**“The Gift of the Magi” Test Booklet**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Use thelink to “The Gift of a Magi” in the Test Booklet to respond to this prompt below. **(Writing Standards).**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Use the link to “The Gift of a Magi” in the Test Booklet to respond to these questions **(Reading Literature Standards).**

1. Which detail from the story suggests that Della’s hair is important?
   1. “Della knew her hair was more beautiful than any queen’s jewels and gifts”.
   2. “It reached below her knee”.
   3. “She looked wonderfully like a schoolboy”.
   4. “My hair will grow again”.
2. What detail from the text **best** suggests that Della and Jim are struggling with money?
   1. “Furnished rooms at a cost of $8 a week”.
   2. “Twenty dollars a week is not much”.
   3. “Jim knew that no king had anything so valuable.”
   4. “There was an electric bell, but it could not make a sound”.
3. What is the best **central** idea for this story?
   1. Sacrifice
   2. Masculinity
   3. Greed
   4. Distrust
4. The best **key** theme for this story is that Jim and Della’s love for each other is:
   1. Much more valuable than any expensive dinner
   2. Much more valuable than any person’s opinion
   3. Much more valuable than any material gift
   4. Much more valuable than any verbal expressions of love
5. As Della struggles with trying her best to get Jim a gift, we learn that Della’s behavior is best described as:
   1. Determined because she gives up her prized possession for Jim
   2. Lazy because she wallows in sadness over money
   3. Humble because she does not believe her hair has any value
   4. Aggressive because she is mad that she cut her hair
6. After Della and Jim exchange gifts, Jim smiles and asks Della to put their gifts away. What does Jim’s response reveal?
   1. That he is mad about not being able to use his chain for his watch
   2. That he realizes materialistic items are not more important than their love
   3. That he is happy Della has cut off her hair for him
   4. That he is hungry from a long day of work and wants to eat.
7. What is the best meaning of the word **magi**?
   1. A foolish person who buys worthless things
   2. A happy person who gives everything to others
   3. A wise person who gives wise gifts
   4. A poor person who is not able to give
8. In the text, the narrator states that “He looked very thin and he was not smiling. Poor fellow, he was only twenty-two—and with a family to take care of!” What is the connotation of this quote?
   1. Negative- implies that he is too thin and young to look and feel life’s stress
   2. Positive- implies that he is lucky to have a family
   3. Negative- implies that he is extremely sick and might die soon
   4. Positive- implies that he doesn’t need to smile to be happy because it’s obvious.
9. Which answer best shows **situational irony** over the course of the text to surprise the reader?
   1. Della was able to buy Jim the perfect gift after saving all of her money.
   2. Della cut her hair to buy Jim the chain, but Jim sold his watch to buy Della the hair pieces.
   3. Mrs. Sofronie bought Della’s hair for twenty dollars.
   4. Stella can’t use the combs Jim bought because shorter hair is hard to style.
10. Rather than telling Della how he truly feels about her hair when he first sees it, Jim shows an expression that is difficult to describe. What is most likely the author’s reason for staging the scene in this way?
    1. To create humor in Della’s sadness over losing her hair.
    2. For the reader to be surprised that Jim is angry
    3. For the reader to solve the mystery of Jim’s emotions
    4. To create tension between the couple so the reader feels anxious about Jim’s reaction.
11. Which social custom of this time period (early 1900s) does Della’s distraught reaction about cutting her hair **most** **clearly** reveal?
    1. Women were able to do whatever they wanted.
    2. Women were supposed to make their husbands happy at any cost.
    3. Men always abused their daughters and wives.
    4. Men loved their wives and didn’t want to be owed anything.
12. Which social custom of the time period does Jim’s reaction to getting his gift **most clearly** reveal?
    1. Men were heartless toward their wives.
    2. Men could not survive without women to depend on.
    3. Men hardly showed their true emotions because of stereotyping.
    4. Men loved showing how they truly felt towards their wives.

**Use “The Gift of ‘The Gift of the Magi’” to answer these multiple choice questions. (Reading Information Standards)**

1. Though O. Henry wrote “The Gift of the Magi,” O. Henry is the author’s pen name. According to the passage, Oh. Henry’s real name is…
2. William Sydney Porter
3. Pete Irving
4. Jim Dillingham
5. O. Henry
6. The statement from the text that **best** captures the text’s central idea or purpose is…
7. “[He] sat and penned one of the most enduring love stories to come after the turn of the 20th century”
8. “The indelible short story was first published on December 10, 1905 in the New York Sunday World Magazine.”
9. “The writing has its flaws, and no scholar would venture that it's the century's finest romance; yet, in its simplicity, it finds its stakes and its resonance.”
10. “O. Henry was among the most popular writers of his day”

1. Based on the context clues in paragraph 3, the word “destitution” most likely means…
2. Theme
3. Poverty
4. Relatable
5. Humble
6. The main idea of paragraph 4 is…
7. Saving money is a useful way to buy Christmas presents.
8. “The Gift of the Magi” is a tragedy.
9. Gifts that are truly “worthy” for our loved ones have a value that exceeds the gift’s monetary value.
10. There is much to empathize with in “The Gift of the Magi.”
11. The evidence that best supports the answer to the last question is…
12. "She had been saving every penny she could for months, with this result,"
13. O. Henry wrote, the tragedy
14. It's in that line that the magnitude of their love is conveyed, to be filled with so much admiration for someone, to hold them to such high regard that things must be worthy.
15. There's already too much to empathize with: being young, poor, and madly in love...and inhabiting a glorified closet called "home."
16. In paragraph 5, the word denouement most likely means
17. Introduction
18. Ending
19. Point of view
20. Character
21. Which quote best supports the author’s claim that “It’s a reminder of the way we should be living, with love first, giving second, and possession below all.”

A. “While patrons drank at the adjacent rosewood bar—some say moved by romance in his own life, others think it could be as simple as witnessing a stolen glance from one stranger to his beau—he sat and penned one of the most enduring love stories to come after the turn of the 20th century.”

B. “There's already too much to empathize with: being young, poor, and madly in love...and inhabiting a glorified closet called "home."”

C. “When she gifts Jim the chain, we discover that he has pawned the watch to afford the tortoise-shell combs Della had been eyeing to comb her hair.”

D. “In the age where shoppers line up at 3 am to buy a HDTV at a 10 percent discount, perhaps the story constantly resurfaces to serve as a sort of moral compass, steering us back on course to the "season of giving."”

1. Consider the quote: “From its opening the story is relatable; destitution is a theme that will never lose relevance.” Which sentence best summarizes the author’s point?
2. Anyone can relate to being very poor.
3. Anyone can relate to being in love.
4. The beginning of the story is the best part.
5. The main theme of the story is destitution.
6. Which of these statements does not fit in with the author’s reasoning about Jim’s love for Della?
7. Jim would do anything to make Della happy.
8. Jim values love more than treasured heirlooms.
9. Jim and Della’s love makes up for the fact that they are poor.
10. Jim is ashamed he sold his watch to buy Della a present.

**WRITING PROMPT:** In the final paragraph of “The Gift of the Magi” short story, the narrator says, *“And here I have lamely related to you the uneventful chronicle of two foolish children in a flat who most unwisely sacrificed for each other the greatest treasures of their house. But in a last word to the wise of these days let it be said that of all who give gifts these two were the wisest.”* Interpret these contradictory statements. Which way does the narrator really feel? What purpose did the narrator have for contradicting himself?

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| **NAME:** | **Type your name to the left and your responses below. You will email this to** [**destinyadamscooper@gmail.com**](mailto:destinyadamscooper@gmail.com)**;** [**slbiddick@gmail.com**](mailto:slbiddick@gmail.com) |
| **Thesis** |  |
| **Claim 1** |  |
| **Evidence** |  |
| **Explanation**  **-So What?**  **-So What?**  **-So What?** |  |
| **Claim 2** |  |
| **Evidence** |  |
| **Explanation**  **-So What?**  **-So What?**  **-So What?** |  |
| **Thesis** |  |
| **Claim 3** |  |
| **Evidence** |  |
| **Explanation**  **-So What?**  **-So What?**  **-So What?** |  |
| **Conclusion Statement** |  |