Questions and writing activities (with short answers) aligned with Common Core State Standards for 
*The Necklace* by Guy de Maupassant

**Reading: Literature Standards for Grades 9-10**

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.1
Identify 2-3 specific passages (phrases or sentences) from the story and explain how they demonstrate the woman’s feeling about her current economic situation at the beginning of the story.
- “from the wretched look of the walls, from the worn out chairs, from the ugliness of the curtains”
- “She thought of long salons fitted up with ancient silk.”

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.2
Identify instances in the story where the wife is shown to be unappreciative.
- The husband’s suggestion of a theater dress is not good enough.
- The new dress is not good enough.
- The first jewels she is offered are not good enough.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.3
Describe the emotions that Madame Loisel experiences throughout the story.
- Dissatisfaction, disappointment/uncertainty, elation, resignation, disbelief

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.3
How do the husband’s actions demonstrate his concern for his wife?
- He is willing to forego his hunting trip (money to buy the gun) in favor of giving his wife money for the dress.
- He retraces their path from the dance on foot despite the fact he has to work and is tired. He went to the police, newspaper, and cabs.
- He gave everything he had (financially).

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.4
On page 3, we see the phrase, “that sense of complete victory”. What does this mean? Specifically, what ‘victory’ is implied? ‘Victory’ over what?
- Victory over her ‘poverty’. Her ‘poverty’, though, is relative to what she eventually becomes.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.5
How does the author create such a strong impact of surprise at the end? How might an alternate ending have created a different effect?
- He saves the surprise for the very end so the reader, like the main character, is left with nothing but surprise. We are also left to wonder what happens.
- An alternate ending could have prevented the reader from imagining what would have happened and, thus, lessened the level of engagement or involvement.

**Reading: Literature Standards for Grades 11-12**

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.11-12.5
What is the intended meaning of this story? What did the author want to say?
- Vanity will get you nowhere.
Questions aligned with Common Core State Standards for
The Chaser by John Collier

Reading: Literature Standards for Grades 9-10

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.1

a) What kind of person is Diana? Cite specific evidence from the story to support your answer.

b) Cite specific evidence from the story that allows the reader to infer the ‘glove-cleaner’ is actually a poison.

c) Why is the love potion only a dollar? Provide quotations from the text to support your answer.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.4

a) What does the old man imply when he says, “She will want nothing but solitude and you” and “You will be her sole interest in life”? How does Alan interpret these statements?

b) Describe how the old man’s description of the love potion’s effects are interpreted differently by 1. Alan and 2. The reader.

Reading: Literature Standards for Grades 11-12

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.11-12.2

Both Alan and the old man have ideas of what will result from Alan giving Diana the love potion. First, identify the expected outcome that each of the characters has. Then describe how these ideas are developed over the course of the story. Finally, determine how their ideas interact to affect the reader.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.11-12.3

Describe the setting of the story by citing specific details the author has used. How is the setting related to the mood of the story?

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.11-12.4

What is the significance of the title, The Chaser?
Questions aligned with Common Core State Standards for the adapted version of *The Cask of Amontillado* by Edgar Allan Poe

**Reading: Literature Standards for Grade 8**

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.3

a) Analyze why Montresor decided to use a famous wine (Amontillado) to get Fortunado to come with him.

b) Why does Montresor mention Luchresi? What does Fortunado’s reaction show us about his character?

**Reading: Literature Standards for Grades 9-10**

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.2

Analyze the theme of revenge and explain how it is developed throughout the story. In your answer be sure to describe Montresor’s definition of revenge and discuss whether or not he was successful at exacting revenge.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.9-10.4

a) Identify specific examples (words, phrases, short excerpts) from the story and describe how they are used to build tension throughout the story.

b) Montresor says, “I drink to your long life.” Explain why he says this considering what he is about to do.

c) Montresor seems to discourage Fortunado from accompanying him further into the vault when he points out that “…you are not well. And the vaults are cold and wet.” Why does he do this?

**Reading: Literature Standards for Grades 11-12**

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.11-12.4

Analyze the significance of Fortunado’s name.