The Necklace

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. What does Monsieur Loisel bring home at the start of the main action?
   A. An invitation to a formal evening event
   B. A new necklace
   C. A letter offering Mathilde a new job
   D. A receipt for new furniture
   Correct answer: A. An invitation to a formal evening event
   He brings an invitation to an official reception and initially expects Mathilde to be pleased.

2. Why does Mathilde hesitate to attend when she first sees the invitation?
   A. She doubts that the event is in Paris.
   B. She has already lent her invitation to a friend.
   C. She believes she has no suitable dress.
   D. She has promised to perform somewhere else.
   Correct answer: C. She believes she has no suitable dress.
   Her first concern is appearing at the event without a dress she considers appropriate.

3. Who lends Mathilde the necklace she wears to the event?
   A. Monsieur Loisel’s sister
   B. Madame Forestier
   C. The minister’s wife
   D. An employee of the jewelry shop
   Correct answer: B. Madame Forestier
   Mathilde borrows the necklace from her friend Madame Forestier.

4. What does Mathilde notice when she is home and looks at herself after the event?
   A. The invitation is missing from the mantel.
   B. Her friend left a second necklace in the case.
   C. Her dress has been replaced.
   D. The borrowed necklace is gone.
   Correct answer: D. The borrowed necklace is gone.
   At home she realizes that the necklace is no longer around her neck.

5. What do the Loisels return to Madame Forestier after searching for the missing jewelry?

A. The original necklace found in a cab
B. A similar necklace they bought
C. Only the empty case
D. A list of jewelry shops

Correct answer: B. A similar necklace they bought
They purchase a replacement that looks like the borrowed piece and return it as if it were the original.

6. Why does Mathilde hurry away when her husband puts her ordinary wrap over her ball gown?

A. She does not want the other guests to see it beside their fine wraps.
B. The wrap belongs to Madame Forestier.
C. The wrap keeps the necklace from fastening.
D. The hall has announced that every guest must leave early.

Correct answer: A. She does not want the other guests to see it beside their fine wraps.
The modest garment clashes with the wealthier appearance she has maintained at the event.

7. How does Monsieur Loisel make the new dress possible?

A. He uses a prize Mathilde won at the event.
B. He borrows a dress from the minister’s wife.
C. He promises to sell Madame Forestier’s necklace.
D. He gives Mathilde money he had saved for a purchase of his own.

Correct answer: D. He gives Mathilde money he had saved for a purchase of his own.
He sets aside his own plan and gives her the 400 francs she requests for the dress.

8. What does a jeweler tell the couple when they ask about the name printed inside the necklace case?

A. He had already found the missing necklace in the street.
B. He rented the necklace to Mathilde himself.
C. He sold the case and did not supply the necklace.
D. He sold both pieces together the day before.

Correct answer: C. He sold the case and did not supply the necklace.
The jeweler checks his records and distinguishes the case from its contents. This leaves the couple searching for a replacement.

9. How long does it take the couple to pay off the debt they took on?

A. Ten years
B. One month
C. Two years
D. Twenty years

Correct answer: A. Ten years
The narrator describes ten years of work and reduced living circumstances before the debt is paid.

10. Why does Madame Forestier initially fail to recognize Mathilde when they meet again?

A. Mathilde is deliberately wearing a disguise.
B. Mathilde introduces herself using her friend’s name.
C. They had first met only for a moment at the event.
D. Years of hardship have changed how Mathilde looks.

Correct answer: D. Years of hardship have changed how Mathilde looks.
The story describes the physical changes that follow years of hard work. Her friend does not recognize her at first.

11. Why does it matter that Madame Forestier does not open the case when the necklace is returned?

A. She knows the original is in the jewelry shop.
B. She can already see the diamonds are imitation.
C. She misses the opportunity to notice the substitution at that moment.
D. The case had been returned empty.

Correct answer: C. She misses the opportunity to notice the substitution at that moment.
Without looking at the returned necklace, the lender does not discover that the couple bought a replacement.

12. What does Madame Forestier disclose about the borrowed necklace at the end?

A. It contained more diamonds than the replacement.
B. It was imitation jewelry worth far less than the replacement.
C. It belonged to the minister’s family.
D. It was a gift from Monsieur Loisel.

Correct answer: B. It was imitation jewelry worth far less than the replacement.
The original necklace was imitation jewelry. Its maximum stated value was 500 francs.

13. The replacement costs 36,000 francs. The original is said to be worth at most 500 francs. At least how many times as costly is the replacement?

A. 70 times
B. 18 times
C. 36 times
D. 72 times

Correct answer: D. 72 times
Using the highest possible original value, divide 36,000 by 500 to get 72. A lower original value would produce a larger ratio.

14. Which statement best expresses the central irony of the couple’s decision?

A. They incur years of debt to replace an object whose appearance exaggerated its value.
B. They spend very little to gain an expensive object at no cost.
C. They tell the truth immediately and receive a gift as a reward.
D. They use the necklace as an investment and later sell it at a profit.

Correct answer: A. They incur years of debt to replace an object whose appearance exaggerated its value.
Believing the original was valuable, they buy costly jewelry to preserve appearances and learn the original was imitation.

15. How does saving the necklace’s true value for the ending affect the story?

A. It turns the story into Madame Forestier’s first-person account.
B. It settles the financial problem before the couple decides what to do.
C. It changes how readers interpret the years of sacrifice that came before.
D. It makes the event’s invitation the story’s final surprise.

Correct answer: C. It changes how readers interpret the years of sacrifice that came before.
The late revelation forces a reconsideration of the assumption on which the Loisels based their decision.