

Name _____ Date _____

Instructions: Read each question carefully and choose the best answer.

1. Which of the following sentences from the story indicates that Della and Jim are poor?
 - Ⓐ *There was a pier glass between the windows of the room.*
 - Ⓑ *With a whirl of skirts and with the brilliant sparkle still in her eyes, she fluttered out the door and down the stairs to the street.*
 - Ⓒ *Jim had not yet seen his beautiful present.*
 - Ⓓ *In the vestibule below, there was a letter-box into which no letter would go, and an electric button from which no mortal finger could coax a ring.*
2. What message is the author presenting in the following sentence: *Which instigates the moral reflection that life is made up of sobs, sniffles, and smiles, with sniffles predominating?*
 - Ⓐ Life is made up of many feelings, but sorrow is perhaps the strongest.
 - Ⓑ Learning how to be good is more about sad experiences than joyful ones.
 - Ⓒ People need to sacrifice what they love to make others happy.
 - Ⓓ People get sick and sniffle far more often than they smile and sob.
3. What causes Della to sell her hair?
 - Ⓐ She needs the money to buy a gift for Jim.
 - Ⓑ She needs the money to pay the rent.
 - Ⓒ She is tired of caring for her long hair.
 - Ⓓ She needs the money to buy herself some decorative combs.

Quick Check continued on following page

Name _____ Date _____

4. The author compares Della's hair to a *cascade of brown waters*. What does the author mean by this comparison?

- Ⓐ Della's hair is shiny like still, reflective waters
- Ⓑ Della's hair is wild like a raging river.
- Ⓒ Della's hair flows like a waterfall.
- Ⓓ Della's hair is long like a river.

5. Della wants to buy Jim a **fob** for Christmas. Which of the following best describes a **fob**?

- Ⓐ It is a long chain.
- Ⓑ It looks like a corkscrew.
- Ⓒ It looks like a clock.
- Ⓓ It is a short chain.

6. What effect does Della's short hair have on Jim?

- Ⓐ He is shocked and very angry.
- Ⓑ He is shocked, but also slightly amused.
- Ⓒ He is so exhausted from working he doesn't even notice.
- Ⓓ He is unhappy and tells Della that she made a mistake.

7. Read this sentence: *And now, they were hers, but the tresses that should have adorned the **coveted** adornments were gone.* Which of the following is a synonym for **coveted**?

- Ⓐ desired
- Ⓑ hated
- Ⓒ expensive
- Ⓓ cheap

Quick Check continued on following page

Name _____ Date _____

8. In the story, the narrator says: *He enfolded his Della. For ten seconds let us regard with discreet scrutiny some inconsequential object in the other direction.* Why is the narrator asking the reader to look away from Della and Jim?

- Ⓐ They are fighting.
- Ⓑ The narrator wants to discuss the theme of the story with readers.
- Ⓒ The narrator wants the reader to focus on the items in their apartment.
- Ⓓ They are kissing.

9. What is the source of the irony at the end of the story?

- Ⓐ The narrator compares Jim and Della to biblical figures.
- Ⓑ Jim and Della remain happy even though they are poor.
- Ⓒ Jim and Della buy things for each other that they can't use.
- Ⓓ Jim and Della sell their prized possessions.

10. Why is Jim so calm at the end, telling Della to put the gifts away because they can't use them at present?

- Ⓐ He is worried about upsetting Della and puts on a brave face to help keep her calm.
- Ⓑ He realizes that the gifts aren't as important as the evidence of their love for each other.
- Ⓒ He is not that interested in Christmas anyway and is eager to move on and talk about other things.
- Ⓓ He knows that neither of them really like the gifts they received, and it would probably be best just to hide them away.

11. **Extended Response:** How does the setting help form the primary problem in the story?

12. **Extended Response:** What is the main message, or theme, of the story?

1. Ⓓ *Make Inferences / Draw Conclusions*
2. Ⓐ *Author's Purpose*
3. Ⓐ *Cause and Effect*
4. Ⓒ *Author's Purpose*
5. Ⓓ *Vocabulary*
6. Ⓑ *Cause and Effect*
7. Ⓐ *Vocabulary*
8. Ⓓ *Make Inferences / Draw Conclusions*
9. Ⓒ *Text Structure*
10. Ⓑ *Make Inferences / Draw Conclusions*
11. Answers will vary but should indicate the following: *The main problem in the story is that Jim and Della are poor and have trouble making ends meet. It is the poverty in the setting that compels the action of the characters and fuels the plot. It is also the setting of the story during Christmas that drives the characters to need money so urgently. If Della and Jim were rich, neither one would have to make the sacrifices they made to purchase Christmas gifts for each other.*
12. Answers will vary but should indicate the following: *The primary theme of the story is the meaning of true wealth. Jim and Della are materially poor, but because they love each other so much, they are willing to sacrifice their most highly treasured possessions for each other. They have true wealth because they have an unselfish love for one another.*