

## LITERATURE (SAT)

*This passage is adapted from Guy de Maupassant, "The Diamond Necklace." Mathilde Loisel is a beautiful woman of modest means who has the chance to attend a fancy ball. Her husband, Loisel, sacrifices to buy her a gown, and she borrows a diamond necklace from Jeanne Forestier, a wealthy friend. After the ball, the Loisels return home.*

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Mathilde removed her wraps before the glass so as to see herself once more in all her glory. But suddenly she uttered a cry. She no longer had the necklace around her neck! . . .

They looked among the folds of her skirt, of her cloak, in her pockets, everywhere, but did not find it. . . .

At last Loisel put on his clothes.

5 "I shall go back on foot," said he, "over the whole route, to see whether I can find it."

Loisel returned at night with a hollow, pale face. He had discovered nothing.

15 "You must write to your friend," said he, "that you have broken the clasp of her necklace and that you are having it mended. That will give us time to turn round."

She wrote at his dictation.

20 At the end of a week they had lost all hope. Loisel, who had aged five years, declared:

"We must consider how to replace that ornament." . . .

25 They found, in a shop at the Palais Royal, a string of diamonds that seemed to them exactly like the one they had lost. It was worth forty thousand francs.\* They could have it for thirty-six. . . .

30 Loisel possessed eighteen thousand francs that his father had left him. He would borrow the rest.

He did borrow, asking a thousand francs of one, five hundred of another, five coins

35 here, three coins there. He gave notes,† took up ruinous obligations, dealt with usurers and all the race of lenders. He compromised all the rest of his life, risked signing a note without even knowing whether he could

40 meet it; . . . he went to get the new necklace, laying upon the jeweler's counter thirty-six thousand francs.

When Madame Loisel took back the necklace, Madame Forestier said to her

45 with a chilly manner:  
"You should have returned it sooner; I might have needed it." . . .

Thereafter Madame Loisel knew the horrible existence of the needy. She bore her part, however, with sudden heroism.

50 That dreadful debt must be paid. She would pay it. They dismissed their servant; they changed their lodgings; they rented a garret; under the roof.

55 She came to know what heavy housework meant and the odious cares of the kitchen. She washed the dishes, using her dainty fingers and rosy nails on greasy pots and pans. She washed the soiled linen, the shirts and the dishcloths, which she dried upon a line. . . .

60 Every month they had to meet some notes, renew others, obtain more time. Her husband worked evenings, making up a tradesman's accounts, and late at night he often copied manuscript for five coins a page.

This life lasted ten years.

70 At the end of ten years they had paid everything, everything, with the rates of usury and the accumulations of the compound interest.

Madame Loisel looked old now. She had become the woman of impoverished households—strong and hard and rough....

75 But sometimes, when her husband was at the office, she sat down near the window and she thought of that gay evening of long ago, of that ball where she had been so beautiful and so admired. . . .

80 What would have happened if she had not lost that necklace? Who knows? Who knows? How strange and changeable is life! How small a thing is needed to make or

85 ruin us!

But one Sunday, having gone to take a walk in the Champs-Élysées to refresh herself after the labors of the week, she suddenly perceived a woman who was

90 leading a child. It was Madame Forestier, still young, still beautiful, still charming.

Madame Loisel felt moved. Should she speak to her? Yes, certainly. And now that she had paid, she would tell her all about

95 it. Why not?

She went up.  
"Good-day, Jeanne." . . .  
Her friend uttered a cry.

100 “Oh, my poor Mathilde! How you are changed!”

“Yes, I have had a pretty hard life, since I last saw you, and great poverty—and that because of you!”

“Of me! How so?”

105 “Do you remember that diamond necklace you lent me to wear at the ministerial ball?”

“Yes. Well?”

“Well, I lost it.”

110 “What do you mean? You brought it back.”

“I brought you back another exactly like

it. And it has taken us ten years to pay for it. You can understand that it was not easy for us, for us who had nothing. At last it is ended, and I am very glad.” . . .

Madame Forestier, deeply moved, took her hands.

120 “Oh, my poor Mathilde! Why, my necklace was glass! It was worth at most only five hundred francs!”

\*the former monetary unit of France †written promise to pay a stated sum ‡an attic room

Source: Maupassant, Guy de. “The Diamond Necklace.” Project Gutenberg. 1884. [http://www.gutenberg.org/files/3090/3090-h/3090-h.htm#2H\\_4\\_0056](http://www.gutenberg.org/files/3090/3090-h/3090-h.htm#2H_4_0056)

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1. Which choice best describes one of the themes of the passage?

- A) Necessity inspires creativity and innovation.
- B) Truth can protect from heartache and agony.
- C) Hard work teaches appreciation for the value of a dollar.
- D) Loyalty to loved ones is more important than material gain.

2. Based on the passage, it can be reasonably inferred that the author places great value on

- A) appearance.
- B) wealth.
- C) morality.
- D) work.

3. The narrator states that Loisel “had aged five years” (line 21) to indicate that he

- A) acted maturely.
- B) had grown older.
- C) is unwell as a result of his anxiety.
- D) had become wiser

4. The main purpose of lines 30-42 is to

- A) emphasize that Loisel is unconcerned about his future.
- B) demonstrate that Loisel is an inherently dishonest person.
- C) illustrate that Loisel is accustomed to being in debt to others.
- D) show that Loisel is willing to endure great suffering for his wife.

5. As used in line 45, “chilly” most nearly means

- A) arctic.
- B) frozen.
- C) numbing.
- D) unfriendly.

6. It can reasonably be inferred from the passage that Mathilde

- A) learns to appreciate what she has rather than to covet what others have.
- B) assigns more value to her own efforts than to the efforts of her husband.
- C) recognizes her responsibility for the misery she and her husband must withstand.
- D) intends to personally earn all the money necessary to repay the debts incurred for the replacement necklace.

7. Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A) Lines 48-49 (“Thereafter Madame . . . needy”)
- B) Lines 49-52 (“She bore . . . it”)
- C) Lines 55-57 (“She came . . . kitchen”)
- D) Lines 57-59 (“She washed . . . pans”)

8. After replacing the lost necklace, both Mathilde and her husband display a sense of

- A) determination.
- B) entitlement.
- C) optimism.
- D) reluctance.

9. Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A) Lines 59-61 (“She washed . . . line”)
- B) Lines 69-72 (“At the . . . interest”)
- C) Lines 76-80 (“But sometimes . . . admired”)
- D) Lines 86-90 (“But one . . . child”)

10. The series of questions in lines 81-85 is primarily intended to

- A) challenge a widespread belief.
- B) provide a brief summarization.
- C) parrot Mathilde’s internal monologue.
- D) prompt a reaction from the reader