



NEW YORK CITY
CIRCA 1905

The Gift of the Magi

Synopsis

Can a memorable Christmas be made with a dollar and eighty-seven cents? In this classic tale, based on the short story by O. Henry, we follow a young couple on their selfless journey to make each other's holiday dreams come true.

A young married couple, Della and Jim Dillingham Young, are very much in love with each other but can barely afford their one room apartment and struggle during bleak economic times. For Christmas, Della decides to buy Jim a chain for his prized pocket watch given to him by his grandfather. To raid the funds, she has her long, beautiful hair cut off and sold to make a wig. Meanwhile, Jim decides to sell his watch to buy Della a beautiful set of combs made out of tortoiseshell and jewels for her lovely long locks. In the end they are each disappointed to find the gift they chose is no longer useful; however, they are happy with the gift that they received because it represents their love for one another.

It is said that the Magi were wise men who brought gifts to a babe in a manger, hence inventing the art of giving Christmas presents. Being wise men, their gifts were also wise. Here, we have related to you the story of two foolish people who most unwisely sacrificed for each other the greatest treasures of their house. But in a last word to the wise, let it be said of all who give and receive gifts, they are the wisest. Everywhere they are wisest. They are the Magi.

The Gift of the Magi

In The ArtReach production of *The Gift of the Magi*, we meet Jim and Della, a recently married couple who want to give each other a special holiday gift. Each one gives something dear to them in exchange for money to buy a gift for the other.

In this activity, students will complete money word problems by utilizing basic math skills.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Word Problems
- Pencil
- Paper for solving

ACTIVITY

1. Introduce/review the concepts for the basic math skills utilized in the word problems, including monetary values of American coins.
2. Divide students into small groups to work out problems.
3. Gather as a class to discuss the answers to the problems.

QUESTIONS

1. Della sells her hair for \$20.00. She already had \$1.87. How much does Della have once she has sold her hair? *(Solution \$21.87)*
2. Using the amount from the previous problem, Della buys Jim's watch chain for \$21.00. How much does she have left? *(Solution \$0.87)*
3. Jim and Della's apartment costs \$8.00 per week. How much does it cost Jim and Della to live in the apartment for one month? *(Solution \$32.00)*
4. Della is going grocery shopping. She has \$7 dollars to spend. If she buys two pork chops for 75¢ each, some peas for 50¢ each and a loaf of bread for \$1.00, how much does she have left once she has paid for her groceries? *(Solution \$4.00)*
5. In *The Gift of the Magi*, Jim's boss refuses to give him any extra work. Jim makes \$9.00 per week. If his boss were to give him extra work he would make an additional \$2.00. If Jim's boss gave him extra work for the holidays, how much would Jim make in one week? *(Solution \$11.00)*
6. In *The Gift of the Magi*, Jim tries to earn money for Della's gift by singing Christmas Carols on the street. If he were a better singer, more people probably would have paid him money. If five people passed on the street and each gave him 50¢, how much would he have earned? *(Solution \$2.50)*

The Gift of the Magi

Imagine you are going to give up your most prized possession in exchange for a gift for someone you love and care for very much. What would you give up? What would you get for them? Draw your gift and what you would give up in the boxes below.

What would you give to buy a gift?



What would you give as the gift?

