



The Necklace



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Vocabulary



Mathilde (young)



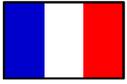
Mathilde (old)



Madame Forestier



Mathilde's husband



France



Ministry of Education



happy



sad



mad



not



better



life



dress



jewelry



necklace



rifle



coat



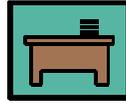
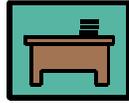
office



diamond



Mathilde Loisel was a pretty young woman. She lived in Paris, France. Her



husband worked in an office. The office was in the



Ministry of Education. Mathilde and her husband did not have a lot of money.

They were in the working class. Working class people made enough



money to pay their bills. They could not buy expensive dresses or jewelry.



Mathilde was sad to be in the working class.



Mathilde wanted a better life.



Mathilde had a friend from school. Her friend was rich. Her friend could



buy expensive dresses and jewelry. Mathilde did not like to visit her



friend. It made Mathilde sad that she could not be rich like her friend.



Mathilde wanted a better life.



One day, Mathilde's husband gave her an invitation. It was an invitation to a



party at the Ministry of Education. Mathilde's husband thought that the invitation



would make Mathilde happy. He thought that she would like to go to a



special party. Mathilde was not happy with the invitation. Mathilde said



she could not wear an old dress to the party. She did not want to go

the party.



Mathilde wanted a better life.



Mathilde's husband said that she could buy a new dress. He had



saved some money for a rifle to go hunting with his friends. But, he



told Mathilde that she could have the money to buy a new dress. He



wanted Mathilde to be happy.



Mathilde wanted a **better** **life** .



Mathilde bought a new dress. Still, Mathilde was sad. She thought that



she would look poor if she did not have a necklace to wear with her



new dress. Then, Mathilde's husband had an idea. He said that Mathilde



could ask her rich friend, Madame Forestier, for a necklace to wear to the



party. Then, she could give the necklace back after the party. Mathilde was



happy again. She would ask her friend for a necklace. Now, she would



have a new dress and a pretty necklace to wear to the party.



Mathilde wanted a better life .



Mathilde and her husband went to the party at the Ministry of Education.



Mathilde looked beautiful in her new dress and necklace. All of the



men at the party wanted to dance with Mathilde. Mathilde danced until four



o'clock in the morning! She was happy to be pretty and popular. Mathilde



was happy to forget about her everyday life.



Mathilde wanted a better life.



Finally, it was time to go home. Mathilde's husband brought her coat.



Mathilde's coat looked old and worn. She was sad to put the coat



over her new dress and necklace. She wanted to leave quickly. She



did not want the other women to see her in the old coat.



Mathilde wanted a better life.



At home, Mathilde looked in the mirror one more time to see how pretty



she looked. Then, she had a terrible surprise. The necklace was gone!



Mathilde and her husband looked everywhere for the necklace. They could not



find it. Finally, they decided to write Madame Forestier a letter. They lied



about the necklace. They said it was broken. They said they would



return the necklace when it was fixed. Mathilde did not want her friend to



know that she lost the necklace. She did not want her rich friend to be



mad at her.



Mathilde wanted a better life.



Mathilde and her husband went to the shop whose name was on the



necklace box. The man in the shop said that he did not sell



Madame Forestier the necklace. He only sold the box to Madame Forestier.



Next, they found a real diamond necklace at another shop. It cost a lot of



money. Mathilde and her husband bought the necklace. They borrowed money

to pay for it. To borrow money means to ask other people for money.

Then, the money must be paid back in small amounts.



Mathilde wanted a better life.



Mathilde returned the new necklace to Madame Forestier . She did not tell



Madame Forestier that she bought a new necklace. Madame Forestier did not



look in the box. She told Mathilde that she should have returned it sooner.



Mathilde was happy that Madame Forestier did not know about the necklace.



Mathilde wanted a better life.



Mathilde knew that she and her husband must work hard to pay back all



of the money they borrowed. They moved into a small apartment. Mathilde

washed clothes. She did her own cleaning and took out the garbage each



day. Her husband did extra work to earn more money. They worked for



ten years to pay back the money. Now, they were very tired. Mathilde



did not look young and pretty anymore. Now, Mathilde looked older.



Sometimes, Mathilde dreamed about the night at the party. She remembered

how young and pretty she looked.



Mathilde wanted a better life.



One day, Mathilde saw Madame Forestier on the Champs Elysees. The



Champs Elysees is a fancy street in Paris. Mathilde liked to walk on this



street to forget about her hard life. Madame Forestier did not know



Mathilde! Then, Mathilde told Madame Forestier the truth about the necklace.



Madame Forestier was surprised. She said that the necklace Mathilde



borrowed was not a real diamond! It did not cost a lot of money.

Mathilde found out that she did not have to borrow money to buy a real



diamond necklace.



Mathilde could have had a better life.