1. How much money did Della have with her for Jim’s present? How had she saved it?

Ans. Della had One dollar and eighty seven cents only for Jim’s present. She had put it aside, one cent after another and another, in her careful buying of meat and other food.

1. Describe Della’s home.

Ans. The furnished rooms were at a cost eight dollars a week. In the hall, there was a name beside the door. “Mr. James Dillingham Young.”

1. How much was James paid earlier? How much does he earn now?

Ans. Earlier, James was paid thirty dollars a week but now he is paid on twenty dollars.

1. How does his name seem when then his income is reduced? Rather, how should it be?

Ans. As the income had reduced, the name seemed too long and important. It perhaps should have been “Mr. James D. Young.”

1. Why did Della want to buy a gift for Jim? Why couldn’t she save much for Jim?

Ans. Della wanted to buy a gift for Jim as it was Christmas the next day. She had put aside as much money as she could for months but couldn’t save as twenty dollars a month is not much and everything cost more than she had expected.

1. Which art had Della mastered?

Ans. There was a very narrow looking-glass between the windows. A person could only see a little of himself at a time. If a person was very think and moved very quickly, he might be able to get a good view of himself. Della being quite thin, had mastered this art.

1. Describe the reflection as Della turned from the window and turned towards the glass.

Ans. When Della turned from the window and turned towards the glass, her eyes were shining brightly but her face had lost its colour.

1. Which two things was James very proud of?

Ans. James was proud of two things. One, Jim’s gold watch which had once belonged to his father, and long ago it had belonged to his father’s father. The other thing that he was proud of was Della’s hair.

1. What would Jim and Della do if a king and queen would live in the room near their?

Ans. If a queen would live in a room near theirs, Della would have washed and dried her fair where the queen could see it as she knew that her hair was more beautiful than any queen’s jewels and gifts. If a king would live in a room near theirs, Jim would have looked at his watch every time they met as Jim knew that there was no king had anything so valuable.

1. What happened before Della left her home to go down to the street?

Ans. Della’s beautiful hair fell about her, shining like a falling stream of brown water. It reached below her knew and almost made itself into a dress for her. She put the hair up nervously and quickly, stopped for a moment and stood still while a tear or two ran down her face. She put on her old brown coat and her old brown hat and moved down the door and down to the street.

1. Where did Della stop? What question did Della ask? Whom?

Ans. Della stopped to where a sign said ‘Mrs. Sofronie. Hair Articles of all Kinds.” Della ran up to the second floor and asked Mrs. Sofronie if she would buy Della’s hair.

1. What price did Mrs. Sofronie offer for Della’s hair?

Ans. As Mrs. Sofronie saw Della’s hair, she said that it would give her twenty dollars.

1. Did Della find a perfect gift for Jim? What was it?

Ans. Yes, after two hours of search Della found a perfect gift for Jim. It was surely made for Jim and no one else. It was a gold watch chain, very simply made. Its value was in its rich and pure material. As it was so plain and simple, it was evident that it was valuable.

1. What similarity did the chain and Jim have? How much did the gift cost Della?

Ans. The chain and Jim both had quietness and value. The chain cost Della twenty one dollars and she went home with her remaining eighty seven cents.

1. What happened as Della went home?

Ans. When Della went home, she started to think more reasonably. She tried to cover the sad marks of what she had done.

1. How did Della look in her short hair? What did she think as she stood before the mirror?

Ans. Della looked wonderfully like a school boy. As she stood before the mirror she thought that if Jim wouldn’t kill her, before he looks at her the second time, he would say that she looked like a girl who sings and dances for money.

1. What did Della do when it was seven in the evening?

Ans. At seven, the dinner was ready as Jim would never be late. Della held the watch chain in her hand and sat near the door where he always entered. As she heard his step, her face lost her colour. She prayed to God to make Jim think that she was still pretty.

1. How did Jim react as he saw Della?

Ans. Jim looked strangely at Della and there was an expression on him that Della could not understand. It filled her with fear. His expression was not anger, surprise or anything she had been ready for. He simply stood there looking at her.

1. What had Jim bought for Della?

Ans. Jim bought Della the combs that she had seen in a shop window and loved for a long time. They were beautiful combs with jewels, perfect for her beautiful hair. Della knew that it cost too much for her to buy them.

1. How had Jim managed to buy the expensive gift for Della?

Ans. Jim had sold his precious watch to buy the combs for Della.

1. Why does the narrator say that these two were the greatest magi?

Ans. The narrator said that these two were the greatest magi as they had sacrificed something they felt proud of, something that was the most precious for them. They made a personal sacrifice of their own happiness for the happiness of someone they loved.