

ELA: Grade 8, Lesson 18, The Gift of the Magi

**Lesson Focus:** The focus of today's lesson will be on the fictional short story text, "The Gift of the Magi."

**Practice Focus:** Students will analyze a literary text to determine the main ideas and study author's craft.

**Objective:** Students will analyze the techniques the author uses to convey Della's character in "The Gift of the Magi."

**Academic Vocabulary:** platinum, fob chain, chaste, meretricious, anxious, sly, prudence, ravages, mammoth

**TN Standards:** 8.RL.KID.1, 8.RL.KID.2, 8.RL.KID.3, 8.RL.CS.4, 8.W.TTP.2

**Teacher Materials:**

- The Teacher Packet for ELA, Grade 8, Lesson 18

**Student Materials:**

- Paper, a pencil, and a surface to write on
- The Student Packet for ELA, Grade 8, Lesson 18 which can be found on [www.tn.gov/education](http://www.tn.gov/education)

**Note:** Some small sections of the text have been omitted for the sake of time in this lesson.

Teacher Do	Students Do
<p><b>Opening</b> (1 min)</p> <p><b>Hello! Welcome to Tennessee's At Home Learning Series for literacy! Today's lesson is for all our 8th graders out there, though everyone is welcome to tune in. This lesson is the third in this week's series.</b></p> <p><b>My name is ____ and I'm a ____ grade teacher in Tennessee schools. I'm so excited to be your teacher for this lesson! Welcome to my virtual classroom!</b></p> <p><b>If you didn't see our previous lesson, you can find them at <a href="http://www.tn.gov/education">www.tn.gov/education</a>. You can still tune in to today's lesson if you haven't seen any of our others. But it might be more fun if you first go back and watch our other lessons, since today we'll be talking about things we learned previously.</b></p> <p><b>Today we will continue learning about a short story called "The Gift of the Magi"! Specifically, we will finally learn what gift Della decides to buy for Jim! We'll see not only what gift she buys but how she plans to give it to him. Before we get started, to participate fully in our lesson today, you will need:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Paper, a pencil, and a surface to write on</li><li>• The Student Packet for ELA, Grade 8, Lesson 18 which can be found on <a href="http://www.tn.gov/education">www.tn.gov/education</a></li></ul> <p><b>Ok, let's begin!</b></p>	<p>Students gather materials for the lesson and prepare to engage with the lesson's content.</p>
<p><b>Intro</b> (1 minute)</p>	<p>Students listen to the teacher and learn an overview of the lesson.</p>

<p>Today our goal is to continue reading a short story called “The Gift of the Magi” by O. Henry so we can analyze the text to determine its meaning. We have been reading this text for a couple of lessons already and there will be more lessons to come on this text. Because this is a longer text, I had to cut out a few portions of it so we can be sure to finish it. But don’t worry, you’ll still have everything you need to understand it.</p> <p>We will begin today with me reading portions of the text and then we will reread it and pause along the way for deeper understanding. At the end of the lesson, I will assign you independent work you can complete after the video ends.</p>	
<p><b>Teacher Model/Read-Aloud</b> (20 min)</p> <p>Let’s briefly revisit yesterday’s independent work that you completed.</p> <p>Yesterday we explored O. Henry’s use of several literary devices including imagery, allusion, and metaphor. We learned new vocabulary words, and we read about Della’s sacrifice of selling her hair, one of her most prized possessions. For your independent work, you responded in writing to the following prompt:</p> <p>[Show Slide 1.] How does the author’s craft, use of literary devices, character development, setting, and vocabulary develop the story, “The Gift of the Magi”? In a brief essay, using your graphic organizer and your notes from today and yesterday, explain how the author writes. Be sure to include new vocabulary and specific examples from the text.</p> <p>[Show Slide 2.] Let’s take a moment to read the essay that I wrote.</p> <p>In the short story, “The Gift of the Magi”, O. Henry employs a variety of literary devices that engage and entertain the reader. O. Henry relays a narrative that describes two main characters, Della and John Dillignham on Christmas Eve. O. Henry’s use of allusion, simile, and imagery helps readers to be intrigued by, visualize, and relate to John and Della’s predicament.</p> <p>O. Henry uses allusion to help readers to fully comprehend the value the characters place on two prized possessions, John’s watch and Della’s hair. The author alludes to queen Sheba’s jewels as he describes how treasured Della’s hair is. The author also uses allusion by referencing King Solomon’s treasures when describing how important John’s watch is to</p>	<p>Students listen to the model of the essay and compare it to their own writing.</p>

the couple. Both the queen of Sheba and King Solomon are famous royalty and by alluding to them in the story, O. Henry helps readers understand just how important these two items are.

“The Gift of the Magi” also includes several similes. For example, the author describes Della’s hair “rippling and shining like a cascade of brown waters.” This simile not only engages readers, but it also helps readers picture that Della’s hair is beautiful, long, and flowing like a waterfall.

Additionally, the author uses imagery to intrigue and entertain the readers. The imagery in the short story also helps readers to form a mental images of the characters, plot, and setting. For example, after Della sells her hair for \$20 and is finally able to buy Jim a Christmas gift, the author says Della ransacks the stores for the perfect gift. Because Della’s character is not portrayed as a thief or a wild creature, ransacking stores rather helps the reader to picture her shopping in a mad rush searching diligently for the perfect gift.

By employing allusion, similes, and imagery, O. Henry’s lively writing style keeps the reader’s mind entertained and helps the reader perfectly imagine the main characters, Della and John.

Okay, I’m not saying that’s a perfect essay or that yours needs to look exactly like it, but it does do a few things that I definitely hope your essay did. First, it has a clear opening that previews the content for the reader and a clear conclusion that sums everything up, with well-organized paragraphs in between. Second, as the prompt asked, it includes a couple of our new vocabulary words: cascade and ransack, plus literary terms we’re focusing on like allusion and simile. And finally, it uses specific evidence from the text to support its points. If you don’t have the whole text in front of you, you may not have been able to use direct quotations, and that’s okay, but I hope you still used your notes and memory to write about specific details.

Ok, let’s continue the short story we have been studying. As a reminder, although the events of the story—its plot—are fairly easy to understand, the author tells this simple story in a complex way. Sometimes telling things in a more complex way gives those things layers of meaning, which is important because the more layers of meaning there are to dig into, the more we learn about ourselves and the world around us!

**And that's the challenge for us as readers! Are you up for the challenge of learning more about yourself and the world around you?**

**Great! Well, here's how we're going to do it. We'll only read a couple of sentences at a time and then we'll dig into the puzzle of seeing what the words mean and what the author is talking about. To help us with this, we will use the graphic organizer we used yesterday to track our notes. It looks like this:**

**[Show Slide 3.] You can see that we have certain sections on the organizer labeled as various people or things: characters, key details, plot, vocabulary, and literary devices - which are tools like metaphors and images that the author uses to convey meaning, and themes, or important messages. This will be an important tool for us as we work through the text.**

**Take a minute now to make sure you have your graphic organizer from the previous lesson, or to draw a new one for today. [Pause.]**

**As we read and discuss each of these elements of the text, we will pause and give you time to write your notes onto your graphic organizer. We will actually be using this organizer all week so please keep it handy throughout the lesson and in upcoming lessons.**

**Ok, now remember yesterday we learned about Della's quest to find money to buy Jim a gift for Christmas. We learned that, even though Della's long hair was a source of pride for both Jim and Della, she was willing to cut it and sell it in order to get enough money to buy the gift that she wanted to buy. We don't know what that is yet but we will learn today!**

**Ok, let's continue reading the text!**

**[Show Slide 4.] "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."**

**Let's pause real quickly. The text says she, meaning Della, found "it" at last. The "it" is the gift she's been looking for to buy for Jim but we don't know what it is yet. The author hasn't told us but we'll find out shortly. But what does it mean when the author says Della turned all of the stores "inside out"? Unless Della has superpowers we don't know**

Students will read about Della searching for and finding the perfect Christmas gift for her husband, Jim. Students will read about the preparations she makes to give it to Jim.

Students add information to their graphic organizers as directed by the teacher.

about, we know that the author is not being literal! He is using figurative language. What do you think he means? [Pause.]

[Show Slide 5.] Sometimes we use the phrase “turn something inside out” to mean “search through something thoroughly.” That means Della went through all of the stores and searched through almost everything they had! What does that help us to learn about Della? [Pause.]

She is persistent! She is dedicated to finding the perfect gift for Jim! But why would the author use the phrase “turn the store inside out” instead of just saying “searched all the stores thoroughly”? Why would he use figurative language here? [Pause.]

Because figurative language can really make something more interesting or engaging to the reader. It brings the story to life and makes us as readers better visualize what is happening. It made me visualize in my head that Della was going through every store and looking at every item!

[Show Slide 6.] So let’s take a moment and add what we have learned to our notes on the graphic organizer.

- Let’s add to Della’s character on the organizer that she is persistent and she is dedicated to finding the perfect gift for Jim

[Show Slide 7.] Under literary devices, let’s add “figurative language” and under the meaning section next to it, add that it is “non-literal language that helps readers to visualize what is being said.” [Pause.] Great, thank you. Now let’s see what she found!

[Show Slide 8.] “It was a platinum fob chain simple and chaste in design, properly proclaiming its value by substance alone and not by meretricious ornamentation--as all good things should do. It was even worthy of The Watch.”

Ok, that’s a tough sentence. Let’s unpack it piece by piece. As we discuss difficult vocabulary words and their meanings, be sure to add the word and its meaning to your graphic organizer.

[Show Slide 9.] Ok so, the narrator said that “it,” meaning the gift, was a “platinum fob chain.” Do any of you know what a fob chain is? [Pause.]

[Show Slide 10.] It's a chain attached to a watch for carrying in your coat or pants pocket. Go ahead and add the word and meaning to your organizer. [Pause.]

This is what we call an "old school" watch that you keep in your pocket instead of on your arm.

[Show Slide 11.] The text says it was a "platinum fob chain." What does "platinum" mean? [Pause.]

[Show Slide 12.] Platinum is a type of metal that is grayish-white or silvery-white in appearance. It is much like gold in value and quality but it is different in color. Let's go ahead and add that word and meaning to your organizer as well.

[Show Slide 13.] [Pause.] So now we know the gift! Let's see how the author continues to describe it. He says it was "chaste in design" and that it proclaimed, or stated, "its value by substance alone." What do you think the author meant by saying it proclaimed, or stated, its value by substance alone? [Pause.]

It seems like what he is trying to say is that the chain is so nice itself that it didn't need any fancy wrapping or extra gadgets added to it. It was just that nice of a chain. So, knowing that, let's look at the whole sentence again because we still have a couple of difficult words to figure out.

[Show Slide 14.] "It was a platinum fob chain simple and chaste in design, properly proclaiming its value by substance alone and not by meretricious ornamentation --as all good things should do."

So we still need to figure out what "chaste in design" means. But wait, when I look at the sentence, it looks like everything that comes after the phrase "chaste in design" is defining what it means. So we may have really figured it out already. We've learned the author says the chain is simple and it does not need any fancy wrapping or gadgets added to it. So "chaste in design" must mean just that - it's simple by design and that's a good thing.

[Show Slide 15.] The other phrase "not by meretricious ornamentation" is just another way of stating that too. It doesn't need artificial ornaments or gadgets; it's beautiful in its simplicity.

**Let's take a few moments to add a couple of these words to our vocabulary notes on our graphic organizers.**

[Show Slide 16.] **First, add "chaste," which means "simple and undecorated."** [Pause.]

[Show Slide 17.] **Second, add "meretricious," which means "flashy and artificial."** [Pause.]

[Show Slide 18.] **That seemed like a long sentence with a lot of tough words to describe the chain. Why do you think the author would use such a detailed description of the chain's simplicity? Take a moment to write your answer on a sheet of paper apart from your graphic organizer.** [Pause.]

**My thoughts are the author really wants us to see how Della viewed the object, why she valued it. She did not value it because it was the fanciest chain in the world or the most expensive. She valued it for its simple beauty and that was the type of gift she wanted to give to Jim.**

[Show Slide 19.] **Since this is an important detail about Della, let's add it to the section about Della on our characterization chart on the graphic organizer.** [Pause.] **Great, thank you. Let's continue.**

[Show Slide 20.] **"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."**

[Show Slide 21.] **Interesting, I wonder why the author capitalized "The Watch." What do you think?** [Pause.]

**Remember yesterday when we talked about the two possessions the Young family valued the most? What were they?** [Pause.]

**One was Jim's gold watch that had been his father's and his grandfather's. The other was Della's hair. So when the author says "It was even worthy of The Watch," he is saying that Della found the perfect chain for the watch he inherited from his family. She even says this chain is much like Jim himself - quiet and worthy of admiration. We've spent a lot of time talking about the chain. Let's see what happens next in the story.**

[Show Slide 22.] **"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.”

Wow, she barely had enough money to buy it! Remember she started out with only one dollar and eighty-seven cents. She sold her hair for twenty dollars so she had a total of twenty-one dollars and eighty-seven cents. So it wasn't just selling her hair that bought the watch. Her saving money before that helped to buy it too! Let's look at that second sentence again.

[Show Slide 23.] “With that chain on his watch Jim might be properly anxious about the time in any company.”

Why do you think Jim would be “anxious about the time in any company” with his new gift? [Pause.]

Well, that depends on which kind of “anxious” he is, right? The word “anxious” can mean that you are worried or stressed. Another definition of “anxious,” though, is that you are eager or that you want something a lot. Let's look at the sentence one more time:

“With that chain on his watch Jim might be properly anxious about the time in any company.”

With a fancy new chain to hold his watch on his arm, he is not likely to be worried or stressed, right? He will want to show it off! So that's what the author is saying here - that Jim will be happy to check the time when anyone is around because he can show off his new gift! Before we forget, let's add both definitions of “anxious” to our vocabulary list on the graphic organizer.

[Show Slide 24.]

- The first meaning of “anxious” is “worried or stressed.”
- The second meaning of “anxious” is “eager or that you want something a lot.” [Pause.]

Thank you. Let's continue.

[Show Slide 25.] “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.”

What do you think the author means by this sentence? [Pause.]



**Well, let's break it down a bit. Maybe another way of saying "grand as the watch was" is "as fantastic as the watch was, he sometimes looked at it on the sly."**

[Show Slide 26.] **What do you think the author means by "on the sly"? [Pause.]**

**You know how we often say "keep it on the DL"? Or "on the down-low"? It's the same thing! The word "sly" means "secret" or "private" in this sentence. Let's add this word to our vocabulary list on our graphic organizer.**

[Show Slide 27.] **"Sly" means "secret" or "private." [Pause.]**

[Show Slide 28.] **So why is he looking at it on the sly? Because he doesn't have a fancy platinum chain yet! The text said that he's been using the "old leather strap." So even though he has a really nice watch, he still needs a nice chain to be completely proud of it. Until then, he's a little embarrassed and keeping it on the sly.**

**Ok, so Della has bought the chain and is on her way home. Let's see what happens next:**

[Show Slide 29.] **"When Della reached home her intoxication, or excitement, gave way a little to prudence and reason."**

**We know Della is crazy excited about finding the perfect gift. This sentence says her excitement "gave way a little to prudence and reason." What do you think this means? [Pause.]**

**You know how sometimes you get so excited it's hard to think straight? Well that's what's happening to Della! But she realized when she got home that she needed to get her act together and be wise because she needed to get ready to give Jim his gift! "Wisdom" is actually the meaning of the word "prudence," which you may not know. Let's add that word to our vocabulary list on the graphic organizer.**

[Show Slide 30.] [Pause.] **Great! Now, let's see what Della does when she gets home.**

[Show Slide 31.] **"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."**

So remember that Della has cut her hair and her hair was a prized possession in the family. So in order to keep Jim from being too disappointed by her hair being cut, she needs to fix it up! That's what the author means when he says that she needs to repair the "ravages made by generosity added to love." "Ravages" are the damaging effects of something. Let's add that word to our vocabulary list on the graphic organizer.

[Show Slide 32.] [Pause.] The author is saying Della is not only repairing the damaging effects of cutting her hair but also the "damage" of her being so generous and loving to Jim! It cost both of them a prized possession! The next sentence is related to this so let's take a look:

[Show Slide 33.] "Which is always a tremendous task, dear friends--a mammoth task."

Do you remember the huge elephant-like animal called a "mammoth"? Well, that's not what the author means here but the word "mammoth" here does mean "huge." Let's write that vocabulary word and meaning down on our graphic organizer.

[Show Slide 34.] [Pause.]

[Show Slide 35.] So the author is saying it is always a huge, tremendous task, to repair the "ravages" or damages of generosity and love. What do you think he means by that? [Pause.] I think he means it is very honorable to be generous and loving but sometimes that leads us to make decisions that can be costly. Sometimes there can be unintended negative consequences for very honorable decisions. This helps us to understand Della's character a bit more. What does it tell us about her? [Pause.] That Della is very generous and loves Jim greatly. So much so that she is willing to deal with the negative consequences of having to cut her hair to get him a gift.

[Show Slide 36.] Let's add the following to our notes on Della. So loving and generous that she is willing to deal with the negative consequences of love and generosity.

Ok, let's see what Della does to prepare for his arrival.

[Show Slide 37.] "Within forty minutes her head was covered with tiny, close-lying curls that made her look wonderfully

like a truant, or absentee, schoolboy. She looked at her reflection in the mirror long, carefully, and critically."

Wow, so she fixed her hair into tiny curls that made her hair look more like a traditional haircut for a schoolboy. It says she looked at her reflection for a long time. I guess if you had hair as long and beautiful as she had, it would take a while to get used to such a different look! Let's see what she was thinking.

[Show Slide 38.] "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?"

Hah, so it's obvious she's a little nervous about his reaction! She said if he doesn't kill her (not literally, of course!) before he takes a second look, he'll say she looks like a Coney Island chorus girl. What in the world is that? Well, Coney Island is a famous amusement park in New York City. During that time period, chorus girls who sang as part of a group were known to have untraditionally short hair. So the author is using Della's character to compare her appearance to that of a Coney Island chorus girl. Do you remember what it is called when an author makes a reference to something that is designed to call something to mind? You wrote it down yesterday. [Pause.] An allusion! Yes, the author is making an allusion when referencing the Coney Island chorus girl. This allusion is more difficult for us because we did not live in that time period and do not have a clear reference. But readers at the time would know exactly what he meant. The allusion here, is designed to make a comical, or humorous, reference to something in society. This makes the text more interesting to read for the reader. Let's take a moment and add this to the "meaning" section beside "allusion," which you already have in your notes from yesterday.

[Show Slide 39.] [Pause.] Great, thank you. Let's take one more look at the last couple of sentences in the paragraph before moving on:

[Show Slide 40.] "But what could I do-oh! What could I do with a dollar and eighty-seven cents?"

She's now just thinking to herself, "what else was I supposed to do? You can't buy anything with one dollar and eighty-seven cents!" Let's see what she does.

[Show Slide 41.] **“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.”**

So she is getting everything just right for his arrival - making the coffee and cooking dinner. She wants to make him as happy as possible so maybe he'll overlook the hair issue! Let's see what else she does.

[Show Slide 42.] **“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.”**

So she has everything ready now, even having the gift wrapped in her hand and sitting on the corner of the table near where he comes into the house. Let's see what happens next.

[Show Slide 43.] **“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 a little silent prayer about the simplest everyday things, and now she whispered: “Please God, make him think I am still pretty.””**

Wow, can you feel the suspense? Remember that “suspense” is a state of feeling excited about what's going to happen next. The author creates this suspense by using sensory detail. Sensory detail is when an author uses language that appeals to your senses to help you to understand what is happening better.

[Show Slide 44.] Let's take a moment and add sensory detail to our literary device list on the graphic organizer. Be sure to add to the meaning section beside it as well. You'll add there the effect of sensory detail on the reader. [Pause.] So now that you know what sensory detail is, let's look at the paragraph one more time. As I read it, try to identify what sensory details the author uses.

[Show Slide 45.] **“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 a little silent prayer about the simplest everyday things, and now she whispered: “Please God, make him think I am still pretty.””**

[Show Slide 46.] Which ones did you notice? I picked out:

- **“Heard his step on the stair away down on the first flight.”**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “she turned white for just a moment”</li> <li>• “she had a habit of saying a silent little prayer”</li> <li>• “now she whispered”</li> </ul> <p>Notice all of these details bring you into the scene to experience the quiet and the nervous awaiting of Jim’s arrival. It makes me almost as nervous as Della! She is very nervous that he will judge her and she will lose value in his eyes if she is not as pretty to him.</p> <p>But the problem with suspense is...sometimes you have to wait to see what happens! We’re out of time today but if you tune in tomorrow, you will get to see his reaction to her haircut.</p> <p>We need to take a few moments, though, to make sure we have everything in order in our notes. Let’s start with plot as we have not yet added anything to that section today. Take a few moments to add notes on the sequence of events we learned about today. [Pause.]</p> <p>[Show Slide 47.] Here’s what I have in my notes: Della has searched through all the stores to find the perfect Christmas gift for Jim. She finally found it - a platinum fob chain, which would pair perfect with his watch. Della goes home, fixes her hair, and prepares for Jim’s arrival.</p> <p>If you do not have all of this in your notes, take a moment and add to them. [Pause.]</p>	
<p><b>Guided Practice</b> (10 min)</p> <p>Ok, before we close for today, let’s review our notes for our graphic organizer. What do you have for Della? She’s going to be especially important for the independent work you do after this video, so make sure you have everything you need. [Pause.]</p> <p>[Show Slide 48.] For Della, I have the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• She is persistent and dedicated to finding the perfect gift for Jim. [Pause.]</li> <li>• She values the fob chain for its simple beauty and therefore thinks it’s the perfect gift for Jim. [Pause.]</li> <li>• She is so loving and generous that she is willing to deal with the negative consequences of cutting her hair in order to get the perfect gift for Jim. [Pause.]</li> </ul>	<p>Students review their notes and consolidate their understanding of the text in preparation for writing about the author’s characterization of Della for independent practice.</p>

<p><b>Did you get those points in your notes? Maybe you even had others! [Pause.]</b></p> <p><b>Okay, how about plot? We wrote this down just a minute ago—did you catch it? Take a look at your notes and add anything you need to now.</b></p> <p><b>[Show Slide 49.] Della has searched through all the stores to find the perfect Christmas gift for Jim. She finally found it - a platinum fob chain, which would pair perfectly with his watch. Della goes home, fixes her hair, and prepares for Jim’s arrival. [Pause.]</b></p> <p><b>Okay, and what about vocabulary? Do you have down what words like prudence, ravages, and mammoth mean? [Pause.]</b></p> <p><b>And did you make note of both meanings of “anxious”? [Pause.]</b></p> <p><b>Let’s take a look back at all the words and their meanings.</b></p> <p><b>[Show Slide 50.] Take a minute to add or change anything you need to in your notes on vocabulary. [Pause.]</b></p> <p><b>[Show Slide 51.] Okay, I’ll tell you what I have in the literary devices and meaning sections of my notes so you can check what you’ve got and make any necessary additions or changes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Figurative language - non-literal language that helps readers to visualize what is being said. [Pause.]</b></li> <li>• <b>Allusion - a reference or an expression designed to call something to mind and a comical, or humorous, reference to something in society. This helps the reader to make a reference to something they understand, which makes the text more interesting to the reader. [Pause.]</b></li> <li>• <b>Sensory detail- language that appeals to your senses to help you to understand what is happening better. [Pause.]</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Okay, got all that in your notes? Then you’re ready for the next step—the independent assignment!</b></p>	
<p><b><u>Independent Work</u> (1 min)</b></p> <p><b>So let’s reflect on today’s lesson. Today we learned new vocabulary and we learned about literary devices that authors use such as allusion, sensory details, and figurative language. For your independent work today, please respond in writing to the following prompt:</b></p>	<p>Students use their knowledge of target vocabulary and literary techniques in order to analyze the author’s characterization of Della.</p>

## PBS Lesson Series

<p>[Show Slide 52.] <b>Students, please write the prompt down on your notebook paper so you will have it handy for when you are responding in writing.</b></p> <p><b>Explain the ways the author helps us to understand Della's character. Be sure to include details from the story today as well as what those details reveal about Della's character. Please use three of the vocabulary words that you learned today in your writing.</b></p>	
<p><b><u>Closing</u> (1 min)</b></p> <p><b>Thank you. I enjoyed reading the short story, "The Gift of the Magi," with you today! Thank you for inviting me into your home. I look forward to seeing you in our next lesson in Tennessee's At Home Learning Series! Bye!</b></p>	

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