

**Comprehension Check**

- Why is Madame Loisel unhappy with her life at the beginning of the story?  
She wants more money, more excitement, and a better social position.
- Why does Madame Loisel borrow a necklace from Madame Forestier?  
She thinks she needs fancy jewels to be properly dressed for the party.
- Why do the Loisels live like paupers for ten years?  
To repay the debt they incurred in replacing the lost necklace

1. What Do You Think? What was your reaction to the surprise ending? Share your thoughts with a classmate.

Some express surprise at the ending. Some may say they suspected it when the one jeweler told the Loisels he had only sold the case to Mme. Forestier. Students may feel that Mme. Loisel reaped the rewards of her vanity in both borrowing the necklace and then in not being truthful to Mme. Forestier about its loss.

2. What might be Madame Loisel's thoughts and feelings right after she learns that the diamond necklace was only paste?

She may feel anger that Mme. Forestier did not tell her that the diamonds were paste when she borrowed the necklace.

3. How does Madame Loisel change as a result of her experiences?

Possible Response: At the beginning of the story Mme. Loisel is vain, selfish, proud, unrealistic, and spoiled. After she loses the necklace, she becomes hardworking, thrifty, and self-sacrificing.

4. Madame Loisel pays dearly for jumping to a wrong conclusion. Do you think it ultimately ruins her life or saves her life? Explain your answer.

Possible Responses: She was destined for an unhappy existence; she is the better for the experience.

5. Look over the diagram you made in your of the sequence of major events in "The Necklace." In your opinion, what would have been the best point in the story for Madame Loisel to break the chain of **cause and effect**? Support your answer with evidence from the story.

Possible Answer: If Mme. Loisel had gone to Mme. Forestier the day after the party and told her the necklace was lost, she would have discovered its real value.

**6. Critic's Corner** The literary critic Edward D. Sullivan declares that "The Necklace" is not just a story pointing to a moral, such as "Honesty is the best policy," but a story showing that in people's lives "blind chance rules." Do you agree or disagree with Sullivan's argument? Cite evidence to support your opinion.

Some may agree, saying that bad luck or "blind chance" in the form of losing the necklace was the determining factor in the couple's fate. Others may argue that there *are* moral lessons to be taken from the story, and they may maintain that although chance does play a role, it is Mme. Loisel's vanity that ultimately results in their downfall.

**7. What If?** Suppose that Madame Loisel had not lost the necklace. On the basis of her feelings and actions up to that point in the story, what do you think her future would have been like?

Possible Response: She might have been invited to more society functions, and would put more pressure on her husband to provide for the lifestyle she wanted.

**8. Connect to Life** Do people still chase after wealth and social status today? Do you think the pursuit of status is worthwhile? Explain your opinion.

Possible Response: Be able to cite examples of people who chase after wealth and status. Their responses about the worth of the pursuit will vary, but should be substantiated.