

The Necklace

Guy de Maupassant

How does the opening turn dissatisfaction into a conflict between circumstances and self-image?

TOTAL TIME	TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION
30 minutes	Opening characterization - dissatisfaction with social position

TEACHER SETUP

Open the work in the Enhanced Reader and cue the span using the START and END anchors below.

START	She was one of those charming girls, born by a freak of destiny in a family of toilers.
END	She suffered incessantly when she glanced around her humble home, and felt the absence of all those delicacies and luxuries which are enjoyed only by the rich.
PASSAGE ID	sec-necklace-01

THE MOVE

Separate external condition from a character's interpretation of that condition

WHY THIS PASSAGE

The narrator presents modest circumstances but then emphasizes Mathilde's belief that she belongs among refinement and luxury. The resulting conflict is psychological as much as economic: what she has is continually measured against an imagined social identity.

MARK

Underline facts about Mathilde's actual circumstances. Circle phrases describing what she expects or desires. Box comparisons between social classes. Star the sentence that most clearly shows suffering created by comparison.

NOTICE

- Which limitations are material facts?

- Which parts of her unhappiness come from comparison or expectation?
- How does the narrator connect beauty and social mobility?

THINK

Answer provisionally: How does the opening turn dissatisfaction into a conflict between circumstances and self-image? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response. Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and say why.

STRONG ANSWER

The opening creates conflict by separating Mathilde's actual life from the life she imagines she should have. Her modest circumstances matter, but the narrator makes her repeated comparison to luxury the immediate source of her suffering.

EVIDENCE

Use one factual detail about her position and one phrase describing the refinement or luxury she believes she lacks.

WATCH FOR

Do not turn the analysis into a moral judgment about whether Mathilde is grateful. Focus on how the narrator constructs the gap between circumstance and self-image.

SOLO

Read independently.

SUPPORTED

Narration + highlighting.

LISTENING

Listen; same evidence task.

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WORK	The Necklace
TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION	Opening characterization - dissatisfaction with social position
PASSAGE ID	sec-necklace-01

Your teacher will open or cue the work in the Enhanced Reader. Use the location and verbatim anchors below to confirm the assigned span.

START

She was one of those charming girls, born by a freak of destiny in a family of toilers.

END

She suffered incessantly when she glanced around her humble home, and felt the absence of all those delicacies and luxuries which are enjoyed only by the rich.

READ / LISTEN TO THE ASSIGNED PASSAGE SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration and highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the assigned passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. **MARK** Underline facts about Mathilde's actual circumstances. Circle phrases describing what she expects or desires. Box comparisons between social classes. Star the sentence that most clearly shows suffering created by comparison.
2. **NOTICE** Which limitations are material facts? Which parts of her unhappiness come from comparison or expectation? How does the narrator connect beauty and social mobility?
3. **THINK** Answer provisionally: How does the opening turn dissatisfaction into a conflict between circumstances and self-image?
4. **WRITE** Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.
5. **CLOSE** Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and say why.