NAME: _____

THE GIFT OF THE MAGI

1. What is the main theme of "The Gift of the Magi"?

A) The value of material wealth

B) The sacrifices made for love

C) The importance of family traditions

D) The hardships of poverty

2. How does the author contrast Della's and Jim's financial situations?

A) By describing their expensive habits

B) By using metaphors to highlight their desperation

C) By showing their lavish spending on each other

D) By contrasting their luxurious lifestyle with their modest income

3. Which of the following best describes Della's emotional state when she first counts her money?

A) Hopeful and optimistic

B) Resigned and determined

C) Anxious and frustrated

D) Angry and defensive

4. How does O. Henry use irony in the story?

A) Della buys Jim a watch, but Jim's watch is already broken

B) Jim and Della sacrifice their most valuable possessions for gifts that are unusable

C) Della buys a platinum chain for a cheap watch

D) Jim sells his watch to buy Della's hair

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5. What does the "pier-glass" in the story symbolize?

A) Della's reflection of her beauty and pride

B) The separation between Della's ideal life and her reality

C) Jim's admiration for Della

D) The coldness of the apartment

6. What does the phrase "her cheeks burned with the silent imputation of parsimony" reveal about Della's feelings toward the grocer and others?

A) She feels guilt for spending too much money

B) She is embarrassed by how much she is forced to haggle

C) She is angry at the way people treat her

D) She is proud of her ability to save money

7. How does the author characterize Jim's gift for Della?

A) As a symbol of his materialistic nature

B) As a reflection of his deep understanding of Della's desires

C) As a sign of his wealth and generosity

D) As a last-minute gift he rushed to buy

8. How does Della's action of selling her hair reflect her character?

A) It shows her willingness to sacrifice something she values for Jim's happiness

B) It reveals her insecurity and need for approval

C) It indicates that she is impulsive and lacks consideration

D) It demonstrates her focus on material gifts over emotions

9. How does O. Henry use the setting to reflect the couple's situation?

A) By describing the expensive apartment they live in

B) By focusing on the luxury items they possess

C) By using the flat's poor condition to emphasize their financial struggle

D) By contrasting their apartment with the other wealthy neighbors

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10. What is the significance of the combs Della buys for herself?

A) They symbolize her desire for something beautiful but unattainable

B) They represent the sacrifice Jim makes for her happiness

C) They reflect her feelings of self-worth after selling her hair

D) They are a symbol of her regret about cutting her hair

11. How does the phrase “life is made up of sobs, sniffles, and smiles, with sniffles predominating” relate to the story's overall tone?

A) It highlights the fleeting joy in life and the inevitability of sorrow

B) It suggests that the characters are helpless victims of their circumstances

C) It reflects the happy conclusion of the story

D) It emphasizes the optimism that Della and Jim feel despite their struggles

12. What role does symbolism play in "The Gift of the Magi"?

A) It helps reinforce the theme of materialism

B) It highlights the importance of financial security

C) It shows that material possessions are worthless compared to love

D) It focuses on the superficiality of the characters’ gifts

13. What does the title "The Gift of the Magi" suggest about the story?

A) The characters will receive material gifts that will change their lives

B) The characters’ gifts are symbolic of deeper spiritual wisdom

C) The gifts are perfect examples of extravagant wealth

D) The story emphasizes the wisdom of giving gifts without expecting anything in return

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