**The Necklace…..by Maupassant**

While it is okay to wish for more, sometimes it is important to stop and reflect on what we currently have in our lives. Mathilde Loisel lives in an apartment in Paris. She is unhappy and dissatisfied with her social status. She is invited to a ball through her husband. She starts nagging regarding buying a new dress. After purchasing the dress, she borrows a necklace from Mme Forestier to complete the scene. She discovers that she loses it after coming back home, therefore, she borrows a huge amount of money to compensate the lost necklace, and lives in poverty to cover the debt. Ten years later, Mme Forestier confesses to her that the necklace was fake.

There are two **conflicts** in the story, internal and external. As an **internal** conflict, Mathilde Loisel vs. herself as she is after material things and luxury which gives her emotional sufferings. The **external** conflict is Loisel vs. her husband’s different values. Although she keeps on nagging , the husband is tolerant of her behavior, and still wants to please her.

**Character analysis**

**Mathilde’s character:** charming and dynamic but class ambitious, complex, daydreamed, selfish, envious of the rich, spoiled, proud, unhappy, unable to accept her life conditions. She is married to a minor clerk. She never does her housework and aims for more.

**The husband’s character** can be summarized as a clerk from the middle class, kind, generous, loyal, hardworking, patient and loving. However, he is static.

**Point of view:** the story is told from the third person limited point of view, focusing mostly on Mathilde’s thoughts and feelings. The story belongs to the **Realism genre** in literature.

**Symbolism:** the necklace symbolizes wealth and high social status. The fake necklace symbolizes the desire for what one cannot have, and that appearance can be deceiving.

**Main themes** are

* People should be happy and contented with what they have.
* People may pay a terrible price for greed.

This story has a **dramatic irony**

* Mathilde borrows a diamond necklace to look like the rich, but the loss of the necklace results in her being poorer than before.
* The husband and wife work harder for ten years for a fake necklace.