

## Course Outlines

<b>Course Unit Code</b>	<b>EDU-01001</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>English I (Functional English)</b>
<b>Credit Hours</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Level</b>	<b>BS. Secondary Education (Evening)</b>
<b>Semester</b>	<b>I<sup>st</sup></b>
<b>Prerequisites</b>	<b>None</b>

### **Curriculum Content**

#### **Functional English**

- 1- Getting to know each other and self introduction (Mid Term)
- 2- Developing Dialogues on common situations (Mid Term)
- 3- Listening and responding to short stories (From natives) (Final Term)
- 4- Effective reading exercises (Final Term)
- 5- Paragraph writing (Final Term)
- 6- Informative speaking (Interactive talkies on daily routine) (Final Term)

#### **Functional Grammar**

- 7- Verbs, verbal, gerunds, participles, infinitives, and adverbs usages (Mid Term)
- 8- Tense, voice and mood (Final Term)

#### **Applied Grammar**

- 9- Use of proverbial and idiomatic expression (Mid Term)
- 10- Translation Urdu to English (Final Term)
- 11- Change of voices (Final Term)

#### **Poetry**

- 12- Leisure by William Davies (Mid Term)
- 13- Woman work by Maya Angelou (Mid Term)
- 14- The solitary Reaper by William Wordsworth (Final Term)

#### **Prose**

- 15- Clemency of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) by Syed Ameer Ali (Final Term)
- 16- Pakistan and the modern world by Liaquat Ali Khan (Final Term)
- 17- The Necklace by Guy De Maupassant (Mid Term)

#### **Recommended books**

- T. K. Carver and S. Fortinos-Riggs, Conversation Book II – English in Everyday Life (New York: Pearson Education Limited, 2015).
- J. Eastwood, Oxford Practice Grammar. (Karachi: Oxford University Press, 2015).  
EduJourney.com. PDF PowerPoint presentation: Writing a Friendly Letter:  
[www.edujourney.net/Classroom/PowerPoint/FriendlyLetter.ppt](http://www.edujourney.net/Classroom/PowerPoint/FriendlyLetter.ppt)
- S. Setty (2015) BBC Learning English Entertainment:  
[http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/entertainment/scripts/entertainment\\_shilpa\\_070717.pdf](http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/entertainment/scripts/entertainment_shilpa_070717.pdf)

#### **Resources for developing additional topics**

- Making requests
- BBC World Service. (2015) Learning English:  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/grammar/learnit/learnit-tv239.shtml>

#### **Making enquiries**

- BBC World Service. (2015) Learning English:
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/teachingenglish/howto/>

### **Making suggestions**

- BBC World Service. (2015) Learning English:
- [http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/radio/specials/1756\\_how\\_to\\_discuss/page2.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/radio/specials/1756_how_to_discuss/page2.shtml)

### **Making a complaint**

- BBC World Service (2015) Learning English: 6 Minute English: Complaint:
- [http://wsdownload.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/pdf/2011/07/110720155157\\_110720\\_6\\_minut\\_english\\_complaining.pdf](http://wsdownload.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/pdf/2011/07/110720155157_110720_6_minut_english_complaining.pdf)

### **Listening activity resources**

- S. Shetty, ShilpaShetty. BBC Learning English:
- [http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/radio/specials/1555\\_entertainment07/page13.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/radio/specials/1555_entertainment07/page13.shtml)

### **Listening to a story**

- British Council. A Serious Case:<http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/stories/serious-case>

### **Directions**

- BBC World Service. (2015) Learning English:
- [http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/radio/specials/1212\\_how\\_to\\_instruct/page2.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/radio/specials/1212_how_to_instruct/page2.shtml) Listening comprehension skills
- BBC World Service. (2015) Learning English: How to... Describe a Process 2:
- [http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/howto/how\\_to\\_080827\\_process2\\_activity.pdf](http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/howto/how_to_080827_process2_activity.pdf) Following directions (activity and wordlist)
- English Grammar 4 U Online: <http://www.ego4u.com/en/cram-up/vocabulary/directions>

### **Giving and following directions**

- YadaYada English: <http://yadayadaenglish.com/directions/>

### **Giving instructions**

- BBC World Service. (2015) Learning English:
- [http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/radio/specials/1212\\_how\\_to\\_instruct/page7.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/radio/specials/1212_how_to_instruct/page7.shtml)
- Practice quiz, ordering out-of-sequence instructions: BBC World Service. (2015) Learning English: [http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/radio/specials/1212\\_how\\_to\\_instruct/page6.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/radio/specials/1212_how_to_instruct/page6.shtml)

## **Helping Materials**

### **Leisure**

**By**

**William Davies (1871-1940)**

What is this life if, full of care,  
We have no time to stand and stare.

No time to stand beneath the boughs  
And stare as long as sheep or cows.

No time to see, when woods we pass,  
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.

No time to see, in broad daylight,  
Streams full of stars, like skies at night.

No time to turn at Beauty's glance,  
And watch her feet, how they can dance.

No time to wait till her mouth can  
Enrich that smile her eyes began.

A poor life this is if, full of care,  
We have no time to stand and stare.

### **Critical Summary**

In this critical summary analysis of the poem "Leisure", we shall discuss various aspects of the poem. The poet says that man has everything except leisure. In his opinion man has entangled himself in responsibilities and worries. Man has no time to enjoy natural beauty around him. The poet laments that man of today cannot find any moment to see numerous beautiful scenes even in broad day light. He says the colorful budding flowers shine in the day like stars at night but man passes them without any interest in them. He considers that man is devoid of "beauty's glance". Once, man would enjoy the beauty of Nature and everything would seem in harmony while in the company of Nature. But for the man of today, Nature has lost all it's beauty. The poet creates a beautiful comparison between the rhythmic beauty of dance and the flowers and fields moving with wind. Once man found pleasure in the company of nature, today he is so preoccupied in his material needs that he cannot turn to nature. He diverts his attention from nature for worldly

matters. He prefers wealth and material gains over treasures of nature. Robert Frost has put down the same in these words: "The woods are dark, lovely and deep But I have promises to keep." The poet expresses sadness over the loss of human faculty to appreciate beauty without any regard to financial or material gain but in this era of practicality and wealth focused individuals, the distance between man and nature is widening which is the cause of certain psychological and physical ailments which are being ignored presently.

Use of Personification in the poem Leisure

William Davies has employed the use of personification in the poem "Leisure". The poet has personified "beauty" which has been given the human attributes of "glance", "dance" etc. The purpose of the poet is to reveal the fact that natural beauty is to be seen with the right outlook; it will help us look at things in what manner they should have been. The outer Nature is harmonious with human nature and reconciles to it, provided, man is willing to adapt to the "beauty's glance" which he used to have in the pre-materialistic age.

**The Solitary Reaper**  
**BY WILLIAM WORDSWORTH**

Behold her, single in the field,  
Yon solitary Highland Lass!  
Reaping and singing by herself;  
Stop here, or gently pass!  
Alone she cuts and binds the grain,  
And sings a melancholy strain;  
O listen! for the Vale profound  
Is overflowing with the sound.

No Nightingale did ever chaunt  
More welcome notes to weary bands  
Of travellers in some shady haunt,  
Among Arabian sands:  
A voice so thrilling ne'er was heard  
In spring-time from the Cuckoo-bird,  
Breaking the silence of the seas  
Among the farthest Hebrides.

Will no one tell me what she sings?—  
Perhaps the plaintive numbers flow  
For old, unhappy, far-off things,  
And battles long ago:  
Or is it some more humble lay,  
Familiar matter of to-day?

Some natural sorrow, loss, or pain,  
That has been, and may be again?

Whate'er the theme, the Maiden sang  
As if her song could have no ending;  
I saw her singing at her work,  
And o'er the sickle bending;—  
I listened, motionless and still;  
And, as I mounted up the hill,  
The music in my heart I bore,  
Long after it was heard no more.

### **A Brief Background**

William Wordsworth is one of the most important English poets and a founder of the Romantic Movement of English literature, a style of writing that focuses on emotion and imagination. Wordsworth became known as a Lakeland Poet because of the area where he lived, which is renowned for its beautiful, wild landscapes, charming pastures, and countless lakes. He was often called a nature poet because of his emphasis on the connection between humans and the natural world. He became widely successful and was named Poet Laureate of England in 1843.

'The Solitary Reaper' was written on November 5, 1805, and published in 1807 in the collection *Poems, in Two Volumes*. This poem is unique because while most of Wordsworth's work is based closely on his own experiences, 'The Solitary Reaper' is based on the experience of someone else, author and friend Thomas Wilkinson, as described in his *Tours to the British Mountains*.

The poem, like most of Wordsworth's poetry, is distinguished by its straightforward use of language and meter as well as its natural theme and imagery. It reflects Wordsworth's belief in the importance of the natural world, the power of memory and the human mind, and his first principle of poetry - that poetry should be written to provide pleasure through a rhythmic and powerful expression of emotion and leave readers with 'a spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings' long after it is read. Let's take a look at the text of the poem and then discuss what it might mean.

### **Summary of the poem Solitary reaper**

She was single in the field reaping and binding the grains in the field and was singing to herself in such a voice that it was attracting the people who were passing by that way. The poet says that the poem was so enchanting that he stopped to listen the song that was passing by the fields slowly. The poet says that the song is more enchanting than that of the Nightingale and the Cuckoo bird that are said to be more enchanting in the world.

Even though the poet is so much attracted towards the song sung by the reaper he never knew what the women was singing about in the field, he didn't know about the language and the idea

that made her to sing the song while she was reaping the grains, is that about the happiness in the life or sorrow in her life or about the world war which took many lives but the song was heard for a longer time even after the poet passed the field.

The poet states that there is no ending for the song as the song was heard by the poet even after the poet reaches his home and he says that the poem is heard for many days and he keeps on mumbling the song heard in the fields but after many days the poet finds that he has stopped mumbling the poem and he has totally forgotten the poem but he remembers the women who sang the song in the farm and was reaping the grains using her sickle.

### **Woman Work**

I've got the children to tend  
The clothes to mend  
The floor to mop  
The food to shop  
Then the chicken to fry  
The baby to dry  
I got company to feed  
The garden to weed  
I've got shirts to press  
The tots to dress  
The cane to be cut  
I gotta clean up this hut  
Then see about the sick  
And the cotton to pick.  
Shine on me, sunshine  
Rain on me, rain  
Fall softly, dewdrops  
And cool my brow again.  
Storm, blow me from here  
With your fiercest wind  
Let me float across the sky  
'Til I can rest again.  
Fall gently, snowflakes  
Cover me with white  
Cold icy kisses and  
Let me rest tonight.  
Sun, rain, curving sky  
Mountain, oceans, leaf and stone  
Star shine, moon glow  
You're all that I can call my own.

## About the Poetess

Maya Angelou was an American author, poet, dancer, actress and singer. She published seven autobiographies, three books of essays, and several books of poetry, and was credited with a list of plays.

Born: April 4, 1928, St. Louis, Missouri, United States

Died: May 28, 2014, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, United States

Children: Guy Johnson

Spouse: Paul du Feu (m. 1973–1981), Enistastious Tosh Angelos (m. 1951–1954)- See more at: <http://allpoetry.com/Woman-Work#sthash.fEBySPH5.dpuf>

Born Marguerite Annie Johnson

All my work, my life, everything I do is about survival, not just bare, awful, plodding survival, but survival with grace and faith. While one may encounter many defeats, one must not be defeated. Maya Angelou

## Idea of Poem:

A woman gives vent to her disgust for the dull drab life of doing domestic chores. But the drudgery of the mechanical routine has not suppressed her capacity to indulge in dreams of an ideal life. She yearns to participate in nature around her. She longs for the blessings of sunshine and rain to give her sustenance and strength to live. She wishes to lose and find herself in nature and mountains, oceans, leaf and stone, star shine, moon glow to give a touch of joy and poetry to her ordinary prosaic life.

## Reference:

These lines have been taken from the poem “Woman Work” written by Maya Angelou.

## Context:

The poetess feels extremely bored and tired after attending to her house-hold affairs. She feels that only the natural phenomena can exercise healthy influence on her. The natural objects can save her from unbearable boredom and can raise her spirits. A house-hold woman remains awfully busy with the domestic chores. Even then, she can enjoy nature through her imagination. It is an indirect praise of the woman's greatness. In general, the poem is an escape from the drudgery of the mechanical routine and taking shelter in ideal life.

## Explanation:

### *Stanza 1*

In these lines the poetess gives vent to her feelings for her dull and busy life. She is tired of the routine work of a working woman. She says she has to look after children at home. Also she has to repair clothes of the members of her family. She has to clean the floor of her house and has to

collect edibles from the shop for her family. After that she has to cook those things which she has brought from shop.

### *Stanza 2*

These lines are a continuation of her domestic chores. She has mentioned some of the chores in the previous stanza and of some talks here. She says that she has to cook chicken for the family. Also she has to dry the baby after bathing it. After that she has to prepare meal for her guests. She has to remove unwanted plants from her garden. She has to press the clothes of her children and other members of her family. She has to dress her little children and also has to cut bamboos. She has to clean the whole house. All these chores are quite tough and require courage and forbearance on the part of a domestic woman.

### *Stanza 3*

In these lines the poetess wants to enjoy the natural objects. She has got tired of the domestic work and wants to go close to nature. She says that the sun light should shine on her, rain should fall on her. The dewdrops should gently fall upon her. All these things can cool her brow. All these natural objects can give her satisfaction and peace.

### *Stanza 4*

These lines are an expression of her escapism from the busy life of a working woman. The domestic woman remains awfully busy and dreams of an ideal life. In these lines she asks storm to blow her from the busy world across the sky with its stormy wind. As such she will be able to get relief from the hurly burly of life. She asks the storm to take her to an imaginary world for rest. Only imagination can give her, peace, solace and satisfaction, otherwise physically it is not possible to run away from this world. Shelley in “Ode to the West Wind” says, oh, lift me as a wave, a leaf, a cloud! I fall upon the thorns of life! I bleed!

### *Stanza 5*

This stanza is also an expression of taking relief and refuge with natural objects. She asks the snow-flakes to fall gently on her body and completely cover it up and make it all white. When she will be completely under the charm and burden of the white snow, she will get solace. She further asks snow to touch and give her cold icy kisses, so that she may be able to have rest that night. Actually the natural objects can please a person and give company for some time.



### ***Stanza 5***

In these lines the poetess addresses all the natural objects to help her in giving relief from the busy life of a working woman. She wants to lose herself among the natural objects. That is why she asks the sun, rain, the curving sky, the mountains, the ocean, the leaf and the stone to give her relief. Actually she wants to get relief and joy from all these things and wants to run away from dark and dull life at home. That is why she asks the moon to glow, the shining stars to give her shelter with them. She calls all these things her own because she wants some leisure and satisfaction in these natural things. Nature can give delight to her and can transport her to peace and tranquility.

### **Introduction**

The simple poem has been written by an American Poetess Maya Angelou. Her poetry based on particular topics. The character sketch of a woman has been drawn in this poem is always busy in her household work. All the day she works like a machine in house. She becomes tired. She wants to give herself relief from her responsibilities, because she is fed up with her monotonous homely life. So she desires to go in the lap of nature. She asks nature to come and give her joy and change her dull and boring life into a changing life. Angelou expresses her ambition to find refuge in the object of nature. She loves the sunshine the sunshine and the rain that could purify her. She wants to bury herself under the snow flakes. Nature would help her rejuvenate and recover her lost energy. She considers nature as her only well-wisher. She does not like to seek peace in the mechanical aspects of life. She lives to be a part of nature to have a permanent bliss and calmness in her life. It is a poem that affects our imagination and goes on haunting our thoughts. She feels completely exhausted and wants to be rescued by nature. She wants to feel lost in the wonders of nature. She says that women are uncomplaining and dutiful individuals. The fact of the matter is that they perform such works to make the lives of their dear ones comfortable, enjoyable, and less burdensome.

### **Summary**

Maya Angelou (1928-2014) is an African-American woman poet. Her poetry most often deals with women of her own community. ‘Woman Work’ is such a poem. It describes the plight of a single mother, who must take care of her household all by herself, with no support from anybody.

‘Woman Work’ was first published in the 1978 collection of Angelou’s poems entitled *And Still I Rise*. The poem itself consists of five stanzas. The first stanza is the longest one, and it is made up of fourteen lines. All the subsequent stanzas are shorter, each made up of four lines.

In the first stanza, Angelou provides a list of the household chores that the protagonist of the poem must perform on a regular basis. This is a seemingly endless list. Angelou, speaking in the voice of the protagonist, says that she must take care of her children, and mend all their clothes

which have been torn by constant and repeated use. She must also mop the floor of her humble dwelling, and go shopping to bring back food items to satiate her children's hunger. In addition to all this, she must fry chicken for their next meal. The youngest child, the baby, cannot be ignored. The baby's diaper must be changed. The protagonist is also expecting guests, so she has to cook for them as well. The list does not end here, and she goes on. She must remove weeds from her garden. She must also iron the shirts, and dress the younger children who are too small to get dressed on their own. However, the home is not the only place where the protagonist must work. She also has to go to the fields to cut the latest crop of cane sugar. But this does not mean she can escape keeping her "hut" clean. She must act as caregiver to the sick living all around her. Last but not least, she must pick bales of cotton to be spun into cloth that can be sold. All this she must do in a single day.

In contrast to the fast pace of the first stanza, the subsequent three stanzas exhibit a slower, and more relaxed movement. It is as if the speaker needs to rest after a hard day's work. In that time of rest and relaxation, she calls upon the elements of nature to give her company.

In the second stanza, the protagonist asks the sun to shine down on her, and the rain to refresh her. She also asks the dewdrops to create a cooling effect on her brow, which is sweating from all the effort that has gone into accomplishing all her daily household chores. In the third stanza, the protagonist asks the storm to hit her with its fiercest flow of wind, so that she can be flown away with it till she comes to a state of rest.

In the fourth stanza, the protagonist continues her call out to nature by asking snowflakes to fall on her and cover her with their pristine whiteness. She expects that the cool weather that will result from snowfall will help her get some rest that night. The protagonist ends the poem by invoking the presence of the sun, the rain, the curving sky, mountains, oceans, leaves, stones, and the light from the stars and the moon, and saying that it is only nature that she can call her own, that will give her company at the end of an exhausting day, and refresh both her body, and her soul.

## **Pakistan and the Modern World**

**By**

**Liaquat Ali Khan**

### **Summary**

'Pakistan and the Modern World' is, in fact, the speech of Liaquat Ali Khan that he made at University of Kansas, America. In his speech he tried to introduce Pakistan to the modern world by justifying the causes of its creation and highlighting its future expectations from the developed nations of the world.

He brought to light all the major causes which made it necessary for Muslims to establish an independent state for them. In the united sub-continent, there was a multitude of nations including Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, Parsees and such other nations. Hindus and Muslims were two main nations in that part of the world. They were living together for centuries but nothing common could be developed among them. They had their different cultural, social, economical and educational back-grounds. They had a definite prejudice and bias towards each other to the effect that they could never intermarry nor inter-dine.

So it was impossible for them to live independently under one rule. Hindus were in majority with the ratio of 1:3. When the English government decided to quit from sub-continent, Hindus were ready to capture the reign after the departure of British. So for the Muslims, freedom from British rule was nothing but a change of masters. There could easily be discerned a perpetual clash between Hindu majority and Muslims and a continual problem of law and order. Sub-continent was vast enough to be divided into two independent parts. It was surely difficult for one ruler to keep such a heavy mass under his control. A fear of political and social disturbance could always be there. So the Muslims rightly decided to struggle for a separate independent homeland for them where they could lead their lives according to their own religious, political, cultural, economical and social life style Hardships faced by Pakistan After its Creation.

At the time of partition Pakistan had to face many hardships and problems. Pakistan was quite a new state having no capital, no flag and no administrative power. It received no military equipment.

So it was very difficult for Pakistan to manage things for its survival. Industry was poor and people were backward. The only thing Pakistan had was the unity, will power and determination of its people to face all these problems. Freedom and independence with a poor economic condition had set Pakistan on a blind way which had the light of goal far away. Liaquat Ali Khan mentioned in his speech the duties which our freedom demanded from us. According to his point of view, it was our first and foremost duty to maintain and safeguard the freedom. Freedom from foreign rule was not the real freedom. Real freedom was freedom of common man from the threat of poverty, disease, social security and ignorance. So it was necessary for the people of Pakistan to utilize all the qualities of their mind and soul to get the maximum out of least given to them.

### **Liaquat Ali Khan's Expectations**

In his speech at Kansas, Liaquat Ali Khan tried to explain the expectation Pakistan had had from American and Western world. According to him, Pakistan was one of developing Asian countries, trying to pace on the way to progress. Had the developed countries helped it, it could have joined them in the same capacity.

To maintain the rate of progress Pakistan was looking towards the advanced nations such as America to owe helping hand. Liaquat Ali Khan viewed the progress of Pakistan not merely as

the progress of a country but as a development and solidarity of Asia. Asia was a backward part of the world with people struggling against poverty, disease and ignorance. To make the world prosperous and strong, this major part of the world was necessary to be supported by the developed countries. Being situated in the centre of Asia a strong Pakistan could be a guarantee of peace in her continent. At that time only Pakistan was unified enough to lead other countries of her part on the way of progress. So America and other developed nations should support Pakistan and help it to improve its economical, educational and social knowledge

## **The Necklace** **by** **Guy de Maupassant**

### **Summary**

The story “The Necklace” is about the fact that even a small thing can change the life of a person. Chance or fate plays very important role in human life. It is more powerful than human resolution. It is man’s destiny. Mathilda is the central character of the story. She was very pretty. She thought that she was born in the family of clerks by the error of destiny. Her husband, Loisel was also a clerk. She believed that she was born for all the luxuries of life. She did not like her poor house. She always dreamed of a big house.

One day her husband brought an invitation card for a ball at the residence of the Minister of Education. She was not happy at the invitation because she had no good dress to wear at the party. Loisel gave her 400 francs to buy the dress. However, she was still unhappy. Now she wanted some jewels to wear.

She went to her friend to borrow some jewel. She borrowed a necklace. She went to the party and enjoyed it. On her return, she lost the necklace. Her husband tried to find it but failed. Later they borrowed money and bought a new necklace to replace the lost one.

Now Loisel worked day and night to return the borrowed money. Mathilda discharged the maidservant and did everything of the household by herself. They were able to return the money after ten years. Now Mathilda had lost all her beauty. She had changed so much that her friend could not recognize her. Mathilda told her the whole story but her friend told her that the necklace she had borrowed was not real. (282)

The story “The Necklace” is a superior work and its plot is conceived in terms of an affecting ironic reversal. Discuss.

No doubt, the story “The Necklace” is a superior work of art and its plot has been conceived in terms of an affecting ironic reversal.

First, when we go through the story, we find that Mathilda was not satisfied with her life. She was very beautiful and thought that she was born for all delicacies and luxuries of life. Therefore, she wanted to marry a rich man. However, it is ironic reversal that she was married to a poor a petty clerk against her wishes.

Secondly, she always dreamed living in a palace. She thought of big houses having eastern construction and luxuries. However, her expectation of living in a big house did not come true. She got a poor apartment. Ironically, she had to leave that apartment too. She had to rent some rooms.

Thirdly, she thought that she was born for all delicacies and luxuries. However, what did she get? She had to send away the maidservant. She had to wash the dishes. She had to wash clothes. She lost her beauty and ten years of her life. She had become the poor household woman. She seemed older now.

Fourthly, when she lost the necklace, she thought that it was real. However, ironic reversal is that the necklace was false. Fifthly, she went to the ball. She wore expensive clothes and jewellery. She expected that she would be very happy. But ironic reversal is that she had to lead a life of misery and sufferings. (247)

2. How singular is life and how full of changes! How a small thing will ruin or save one," Mathilda thinks. Do you agree?

In the drama of human life, chance or fate, sometimes, is more powerful than human resolution. It is man's destiny. Do you agree?

How was chance, luck, or fate at the basis of the suffering of Mathilda and Loisel?

Yes, I fully agree that a small thing or a chance or fate can ruin or save a person. Chance is more powerful than human resolution and it is man's destiny.

When we go through the story carefully, we find that Mathilda's life was going on very well. Although she was not satisfied with her life, yet she was living better than most of the middle class women. She had a loving husband. She had a maidservant who did everything for her. She was very beautiful and looked out of her dress. All this suggests that her life was all right.

Now chance played its role and changed all her life. Her husband brought an invitation to the ball at the Minister's residence. She had no jewel to wear on the party. She went to her friend and borrowed a necklace to wear. She was very happy, but a small thing happened. She lost her necklace. It was necessary to replace that necklace. Her husband borrowed the money from every possible source and brought the necklace.

Chance again played its role. When she went to return the necklace, her friend did not open the jewel box. Actually, the necklace she had borrowed from her friend was false and she was returning the real one. If she had opened the jewel case, she would have come to know that fact and Mathilda would have been saved from future sufferings. However, chance or fate did not let her friend open the jewel case. Now their life changed and they lost everything.

It proves that chance is more powerful than human resolution. It is man's destiny. (273)

3. It is said that Madam Loisel was responsible for her tragedy. Do you agree?

When I read the story "The Necklace", I quite agree that Madam Loisel was responsible for her tragedy.

Firstly, she should have accepted the fact that she was a poor woman and she would be misfit among people of high class. She was completely wrong when she thought that she was born of all delicacies and luxuries because she was the wife of a petty clerk. Her high ideas about the luxuries of life were the first reason of her tragedy. She should not have gone to the ball. It was her mistake.

Secondly, she should not have borrowed the necklace from her friend. This was her second mistake and it was the main reason of her tragedy. Wearing that necklace, she wanted to make a show of her riches. Thirdly, she acted quite carelessly. She should have taken great care of the necklace. However, she was in a world of dream. This was what she always wanted. At that time, no one and nothing had any importance for her. She had even forgotten her husband. That was her third mistake. She lost the necklace because of her carelessness.

Fourthly, she should have told her friend that she had lost her necklace. If she had told her friend about the loss of the necklace, she would have come to know that the necklace she had borrowed was false. In this way, she would have been saved of her tragedy. It was her greatest mistake.

Therefore, we can conclude that Madam Loisel was responsible for her tragedy. She committed four mistakes that resulted in her tragedy. (265)

4. It is said that Mr. Loisel was also responsible for his and his wife's tragedy. Do you agree?

When I go through the story "the Necklace", I agree that Mr. Loisel was also responsible for his and his wife's tragedy.

Firstly, Mr. Loisel should not have brought the invitation to the ball. He knew that he was only a clerk and he would be quite misfit among the people of high class. However, he wanted to please his wife. When his wife told him that she did not have anything to wear, he should not have insisted on going to the ball. It was a great mistake on his part. He should have dropped the idea of going. However, he did not do so.

Secondly, he should not have advised his wife to borrow some jewel from her friend. His wife did not have any idea about that. It was his second great mistake. Thirdly, when the necklace was lost he asked his wife to tell a lie. He asked her to write to her friend that she had broken the clasp of the necklace and she would have it repaired and then return it. Now it was his greatest mistake because it resulted in his and his wife's tragedy.

Therefore, we can conclude that Mr. Loisel was responsible for his and his wife's tragedy. He committed three mistakes. (211)

5. What is the theme of the story "The Necklace"?

The theme of the story is that even a small thing can change the life of a person. Chance or fate plays a very important human life. It is more powerful than human resolution. It is man's destiny.

When we go through the story carefully, we find that Mathilda's life was going on very well. Although she was not satisfied with her life, yet she was living better than most of the middle class women. She had a loving husband. She had a maidservant who did everything for her. She was very beautiful and looked out of her class. All this suggests that her life was all right.

Now chance played its role and changed all her life. Her husband brought her invitation to the ball at the Minister's residence. She had no jewel to wear on the party. She went to her friend and borrowed a necklace to wear on the party. She was very happy, but a small thing happened, she lost her necklace. It was necessary to replace that necklace. Her husband borrowed the money from every possible source and bought the necklace.

Chance again played its role. When she went to return the necklace, her friend did not open the jewel case. Actually, the necklace she had borrowed from her friend was false and she was returning the real one. If she had opened the jewel case, she would have come to know that fact and Mathilda would have been saved from future sufferings. However, chance or fate did not let her friend open the jewel case. Now their life changed and they lost everything. It proves that chance is more powerful than human resolution. It is man's destiny. This is the theme of the story. (290)

6. "The necklace" is a tragedy. Discuss.

According to Aristotle, a tragedy is a story of suffering over a long period. The hero of the tragedy is better than ordinary people are. He suffers because of a mistaken act. He exhibits great endurance in the face of sufferings. He may die or fail miserably at the end. His sufferings may arouse pity and terror.

In the light of the above definition, when we read the story, “The Necklace”, we find that Mathilda was higher in the sense that she was very beautiful. She suffered because of her four mistaken acts. Firstly, her high ideas about the luxuries of life were the first reason of her tragedy. She should not have gone to the ball. It was her mistake. Secondly, she should not have borrowed the necklace from her friend. This was her second mistake and it was the main reason of her tragedy.

Thirdly, she acted quite carelessly. She should have taken great care of the necklace. She lost the necklace because of her carelessness. Fourthly, she should have told her friend that she had lost her necklace. In this way, she would have been saved of her tragedy.

We see that she suffered for ten long years, but like the heroine of a tragedy, she exhibited great endurance in the face of all the sufferings. We see that she failed in the end in a sense that all her struggle proved useless. The end of the story arouses pity and horror. We see her older than her friend of the same age. When her friend revealed that the necklace was false, we pity her. It is a shock not only for Mathilda but also for readers.

Therefore, we can conclude that “The Necklace” is a tragedy and it fulfills all its requirements. (297)

7. What is the moral of the story “The Necklace”?

There are at least three lessons or morals in the story “The Necklace”.

The first lesson is that we should be contented. We should learn to live according to our circumstances. When we read the story careful, we find that Mathilda was very beautiful. She was not contented. She thought that she was born for all the luxuries of life. She wanted to live in grand houses. She wanted to marry a rich man.

That was why she was always depressed. She did not enjoy her household life and food. When her husband praised the food, she thought of elegant dinners. She had neither frocks nor jewels and she felt that she was made for them. Therefore, she suffered for ten long years for her high ideas. No doubt, we should have high ideas but we should cut our coat according to our cloth.

The second lesson is that we always suffer if we try to get happiness through borrowed things. Shakespeare was right when he said that neither a borrower nor a lender be. Mathilda should not have borrowed the necklace from her friend. In this way, she should have been saved from her tragedy.

The third lesson is that we should always tell the truth. Truth always saves us. By telling a lie, we invite sufferings and misfortune. We see that when they lost the necklace, they should have told Mathilda’s friend about that. In this way, they would have come to know that it was a fake necklace. However, they told a lie and suffered for ten long years. In the end they found out that, they did not have anything to be proud. The necklace was not real and their struggle was just useless. What a pity! (292)

8. Write a note on the vanity of Mathilda Loisel.

No doubt, Mathilda Loisel was proud and self-loving. She was very beautiful and charming and she was proud of her beauty. Because of this beauty, she thought that she was born in a family of clerks through the error of destiny. She felt that she was born for all delicacies and luxuries. She also felt that she was made for expensive frocks, jewels and other such things.

As she belonged to a family of clerks, she was married to a petty clerk, but she was not happy at this marriage. She thought that she was out of her class and she belonged to upper class. That was why she did not like the poverty of her house. She thought that because of her beauty she

had a right to live in a grand house. This house should have graceful furniture, footmen, and perfumed rooms. She wanted to chat with rich friends at five o'clock in those rooms.

When she and her husband sat to eat, she did not enjoy the food. Her husband praised the humble food but she thought of elegant dinners. She imagined that she would enjoy the food with a smile. There would be expensive wall cloth on the walls.

Therefore, we can conclude that Mathilda was very vain and proud because of her beauty. She was not happy with her life of poverty. She thought that she was born in the family of clerks through an error of destiny. As she was born for all the delicacies and luxuries of life, she should be among the people of high class. When we read the story we find out that, she suffered because of this vanity. (279)

9. How did Mathilda lose the necklace and what efforts did Loisel make to search it?

What caused the loss of the necklace?

When we read the story "The Necklace" carefully, we find that Mathilda might have lost the necklace in the cab or somebody might have stolen it during the party. The thief might have thought that it was a real and expensive necklace.

Mathilda was very careless about the necklace. She enjoyed the party. Her greatest desire had come true. She was in a world of dream and she had forgotten everything, even her husband. Therefore, it was probable that either someone had stolen it during the party or she might have dropped it there. She might not have lost it on the road. If she had dropped it on the road, she, and her husband would have heard it fall. Therefore, if she had not lost it at the party she might have lost it in the cab while returning home.

When they found out that Mathilda had lost the necklace, they looked in the folds of the dress and in the pockets. In short, they searched for it everywhere, but could not find it.

After that, Loisel went to search the necklace on the track where they had walked on foot. He returned at 7 o'clock without any success. Then he went to the police and to the cab office. He put an advertisement in the newspaper and offered a reward. He did everything that he could do but failed to find the necklace. They continued their search for one week but lost all their hopes. (247)

10. What did Loisel and Mathilda do to buy a necklace to replace the lost one?

When they could not find the necklace, they decided to get some more time. First Mathilda wrote to Madam Forestier that she had broken the clasp of the necklace and she would return it after getting it repaired. In this way, they got some time to search the necklace but they could not find it even after one week.

Now they decided to replace the necklace. They took the box of the necklace to the jeweler whose name was written inside the box. However, he told them that he had not sold that necklace; he had only supplied the box. Then they went from jeweler to jeweler to find a necklace like the lost one.

At last, in a shop they found a necklace that seemed like the lost one. Its value was forty thousand francs, but they could it four thirty-six francs. They begged the jeweler not to sell the necklace for three days. They hoped that they would find the necklace. Therefore, they arranged with the jeweler that if they found the lost necklace before the end of February they would return the necklace in thirty-four thousand francs.

Mr. Loisel had eight thousand francs and he borrowed some of the amount from his friends and relatives. The rest he took from usurers and lenders. He signed bond that he could not fulfill. At last, he bought for thirty-six francs and gave it to Madam Forestier. (236)

11. How did Mr. Loisel and Mathilda suffer to return the borrowed money?



To return the borrowed money Mr. and Mrs. Loisel suffered for ten long years.

First, they sent away the maidservant. Then they changed their lodging and rented some rooms. Now Mathilda learnt heavy cares of household life. She had to do the difficult chores of her kitchen. She had to wash dishes, greasy pots and stew pans. She had to use her rosy nails to wash the greasy pots and the bottoms of the stew pans. She had to wash dirty clothes and to hang them on the line to dry. Then each morning she had to take down the refuse to the street. She also had to bring up the water for daily use. She had to stop at each landing to breath. She did not have much money so she haggled with the shopkeepers to get reduction in prices.

Once she was very beautiful and used to wear beautiful dresses. Now she seemed old. Now she looked a common household woman. She had badly dressed hair and dirty dresses. Her hands were red and she spoke in a loud tone. She washed the floors in large pails of water.

Mr. Loisel had to work in the evenings after his office hours. He put the books of some merchants in order. At nights, he did copying for five sous a page.

Therefore, Mr. and Mrs. Loisel led a life of difficulty after the loss of the necklace. They suffered for ten long years. However, that was not all. When they had returned the borrowed money, they came to know that they were suffered for nothing. The necklace they had lost was not real and its price was not over five hundred francs. We take pity on them for that. (291)

12. Was the necklace real or fake? How Mathilda come to know of this?

Discuss the end of the story.

Reproduce the talk between Madam Loisel and Madam Forestier.

On one Sunday Madam Loisel was taking a walk to free her of the cares of the week. Suddenly she saw Madam Forestier who was also taking a walk with a child. She decided to talk to her. She was meeting her after ten years. Now that she had paid up for the necklace, she could talk to her without any fear.

She approached her and said good morning to her very frankly. However, Madam Forestier could not recognize her because Mathilda had changed completely. She was not beautiful any more. She looked an ordinary poor woman. On the other hand, her friend was looking young and attractive. Madam Forestier said that she did not know her and she must be mistaken. Mathilda introduced herself. Madam Forestier was surprised. She told her that she had changed very much.

Mathilda told her that she faced many hardships because of Madam Forestier. She reminded her that she had borrowed a diamond necklace from her and then later lost it. She told her friend that she had returned her another necklace. She was happy because she had paid all the borrowed money.

Madam Forestier asked her if she had returned her a real diamond necklace. When Madam Forestier came to know that it was real, she was greatly moved. She took Mathilda's both hands and told her that her necklace was not real and it was not worth over five hundred francs.

Therefore, that was how Mathilda came to know that the necklace she had borrowed was false and all her struggle was useless. (263)

13. Write a note on the cultural background of the story.

The writer has satirized the French life of his time.

The writer has reflected the life style of French people of his time. Discuss.

When we read the story carefully we find that the story as a strong cultural background. The writer has presented two classes of people – middle class and the upper class. There was a great gap between the two.

The people of high class were enjoying all the luxuries of life. They had ball parties. They enjoyed themselves by dancing, chatting, and playing indoor games. They wore fake jewellery. However, they tried to show off that they were wearing real and expensive jewellery. Madam Forestier's fake diamond necklace proves this point. They made a show of their costly dresses. They were so carefree that they enjoyed parties until late at night.

On the other hand, people of middle class were suffering. They wanted to close the gap but could not do so. They suffered and because of these sufferings, they lost their beauty and looked old.

On the other hand, rich people of the same age looked younger and more attractive. At the end of the story, we see that Mathilda's rich friend of the same age was still beautiful and attractive.

Therefore, the writer has presented class difference very satirically. The talk between Mathilda and her friend at the end of the story throws light on the class difference.