

The Gift of the Magi

Original Story by O. Henry

Preteaching: Tell students that this is a very old Christmas story that took place a long long time ago. We often hear it around Christmas time on the radio to remind us of the true meaning of Christmas. Della and Jim sold the things they loved most to buy gifts for each other.

Vocabulary: chain, combs, fast, grow, happy, hug, idea, mirror, pocket, sad, surprised tears, wig

Part I: Jigsaw

Della wanted to buy a Christmas gift for her husband Jim, but she only had \$1.87.
She looked in the mirror. She loved her long hair.
She had an idea.

A



Della went to a wig shop.
She asked, "How much will you pay for my hair?"
The woman said \$20. Della said, "O.K. Cut it!"
Della bought a gold chain for Jim's pocket watch.
Jim loved that watch.

B

When Jim came home, he was surprised and sad because Della's beautiful hair was short.
Della said, "I sold my hair to buy you this Christmas gift."

C

Jim loved the watch chain. Then he was sad.
He said, "I sold my watch to buy these gold combs for your hair and now your hair is short." Della cried happy tears.
She hugged Jim and said, "My hair grows fast. I love you, Jim."

D



Gift of the Magi Picture A-1



Gift of the Magi Picture A-2



Gift of the Magi Picture B-1



Gift of the Magi Picture B-2



Gift of the Magi Picture C-1



Gift of the Magi Picture C-2



Gift of the Magi Picture D-1



Gift of the Magi Picture D-2

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Part II: True or False Statements About the Story

Please answer true or false, together with your group.

1. Della and Jim were rich.
2. Della did not like her long hair.
3. Della went to a hairdresser.
4. The woman paid Della \$25 for her hair.
5. Della bought a watch for Jim.
6. Jim loved his watch.
7. Jim was surprised to see Della's short hair.
8. Jim was happy to see Della's short hair.
9. Jim loved his Christmas gift from Della.
10. Jim bought a brush for Della's hair.
11. Della cried.
12. Della and Jim had a sad Christmas.

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Part III: Questions About the Story

Please answer in full sentences, together with your group.

1. Why did Della sell her hair?

2. Why did Jim sell his watch?

3. Why was Jim sad when he saw Della's hair?

4. Why did Della cry?

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Part IV: Sentence Strips

Work with your group. Put the story in order. Decide what comes first, second, third etc. Then read the story together.

Della went to a wig shop.



because Della's beautiful hair was short.

these gold combs for your hair and now your hair is short."

She looked in the mirror.

She hugged Jim and said, "My hair grows fast. I love you, Jim."

She loved her long hair.

She had an idea.

The woman said \$20. Della said, "O.K. Cut it!"

but she only had \$1.87.

Jim loved that watch.

Jim loved the watch chain.

She took the money and bought a gold chain for Jim's pocket watch.

Jim was excited to open it.

Della said, "I sold my hair to buy you this Christmas gift."

When Jim came home, he was surprised and sad

Then he was sad. He said, "I sold my watch to buy you

Della wanted to buy a Christmas gift for her husband Jim,

Della cried happy tears.

She asked, "How much will you pay for my hair?"

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Part III: Cloze Exercise

Finish the story, together with your group.

Della wanted _____(1) buy a Christmas gift for her husband Jim, but she _____(2) had \$1.87. She looked in the _____(3). She loved her long hair. She had an _____(4). Della went to a _____(5) shop. She asked, "How much will you pay for my hair?" The woman said \$20. Della said, "O.K. Cut it!" Della _____(6) a gold _____(7) for Jim's _____(8) watch. Jim loved that watch. When Jim came home, he was _____(9) and sad because Della's _____(10) hair was short. Della said, "I _____(11) my hair to buy you this Christmas gift." Jim loved the watch chain. Then he was sad. He said, "I sold my watch to buy these gold _____(12) for your hair and now your hair is short." Della cried happy _____(13). She _____(14) Jim and said, "My hair _____(15) fast. I love you, Jim."