*The Gift of the Magi* by O. Henry

Exposition:

Setting- New York. “Flat”- Apartment. 1900s. Christmas Eve.

Characters- Della and Jim Dillingham (married)

Conflict: They don’t have a lot of money ($1.87)

Man vs. Society

Rising Action:

She had been saving money—bartering with the grocer and the butcher, etc.

She cries!!!!!

Turning Point: Della sells her hair!!!!

Falling Action:

She buys a platinum watch chain for Jim’s watch

She goes home and fixes her hair

Resolution:

Jim gives Della “The Combs”

She cries a shout of joy and then tear of sadness because she can’t use them.

She then gives Jim the chain for “The Watch”

He explains that he sold the watch to pay for The Combs. IRONY!!!!

Denoument:

The Magi were not the wisest of all the gift-givers—Della and Jim are.

**THEME:**

**Money doesn’t buy happiness**

**Being selfless is the best gift a person could give**

*Explained:* Della and Jim are the “Magi” because the Magi were wise men who gave gifts the baby Jesus and Della and Jim are the wisest of all gift givers because they gave gifts selflessly and with their whole hearts.