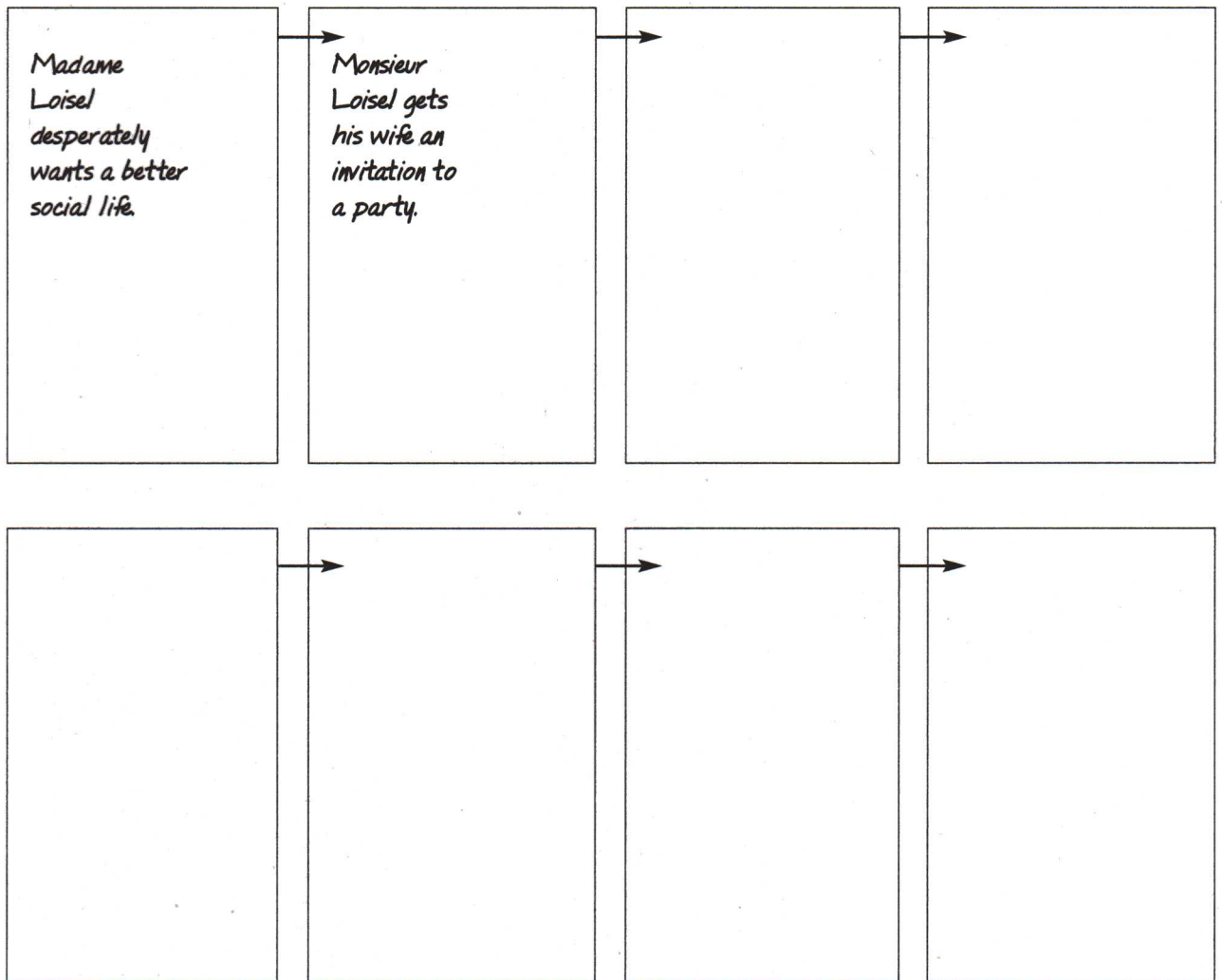


## The Necklace (page 26)

### Active Reading SkillBuilder

#### Cause and Effect

Events in a plot are sometimes linked causally. One event causes another, which causes another, and so on until the end of the story. A series of events linked in this way is called a chain of **cause and effect**. Use the diagram to connect the major events of "The Necklace" in an unbroken chain of cause and effect. Add links to the diagram if necessary.



**The Necklace (page 26)****Literary Analysis SkillBuilder****Plot**

The events that make up the **plot** of a story can be divided into rising action and falling action. The rising action consists of the conflicts and complications faced by the main character. Rising action leads to the climax, or turning point, of the story. The falling action, or resolution, occurs at the end of the story and shows how the conflicts are resolved. Use the diagram below to outline events in "The Necklace" that form the rising action, the climax, and the falling action.

**Climax**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Rising Action**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Falling Action**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Follow Up:** Which events that form the rising action of "The Necklace" are conflicts, or struggles between opposing forces? Which are complications that cause difficulties for the characters? Write *conflict* or *complication* next to each event.

**The Necklace (page 26)****Words to Know SkillBuilder****Words to Know**

adulation

askew

gamut

privation

ruinous

aghast

exorbitant

pauper

prospects

vexation

**A.** Decide which word from the word list belongs in each numbered blank. Then write the word on the blank line on the right.

You tell him, every day, he's perfect. I have one objection.  
With every word you say, he wanders further from perfection.  
He's turning out conceited, and he's losing every friend.  
I wish your (1) of your darling boy would end.

\_\_\_\_\_ (1)

If I don't learn that I must be a less devoted shopper,  
I'll go so far in debt that I will end up as a (2).

\_\_\_\_\_ (2)

She read a comic during class. She slept throughout the test.  
Although she hopes that she will pass, her (3) aren't the best.

\_\_\_\_\_ (3)

I'm sure the pie is very nice,  
But 15 dollars for a slice  
Is too (4) a price.

\_\_\_\_\_ (4)

The desert that I had to cross was burning hot and vast.  
I stood and stared, astonished, feeling helpless and (5).

\_\_\_\_\_ (5)

I didn't have insurance when the wind blew down the tree,  
Which landed on my house and proved quite (6) to me.

\_\_\_\_\_ (6)

I spent my winter gladly in a state of true (7),  
So that I'd have the money for a summertime vacation.

\_\_\_\_\_ (7)

You promise you will be on time, so that's my expectation;  
And when you're late, I must admit to feeling some (8).

\_\_\_\_\_ (8)

I know your clothes are all brand new,  
But I'd be more impressed with you  
If your silk necktie weren't (9).

\_\_\_\_\_ (9)

I looked upon the (10) of the shades of blue, and I  
Found many represented in the colors of the sky.

\_\_\_\_\_ (10)

**B.** Imagine that you are an advice columnist and that *either* M. or Mme. Loisel has written to you at some point (any point) in the story. Reply, using at least **five** of the Words to Know.

## The Necklace (page 37)

# Grammar Skillbuilder: Abstract and Concrete Nouns

**Key Concept:** Writers select abstract nouns to emphasize ideas and feelings, and concrete nouns to emphasize qualities that can be perceived.

### Abstract Nouns

An **abstract noun** names ideas, qualities, or feelings that cannot be perceived through the senses. Maupassant uses abstract nouns to describe the feelings of the main character, Madame Loisel.

“And she would weep for days on end from **vexation, regret, despair, and anguish.**”

### Concrete Nouns

A **concrete noun** names an object that can be seen, heard, smelled, touched, or tasted. Here Maupassant uses concrete nouns to define the materialistic world of which Madame Loisel dreams.

“She would dream of great reception **halls** hung with old **silks**, of fine **furniture** filled with priceless **curios, . . .**”

### Activity

Rewrite each sentence using abstract nouns if the original sentence contains concrete nouns, or concrete nouns if the original sentence contains abstract nouns. Begin your new sentence with the sentence starter in parentheses. Underline the nouns in your new sentences.

1. Mathilde Loisel had no status, no prospects that would permit her to marry a man of rank. (Mathilde Loisel lacked . . .)
2. Though she was attractive and charming, she finally married a minor clerk. (Though she had . . .)
3. The walls of her apartment seem dingy to her, the chairs threadbare, the draperies faded. (Her apartment looks . . .)
4. The invitation to an evening reception brings tears to her eyes. (Her reaction to the invitation is . . .)
5. She insists that she has nothing appropriate to wear. (She says she has no suitable . . .)
6. Her husband gives her money for an evening dress. (Her husband responds with . . .)
7. She looks at the adornments in her friend's collection, considering what to borrow. (She examines the . . .)
8. She is wildly happy and successful the evening of the reception. (She dances . . .)
9. When she loses the necklace, she collapses helplessly in a chair. (She reacts to the loss with . . .)
10. Mme. Loisel must make many sacrifices to repay the loans. (Mme. Loisel learns to . . .)

**The Necklace (page 26)****Selection Quiz**

Recall the events in the story. Then answer the questions in phrases or sentences.

1. Why doesn't Madame Loisel enjoy her life at the beginning of the story?

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2. How does Madame Loisel go about getting something special to wear to the party?

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3. What happens after the Loisels arrive home from the party?

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4. Why doesn't Madame Loisel tell her friend right away about her loss?

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5. What surprises Madame Loisel when she finally tells her friend the truth?

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## The Necklace (page 26)

### Selection Test

**A.** Think about the events in the plot of this story. In the chart below, write notes describing what happens in each stage of the plot: the **rising action**, which includes the main conflict and complications; the **climax**, or turning point; and the **falling action**, which includes the resolution. (8 points each)

<b>1. Rising Action</b>
<b>2. Climax</b>
<b>3. Falling Action</b>

**B.** Write the letter of the best answer. This exercise is continued on the next page. (6 points each)

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. At the beginning of the story, Mme. Loisel's unhappiness is due to a contrast between
- what she has and what she wants.
  - what she once had and what she has now.
  - what she wants and what her husband wants.
  - what she's been promised and what she's received.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. What makes Mme. Loisel so happy at the party?
- the way other people react to her
  - the opportunity to be among friends
  - the fact that she is making her husband proud
  - the fact that Mme. Forestier has trusted her with the necklace
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The events of the story suggest that what Mme. Loisel fears **most** is
- poverty.
  - boredom.
  - humiliation.
  - the loss of her beauty.



- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Mme. Loisel decides, at last, to tell Mme. Forestier the whole story mainly because she
- is angry at Mme. Forestier.
  - is proud of having paid the debts.
  - wants Mme. Forestier to feel sorry for her.
  - thinks that confession is good for the soul.

**C.** On the line, write the name of either M. Loisel or Mme. Forestier. Then, note how that minor character contrasts with Mme. Loisel. (12 points)

**Character** \_\_\_\_\_

**D. Words to Know.** Write the letter of the best answer. (4 points each)

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. An exorbitant price for a new car would be
- \$100.
  - \$10,000.
  - \$100,000.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Which is **most** likely to leave you aghast?
- running a mile
  - eating a big meal
  - finding a dead body
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. You are **most** likely to cause vexation in a person who is
- happy.
  - irritable.
  - hypnotized.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Which are you **most** likely to find askew?
- a train on a track
  - a picture on a wall
  - a skyscraper in a city
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Which is **most** likely to receive adulation?
- a movie star
  - a truck driver
  - a homeless person

**E.** Answer one of the following questions based on your understanding of the story. Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper. (10 points)

- What effects do you think the news that the necklace is fake has on Mme. Loisel? Describe an immediate effect and a long-term effect.
- What flaws in Mme. Loisel's character do you think lead to her troubles? Explain your answer.

**F. Linking Literature to Life.** Answer the following question based on your own experience and knowledge: Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper. (10 points)

Do you think that having a great deal more money would make you happier? Explain your answer.