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

Mme Loisel is a young, pretty woman from a humble background who is never satisfied with her life. Though ordinary, she dreams of wealth and luxury. Proud of her beauty, she longs to be admired, but her modest means cannot fulfill her expensive desires, which makes her unhappy and angry.

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

Her husband, M. Loisel, is an ordinary, content man who works as a clerk. He cares for his wife and is excited to show her the invitation to a grand dinner.

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#### **Question 1. What new problem troubles Mme Loisel?**

After spending a fortune on a beautiful dress, Mme Loisel worries that she has no jewelry to wear with it. She even asks her husband to give the invitation to someone else.

#### **Question 2. How is this problem resolved?**

M. Loisel first suggests wearing fresh flowers, but Mme Loisel laughs it off. Then he advises borrowing jewelry from a rich friend, Mme Forestier, who lends her a beautiful diamond necklace.

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#### **Question 1. What do Mr. and Mme Loisel do next?**

They search everywhere for the lost necklace—at the police station, cab offices, and advertise in newspapers offering a reward, but their efforts fail.

#### **Question 2. How do they replace the necklace?**

They buy a new identical necklace by pooling money from M. Loisel's inheritance and borrowing the rest, spending thirty-six thousand francs to replace it and return it to the owner.

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### **Question 1. How did the necklace change the Loisel's life?**

It took them ten years to repay the debts for replacing the necklace. They moved to poor quarters and lived a hard life with no servants. Mme Loisel had to do all household chores, and M. Loisel worked evenings and nights to pay off the loans. Their lives changed drastically.

### **Question 2. What caused Matilda's downfall? Could she have avoided it?**

Her pride, materialism, and dishonesty led to her ruin. She could have avoided it by accepting her life and being content with what she had.

### **Question 3. What if Matilda had told her friend she lost the necklace?**

If she had confessed, she would have learned the necklace was fake and worth only five hundred francs. She would have saved herself and her husband from years of poverty and hard work.

### **Question 4. If you were in her place, how would you have handled it?**

I would try to overcome pride and be honest about the loss, accepting any consequences. Honesty is the best way out.

### **Talk About It**

#### **Question 1. The story's characters speak English. Do you think this is their natural language? What clues suggest their real language?**

Though the story is in English, the original was French. Names like Mme Loisel and Mme Forestier, currency terms like franc and sou, and places like Palais Royal and Champs Elysees indicate the French setting and language.

#### **Question 2. Is honesty really the best policy?**

Yes, honesty is the best policy. Lies and hypocrisy might seem tempting but only lead to misery and unhappiness. Honesty may be difficult but brings true peace and lasting happiness.

#### **Question 3. Should we be content with what life gives us?**

Life varies greatly for each person, with some having wealth and others struggling for survival. We must learn to live within our means, be content with what we have, and improve ourselves honestly while accepting our reality peacefully.