

# CHAPTER 4

Vanity, what is thy price?



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## Vanity, what is thy price?

In this chapter you will:

- Read a play
- Have a discussion
- Learn how to write a formal invitation
- Learn how to accept and decline invitations
- Write formal invitations
- Create a diorama

### Prereading Activities

#### Personal Connection

Have you ever borrowed something and lost it? How did you try to find it? Write it down in the space provided and share with your teacher and classmates.

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#### Genre Connection

A play is a form of literature, which is written by a playwright in the form of dialogues. These dialogues are then scripted for each character and are intended for theatrical performances. Plays are performed at different places from broadways to local theatres. Plays are of different kinds, for example: comedy, farce, satire, tragedy, historical (Cohen, 2002). Some of the famous playwrights are:

William Shakespeare  
George Bernard Shaw  
George Francis Abbott  
Tennessee Williams  
Arthur Miller  
W. S. Rendra  
Putu Wijaya



## Reading Activity

# Vanity and Pride



Picture 4.1 Source: Kemendikbud

### Narrator:

Madame Loisel was a pretty girl born into a poor family. She had no expectations and she felt so trapped by her situation that she married a little clerk in a government office. Her tastes were simple because she had never been able to afford any other, but she was as unhappy as though she had married beneath her status; for women have no caste or class, their beauty, grace, and charm serving them for birth or family. She suffered endlessly, feeling herself born for every delicacy and luxury. She suffered from the poorness of her house, from its bare walls, worn chairs, and ugly curtains.

### Scene 1

**MONSIEUR LOISEL:** *Sweetheart, I have a surprise for you.*

**MADAME LOISEL:** *Really, what is the surprise?*

**MONSIEUR LOISEL:** *See for yourself.*

(He places the invitation on the table.)

Swiftly she tears open the envelop and draws out a printed card and reads out

**"The Minister and Madame Ramponneau  
request the pleasure of the company of  
Monsieur and Madame Loisel  
at the Ministry on the evening of Monday, January the eighteenth."**

MONSIEUR LOISEL: *Isn't it wonderful?*

MADAME LOISEL : *What do you mean? What can I do with it?*

[She tosses the invitation onto the table.]

MADAME LOISEL : *I have nothing suitable to wear to this glamorous occasion?*

MONSIEUR LOISEL: *Why... Why, you can wear your theater gown, of course. It's really quite suitable.*

[Madame Loisel breaks into tears.]

MONSIEUR LOISEL: *What's the matter? Why are you crying?*

MADAME LOISEL : *I'll be humiliated in that old gown. It's so tattered and completely out of style. I can't go to the ball wearing that rag.*

[Monsieur Loisel paces and thinks.]

MONSIEUR LOISEL: *There must be a way! How much do you think a suitable gown would cost, something very simple but elegant as well, of course.*

MADAME LOISEL : *I'm not too sure, but maybe 400 francs.*

MONSIEUR LOISEL: *I've been saving and I think I have just about 400 francs you could take it to buy a gown.*

**Scene 2:**

MONSIEUR LOISEL: *You make any dress come to life, my dear. How ravishing you look!*

MADAME LOISEL : [Pouting and whining] *But I'll be disgraced!*

MONSIEUR LOISEL: *Disgraced? What can you possibly mean? You will be the most beautiful woman there!*

MADAME LOISEL : *You just don't understand! It's so annoying! I don't have a single piece of jewelry to wear with my gown.*

MONSIEUR LOISEL: *There is one thing, one possibility that you've forgotten.*

MADAME LOISEL : [sniffs.] *What's that?*

MONSIEUR LOISEL: *Your old classmate! Madame Jeanne Forestier! She is really well off. I'm sure she would be willing to lend you some of her jewelry!*

**MADAME LOISEL** : [Her sniffs turn into laughter and joy.] *Of course! I can borrow something suitable from Jeanne. Thank you, darling.*

**NARRATOR:**

Madame Loisel was absolutely smashing! She was prettier than any of the other women: elegant, graceful, smiling and wild with joy. Everyone noticed her, and her husband's boss seemed to want every dance with her!



Picture 4.2 Source: Kemendikbud)

**Scene 3:**

**MADAME LOISEL** : [Looking in mirror.]  
*Oh my God! Oh no, oh no. :!... I have... Oh my God, this can not happen!*

**MONSIEUR LOISEL:** *What? What is it?*

**MADAME LOISEL** : *I have lost Madame Forestier's necklace!*

**MONSIEUR LOISEL:** *It can't be true! It's impossible!*

[They begin frantically searching through their coats and clothes, and on the floor.]

**MADAME LOISEL** : *Oh God, help us!*

MONSIEUR LOISEL: *It must be here somewhere. Necklaces don't just evaporate.*

[Madame Loisel begins weeping and sobbing as she searches.]

MONSIEUR LOISEL: *I shall go back on foot, over the entire route, to see whether or not I can find it.*

[He rushes out. Madame Loisel sinks into a chair, sobbing. After more than a hour he comes back.]

MADAME LOISEL : *Did you find it? Tell me! Did you?*

MONSIEUR LOISEL: *[Remains silent]*

MADAME LOISEL : *Did you find it or not?*

MONSIEUR LOISEL: *I am afraid not.*

#### Scene 4:

##### NARRATOR:

Madame Loisel didn't tell Madame Forestier that she lost her necklace and she chose to replace it. The replacement cost them everything. Madame Loisel came to know the ghastly life of abject poverty. Their previous life seemed downright luxurious compared to what they had now.

MONSIEUR LOISEL: *Matilda, my love. I have made the last payment on our debt. We have nothing left for ourselves, but at least we are free from the loan of 20,000 francs.*

MADAME LOISEL : *Free at last.*

MONSIEUR LOISEL: *Look! Isn't that Madame Forestier over there? You have not spoken to her since that day. Go talk to her.*

MADAME LOISEL : *Uh... Hello. Good day.*

MADAME FORESTIER: *You must have mistaken me for someone else. Excuse me please...*

MADAME LOISEL : *Jeanne, don't you recognize me? It's me, Matilda.*

MADAME FORESTIER: *Matilda? But it can't be. You look so worn and old.*

MADAME LOISEL : *No really, it's me. I've changed because I have had to endure ten hard years of manual labor, scrubbing floors and taking in laundry.*

MADAME FORESTIER: *My dear, what could have happened to make you do that?*

MADAME LOISEL : *It was your necklace, or rather my desire to be elegant, that caused this.*

MADAME FORESTIER: *But how is that possible? I have the necklace. I wore it to the theater just the other night.*

MADAME LOISEL : *The necklace you have is actually just a replacement. I'm afraid that I lost yours. We borrowed money to purchase a replacement and have spent the past ten years paying off the debt, but today, we have made the last payment.*

MADAME FORESTIER: *Ten years? Surely it could not have taken that long to pay off the amount needed to replace the necklace?*

MADAME LOISEL : *What do you mean?*

MADAME FORESTIER: *Mine was a fake; the replacement should have cost you nothing more than 500 francs. Oh, my poor, poor, dear Matilda.*



Picture 4.3 Source: Kemendikbud)



## Post-Reading Activity

### Discussion Questions

**Read the questions carefully. Note down your opinions and reactions to the questions. During the discussion with your teacher and classmates, offer your personal reaction and understanding of the text.**

1. What do you think of Madame Loisel? Do you know anyone who has the same personality as Madame Loisel? How are they alike? Please describe.
2. In the beginning of the play, Madame Loisel was very sad and unsatisfied. Why was she sad and unsatisfied? What did she want? Support your answer with examples from the play.
3. Why do you think Madame Loisel borrowed the necklace from her friend?
4. Do you think she had a good time at the ball? Support your answer with examples from the play.
5. Do you think Madame Loisel's longing for higher-class life ruined her? Support your answer with reasons.
6. What event brought about the beginning of a new life for Monsieur and Madame Loisel? Did this event change their life for better or worse? Give reasons to support your answer.
7. Why do you think they didn't tell Madame Forestier that they had lost the necklace? Give reasons to support your answer.
8. Did the ending of the play surprise you? What kind of ending did you expect? Explain.
9. What is the moral of the story? Discuss what you learned from this story.
10. If you had a chance to rewrite the story, how would the story end? Write a new ending for the story?



# PERSONAL JOURNAL WRITING

Madame Loisel didn't tell her friend the truth about the necklace and it cost her a lot. Do you think being honest is very important in life? Take a look at yourself and reflect on what you would do in her place. Write down your response. If you want, you can share it with your teacher and classmates.



## Building Blocks



### Formal Invitation

Formal Invitation is an invitation which follows a dignified form, tone or style in agreement with the established norms, customs or values (Websters, 2012).

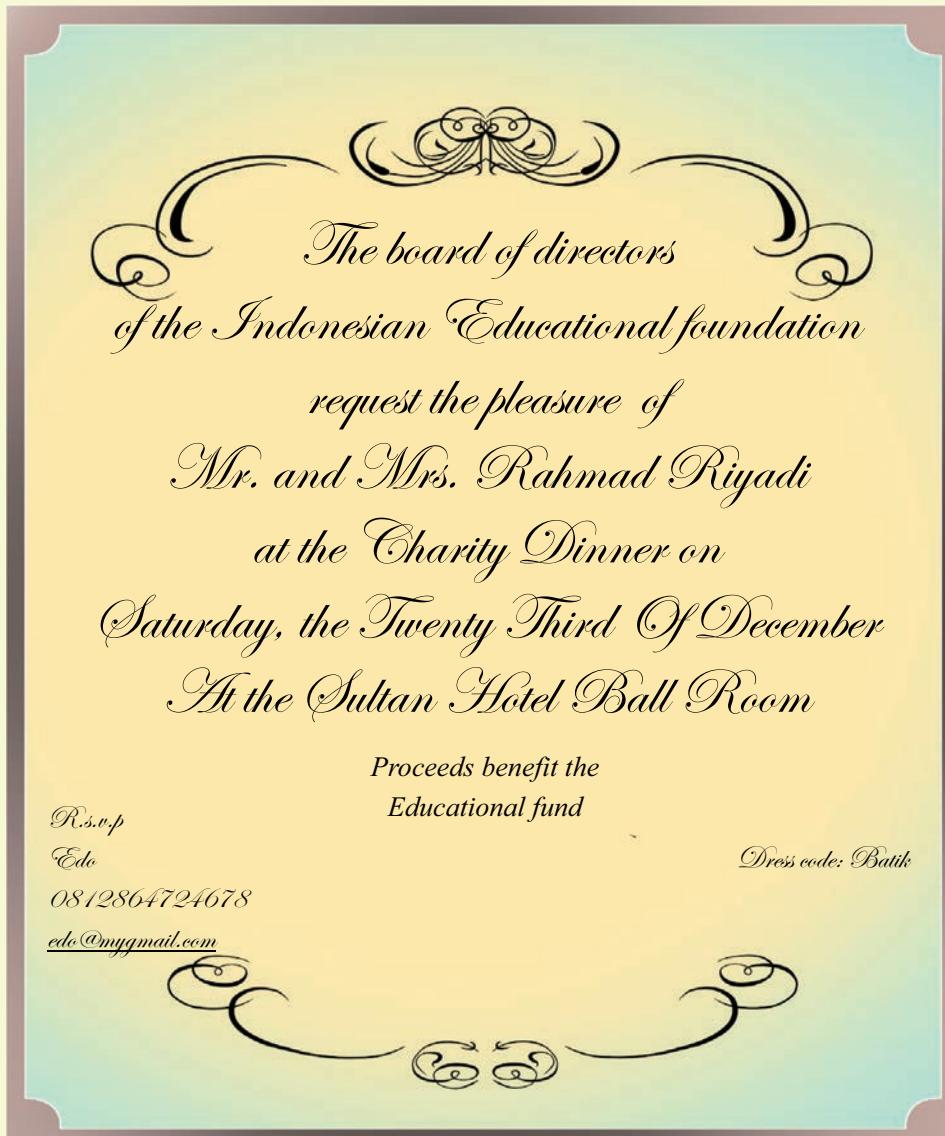
For example:

- An invitation to the opening of a school
- An invitation to the graduation ceremony
- An invitation to a wedding, etc.

### Common format of a Formal Invitation

- The first line is the name(s) of the person(s) who invite(s).
- The second line is the request for participation.
- The third line is the name of the person(s) invited.
- The fourth line is the occasion for invitation.
- The fifth line is the time and date of the occasion.
- The sixth line is the place of the occasion.
- The last line is the request for reply.

**Example of a formal Invitation**



**DID YOU  
KNOW**



**Formal invitations are  
written on a cards.  
The text is written in  
calligraphy style.**

## Invitation to a wedding

*Mr. and Mrs. Pujianto* } 1. Name of the hosts  
*cordially request the pleasure of your* } 2. Phrasing of  
*company* } the invitation  
*on the wedding ceremony of their* } 3. The kind of event  
*daughter*

*Siti With Davy*

*On Friday, the twelfth of December* } 4. Date  
*at seven o'clock in* } 5. Time  
*Gedung Kartini* } 6. Venue  
*Jl Gatot Subbaroto*  
*Jakarta*

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*R. S. V. P*  
*Yani* } 7. Special instruction  
*dinner will*  
*be served at*  
*8pm sharp.*

*02126734578*  
*Rsvpwedding@mymail.com* } 8. Request to response

### **Responding to formal invitations**

Formal invitations should be responded to within 3 days.

Replies are written in third person.

Replies have to be handwritten.

Reason should be briefly stated for declining the invitation.

#### **Example:**

##### **1. Acceptance**

- Mr. and Mrs. Eri Utomo accept with pleasure the kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Pujiyanto to the wedding ceremony of their daughter on Friday, the twelfth of December at seven o' clock.
- Mr. and Mrs. Wibowo accept the invitation with pleasure.

##### **2. Declining/ Regret**

- Mr. and Mrs. Situmorang regret that they are unable to accept the kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Pujiyanto for Friday, the twelfth of December at seven o' clock due to prior engagement.
- Mr. And Mrs. Wibowo regret to decline the invitation due to health reasons.

##### **3. Responding card**

The responding card comes with the invitation card. This card should preferably be hand written.

Reply is requested by First of December

*Mr. & Mrs. Eri Utomo*

\_\_\_\_\_ attend

\_\_\_\_\_ unable to attend





## Word Power

Words	Pronunciation	Meaning
expectation	\ɛkspek'teɪʃ(ə)n\	A strong belief that something will happen.
beneath	\bi'ni:θ\	Something directly underneath.
grace	\greɪs\	Smoothness and elegance of movement.
instinctive	\ɪn'stɪŋ(k)tɪv\	Done without conscious thought /thinking.
elegance	\'elɪg(ə)ns\	The quality of being graceful and stylish in appearance and manner.
nimbleness	\'nɪmbəlnis\	Quality of thinking and acting quickly;
delicacy	\'dɛlɪkəsi\	Fineness or intricacy of texture or structure.
occasion	\ə'keɪz(ə)n\	Particular event.
humiliate	\hju'mɪliət\	Make someone feel ashamed.
frantic	\'frantɪk\	Worried with fear and anxiety.
ghastly	\gɑ:s(t)li\	Extremely unwell, causing great horror.



Picture 4.4 Source: Kemendikbud)



## Let's Practice

### A. Fill in the blanks with words given below:

ghastly, frantic, expectation, beneath, grace, instinctive, elegance,  
nimble, delicacies, occasion, humiliated

1. He \_\_\_\_\_ her in front of everyone in the office. It was awful.
2. You should have seen the \_\_\_\_\_ expression on her face when she came to know about her sister's accident.
3. It was one of the most \_\_\_\_\_ crimes ever committed.
4. My brother has good \_\_\_\_\_ from this job.
5. According to some old legend the treasure is buried \_\_\_\_\_ Solomon's fountain.
6. She moved around with effortless \_\_\_\_\_.
7. His all moves are \_\_\_\_\_ he never thinks.
8. No one can match her in grace and \_\_\_\_\_.
9. My sister is very \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Soto is one of traditional Indonesian \_\_\_\_\_.
11. You are invited to have dinner with us on this auspicious \_\_\_\_\_.

**DID YOU  
KNOW**

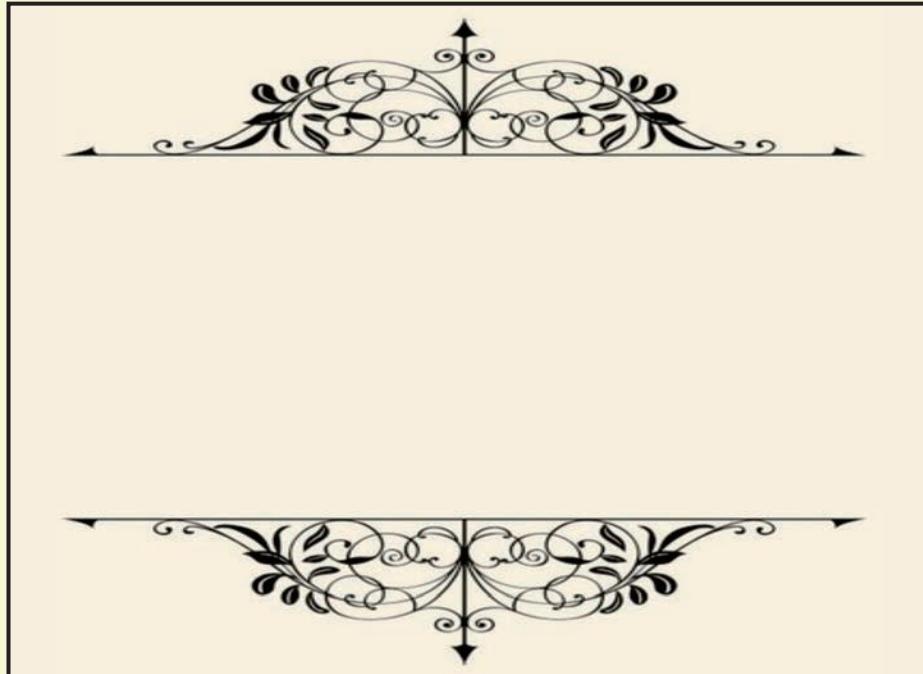


**In formal invitations date  
and time are written in  
words not in numbers.**

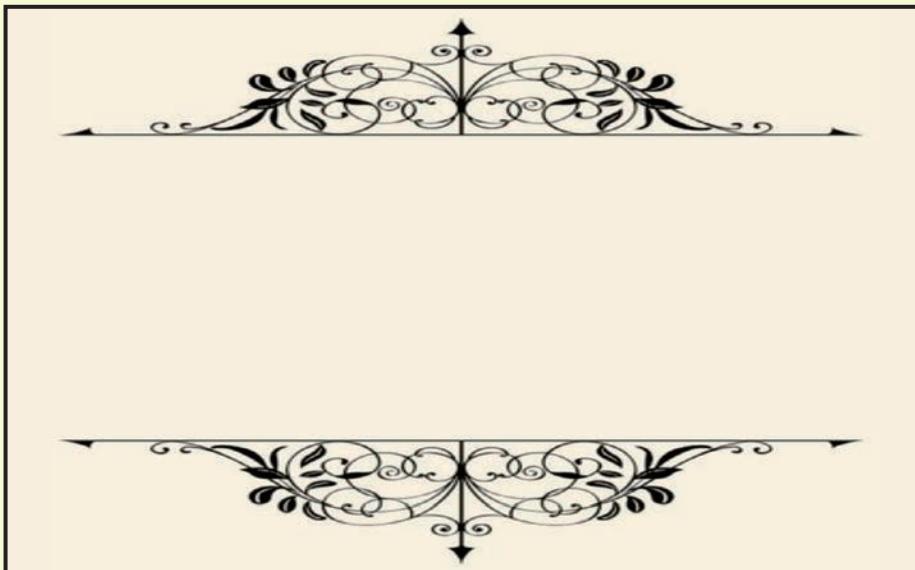
B. In the invitation card below, find out what is missing.



Now rewrite the invitation properly in the space given below.



Now respond to the invitation.



## Active Conversation

With a partner create dialogues to accept and decline invitations. Using role-play approach re-enact the conversation with your classmates. You can model your conversation based on the example invitations given below:

### Invitation to dinner

- Joko: Would you like to come over for dinner tonight?  
Yeni: Thank you! I'd love to. Would you like me to bring something?  
Joko: No, nothing, just come.  
Yeni: OK. What time?  
Joko: At 7 p.m.  
Yeni: OK, See you then.

### Invitation to the grand opening of ABC software company

- Ariyanto : Mr. Budi, I would like to invite you to the opening of my software company.  
Mr. Budi: When and where?  
Ariyanto : This Saturday at 10 a.m.  
Mr. Budi: I am afraid I won't be able to come. I have prior engagement.

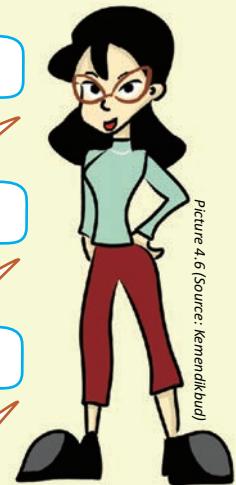
### Invitation to anniversary dinner

- Yanti : Mr. Suharto, my husband and I are celebrating our 3<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary. We would like you to join us.
- Mr. Suharto: Oh, thank you! I would be delighted to. When is it?
- Yanti : On Sunday at 8 p.m in the Balai Kartini.
- Mr. Suharto: OK, I will be there.
- Yanti : Thank you. See you then!
- Mr. Suharto: My pleasure. See you then!

### Accepting invitation



Blank speech bubbles for writing a response to an invitation.



### Declining invitation



Blank speech bubbles for writing a response to a declining invitation.







## Let's Create/Contribute

### Choose one of the activities given below:

- With a partner, create a formal invitation for the head of your school, inviting him/her to the graduation ceremony in your school. Use the format you learnt in the building blocks.
- With a partner, create a formal invitation for the head of your district, inviting him/her to the ribbon-cutting ceremony to inaugurate the new science laboratory in your school. Use the format you learnt in the building blocks.
- With a partner, create a diorama of your favorite scene from the play. Present it in front of your classmates and teacher.
- Design and create a formal invitation card template.

### Example of diorama





## Parent Connection

At home, ask your parents or grandparents if they have ever written or received a formal invitation. What was the format of formal invitations during their times? Collect all the old invitations you can find around the house. Choose the one you like most and rewrite it in English.



Picture 4.10 (Source: Kemendikbud)



## Formative Assessment

**I can do this.**

**Complete these statements:**

1. The most interesting thing I learned in this chapter was \_\_\_\_\_
2. The part I enjoyed most was \_\_\_\_\_
3. I would like to find more about \_\_\_\_\_
4. The hardest part in this chapter was \_\_\_\_\_
5. I need to work harder at \_\_\_\_\_

**Read the statements below and tick ( ✓ ) the option that is most applicable to you.**

	Definitely	Yes	Maybe	No	Not at all
The play was easy to understand.					
I can tell the difference between formal and informal invitations.					
I could write a dialogue between two people.					
I could compare and contrast invitations in English and Bahasa Indonesia.					
I like writing reflections.					
I like creating and working with my classmates.					

**My plan to overcome difficulties of this chapter**