

ENGLISH SIDE READERS FOR HIGH  
SCHOOLS AND VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

高中、高職英文輔助讀物

THE GIFT OF THE MAGI



耶誕禮物

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H319.4 / <307>

**THE GIFT  
OF  
THE MAGI**

## 簡 介

O. Henry 歐亨利 (1862-1910) 生於美國南部的北卡羅萊納州。他的母親在他三歲時逝世，而他身為地方上的名醫的父親，也在三十歲的壯年去世。他幼年時代就在這種不幸的遭遇下度過。青年時代他輾轉從事過多種職業，最後服務於德州的某銀行，却因被懷疑盜用公款而遭起訴，結果在俄亥俄州監獄服刑五年。事實上他在獄中已開始寫短篇小說，奠定了成為作家的基礎。出獄後他遷居紐約，並以此地為背景發表多篇作品，確立了他的地位與風格。

他的作品大都以平民的日常生活為題材，描寫人生的喜、怒、哀、樂。作品的共同點是：無論在那一篇中，都以那些不知名的人們的人性優點與美感為主題。本書所選的 *The Gift of the Magi* (耶誕禮物) 是敘述一對年輕的窮夫婦互贈聖誕禮物的故事；另一篇 *The Cop and the Anthem* (警察與讚美詩) 是描寫一個男人在一個寒夜渴望自己被關進溫暖的監獄所發生的經過。兩篇各具歐亨利的特色。細心欣賞本書，各位定會深為歐亨利的世界所吸引和感動。

黃帝圖書公司編審委員會

## THE GIFT OF THE MAGI

One dollar and eighty-seven cents. That was all. And sixty cents of that was in pennies. Della had counted it three times. In three months she had saved one dollar and eighty-seven cents. And the next day would be Christmas.

Della could do nothing except cry. So she sat down and began to cry.

The apartment was not an expensive one. It cost only \$8 a week. There was a small mailbox outside. The name on the mailbox was James Dillingham Young. The box had been put up when the owner was earning \$30 a week. Now he earned only \$20 a week. The name James Dillingham Young sounded

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**Magi** ['medʒaɪ] (≡)賢者。(指耶穌基督誕生時，爲了祝賀他的誕生，由東方來了三位帶著禮物的賢者。Magi 是 Magus ['megəs] 的複數形。參閱：新約馬太福音第二章第 1~12 節)。**That was all.** 全部祇有那些。**in pennies** 銅幣 (=in cents)。**In three months she had saved ~.** 在三個月內她儲蓄了~ (請注意過去完成式的時態) **do nothing except [but]~** 除了~什麼都沒做。**apartment** 公寓(此處指一個套房)。**It cost ~.** (房租) 耗費(多少錢)。**a week** 每週 (=per week)。**mailbox** 信箱 (爲美式用語，指個人信箱或公共郵筒。英式用語，letter box 個人信箱; post box 公用信箱)。**Dillingham** ['dɪlɪŋhəm] 狄寧漢 (人名)。**the owner** 所有者; 主人。(即: James Dillingham Young)

too fancy now. For \$20 a week James Young was good enough.

But inside the apartment his name was Jim. Mrs. Dillingham loved him very much. And she called  
5 him Jim. He called her Della.

Della stopped crying. She got up and walked to the window. She stood by the window and looked out. She saw a gray cat. It was walking on a gray fence. To Della the whole world seemed gray.  
10 Tomorrow would be Christmas Day. And she had only \$1.87. A dollar and eighty-seven cents to buy a present for Jim. Her Jim.

She had tried to save more. She had wanted to save more. She had spent many happy hours plan-  
15 ning. She wanted to buy something very nice for Jim. Something expensive. Maybe something made of silver.

Della walked away from the window. She went to look at herself in the mirror. She let her hair

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**fancy** 高雅（現在的生活方式與高雅的名字不合）。**good enough**（祇 James Young 二字）已够好（加上 Dillingham 與身分不相配）。**Jim James** 的暱稱。**gray cat** 灰貓（文中連續使用三個 gray，表示女主角 Della 沉浸在灰色的氣氛中）。**A dollar and eighty-seven cents to ~.** 以一元八角七分～（數字用在文句開始時要把數字字母拼出，不用阿拉伯數字。）**Her Jim.** 她的詹（她所摯愛的詹姆斯）。**spend...hours [days, time] ~ing** 花（時間）做～（這種結構，動名詞（此處是 *planning*）前面的 *in* 通常省略）**let her hair fall down** 讓頭髮垂下（使役動詞+受詞+原形動詞的結構）。



fall down. It came to her waist. It was beautiful. Jim said it was the most beautiful hair in the world.

The Youngs owned two beautiful things. One was Della's hair. The other was Jim's watch. It had belonged to Jim's father. And his grandfather. These two things were very valuable. Jim and Della loved the watch. And they loved Della's hair.

Della looked at herself in the mirror again. She touched her hair. It was very soft. And it looked so beautiful. She loved it very much. She looked at her hair once more. Then she put it all back on top of her head. She tied it with the ribbons.

Her old brown coat was by the door. She got it and put it on. Then she put on her hat. She was crying again. But she went out. She walked quickly down the street.

After five minutes she came to a small shop. She was nervous. She looked at the sign. It said, "We buy hair." Della went inside. There was an old

**The Youngs** 楊格家的人 (the+姓+s 表家族)。**owned** 擁有 (=possessed)。**One was Della's hair. The other was Jim's watch.** 一項是Della 的頭髮, 另一項是Jim 的金錶。(在19世紀到20世紀間, 人們喜歡長髮; 把頭髮視為很珍貴的東西。而擁有掛錶的人, 當他們戴著它走路時, 常常取出來看看; 與其說是看時間, 不如說是在誇耀自己有掛錶這項物件。錶本身的時刻正確與否並不重要, 重要的在於它的材料與錶鏈的價值。) **on top of** 在~上面 (=on the top of)。**put on** 穿上; 戴上 (相反語是 take off)。**shop** 商店 (美式用語: 專門製造或修理的店稱為 shop; 販賣成品的店叫 store)。**sign** [saɪn] 招牌。**It said, ~.** 上面寫著~

lady there.

“Will you buy my hair?” asked Della.

“Take off your hat,” the old lady answered. “Let me see your hair.”

Della took off her hat. She untied the ribbons. She let her hair fall down. The old lady looked at it. She touched it. Then she smiled. “I’ll give you twenty dollars,” she said.

“OK, give it to me,” said Della, “Quick.”

The old lady paid Della the twenty dollars. Then she cut most of her hair off. Now her hair was very short. Della left the shop. She was crying.

Della walked for a long time. She went from one store to another. She wasn’t crying any longer. She had more than twenty dollars. She was rich. She could buy Jim a Christmas present. An expensive Christmas present.

She looked at everything in the store. She didn’t like anything. Nothing was good enough for Jim. She left and went to another department store. Still she couldn’t find anything. She went to another department store.

Two hours passed. Then she found it. The per-

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Will you buy my hair? 你是否能買我的頭髮呢？（請求的語氣）OK. 好吧  
（美式用語。英語爲 all right） not ~ any longer 已經不再~ department  
store 百貨店。





fect present. Jim's Christmas present. She picked it up carefully. A silver watch chain. Jim's watch would look very nice on this chain. Jim would love it.

Della went to pay for it. It was very expensive. It cost twenty-one dollars. She took \$21 from her purse. She gave it to the clerk. The clerk put the chain in a nice box. Then Della left the store.

Now she had only 87 cents. But she also had Jim's new watch chain. Jim would love it. He could look at his watch any time. Everybody would admire his beautiful watch and chain. Eighty-seven cents was not much money. But Della was happy. She hurried home.

Della ran into the apartment. She took off her hat and coat. Then she went to look in the mirror. Her hair was very short. But she didn't cry. She

picked it up 用手拿起來。chain [tʃeɪn] 錶鏈 (=fob [fɒb] chain 當時的長褲腰間有一放錶的袋子，由此將錶鏈以U字形垂下，使錶鏈外露)。Jim's watch would look ~. (在這條錶鏈上,) 詹的錶看來將會是 (非常漂亮)。(=Della thought Jim's watch would look ~. 這種描述句是介於直接說話與間接說話之間的型態。以作者的立場寫出來，好像是作者在說話；而事實上文物中的人物所要說的和所想的，都由作者代表將其描述出來。這種「描出句法」在以後的文句中還會出現多次，請注意。) purse [pɜːs] (婦女的)錢包(美式用語。) clerk 店員(英式用語 shop assistant) He could look at his watch any time. 他可以經常拿出錶來看(當時這代表生活濶綽的紳士舉動)。

was very happy. She loved Jim.

Jim would be home soon. So Della fixed her hair. Soon she had small curls all over her head. She looked in the mirror again.

“Jim will be angry,” she thought. “But what could I do? I had only a dollar and eighty-seven cents. And Jim will like the chain. Then he will be happy. He loves me.”

At 7 o'clock dinner was almost ready. The coffee was made. The salad was ready. The chops were cooking. They would be finished in a few minutes. And Jim would come home in a few minutes. He was never late.



fix~整理。“But what could I do? ~.” 但我做什麼好呢？（可以換句話說：因為我實在沒有什麼好辦法，所以~）**The chops were cooking.** 正在煮肉排（cook是及物動詞，現用為不及物動詞，=The chops were being cooked. chop [tʃɒp] 是指一塊塊切得很厚的肉）。

Della took the watch chain from the box. She hid it in her hand. She went over near the door. She sat down to wait for Jim. In a few minutes she heard him. He was coming. Della said a prayer. "Please God, make him think I am still pretty."

The door opened. Jim came in and closed the door. He looked tired. He was only twenty-two but he worked very hard. He also looked cold. He didn't have a coat. He didn't have any gloves, either.

Jim came towards Della. Then he stopped. He looked at her. There was an expression in his eyes that she couldn't understand. He wasn't angry. He wasn't surprised. He wasn't sad. Jim just looked and looked at her.

Della ran to Jim. "Jim, darling. Don't look at me that way. I had my hair cut off. I sold it. I wanted to buy you a Christmas present. My hair will grow back again. It grows very fast. It's OK, isn't it? I had to buy you a Christmas present.

said a prayer [prɜː] 禱告。make him think 讓他認為～（使役動詞+受詞+原形動詞）...not ~, either. 不但沒有～, 而且也沒有～。glove [glɒv] 手套。Jim just looked and looked at her. 詹只是頻頻地看她。that way 像那樣（=like that）。I had my hair cut off. 我已經剪掉頭髮了（have + 受詞+過去分詞。這裏的 have 兼具有使役動詞, 與被動的雙重意義）。I had to buy ~. 我必須買～（在這裏具有非買禮物心不安的意味）

Please, Jim. Say 'Merry Christmas!' Let's be happy. I've got a wonderful present for you."

"You had your hair cut off?" Jim asked. He didn't seem to believe it.

"Yes," she answered. "I had it cut off. I sold it. Then I bought a Christmas present for you. A wonderful present."

Jim was still looking at her.

"What's the matter, darling?" Della asked. "Don't you love me any more? I'm still Della. I still have the same heart. I still love you."

Then Jim asked, "Your hair is gone? Is it really gone?" He looked around the room.

"Don't look for it," Della said. "It's gone. I sold it. It's Christmas Eve, Jim. I sold it because I love you. Maybe you could count the hairs on my head. But you could never count my love for you. It's too great." She smiled at him. Then she said, "Dinner is ready, darling. Let's eat."

Suddenly Jim walked over to Della. He put his arms around her. He held her close to him. "I love you, Della," he said. "I love you more than anything in the world."

'Merry Christmas!' 耶誕快樂! (=A Merry Christmas (to you)! 或 I wish you a merry Christmas!) "Your hair is gone? ~." 你的頭髮沒有了? (gone 在此是過去分詞作形容詞用。日前英語方面如 go, come 常如此使用。例: Spring is come. 春天來了。=has come)



Then Jim took a package from his pocket. He put it on the table.

“Don’t misunderstand me, Della,” he said. “I love you. You can have long hair. You can have short hair. But you’re still my wife. I still love you. Open the package. Then you’ll understand.”

Della ran to the table. She untied the ribbon.

She opened the package carefully. At first she laughed happily, like a little girl. Then suddenly she began to cry. In the package were two combs. She had seen the combs many times. They

package [ˈpækɪdʒ] 小袋子 (=parcel [ˈpɑːsl]). can 可以 (=may). In the package were two combs [kɒmz]. 在小袋子中有二把梳子。(倒裝句。副詞子句+動詞(were)+主詞(two combs), two combs 表示二把(你所盼望的)梳子, 即是橫梳子與後梳子。) She had seen the combs many times. 她曾經看過這些梳子好幾次。

were from an expensive Broadway store. She had looked at them many times. They were perfect for her beautiful long hair. But now she didn't have her long hair. Now she couldn't wear the combs in her hair. Her hair was too short. 5

She said to Jim, "They're beautiful. My hair will grow fast. In a few months I'll be able to wear them."

Then she remembered Jim's present. She ran to Jim. She put the watch chain in his hand. "Isn't it beautiful, Jim? I bought it today. It will be perfect for your watch. Give me your watch. I want to put the chain on it." 10

Jim didn't say anything. He sat down on the couch. He was smiling. "Della," he said, "let's put our presents away. They're too nice to use now. We'll use them in the future." 15

"Please, Jim, give me your watch. I want to put the chain on it."

"I don't have the watch, Della. I sold it so I could buy the combs." He looked at her with love 20

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I want to put the chain on it. 我要把這錶鏈掛在你的錶上 (=I want to put the chain on your watch.)。 couch [kaʊtʃ] 長椅; 睡椅 (=lounge [laʊndʒ] chair)。 put away (爲了將來用) 現在暫且收起來。 too ~ to... 太~而不能~ I sold it so [that] I could buy the combs. 我爲了買梳子所以把它賣了。(so that ~ can (may)... 是爲了~才能~之意, 表示目的之副詞子句。)

in his eyes. "Now let's eat dinner."

The Magi were the three wise men. They gave gifts to the baby Jesus. They gave the very first Christmas presents. Della and Jim sold their greatest treasures to buy gifts. Of all who have given  
5 gifts, these two were the wisest.

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**The Magi were the three wise men.** 三賢者是三位聰明人（參閱前述 Magi 的註解）。**Of all who give gifts** 所有互贈禮物的人中。

## Exercise

I. 下列各句，符合本文內容的以“O”號表示，不符合的用“X”號：

1. Della is going to save one dollar and eightyseven cents.
2. Tomorrow is Jim's birthday.
3. Della had spent many happy hours planning to buy something very nice for Jim.
4. The Youngs owned two beautiful things. One was Della's hair. The other was Jim's car.
5. Della was willing to sell her hair to buy a present for Jim.
6. Della bought a silver watch chain for Jim.
7. When Della looked at her short hair in the mirror, she cried.
8. When Jim saw Della's short hair, he got angry.
9. Jim gave Della two combs for a Christmas present.
10. Jim sold his watch, so he could buy the combs.

II. 在 ( ) 內填入適當的單字，以中文同義的英文作答：

1. 這祇是令我有點耽心的事而已。  
I've been a little uneasy, ( ) ( ).
2. 除了哭泣她整天什麼也不做。  
She does ( ) ( ) cry all day.
3. 我花了兩年的時間編這本字典。  
I ( ) two years working on this dictionary.
4. 她不讓我走。  
She didn't let me ( ).
5. 楊格家是一個老式家庭。  
( ) ( ) are an old family.
6. 請戴帽。



( ) ( ) your hat.

7. 我沒有辦法再走。

I cannot walk ( ) ( ).

8. 你若不參加,我也不參加。

If you do not join, I will not join, ( ).

9. 我做了一件新外套。

I had a new coat ( ).

10. 這些水果需很小心地放進大箱子裏。

The fruit should be carefully ( ) ( ) in bins.

11. 他因為太生氣以致無法說話。

He is ( ) angry ( ) speak.

12. 爲了能趕上那班火車,我們匆忙而行。

We hurried ( ) ( ) we ( ) catch the train.