

NAME:

The Gift of the Magi Questions

Bring on the tough stuff - there's not just one right answer.

1. How would the story be different if it were told from Jim's perspective rather than Della's? Why might O. Henry have chosen to tell the story from Della's perspective?
 2. Is "Gift of the Magi" a story within a story?
 3. Do Della and Jim feel real, or do they feel like creations of the narrator to illustrate his point about giving?
 4. Do you think O. Henry himself is the narrator of the story? Why or why not?

5. Is Della and Jim's love believable? Why or why not?
 6. Put aside all of the "magi" stuff at the end. Do you think the story's ending is a happy one?
 7. The narrator seems to be out to prove a point with the story. Is it possible to read the story in a way contrary to the way the narrator seems to understand it? How would that be?