

Homework Distribution #3 April 29-May 20, 2020

TEACHER

Mr. Radtke

SUBJECT

Lang. Arts

LEVEL

GRADE

11

Student's Name

Please return all work by Wednesday, May 20th.

Two Birds and a Frog

"There was once a frog who lived in a pond. But, poor frog, his pond was drying up. If he didn't find water soon he would die. The frog heard of a stream just over the hill that was full of lots of water.

If only he could get there. But, how could he? His short frog legs could not carry him so far away.

So the frog came up with an idea. He convinced 2 birds to carry either end of a stick then he would put his mouth around the stick in the middle and hold on tight until the birds flew him over to the other side. Smart thinking Frog!

As they flew in the air, everything was going well. He had good jaws and was able to hold on tight. It was a pretty strange thing to see — two birds and a frog flying through the air.

Looking down, they saw a cow in a pasture. The cow was pretty impressed at what he saw in the sky and yelled up to them! "Now, who came up with that idea?"

The frog heard the question and couldn't resist replying, "I diiiiiiid!" as he fell from the sky.

1-2 complete sentences

The moral? _____

Reading Selection

An English Foothold in North America

- 1 England's first significant attempt to carve out a colony of its own in North America (after an earlier failed attempt at Roanoke) nearly collapsed, as disease and starvation threatened the new settlement. However, through the determination of its colonists and the development of a marketable crop, ① England's first permanent settlement in North America took shape.
- 2 **The Business of Colonization** The rulers of England—unlike the Spanish—decided not to fund the risky venture of colonizing the Americas. Instead, King James I in 1606 granted a charter, or official permit, to two joint-stock companies, the Virginia companies of London and Plymouth. Numerous investors had pooled their wealth in order to finance the trip to North America. The Virginia Company of Plymouth soon disbanded, leaving only the Virginia Company of London, later simply called the Virginia Company.
- 3 ② The Virginia Company had lured financial supporters with the chance of reaping wealth in the form of gold or silver for a relatively small investment. England was to get something from the expedition, too. The King's charter guaranteed that the English monarch would receive one-fifth of all gold and silver found by the colonists.
- 4 In April of 1607, nearly four months after the Virginia Company's three ships—and nearly 150 passengers and crew members—had pushed out of an English harbor, the North American shore rose on the horizon. Reaching the coast of Virginia, the vessels slipped into a broad coastal river and sailed inland until they reached a small peninsula. There, the colonists climbed off their ships and claimed the land as theirs. They named the settlement Jamestown and the river the James, in honor of their king.
- 5 **A Disastrous Start** ③ John Smith sensed trouble from the beginning. Nearly all of the settlers seemed to be consumed by one thought—the discovery of gold. Because the investors in the colony demanded a quick return on their investment, the colonists directed much of their energy toward searching the land for riches. As Smith later put it, "There was no talk, no hope, no work, but dig gold, wash gold, refine gold, load gold." Smith warned of disaster, but few listened to the arrogant captain, who had made few friends on the voyage over.

STRATEGIES
IN ACTION

- ① Read actively—
predict.

ONE STUDENT'S
THOUGHTS

"This selection will explain how England's first permanent colony in North America got started."

YOUR TURN

Based on paragraph 1, what topics can you predict will become main ideas in the rest of the passage?

- ② Read actively—
analyze.

"For a small investment, the Virginia Company promised wealth. People must have expected to get rich easily. I wonder how that will work out."

- ③ Note literary
elements such as tone
and foreshadowing.

"Now the writer gives us John Smith's point of view."

YOUR TURN

Based on John Smith's concerns, what kind of future do you think lies ahead for the colony?

- 6 Disease from infected river water struck first. Hunger soon followed. ④ The colonists, many of whom were unaccustomed to a life of labor, had refused to clear fields, plant crops, or even gather shellfish from the river's edge. After several months, one settler described the terrifying predicament.
- 7 Thus we lived for the space of five months in this miserable distress...our men night and day groaning in every corner of the fort, most pitiful to hear. If there were any conscience in men, it would make their hearts to bleed to hear the pitiful murmurings and outcries of our sick men for relief, every night and day for the space of six weeks: ⑤ some departing out of the World, many times three or four in a night; in the morning their bodies trailed out of their cabins like dogs, to be buried.
- 8 By the winter of 1607 only 38 colonists remained alive. Standing among them was John Smith, who took control of the settlement. ⑥ "You see that power now rests wholly with me," he announced. "You must now obey this law,...he that will not work shall not eat." Smith held the colony together by forcing the colonists to farm. He also received food and support from nearby Powhatan peoples, who had watched warily as the English established their settlement. Smith, a seasoned soldier, knew the Powhatan easily could wipe out the settlement. So he flattered and negotiated his way into winning an uneasy friendship with the group's leader, Chief Powhatan.
- 9 Just as Jamestown began to look like a real village, tragedy struck. A stray spark ignited a gunpowder bag Smith was wearing and set him on fire. Badly burned, Smith headed back to England, leaving Jamestown to fend for itself.
- 10 In the spring of 1609, the Virginia Company dispatched another 600 colonists, including women and children, to Jamestown. The newcomers arrived to find a settlement of disorganized colonists who were being threatened by angry Powhatan. Fearing the growing English presence, the Powhatan killed much of the colonists' livestock and harassed those settlers who attempted to hunt or farm. ⑦ By the winter of 1609, conditions in Jamestown had deteriorated to the point of famine. In what became known as the "starving time," colonists ate roots, rats, snakes, and even boiled shoe leather. Of the hundreds of settlers who began the winter, only about 60 survived to see the relief ship that arrived in the spring.

STRATEGIES IN ACTION

④ Think about the message or theme.

"Even if the settlers found plenty of gold, it would do them no good unless they returned to England. You can't eat gold."

YOUR TURN

What larger lesson does the writer intend for readers to draw from this passage?

⑥ Look for main ideas.

"Based on what this colonist said, it's amazing that anyone in Jamestown survived."

YOUR TURN

What main ideas of the selection are supported by this quotation?

⑦ Note the techniques the writer uses to portray character.

"Here, the writer shows us Smith's character by providing the words Smith said, as well as telling us Smith's actions."

⑦ Examine the sequence of ideas.

"This selection describes events dating from 1606-1609—the time it took for the English to develop a 'foothold' in North America."

"An English Foothold on North America" (11) Name _____
Answer in complete sentences when appropriate.

1. TRUE ... or ... FALSE The colony of Roanoke was an English attempt that occurred before this settlement of Jamestown.

2. How did the Virginia Company attract investors for ventures to America?

3. All of the following are accurate about the start of this settlement EXCEPT

- a. Settlers wanted to find gold.
- b. Water was infected with disease.
- c. John Smith was a leader of the early settlers.
- d. The start was a surprising success for investors.

4. "Smith warned of _____, but few listened to the _____ captain ..."

5. Describe Smith's relationship with the Powhatan.

6. Which statement best captures a main idea of the passage?

- a. The settlers had a rough start but soon succeeded.
- b. Early colonists were disorganized and suffered from disease and hunger.
- c. John Smith was a likeable leader but could not get along with Native Americans.
- d. Gold and silver were never successfully mined in America.

MLB's latest ills cast light anew on 1919 Black Sox scandal

August 11, 2013 | By Ron Grossman, Chicago Tribune reporter

The season after a group of White Sox players threw the 1919 World Series, Shoeless Joe Jackson met a perplexed young fan after testifying before a Chicago grand jury. Jackson was the A-Rod of his day, a slugger whose graceful swing Babe Ruth looked to model, and the scandal attracted a media horde, including a reporter who wrote that the boy asked:

"It ain't true, is it, Joe?"

"Yes, kid, I'm afraid it is," Jackson was said to have answered.

Years afterward, Jackson claimed it never happened, and many scholars say it was fabricated, the product of the lax journalistic standards of the day. Still, it became the iconic story of the Black Sox scandal, overshadowing the real news from that day: Jackson telling the Tribune he had confessed to the grand jury that he'd gotten stiffed by a teammate for the better part of the \$20,000 he was due for being in on the fix: "All I got was \$5,000 that Lefty Williams handed me in a dirty envelope."

Fact or fable, the image of a heartbroken boy passed into baseball legend and lore as a metaphor for the mixture of disappointment and disbelief fans suffer when betrayed by wayward heroes. A prosecutor drew upon it in the 1921 trial of Jackson and seven teammates for conspiring with gamblers to fix the Series, telling the jury, according to the Trib's account: "The public, the team owners and even the small boy playing on the sandlots have been swindled."

With last week's suspensions of Alex Rodriguez and 12 other major leaguers for using performance-enhancing drugs, the Black Sox of 1919 have once again become the benchmark against which other sports scandals are measured. It's an oft-told tale, fodder for movies like "Eight Men Out" and "Field of Dreams," and novels like Bernard Malamud's "The Natural."

If players' sky-high salaries and the pressure to live up to superstar expectations were factors in the current doping scandal — Rodriguez stands to lose almost \$31 million if his 211-game suspension sticks — Shoeless Joe and his teammates were tempted to cheat by meager salaries and the callous treatment many players felt they received. While Jackson made \$6,000 in 1919 (nearly \$81,000 in today's dollars), Williams received just \$2,625 (\$35,000 inflation-adjusted). And an alternate theory of the "Black Sox" label holds that team owner Charles Comiskey, a notorious tightwad, refused to pay even for cleaning players' uniforms.

Nevertheless, the White Sox, World Series winners two years earlier, were heavy favorites going into the 1919 contest with the Cincinnati Reds, the National League's champions. "It seems to me that I have seen the Sox outfielders throw more runners out at home than all the rest of the American league outfielders put together," wrote longtime umpire Bill Evans in a Tribune opinion piece that gave the Series edge to the Sox.

But the Series opened poorly for the Sox, which wasn't an accident, as it turned out. Chicago's star pitcher, Eddie Cicotte, started on the mound and hit the Reds' leadoff batter in the back, the signal that the dirty deal was on. The Sox lost 9-1.

Game 2 wasn't much better, a 4-2 Chicago loss, but the Sox won Game 3.

In Game 4, the plotters again took control. In the fifth inning, a Reds batter hit a single that Jackson fielded and heaved home to keep a runner from scoring, but Cicotte cut off the throw, ostensibly to keep the batter from advancing. "There wasn't any occasion for Cicotte to intercept the throw," manager William J. "Kid" Gleason later complained to a Tribune reporter. The batter "had no more intention of going to second than I have of jumping in the lake." The Sox lost 2-0, and the Reds had a 3-1 Series lead.

After several more questionable plays, the Reds clinched the championship in the eighth game (a best-of-nine Series that year). Of the final game, the Tribune noted: "They burned up the White Sox 10-5 on the anniversary of the day Mrs. O'Leary's cow burned up nine-tenths of Chicago forty-eight years ago."

Rumors of a fix began immediately. Faced with speculation that his players hadn't tried to win, Comiskey offered a \$10,000 reward for information that the Series was thrown. True to form, he refused to pay several claimants, reportedly including Jackson's wife, who ostensibly sent a letter because Shoeless Joe was illiterate. But the rumors continued, prompting a criminal investigation.

The tainted players returned for the 1920 season, and the team played well.

But in the fall, three players — Jackson, Cicotte and Williams — signed confessions, which went mysteriously missing. According to the Trib, the confessions were bought for \$10,000 by Arnold Rothstein, the big-time New York gambler who had bankrolled the whole scheme. Evidently pleased that his name wasn't mentioned in the confessions, Rothstein tried to peddle them to the media, including the Tribune, which reported the offer to the state's attorney's office.

Comiskey then suspended those three players and five others believed to be part of the conspiracy, even though the team was in a pennant race. The Sox narrowly missed going to another World Series even without them.

When the trial finally opened in 1921 it was a circus, even by Chicago standards. A special prosecutor appointed to represent organized baseball joined the state's team. Rothstein didn't show, successfully arguing that he wasn't the same Arnold Rothstein named in the court papers. Over the defense's objections, the judge who had taken the missing confessions was allowed to describe them to the jury, though the players alternately said they had repudiated them or been promised immunity. Comiskey went ballistic when a defense attorney accused him of "contract jumping" — leaving a team in the lurch for a few extra bucks — during his playing days.

Surprisingly, the jury acquitted them, but Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis, newly appointed baseball commissioner, confirmed Comiskey's suspensions — permanently banning eight players from baseball. By that point the team's fortunes had tanked. They wouldn't be contenders for years to come.

Most of the banished players faded into obscurity, but Jackson's persistently loyal fans continued to petition for his reinstatement, even after he died in 1951. It was argued that he wasn't one of the players who organized the fix, that he was a simple country boy who

didn't realize what he was getting into, that he clearly didn't play poorly (he hit .375 in the Series and committed no errors). His partisans have argued that a man deserves to be remembered for his best, not his worst, and that he deserves the benefit of the doubt. It was in that spirit that Tribune sports columnist Dave Condon placed a wreath on Shoeless Joe's grave in 1979.

Condon wrote that when the florist asked what the card should say, he suggested:

"Maybe it wasn't so, Joe."

Name _____

"The Blacksox Scandal of 1919" article by Ron Grossman

True or False

1. _____ A-Rod (Alex Rodriguez) played for the 1919 Chicago White Sox.
2. _____ Babe Ruth and Shoeless Joe Jackson accepted a bribe to throw the World Series.
3. _____ The Cincinnati Reds won the World Series of 1919.
4. _____ "Shoeless Joe Jackson" earned money equivalent to what baseball players today earn.
5. _____ Charles Comiskey owned the White Sox.
6. List 3 players banned from baseball for fixing the 1919 World Series:
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
7. Which team was expected to win that year? Give your evidence – a direct quote.

8. What do "meager salaries" and "callous treatment" imply about how baseball players were treated in 1919 compared to now?

9. If a judge acquitted the 8 players Comiskey argued had taken money to "throw" the World Series, how were these 8 men banned for life? Cite a phrase as evidence.

10. Fill in the blanks: "... but Jackson's _____ loyal fans continued to _____ for his reinstatement, even after he _____ in 1951."

11. Why do many people believe "Shoeless Joe" was innocent?

The Gift of the Magi

O. Henry

Annotate

6 total times

One dollar and eighty-seven cents. That was all. And sixty cents of it was in pennies. Pennies saved one and two at a time by bulldozing the grocer and the vegetable man and the butcher until one's cheeks burned with the silent imputation of parsimony¹ that such close dealing implied. Three times Della counted it. One dollar and eighty-seven cents. And the next day would be Christmas.

1. **imputation** (im'pyōō·tā'shən) of **parsimony** (pār'sə·mō'nē): suggestion of stinginess.

There was clearly nothing to do but flop down on the shabby little couch and howl. So Della did it. Which instigates the moral reflection that life is made up of sobs, sniffles, and smiles, with sniffles predominating.

While the mistress of the home is gradually subsiding from the first stage to the second, take a look at the home. A furnished flat² at \$8 per week. It did not exactly beggar description, but it certainly had that word on the lookout for the mendicancy squad.³

In the vestibule⁴ below was a letter box into which no letter would go, and an electric button from which no mortal finger could coax a ring. Also appertaining⁵ thereunto was a card bearing the name "Mr. James Dillingham Young."

The "Dillingham" had been flung to the breeze during a former period of prosperity when its possessor was being paid \$30 per week. Now, when the income was shrunk to \$20, the letters of "Dillingham" looked blurred, as though they were thinking seriously of contracting to a modest and unassuming *D*. But whenever Mr. James Dillingham Young came home and reached his flat above, he was called Jim and greatly hugged by Mrs. James Dillingham Young, already introduced to you as Della. Which is all very good.

Della finished her cry and attended to her cheeks with the powder rag. She stood by the window and looked out dully at a gray cat walking a gray fence in a gray back yard. Tomorrow would be Christmas Day and she had only \$1.87 with which to buy Jim a present. She had been saving every penny she could for months, with this result. Twenty dollars a week doesn't go far. Expenses had been greater than she had calculated. They always are. Only \$1.87 to buy a present for Jim. Her Jim. Many a happy hour she had spent planning for something nice for him. Something fine and rare and sterling—something just a little bit near to being worthy of the honor of being owned by Jim.

2. **flat**: apartment.

3. **mendicancy** (men'di·kən·sē) **squad**: police who arrested beggars and homeless people.

4. **vestibule**: small entrance hall.

5. **appertaining** (ap'ər·tān'ing): belonging.

There was a pier glass⁶ between the windows of the room. Perhaps you have seen a pier glass in an \$8 flat. A very thin and very agile person may, by observing his reflection in a rapid sequence of longitudinal strips, obtain a fairly accurate conception of his looks. Della, being slender, had mastered the.

Suddenly she whirled from the window and stood before the glass. Her eyes were shining brilliantly, but her face had lost its color within twenty seconds. Rapidly she pulled down her hair and let it fall to its full length.

Now, there were two possessions of the James Dillingham Youngs in which they both took a mighty pride. One was Jim's gold watch that had been his father's and his grandfather's. The other was Della's hair. Had the Queen of Sheba lived in the flat across the air shaft,⁷ Della would have let her hair hang out the window some day to dry just to depreciate Her Majesty's jewels and gifts. 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 from envy.

So now Della's beautiful hair fell about her rippling and shining like a cascade of brown waters. It reached below her knee and made itself almost a garment for her. And then she did it up again nervously and quickly. Once she faltered for a minute and stood still while a tear or two splashed on the worn red carpet.

On went her old brown jacket; on went her old brown hat. 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.

Where she stopped, the sign read: "Mme. Sofronie. Hair Goods of All Kinds." One flight

6. **pier glass**: tall mirror hung between two windows.

7. **air shaft**: narrow gap between two buildings.

WORDS TO OWN

instigates (in'stə·gāts') *v.*: gives rise to. *Instigates* is generally used to mean "provokes or urges on to some action."

depreciate (dē·prē'shē·āt') *v.*: belittle; lower the value of.



Snow in New York (1902) by Robert Henri.

Chester Dale Collection, © 1995 Board of Trustees, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

up Della ran, and collected herself, panting. Madame, large, too white, chilly, hardly looked the "Sofronie."

"Will you buy my hair?" asked Della.

"I buy hair," said Madame. "Take yer hat off and let's have a sight at the looks of it."

Down rippled the brown cascade.

"Twenty dollars," said Madame, lifting the mass with a practiced hand.

"Give it to me quick," said Della.

Oh, and the next two hours tripped by on rosy wings. Forget the hashed metaphor. She was ransacking the stores for Jim's present.

She found it at last. It surely had been made for Jim and no one else. There was no other like it in any of the stores, and she had turned all of them

inside out. It was a platinum fob chain,⁸ simple and chaste in design, properly proclaiming its value by substance alone and not by meretricious⁹ ornamentation—as all good things should do. It was even worthy of The Watch. As soon as she saw it she knew that it must be Jim's. It was like him. Quietness and value—the description applied to both. Twenty-one dollars they took from her for it, and she hurried home with the 87 cents. With that chain on his watch Jim might be properly anxious about the time in any company. Grand as the watch was, he sometimes looked at it on the sly on account of the old leather strap that he used in place of a chain.

When Della reached home, her intoxication gave way a little to prudence and reason. She got out her curling irons and lighted the gas and went to work repairing the ravages made by generosity added to love. Which is always a tremendous task, dear friends—a mammoth task.

Within forty minutes her head was covered with tiny, close-lying curls that made her look wonderfully like a truant schoolboy. She looked at her reflection in the mirror long, carefully, and critically.

"If Jim doesn't kill me," she said to herself, "before he takes a second look at me, he'll say I look like a Coney Island chorus girl. But what could I do—oh! what could I do with a dollar and eighty-seven cents?"

At 7 o'clock the coffee was made and the frying pan was on the back of the stove hot and ready to cook the chops.

8. **fob chain:** short chain meant to be attached to a pocket watch.

9. **meretricious** (mer'ə·trish'əs): attractive in a cheap, flashy way.

Jim was never late. Della doubled the fob chain in her hand and sat on the corner of the table near the door that he always entered. Then she heard his step on the stair away down on the first flight, and she turned white for just a moment. She had a habit of saying little silent prayers about the simplest everyday things, and now she whispered: "Please God, make him think I am still pretty."

The door opened and Jim stepped in and closed it. He looked thin and very serious. Poor fellow, he was only twenty-two—and to be burdened with a family! He needed a new overcoat and he was without gloves.

Jim stepped inside the door, as immovable as a setter at the scent of quail. His eyes were fixed upon Della, and there was an expression in them that she could not read, and it terrified her. It was not anger, nor surprise, nor disapproval, nor horror, nor any of the sentiments that she had been prepared for. He simply stared at her fixedly with that peculiar expression on his face.

Della wriggled off the table and went for him.

"Jim, darling," she cried, "don't look at me that way. I had my hair cut off and sold it because I couldn't have lived through Christmas without giving you a present. It'll grow out again—you won't mind, will you? I just had to do it. My hair grows awfully fast. Say 'Merry Christmas!' Jim, and let's be happy. You don't know what a nice—what a beautiful, nice gift I've got for you."

"You've cut off your hair?" asked Jim, laboriously, as if he had not arrived at that patent¹⁰ fact yet even after the hardest mental labor.

"Cut it off and sold it," said Della. "Don't you like me just as well, anyhow? I'm me without my hair, ain't I?"

Jim looked about the room curiously.

"You say your hair is gone?" he said, with an air almost of idiocy.

"You needn't look for it," said Della. "It's sold, I tell you—sold and gone, too. It's Christmas Eve, boy. Be good to me, for it went for you. Maybe the hairs on my head were numbered," she went on with a sudden serious sweetness, "but nobody could ever count my love for you."

Shall I put the chops on, Jim?"

Out of his trance Jim seemed quickly to wake. He enfolded his Della. For ten seconds let us regard with discreet scrutiny some inconsequential object in the other direction. Eight dollars a week or a million a year—what is the difference? A mathematician or a wit would give you the wrong answer. The Magi brought valuable gifts, but that was not among them. This dark assertion will be illuminated later on.

Jim drew a package from his overcoat pocket and threw it upon the table.

"Don't make any mistake, Dell," he said, "about me. I don't think there's anything in the way of a haircut or a shave or a shampoo that could make me like my girl any less. But if you'll unwrap that package, you may see why you had me going awhile at first."

White fingers and nimble tore at the string and paper. And then an ecstatic scream of joy; and then, alas! a quick feminine change to hysterical tears and wails, necessitating the immediate employment of all the comforting powers of the lord of the flat.

For there lay The Combs—the set of combs, side and back, that Della had worshiped for long in a Broadway window. Beautiful combs, pure tortoise shell, with jeweled rims—just the shade to wear in the beautiful vanished hair. They were expensive combs, she knew, and her heart had simply craved and yearned over them without the least hope of possession. And now, they were hers, but the tresses that should have adorned the coveted adornments were gone.

But she hugged them to her bosom, and at length she was able to look up with dim eyes and a smile and say: "My hair grows so fast, Jim!"

And then Della leaped up like a little singed cat and cried, "Oh, oh!"

Jim had not yet seen his beautiful present. She held it out to him eagerly upon her open palm. The dull

WORDS TO OWN

scrutiny (skrōōt"n·ē) *n.*: close inspection.

coveted (kuv"it·id) *v.* used as *adj.*: longed-for.

preciou
of her b
"Isn't
to find
hundred
want to
Inste
couch a
head an
"Dell
present
too nic
to get t
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10. patent (pāt"nt): obvious.

precious metal seemed to flash with a reflection of her bright and ardent spirit.

"Isn't it a dandy, Jim? I hunted all over town to find it. You'll have to look at the time a hundred times a day now. Give me your watch. I want to see how it looks on it."

Instead of obeying, Jim tumbled down on the couch and put his hands under the back of his head and smiled.

"Dell," said he, "let's put our Christmas presents away and keep 'em a while. They're too nice to use just at present. I sold the watch to get the money to buy your combs. And now suppose you put the chops on."

The Magi, as you know, were wise men—wonderfully wise men—who brought gifts to the Babe in the manger. They invented the art of giving Christmas presents. Being wise, their gifts were no doubt wise ones, possibly bearing the privilege of exchange in case of duplication. And here I have lamely related to you the uneventful chronicle of two foolish children in a flat who most unwisely sacrificed for each other the greatest treasures of their house. But in a last word to the wise of these days, let it be said that of all who give gifts, these two were the wisest. Of all who give and receive gifts, such as they are wisest. Everywhere they are wisest. They are the Magi.

MEET THE WRITER

He ♥ New York

O. Henry (1862–1910), whose real name was William Sydney Porter, was brought up in Greensboro, North Carolina.

At the age of twenty, he went to Texas, where he became a rancher, worked as a bank teller, and founded a humorous weekly called *The Rolling Stone*.

When he was accused of stealing a thousand dollars from the First National Bank of Austin, where he was a teller, Porter panicked and fled to Central America. In Honduras he traveled with the outlawed Jennings brothers and helped them spend the loot from a recent robbery. But news of his wife's illness brought him back to Austin. There he was arrested, tried, and sentenced to five years in prison. Ironically, if he had not run away, Porter might have been acquitted. The bank was poorly run, and the loss of money might have been a case of mismanagement, not a crime.

Porter served only three years of his sentence. In prison he wrote more than a



dozen stories and absorbed the underworld lore that he would use in stories such as "A Retrieved Reformation." He also may have found his pen name there: One of the prison guards was named Orrin Henry.

Porter left prison in 1901 and went to New York. He loved the city at once, and he wrote about it and its inhabitants for the few years remaining in his life. He once remarked:

“There are stories in everything. I've got some of my best yarns from park benches, lampposts, and newspaper stands.”

O. Henry wrote more than six hundred stories altogether—sixty-five in 1904 alone. But he also drank heavily, and tuberculosis killed him when he was only forty-seven. His last words were, "Pull up the shades so I can see New York. I don't want to go home in the dark."

More Snappers by O. Henry

"A Retrieved Reformation"

"The Furnished Room"

"The Ransom of Red Chief"

"THE GIFT OF THE MAGI"

NAME _____

ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS AS WE READ THE STORY. THE QUESTIONS ARE ANSWERED IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER.

1. The author of this story is _____.
2. "Which instigates the moral reflection that life is made up of _____, _____, and _____, with sniffles predominating."
3. According to the descriptive paragraphs on page 204, what kind of financial situation is the couple in?

4. "One was Jim's _____ that had been his father's and grandfather's. The other was _____."
5. "It was even worthy of _____."
6. "He simply stared at her fixedly with _____ expression on his face."
7. "For there lay _____--the set of _____, front and back, that Della had _____ for long in a Broadway window."

TRUE or FALSE

1. _____ On Christmas Eve, Della needs more money for Jim's present.
2. _____ Selling her hair is a last minute inspiration.
3. _____ Jim's face shows anger when he sees Della.
4. _____ Jim and Della purchase the same gift for one another.
5. _____ Jim and Della are most concerned about one another's happiness.

"THE GIFT OF THE MAGI"

NAME _____

CIRCLE THE BEST ANSWER.

1. Who is the narrator of "The Gift of the Magi?"
a. Jim b. Della c. Madame Sofronie d. an unidentified observer
2. Which phrase best describes Della?
a. shrewd and conniving b. scatter-brained and silly
c. devoted and impulsive d. thoughtful and despondent
3. Which phrase best describes Jim?
a. aggressive and irritable b. quiet and dignified c. shrewd and sly
d. meek and intimidated
4. Della's actions and thoughts about Jim indicate that
a. her life revolves around Jim b. she is a constant worrier
c. he is very critical of her d. she seldom thinks for herself
5. Which sentence best sums up the plot of this story?
a. Della sells her hair because she cannot have the expensive combs she wants.
b. Della sacrifices her beauty for Jim, but Jim does not appreciate it.
c. Della and Jim give up their greatest treasures to buy gifts for each other.
d. Della and Jim selfishly buy gifts they want for themselves.

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN COMPLETE SENTENCES.

1. What is ironic about this story's ending? _____

2. How do you think Della reacted to Jim's gift? Be specific! (3-5 sentences) _____

3. State, then explain, a possible theme of this story.

4. How would you react if someone gave you their most precious possession? Under what circumstances would you give up your most valuable possession?