



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH (2023-24)

Class: X QUESTION BANK – THE NECKLACE Sub: ENGLISH

SUMMARY-

It is a fictional short story in the genre of realism. The author of this story was Guy de Maupassant. The story ended with a twist, also known as an ironic ending. This type of ending was a hallmark of Maupassant's style. The story took place in France several hundred years ago. The story tells that one must be satisfied and content with what one has. Also, one must not hide the truth. In this story, Matilda Loisel faces a very hard time as a result of her desires.

A lady, Matilda Loisel lived in a flat with her husband. He worked as a clerk for the Ministry of Education. They were not able to live a luxurious life. However, they were not poor, merely simple. However, Matilda's desire was to be rich. She felt irritated, disappointed, and sad about not having a large house. Moreover, she desired to have good dresses and lots of jewelry which made her sad.

One day her husband brings her an invitation to a fancy party. It was an invitation to the ball. He thought his wife would be very excited about seeing the invitation letter. However, his wife, instead of being happy, threw away the invitation letter and started crying. She complained about not having a pretty dress to wear on such a great occasion. She wanted to seek admiration from everyone. Also, she wanted to be a success at the party. Her gentle husband gave her four hundred francs to buy a pretty dress. He had saved the money to buy a rifle. The week of the party approached. His wife seemed to be anxious again. She was upset as she felt that she didn't have any jewelry to wear with the dress. Her husband suggests her to ask the same from her friend Jeanne Forestier. Matilda went to her house and borrowed a sparkling necklace.

Matilda, along with her husband enjoyed a lot at the party. She was successful in seeking everyone's attention to her. Then, they headed for home during the odd hours in the morning. On reaching home, Matilda was surprised at not finding the necklace around her neck. They both felt that it might have fallen down in the cab which they took to reach home. Also, he searched on the streets they had come through.

Moreover, he approached the police and gave an advertisement but all in vain. Her husband asked her to write a letter to her friend. She wrote that she had the clasp broken and is getting it repaired.

Meanwhile, they were successful in searching for a similar necklace. However, it cost thirty-six thousand francs. Her husband has inherited eighteen thousand francs from his father. However, they had to borrow the remaining money. They managed to buy the necklace through inherited and borrowed money.

But it took them a period of ten years to repay the borrowed amount. In these years, their lives have drastically changed. They moved to a smaller apartment, cleaned and cooked herself. Moreover, her husband did multiple jobs to repay the amount. Also, she looked like a strong woman of a poor household. She looked very old. One day she saw Miss Jeanne Forestier on the street. She decided to tell her the truth about the necklace. The latter was stunned by the rough appearance of the former. Moreover, on learning the truth of the necklace, Jeanne Forestier said that it was a fake one. The worth of the same was no more than five hundred francs. The story tells us that one should not crave luxuries. One must be satisfied and contented with what one has. Desires lead to unhappiness. Moreover, we should never hide the truth.

Character Analysis in 'The Necklace'

Matilda Loisel: Matilda is a dissatisfied housewife who dreams of a life of glamour and wealth. She feels trapped in a middle-class life and longs for the life of riches that she believes she deserves.

As a young, married woman, Madame Loisel is pretty and charming, but her vanity makes her feel entitled to more than what she has. In fact, because of her looks, she believes fate has made a mistake, and that she was destined for more. Envious of what others have and perpetually dissatisfied, she wants to be popular and

admired in society in the ways attractive, rich women are. She thinks of little else but the trappings of wealth and shows scorn for all she does have in her basic but unadorned life. When her daydreams turn into a reality—an invitation to a ball given by her husband's superiors—she is noted as the prettiest woman there and admired as she has always hoped to be. But her dissatisfaction and vanity lead to her downfall, causing her to lose everything she has, including her youth, beauty, and modest way of life but at the same time causing her to grow, accept, and respect herself.

Monsieur Loisel: In contrast to Matilda's selfishness and greed, her husband demonstrates generosity and sacrifice. He is upset with his wife's dissatisfaction and works hard to secure tickets to the Ministry of Education ball to make her happy. When Matilda loses the necklace, Monsieur Loisel undergoes ten years of hard work and poverty in order to purchase a replacement.

Monsieur Loisel appears easygoing, if not glamorous or charismatic, and eager to please his wife. Realistic about what he can do within his means, he saves money for special purchases and shows generosity when, slightly reluctantly at first, he gives that money to his wife for a new dress. He never complains about his wife's dissatisfaction and seems to do what he can to make her happy. His attempt to do so, however, initiates the couple's downfall; in obtaining the invitation to the ball he unknowingly stimulates his wife's fantasies into actions. Monsieur Loisel's depth of character and quiet heroism emerge after Madame Loisel loses the necklace. He takes control of the situation, does what he can and thinks is right and ends up losing everything. Yet he never complains or blames his wife for their great loss.

Madame Forestier: Madame Forestier is the wealthy friend of the Loisel's who lends Matilda the diamond necklace for the ball. She is generous to Matilda.

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS-

Question 1. Mme Loisel's disposition invites her doom. Comment in the context of the text you've read.

or

What kind of person is Matilda Loisel? Support your answer by giving examples from the story "The Necklace".

Answer:

Mme Loisel belongs to a family of clerks. Her existence is quite average. They live on a meager income, enough for basic needs but not to fulfill aspirations. She gets married to a clerk and is so caught up with her dreams of wealth and pleasure that she is out of touch with the truths of her real life. In order to keep up appearances just to flatter her pride, she blows up four hundred francs on a gorgeous dress. And, not contented, she goes on borrowing a necklace from her friend. And, all of this is just to impress the wealthy and the rich with her beauty and glamour (even if on loan). No doubt, her pride is flattered and her wish of fine dining, expensive dresses, and jewels satisfied but at a great price. Unfortunately, the necklace has been lost and the couple has to cough up their entire inheritance and borrow as well to replace it. Repayment of the debt eats away the next ten years of their youth. They live poor. All the household chores and cares of a life of poverty visit them. Hence, her disposition invites her doom.

Question 2. Mme Forestier proved to be a true friend. Elucidate.

Answer:

Mme Forestier turns out to be an interesting character. She plays a very vital role in the story. As a friend to Matilda, we find her to be really genuine as she helps Matilda in the hour of her need. When Mme Loisel needs to borrow jewels, she turns to Mme Forestier. Mme Forestier does not refuse. Displaying her generosity, she opens up the entire array of her jewels for Matilda to choose from. Also, she is considerate when Loisel delays the return of the necklace. Surprisingly, at the end of the story, she concludes the entire narrative.

Without even a moment's hesitation, she reveals to Matilda that her necklace is just a fake. She is not at all worried in light of the fact that she may have to return the necklace. It shows her honesty. Rather, she, like a

true friend, feels bad for Matilda for her unnecessary suffering. We find her sympathizing with Mme Loisel. She is indeed a gem of a friend.

Question 3. Do you think the story is aptly titled? Justify your answer.

Answer:

The whole narrative of the story 'The Necklace' revolves around a young woman Matilda, who in her foolish pride borrows a necklace inviting misery and sorrow for herself as well as for her husband. The 'necklace' has been lost and the Loisel's fall into a tremendous debt. They spend the next ten years of their life in paying debt for the replacement of the lost necklace. Their entire life moves around impoverished everyday saga of misery and hunger and the necklace, in fact, changes the very course of their life. Also, it is against the backdrop of the necklace that

Matilda's pride and dishonesty are highlighted. At the same time, the necklace serves a twist at the end as it turns out to be a fake one. The story is, hence, most aptly titled as the necklace is, in fact, the leading character of this ironic tale of desire, doom, and tragedy.

Question 4. 'The Necklace' reveals that vanity is an evil. It may bring joy for a short period but ultimately it leads to ruin. If you were placed in a situation similar to that of Matilda, what would have you done? Write your views

Answer:

'The necklace', through the example of Matilda conveys a chore truth that one must value what he has and cherish. His blessings rather than chase illusions in the form of material possessions, because if one lacks contentment then there is no end to the chase.

Matilda should have valued the love of her husband rather than grumble about her unfulfilled aspirations. And to look beautiful, one does not need to borrow expensive jewels; it is the goodness of a person and the way one conducts, makes one beautiful

Question 5. 'Contentment is a great wealth.' Explain with reference to Matilda—the main character of this story.

Answer:

There is no doubt in saying that man's final goal should be contentment. Human beings can never be happy if they have unlimited desires and wants. This is shown by the character Matilda who was never happy with what she had but always desired for more and more which led her to ruin. Man should find happiness in what he has, rather than running after what he does not have. It could be the cause of his unhappiness and sorrow.

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS-

Q1) What kind of a person is Mme Loisel — why is she always unhappy?

Ans) Mme Loisel is a very unhappy and unsatisfied person. She is not happy with her married life, her house or for that matter anything in her life. She always keeps on dreaming about how her life would have been if she were born in a rich house, married in a rich house, and had lots of money to buy things. She is a greedy woman and always keeps on thinking of having more and more things.

Q2) What kind of a person is her husband?

Ans) Her husband is a very caring and loving man. He is not greedy as he stays happy with whatever he has. He appreciates the little things that life has given him and does not want to see his wife unhappy for which he sacrifices his own needs.

Q3) What fresh problem now disturbs Mme Loisel?

Ans) Mme Loisel's husband agrees to buy her a dress worth 400 francs and sacrifices his own requirement of buying a gun but Mme. Loisel, being a greedy woman starts acting strangely and demands jewellery to wear or else she will not go to the party.

Q4) How is the problem solved?

Ans) When she does not agree to wear flowers to the party, her husband suggests her to approach her friend Mme Forestier who is a rich lady and would lend her jewellery to wear at the party.

Q5) What do M. and Mme Loisel do next?

Ans) M and Mme. Loisel make a lot of effort after they realize that they have lost the necklace. They try to remember the cab number so that they can check there, M. Loisel goes to the tracks where she could have dropped it, and reports at the police station and cab offices. He also gives an advertisement in the newspaper saying that the person who returns it will be rewarded but nothing works. So they finally decide to replace the necklace by buying a necklace similar to the one they have lost.

Q6) How do they replace the necklace?

Ans) They buy a necklace from a shop for 36000 francs. They themselves have only 18000 francs so they borrow the rest of the money by making up false stories and taking loans from a lot of lenders.

Q7) Why did Matilda not want to see her rich friends?

Ans) Matilda didn't want to see her rich friends because she did not have jewels, nothing to adorn herself with. Besides, she did not have any suitable dress for the party. She thought that without having these valuable things she would have a poverty-stricken look in the midst of rich friends.

Q8) What is the twist at the end of the tale in the story 'The Necklace'?

Ans) The Loisels bought a necklace for thirty-six thousand francs and gave it in place of Mme Forestier's false and cheap necklace. They underwent a life of misery, suffering and denial to earn the money to repay the debt of the necklace. She must have been crestfallen after realizing the real worth of the necklace.

Q9) Why was Matilda unhappy in her early married life?

Matilda was dissatisfied with her marriage to a petty clerk. She believed that she was born for all delicacies and luxuries. She thought of exquisite food served in marvelous dishes. She was filled with despair and disappointment. Therefore, she was unhappy.

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS:

1. The course of Loisel's life changed due to the necklace. Comment.

Answer:

The course of the Loisel's life changed due to the necklace. After replacing the lost necklace with a new one, they had to repay all the money that they had borrowed to buy the new necklace. They sent away the maid and changed their lodgings. They rented some rooms in an attic. Matilda learnt the odious work of a kitchen. She washed the dishes, soiled linen, their clothes and dishcloths. She took down the refuse to the street each morning and brought up the water, stopping at each landing to catch her breath. She went to the grocer's, the butcher's, and the fruiter's, with her basket on her arm, shopping, haggling to save her money. Loisel worked in the evenings, putting the books of some merchants in order. At night, he did copying at five sous a page. This lasted for ten years, and at the end of the said period, they were able to repay their lenders.

2. What would have happened to Matilda if she had confessed to her friend that she had lost her necklace?

Answer:

If Matilda would have confessed to her friend that she had lost her necklace, she might have been in lesser trouble than what she faced after having replaced the necklace. Her friend would definitely have been angry with her. Most probably, she would have asked Matilda to replace it. She would have given her the details from where she had bought the necklace and how much it had cost her. Matilda would thus have known that the jewels in the necklace were not real diamonds. It would have cost her a far lesser amount to replace it. Matilda would thus have saved herself and her husband all the trouble they went through.

3. What could have happened to Matilda if she had confessed to her friend that she had lost the necklace?

Answer:

If Matilda had confessed to her friend that she had lost her necklace, she could have avoided the years of suffering they had to undergo. She wouldn't have become a physical wreck. She could have paid her five hundred francs easily. So, it is quite necessary to be truthful and honest. Moreover, Mme Forester was a kind lady and full of compassion. She would have forgiven her for the loss. Confession would have saved her from such hardships.

4. Contentment in one's life is very important to lead a peaceful life. We should be happy with what we have and shouldn't crave for what we don't have. Matilda suffered in her life because she was not contented in her life. What do we learn from her mistake in life?

OR

Matilda suffered because she was not content with what life has given to her. Do you agree we should be content with what life gives us?

Answer:

It is true that contentment in one's life is very important to lead a peaceful life. We should be happy with what we have and shouldn't crave for what we don't have. Matilda suffered in her life because she was not content in her life. She was a pretty beautiful lady and married an honest person. He was rich in values but monetarily moderate. Matilda was not content with his job and salary. She wanted to lead a luxurious life which he could not afford. Once she got an opportunity to attend a high-profile party. She did not have a proper dress or jewel. She borrowed a necklace from her friend. She lost it in the party and had to suffer for a long period of time just to pay for it. Her overambition and craze for luxury ruined her life. One must be satisfied with what one has is the lesson that I learned from her life.

5. To err is human. We all make mistakes in our life. Those who make a confession may suffer less than those who don't. Give your opinion with reference to the story of Matilda who ruined her life just because she did not have the courage to confess her mistake.

OR

As a reader do you sympathise with Matilda? Give reasons from the text to support your answer.

Answer:

It has been rightly said that 'to err is human'. We all make one or the other mistake in our life. No one is perfect. Sometimes the situation is not in our hand. We make some mistakes and face losses. The same thing happened to Matilda. She was an overambitious lady. She wanted to go to the party with an expensive dress and necklace. She didn't have her own sources. So, she borrowed it from her friend. Unfortunately, she lost it in the party. She did not want to tell it to her friend and bought a new one as a replacement. She was in debt and paid for it throughout her life. Her life was ruined. She came to know in the end that the lost necklace was not a real one. But it was too late. The course of her life could have changed had she confessed the loss. She suffered just because she did not have the courage to confess her mistake.