

THE GIFT OF THE MAGI

Selection Test A**Comprehension**

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

1. Della is counting money at the beginning of the story because she wants to buy
 - A. a gold watch
 - B. a wig
 - C. tortoiseshell combs
 - D. a gift for Jim
2. Which detail helps you predict what Della will do to get more money?
 - A. She counts her money three times.
 - B. She sits on the couch and cries.
 - C. She cries after looking at her hair.
 - D. She puts on her coat and hat.
3. What “treasure” does Jim have?
 - A. his grandfather’s watch
 - B. his father’s gold coin
 - C. his leather watch strap
 - D. his middle name
4. After Della visits the hair shop, she
 - A. goes home to cry
 - B. shops for Jim’s gift
 - C. counts her money
 - D. buys a set of combs
5. Why is it ironic that Jim buys combs for Della’s hair?
 - A. Della has cut her hair to buy Jim a present.
 - B. Jim has more money to buy gifts than Della does.
 - C. Jim thinks that Della looks better with short hair.
 - D. Della’s hair color does not match the combs.

SELECTION TEST A, CONTINUED

Vocabulary

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>6. An <u>agile</u> person can</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. fall quicklyB. move easilyC. smile prettilyD. think poorly <p>7. <u>Falter</u> means</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. quitB. hesitateC. searchD. slip <p>8. What does <u>ransack</u> mean?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. eat eagerlyB. construct sloppilyC. search vigorouslyD. work quickly | <p>9. An <u>assertion</u> is a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. promiseB. questionC. predictionD. statement <p>10. What does <u>coveted</u> mean?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. coveredB. neededC. desiredD. tired |
|--|---|

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. What does Della worry about just before Jim arrives home?
- 12. How does Della feel when she opens the gift from Jim? Support your answer with two details from the story.

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

- 13. Which character realizes the irony of the situation first? Use two details from the story to support your answer.