

THE GIFT OF THE MAGI *by O. Henry*

I. QUESTIONS

1. What is Della's husband called?
2. What is his most prized possession?
3. What is Della's most prized possession?
4. How does she get the money to buy a present for her husband?
5. What does she buy with the money?
6. How much does she pay for it?

II. Which character speaks the following lines?

- And now I think we should have our dinner. _____
- Will you buy my hair? _____
- I sold the watch to get the money to buy the combs. _____
- You've cut off your hair? _____
- Isn't it perfect, Jim? _____
- What could I do with a dollar and eighty-seven cents? _____
- Don't you like me now? _____
- You won't care, will you? _____

III. At the end of the story, O. Henry seems to be saying two different things.

Read below:

“And here I have told you the story of two children who were not wise. Each sold the most valuable thing he owned in order to buy a gift for the other. But let me speak a last word to the wise of these days: Of all who give gifts, these two were the most wise.”

1. Who are the two children?
2. Why does O’Henry refer to them as “children”?
3. How were they unwise?
4. How were they wise?