

Student's Name _____

Text from "The Necklace"	What the Character Expects	The Ironic Twist (In Reality)	Inference About Life or Human Nature
<p>P. 224, lines 2-4 "With no dowry, no prospects no way of any kind of being met, understood, loved, and married by a man prosperous and famous, she was finally married to a minor clerk in the Ministry of Education."</p>	<p>It seems, at least from Matilde's perspective, that she had no hopes of getting a quality man or of being loved by someone suitable for her.</p>	<p>In reality although she had no dowry, no social background, she landed a husband who loved, understood, and appreciated her – probably much more than she deserved or could have hoped for. Nevertheless, she did not appreciate him. She did not even recognize her good fortune.</p>	<p>Obviously Matilde does not recognize true value.</p>
<p>p. 226, lines 42-51 Then one evening, her husband came home proudly holding out a large envelope. Instead of being delighted, as her husband had hoped, she scornfully tossed the envelope..."</p>	<p>Matilde's husband expected that she would be thrilled to receive an invitation to the social event at the Ministerial Mansion. He told her, "I thought you would be thrilled to death. I had an awful time getting a card. Everybody wants one, and not many clerks have a chance to get one." Naturally he thought she would be delighted.</p>	<p>Instead of being thrilled as her husband had expected, she was miserable – the opposite of what one would have expected.</p>	<p>Her husband obviously knows her and loves her very much. There is no pleasing Matilde, because she always wants more.</p>

<p>p. 228, lines 100-110 “At first her eyes noted some bracelets, then a pearl necklace, then a Venetian cross, gold and gems, of marvelous workmanship... All at once she found, in a black satin box, a superb diamond necklace; and her pulse beat faster with longing.”</p>			
<p>p. 228-229, lines 114-122 “Mme. Loisel was a sensation. She was the prettiest one there, fashionable, gracious, smiling, and wild with joy....”</p>			

<p>P. 224, lines 11-15 “She grieved over the shabbiness of the apartment, the dinginess of the walls, ...the ugliness of the draperies....All of these things which another woman of her class would not have noticed,... gnawed at her and made her furious.”</p>			
<p>p. 233, lines 222-224 “What would have happened had she not lost that necklace? Who knows? Who can say? How strange and unpredictable life is! How little there is between happiness and misery!”</p>			

<p>p. 233, lines 248-end Mme. Forestier stopped short. “You mean to say you bought a diamond necklace to replace mine?” “Yes. You never noticed then? They were quite alike.” <u>And she smiled with proud and simple joy.</u> Mme Forestier, quite overcome, clasped her by the hands. “Oh, my poor Matilde. But mine was only paste. Why, at most it was worth only five hundred francs.”</p>			
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Directions for after you finish the organizer: Reread the ending paragraphs beginning with line 240. Explain what is ironic about the fact that Matilde “smiled with proud and simple joy.” What did the author want us to understand by including this irony?

Teacher's Edition

Text from “The Necklace”	What the Character Expects	The Ironic Twist (In Reality)	Inference About Life or Human Nature
<p>p. 224, lines 2-4 “With no dowry, no prospects no way of any kind of being met, understood, loved, and married by a man prosperous and famous, she was finally married to a minor clerk in the Ministry of Education.”</p>	<p>It seems, at least from Matilde’s perspective, that she had no hopes of getting a quality man or of being loved by someone suitable for her.</p>	<p>In reality although she had no dowry, no social background, she landed a husband who loved, understood, and appreciated her – probably much more than she deserved or could have hoped for. Nevertheless, she did not appreciate him. She did not even recognize her good fortune.</p>	<p>Obviously Matilde does not recognize true value.</p>
<p>p. 226, lines 42-51 Then one evening, her husband came home proudly holding out a large envelope. Instead of being delighted, as her husband had hoped, she scornfully tossed the envelope...”</p>	<p>Matilde’s husband expected that she would be thrilled to receive an invitation to the social event at the Ministerial Mansion. He told her, “I thought you would be thrilled to death. I had an awful time getting a card. Everybody wants one, and not many clerks have a chance to get one.” Naturally he thought she would be delighted.</p>	<p>Instead of being thrilled as her husband had expected, she was miserable – the opposite of what one would have expected.</p>	<p>Her husband obviously knows her and loves her very much. There is no pleasing Matilde, because she always wants more.</p>

<p>p. 228, lines 100-110 “At first her eyes noted some bracelets, then a pearl necklace, then a Venetian cross, gold and gems, of marvelous workmanship... All at once she found, in a black satin box, a superb diamond necklace; and her pulse beat faster with longing.”</p>	<p>Matilde overlooked the many choices of finely crafted jewelry and selected the flashy diamond necklace. She assumed this was the most valuable. It certainly was the most appealing to her.</p>	<p>Ironically she overlooked the items that had the most value in favor of something that was flashy but without any real value.</p>	<p>Once again Maupassant illustrates that Matilde is unable to recognize true value: she couldn't tell the difference between something that was valuable and something that was not.</p>
<p>p. 228-229, lines 114-122 “Mme. Loisel was a sensation. She was the prettiest one there, fashionable, gracious, smiling, and wild with joy....”</p>	<p>Most likely Matilde believes that she is accepted and admired because of her beautiful dress and jewelry.</p>	<p>In reality we see that she is the prettiest one there. She is gracious. She smiles. Ironically, all of the attributes that attract the admiration of others seem to have little to do with the necklace, but more to do with her innate qualities</p>	<p>She is unable to recognize her own value as a person. She thinks that people are only valued for wearing expensive clothing and jewelry</p>

<p>p. 224, lines 11-15 “She grieved over the shabbiness of the apartment, the dinginess of the walls...the ugliness of the draperies....All of these things which another woman of her class would not have noticed,... gnawed at her and made her furious.”</p>	<p>Matilde, at the beginning of the story, grieved over her poor living conditions and felt sorry for herself. She thought she had it worse than anyone else.</p>	<p>Ironically the reality of her later life, after losing the necklace, was far worse than what she grieved over earlier.</p>	<p>She did not realize how good she had it before she lost the necklace. (Isn't it true that we often fail to recognize appreciate what we have. We get so caught up in wishing for more.)</p>
<p>p. 233, lines 222-224 “What would have happened had she not lost that necklace? Who knows? Who can say? How strange and unpredictable life is! How little there is between happiness and misery!”</p>	<p>Matilde blames her situation on fate or the bad luck of losing the necklace. She puts the blame elsewhere</p>	<p>In reality her fate was the direct result of the choices she made.</p>	<p>Mathilde, like most of us, will put the blame on other people, on fate rather than accept the result of her own choices.</p>

<p>p. 233, lines 248-end Mme. Forestier stopped short. “You mean to say you bought a diamond necklace to replace mine?” “Yes. You never noticed then? They were quite alike.” <u>And she smiled with proud and simple joy.</u> Mme Forestier, quite overcome, clasped her by the hands. “Oh, my poor Matilde. But mine was only paste. Why, at most it was worth only five hundred francs.”</p>			
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Directions for after you finish the organizer: Reread the ending paragraphs beginning with line 240 on page 233.. Explain what is ironic about the fact that Matilde “smiled with proud and simple joy.” What did the author want us to understand by including this irony? Include specific examples from the story in your response.

Exemplary Response:

When Matilde “smiled with proud and simple joy,” she did so because she thought she had successfully tricked Mme. Forestier into believing that the replacement necklace was the original. The irony is that in reality Matilde had spent years paying for a real diamond necklace to replace one that was merely a cheap reproduction. Her whole life had been ruined because she was unhappy with what she had. She had true quality in her husband but she did not recognize it, just like she did not recognize the fake necklace for what it was. Maupassant shows that often people don’t recognize the true value of what they have in life and ruin their lives longing for what they don’t have.