“The Necklace” by Guy de Maupassant
Literary analysis

Questions:
Answer the following questions in complete sentences. Make sure each quotation is integrated seamlessly into a sentence.

1. Explain how much Madame Loisel has changed by the end of the story.

2. Review the definition of irony. What is ironic about the end of the story?

3. Does Monsieur Loisel long for status as his wife does? Cite evidence to support your opinions.

4. How would you characterize the relationship between Monsieur and Madame Loisel at the beginning of the story? Describe their marriage and use 1-2 quotations to prove your point. Consider how they treat each other and how they differ.

5. Theme is the author’s message to the reader. What is de Maupassant’s theme? Compose a full theme statement rather than just a “big idea.”

Comparisons between “Paul's Case” and “The Necklace”

6. Consider the similarities between Paul, from “Paul’s Case” and Madame Loisel. Contemplate the following: the similarities in their personalities, their psychological issues/suffering, and their perception of themselves in society.

7. Find examples that show that both Paul and Mathilde Loisel become obsessed with the perceived power of objects.

Essay: Formal Synthesis Essay due by Friday, November 29th

In a multi-paragraph synthesis essay of approximately 750 words, discuss one of the topics below. Make sure you follow the “slice method” discussing both stories in each body paragraph and providing quotations from each story.

Choose one of the following:

1. Discuss the similarities between Paul and Madame Loisel.

2. Discuss the deceptive nature of appearance and how both Paul and Madame Loisel become obsessed with the perceived power of objects. Consider their dissatisfaction with reality and their need for a fabricated existence.

3. Discuss how both Paul and Madame Loisel are victims of the society in which they live.