**“The Gift of the Magi” Questions**

*Directions: Answer the following questions using complete sentences.*

1. Early in the story, you’ll find a line in which the author uses imagery and repetition to make the setting reflect Della’s mood. Write down that line (yes, I want you to write the whole sentence) and explain why Della is in this mood.

2. Time for a little math. First, how much did the couple pay in rent on their apartment? In a recent check of real estate websites, a similar apartment rents today for $300 a week in New York City. How much was Della paid for her hair? In today’s money, how much would that be? How much did she spend on the chain? What would that cost in today’s dollars? Does the cost of the platinum chain seem reasonable or outrageous? Can you envision a time in your future as an adult spending that much on a gift for your spouse? Explain your thoughts.

3. The narrator says, “She got out her curling irons and lighted the gas and went to work repairing the ravages made by generosity added to love. Which is always a tremendous task, dear friends – a mammoth task.” Explain what the narrator means. How is this passage an element of foreshadowing?

4. The author uses two notable sentences featuring alliteration. Identify one of those sentences and explain why the author might have chosen to use this literary device.