“Gift of the Magi” Essential Vocabulary Chart #\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| Word | My Guess | Actual Definition |
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“Gift of the Magi” Grappling Chart

O. Henry published this short story in 1906, and some of the language and wording may be difficult. Use the column on the right to “grapple” with the text, writing what it means in your own words.

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| ¶ | What the sentence SAYS | What the sentence MEANS |
| 1 | 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. |  |
| 2 | 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. |  |
| 3 | While the mistress of the home is gradually subsiding from the first stage to the second, take a look at the home.  |  |
| 4 | A furnished flat at $8 per week. It did not exactly beggar description, but it certainly had that word on the lookout for the mendicancy squad. In the vestibule below was a letter-box into which no letter would go, and an electric button from which no mortal finger could coax a ring. |  |
| 9 | The other was Della’s hair. Had the Queen of Sheba lived in the flat across the airshaft, Della would have let her hair hang out the window some day to dry just to depreciate Her Majesty’s jewels and gifts.  |  |
| 9 | Had King Solomon been the janitor, with all his treasures piled up in the basement, Jim would have pulled out his watch every time he passed, just to see him pluck at his beard from envy. |  |
| 20 | When Della reached home her intoxication gave way a little to prudence and reason. She got out her curling irons and lighted the gas and went to work repairing the ravages made by generosity added to love. |  |