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The Glass is Half Empty

Guy de Maupassant was considered a master of the short story form and wrote in the style of French Realism. He lived in France from 1850-1893, and in his relatively short tumultuous life, he represented a style of naturalism and depicted life in often pessimistic terms. His stories have been interpreted as social commentary on class conflict, wealth, materialism, greed, and morality in nineteenth-century France (Turnell and Dumesnil). In "The Necklace" and "Country Living," two short stories published in the daily newspaper *La Gaulois* between 1883 and 1884, Guy de Maupassant in both texts uses situational irony to present unfavorable outcomes for his protagonists that are the result of excessive pride and selfishness.