

Reflect and Respond: Activity 2 (Grade 9–10, Narrative Text)

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From Henry, O. (1906). "The Gift of the Magi"

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/7256/7256-h/7256-h.htm>

White fingers and nimble tore at the string and paper. And then an ecstatic scream of joy; and then, alas! a quick feminine change to hysterical tears and wails, necessitating the immediate employment of all the comforting powers of the lord of the flat.

For there lay The Combs the set of combs, side and back, that Della had worshipped long in a Broadway window.

Beautiful combs, pure tortoise shell, with jeweled rims just the shade to wear in the beautiful vanished hair. They were expensive combs, she knew, and her heart had simply craved and yearned over them without the least hope of possession. And now, they were hers, but the tresses that should have adorned the coveted adornments were gone.

But she hugged them to her bosom, and at length she was able to look up with dim eyes and a smile and say: My hair grows so fast, Jim!

And then Della leaped up like a little singed cat and cried, Oh, oh!

Jim had not yet seen his beautiful present. She held it out to him eagerly upon her open palm. The dull precious metal seemed to flash with a reflection of her bright and ardent spirit.

Isn't it a dandy, Jim? I hunted all over town to find it. You'll have to look at the time a hundred times a day now. Give me your watch. I want to see how it looks on it.

Instead of obeying, Jim tumbled down on the couch and put his hands under the back of his head and smiled.

Dell, said he, let's put our Christmas presents away and keep 'em a while. They're too nice to use just at present. I sold the watch to get the money to buy your combs. And now suppose you put the chops on.

The Magi, as you know, were wise men wonderfully wise men who brought gifts to the Babe in the manger. They invented the art of giving Christmas presents. Being wise, their gifts were no doubt wise ones, possibly bearing the privilege of exchange in case of duplication. And here I have lamely related to you the uneventful chronicle of two foolish children in a flat who most unwisely sacrificed for each other the greatest treasures of their house. But in a last word to the wise of these days let it be said that of all who give gifts these two were the wisest. Of all who give and receive gifts, such as they are wisest. Everywhere they are wisest. They are the Magi.

RESOURCES

Text Complexity and the Common Core State Standards

Module 4 of 5

Analyzing the Words in Narrative and Informational Texts

Reflect and Respond: Activity 2 (Grade 9–10, Narrative Text)

From Henry, O. (1906). "The Gift of the Magi"

Vocabulary

Word	Appearances in text (#)	Frequency per million words	Word is decodable	Word can be figured out in context	Unknown concept
vanished	1	9			
sacrificed	1	9			
jeweled	1	8			
hugged	1	7			
privilege	1	7			
tumbled	1	5			
feminine	1	4			
ardent	1	2			
lamely	1	2			
tortoise	1	2			
unwisely	1	2			
adorned	1	1			
broadway	1	1			
chronicle	1	1			
hysterical	1	1			
manger	1	0.9631			
nimble	1	0.9266			
yearned	1	0.8518			
craved	1	0.8428			
duplication	1	0.7765			
coveted	1	0.7466			
uneventful	1	0.6227			
ecstatic	1	0.457			
singed	1	0			
tresses	1	0			
adornments	1	0			
necessitating	1	0			

RESOURCES

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Analyzing the Words in Narrative and Informational Texts

Lincoln, Abraham (November 19, 1863). Gettysburg Address. <http://www.gutenberg.org/dirs/etext90/getty11h.htm>

Four score and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We are met to dedicate a portion of it as the final resting place of those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But in a large sense we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have con-

secrated it far above our power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work that they have thus far so nobly carried on. It is, rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us, that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that Government of the people, by the people and for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

RESOURCES

Text Complexity and the Common Core State Standards

Module 4 of 5**Analyzing the Words in Narrative and Informational Texts**

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Lincoln, Abraham (November 19, 1863). Gettysburg Address.

Vocabulary

Monosyllabic words: vain

Word	Appearances in text (#)	Frequency per million words	Word is decodable	Word can be figured out in context	Unknown concept
dedicate(d)	6	7			
endure	1	6			
devotion	2	4			
proposition	1	4			
battlefield	1	3			
perish	1	2			
unfinished	1	2			
detract	1	0.9421			
conceived	2	0.4692			
consecrated	1	0.4692			
hallow	1	0			
fourscore	1	0			

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Module 4 of 5

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