

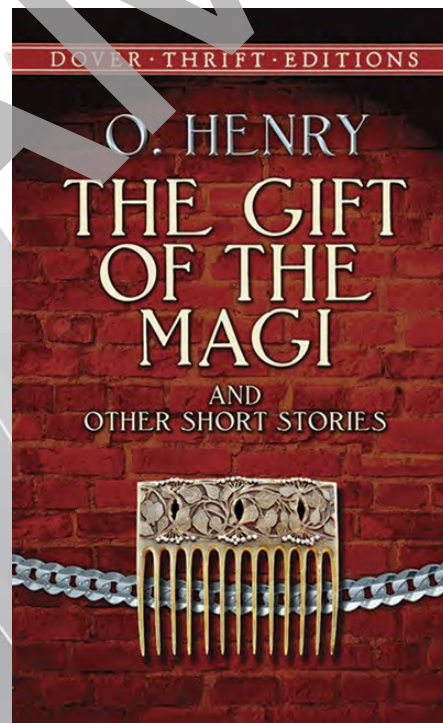


STUDENT PACKET

GRADES 9-12

The Gift of the Magi and Other Short Stories

Lisbeth Zwerger



READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

The Gift of the Magi and Other Short Stories

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NOTE:

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

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Name _____

The Gift of the Magi, pp. 1–5

1. How much money has Della saved?
2. Why is the money important to her?
3. What are the Youngs' two prized possessions?
4. How much money does Della receive for her hair? What does she buy with the money?
5. What is Della most worried about when Jim comes home?
6. What causes Della to talk fast when Jim comes home?
7. What has Jim bought Della?
8. How has Jim obtained enough money for Della's gift?
9. To whom does O. Henry compare Jim and Della at the end of the story?

The Cop and the Anthem, pp. 5–10

1. What three events tell Soapy "winter is near at hand" (p. 5)?
2. What is the "Island"?
3. Why doesn't Soapy want to use the city's charity for food and shelter in the winter?
4. What is Soapy's first plan to get arrested by a policeman? Why doesn't it work?
5. What does Soapy do next? Why doesn't that plan work?
6. What effort does Soapy repeat?
7. What does a "masher" do?
8. How is Soapy's fourth plan foiled?
9. What is the policeman's interpretation of Soapy's yelling and disturbing of the peace?
10. Briefly describe Soapy's final attempt to commit a misdemeanor.
11. What brings a change to Soapy's soul?
12. What irony occurs at the end of the story?

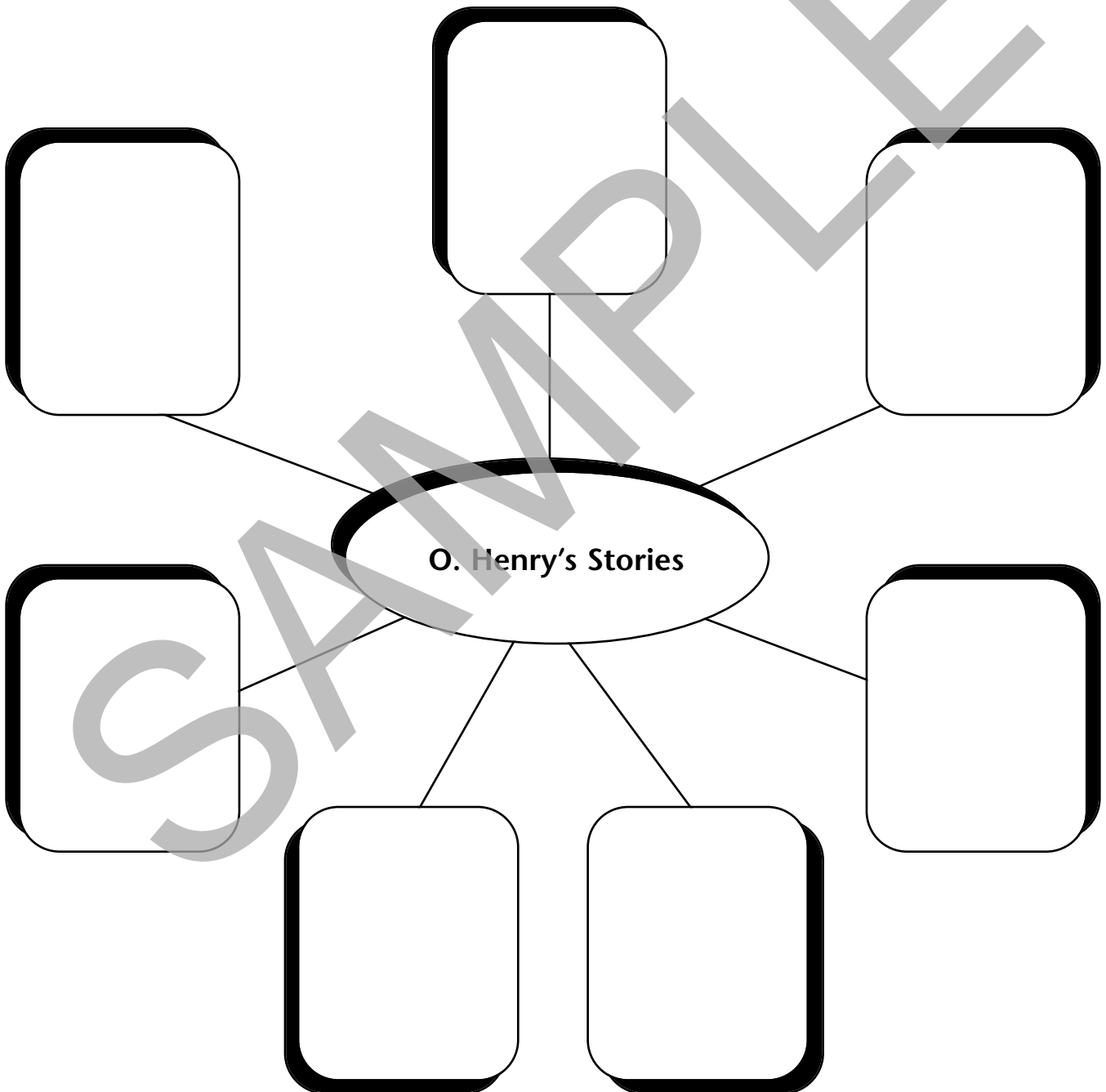
Springtime à la Carte, pp. 10–15

1. What is Sarah's job?
2. What does Sarah get in return for her work?
3. What happy event happened to Sarah the summer before?
4. Why does the new menu make Sarah cry?
5. Who surprises Sarah as she settles in to read?

Name _____

The Use Of Disguise and Pretense in O. Henry

Directions: On the top of each rectangle, write the name of a character from O. Henry's stories who used disguise or pretense. Inside the rectangle, first write his/her false name or disguise; below that, briefly explain why the pretense is important to the plot.



Name _____

Sequence

Directions: Choose your favorite O. Henry story. Fill in the chart below with major actions that lead to the surprise ending.

