“The Necklace” by Guy de Maupassant

Humanities Connection: Defining Values

Human values are beliefs people hold about which behaviors, jobs, activities, possessions, and ideas are truly important or valuable. You can usually tell what people value by observing how they spend their time, what they say, and how they treat others.

Differing values are demonstrated by characters in “The Necklace.” Readers can observe Madame Loisel’s captivation with society and material possessions. She spends her time wishing to live a life like that of her wealthy friend Madame Forestier. Her husband, on the other hand, is content in their humble life.

**DIRECTIONS:** Answer the following questions regarding the values of characters in “The Necklace.”

1. What are the values of Madame Loisel and Madame Forestier in “The Necklace”? Explain.

2. What does Madame Loisel’s husband seem to value? In what ways are his values different from those of his wife? Explain.

3. Do you believe Madame Loisel’s values might change after enduring years of hard work? In what ways could they change?

4. Of the characters in “The Necklace,” whose values do you most respect? Why?