

The Gift of the Magi: Theme = The author's lesson in the story. What do we learn from the story to apply to our lives?

Theme is developed through the characterization in the story and the plot.

Characters: Della and Jim = "Mr. and Mrs. James Dillingham Young"

They had known a time of more prosperity (wealth). James had a job that paid \$30 a week. Now they were down to \$20.

Della had learned to "bulldoze" the butcher, grocer, etc. meaning that being poor, she had learned to spend money carefully, frugally, and reluctantly.

It was Christmas. Times were tough. Della had saved \$1.87 to buy Jim's present.

There were two important items to the couple. Jim's grandfather's gold watch and Della's long hair.

Della sells her hair to get the money to buy Jim a chain for the pocket watch.

Jim sells the watch to buy a hair decoration for Della.

They exchange the gifts and both cry and share in the expense the other has taken to get their gift.

THEME: ?? What did you learn?