

ANSWER KEY

“The Gift of the Magi” WORKSHEET

1. What did Della want to buy for her husband for Christmas? How much money did she have to start with?

Della wanted to buy a platinum fob chain for his watch. Della only had \$1.87 to start with (sixty cents were in pennies).

2. What did Della sell to get the \$20.00 she needed to buy her husband's present?

Her brown locks of hair.

3. What did Jim buy for his wife for Christmas?

A set of combs she had seen in a Broadway window.

4. How much money did Jim make a week at his job?

He made \$20.00 per week.

5. Where does Della work? Give the reference that's made in the story.

Opening paragraph refers to “bulldog the grocer, the vegetable man, and the butcher.” She works at a grocery store.

6. What do we learn about the relationship between Della and Jim? Do they love each other still after the events of the story?

They have a strong relationship for being in their twenties. Plus, they are willing to give up their most treasured possessions for love. And that love carries through at the end of the story, for they get back to eating dinner together.

7. What are magi?

They are wise men who brought gifts to the major for Jesus. They are the people who invented giving. And from giving, it has expanded to be Christmas.

8. How does the magi and their significance relate to the meaning of the story?

The magi is in everyone. This young couple is willing to give up their prize treasures for the love they have for one another. So, they give us the best example possible for giving.

9. What experience in giving can you relate to that makes this short story so famous?

Let student relate their own meaning here – must relate to story, though!

10. What is Christmas to you after reading the *Gift of the Magi*?

Let student relate their own meaning here – must relate to story, though!