HOW TO WRITE A GOOD LITERARY PARAGRAPH:

1. Make your POINT (this is a debatable statement)
2. Provide your EVIDENCE (This is paraphrase or direct quote from the text)
3. Provide your EXPLANATION of how that evidence ties into your POINT (this is often the hardest part). You explanation should take up the majority of your discussion.

Monsieur Loisel helps to highlight the theme of being content with what one has because he seeks to be content with his lot in life. For example, unlike his wife, he is happy with what food they can afford. When his wife is at the table thinking of “fashionable dinner parties, of gleaming silverware,” and other fancy items, he says with happiness, “Ah, a good stew! There’s nothing I like more!” (199). The wife’s desire to be richer, indicated by the dinner parties she dreams of and the “gleaming silverware,” which points to its high quality, is here juxtaposed to Monsieur Loisel’s simple pleasure of having a stew, a meal that one of the lower class would often eat during this time period. His unfeigned joy over his simple meal therefore highlights his contentedness and ability to find happiness with those pleasures well within his means.