## Gift Of The Magi Answer Key

- 9. Why does Della try to the her hair? What is she womind about?
- She wants Zim to will think she is pretty. She is worried about how he will must till. How does Jim must to seeing Della and her new hair?
- He is shorted and ellent, at first.
- What does Jim say about Dalla's hair?
   Nothing the could do small make him loos has any less. He least h
- Northing she could do would make him love her any less. He lower her no matter what she looks like to the looks like the looks
- They each brought the other a present that they can no longer use.
- Situational Irony they slid not expect the other to sell their most prized possession to buy
- Christens gift.
- What do Dela's and Jim's martines to each other's gifts reveal about their character?
  That they love each other no matter what. They did not get mad. They were greated for their gi
- and for each other.
- 5. What is O.Booy's opinion of the actions of Della and Jim?
- Why does O.Henry refer to Della, Jim, and all others like them as the "magi".
- They are wise like the magi because they gave gifts out of love. They were willing to sacrifier

something important to them for the yessen they love.

# Gift of the Magi Answer Key: Unpacking O. Henry's Masterpiece

Are you grappling with O. Henry's poignant short story, "The Gift of the Magi"? Feeling lost in the symbolism and themes? This comprehensive guide provides not just a simple "Gift of the Magi answer key," but a deep dive into the story's intricacies, exploring its characters, plot, themes, and the enduring questions it raises. We'll uncover the deeper meanings hidden within O. Henry's masterful prose and help you confidently tackle any related assignments or discussions. This isn't just about finding answers; it's about understanding the enduring power of this classic tale.

## **Understanding the Plot: A Quick Recap**

Before diving into the answers, let's briefly revisit the narrative. "The Gift of the Magi" tells the story of Della and Jim Dillingham Young, a young, impoverished couple desperately trying to afford each other Christmas gifts. Della sacrifices her prized possession – her long, beautiful hair – to buy Jim a platinum fob chain for his heirloom watch. Simultaneously, Jim sells his watch to buy Della a set of combs for her hair. Their selfless acts of love highlight the irony and poignant beauty of their sacrifice.

## Gift of the Magi Answer Key: Character Analysis

Jim Dillingham Young: Often seen as the more pragmatic of the two, Jim's love for Della is deeply rooted in his affection for her appearance. His reaction to her shorn hair reveals the depth of his feelings, surpassing the material value of the gift he intended to give. He prioritizes her happiness above all else.

Della Dillingham Young: Della is portrayed as impulsive, selfless, and deeply loving. Her desperation to provide Jim with a perfect gift demonstrates her unwavering devotion. Her quick thinking and willingness to sacrifice her most cherished possession exemplify her generous spirit. Her emotional response reflects a woman caught between material need and profound love.

## Gift of the Magi Answer Key: Exploring the Themes

Sacrifice and Love: This is the central theme. Della and Jim's sacrifices showcase the true meaning of love, highlighting that the greatest gifts are those given selflessly, even at personal cost. The irony underscores the point: their most treasured possessions become irrelevant in the face of their love for one another.

Irony and Paradox: O. Henry masterfully uses situational irony. Both Della and Jim make huge sacrifices, only to discover their gifts are rendered useless by the other's sacrifice. This paradox forces the reader to contemplate the true nature of giving and receiving. The irony isn't mocking; it's a poignant observation on the human condition.

Materialism vs. True Value: The story challenges the reader to question the importance of material possessions. The characters' poverty underlines the fact that true value lies not in material wealth, but in love, generosity, and selfless acts. Their sacrifices demonstrate that love transcends material limitations.

## Gift of the Magi Answer Key: Symbolism and Imagery

Della's Hair: Della's hair is a powerful symbol of her beauty and femininity. By cutting it, she sacrifices a significant part of herself to show her love for Jim. It's a tangible representation of her selflessness.

Jim's Watch: Jim's watch symbolizes his heritage and his sense of self-worth. Selling it showcases the depth of his love for Della and his willingness to sacrifice something precious to make her happy.

## Gift of the Magi Answer Key: Interpreting the Ending

The story's ending isn't about failure; it's about the triumph of love. The irony of their selfless acts is not meant to be depressing, but rather a testament to the power of their love and the ultimate value of their sacrifices. The ending encourages reflection on the true meaning of Christmas and the significance of selfless gestures.

## Gift of the Magi Answer Key: Addressing Common Questions

Often, students and readers ponder questions about the story's ending and the characters' motivations. The story's beauty lies in its ambiguous nature, prompting various interpretations. However, the core message remains consistent: love transcends material possessions.

### **Conclusion**

Understanding "The Gift of the Magi" requires more than simply identifying plot points; it necessitates a deeper exploration of the characters' motivations, the underlying themes, and the powerful symbolism used by O. Henry. This guide serves as a resource for navigating the complexities of this classic short story, providing a thorough "Gift of the Magi answer key" while encouraging a deeper appreciation of its lasting impact. The enduring power of this tale lies in its ability to make us question the true value of gifts and the immeasurable power of love.

## **FAQs**

- 1. What is the main conflict in "The Gift of the Magi"? The main conflict is the couple's poverty and their desire to provide each other with meaningful Christmas gifts, leading to their ironic sacrifices.
- 2. What is the significance of the title "The Gift of the Magi"? The title refers to the biblical Magi who gave precious gifts to the baby Jesus. Della and Jim's gifts, though seemingly impractical, are equally precious expressions of love and self-sacrifice.
- 3. Is the ending of "The Gift of the Magi" sad or happy? The ending is bittersweet. It's sad in the sense of their wasted sacrifices, but ultimately happy because it reveals the depth of their love and the true meaning of their gifts.
- 4. What is the symbolism of the three wise men in relation to Della and Jim? The three wise men represent selfless giving, which Della and Jim emulate through their sacrifices. Their gifts, though

humble, are gifts of love, echoing the Magi's gifts to the Christ Child.

5. How does the story's setting contribute to its meaning? The setting of poverty emphasizes the contrast between material want and the abundance of love between Della and Jim. Their limited resources heighten the impact of their sacrifices.

**gift of the magi answer key:** The Gift of the Magi O. Henry, 2021-12-22 The Gift of the Magi is a short story by O. Henry first published in 1905. The story tells of a young husband and wife and how they deal with the challenge of buying secret Christmas gifts for each other with very little money. As a sentimental story with a moral lesson about gift-giving, it has been popular for adaptation, especially for presentation at Christmas time.

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gift of the magi answer key: The Furnished Room O. Henry, 2020-08-26 The Furnished Room is a short story about love and dedication, about exhaustion and despair. A young man is in search for a girl he fell in love with. He rents a room near the theaters where she is to be seen and he devotes his days to the dream of finding her. When all of a sudden the sweet fragrance of her perfume fills his room ... Is he finally blessed with success? Or this is an evil ghost from the past? Will he get to embrace the girl he loves or she will drag him to the verge of sanity? William Sydney Porter, better known as O. Henry, was an American writer who lived in the late 19th century. He gains wide popularity with his short stories which often take place either in New York or some small American towns. The plot twists and the surprise endings are a typical and integral part of O. Henry's short stories. Some of his best known works are The Gift of the Magi, The Cop and the Anthem, A Retrieved Reformation. His stories often deal with ordinary people and the individual aspects of life. As a result of the outstanding literature legacy that O. Henry left behind, there is an American annual award after his name, given to exceptional short stories.

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1984 The Gift of the Magi is a short story, about a young married couple and how they deal with the challenge of buying secret Christmas gifts for each other with very little money. As a sentimental story with a moral lesson about gift-giving, it has been a popular one for adaptation, especially for presentation during the Christmas season.

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