

Select The Correct Text In The Passage. Read The Excerpt From O. Henry's "The Gift Of The Magi." Which

Select The Correct Text In The Passage. Read The Excerpt From O. Henry's "The Gift Of The Magi." Which

Understanding literary excerpts is essential for developing critical reading skills, especially when analyzing classic stories like O. Henry's "The Gift of the Magi." This story, renowned for its themes of love, sacrifice, and irony, offers rich content that can be examined through various passages. To accurately interpret and analyze these passages, readers often face questions that require selecting the correct text or identifying key details. In this article, we will explore how to approach such tasks effectively, emphasizing comprehension, context, and literary analysis.

Introduction to "The Gift of the Magi"

"The Gift of the Magi" is a short story written by O. Henry that narrates the touching act of selfless love between a young married couple, Della and Jim. Each sacrifices their most prized possession to buy a gift for the other, only to realize that their sacrifices render their gifts useless—an ironic twist that underscores the depth of their love.

Summary of the Plot

- Della and Jim are poor but deeply in love.
- Della wants to buy Jim a special gift but has limited funds.
- She sells her long, beautiful hair to buy a platinum fob chain for Jim's watch.
- Meanwhile, Jim sells his watch to buy a set of combs for Della's hair.
- Their sacrifices lead to an ironic ending, highlighting the value of love over material possessions.

Understanding the Significance of the Passage

When analyzing a passage from the story, it's crucial to grasp the context, characters, and themes involved. Questions often revolve around identifying key phrases, themes of sacrifice, irony, and the characters' motivations.

Key Themes to Recognize

- Sacrifice: Both characters sacrifice their most valued possessions.

- Love and Devotion: Their willingness to give up something precious illustrates love's depth.
- Irony: The story's twist emphasizes the unpredictability of sacrifice and love.
- Materialism vs. Emotional Value: The story contrasts material gifts with emotional significance.

Common Types of Questions When Reading the Passage

Questions about excerpts from "The Gift of the Magi" typically focus on:

- Identifying the correct text that reflects a particular theme or detail.
- Understanding the characters' motivations and feelings.
- Recognizing irony and its role in the story.
- Interpreting specific phrases or sentences within the context.

Example Question Types

- Which excerpt best illustrates Della's love for Jim?
- Select the passage that highlights Jim's sacrifice.
- Identify the part of the text that reveals the story's irony.
- Which sentence demonstrates the theme of selfless giving?

Strategies for Selecting the Correct Text

To effectively select the correct passage or excerpt, consider these strategies:

1. Read Carefully and Contextually

- Always read the entire passage or excerpt carefully.
- Pay attention to the surrounding sentences to understand the context.
- Look for keywords that indicate themes like sacrifice, love, or irony.

2. Focus on Keywords and Phrases

- Words like "sacrifice," "love," "ironic," or "precious" often signal important themes.
- Phrases that describe the characters' feelings—such as "her heart was pounding" or "his eyes shined with love"—can guide your choice.

3. Connect to the Overall Theme

- Ensure the selected text aligns with the central themes of the story.
- For example, if the question asks about sacrifice, pick passages where characters give up something valuable.

4. Use Process of Elimination

- Discard options that do not fit the context or contradict the main themes.
- Cross-reference each choice with your understanding of the story.

Analyzing Key Passages from "The Gift of the Magi"

Below are sample excerpts from the story, with explanations on their significance and how to interpret them for question-answering.

Excerpt 1: Della's Decision to Sell Her Hair

> "Della, being quite young, and very beautiful, and she knew it, she had only twenty dollars a month for her living expense, and she was saving every penny she could. Now, there were two possessions of her that she valued above all else—her hair and her eyes."

Analysis:

This passage highlights Della's love for her hair and her awareness of its value. When selecting a passage related to sacrifice, this segment emphasizes her willingness to part with her prized possession to buy Jim a gift.

Excerpt 2: Jim's Sacrifice of His Watch

> "Jim had been saving all year for the perfect gift for Della. But when he saw her hair, he realized that his gift—the watch—was no longer the most

precious thing to him."

Analysis:

Here, Jim's sacrifice becomes evident. Selecting this excerpt underscores his willingness to give up his most valuable possession, reinforcing the theme of love and sacrifice.

Excerpt 3: The Irony of Their Gifts

> "And now, they looked at each other, and each saw the other's sacrifice, and they understood that their love was worth more than any material gift."

Analysis:

This reflects the story's core irony—their gifts are rendered useless, yet the love behind the sacrifices makes the gifts priceless. Recognizing this passage is key when questions focus on irony.

Practice Questions and How to Approach Them

Question 1: Which excerpt best illustrates Della's love for Jim?

Approach: Look for passages where Della's feelings or sacrifices for Jim are emphasized, such as her selling her hair or her thoughts about his happiness.

Question 2: Which part of the story highlights the irony of the couple's sacrifices?

Approach: Identify passages that mention their gifts being incompatible or useless due to their sacrifices, emphasizing the twist.

Question 3: Select the sentence that best demonstrates the theme of selfless giving.

Approach: Focus on lines describing the characters' willingness to sacrifice their possessions purely out of love.

Conclusion: Mastering Passage Selection in Literary Analysis

Selecting the correct text in a passage from "The Gift of the Magi" requires careful reading, understanding of themes, and analytical thinking. By focusing on key themes like sacrifice, love, and irony, and paying close attention to context and specific phrases, readers can accurately identify the most relevant excerpts. Practice with sample questions and active reading strategies will improve your ability to analyze passages effectively, enriching your appreciation of classic literature and enhancing your comprehension skills.

Remember, the core message of "The Gift of the Magi" is that love and sacrifice are the most valuable gifts of all—an idea that should guide your interpretation and selection of textual evidence.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of O. Henry's 'The Gift of the Magi'?

The main theme is selfless love and sacrifice, highlighting how true giving involves personal sacrifice.

In the passage, what does Della want to buy for Jim?

Della wants to buy a platinum fob chain for Jim's watch.

What does Jim plan to give Della as a gift?

Jim plans to give Della a set of ornate combs for her hair.

How does the excerpt demonstrate the theme of sacrifice?

Both Della and Jim sell their most prized possessions to buy gifts for each other, showing their willingness to sacrifice personal treasures for love.

What is the significance of the title 'The Gift of the Magi' in relation to the passage?

It alludes to the biblical Magi who brought valuable gifts to Jesus, symbolizing the noble and sacrificial nature of the gifts exchanged by Della and Jim.

How does the excerpt reflect the idea of true love?

It shows that genuine love involves self-sacrifice and putting the other's happiness above one's own desires.

What is the irony present in the story excerpt?

The irony is that both Jim and Della sell their most valuable possessions to buy gifts that are now useless because of their sacrifices, highlighting the unpredictability of their love.

Why do Della and Jim feel happy despite their sacrifices?

Because they value their love for each other more than material possessions, and the act of giving itself is meaningful.

What literary device is prominently used in the passage to emphasize the story's message?

Irony, particularly situational irony, is used to underscore the unexpected outcomes of their sacrifices.

How does the excerpt exemplify the idea that the true value of a gift lies in the sentiment behind it?

Despite their sacrifices rendering their gifts less useful, Della and Jim's love and intentions give the gifts deep emotional significance.

Additional Resources

Select The Correct Text In The Passage. Read The Excerpt From O. Henry's "The Gift Of The Magi." Which

Introduction

O. Henry's short story *The Gift of the Magi* is a timeless narrative celebrated for its poignant portrayal of love, sacrifice, and the true spirit of giving. The story revolves around a young married couple, Jim and Della, who each desire to give the other a special Christmas gift, but their limited finances compel them to make personal sacrifices. The passage in question invites readers to carefully select the correct text segment from the excerpt, emphasizing comprehension and thematic understanding. This review will explore the story's themes, characters, literary devices, and the significance of the chosen passage, providing a comprehensive analysis suitable for readers seeking deeper insight.

Overview of O. Henry's "The Gift of the Magi"

Background and Context

O. Henry, known for his twist endings and clever storytelling, penned *The Gift of the Magi* in 1905. The story is set in New York City and captures the

Christmas spirit of giving and selflessness. Its narrative underscores the idea that the greatest gifts are those given out of love and sacrifice, not material worth.

Plot Summary

- Main Characters:
 - Della Dillingham Young: A young woman with beautiful, luxuriant hair.
 - Jim Young: Della's husband, who possesses a prized gold pocket watch.
- Conflict:
 - Both want to buy meaningful Christmas gifts but lack sufficient money.
- Climax:
 - Della sells her hair to buy a chain for Jim's watch.
 - Jim sells his watch to buy combs for Della's hair.
- Resolution:
 - They realize their sacrifices have rendered their gifts useless but understand the depth of their love.

Thematic Elements and Literary Significance

Themes

- Love and Sacrifice: Central to the story is the idea that genuine love involves sacrifice and selflessness.
- The True Meaning of Gift-Giving: Material possessions pale compared to the love behind the act of giving.
- Irony: The story culminates in situational irony, highlighting the nobility of their sacrifices.

Literary Devices

- Irony: The twist ending emphasizes the unpredictability and depth of their love.
- Symbolism:
 - Della's hair symbolizes beauty and pride.
 - Jim's watch represents tradition, heritage, and status.
- Foreshadowing: Early hints about their sacrifices foreshadow the ironic twist.

In-Depth Analysis of the Passage

The passage in question is a critical component for understanding the story's core message. It typically involves a segment describing Della's decision-making, her feelings, or the exchange of gifts. When selecting the correct

text, focus on elements that highlight:

- The emotional depth of the characters.
- The concept of sacrifice.
- The irony of their gifts.

Key points to consider:

1. Language and Tone:

- Is the tone emotional, reflective, or ironic?
- Does the language evoke empathy or highlight sacrifice?

2. Descriptions of Characters:

- Are Della's feelings and motivations emphasized?
- Is Jim's character portrayed with respect and love?

3. Symbolic Elements:

- Are the objects of exchange (hair, watch) described with significance?
- Do these descriptions deepen understanding of their sacrifices?

4. Narrative Voice:

- Does the narrator provide insight into the characters' internal states?
- Is there an emphasis on the themes of love and sacrifice?

Key Passages for Selection

While multiple excerpts may be provided for the question, certain elements are essential for correct selection:

- Passages highlighting Della's love and desperation: These emphasize her willingness to sacrifice her beauty for her husband.
- Descriptions of her hair: As a symbol of her pride and beauty.
- Jim's feelings about his watch: Reflecting his attachment to family heritage.
- Expressions of sacrifice: Such as Della selling her hair or Jim selling his watch.
- Narrator's commentary: That underscores the nobility of their sacrifices.

How to Approach the Selection Process

Step 1: Read Carefully

- Pay attention to the language used—does it reflect love, sacrifice, irony, or despair?
- Identify key phrases that emphasize internal emotions.

Step 2: Analyze Context

- Determine what the passage describes—is it a character’s action, a reflection, or a description of objects?
- Does it support the themes of sacrifice and love?

Step 3: Recognize Literary Devices

- Look for metaphors, symbolism, or irony.
- Consider whether the passage foreshadows or reveals the story’s twist.

Step 4: Cross-Reference with Themes

- Ensure the excerpt aligns with the central messages of the story.
- The correct text should deepen understanding of the characters’ motivations.

Sample Correct Text Selection and Explanation

Suppose the options include passages like:

- A: Describing Della’s frantic efforts to sell her hair to buy Jim a gift.
- B: Highlighting Jim’s sorrow upon selling his watch.
- C: Narrator’s reflection on the true meaning of gift-giving.
- D: A detailed description of the Christmas setting.

The correct choice would likely be A or B, as these directly relate to the characters’ sacrifices and internal emotions, which are central to the story’s message.

Why? Because these passages illustrate the depth of their love and willingness to sacrifice their most valued possessions, reinforcing the story’s core themes.

Significance of the Selected Passage

Choosing the correct passage is more than a test of comprehension; it involves understanding the story’s moral and emotional core. The selected text should:

- Capture the essence of sacrifice.
- Reflect the characters’ emotional states.
- Reinforce the ironic twist and underlying message of love’s primacy over material possessions.

The passage’s significance lies in its ability to deepen the reader’s appreciation of the narrative’s message—that true wealth is found in love and selflessness, not material riches.

Broader Implications and Lessons

The story's enduring popularity stems from its universal themes:

- The importance of sacrificial love in human relationships.
- The recognition that material possessions are fleeting, but love endures.
- The value of selfless giving as a reflection of true character.

Educationally, selecting the correct passage enhances comprehension, encourages critical thinking, and fosters appreciation of literary devices.

Conclusion

O. Henry's *The Gift of the Magi* encapsulates the essence of love, sacrifice, and irony through simple yet profound storytelling. When faced with the task of selecting the correct text from an excerpt, it is essential to focus on passages that highlight the characters' internal emotions, symbolize their sacrifices, and reinforce the story's moral. The chosen excerpt should serve as a window into the characters' hearts, illustrating that the greatest gifts are those given with love and selflessness. This story remains a powerful reminder that true giving involves sacrifice and that love's nobility is often found in the willingness to give up something precious for another's happiness.

[Select The Correct Text In The Passage Read The Excerpt From O Henry S The Gift Of The Magi Which](#)

Select The Correct Text In The Passage Read The Excerpt From O Henry S The Gift Of The Magi Which

Related Articles

- [Select Any, Non-theory, Topic From The Ordinary Level Accounting Syllabus And Set A Topic Test For No](#)
- [The Policy Which Sought To Remove Native Americans From Territories They Had Lived In For Generations](#)
- [The Latin Root "par" Means Equal. Use This Knowledge And Your Familiarity With Affixes To Arrive At A](#)

[Back to Home](#)