

The Gift of the Magi

**On a separate sheet of paper, answer the following questions.
To receive credit, you must write complete, thoughtful sentences.**

1. In the fourth paragraph, the narrator tells us that the young couple's apartment had "a letter-box into which no letter would go and an electric button from which no mortal finger could coax a ring." What does the narrator mean?

2. Early in the story, you'll find a line in which the author uses imagery and repetition to make the setting reflect Della's mood. Write down that line (yes, I want you to write the whole sentence) and explain why Della is in this mood.

3. Describe the "pier-glass" in the apartment. Now that you know the twist at the end of the tale, examine how this object symbolically relates to Della.

4. Time for a little math. First, how much did the couple pay in rent on their apartment? In a recent check of real estate websites, a similar apartment rents today for \$300 a week in New York City. How much was Della paid for her hair? In today's money, how much would that be? How much did she spend on the chain? What would that cost in today's dollars? Does the cost of the platinum chain seem reasonable or outrageous? Can you envision a time in your future as an adult spending that much on a gift for your spouse? Explain your thoughts.

5. The narrator says, "She got out her curling irons and lighted the gas and went to work repairing the ravages made by generosity added to love. Which is always a tremendous task, dear friends - a mammoth task." Explain what the narrator means. How is this passage an element of foreshadowing?

6. The author uses two notable sentences featuring alliteration. Write both of those sentences and underline the parts that are alliterative.

7. The platinum chain is a symbol in this story, holding a much deeper meaning than the reader might notice at first. Symbolically analyze the chain and explain the deeper meaning this item holds.

8. Look at the title. Explain the reference. Why is this an appropriate title for this story?

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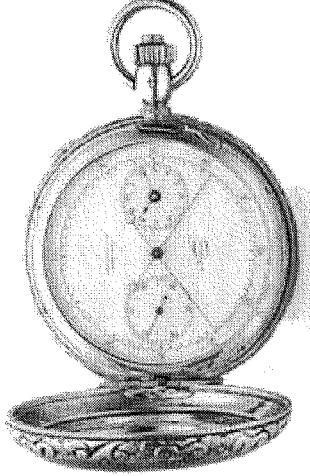
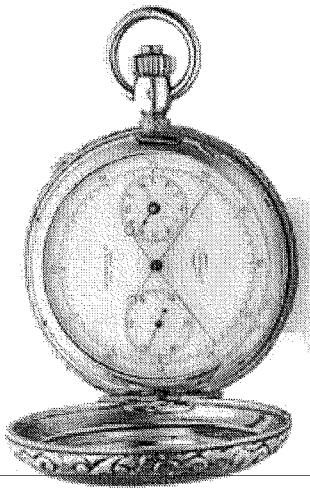
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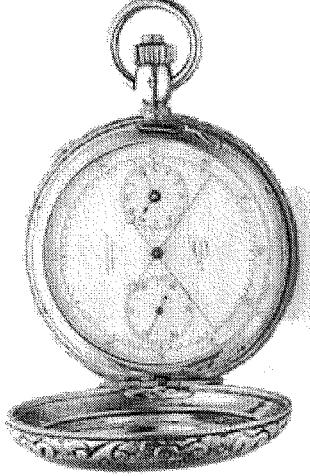
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