



# The Gift of the Magi

by O. Henry

Week One. Task Three. While-Reading Activity

Match the words with their definitions.

1. imputation

to give attention to what someone is saying

2. parsimony

If a condition subsides, it becomes less strong or extreme

3. implied

to fling or plop oneself down onto some surface or thing

4. flop down

to be enough to buy a lot of things

5. instigate

the act of imputing blame or guilt reputation

6. subside

tending not to talk about your own achievements

7. prosperity

the quality of not being willing to spend money

8. contract

to make or become shorter or narrower

9. modest

if something is implied, it is understood to be true

10. unassuming

to cause an event or situation to happen by making a set of actions

11. attend

the state of being successful and having a lot of money

12. go far

quiet and with no wish for attention or admiration

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Look at the words that are given.

Use them to complete the sentences below.

sterling, agile, longitudinal, obtain, whirled,  
hang out, envy, splashed

1. Something fine and rare and \_\_\_\_\_ - something just a little bit near to being worthy of the honour of being owned by Jim.

2. Once she faltered for a minute and stood still while a tear or two \_\_\_\_\_ on the worn red carpet.

3. Della would have let her hair \_\_\_\_\_ of the window some day to dry.

4. A very thin and very \_\_\_\_\_ person may, by observing his reflection in a rapid sequence of \_\_\_\_\_ strips, \_\_\_\_\_ a fairly accurate conception of his looks.

5. Suddenly she \_\_\_\_\_ from the window and stood before the glass.

6. Jim would have pulled out his watch every time he passed, just to see him pluck at his beard from \_\_\_\_\_.