

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Class:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Due Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Introduction

This homework sheet is designed to accompany the short story "The Gift of the Magi" by O. Henry. The story is a poignant and thought-provoking tale that explores the sacrifices people make for those they love. Through a range of activities and questions, students will develop their reading comprehension, vocabulary, and critical thinking skills.

1. What is the title of the short story, and who is the author?

2. What is the main conflict of the story, and how do the characters resolve it?

3. What is the theme of the story, and how is it developed throughout the narrative?

Match the following vocabulary words with their definitions:

1. Sacrifice
2. Irony
3. Foreshadowing
4. Technological advancements

Definitions:

1. a) The act of giving up something valuable or important for the benefit of someone else
2. b) A literary device that involves a contrast between what is expected and what actually occurs
3. c) A device that hints at events that will occur later in the story
4. d) Improvements in technology that can have both positive and negative consequences

1. What motivates Della to cut and sell her hair?

2. What does Jim's decision to sell his watch reveal about his character?

3. How do the characters' actions and decisions relate to the theme of sacrifice?

1. What message do you think the author is trying to convey through the story?

2. How does the story relate to your own experiences or observations?

3. What are the potential benefits and drawbacks of making sacrifices for those we love?

Write a short story or poem inspired by the themes and characters of "The Gift of the Magi." Consider the following prompts:

- A character who makes a sacrifice for someone they love
- A story that explores the consequences of technological advancements on human relationships
- A poem that reflects on the importance of selfless love and sacrifice

1. What are the implications of a society that values material possessions over human relationships?

2. How does the story portray the relationship between Jim and Della, and what can we learn from their example?

3. What role does sacrifice play in our own lives, and how can we apply the lessons of the story to our relationships and decisions?

Reflect on what you have learned from the story and the activities in this homework sheet. Consider the following questions:

- What did you find most challenging or thought-provoking about the story?
- How has the story helped you to think critically about the themes and characters?
- What will you take away from this experience, and how will you apply it to your own life?



Research and present on a topic related to the story, such as:

- The history of Christmas traditions and gift-giving
- The impact of technological advancements on human relationships
- The importance of selfless love and sacrifice in our personal and professional lives

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Congratulations on completing this homework sheet! We hope that you have enjoyed exploring the themes and characters of "The Gift of the Magi" and that you have developed your reading comprehension, vocabulary, and critical thinking skills. Remember to apply the lessons of the story to your own life and relationships, and to always consider the importance of selfless love and sacrifice.