

Unit Architecture Guide

Module 1: Understanding Plot & Narrative Mechanics

Subject: Grade 9 English Language / Narrative Writing

Core Anchor Text: *The Necklace* by Guy de Maupassant

Author: Carter English Curriculum™ / Curriculum & Instructional Design

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Executive Summary & Pedagogical Blueprint

This 5-day instructional module anchors narrative literary analysis and creative composition in **Freytag's Pyramid**. Rather than treating plot analysis as a passive labeling exercise, the sequence follows a deliberate **Micro-to-Macro Arc**:

- **Days 1–2 (Exposition, Inciting Incident, & Escalation):** Deconstructs how authors establish baseline reality, introduce central catalysts, and stack complications to build narrative tension.
- **Days 3–4 (Climax, Falling Action, & Irony):** Explores the structural turning point, consequences of character choices, and the thematic impact of the story's final revelation.
- **Day 5 (Synthesis & Performance Assessment):** Culminates in a diagnostic/summative assessment evaluating mastery of plot mechanics and textual evidence.

5-Day Master Instructional Sequence

Day 1: Exposition & The Inciting Incident

- **Core Focus:** Plot cause-and-effect chains; defining ordinary world vs. disruptive catalyst.
- **Anchor Text Focus (*The Necklace*):** Mathilde's initial social dissatisfaction (Exposition) and the arrival of the Ministry ball invitation (Inciting Incident).
- **Student Tasks:** "The Spark" bell ringer, guided reading, and character motivation analysis.

Day 2: Rising Action & Escalation

- **Core Focus:** Suspense mechanics, the "Tension Meter," and character choices that compound conflict.
- **Anchor Text Focus (*The Necklace*):** Sacrificing savings for the dress, borrowing the diamond necklace, and the sudden loss of the jewel.
- **Student Tasks:** Complications tracking, prediction checks, and tension-building analysis.

Day 3: The Climax & Turning Point

- **Core Focus:** Defining the peak of emotional/dramatic tension and irreversible narrative shifts.
- **Anchor Text Focus (*The Necklace*):** The frantic search, financial ruined agreements, borrowing 36,000 francs, and replacing the missing jewel.
- **Student Tasks:** Identifying turning points, analyzing character sacrifice, and evaluating moral choices.

Day 4: Falling Action, Resolution, & Irony

- **Core Focus:** Structural consequences, resolving loose ends, and thematic revelations.
- **Anchor Text Focus (*The Necklace*):** Ten years of extreme poverty (Falling Action) and Mme. Forestier's revelation that the original necklace was a 500-franc imitation (Resolution/Irony).
- **Student Tasks:** Structural reflection, situational irony analysis, and thematic synthesis.

Day 5: Synthesis & Minor Performance Assessment

- **Core Focus:** Formal evaluation of structural terminology, definitions, and text-based evidence application.
- **Assessment Artifact:** 20-Mark Minor Assessment (Diagram labeling, definition matching, and text event mapping).

Master Instructional Matrix

Day PDF+ 3	Structural Focus PDF+ 3	Key Analytical & Text Targets (The Necklace) PDF+ 3	Formative / Summative Artifacts PDF+ 2
1	Exposition & Catalyst	• Baseline world, setting, & protagonist desires • The invitation as an irreversible catalyst	• "The Spark" Bell Ringer • Day 1 Exit Ticket
2	Rising Action	• Stacking complications (dress, borrowed jewel) • The vanishing necklace & escalating tension	• Tension Meter tracking • Day 2 Exit Ticket
3	The Climax	• Financial ruin & securing 36,000 francs • Reversing life trajectory through secret substitution	• Climax Turning Point Map • Guided Discussion Logs
4	Resolution & Irony	• 10 years of physical hardship (Falling Action) • The 500-franc imitation revelation (Irony)	• Irony & Theme Graphic Organizer • Self-Reflection Check
5	Assessment	• Demonstrating mastery of Freytag's 7 stages • Mapping textual evidence to plot points	Plot Stage Assessment (20 Marks): • Part A: Diagram Labeling • Part B: Definitions • Part C: Text Application