

THE GIFT OF THE MAGI

Selection Test B/C**Comprehension**

Read each of the following questions. Then choose the letter of the best answer.
(6 points each)

1. The narrator implies that Jim's full name is ironic because
 - A. he uses only a short nickname
 - B. it gives the impression of wealth
 - C. he has no middle name
 - D. it makes him seem old
2. Which detail helps you predict what Della will do to get more money?
 - A. She cries because she does not have enough money.
 - B. She looks out the window and thinks about Christmas day.
 - C. She cries while looking at her beautiful, long hair in the mirror.
 - D. She puts on her jacket and hat and leaves her home.
3. Why does Della choose to buy the watch fob for Jim?
 - A. It has an elaborate design that Jim will enjoy showing off to others.
 - B. She wants Jim to like her gift better than his grandfather's watch.
 - C. She wants Jim to think about her whenever he checks the time.
 - D. Jim is embarrassed by the leather strap on which he keeps his watch.
4. What is ironic about the gifts the characters give to each other?
 - A. The gifts must be set aside because the characters do not have the money needed to use them.
 - B. The gifts are so expensive that the characters refuse to use them for fear of breaking them.
 - C. The gifts can be used only with the characters' prized possessions, which have been sold.
 - D. The gifts indicate that the characters are trying to outdo each other by buying expensive items.
5. The narrator thinks that Jim and Della are wise because they
 - A. buy gifts that can be returned to the store
 - B. spend only what they can afford to spend
 - C. understand the true meaning of gift giving
 - D. use gifts only on special occasions

SELECTION TEST B/C, CONTINUED

Vocabulary

Choose the answer that best explains the meaning of each underlined word. (6 points each)

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| <p>6. To <u>instigate</u> something is to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. prevent itB. cause itC. control itD. require it <p>7. A <u>vestibule</u> is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. an entrywayB. mailboxC. a front porchD. an elevator <p>8. What does <u>prudence</u> mean?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. natural talentB. surprising generosityC. heartfelt kindnessD. good judgment | <p>9. What does <u>ravages</u> mean?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. difficultyB. errorC. damageD. consequence <p>10. A <u>chronicle</u> is a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. record of eventsB. short storyC. long paragraphD. narrator's opinion |
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Written Response

Short Response Answer the following questions based on your knowledge of the story. Write a sentence or two on a separate sheet of paper. (10 points each)

- 11. Explain how the watch fob represents Della's opinion of Jim. Include two details from the story.
- 12. Why does Jim see the irony of the situation before Della does? Use two details from the story to explain your answer.

Extended Response Answer one of the following questions based on your knowledge of the story. Write one or two paragraphs on a separate sheet of paper. (20 points)

- 13. Would you agree that Jim and Della have sacrificed for each other "the greatest treasures of their house"? Why or why not? Support your opinion with details from the story.
- 14. **Challenge** The narrator declares Jim and Della to be the wisest of gift-givers. Do you agree? Why or why not? Support your opinion with details from the story.