

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
High School Humanities Year A  
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Week 15 Assignment Sheet  
December 7, 2023  
Due December 14, 2023

### Literature

- Read "The Gift of the Magi" and "The Last Leaf" by O. Henry.

### Writing

- Answer the following in the space provided: (10 points each)

1. An ironic situation is one in which the characters' actions bring about an unexpected result. What is ironic about the outcome of "The Gift of the Magi"?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Often, an ironic situation tends to belittle characters, to make them seem foolish or contemptible. Is this the case with Della and Jim? Why or why not?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. O Henry is famous for the surprise endings in his stories. Some of his endings have been criticized as unfair tricks. Is the ending of "The Gift of the Magi" unfair? Or is it a logical ending considering what you know about Jim and Della? Explain.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Which is the gift O. Henry refers to in the title and what has it to do with the Magi? Why according to O. Henry, are people like Jim and Della "the wisest"?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. In many ways, "The Last Leaf" functions as a parable. It serves as a reminder that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is meant to be lived out, just as much as it is meant to be taught.

Telling others the Gospel is certainly important and necessary, but showing the Gospel to them by our deeds will often be more effective. An actual loaf of bread is far more preferable to the hungry than simply telling them to "be filled" (James 2:14-17). How does the lesson of "The Last Leaf" illustrate this principle?

- COMPARISON CHART:** In both "The Gift of the Magi" and "The Last Leaf," O. Henry shows the inextricable union of love and sacrifice. Using the Comparing Literature chart, compare the two stories and how the love demonstrated by the characters makes them extraordinary and memorable to the reader. Then, write a thesis statement that you would use if you were going to write an essay comparing the two stories. Staple your chart to this assignment sheet. You will turn in both together.

**Junior / Senior**

- None

**Grammar**

- Review The Parts of Speech in Section 3 of *Handbook of Grammar and Composition*. Complete Workbook exercises 24 and 26, pgs. 10-11.

**Vocabulary**

- None

Student: Please read and sign. I have completed all of the assignments on this assignment sheet.

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents: Please read and sign. I have looked over my student's work and it is complete to my satisfaction.

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_