

PBS Lesson Series

# ELA, Grade 8, Lesson 16

Teacher Packet



# Graphic Organizer

| Character name | Description |
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| Plot |
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| Themes |
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| Key details |
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| Vocabulary word/word choice | Meaning |
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| Literary device | Meaning |
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# The Gift of the Magi

ONE dollar and eighty-seven cents. That was all. And sixty cents of it was in pennies. Pennies saved one and two at a time by bulldozing the grocer and the vegetable man and the butcher until one's cheeks burned with the silent imputation of parsimony that such close dealing implied. Three times Della counted it. One dollar and eighty-seven cents. And the next day would be Christmas.



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## Plot

- Money



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## Notes:

- Della is embarrassed because, in her mind, they were accusing her of being stingy.

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| Della          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>dedicated to saving money</li> <li>a tough negotiator</li> <li>frustrated with her current situation</li> </ul> |
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There was clearly nothing to do but flop down on the shabby little couch and howl. So Della did it. Which instigates the moral reflection that life is made up of sobs, sniffles, and smiles, with sniffles predominating.

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There was clearly nothing to do but flop down on the shabby little couch and howl. So Della did it. Which instigates the moral reflection that life is made up of sobs, sniffles, and smiles, with sniffles predominating.

## Notes:

- Della is embarrassed because, in her mind, they were accusing her of being stingy.
- Della is having a deeper thought about life - that it is made up of deep cries, or sobs; light cries, or sniffles; and happiness, or smiles--but maybe light cries most of all.
- Della is down on her luck and not feeling very positive about life right now.

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| Themes |
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| Key details   |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jim and Della rent an apartment with furniture already in it called a furnished flat.</li> <li>They rent it at a really cheap price, and it is not a very nice apartment.</li> </ul> |

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### **Key details**

- Jim and Della rent an apartment with furniture already in it called a furnished flat.
- They rent it at a really cheap price, and it is not a very nice apartment.

The "Dillingham" had been flung to the breeze during a former period of prosperity when its possessor was being paid \$30 per week. Now, when the income was shrunk to \$20, though, they were thinking seriously of contracting to a modest and unassuming D.

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| James (Jim)    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Once lived in prosperity, or got along fine financially</li> <li>• Now makes a lot less money than he once did and he is somewhat ashamed by it</li> <li>• He is happily married to Della and they have a home together</li> </ul> |

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## Plot

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- Della has been working for months to save money and that all that she has to show for it is one dollar and eighty-seven cents. It's Christmas eve and she does not have enough money to buy the gift for Jim that she wants to buy for him.

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### **Key details**

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## Plot

- Money
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# Independent practice

In your own words, describe Della and Jim. Be sure to use your notes and include specific details.

In your descriptions of the two characters, use each of the following vocabulary words:

- imputation
- parsimony
- unassuming