BriAna Winston
Period 5
English Process Reflection
Quarter 4 Portfolios

In Ms. Sambrani's class we are reading stories written by a French writer, Guy de Maupassant. After reading three of his stories, we took two tests and then wrote an essay about how Guy de Maupassant reflects human nature into his stories. We used academics, critical thinking, self-discipline, and communication to complete this task.

These assignments are showing the three highest levels of Bloom's Taxonomy. Bloom's Taxonomy offers a view of the levels of knowledge. The three highest levels of knowledge are analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. The first step, analysis, was when we broke down the stories and applied them to our lives to answer the questions on the tests. The second step, synthesis, was when we combined the two tests to create a unique essay of our own. The third step, evaluation, is when we wrote our essays because we are presenting our own opinions about human nature in the essays.

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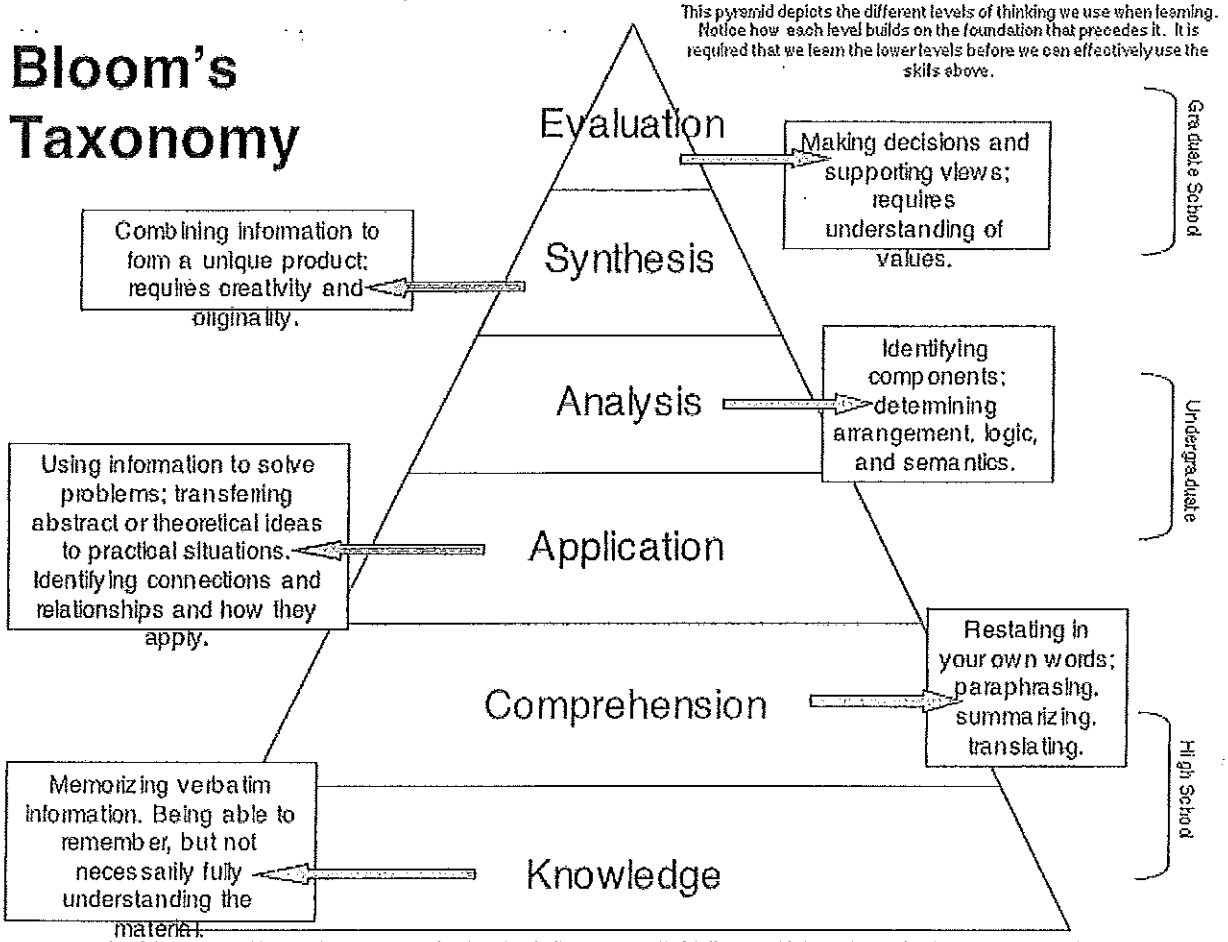
Perfected work complete
:) MS
5/22/08

# Bloom's Taxonomy

This pyramid depicts the different levels of thinking we use when learning. Notice how each level builds on the foundation that precedes it. It is required that we learn the lower levels before we can effectively use the skills above.

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Name Briana Winston
Subject English
Block 5
Date May 2, 2008

Maupassant Test, April 2008

I Vocabulary

A Use the following words to make meaningful sentences:

1 Disbanded: discharged, like soldiers who have left the army

When the girls heard that Amy had become best friends with Kiana, they disbanded her from their clique.

2 Cataclysm: disaster/ end of the world

When Jesse heard his father had died he reacted to the cataclysm quite dramatically.

3 Avengers: seekers of revenge

98% After Billy beat up Johnny, Robert, Johnny's older brother became his avenger.

A

4 Ferocious: fearful/ terrible

The monster looked so ferocious that everyone ran before getting to know him.

5 Odious: loud or pungent

The class was very odious and did not behave well.

6 Commiseration: sharing of pain or misery

Susan and her sister sat together in commiseration, remembering their lost dog.



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II Literary Analysis

Answer all questions in detail, using the space provided. Be sure to check your writing for spelling, punctuation and grammar before submitting. Remember that this section will help you sculpt an essay. Each answer forms a paragraph in your essay, which is your next assignment

1 What are your first impressions of the writer Guy de Maupassant? Comment on his naturalistic and imagistic style, the setting of the stories and his point of view on human nature and his harsh social commentary.

I think that Guy de Maupassant believes there are two classes of people and everything else just falls in with that - Rich vs. Poor. The writer is very detailed and his perception on human nature reflects universal ideas. Readers can read his stories, understand his perception of human nature and be able to understand and analyze the attitudes and the concepts of thinking of the human race.

2 Write a paragraph about the life of Guy de Maupassant, commenting on how you think the life he lived influenced his writing

I think that Guy de Maupassant lived a life where he saw a lot of difficulties and faced a lot of obstacles. I think that him going to the war might have made him have a different view on life and the attitudes of different class of people. I think many of his stories came from events in his childhood also his love of women and knowledge of politics was probably a strong influence.



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5 If you were the main character or a supporting character in the story "Ball of fat" or "A piece of string," what would you do differently? How would you change the social inequality and injustice in the world portrayed by the stories?

If I was a supporting character in "A Piece of String" I would have listened to Mr. H's side of the story and actually try to hear him out. No one even gave him a chance to prove his innocence and I think he deserved that chance. I would try to explain to everyone that they need to get a perspective from both sides and even if he did do it, the wallet was returned and they should learn to forgive.

6 In the MLA format, book titles and web resources are cited in the following manner:

Book
Author. Title of Book. City of Publication: Publisher, Year.

Web resource
Author. "Title of Web Page." Title of the Site. Editor. Date and/or Version Number. Name of Sponsoring Institution. Date of Access <URL>.

Using this format, create a works cited list for your study of Maupassant, listing the book and the article on the life of Maupassant as your works cited.

Works cited:

Guy de Maupassant. The Necklace and Other Short Stories. New York: Dover, 1992

"Books and Writers." Kirjasto. Amazon. April 10, 2008 <http://kirjasto.sci.fi/maupassant.htm>.

Name BriAna Winston
Subject English
Block 5
Date May 5, 2008

Maupassant Test 2, May 2008

1 List the main characters in the story "A Piece of String," and their relationship to each other and the plot. Outline the plot as you name the characters. Draw a diagram to explain the plot better.

Maître Hauche come → poor old man who is accused of stealing a pocketbook when he really only picked up a piece of string.

Maître Malandain → ↑ his enemy and the person that told everyone that ↑ (MH) stole the pocketbook → or picked it up off the ground.

Maître Fortune Houlbreque → person whose pocketbook was stolen.

Maître Jourdain → owner of cavern.

Maître Breton → man who returned the pocketbook.

Short summary: Maître Hauchecome is accused of stealing a pocketbook because Maître Malandin, his enemy saw him pick a piece of string off the street. Later the lost wallet belonging to Maître Fortune Houlbreque is returned but no one believes Maître Hauchecome and he dies in the quest for redemption, of a broken heart.

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2 List the main characters in the story "Ball of fat," and their relationship to each other and the plot. Outline the plot as you name the characters. Draw a diagram to explain the plot better.

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Ball-of-Fat → prostitute, nice lady. (Elizabeth Rousset) ← leaving for trying to kill German soldier.

Mr. Loiseau → wholesale merchant of wine.

Mr. Tournel → author of fables and songs.

Mr. Carré-Lamadon → proprietor of three mills.

Madame Carré Lamdon → wife ↑

Count and Countess Hubert de Breville → he → count and governor.

Cornudet → democrat,

Mr. Follenvie →

Prussian officer → won't let them go unless he has sex with Ball-of-Fat.

- They used Ball-of-Fat for her body, food, and kindness but when she no longer had anything to offer, they disrespected her.



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3 List the main characters in the story "Necklace," and their relationship to each other and the plot. Outline the plot as you name the characters. Draw a diagram to explain the plot better.

Matilda Loisel → lady w/money desires. lose friend's necklace.

Mr. Loisel → husband of Matilda. treats her nicely.

Mrs. Forestier → friend of Matilda. she loans Matilda a necklace to wear to the ball.

Matilda loses the necklace and becomes poor trying to pay for another one she bought her friend. The necklace she bought was very expensive but the original one was very cheap; a fake or imitation diamond necklace.



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Briana N.

Guy de Maupassant Essay

Guy de Maupassant lived a hard life where he faced a lot of difficulties and endured a lot of hardships that impacted his writing career rather strongly. The obstacles that Guy de Maupassant faced, such as going to war, probably influenced his view on human nature and the different classes of people. Guy de Maupassant is very detailed and his perception of human nature is reflected strongly in his stories. Three examples of Guy de Maupassant's writings that strongly reflect human nature are "Ball of Fat," "A Piece of String", and "The Necklace." Aspects of human nature he focuses on are hypocrisy, ~~placing blame~~ in a hurry and fear of honesty. ~~hypocrisy is a strong trait in a lot of the characters in the story "Ball of Fat" Elizabeth Rousset (Ball of Fat)~~, they along with nine noble merchants and their wives, leaves town on a wagon. For the duration of their trip the travelers treat Elizabeth very poorly because she is a prostitute. The people really don't take the time to really know Elizabeth, otherwise they would know she is a very kind, warm-hearted woman. When they do realize how kind she is, they take advantage of her kindness, and they use her. The people befriend her as long as she has something to offer that will help them but as soon as they use her for everything she has they go back to treating her very poorly. I think that the characters in this story need to learn that it is wrong to judge a person before you really get to know them. You should really get to know someone before you go about making assumptions about them.

judge people unfairly when they are mean, cold-hearted people themselves.

In the story "Ball of fat" hypocrisy is strong amongst the nobles. The treat Ball of Fat unfairly because of her profession which proves the nobles to be mean, cold-hearted people.

does not feel comfortable because she doesn't have any expensive jewelry to wear so she asks her friend, Mrs. Forestier, if she can borrow some jewelry to wear. Matilda finds a beautiful necklace she wants to wear and ~~ask her friend~~ decides she wants to wear it to the ball. When the day of the ball arrives Matilda and her husband are very ecstatic. They have a great time at the ball and are worn out when it's over. The couple called a cab to take them and as soon as they got out of the cab Matilda realizes the necklace is gone. Matilda is afraid to tell her friend that she lost it so she tries to find another one she can buy to replace it. The necklace cost so much money that Matilda is in dept for nearly 5 years. 5 years after the necklace is lost Matilda finds out from ~~her friend~~ Mrs. Forestier that the original necklace was an imitation diamond necklace. Matilda had to suffer from financial problems because she was afraid to tell her friend the truth. If Matilda had not had a fear of honesty then her life probably would have been a lot easier.

BriAna Winston
Period 5
English
May 22, 2008

Guy de Maupassant: How His Life Impacted His Writings

Guy de Maupassant lived a hard life where he faced many difficulties and endured many hardships that impacted his writing career rather strongly. The obstacles that Guy de Maupassant faced, such as going to war, probably influenced his view on human nature and the different classes of people. Guy de Maupassant is very detailed and his perception of human nature is reflected strongly in his stories. Three examples of Guy de Maupassant's writings that reflect human nature are "Ball of Fat", "A Piece of String", and "The Necklace". Aspects of human nature he focuses on are hypocrisy, placing blame in hurry, and the fear of honesty.

In the story "Ball of Fat", hypocrisy is strong amongst the nobles. They treat Elizabeth Rousset (Ball-of-Fat) unfairly because of her profession, which proves them to be mean, cold-hearted people. When the story begins Elizabeth, along with nine merchants and their wives, leaves town on a wagon. For the duration of their trip the travelers treat Elizabeth very poorly because she is a prostitute. The people don't take the time to get to know Elizabeth; otherwise they would know she is a very kind, warm-hearted woman. When they do realize how kind she is, they take advantage of her kindness, and they use her. The people befriend her as long as she has something to offer that will help them but as soon as she no longer has anything to offer them, they go back to treating her poorly. I think that the characters in this story need to learn that it is wrong to judge a person before you really get to know them. You should really get to know someone before you go about making assumptions about them.

In "A Piece of String" people are very caught up in placing the blame on others in a hurry without actually hearing all sides of the story. In the beginning of the story Maitre Hauchecome picks up a piece of string that he see on the ground while walking to the public square. A man, maitre Malandain was watching him the whole time and automatically assume he was doing something that was involved in criminal activity. When a pocketbook comes up missing Maitre Hauchecome is accused of stealing a pocketbook because of what Maitre Malandain saw and told everyone else. No one wants to face the truth, that he was indeed innocent. Maitre Hauchecome was trying to prove his innocence until he died, even after they found the pocketbook no one would believe Maitre Hauchecome spent his entire life trying to prove his innocence in a crime he didn't even commit. People begin to ask him to tell them his side of the story just to amuse them, none of them even thinking twice if it was true or not. Before jumping to conclusions it's good to hear both sides of the story and although it may not always seem true a believable you should always consider it because it's very possible that the story is true.

The fear of honesty plays a strong role in "The Necklace". When Matilda Loisel and her husband are invite to a ball Matilda does not feel comfortable because she doesn't have any expensive jewelry to wear so she asks her friend, Mrs. Forestier, it she can borrow some jewelry to wear. Matilda finds a beautiful necklace she wants to wear and decides she wants to wear it to the ball. When the day of the ball arrives Matilda and her husband are very ecstatic. They have a great time at the ball and are worn-out when it's over. The couple called a cab to take them and soon as they got out of the cab Matilda realizes the necklace is gone. Matilda is afraid to tell her friend that she lost it so she tries

to find another one she can buy to replace it. The necklace cost so much money that Matilda is in debt for nearly five years. 5 years after the necklace is lost, Matilda finds out from Mrs. Forestier that the original necklace was an imitation necklace. Matilda had to suffer from financial problems because she was afraid to tell her friend the truth. If Matilda had not had a fear of honesty her life probably would have been a lot easier.

If I were a character in any of these stories I would have a better respect for others and I would think about what I'm doing before I actually take action. The characters in these stories do not seem to care about anyone else but themselves. They show no respect care, or consideration for anyone. In the stories of Guy de Maupassant it portrays the negative aspects of human nature, which are very common. Although there are a lot of positive aspects of human nature that people can exhibit in life many still choose to turn to hypocrisy, placing the blame on others unfairly, and being afraid of the truth, all of which can cause them to dig a deeper grave for themselves.

**Works Cited:**


- Guy de Maupassant. The Necklace and Other Short Stories. New York: Dover, 1992.
- "Books and Writers." Kirjasto. Amazon. April 10, 2008. <http//:kirjasto.sci.fi/Maupassant.htm>.