

“The Gift of the Magi” p. 151

Setting:

Conflict:

Most valuable possessions:

Della –

Jim -

Theme: The greatest gifts involve _____.

Significance of title:

Author: O’Henry

“The Gift of the Magi” p. 91

Setting: poorly furnished apartment near Christmas time (Della is crying – small salary; watches every penny they spend)

Conflict: not enough money for Jim’s present

Feelings toward Jim: loves him very much

Most valuable possession:

Della: her long, beautiful hair

Jim: gold watch that belonged to father & grandfather

Sacrifices made by both

Theme: The greatest gifts involve ___sacrifice_____.

Significance of title: refers to the three "wise men" or magi who are supposed to have come bringing precious gifts to present to Jesus at his birth.

- Idea of precious gifts and the idea of wisdom

- Jim and Della are trying to give each other what they think are the most precious gifts they can possibly come up with.
 - They give each other an even more precious gift -- the proof of the depth of their love for one another.
 - Their gifts and their reaction to those gifts, shows that they are truly wise.

Author: O'Henry

- William Sydney Porter was born in 1862 in North Carolina.
- He used the pen name of O. Henry to sign his stories from 1901 until he died at 48.
- O. Henry became internationally famous for his witty short stories, most of them playful and optimistic, with surprising endings.