

Name: _____ Date: _____

Close-Reading Questions

The Gift of the Magi

1. What do you learn about Jim and Della in Scene 1?(character)
2. How does the setting of Scene 1 help you understand Della's problem? (setting)
3. In Scene 4, what emotions does Della experience when selling her hair? How can you tell?
(inference)
4. In Scene 5, Della says that neither gloves nor a coat seem "precious enough" to be her gift for Jim. What does she mean? Why might a watch chain be more precious?(interpreting text)
5. How do Jim and Della feel at the end of the play? What character traits do they have that cause them to feel this way? (inference, character)

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Critical-Thinking Questions

The Gift of the Magi

1. Do you think the play has a happy ending? Why or why not?
2. Irony is when the outcome of an action is the opposite of what was intended or expected. Explain the irony in the play.
3. In the biblical story of Christmas, the Magi bring special gifts to the baby Jesus. The Magi are referred to as wise men. Why do you think O. Henry named his story after them?

Close-Reading Questions

"What Do You Get From Giving?"

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Critical-Thinking Question

"What Do You Get From Giving?"

1. If Lewis could walk into Scenes 1 and 2 of the play, what advice might she give Della and Jim?