

Name:

Teacher:

Class:

Date (Due):

The Gift of the Magi

By: O. Henry

Previewing Texts

1. Using only the title and your previous knowledge of a “Magi” (Wiseman), what do you predict this story will be about?

2. Fill out the first two boxes of the K-W- L Chart below. Write down what you know about the topic in Box #1. Write down what you want to find out in Box #2. When you finish reading the story, write what you learned or discovered in Box#3.

What I KNOW now Box #1	What I WANT to find out Box #2	What I LEARNED Box #3
1. <i>Magi were wise men</i>	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.
3.	3.	3.
4.	4.	4.

Pre-reading Vocabulary

Directions: Write the definition next to each of the following words. Next, write a sentence that properly uses each word in context.

1. Instigates: *to urge to action*

2. Agile:

3. Depreciate:

4. Cascade:

5. Ransacking:

6. Discreet:

7. Scrutiny:

8. Nimble:

9. Coveted:

10. Singed:

Questions For Thought

Directions: Answer the following questions in complete sentences. Be sure to proofread your answers and be prepared to share.

1. How much money does Della have?

2. What is the setting of the story?

3. What mood is created by the first two paragraphs of the story?

4. Describe what the vestibule looked like.

5. What has happened to Jim's salary?

6. What possession did Jim take pride in?

7. What quality did Della take pride in?

8. Why does Della go to Mme. Sofronie's?

9. What does Della plan on doing with her money?

10. What is Della afraid might happen as a result of having cut her hair?

11. What did Jim give to Della? How is this ironic?

12. How did Jim get the money to buy Della's gift? How is this ironic?

Literary Focus

Directions: Answer the following questions about the following literary terms.

1. What is *characterization*? How might the reader *characterize* Della?

2. What is *motivation*? What is Della's *motivation* throughout the story?

3. What is *theme*? What lesson do you suppose we can learn from the story?

Critical Thinking

Directions: At the end of the story O. Henry suggests that the love that inspires generosity is the real gift. Do you think that Della and Jim are both actually wise, or do you think that they are foolish? Provide specific support.
