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LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

Class-X

English

Footprints without Feet

Chapter-7

The Necklace

Part - 3



Guy De Maupassant

Neha Rajvanshi

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haggling : सौदेबाजी
sou : फ्रेन्च सिक्का

And, clothed like a woman of the people, she went to the grocer's, the butcher's and the fruiterer's, with her basket on her arm, shopping, haggling to the last sou of her miserable money.

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restored : लौटाना

The husband worked evenings, putting the books of some merchants in order, and nights he often did copying at five sous a page. And this life lasted for ten years. At the end of ten years, they had restored all.

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crude : अपरिष्कृत
awry: गन्दा
pail : बाल्टी

Mme Loisel seemed old now. She had become a strong, hard woman, the crude woman of the poor household. Her hair badly dressed, her skirts awry, her hands red, she spoke in a loud tone, and washed the floors with large pails of water.

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flattered : प्रशंसा करना

But sometimes, when her husband was at the office, she would seat herself before the window and think of that evening party of former times, of that ball where she was so beautiful and so flattered. How would it have been if she had not lost the necklace?

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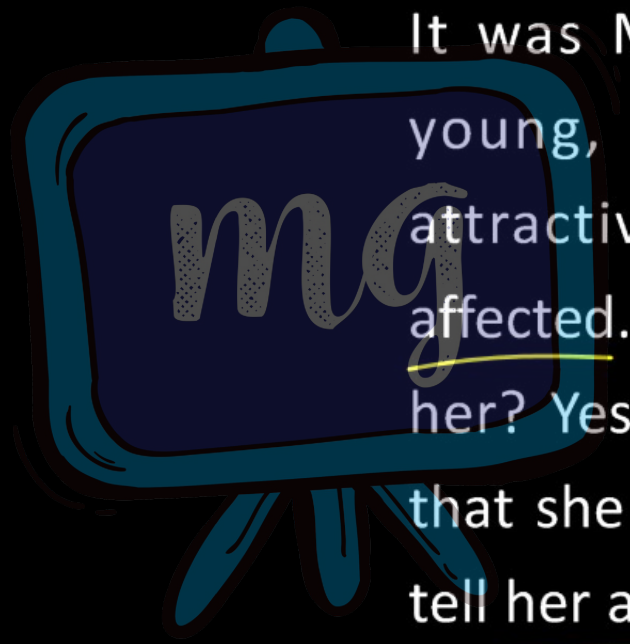
perceived : देखना

Who knows? How singular is life, and how full of changes! How small a thing will ruin or save one!

One Sunday as she was taking a walk in the Champs-Elysees to rid herself of the cares of the week, she suddenly perceived a woman walking with a child.

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It was Mme Forestier, still young, still pretty, still attractive. Mme Loisel was affected. Should she speak to her? Yes, certainly. And now that she had paid, she would tell her all. Why not?

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She approached her. "Good morning, Jeanne."

Her friend did not recognise her and was astonished to be so familiarly addressed by this common personage. She stammered, "But, Madame — I do not know — you must be mistaken—"

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astonishment : आश्चर्य चकित

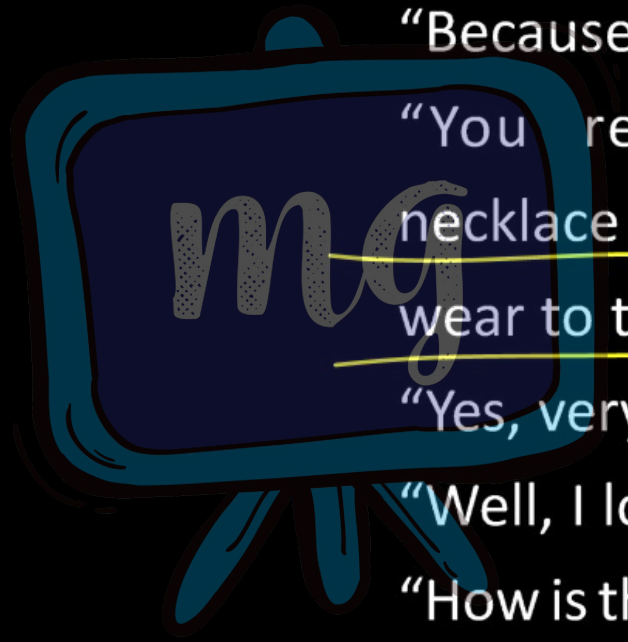
"No, I am Matilda Loisel."

Her friend uttered a cry of astonishment, "Oh! my poor Matilda! How you have changed!"

"Yes, I have had some hard days since I saw you; and some miserable ones — and all because of you ..."

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"Because of me? How is that?"

"You recall the diamond necklace that you loaned me to wear to the Minister's ball?"

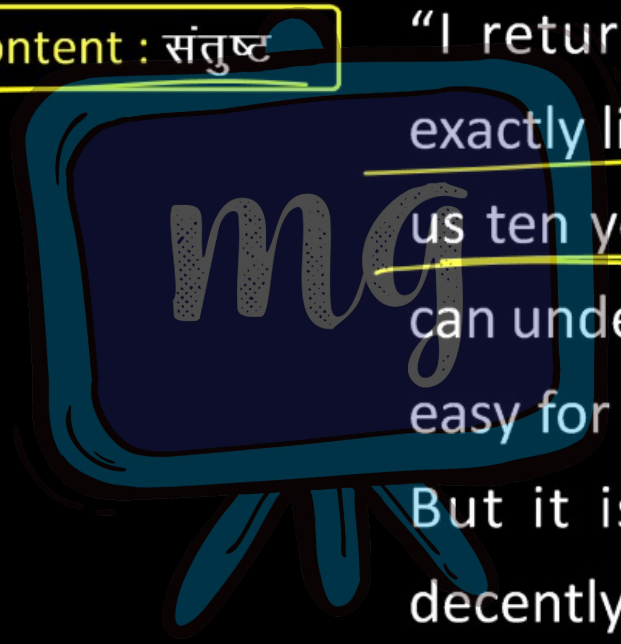
"Yes, very well."

"Well, I lost it."

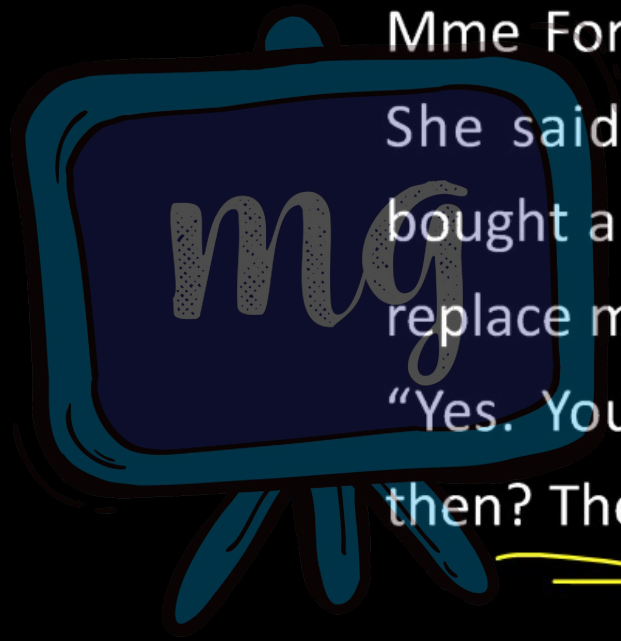
"How is that, since you returned it to me?"

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content : संतुष्ट



"I returned another to you exactly like it. And it has taken us ten years to pay for it. You can understand that it was not easy for us who have nothing. But it is finished and I am decently content."

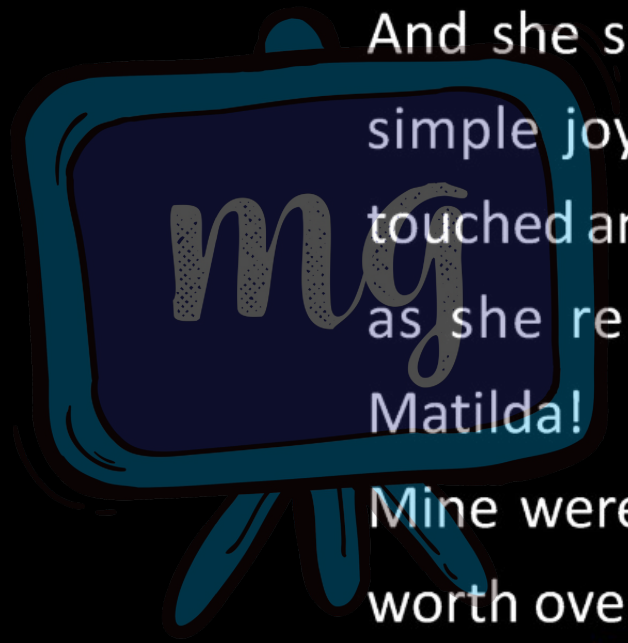


Mme Forestier stopped short. She said, “You say that you bought a diamond necklace to replace mine?”

“Yes. You did not perceive it then? They were just alike.”

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And she smiled with proud and simple joy. Mme Forestier was touched and took both her hands as she replied, “Oh! My poor Matilda!

Mine were false. They were not worth over five hundred francs!”

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Question 1. What kind of a person is Mme Loisel- why is she always unhappy?

Answer : Mme Loisel is a pretty lady who is married to an ordinary clerk. She belongs to a middle class family. She wants to lead a luxurious life, but she has no hope, no means of becoming known.

She is always unhappy on her poor condition.

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Question 2. What kind of a person is her husband?

Answer : Her husband is a very simple-hearted person. He is an ordinary clerk. Yet he is satisfied with whatever he has unlike his wife.

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Question 3. What fresh problem now disturb Mme Loisel?

Answer : The fresh problem is : Mme Loisel doesn't have a pretty and proper dress for the grand party as well as the required accessories.

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Question 4. How is the problem solved?

Answer : The problem is solved when her husband gives her four hundred frances to buy a beautiful dress. For the jewel she decides to borrow a diamond necklace from one of her rich friend Mme Forestier.

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Question 5. What do M. and Mme Loisel do next ?

Answer : M and Mme Loisel do their best to find the lost necklace. M Loisel goes back to search the necklace. He goes to the police and cab office also. He even put out an advertisement in the newspaper offering a reward. But all in vain.

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Question 6. How do they replace the necklace?

Answer : They borrow money. They buy a new real diamond necklace to replace the lost one which is fake.

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Question 7. The course of the Loisels' life changed due to the necklace. Comment.

Answer : It is true that the course of the Loisels' life changed due to the necklace. After the loss of the necklace, the Loisels shifted to a cheap house. Mme Loisel started doing all work herself.

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She went to buy things. She haggled for the last sou. She wore ordinary clothes. Her husband worked at evenings and nights. He copied at five sous a page. They somehow saved every sou. This life of hardships went on for ten years.

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Question 8. What was the cause of Matilda's ruin? How could she have avoided it?

Answer : The cause of Matilda's ruin was her great love for her dreams and her materialistic aspiration.

She could have avoided it if she had not always remained in her dreamy world. She should have seen the realities of life also. She should be contented with what she had.

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Question 9. What would have happened to Matilda if she had confessed to her friend that she had lost her necklace?

Answer : If she had confessed before Mme Forestier, she could have been excused. It was because the lost necklace was a fake one. Then Matilda and her husband would not need to lead a pathetic life they lived for 10 years.