Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**“The Necklace”** by Guy de Maupassant

**Writing About the Big Question**

**The Big Question: Is conflict necessary?**

**Big Question Vocabulary**

amicably antagonize appreciate argument articulate

compete competition controversy cooperate differences

equity grievance issue mediate survival

war battle

***A.*** *Use one or more words from the list above to complete each sentence. There may be more than one right answer.*

1. If you cooperate with someone, your conflict will likely be resolved \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

2. It is possible to\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_someone’s viewpoint but still disagree with it.

3. If you are fighting for\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_you will likely do anything to win.

4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_in opposing forces often leads to a fair argument.

**B.** *Answer each question using complete sentences. Use at least two Big Question Vocabulary Words.*

5. Is conflict always necessary? Why?

6. What can we learn from conflict? How?

**C.** *Complete the sentence below. Then, write a short paragraph in which you connect this experience to the big question.*

7. Jealousy can lead to many conflicts. For example, . . .

**Vocabulary Builder**

**Word List**

fortitude dejection disheveled profoundly resplendent rueful

**A. DIRECTIONS:** *In each item below, think about the meaning of the italicized word, and then answer the question in a complete sentence.*

1. How would a person with a *disheveled* appearance look?

2. If you were *rueful* about one of your actions, how would you feel?

3. Describe something that might move you *profoundly,* and tell how you would feel.

4. Describe a *resplendent* scene that would impress you.

5. Give an example of how one could show *fortitude* in response to a crisis.

6. How would a person who is experiencing *dejection* likely act?

**B. WORD STUDY:** The root *-jec(t)-* means “to throw.” Use the context of the sentences and what you know about the **Latin root *-jec(t)-*** to explain your answer to each question.

7. What would happen to an item that was *rejected?*

8. What do you do when you *project* into the future?

**Literary Analysis: Character and Characterization**

A **character** is a person, an animal, or even an object that participates in the action and

experiences the events of a literary work. Writers communicate what characters are like through

**characterization.** There are two main types of characterization:

 **Direct characterization:** The writer tells readers what a character is like.

 **Indirect characterization:** The writer gives readers clues to a character. The writer might show the character’s behavior, present the character’s words and thoughts, describe the character’s physical appearance, or reveal what other characters say or think about the character. Often, when a writer uses indirect characterization, it is up to the reader to draw logical conclusions about the character’s personality and motivations.

When she sat down to dinner at her round table with its three-day-old cloth, and watched her husband opposite her lift the lid of the soup tureen and exclaim, delighted: “Ah, a good homemade beef stew! There’s nothing better . . .” she would visualize elegant dinners with gleaming silver amid tapestried walls peopled by knights and ladies and exotic birds in a fairy forest.

This passage gives readers a glimpse of the personalities of both Madame and Monsieur

Loisel through the characters’ thoughts and words.

**DIRECTIONS:** *On the lines provided, briefly explain how each excerpt from the story helps to characterize one or more of the characters.*

1. She suffered constantly, feeling that all the attributes of a gracious life, every luxury, should rightly have been hers.

2. She looked at him, irritated, and said impatiently: “I haven’t a thing to wear. How could I go?”

3. “Well, all right, then. I’ll give you four hundred francs. But try to get something really nice.”

4. Madame Forestier said in a faintly waspish tone: “You could have brought it back a little sooner! I might have needed it.”

5. Madame Loisel started to tremble. Should she speak to her? Yes, certainly she should. And now that she had paid everything back, why shouldn’t she tell her the whole story?

**Reading: Ask Questions to Analyze Cause and Effect**

A **cause** is an event, action, or feeling that produces a result. An **effect** is the result produced. As you read, **ask questions to analyze cause and effect.** Examining these relationships helps you follow the logic that moves a story forward. As you read, ask yourself:

• What happened?

• Why did it happen?

• What happens as a result?

A single cause may produce several effects. Effects may, in turn, become causes.

**A. DIRECTIONS:** *Use the cause-and-effect chart below to keep track of events in “The Necklace.”*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Cause** | **Effect** |
| **1.** Monsieur Loisel receives an invitation to a reception at the Ministry. | Madame Loisel complains that she has  nothing to wear. |
| **2.** |  |
| **3.** |  |
| **4.** |  |
| **5.** |  |
| **6.** |  |

**B. DIRECTIONS:** *Is the cause of the catastrophe that overtakes Madame Loisel solely of her own making? Or does the author suggest that she is, to some extent, the product of a vain and materialistic society? Discuss your response on the lines below.*

**Enrichment: Defining Values**

Human values are beliefs people hold about which behaviors, jobs, activities, possessions, and ideas are truly important or valuable in life. You can usually tell what people value by observing how they spend their time, what they say, and how they treat others. In “The Necklace,” differing values are demonstrated by Madame and Monsieur Loisel. Readers can observe Madame Loisel’s captivation with society and material possessions. She spends her time wishing to live a life like that of her wealthy friend, Madame Forestier. Her husband, on the other hand, is content with their humble life.

**DIRECTIONS:** *Answer the following questions regarding the values of characters in*

*“The Necklace.”*

1. What are the values of Madame Loisel and Madame Forestier? Explain.

2. What does Monsieur Loisel seem to value? In what ways are his values different from those of his wife? Explain.

3. Do you think Madame Loisel’s values might change after her enduring ten years of hard

work? If so, in what ways might her values change?