

## The Gift of the Magi (page 151)

### Selection Test

**A.** Think about the ironies in this story. In the box next to each event below, write notes explaining why that event was ironic. (8 points each)

Event	Why It Was Ironic
1. Della bought Jim a watch fob.	
2. Della yearned for a particular set of tortoise-shell hair combs.	
3. Jim had to comfort his sobbing wife.	

**B.** Write the letter of the best answer. This exercise continues on the next page. (5 points each)

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The narrator implies that Jim's full name was ironic because
- he used only a short nickname.
  - it gave the impression of wealth.
  - he had no middle name.
  - it made him seem old.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. When the narrator says that after Della sold her hair, two hours "tripped by on rosy wings," he means that she
- felt very happy.
  - was very worried.
  - was not thinking clearly.
  - had ups and downs.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The watch fob that Della bought was
- beautifully decorated.
  - secondhand.
  - the latest fashion.
  - made of precious metal.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Della is best described as
- a miserly penny pincher.
  - unconcerned about appearances.
  - generous and loving.
  - reckless and wild.

**C. Words to Know.** Write the letter of the best answer. (4 points each)

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. A person who instigates an event is one who
- prevents it.
  - provokes it.
  - controls it.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. A person with prudence is known for
- good judgment.
  - greed.
  - generosity.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. A coveted object is something
- deeply resented.
  - depended on.
  - wanted badly.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. If something is inconsequential, it is not
- desirable.
  - polite.
  - important.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. An agile dancer is
- clumsy.
  - graceful.
  - tireless.

**D. Answer one** of the following questions based on your understanding of the selection. Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper. (20 points)

- Would you agree that Jim and Della had sacrificed for each other “the greatest treasures of their house”? Why or why not?
- O. Henry contrasts Jim and Della with people who give “wise” gifts, such as those “bearing the privilege of exchange in case of duplication.” Why does he declare Jim and Della to be the wisest? Do you agree with him? Why or why not?

**E. Linking Literature to Life.** Answer the following question based on your own experience and knowledge. Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper. (16 points)

What is the greatest gift you have ever received or given? What made the gift so special?