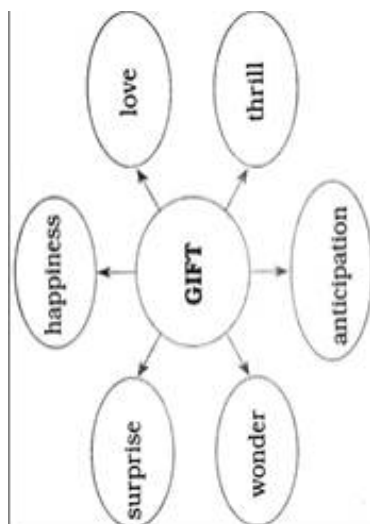


4.6 The gift of magi

Warming Up!

1. The moment you hear the word 'Gift' what feelings do you experience, Complete the web with those feelings.

(Rotate your phone)



2. Gifts can be abstract yet priceless. Think of and list down such unforgettable gifts given to you by:

- (1) Parents/grandparents: love, kindness, etc.
- (2) Siblings/relatives: support, empathy, etc.
- (3) Friends: loyalty, sympathy, etc.
- (4) Strangers: courtesy, help, etc. (Students can add to their own lists.)

3. Write whether the underlined words are infinitives, participles or gerunds:

(1) The athletes wanted to take part in the running race.

Ans. (a) to take - infinitive; (b) Running - participle

(2) Would you like to eat at the dining table?

Ans. (a) to eat - infinitive; (b) dining - participle

(3) Reading is good for the mind and soul. So take up reading books.

Ans. (a) Reading - gerund; (b) reading - gerund

(4) I like to eat fruits rather than eating sweets.

Ans. (a) to eat - infinitive; (b) eating- gerund

(5) Listening and speaking sharpen your language skills.

Ans. (a) Listening - gerund; (b) speaking-gerund

English workshop

1. Complete the following:

(1) Della had saved one dollar and eighty-seven cents.

(2) Della wanted to buy Jim a Christmas present

(3) Della's beautiful hair fell about her rippling and shining like a cascade of brown waters.

2. Answer the following questions:

(a) How much did Della save for Christmas? What does it show?

Ans. Despite Saving every penny she could for months, Della managed to save only \$1.87. This indicates that Jim and Della were not well to do.

(b) Why did Della take pride in the beauty of her hair? think she did will?

Ans. Della's hair beautiful hair that fell about her rippling and shining like a cascade of brown waters, which she was proud about.

(c) Why and how did Della sell her hair? Do you

Ans. Della sells her hair to Madame Sofronie for twenty dollars, which was just enough money to buy a platinum fob chain for which costs twenty one dollars. Della made a mistake by selling her hair because Jim had brought a comb for her. Which become useless since she already cut off her hair.

(d) Why did Jim sell his gold watch? Do you think he did well?

Ans. Jim sold his gold watch, which belonged to his father and grandfather, so that he could buy set of beautiful combs that Della yearned for. Jim made a mistake by selling his watch to buy the combs because Della had already sold her hair to buy him a platinum chain for his gold watch.

(e) Why did Jim and Della want to present the gifts?

Ans. Jim and Della wanted to present the gifts to show their affection and appreciation for each other.

(f) Why did Della feel sad on losing her hair?

Ans. Della felt sad because although he got the combs that she yearned for, she no longer had her beautiful, long hair.

(g) What did Jim bring out from his coat? Describe the scene

Ans. Jim drew a package from his overcoat pocket and threw it on the table. Della opened the packet and was delighted to see that Jim had gifted her the combs that she had craved for. However, She immediately felt and when she realized that she had cut off her hair and the gift would not be of any use to her.

(h) How beautiful was the gold watch chain? Would you have liked to own

Ans. Della bought a platinum fob chain that was simple and chaste in design. She described the chain as having the qualities of quietness and value—a description that applied to Jim well.

(i) How did the Magi want to celebrate their Christmas (OR) who were the first people to give Christmas gifts?

Ans. The magi were three wise men who brought gifts to Baby Jesus in the manger in a biblical story of Christmas. It is from there that the art of giving Christmas presents was invented.



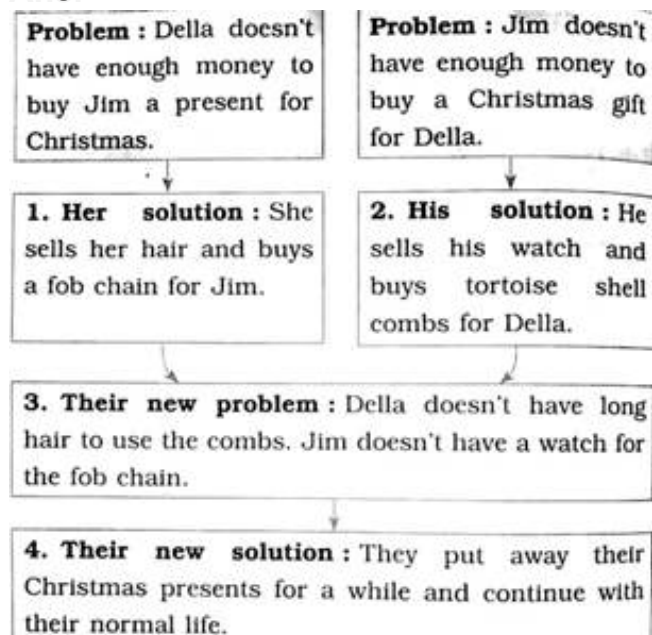
(j) What is the moral of the story?

Ans. Jim and Della impulsively buy gifts for each other by sacrificing their greatest treasures without thinking about the consequences and focusing on making each other happy. They thought only of the material possessions that could give us pleasure. However, what they didn't realize is that they had given each other the greatest gift of sacrificial love. The story teaches us that selfless love is worth more than any material possessions money can buy.

3. Complete the following activity:

Map the problems and solutions in "The Gift of the Magi" on the diagram below. Two problems have already been filled in.

Ans.



4. Read the following and answer.

(A) Say WHAT

troubled Della on Christmas Eve?

was the current family income?

could have outshone Queen of Sheba's jewels?

was the cost of the fob chain?

sent Jim into a trance, on his return?

(B) Say WHY

a. did Della sell her lovely long hair?

b. was Della a bit apprehensive after she had sold her hair?

c. did Jim avoid checking the time in his gold watch, in a public place?

d. did Della's scream of joy change to loud walls?

e. in the end, did Jim ask Della to put the chops on

(C) Say WHEN

(a) Had Jim added Dillingham' as his middle name?

(b) Did a tear or two dropped on the old red carpet?

(c) Did Della go through goods in the stores?

(d) Did Della say a silent prayer to God?

(e) Did Jim try to divert then attention for ten seconds, at least?

Ans. Not available

5. Complete: Use the chart below to explain situational irony in The Gift of Magi? For each character, identify what is expected to happen and what actually happens. (To see the Diagram layout refer Pg.187)

Situation Irony

1. What Della plans: To give Jim a wonderful Christmas gift in the form of a fob chain.

2. What Jim plans: To give Della a wonderful Christmas gift in the form of a set of tortoise shell combs.

1. What actually happens: Jim cannot use Della's gift of a fob chain for his watch because he has sold his watch to get her gift.

2. What actually happens: Della cannot use Jim's gift of combs because she has cut and sold her hair to get him his gift.

6. Fill in each set of blanks with the correct word from the word list. The boxed letters will spell out something that Della receives. (agile instigate chronicle subside cascade prudence inconsequential gobbling coveted assertion predominating)

| | |
|--|---------------|
| (1) Stand under this | CASCADE |
| (2) You wished greedily for something | COVETED |
| (3) This describes something important | PREDOMINATING |
| (4) You hope a loud siren will do this | SUBSIDE |
| (5) Troublemakers do this | INSTIGATE |

Ans. COMBS

7. Complete the following basic plot diagram:



8. Pick out from the story words that mean the following.

Against each consumer write (N) if it is a Noun (v) for Verb and (Adj) for Adjective.

| Phrase | Word From the passage | Part of speech |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| (1) Reluctance to spend money | Parsimony | Noun |
| (2) Relating to | Appertaining | Verb |

| | | |
|---------------------|------------|----------------|
| (3) Urge | Coax | Verb |
| (4) Reduce in value | Depreciate | Verb |
| (5) Wisdom | Prudence | Noun |
| (6) Very huge | Mammoth | Adjective |
| (7) Foolishness | Idiocy | Noun |
| (8) Relating | Repetative | Part of speech |

9. Think and answer on your own in a few sentences, in your notebook,

(a) What would you do if you ran short of money, to buy a birthday gift for one of your parents/ siblings?

Ans. If I ran short of money to buy a gift for one of my parents/siblings, I would borrow from someone else close to me. For example, if I wanted to buy a bag for my sister and fell short of money, I would ask my mother to lend it to me. If I wanted to buy something for Mom and did not have the money for it, I would borrow from dad.

(b) Think of two alternatives that could have presented Della as well as Jim from selling the most precious possessions.

Ans. Both knew that they were poor and couldn't afford expensive gifts. So they could have just given each other small token gifts of flowers or cards. This would have prevented them from selling their most precious possessions.

(c) Justify the little of the story. 'The Gift of the Magi'.

Ans. The Magi were three wise men who brought gifts for baby Jesus during Christmas. They knew how to give and gave unique gifts with special emphasis. In the same way, Della and Jim gave each other unique gifts. The author compares their giving to the gifts the Magi gave to baby Jesus. He calls them the Magi because of their wisdom in realizing that unselfish love is the greatest of all gifts.

(d) Gifts that you buy have fixed prices/ eates. How can the buyer increases the value of a gift baught for someone very dear in the family?

Ans. The buyer can increase the value of a wft bought for someone very dear in the family by wing it with words of love and gratitude. He/She can also write something loving on a card and attach it to the gift.

(e) What situation is the climax of the story? How does it end up as an Anti-climax?

Ans. The climax should have been the happiness and joy on the faces of Jim and Della when they see their gifts. It ends up as an anti-climax because though they had got what they coveted, neither of them could now use the gifts.

(f) If you shared this story with some friends in a junior class, how would they react in the end?



Ans. They would probably just feel that all the sacrifice was wasted. They would not have realized the deeper meaning of the story.

(g) What were the very first people to give Christmas gifts? What had inspired them to do so?

Ans. The Magi visited Jesus after his birth to give gifts to honour him.

(h) In the foot note after the story, O Henry remarks that of all who give gifts, Della and Jim were the wisest. Think and Explain this paradoxical remark.

Ans. Jim and Della were initially foolish enough to believe that they needed to give material gifts in order to show their love for one another and that they had to sacrifice their most precious possessions to do so. However, they were also wise enough to know later that unselfish love is the greatest of all gifts.

10. Pick out and rewrite the exact sentence which indirectly imply the following:

(a) Della was not too happy about bargaining for grocery etc.

Ans. Pennies saved one and two at a time by bulldozing the grocer and the vegetable man and the butcher until one's cheeks burned.

(b) The flat was in a dilapidated condition.

Ans. It did not actually beggar description, but certainly had that word on the look out for the mendicancy squad.

(c) King Solomon would express his jealousy of Jim.

Ans. Had King Solomon been the janitor, with all his treasures piled up in the basement, Jim would have pulled out his watch every time he passed, just to see him pluck at his beard with envy.

(d) Della spent a joyful time, for two hours.

Ans. The next two hours tripped by on rosy wings

(e) Della's elated mood underwent a change as she opened her gift.

Ans. An ecstatic scream of joy; and then alas! A quick feminine change to hysterical tears and wails.

(f) The weekly income amount does not matter.

Ans. Whenever Mr. James Dillingham Young came home and reached his flat above he was called Jim' and greatly hugged by Mrs. James Dillingham Young

(g) And now suppose you put the chops on.

Ans. *Not available*

11. Frame WH-questions to get the underlined answers.

(1) Life is made up of sobs, sniffles and smiles.

Ans. What is made up of.

(2) Many a happy hour she had spent planning for something nice for him.

Ans. Who had spent many a happy hour planning so something nice for him.

(3) Her hair reached below her knee.

Ans. Till where did her hair reach.

(4) She was ransacking the stores for Jim's present.

Ans. No sooner did she see it, than she knew that it must be Jim's.

(5) At 7 o'clock the coffee was made.

Ans. When was the coffee made.

(6) The magi were wise men.

Ans. Who were the magi.

12. (A) Add appropriate question tags.

(1) Della leaped up. ?

Ans. Didn't she

(2) You'll have to look at the time,

Ans. Won't you

(3) They were expensive combs,

Ans. Weren't they

(4) I just had to do it,

Ans. Didn't I

(5) I am still pretty,

Ans. aren't I

(6) Give it to me quick,

Ans. Won't you

(7) There was clearly nothing to do,

Ans. Was there

(8) My hair grows so fast,

Ans. Doesn't it

(9) Let's put our Christmas presents away,

Ans. Shall we

(10) She had a habit for saying a silent prayer,

Ans. Didn't she

(B) Supply short answers (Pronoun + Auxiliary Verb)

(1) Don't you like me?

Ans. Yes, I do

(2) Have you cut off your hair?

Ans. Yes, I have

(3) Shall I put the chops on?

Ans. Yes, you will

(4) Isn't it a dandy?

Ans. Yes, it is

(5) Does it make difference?

Ans. Yes, it doesn't

(6) Will you buy my hair?

Ans. I want

(7) Can you afford it?

Ans. I can't

(8) Are you fooling me?

Ans. I am not

13. Pick out the infinitives/ gerunds/ participles from the following state what each one is.

(1) I want to see how it looks,

Ans. to see - infinitive

(2) I don't like frightening stories.

Ans. frightening - participle

(3) We decided to settle in Pune.

Ans. to settle - infinitive

(4) Playing sitar is Arjun's hobby.

Ans. playing - gerund

(5) It was a horrifying experience for all of us.

Ans. horrifying – participle