

“The Gift of the Magi” Paper

Assignment: Write an essay describing the theme of O. Henry’s “The Gift of the Magi.” Explain how the author uses irony as an essential tool in developing this theme.

Introduction

Give the title of the story, the author’s name and a brief summary of the major events.

Thesis: Irony is used to develop the theme that _____.

Body Paragraphs

- #1 Topic Sentence: Della’s actions are ironic and connect to the theme of the story.
- Explain what Della sacrifices in this story.
 - Explain why that sacrifice is ironic (can she use the gift she receives?)
 - Explain how Della’s sacrifice connects to/teaches the theme of this story.
- #2 Topic Sentence: Jim’s actions are ironic and connect to the theme of the story.
- Explain what Jim sacrifices in this story.
 - Explain why that sacrifice is ironic (can he use the gift he receives?)
 - Explain how Jim’s sacrifice connects to/teaches the theme of this story.

Conclusion

Explain what you learned from Della and Jim. What lessons from this story can you apply to your life?