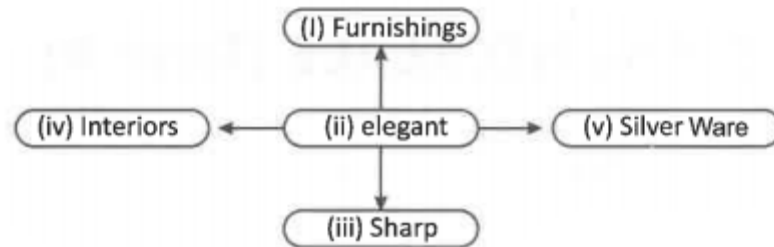
A. Conceited

B. Contended

C. Appeased

D. Subdued

5. The extract uses the phrase 'Elegant Dinners'. Which of the following expressions is incorrect with respect to the word 'elegant'?



A. Option i

B. Option ii

C. Option iii

D. Option iv

II. "He was silent, stupefied, in dismay, at the sight of his Wife weeping. He stammered, "What s the matter? What is the matter?"

By a violent effort, she had controlled her vexation and responded in a calm voice, Wiping her moist cheeks, "Nothing. Only I have no Dress and consequently I cannot go to this affair. Give your card to some Colleague whose Wife is better fitted out than I."

He was grieved, but answered, "Let us see, Matilda. How much would a Suitable Costume cost, something that would serve for other occasions, something very simple?" She reflected for some seconds thinking of a sum that she could ask for without bringing with it an immediate refusal and a frightened exclamation from the Economical Clerk."

1. What does 'Economical Clerk' indicate?

A. M Loisel was a Spendthrift even though he earned a lot.

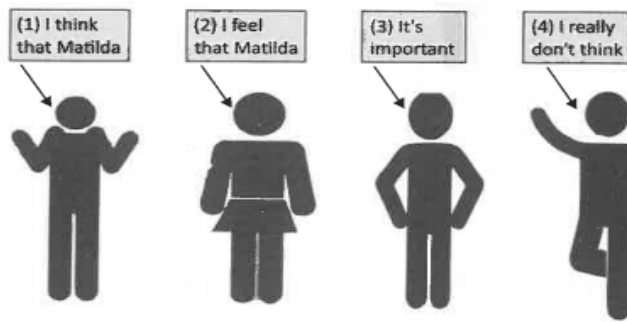
B. M Loisel was Thrifty as he had a Major Income.

C. M Loisel calculated money all the time as he was a Clerk.

D. M Loisel was Stingy about Money and didn't spend it.

Next Generation School

2. Pick the option that correctly classifies fact/s (F) and opinion/s (O) of the people below:



A. F-1, 2 and O-3, 4

B. F-3, O-1, 2, 4

C. F-2, 4, O-1, 3

D. F-2, 3, 4, O-1

3. Pick the correct set that matches with feelings of the highlighted words related to the characters:

Matilda: By a violent effort, she had controlled...

M Loisel: He was grieved...

- i. Matilda felt aggressive; M Loisel was troubled
- ii. Matilda was irritated; M Loisel was upset and cried
- iii. Matilda tried extremely hard; M Loisel felt intense sorrow
- iv. Matilda was quite calm; M Loisel's heart ached for love

A. Option i

B. Option ii

C. Option iii

D. Option iv

4. M Loisel was astonished seeing his Wife's reaction. He writes a Diary entry that night. Complete the entry with the missing words, by choosing the correct option.

11 January, Monday 9:00 pm
 I thought Matilda would be (i) _____ seeing the Invitation in my hand.
 However, her reaction has left me (ii) _____. I don't know how I
 would be able to (iii) _____ a new dress for her.

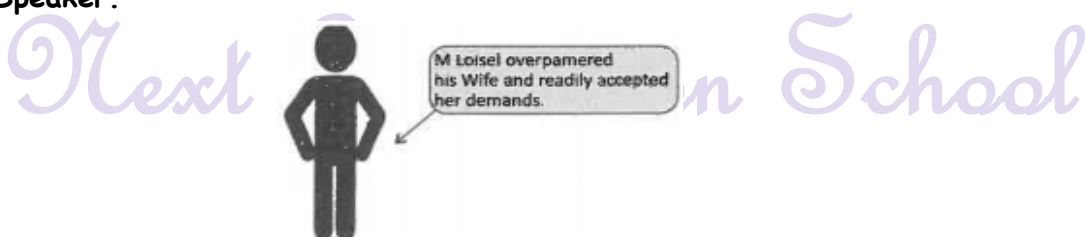
A. i) vexed ii) disturbed iii) bring

B. i) elated ii) disturbed iii) afford

C. i) keen ii) depressed iii) bring

D. i) elated ii) distressed iii) afford

5. Choose the option that gives the most appropriate response to the statement made by The Speaker.



- A. I think Matilda was being unreasonable and unrealistic.
- B. I feel that M Loisel loved Matilda and wanted her to be happy**
- C. In my opinion M Loisel was being too harsh with Matilda.
- D. I feel that M Loisel should not have brought the Invitation home.

Extract-based Question

1. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

'I returned another to you exactly like it. And it has taken us ten years to pay for it.
You can

Understand that it was not easy for us who have nothing.

- a. Who is 'I'?
- b. Why did it take them ten years to pay for 'it'?
- c. Write the antonym of 'nothing'.

- Ans.
- a. 'I' is Mme Matilda Loisel.
 - b. It took them (Loisels) ten years to pay for 'it' because they had to work hard to replace the necklace.
 - c. The antonym of 'nothing' is 'something'.

2. The day of the ball approached and Mme Loisel seemed sad, disturbed, anxious. Nevertheless, her dress was nearly ready.

- a. Why was Mme Loisel sad and disturbed?
- b. Why did she get a dress ready?
- c. What is a 'ball'?

- Ans.
- a. Mme Loisel was sad and disturbed because she did not have a proper dress, nor did she have jewels to adorn herself. She had a poverty-stricken look when the day of the ball approached.
 - b. She got a dress ready because she was going to attend a ball.
 - c. 'A ball' is a large formal party with dancing.

3. The next day she took herself to her friend's house and related her story of distress. Mme Foestier went to her closet, took out a large jewel case, brought it, opened it, and said 'choose, my dear.'

- a. Who is she?
- b. Why did she go to her friend's house?
- c. What does the word, 'distress' mean?

Ans. a. 'She' is Matilda.

b. She went to her friend's house because she wanted to tell her neither the story of her distress that she had neither any good dress nor any jewel to adorn herself with for going to the ball.

c. 'Distress' means 'hardship'.

Short Answer Type Questions

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

Ans. Matilda was a beautiful young lady with high dreams and aspirations. She had no dowry, no hopes, no fame and no wealth. She lost all hopes of marrying a man either rich or distinguished. She believed that she was born into a family of clerks only by some error of destiny. So, she allowed herself to marry a petty clerk in the office of the Board of Education.

2. Why was Matilda always unhappy? Or Why did Matilda suffer incessantly?

Ans. Matilda was always unhappy. She was not satisfied with what life and fate had given to her. She believed that she was born in a family of petty clerks through some error of destiny. She dreamt of a big and grand house, marvellous dishes, good dresses and jewels. She hated to give an image of poverty. But the harsh realities of life made her unhappy and dissatisfied with her lot.

3. What things tortured and angered Matilda? Or Do you think that deep divide between her grand dreams and ordinary living was the cause of her unhappiness? What did she dream of?

Ans. Matilda (Mrs. Loisel) was not among those who take or accept life what it is. She was never satisfied with her lot. Her humble family background didn't match with her grand dreams. She believed that she was born for all delicacies and luxuries of the world. Her dreams were beyond her means. She dreamt of a big and grand house, marvellous dishes, costly clothes and jewels. The harsh realities of life dashed her to the ground from the seventh heaven of her dreamy world. Hence, she suffered and remained dissatisfied.

4. Why didn't Matilda like to visit her rich friend?

Ans. Matilda or Mrs. Loisel always dreamt of things that were beyond her means. She dreamt of a grand house, costly dishes, good dresses and jewels. She was disillusioned that she couldn't get them. When she visited her rich friend, she really suffered because she became intensely conscious of her poverty in the presence of her fortunate and rich friend. She suffered so much when she returned to her modest and miserable surroundings.

5. Why did Matilda throw the invitation card spitefully upon the table? Or Why did Matilda ask her husband to give the invitation card to some colleague?

Ans. One evening, Matilda's husband returned home carrying in his hand a large envelope. She drew out a printed card quickly, but threw it on the table spitefully. It was an invitation for a ball arranged by the Minister of public Instruction. She complained that she didn't have a suitable dress for that grand occasion. She asked him to give that invitation to some colleague whose wife was better fitted out than her.

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

Ans. Matilda refused to go the ball without having a suitable costume for the occasion. Her husband asked her to wear the dress that she wore while going to the theatre. When Matilda reacted strongly, he asked how much a suitable costume would cost. She replied that it would cost 400 francs. Mr. Loisel turned pale. He saved 400 francs to buy a gun for him to shoot larks. But he bowed down and agreed to give 400 francs to have a pretty dress.

7. What and why did Matilda (Mrs. Loisel) put up another demand after her husband gave her 400 francs for buying a pretty dress?

Ans. Mrs. Loisel's demand of having a suitable costume was fulfilled and her dress was almost ready. But then, she put forward another demand, she was vexed not to have any jewels. She didn't want to present a poverty-stricken look of herself amidst rich ladies. She ridiculed the idea of wearing natural flowers. She needed some jewels to adorn herself.

8. How was Matilda's demand of adorning herself with jewels fulfilled?

Ans. Mrs. Loisel was adamant on having some jewels to adorn herself for the ball. Her poor husband felt helpless. However, an idea struck him. He told her that she could borrow jewels from her rich friend Madam Forestier. Madam Forestier easily agreed and placed her

jewellery box before Matilda to make her choice. In the end, Matilda chose a superb diamond necklace and Madam Forestier happily gave the necklace to her friend.

9. What made Matilda a grand success at the ball? Or

How did Matilda perform at the ball and why did men want to be introduced to her?

Ans. It was a great test for Matilda to present herself at the ball. And she was a grand success there. She was the prettiest of them all. She was elegant, graceful and full of joy. She danced with enthusiasm. All the men noticed such a wonderful lady, asked her name and wanted to be introduced to her.

10. Why did Mr. Loisel had to put on his clothes to go out into the cold at night, minutes after returning from the ball? Did he succeed in getting what he searched for?

Ans. Matilda had lost the diamond necklace that she had borrowed from Madam Forestier at the ball. When it was not found in the folder of her dress, in the folds of the cloak, in pockets, everywhere, Mr Loisel went out. He went over the track in search of the lost necklace. No, he didn't succeed in finding what he had been searching for in the cold night.

11. How did Mr, and Mrs. Loisel replace the lost necklace and gave that to Madam Forestier?

Ans. When they had lost all hopes of getting the lost necklace, Mrs and Mr. Loisel decided that they must replace the necklace. In a shop, they found a necklace which seemed to them exactly like the one they had lost. They could get in for 36000 francs. Mr. Loisel had left. They borrowed the rest of the money. They bought the new necklace and returned it to Madam Forestier.

12. Why and how did the Loisel spend the horrible life of necessity?

Ans. Loisels had heavy debts on their heads. To pay them off, they had to lead a very hard and even miserable life. They sent away their maid. They changed their lodgings and rented some rooms in the attic. Matilda learnt the odious work of a kitchen. She washed the dishes and soiled linen. She took down the refuse to the street. She clothed like an ordinary woman and did all odd jobs herself. Mr. Loisel put the books of some merchants in order. He did copying at five sous a page. It took ten years to pay off all the debts.

13. Why didn't Madam Forestier recognise Matilda? How did both the ladies look?

Ans. One day, Matilda was taking a walk in the Champs-Élysées. She suddenly saw a woman walking with a child. It was Madam Forestier. She was still young, pretty and still attractive. But Mrs. Loisel looked just the different. Her face was telling her story. She had so much change that Madam Forestier couldn't recognise her. She could only say, "Oh! My poor Matilda! How you have changed!"

14. Do you think Mr. Loisel had an enjoyable evening at the ball? Give reasons for your answer.

Ans. He did not have an enjoyable evening at the ball. He was quite bored with the ball. He felt half asleep in a little salon with three men.

15. Matilda and her husband suffered to pay off the debts which they took on their heads for a false necklace. Comment. Do you find the ending of the story unexpected and ironical?

Ans. In the end, Madam Forestier told Matilda that the necklace which she lent to her and for whose replacement they had to suffer so much was really a false one. The ending of the play is quite unexpected but logical. It is ironical as well. The necklace that bought so much ruin and miseries to Matilda and her husband turned out to be a false one.

16. What was the greatest mistake of Mrs. Loisel that became the cause of their miseries? Could she have averted it?

Ans. The greatest blunder that Matilda committed was that she didn't take her friend into confidence. She should have told the whole story as it had happened. That would have pacified Madam Forestier quite easily as the necklace she lent to her friend was not of real diamonds but false ones.

17. Why do you think M. Loisel was a loving husband?

Ans. I think that M. Loisel was a loving husband because his behaviour shows that he was a caring husband. He tried his best to make his wife happy despite his penury. For example, he arranged four hundred francs to buy new dress of his wife.

18. Why did Matilda (Mme Loisel) leave the ball in a hurry? What does it show about her character?

Ans. Matilda (Mme Loisel) left the ball in a hurry so that she was not seen by the other women who were wrapping themselves in rich furs. The act of leaving the ball in such a hurry shows how desperate she was in hiding her poverty. She did not want the rich women to ever know that she belonged to a poor family.

19. Why was Matilda always unhappy after her marriage?

Ans. Matilda was always unhappy after her marriage because she felt that she was born for all delicacies and luxuries and in the absence of these she suffered again and again. Moreover, she was born into a family of clerks and she got married to a petty clerk in a government office.

She longed for good dresses and jewels to adorn her body. She loved these things, so she suffered a lot due to their absence.

20. How did M. Loisel try to make his wife happy?

Ans. Mme Matilda Loisel was always unhappy because of her poor condition. She had no good dress, nor did she have any jewels. So, her husband, Mr. Loisel, tried to make her happy by purchasing new luxury dress and by arranging necklace from her friend, Mme Forestier.

21. What was Mme Loisel shocked to know at the end of the story?

Ans. At the end of the story, when Mme Loisel met Mme Forestier told her the story about her lost necklace. She said that the necklace was an artificial one and its cost was only about five hundred Francs. This made her shocked when she came to know this.

22. Why did Matilda not want to see her rich friends?

Ans. Matilda did not want to see her rich friends because she had inferiority complex. Whenever she visited her rich friends, she felt dejected and disappointed because of her poverty. Moreover, she had no attractive dresses and jewellery to adorn herself with.

23. Why was Mme Loisel always unhappy?

Ans. Mme Loisel was always unhappy because of her poor condition. She did not like her lifestyle. Moreover, she did not get what she aspired for. But, she was crazy to enjoy all the luxuries and delicacies. Unfortunately, her husband was a poor clerk.

24. Do you think Mme Loisel had an enjoyable evening at the ball? Give reasons for your answer.

Ans. I think, Mme Loisel had an enjoyable evening at the ball. She was the prettiest of all - elegant, gracious, smiling and full of joy. She danced with enthusiasm. Her victory at the ball was sweet to her heart.

25. How did the Loisels react when they realized that the necklace had been lost?

Ans. The Loisels became very unhappy when they understood that the necklace had been lost. They were sure that the loss of the necklace would make their life miserable because Mr. Loisel was a poor clerk. So, it was very difficult for them to replace the lost diamond necklace.

26. What was the cause of Matilda's ruin?

Ans. Matilda's greed for high lifestyle and daydreaming was the cause of her ruin. In fact, she was not ready to accept the reality of life. She liked to have luxury dresses and jewellery to adorn her. She never followed her husband's advice. So her unrealistic dream and immaturity ruined her.

27. How did the Loisels replace the necklace?

Ans. The Loisels replaced the necklace by purchasing a diamond necklace with same design. The cost of the necklace was 36000 francs. Mr. Loisel had to borrow money on a high rate of interest from a moneylender. Thus, they could replace the necklace but their hard life started

28. When Matilda lost the necklace, what should she have done?

Ans. When Matilda lost the necklace, she should have gone directly to her friend Mme Forestier and confessed to her about the loss of the necklace. She could know that it was an artificial necklace.

29. Why did Matilda change her lifestyle after the ball?

Ans. After the ball, the lifestyle of Matilda changed because she realized that her poverty clashed with the elegance of the ball costume. She walked towards the river, hopeless and shivering. She reached home by an old carriage. She lost the necklace in the ball and then her hardship in life began.

30. Why was Matilda sad after the ball?

Ans. Matilda was sad after the ball because she found that her necklace was not around her neck. When she removed the wraps from her shoulders before the glass, for a final view of herself in glory, she told her husband that she no longer had the necklace after the ball.

31. How had Mme Loisel's sacrifice all been in vain?

Ans. Matilda always thought that she was born to enjoy all the material comforts of life. But after the loss of the necklace in the ball, she had to sacrifice all the comforts of life in order to replace the necklace. She had to do all hazardous works herself. But all these sacrifices and 'distress' were in vain because that was artificial necklace. The real one was still with her friend, Mme Forestier.

32. Why did Matilda's husband go out into the cold night minutes after returning from the ball? Was he successful in his purpose?

Ans. Matilda's husband Mr. Loisel went into the cold night minutes after returning from the ball because he went to find out the necklace that Matilda lost somewhere on the way when they were returning from the ball. He went everywhere but it was all in vain. Towards seven o'clock he returned, but he had found nothing.

No, Mr. Loisel was not successful in finding the necklace.

33. Why could Mme Forestier not recognize her friend Matilda at the end of the story?

Ans. Mme Forestier did not recognize her friend Matilda because she had completely changed in her appearance. She appeared now as an old, hard and crude-looking woman of a poor household. She had lost all the charm of her youthful days. Mme Forestier uttered a cry of astonishment, 'Oh! My poor Matilda! How you have changed so much!'

34. What was Loisel's reaction to his wife's demand for a new dress?

Ans. Although Mr Loisel was a caring husband, his wife's demand for a new dress pained him. Matilda told him that it might cost four hundred francs.

Mr Loisel turned a little pale because he had just saved this amount to buy a gun in order to join some hunting parties next summer. Thus, he was not happy with his wife's whimsical demand for a new dress.

35. Why did Matilda not like to visit her friend Mme Forestier?

Ans. Matilda did not like to visit her friend Mme Forestier because she had lost the necklace in the ball. She was afraid that Mme Forestier might ask her to replace the same immediately.

Long Answer Type Questions

1. Draw a pen-portrait (character-sketch) of Matilda (Mrs. Loisel) in about 100-200 words.

Ans. Matilda or Mrs. Loisel was quite a beautiful young lady. Some error of fortune gave her birth in a family of petty clerks. She was highly ambitious and dreamy. Her dreams were impractical and beyond her means. She had to suffer a lot for her acts. But suffering and misfortunes only ended in making her a better human being. She struggled hard like an ordinary maid. She started doing all household works herself. She started living within her limits. She helped her very caring and accommodating husband in saving money. It was a joint effort they were successful in paying off all their debts in ten years.

Matilda was born with a misconception. She thought, very wrongly, that she was born to enjoy all delicacies and luxuries of the world. She dreamt of a grand house, costly dishes, trendy dresses and glittering jewels.

Matilda was not rich. But she didn't want to present a poverty-stricken image of her amidst rich ladies. She was a self-respecting woman. She refused to go to the ball without a suitable dress and jewels.

One blunder of Matilda led her to ruin and sufferings. She lacked humility. She must have gone and confessed before Madam Forestier that she had lost her necklace. She should have avoided

unnecessary suffering to herself and to her husband. Much was done about nothing. Had she done so, she could have maintained her beauty and youth as Madam Forestier did.

2. Was Matilda's dream fulfilled at the ball? Why did all men want them to be presented to her?

Ans. Matilda always dreamt of grandeur, delicacies and luxuries in her life. She had prepared the ball so thoroughly as befitted a grand occasion. She didn't want to present a poverty-stricken image of her, amidst rich ladies and gentlemen. She made her husband buy a new costume for this occasion. She borrowed jewels from Madam Forestier to adorn herself like a graceful and distinguished lady. And she proved to be a grand success at the ball. Her dream was fulfilled. She was the centre of attraction for all ladies as well as gentlemen who were present there.

Matilda danced with enthusiasm. She was intoxicated with pleasure. She loved to be admired and appreciated. Her victory at the ball was the prettiest of all. She was elegant and gracious. She was smiling and full of joy. All the men noticed her. They asked her name and were eager to be presented to her. She was so attractive and appealing to them. They couldn't avoid the temptation of noticing her.

3. What was the single mistake that ruined the Loiseles' lives and brought them so much suffering? Could they have avoided such a situation? Or

How did a false necklace bring unnecessary struggles and sufferings to Loiseles? Could a better understanding have avoided them? Give a reasoned answer.

Ans. It is true that a single mistake can change the course of one's life. This is exactly what happened to Matilda. Wearing a suitable costume and adorning herself with borrowed jewels didn't bring any reversal of fortunes for Loisel. But hiding the fact that she had lost Madam Forestier's necklace and not taking her into confidence was indeed a big blunder. It was the greatest mistake that Matilda had ever made in her life. She unnecessarily brought suffering to them for nothing. They had to pay 36000 francs to buy a replacement of Madam Forestier's necklace. For ten long years, Matilda had to work like an ordinary maid doing all her household work herself. Mr. Loisel had to do extra works in the evenings and nights to save money.

Of course, the Loiseles could have averted such an unfortunate situation. Madam Forestier was an obliging, helpful and forgiving lady. She was rich but not arrogant. She would have easily

forgiven her for losing her necklace. After all, the jewels were false. And much was done and suffered just for nothing!

4. How did Matilda and her husband struggle and suffer to pay off all their debts? What struggles, sufferings and sacrifices they had to make to become debt-free? What unfortunate changes came with the passage of the time in their lives? Comment.

Ans. One big mistake changed the very course of Matilda's and her husband's lives. They unnecessarily spent their whole savings of 18000 francs left by his father. They had to borrow the rest of the money. And just imagine that 36000 francs was lost to replace a false necklace! They could have avoided all this had they taken Madam Forestier into confidence before buying the replacement.

For ten long years, the beautiful young lady had to work like an ordinary maid. They sent away the maid. They changed their lodgings. They rented some rooms in an attic. Matilda did all the washing of the dishes and the soiled linen. She took down the refuse to the street each morning. She clothed like an ordinary woman. She did all the shopping herself with her basket on her arm. She haggled to the last sous to save some money.

The husband, Mr. Loisel, worked in the evenings. He put the books of some merchants in order. He did some copying work at five sous a page. Their miserable life continued for ten years till they paid off all the debts on them.

5. Mme Forestier proved to be a true friend of the Loisels. Elaborate.

Ans. After her meeting with Matilda, Mme Forestier was upset with what happened. Mme Forestier feels guilty of not telling her friend that the necklace was not real. Matilda ruined her own life in paying for the necklace. Mme Forestier is a sensitive and kind lady. She helped Matilda by giving her necklace. She could never imagine that her friend would undergo such a hardship for that fake necklace. After ten years, after knowing the truth and reality she must have been upset. She would have definitely returned the necklace to Mme Forestier. She was a lady full of compassion, sympathy and kindness. If I had been in her place in her place, I would have done the same.

Next Generation School

6. Not to accept the limitations of our life makes us unhappy in our lives. Describe how Matilda Loisel suffers in her life because she does not accept that she is not a rich person.

Ans. There is no doubt in it that to accept the limitations of our life or not to accept it, is a pertinent question related to our happiness or unhappiness. However, most of the people become unhappy and suffer because of not accepting the limitation of life.

In the context of the story, Matilda Loisel suffered in her life because she did not accept her limitation of life. Although she was born in a poor family yet she dreamt to enjoy all the delicacies and luxuries like the people. She did not understand her limitations. She was not conscious of her capacity, reality and condition. So, she suffered because of her greed for high lifestyle and not accepting her limitations and condition.

7. How did Loisel and Matilda arrange the money to buy the necklace?

Ans. The necklace that Loisel and Matilda was going to buy to replace the necklace, was valued at forty thousand francs. However, they could get it for thirty-six thousand francs. So, for them, it was a difficult task because they possessed only eighteen thousand francs. So, they borrowed money from the money lenders with high interest to buy the necklace.

8. The 'Necklace' reveals that vanity is an evil. It may bring joy for a short period but ultimately it leads to ruin. If you were placed in a situation similar to that of Matilda, what would you have done? Write your views.

Ans. It is true vanity is an evil. Ultimately, too much vanity leads one to ruin. The 'Necklace' is an ornament that ornaments and adorns a woman to be proud. In the context, Matilda's vanity is her necklace that she adorns in the ball to be the most attractive. It brought her pleasure and joy for short period. When she lost the necklace, she took a lot of pains and distress to replace it.

If I were placed in a situation similar to that of Matilda, I would not become a daydreamer like her. Of course, I would adorn a jewel like Matilda's necklace and attend the party to grace the occasion, but I would never have the vanity for the ornament. I prefer to live a simple life unlike Matilda as she is the symbol of vanity in the context

9. What was the cause of Matilda's ruin? How could she have avoided it?

Ans. The cause of Matilda's ruin was her greed and lofty aspiration for higher lifestyle. She was quite pretty and thought that she was born to enjoy all material comforts of life. In

fact, she was not ready to accept the reality of life. She was a daydreamer. She never behaved like a mature woman. She always loved to have luxury dresses and jewels to adorn herself. She suffered from her anxiety of insatiable demand. She always ignored her husband's good pieces of advice. Thus, she was ruined for her unrealistic.

Matilda could have avoided her ruin if she behaved like a mature woman, followed her husband's advice to wear some natural flowers. But, her thought was rooted in the dreamy world that never came true.

10. What changes came in the lifestyle of Matilda after she had lost the necklace?

Ans. Matilda's loss of necklace is a lesson to her to realize the reality of life. It affected her thought -'She is born to enjoy all material comforts of life.' Now, she understood the cause of her ruin-her greed for higher and unrealistic dreams.

So we find a lot of change in her lifestyle after the loss of the necklace. To replace the necklace, the Loiseles had to borrow money at a very high rate of interest.

To repay the frightful debt, the Loiseles had to work hard day and night. Matilda had to manual work. She washed dishes, soiled linen and dish cloths. She had to do all the odious work in the kitchen. Now, Matilda came to know the horrible life of necessity. Poverty and hardship made her a crude woman. She is no more in her dreamy world.

Had Matilda not lost her necklace, she would remain in her world of luxury and daydreaming-changes would never come in.

11. Write a character-sketch of M. Loisel.

Ans. M. Loisel was a petty clerk in the office of the Board of education. His salary was meagre, so he could not afford all the luxuries of his wife Matilda. In spite of that he loved his wife very much. But, unfortunately he did not have an enjoyable evening at her ball as he was quite bored.

M. Loisel was a very simple man and lived on his reality. He never tried to show off like his wife. He was also very economical. When Matilda asked him to buy a costly costume to attend the ball, M. Loisel turned pale and stupefied in dismay. He suggested to his wife to wear natural instead of buying a costly costume.

12. What could have happened to Matilda if she had confessed to her friend that she had lost the necklace?

Ans. If Matilda had confessed to her friend Mme Forestier that she had lost the necklace, the situation would be totally different. Mme Forestier would have told her the reality about the necklace. She could know that the necklace was not made of diamond but it was artificial. Its cost was not more than five hundred francs. She could easily arrange this small amount and did not have to borrow money from moneylenders at a high rate of interest. So, to repay the loan, the Loiseles had to lead a very difficult life for ten years.

13. What kind of person is Matilda's husband? Support your answer giving examples from the text.

Ans. Matilda's husband is a petty clerk. He works in the office of Board of Education. He is a very humble person. He loves and cares for his wife very much. He tries to make his wife always happy despite his poor economic condition. So, his behaviour shows that he is a caring husband. In the story, when Matilda was vexed not to have a jewel to attend the ball, Mr Loisel suggested, 'You can wear some natural flowers that look very chic.' He is also very economical, but he always faces problems to fulfil his wife's wishes. Moreover, he is a duty-conscious and disciplined man. When they returned home wearily after Matilda's loss of necklace, he remembered that he would have to be at the office by ten o'clock. All these show that he was a responsible and disciplined husband.



Next Generation School

TEST YOUR SKILLS

Short Answer Type Questions

1. Why was Matilda not-satisfied with her destiny?
2. Why did Matilda throw away the invitation card on the table?
3. How did Mr. Loisel sacrifice the money he saved for a gun to please his reluctant wife?
4. What and why did Mrs. Loisel do to adorn herself for the ball?
5. How Matilda's performance at the ball and what was was the reaction of all the men present there towards her?
6. Why did Mrs. Loisel have to go out in the cold night after they returned home after the ball?
7. What efforts did the Loisels make to replace the lost necklace?
8. What miserable changes came in the life of Loisels till they hadn't paid off the debts?
9. Describe the struggle of Mrs. Loisel after they had heavy debts on them.
10. How did Madam Forestier and Mrs. Loisel have a chance meeting and why didn't Madam Forestier recognise her friend?
11. Why did Matilda tell her friend that actually she was the real cause of her sufferings?
12. Don't you think much was done and suffered just foe nothing. Give a reasoned answer.
13. What was the real mistake of Matilda? Could she have averted her sufferings?

Long Answer Type Questions

1. Give a character sketch of Matilda or Mrs. Loisel.
2. Mr. Loisel was a very accommodating and sensible husband who tried to please his pretty but unwise wife inspite of his limited means. Comment.
3. Describe the preparations that Matilda did to pay for them. Was she satisfied with her performance and presentation at the ball? Why?
4. What turned out to be the main cause of sufferings of Matilda and her husband? How could they or Matilda, particularly, have avoided them?

Next Generation School