



মণিগোবিন্দনন্দন শাস্ত্রী সচিবালয় (সংস্কৃত)

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (S)

Government of Manipur

CLASS X
ENGLISH LITERATURE READER
CHAPTER 6 - THE DIAMOND NECKLACE
(GUY-DE-MAUPASSANT)

NOTES

The Diamond Necklace is a short story written by **Guy-de-Maupassant** about Mathilde Loisel who was married to M. Loisel, a little clerk of the Ministry of Public Instruction. Mathilde was a pretty and charming woman who lived an unhappy life because she gave too much importance to material wealth. She longed for things she could not have and thus lived a life of discontent.

Once, in order to attend a grand ball, she borrowed a diamond necklace from her rich friend, Madame Forestier and unfortunately lost it. Unable to find it, they borrowed a huge amount of money to buy a replacement. The couple spent the next ten years paying off their debts. Hard work prematured Mathilde so much so that even her friend, Madame Forestier could not recognize her in the Champs Elysees. Mathilde told her friend the reason for her premature ageing. Her friend was moved by her struggles because the original necklace was only an imitation which was worth at most only five hundred francs. Thus, Mathilde came to know that the diamond necklace which had made her life a living hell was nothing but a fake.

Thus, it is the story of a shallow lady who is not able to reconcile with what fate has in store for her. To pretend to be a wealthy woman, she wore a splendid diamond necklace. Her sufferings are a result of her hankering after material wealth and also because of her lack of honesty. Had she admitted to her friend that she had lost the diamond necklace, she would not have to spend that many years enduring hardship.
