

PBS Lesson Series

ELA, Grade 8, Lesson 17

Teacher Packet



Character name	Description
Della	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dedicated to saving money • a tough negotiator • frustrated with her current situation • happily married to Jim • has been trying for months to save enough money for a gift for Jim but doesn't have enough • really loves and admires Jim
James (Jim)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once lived in prosperity, or got along fine financially • Now makes a lot less money than he once did and he is somewhat ashamed by it • He is happily married to Della and they have a home together

Objective:

Read "The Gift of the Magi" by O. Henry to analyze the text and determine its meaning.

Character name	Description
Della	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dedicated to saving money • a tough negotiator • frustrated with her current situation • happily married to Jim • has been trying for months to save enough money for a gift for Jim but doesn't have enough • really loves and admires Jim
James (Jim)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once lived in prosperity, or got along fine financially • Now makes a lot less money than he once did and he is somewhat ashamed by it • He is happily married to Della and they have a home together

Key details
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jim and Della rent an apartment with furniture already in it called a furnished flat. • They rent it at a really cheap price, and it is not a very nice apartment.

Graphic Organizer

Character name	Description

Plot

Themes

Key details

Vocabulary word/word choice	Meaning

Literary device	Meaning

- Della and Jim live in a furnished flat; that is, they rent an apartment with furniture supplied in it.
- It is not a very nice apartment though and they rent it for cheap.
- Della has been working for months to save money and that all that she has to show for it is one dollar and eighty-seven cents.
- It's Christmas Eve and she does not have enough money to buy the gift for Jim that she wants to buy for him.

There was a pier glass between the windows of the room. Perhaps you have seen a pier glass in an \$8 flat. A very thin and very agile person may, by observing his reflection in a rapid sequence of longitudinal strips, obtain a fairly accurate conception of his looks. Della, being slender, had mastered the art.

There was a pier glass between the windows of the room. Perhaps you have seen a pier glass in an \$8 flat. A very thin and very agile person may, by observing his reflection in a rapid sequence of longitudinal strips, obtain a fairly accurate conception of his looks. Della, being slender, had mastered the art.

Vocabulary/word choice	Meaning
Agile	to be able to move quickly and easily

Vocabulary/word choice	Meaning
Agile	to be able to move quickly and easily
Longitudinal	runs lengthwise from top to bottom

There was a pier glass between the windows of the room. Perhaps you have seen a pier glass in an \$8 flat. A very thin and very agile person may, by observing his reflection in a rapid sequence of longitudinal strips, obtain a fairly accurate conception of his looks. Della, being slender, had mastered the art.

Suddenly she whirled from the window and stood before the glass. Her eyes were shining brilliantly, but her face had lost its color within twenty seconds. Rapidly she pulled down her hair and let it fall to its full length.

Suddenly she whirled from the window and stood before the glass. Her eyes were shining brilliantly, but her face had lost its color within twenty seconds. Rapidly she pulled down her hair and let it fall to its full length.

Now, there were two possessions of the James Dillingham Youngs in which they both took a mighty pride.

Now, there were two possessions of the James Dillingham Youngs in which they both took a mighty pride. One was Jim's gold watch that had been his father's and his grandfather's. The other was Della's hair. Had the queen of Sheba lived in the flat across the airshaft, Della would have let her hair hang out the window some day to dry just to depreciate Her Majesty's jewels and gifts.



Now, there were two possessions of the James Dillingham Youngs in which they both took a mighty pride. One was Jim's gold watch that had been his father's and his grandfather's. The other was Della's hair. Had the queen of Sheba lived in the flat across the airshaft, Della would have let her hair hang out the window some day to dry just to **depreciate** Her Majesty's jewels and gifts.

Vocabulary/word choice	Meaning
Agile	to be able to move quickly and easily
Longitudinal	runs lengthwise from top to bottom
Depreciate	to belittle or make something not look as important or valuable

Now, there were two possessions of the James Dillingham Youngs in which they both took a mighty pride. One was Jim's gold watch that had been his father's and his grandfather's. The other was Della's hair. Had the queen of Sheba lived in the flat across the airshaft, Della would have let her hair hang out the window some day to dry just to depreciate Her Majesty's jewels and gifts.

Now, there were two possessions of the James Dillingham Youngs in which they both took a mighty pride. One was Jim's gold watch that had been his father's and his grandfather's. The other was Della's hair. Had the queen of Sheba lived in the flat across the airshaft, Della would have let her hair hang out the window some day to dry just to depreciate Her Majesty's jewels and gifts. Had King Solomon been the janitor, with all his treasures piled up in the basement, Jim would have pulled out his watch every time he passed, just to see him pluck at his beard from envy.



Now, there were two possessions of the James Dillingham Youngs in which they both took a mighty pride. One was Jim's gold watch that had been his father's and his grandfather's. The other was Della's hair. Had the queen of Sheba lived in the flat across the airshaft, Della would have let her hair hang out the window some day to dry just to depreciate Her Majesty's jewels and gifts. Had King Solomon been the janitor, with all his treasures piled up in the basement, Jim would have pulled out his watch every time he passed, just to see him pluck at his beard from envy.

Literary device	meaning
Allusion	a reference designed to call something to mind

Key Details

- Jim and Della rent an apartment with furniture already in it called a furnished flat.
- They rent it at a really cheap price, and it is not a very nice apartment.
- Jim and Della are very proud of Della's hair and Jim's gold watch.

So now Della's beautiful hair fell about her rippling and shining like a cascade of brown waters. It reached below her knee and made itself almost a garment for her.

So now Della's beautiful hair fell about her rippling and shining like a cascade of brown waters. It reached below her knee and made itself almost a garment for her.

Vocabulary/word choice	Meaning
Agile	to be able to move quickly and easily
Longitudinal	runs lengthwise from top to bottom
Depreciate	to belittle or make something not look as important or valuable
Cascade	waterfall

Literary device	meaning
Allusion	a reference designed to call something to mind
Simile	a comparison or metaphor that uses like or as

So now Della's beautiful hair fell about her rippling and shining like a cascade of brown waters. It reached below her knee and made itself **almost a garment for her.**

So now Della's beautiful hair fell about her rippling and shining like a cascade of brown waters. It reached below her knee and made itself almost a garment for her. And then she did it up again nervously and quickly. Once she faltered for a minute and stood still while a tear or two splashed on the worn red carpet.

So now Della's beautiful hair fell about her rippling and shining like a cascade of brown waters. It reached below her knee and made itself almost a garment for her. And then she did it up again nervously and quickly. Once she faltered for a minute and stood still while a tear or two splashed on the worn red carpet.

On went her old brown jacket; on went her old brown hat.
With a whirl of skirts and with the brilliant sparkle still in her eyes,
she fluttered out the door and down the stairs to the street.

Where she stopped the sign read: "Mme. Sofronie. Hair Goods of All Kinds." One flight up Della ran, and collected herself, panting. Madame, large, too white, chilly, hardly looked the Sofronie.

"Will you buy my hair?" asked Della.

"I buy hair," said Madame. "Take yer hat off and let's have a sight at the looks of it."

Down rippled the brown cascade.

"Twenty dollars," said Madame, lifting the mass with a practiced hand.

"Give it to me quick," said Della.

Plot

- Della has been working for months to save money and that all that she has to show for it is one dollar and eighty-seven cents.
- It's Christmas Eve and she does not have enough money to buy the gift for Jim that she wants to buy for him.
- Della sells her hair for \$20 so that she can buy Jim a nice Christmas gift.

Character name	Description
Della	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dedicated to saving money • a tough negotiator • frustrated with her current situation • happily married to Jim • has been trying for months to save enough money for a gift for Jim but doesn't have enough • really loves and admires Jim • has long beautiful hair • willing to sacrifice for Jim
James (Jim)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once lived in prosperity, or got along fine financially • Now makes a lot less money than he once did and he is somewhat ashamed by it • He is happily married to Della and they have a home together

Themes

Themes

- Selflessness

Themes

- Selflessness
- Devotion

Themes

- Selflessness
- Devotion
- Persistence

Oh, and the next two hours tripped by on rosy wings. Forget the hashed metaphor. She was ransacking the stores for Jim's present.

Literary device	meaning
Allusion	a reference designed to call something to mind
Simile	a comparison or metaphor that uses like or as
Imagery	visual symbolism

Oh, and the next two hours tripped by on rosy wings. Forget the hashed metaphor. She was ransacking the stores for Jim's present.

Oh, and the next two hours tripped by on rosy wings. Forget the hashed metaphor. She was ransacking the stores for Jim's present.

Oh, and the next two hours tripped by on rosy wings. Forget the hashed metaphor. She was **ransacking** the stores for Jim's present.

Vocabulary/word choice	Meaning
Agile	to be able to move quickly and easily
Longitudinal	runs lengthwise from top to bottom
Depreciate	to belittle or make something not look as important or valuable
Cascade	waterfall
Falter	to hesitate or lose momentum
Ransack	to go hurriedly through a place, chaotically; to steal or rob

Literary device	meaning
Allusion	a reference designed to call something to mind
Simile	a comparison or metaphor that uses like or as
Imagery	visual symbolism
Metaphor	symbolic; the opposite of literal

Character name	Description
Della	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dedicated to saving money • a tough negotiator • frustrated with her current situation • happily married to Jim • has been trying for months to save enough money for a gift for Jim but doesn't have enough • really loves and admires Jim • has long beautiful hair • willing to sacrifice for Jim • persistent
James (Jim)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once lived in prosperity, or got along fine financially • Now makes a lot less money than he once did and he is somewhat ashamed by it • He is happily married to Della and they have a home together

Character name	Description
Della	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dedicated to saving money • a tough negotiator • frustrated with her current situation • happily married to Jim • has been trying for months to save enough money for a gift for Jim but doesn't have enough • really loves and admires Jim • has long beautiful hair • willing to sacrifice for Jim • persistent
James (Jim)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once lived in prosperity, or got along fine financially • Now makes a lot less money than he once did and he is somewhat ashamed by it • He is happily married to Della and they have a home together • Has a gold watch

Key Details

- Jim and Della rent an apartment with furniture already in it called a furnished flat.
- They rent it at a really cheap price, and it is not a very nice apartment.
- Jim and Della are very proud of Della's hair and Jim's gold watch.

Plot

- Della has been working for months to save money and that all that she has to show for it is one dollar and eighty-seven cents.
- It's Christmas Eve and she does not have enough money to buy the gift for Jim that she wants to buy for him.
- Della sells her hair for \$20 so that she can buy Jim a nice Christmas gift.

Vocabulary/word choice	Meaning
Agile	to be able to move quickly and easily
Longitudinal	runs lengthwise from top to bottom
Depreciate	to belittle or make something not look as important or valuable
Cascade	waterfall
Falter	to hesitate or lose momentum
Ransack	to go hurriedly through a place, chaotically; to steal or rob

Literary device	meaning
Allusion	a reference designed to call something to mind
Simile	a comparison or metaphor that uses like or as
Imagery	visual symbolism
Metaphor	symbolic; the opposite of literal

Independent practice

How does the author's craft, use of literary devices, character development, setting, and vocabulary develop the story, "The Gift of the Magi"?

In a brief essay, using your graphic organizer and your notes from today and yesterday, explain how the author writes. Be sure to include new vocabulary and specific examples from the text.