

About Queens Public Library

Queens Public Library is one of the largest and busiest public library systems in the United States, dedicated to serving the most ethnically and culturally diverse area in the country. An independent, non-profit organization founded in 1896, Queens Public Library offers free access to a collection of more than 5 million books and other materials in multiple languages, technology and digital resources, and more than 87,500 educational, cultural, and civic programs a year. It consists of 65 locations, including branch libraries, a Central Library, seven adult learning centers, a technology lab, two universal pre-kindergartens, and two teen centers.

MISSION STATEMENT

Queens Public Library transforms lives by cultivating personal and intellectual growth and by building strong communities.

VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is a vibrant, informed, cohesive, and empowered society.

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Queens Public Library Flushing Adult Learning Center

Education Through The Arts



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OUR MISSION

The Queens Public Library Adult Learner Program is committed to providing lifelong learning opportunities to address the needs of the diverse and changing populations of Queens through free quality educational programs and services that incorporate digital literacy, blended learning, and individualized case management services.

All programs, classes, services and resources offered by Queens Public Library Adult Learner Program are FREE with a Queens Public Library card.

PROGRAMS OFFERED:

- English as a Second Language (ESOL)
- Adult Basic Education (ABE)
- Pre-High School Equivalency (Pre-HSE)
- High School Equivalency (HSE)
- Young Adult Literacy Program (YALP)
- TASC Testing (formerly the GED)
- National External Diploma Program (NEDP)
- Citizenship Preparation
- Online/Distance Learning
- Computer Literacy
- Career and College Counseling
- Case Management

The Necklace & The Open Window Compare and Contrast

Annie

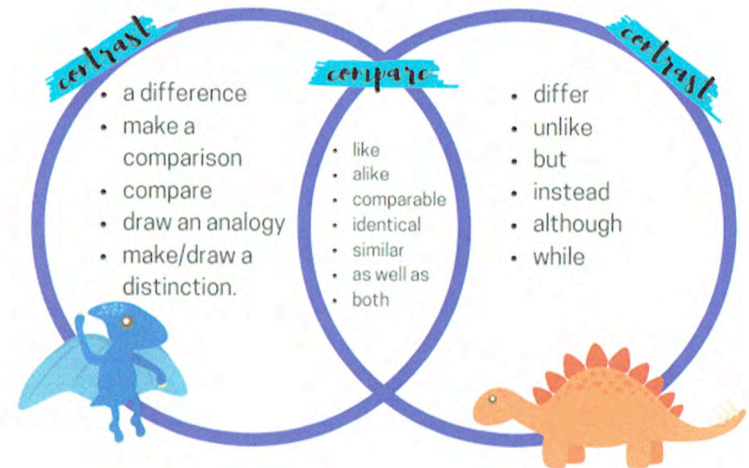
In ETNY play's theater they performed two plays from two different stories. One of the plays that was shown was *The Open Window* by H. H. Munro also known as Saki. The play showcased how a man who was an eccentric hypochondriac met a little girl who likes to play tricks on others. In the play there was one character that stood out the most to me -- the aunt of Vera, Mrs. Sappleton. At first, when Vera introduced her aunt to the audience, we would think that she is mentally ill (that Mrs. Sappleton missed her husband and brother who went "missing" on a hunting trip so much that she began having hallucinations). But little did we know that there would be a twist as the story progresses. When Mrs. Sappleton's husband and brother came back home through the open window it was surprising. It made me question whether Mrs. Sappleton was really hallucinating or was I hallucinating? This question lingered on until Mr. Nuttel, the main character of the story, storms out of the house after seeing the two "ghosts" who came through the window. I came to realize how much humor Mrs. Sappleton and Vera had between them. It made me question, did Mrs. Sappleton know how much Vera liked playing tricks on others and had played along with her or was she really clueless? It seemed as if Mrs. Sappleton had never known that Vera likes to play tricks.



The Necklace and The Open Window Compare and Contrast

Annie

Though the story and the play had many similarities there were also many differences. One difference between the story and the play is the cast. In the story there were two brothers that appeared with Mr. Sappleton but in the play, there was only one brother that appeared. Another difference between the play and the story is that the story that Vera told the Sappletons about why Mr. Nuttel has run away after seeing Mr. Sappleton and his brother. In the play it was only told that he visited a grave yard but in the story it was said that he visited a grave yard in India. On the other hand, one difference in the story and play is the price of the necklace. In the play, after Mathilde lost her necklace and went to look for a replacement the price of the necklace cost 18,000 francs. But in the story the necklace cost 40,000 francs. But one major difference to me between the story and the play is that the story is harder to understand for ESOL students than the play and the play was much more enjoyable!



The Open Window Summary

Tina



Framton was a very nervous man. His sister said he must make an effort to meet people then rest and relax. His sister was planning a trip for him and then gave him a letter to introduce himself to all his sister's friends. He arrived at Mrs. Sappleton's home. There was just only Mrs. Sappleton's niece at home, so she created a story to scare the man. She thinks it's very fun. The man was so nervous because he thinks the ghost was coming. Then, he ran away and after that she created the other story to her aunt.

The Open Window Theme

Wai Bing



The first part of "The Open Window" seems like a suspenseful story, but it gives unexpected development at the end. Mr. Framton Nuttel needs to have a nerve cure. In order to help him to improve his anxiety and pressure, his sister suggests him to take a rest and visit some of his friends in the countryside. While there in Mrs. Sappleton's house, he meets Vera, Mrs. Sappleton's 15-year-old niece. Vera is an imaginative girl and can easily observe Mr. Nuttel's nervousness. She tries to pry him by asking him, "*Do you know many of the people around here?*" and "*Then you know almost nothing about my aunt?*"

She gets the answer, "*Hardly a soul.*" Afterward Vera lies to Mr. Nuttel about her aunt's tragedy. He believes her because Vera appears innocent, honest and trustworthy. The reason Mr. Nuttel falls into Vera's trick is his weak emotions. He thinks that Mrs. Sappleton keeps the window open hoping that her husband and brothers would return. Hence, when the hunters come back in the twilight, his mind is spinning with the death of them. He is shocked and sees Vera is terrified too. Believing he is seeing ghosts, he runs from the house as fast as he can. Yet Vera spins another lie to cover that she has frightened Mr. Nuttel. Vera is a very skilled storyteller and has confidence to fool adults, but she is dishonest and deceptive. After the visit, Mr. Nuttel's nervous condition will not have improved or it may get worse. "The Open Window" is a short story about truth and fiction. Lies, deceptions, dishonesty and pranks would have immense invisible destructive power.

The Open Window About Vera Jianmei



Recently, we went on a trip to watch two plays. The plays are so wonderful that we all lost ourselves in them. Of all the characters, the protagonist Vera in *The Open Window* impresses me deeply.

Vera is a 15-year old girl. When she was talking to the visitor Mr. Nuttel, who was in a nervous condition, she felt it was very boring. She decided to play a trick on him. She told him that there was a tragedy in the family three years ago. Her uncle went hunting with two brother-in-laws and they all disappeared in a bog. Her sad aunt left the window open and expected them to come back some day. Mr. Nuttel didn't know it was a lie. When the three men came home, he thought they were ghosts and fled immediately. When the family was puzzled about this, Vera explained to them that Mr. Nuttel left in such a hurry just because he was afraid of the dog. It's hard to imagine a 15-year-old girl has such a talent to spin tales in such short time. The actress who played the role of Vera acted vividly. I like the play very much. We are so grateful to have the opportunity to enjoy the plays.

The Open Window About Mr. Framton Nuttel Kin Lin



In "The Open Window," a man named Framton Nuttel was an eccentric hypochondriac person. He usually was very nervous. He heard his doctor's advice and moved to the country for effective healing from what he suffers. He lived in his sister's home.

His sister wanted him to be happy and make new friends.

Mr. Nuttel was first met by Mrs. Sappleton's niece, Vera. She told a lie about how her uncle and her two brothers-in-law had been lost for three years. Her aunt left the French window open because she believed they will one day return. This was a lie, but Mr. Nuttel believed it.

When Nuttel sees the men walking toward the house, he presumed they are ghosts who will come in through the open window. He flees the house at once.

However, Mr. Nuttel should make more friends, and get out more to relieve himself.

The Necklace

Theme

Chuanlin



Life is short. The lady spent 10 years working to pay the debt because she wanted material things. For me, I just want to live a regular life and I want to be able to pay for everything. The vain things will make people lose their way and stay away from real life. It is very unworthy to pay 10 years for fakes.

The Necklace

Moderator

Min



After the performance, the teacher said that the students could ask questions to the actors. I was the first to raise my hand and ask Jan the question, "If in real life, you know Mathilde gave you a real necklace, would you give it back to her?"

Her answer was beyond my expectation. She said, "I didn't have the idea and reason to return her real necklace."

Then I asked Mathilde the second question, "Do you love your husband? If you love him why should you be so vain? Let your husband shoulder the burden of life?"

She answered, "I love my husband very much. I think vanity is a characteristic of every woman but after this baptism, I also changed a lot!" Although the performance was over, my mind sank into meditation.....



The Necklace Summary Li Zhen



We went on a trip to ETNY's theater and watched 2 plays. One play was *The Necklace* which tells a story about a lady named Mathilde. Mathilde complains about her family funds when her husband comes back home. She didn't have a dress to go attend a party from the minister. Her husband gives her money to buy a dress. But she is still not happy because she didn't have any jewelry, so her husband suggested that she buy a flower. But she clearly disapproves and so her husband suggested to go to her friends to borrow accessories.

So, she went and got a diamond necklace and went to the party. She enjoyed the party and admiration from the attendees. After the party she lost the necklace. Mathilde and her husband didn't want to let her friend know they lost the necklace. So, they borrowed money to buy a necklace. But they spent ten years to return the borrowed money, only end up finding out from her friend that the necklace she originally had was fake.

The Necklace Summary Xuelian



VS



This is a famous story. The author is Guy De Maupassant. The major characters are Mathilde Loisel, her husband and her good friend -- Ann. In the story, it describes a middle-class family who paid a heavy price, including time and money, to pay off the debt of buying a diamond necklace. Mathilde Loisel wanted to go to a formal party, so she borrowed a diamond necklace from her friend to match her new dress, and prove to everyone that she was a pretty and smart lady. In fact, she felt like the richest woman in the world. After the party, she lost her necklace. In order to return the necklace to Ann, her husband borrowed money to buy a genuine necklace.

After that, this couple worked day and night, and it took them ten years to pay off all their debts, but they were no longer loving and happy. Ten years passed, she met Ann again, but her friend didn't know her, because she became an old woman. More ironically, Ann told her that it was a fake diamond necklace, it would be worth only \$500.

This story reminds me that we cannot be controlled by materialism. Being rich is not equal wealth. Health and love are real wealth.

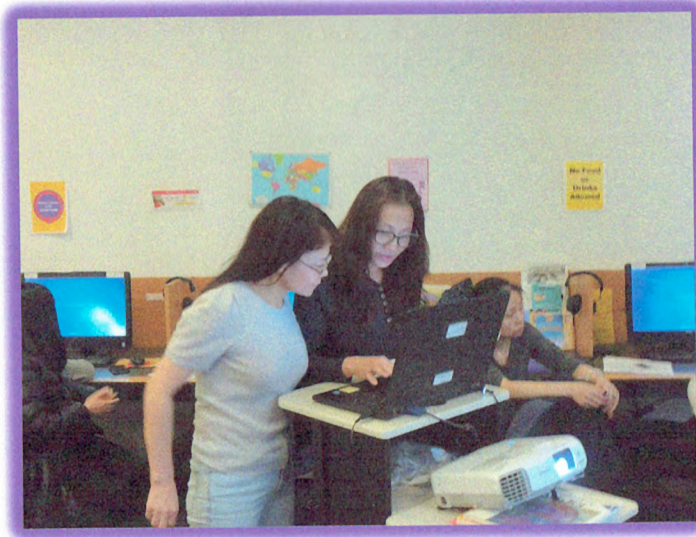
Although Mathilde Loisel is materialistic, she is kind at heart. She regards Ann as her best friend, so she is willing to buy the real diamond necklace back for her. If Mathilde Loisel does not regard Ann as her real friend, she can buy a fake diamond necklace for her. But Ann doesn't take Mathilde Loisel seriously as a good friend, because she is very materialistic.

If you were Ann, what would you do?

The Necklace

About Monsieur Loisel

Shuyan



Monsieur Loisel is a good man and generous. He loves his wife and give her a good life, but his wife is a materialistic and vain woman. He also satisfies her vanity. When he worked, he was tired when he got home. He saw his wife unhappy because his wife wanted to buy pretty dresses and jewelry for the party. After he bought her dress, Monsieur Loisel gave advice to his wife and asked her friend to borrow the jewelry.

The Necklace

About Mathilde Loisel

Jian



The world famous French writer Maupassant wrote "The Necklace." The protagonist of the story is Mathilde Loisel. She has been blessed with physical beauty but not with the affluent lifestyle she yearns for, and she feels deeply discontented with her lot in life. When she prepares to attend a fancy party, she borrows a diamond necklace from her friend there, then loses the necklace and must work for ten years to pay off a replacement. Finally, she also learned that the original necklace was just costume jewelry and not worth anything.

This story also let us understand a truth -- there is no free lunch in the world. The good life must depend on your own hard work.

The Journey

Ping Ping and Kevin



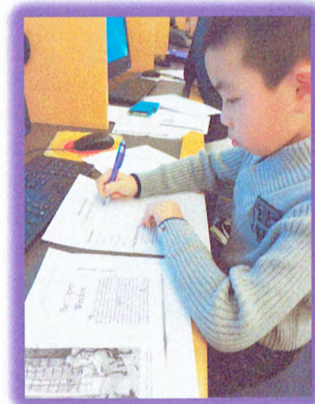
First of all, thanks to The Friends of Flushing ALC of Queens Public Library. Thanks to the manager Mr. Gary and his team! They gave my son and I such an unforgettable field trip. We liked it very much!

During this trip, the library provided us with tickets, Metrocards, beautiful photos, workshops and so on. We had a great time together!

It was an excellent show. My son told me he liked *The Necklace* story. He wanted to be an honest boy. I also learned a lot from the show. It was a very good learning experience for us!

At last, thanks again to Queens Public Library and I hope there will be such an opportunity for me to learn more English in the future!

I was very happy to go to the field trip with Manager Mr. Gary and his students! It was my first time to see a free play with my mom in New York! On the first floor of the theater, I saw a dinosaur made up of many credit cards. I really like it. We saw *The Open Window* and *The Necklace* stories. I didn't understand some of them, but it was very helpful for me in practicing listening and speaking. At the end of the show, we can ask questions to the actors. It was an excellent show. I liked it very much!



The Necklace

ZhiFeng

Mathilde is a pretty woman. Her husband is an ordinary clerk. She is eager to participate in the social activities of the upper class. She borrowed a necklace from her friend for the education minister's party.

She was very outstanding and charming at the party. But when they got home, she found that the necklace was missing. Later, they paid 40,000 francs for an identical necklace and gave it back to her.

To this end, this mistake cost her ten years. Her beauty no longer exists. Under the heavy debt she became a strong woman. She knew the necklace was a fake when she saw her friend ten years later.



Though she paid ten years for one night's vanity, it was not worth it. It also shows that she is willing to take responsibility. She didn't escape when she found the necklace was missing. At the same time, she is brave to bear hardships. She dismissed her maid. This reflects her character of tenacity, patience and hard work.

Pre - Workshop



Students are reading the short stories in preparation for the plays.

On the following pages are student writings. There were minimal edits in order to allow the students to have their own voice. Students, ranging from Intermediate ESOL to Pre-HSE, wrote about their experience, characters, the theater, theme, etc.

About ETNY

En Mei



Do you know what ETNY stands for? It stands for the Educational Theater of New York. The Educational Theater is a non-profit organization. It was founded in 2001 in New York City by Barbara Bregstein and Nestor Rodriguez. It is located in downtown Manhattan. It is an attractive and beautiful building. The inside of the building looks like an art museum with a lot of art galleries. Even though the theater is small, the seats are comfortable. ETNY is a unique and professional theater, which is especially designed for ESOL students. It gives a chance for ESOL students to attend a professional theater.

The ETNY provides the opportunity for ESOL students to attend plays, participate with presenters, and interact with actors. For example, after each scene, the actors freeze. Then the presenter enters and engages the audience in conversation about the play's characters and themes to make sure if the audience comprehends it completely. Moreover, the ESOL students can choose if they want to repeat the previous scene or to continue to the next one. In addition, at the end of a play, the students have an opportunity to practice their English conversation by asking questions to the cast. It is like a theater school: one part theater, and one part English lesson. While an audience rarely interacts with a cast in a traditional theater, the Educational Theater of New York makes sure the audience understands a play.



The Journey Begins



Students and Staff from Queens Public Library, Flushing ALC, embarked on an adventure to the Educational Theater of New York in order to:

- Experience an American play
- Practice giving/receiving directions
- Practice speaking, reading, writing, and listening skills
- Practice technological skills

*Special thanks to:

- Queens Public Library Adult Learner Program
 - Tara Lannen-Stanton – Director of Adult Learning
 - Fatma Ghailan – Assistant Director of Adult Learner Program
- The Friends of the Flushing ALC for sponsoring the trip
 - Liping Wan – President
 - Zhifeng Zhang – Vice President
 - Eunsook Lee – Treasurer
 - Ping Ping Du – Secretary
 - Jianmei Yu – Corresponding Secretary
 - Sandy Liang – Member at Large
 - Wai Bing Chan – Member at Large
- Educational Theater of New York
 - Barbara Bregstein
- Annie Chen for her artwork

Pre – Workshop

Before the field trip, students were exposed to the stories “The Necklace” by Guy de Maupassant and “The Open Window” by H.H. Munro. The goals of the Pre-Workshop were to:

- Comprehend the parts of a play
- Demonstrate knowledge of the stories “The Necklace” and “The Open Window” through discussion
- Recognize and recall important details from a biography
- Summarize both stories



Students are playing an online vocabulary game in order to assess prior knowledge.



Students discussing the stories.

Art Outside ETNY



Students enjoying the street art in downtown Manhattan.



Everyone getting ready to go into the theater.

Post – Workshop

After the field trip, students came together to:

- Discuss and comprehend the plays in depth
- Practice speaking, reading, writing, listening
- Begin the Writing Project (this booklet)



We had lively discussions on theme, plot and the experience!



Practicing technology skills.