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Period 7

. Literary analysis

The Gift of the Magi

The story, “The Gift of the Magi”, was written by O. Henry. In this story, a young married couple, who dearly love each other, sacrifice what they have to make the other happy. The theme of sacrifice is illustrated through the mood of the story, point of view and characterization.

In this story, the author reveals Della’s personality as kindhearted, thoughtful, warm, and selfless in the story. O. Henry described her as pretty with long hair that she took mighty pride in. Her hair reached below her knees, and when she let it down it looked like a cascade of brown waters, so shining and rippling. Della's financially poor. She spends her days working and paying bills. In other words, she's a homemaker. Della basically lives for one thing or a person, her husband, Jim. She's spent a lot of the time leading up to Christmas just thinking of what to get him

At the beginning Della was flustered because it was Christmas time and Della had very little money to buy her Jim a present. When she cut off her hair she was sort of relieved because she had more money than he had saved over the three months. Throughout the story, the mood was gentle and well-being. The two lovers seem gentle and loving but they are so poor, and worried about pleasing each other, and there is also the underlying theme of sacrifice, which is noble.

The story is told by Della’s point of view. This shows the audience through Della eyes. She is the protagonist and her poverty in which she lives in. The reader is sympathetic due to Della’s poverty. We don’t really see what Jim is doing during the story until later when he shows up.

The gift of the Magi presents a theme of sacrifice. This story shows two people loving each other and trying to please each other with what little they have. The common elements that the author included were: point of view, characterization and mood. The story’s message is that it doesn’t matter what you can give or what you have, what is more important is your ability to stay resilient in unfortunate situations.