Short Story – Exercise

A. Match the text with the generic structure! Drag the generic structure into the table next to the suitable text!

Climax **Resolution** **Exposition** **Rising Action** **Falling Action**

Madame Mathilde Loisel has always imagined herself in a high state of aristocracy. However, she is born relatively poor. She marries a low-paid clerk who tries his best to make her happy but has nothing. Through lots of begging at work, her husband is able to get a couple of invitations to the Ministry of Education party. Mathilde then refuses to go, for she has nothing to wear, and wishes not to be embarrassed.	
Her husband is upset to see her displeasure and, using all the money that he was saving to buy a hunting rifle, gives Mathilde 400 francs to use. Mathilde goes out and buys a dress, but even with the dress she is not happy, as she is without any jewels to wear with it. The pair does not have much money left, so her husband suggests that she should buy flowers to wear with it. After Mathilde disagrees, he suggests borrowing something from her friend, Madame Jeanne Forestier. Mathilde goes to Madame Forestier and picks out her fanciest piece, a stunning diamond necklace. She looks at it with greed.	
After attending the party, Mathilde discovers that she has lost the necklace. She tries to find a quick way to replace it. She goes to a shop and discovers the price of a similar necklace to be 40,000 francs, eventually purchasing it for 36,000 francs.	
The couple has sold everything they owned and getting loans, but the long path of financial struggles begins as Mathilde falls into debt.	
Ten years later, while in the Champs-Elyses, she suddenly sees Madame Jeanne Forestier, who barely recognizes her in her terrible state. As the women are talking, Mathilde recounts the story of losing the necklace, and that it was because of Madame Forestier that she has lived so terribly the past ten years. After explaining the purchase of the new necklace, Madame Forestier takes Mathilde's hands, explaining that her original necklace was a fake made of glass, and only worth 500 francs.	

B. Choose the best answer!

1. Why did Mathilde refuse to go to the party?
   A. She had to work hard.
   B. She married a low-paid clerk.
   C. She had no friend at the party.
   D. She felt embarrassed for having nothing to wear.
   E. She imagined herself in a high state of aristocracy.

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2. How much money did Mathilde's husband give her to buy a dress?
   A. 400 francs
   B. 500 francs
   C. 3,600 francs
   D. 36,000 francs
   E. 40,000 francs

3. After attending the party, Mathilde discovers that she has lost the necklace. From the statement above we learn that Mathilda is …
   A. Unwise
   B. Foolish
   C. Careless
   D. Watchful
   E. Ungrateful

4. Which of the following statement is **NOT** the conflict in the story?
   A. Mathilde wanted jewels to wear to the party.
   B. Mathilde lost the necklace she borrowed from a friend.
   C. Mathilde told Madame Foriester the story of losing the jewelry.
   D. Mathilde felt unhappy with her life as a wife of a lowly- paid clerk.
   E. Mathilde didn't want to go to the party for having nothing to wear to the party.

5. What is the moral we can learn from the story?
   A. Work hard to reach success.
   B. Be grateful of what you have.
   C. Always try to make others happy.
   D. A friend in need is a friend in deed.
   E. Don't keep your problem for yourself.

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