

Chapter 9: The Luncheon

Fill in the blanks

1. The narrator met the woman at a _____ and went to sit beside her during the _____.
2. The story takes place _____ years after their first meeting in _____.
3. The narrator was living in Paris in a small apartment overlooking a _____.
4. The woman had written to the narrator after reading his _____.
5. The woman suggested having lunch at _____, a restaurant frequented by French _____.
6. The narrator had only _____ francs to last him the rest of the month.
7. He calculated that a modest luncheon shouldn't cost more than _____ francs.
8. The narrator agreed to meet the woman on _____ at _____.
9. The woman was not as _____ as the narrator expected, being about _____ years old.
10. The narrator noticed she had more _____ than seemed necessary.
11. When the menu arrived, the prices were much _____ than the narrator anticipated.
12. The woman claimed she never ate more than _____ thing for luncheon.
13. The woman first asked for _____, which wasn't in season.

14. While waiting for the salmon, she requested some _____.

15. The narrator ordered a _____ for himself to save money.

16. The woman criticized the narrator for eating _____.

17. The woman said she never drank anything for luncheon except _____.

18. She then specified her doctor only allowed her to drink _____.

19. The narrator ordered _____ bottle of champagne.

20. The narrator lied that his doctor had forbidden him to drink _____.

21. After finishing the salmon, the woman wanted some giant _____.

22. The narrator described the asparagus as _____, _____, and appetizing.

23. The woman claimed she ate the food more as an excuse for _____.

24. For dessert, the woman ordered _____ and coffee.

25. While waiting for coffee, the head waiter brought a basket of huge _____.

26. The peaches had the blush of an innocent _____.

27. The woman _____ took one of the expensive peaches.

28. The narrator was left with only enough money for a _____ tip.

29. As they parted, the woman called the narrator quite a _____.

30. The narrator's revenge was that the woman now weighed _____ stone.

Multiple choice questions

1. Where did the narrator first see the woman after many years?
 - a) During intermission at a theater performance they both attended
 - b) At a funeral service in a small Parisian church
 - c) In the Luxembourg Gardens where she spent her mornings
 - d) At Foyot's restaurant where they had first met decades earlier
2. Why did the narrator initially correspond with the woman?
 - a) They were distant relatives who reconnected accidentally
 - b) She wanted to commission him to write her biography
 - c) He was interviewing her for a newspaper article
 - d) She had written him a fan letter about his latest novel
3. What financial situation was the narrator in when he received the luncheon invitation?
 - a) He was moderately successful but disliked expensive restaurants
 - b) He had inherited wealth but was careful with expenditures
 - c) He was barely making ends meet in his small Paris apartment
 - d) He had just received a large advance for his next book
4. The central conflict of the story explores:
 - a) Gender roles in early 20th century dining etiquette
 - b) The tension between artistic ideals and financial reality
 - c) French vs. English cultural differences
 - d) The health consequences of rich vs. modest eating
5. How did the narrator plan to afford the luncheon?

- a) By borrowing money from his publisher in advance
- b) By convincing the restaurant to give him a writer's discount
- c) Using money he had saved for a winter coat
- d) Through cutting back on coffee and other small economies

6. What was ironic about the woman's statement "I never eat anything for luncheon"?

- a) She proceeded to order multiple expensive courses
- b) She actually only drank wine and ate no food
- c) She brought her own food to the restaurant secretly
- d) She criticized the narrator for ordering too little

7. Why did the narrator's "heart sink" when she mentioned caviar?

- a) He knew it was against his religious dietary restrictions
- b) He was allergic but didn't want to admit it
- c) He recognized it as prohibitively expensive
- d) The restaurant was famously known for bad caviar

8. How did the woman justify taking a peach at the end?

- a) "I've been dieting all week and deserve a treat"
- b) "You've filled your stomach with meat so can't eat more"
- c) "The doctor said I need more fruit in my diet"
- d) "I'll pay for this one myself if you're worried"

9. What does the narrator's final comment about her weight reveal?

- a) His lingering resentment about the expensive meal
- b) His concern for her health after all these years
- c) His satisfaction that she got her comeuppance
- d) His regret that they never became close friends

10. This story best exemplifies which literary movement?

- a) Romanticism for its focus on emotional experience
- b) Realism for its unflinching portrayal of social awkwardness
- c) Modernism for its stream-of-consciousness style
- d) Naturalism for its deterministic view of human behavior