

About the Author

Guy De Maupassant was a great French writer. He is considered to be one of the best short story writers of the world. He was born on 5th August 1850 in France and died on 6th July 1893. Maupassant was a representative of the naturalist school of writers, who depicted human lives and destinies and social forces in disillusioned and often pessimistic terms. He wrote some 300 short stories, six novels, three travel books, and also one poetry.

Introduction of the lesson- The Necklace

The Necklace is one of the well-known stories of Maupassant. The story revolves around a selfish lady named Matilda. She is unsatisfied with her life as she wants a rich husband but because she belongs to a family of clerks and her family is unable to give dowry she is married to a clerk. One day, both the husband and wife are invited to a party at the minister's house. But Matilda does not have good clothes and jewels to wear at such a party. Her husband suggests her to buy a dress and ask an old friend for jewellery. She then borrows a necklace from her friend and goes to the party...

About the Characters

Matilda Loisel She is a pretty young woman who is married to a clerk. She is dissatisfied with what she has. She is always lost in her dreams of wealth and pleasure.

Mr. Loisel He is the husband of Matilda and is an ordinary clerk. He lives within his means. He always tries to please his wife as he is a caring man.

Madam Forestier She is a good friend of Matilda. She is helpful and considerate. She lends Matilda a necklace that leads to her ruin.

OVERVIEW OF THE CHAPTER :

Matilda Loisel and her Unhappiness

Matilda Loisel, a middle class lady, desperately wished she were wealthy. She was very pretty and charming but had the bad luck to be born into a family of clerks and married to another clerk, Mr Loisel. Her husband worked as a clerk in the office of the Board of Education. Matilda was simple but she was unhappy. She was so convinced that she's meant to be rich that she detested her real life and spent all day dreaming and despairing about the fabulous life that she was not having.

Mr Loisel Brought an Invitation :

One day, Mr Loisel brought an invitation to a fancy ball organised by his boss, the Minister of Education. Mr Loisel thought that her wife would be delighted to read the invitation but she was not delighted to see the invitation. She told her husband that she does not have a good dress to wear to that occasion and ask him to give the invitation to his friend. Her husband Mr Loisel, told her that she could buy a new dress. He had saved four hundred francs to buy a gun to join some hunting parties. He said that he would give that money to her for buying a new dress.

Matilda Gets Necklace From Mme Forestier :

Matilda buys a new dress but she was not happy. Her husband asked the reason of her sadness. She says that she would not go for the ball as she does not have jewellery to wear with the dress. He replied that she should wear some natural flowers, but she was not convinced. Then he advised her to borrow it from her friend, Mme Forestier. Next day she went to her friend's house and borrowed a necklace for the ball.

Matilda at the Day of Ball :

The night of the ball arrived and Matilda was happy at the occasion. She looked very beautiful in the dress. Everyone liked her and she was absolutely thrilled. She and her husband did not leave until 4 am. Then they caught a cab and returned home.

The Necklace was Lost :

When she returned home and was changing her dress, Matilda wanted to see her beauty in final view before the mirror. Suddenly she noticed that the necklace was not around her neck. She was shocked to see that her necklace had got lost. She cried out and informed her husband that she had lost the necklace. Her husband searched for the necklace on every place, where they went last night. He went to the police and the cab offices. He also put an advertisement in the newspapers, but the necklace was not found. So he advised her wife to write a letter to her friend telling her that she needs some time to get the necklace repaired.

Loisels Replace the Necklace :

At last, Matilda decides to replace the necklace with a necklace that looks similar to it. Her husband gives her 18,000 francs which his father had left for him. He takes a loan of the remaining amount and purchase a diamond necklace for 36,000 francs. She returns the necklace to her friend. Buying the necklace bought the Loisels in poverty. They lost their house, their maid, their comfortable lifestyle and on top of it all, Matilda loses her good-looking face.

The Truth Revealed Out :

After ten years, all the debts were finally paid. One day Matilda was walking in the Champs-Elysees and saw Mme Forestier. She was looking charming and beautiful as she had looked ten years before. Now that all the debts are paid off, Matilda decided to tell the story to Mme Forestier about her necklace. At this, Mme Forestier informed her that it was a fake necklace and the cost of it was only five hundred francs.