

## Class Discussion Topics

These four ideas could serve as excellent fodder for class discussion, or essay assignment ideas:

1. Vanity and Pride - An important "Necklace" theme is the danger of vanity and pride. It is Madame Loisel's vanity that causes her to want to live beyond her means and her pride that prevents her from telling Madame Forestiere the truth.
2. • The Dangers of Debt - "The Necklace" theme of the dangers of debt is as timely today as it was when the story was written.
3. Irony - Madame Loisel labors for that which is of no worth.
4. Theme - Because of its obvious message, "The Necklace" makes a great short story for teaching theme.

## Lesson Ideas

1. Write a found poem. Not only will your students recognize the cleverness of writing a found poem about a lost necklace, they'll practice using details from a story, analyzing evidence, and discovering a theme. A found poem is created by using exact quotes from the story to make a poem. Here's my example:
  - o Unable to afford jewelry, she dressed simply.
  - o She suffered constantly
  - o She tossed the invitation on the table and muttered,
  - o "We'll have to replace the necklace."
  - o Her husband worked in the evenings
  - o and often at night as well.
  - o Madame Loisel looked old now
  - o And she smiled, full of proud, simple joy.
  - o "And it took us ten years to pay for it."
  - o "Oh my poor Mathilde! Mine was false!"
2. Teach financial literacy. Maupassant records that Loisel paid back the loan along with the interest. Adapt and teach students about the dangers of credit card debt, pay day loans, and slick salespeople.
3. Draw conclusions about characters. This idea will have students learning about characterization while drawing conclusions. Make a box, two for each character. Below the character box, draw two smaller boxes, one for actions and one for traits. Connect the top box to the two lower boxes with arrows. Underneath the two smaller boxes, draw another large box and draw a conclusion about the character based on the details you wrote in the two smaller boxes. This activity works best after the students write a summary of the text and understand the themes.

- **Write a Review**

Have each student do the following after reading the story:

1. Write a brief summary, 100-200 words.
2. Write a brief analysis, extolling its literary merit, 150-200 words. Be sure to include the theme.