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Good morning students

Today we will take up the story 'A Gift for Christmas' as a part of your English Literature assignment. This story is given in your book titled 'New Trends in English Reader'. Here I am going to explain you the story 'A Gift for Christmas' written by O. Henry. This story is about a lovely couple, wife named Della and husband named Mr. James Dillingham Young. They always think of giving expensive and desirable gifts to each other. In this story we will see that due to shortage of money how they had to sell their most favourite things to give gifts to each other on the day of Christmas. The story begins when it was the day before Christmas and Della wanted to give a beautiful and expensive gift to her husband so she was counting the money that all she had. She had just one dollar and eighty seven cents so she was very sad and laid on the couch.

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started crying. Della's husband Jim earned just \$20 a week. So they were just hand to mouth and they could not save money. If you take a look to her house you could see the sign of poverty. Now Della stopped crying and looked herself in the mirror. She was thinking about Christmas gift for Jim but she had very less money to buy a gift for her husband. She was trying to save money, how much she could for months but still she was unable to buy a gift for Jim. Suddenly, she turned away from the window and stood before the mirror. When Della was standing before the mirror. She pulled down her hair and let it fall to its full length, Della's beautiful hair reached below her knees. There were two assets in which they both took great pride. These were Jim's gold watch and Della's hair. When Della looked at her hair in the mirror. Suddenly an idea came into her mind, she put on her old brown jacket and hat and moved out with her eyes shining brightly. She stopped at the shop with the sign 'Mme Safroni. Hair Goods of all kinds'.

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She went inside and asked "Will you buy my hair?" The madam in the shop looked at Della's beautiful hair and got ready to buy them for 20 dollars. Now Della was happy to buy gift for her husband. She spent hours in the stores eagerly looking for Jim's present. Finally she got the best gift for her Jim. She bought a platinum watch-chain for his gold watch. She paid 20 dollars for it. Della reached home and she was delighted about what she had done. Now she curled her short hair with the help of curling iron. In her tiny curls she looked like a school boy! At seven o'clock, she arranged everything as Jim was never late. She was sitting on the corner of the table and waiting for Jim and praying to God to make Jim think that she was still pretty in her short curled hair. Jim opened the door and stepped in. Jim's eyes were fixed on Della and there was an expression in his eyes that she could not read. It was not anger nor surprise. It was a strange expression.

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Della saw Jim's expression and she cried "My dear, don't look at me in this way as I have sold my hair to buy a Christmas gift for you". But you don't mind as my hair grows so fast. Now it was Jim's turn he also wanted to give a great surprise to Della. He drew a package from his overcoat, and gave it to Della and said "Now you open the package and you will understand why I behaved in that way. When Della opened the package and she got a set of beautiful and very expensive combs that Della wanted to buy from a long time. She took the combs lovingly, smiled through her tears and said "My hair grows so fast". Now Della was excited to give ^{the} present she bought for Jim. She eagerly held out the watch-chain and gave it to Jim. Then Jim told her that he sold the gold watch to earn money to buy the set of combs. So their gifts become useless for the time being.

Ms Jaswinder

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Students you have been given a brief summary of the story. Now you all are required to revise the content and attempt exercise - 3, 4 Q/A given in your as a part of your English Literature assignment.

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