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“The Necklace” by Guy de Maupassant Questions

1. What does the word *petulantly* mean, as it is used in paragraph 10?
   1. Showing sudden irritation
   2. Showing sudden disappointment
   3. Showing sudden excitement
   4. Showing sudden disinterest
2. Which clue from the text best supports your answer to #1?
   1. “Swiftly, she tore the paper…” (8)
   2. “Why, darling, I thought you’d be pleased.” (12)
   3. “She looked at him out of furious eyes…” (13)
   4. “…his wife was beginning to cry.” (10)
3. What does the conversation between Mathilde and her husband in paragraphs 10-13 reveal about the characters’ different points of view regarding the party?
   1. The conversation illustrates that both characters are concerned about how the other will behave at the party.
   2. The conversation shows the different ways each character believes the party will demonstrate their social status.
   3. The conversation emphasizes the different opinions each character has of the Minister of Education and his wife.
   4. The conversation highlights the different levels of experience each character has in attending parties thrown by society’s prominent members.
4. Which TWO quotations best support each character’s point of view? Select one quotation for each character.
   1. Mathilde: “What do you want me to do with this?” (11)
   2. Monsieur Loisel: “Everyone wants one; it’s very select, and very few go to the clerks.” (12)
   3. Monsieur Loisel: “It looks very nice, to me…” (15)
   4. Mathilde: “I don’t know exactly, but I think I could do it on 400 francs.” (24)
   5. Mathilde: “… there’s nothing so humiliating as looking poor in the middle of a lot of rich women.” (32)
   6. Monsieur Loisel: “How stupid you are!” (33)
5. How does Mathilde’s attitude about life differ from her husband’s?
   1. Mathilde comes from a wealth family, and she feels she married down; her husband came from a poor family, and he feels he married up.
   2. Mathilde understands how important it is to make a good impression; her husband is unaffected by the opinions of others.
   3. Mathilde is reckless and thoughtless; her husband is organized and thinks everything through.
   4. Mathilde is dramatic and concerned about how others view her; her husband is hardworking and content.
6. What is the theme of the text? Explain.
7. How does Mathilde’s attitude change after she vows to replace Madame Forestier’s necklace?
8. Which of the following quotations best reflects Mathilde’s attitude change?
   1. “And, clad like a poor woman, she went to the fruiterer, to the grocer, to the butcher, a basket on her arm, haggling, insulted, fighting for every wretched halfpenny of her money.” (91)
   2. “At the end of ten years everything was paid off, everything, the usurer’s charges and the accumulation or superimposed interest.” (95)
   3. “But sometimes when her husband was at the office, she sat down by the window and thought of that evening long ago, of the ball at which she had been so beautiful and so much admired.” (96)
   4. “I bought you another one just like it. And for the last ten years we have been paying for it.” (113)
9. At the end of the story, it is revealed that the necklace was an imitation. Is it significant the neither Mathilde or anyone at the party noticed that the necklace was a fake?
10. What role does greed play in this story?