

Plan a circle: “The Necklace”

Guy de Maupassant (1884) · public-domain short story · grades 8–10 · ~1 week / two meetings. Rights: Public domain. Kit section 5 (group agreement & calendar) filled in for one text — a finished plan students see before writing their own. **Tinted italic** = sample answers.

Text, group, and target

Text / author / edition	<i>“The Necklace” — Guy de Maupassant (1884). Public-domain short story.</i>
Group / period / dates	<i>Aisha’s group · Period __ · Meetings __ & __</i>
Grade / TEKS target (p. 3)	Grade 8 · §110.24 — 7(A): theme through characters/events; 6(C,D): support inferences; 1(D): student-led discussion.
Learning intention	We are learning to explain how Mathilde’s choices and the story’s irony reveal a theme about vanity and honesty.
Success criteria	I bring one open question, cite two details with locations, respond to a peer, and name how my thinking changed.

Reading map & calendar

Chunk	Read through	Meeting date · leader
1	<i>Mathilde’s discontent through the ball and the lost necklace.</i>	<i>Tue · Leader: Aisha</i>
2	<i>The ten years of debt through Madame Forestier’s final revelation.</i>	<i>Thu · Leader: Marcus</i>

Members & first-meeting jobs (p. 7 roles)

Member	First job	Rotates to (next meeting)
<i>Aisha</i>	<i>Questioner</i>	<i>Summarizer</i>
<i>Marcus</i>	<i>Summarizer</i>	<i>Clarifier</i>
<i>Lin</i>	<i>Clarifier</i>	<i>Evidence tracker</i>
<i>Sam</i>	<i>Predictor</i>	<i>Questioner</i>

Text-specific discussion questions (open — more than one answer)

- **Predict:** After Mathilde borrows the necklace, what could go wrong — and what detail hints at it?
- **Question:** Why might Maupassant end with Forestier’s revelation? How does it change our view of Mathilde’s suffering?
- **Clarify:** What does the narrator mean that Mathilde “was made for” a life of luxury? Is that true?
- **Summarize:** Retell the ten years of repayment in order, without opinion.
- **Interpret the theme:** How do Mathilde’s choices and the twist reveal a theme about vanity or honesty? Use two details.

Optional Jigsaw lenses (p. 4): **Character** (Mathilde and her husband) · **Plot** (the ironic twist) · **Language** (the narrator’s judgments) · **Theme** (pride vs. contentment) · **Point of view** (whose viewpoint is missing — Forestier’s (5th reader)).

Sample 3–2–1 notes: Lin, plot / irony lens

Name: *Lin* · Home group: *Aisha's group* · Period *___* · Meetings *___* & *___* · Section: *"The Necklace," Chunk 2* · Expert lens: *Plot / irony*

What a finished prep looks like. Kit section 6 / Organizer A completed for one reader, so students can compare their notes to a strong model.

Questions <i>Would honesty have saved the Loisels ten years?</i> <i>Whose fault is the ruin — Mathilde's, or chance?</i>	3 · Important ideas <i>1. The Loisels replace the lost necklace with a real diamond one costing 36,000 francs.</i> <i>2. They spend ten years in poverty repaying the debt.</i> <i>3. At the end, Forestier reveals the borrowed necklace was only paste (fake).</i>
Vocabulary <i>paste = imitation gems.</i> <i>discontent = restless unhappiness.</i>	2 · Supporting details <i>1. The narrator notes Mathilde grew "hard" and coarse from labor (later part). → The cost fell on her looks and life.</i> <i>2. Forestier says the necklace was worth at most 500 francs (ending). → The sacrifice rested on a false assumption.</i>

1 · Summary in my own words

Mathilde loses a borrowed necklace, and the family ruins itself for ten years to replace it — only to learn it was fake.

Bring to the circle

My interpretation: *The story suggests that pride and pretending cost far more than honesty would have.*

Synthesis (two lenses): *The ironic twist (plot) proves the theme: Mathilde's refusal to admit the loss (character) turns one night's vanity into a decade of ruin. Text points: the ball (Chunk 1) and Forestier's revelation (Chunk 2).*

After discussion: *My thinking became clearer once the group compared evidence.*

TEKS evidence: 6(C,D) supported inference; 7(A) theme through characters/events; 1(D) response to a peer. · Pair with the PlotPoint "The Necklace" room.