# Expanded Lesson Plan: The Gift of the Magi

Level: Intermediate

Reading Material: “The Gift of the Magi” by O. Henry

Skills Focus: Reading (R), Speaking (S), Writing (W), Listening (L)

Time: 90 minutes

## Business/Materials

- Printed copies of “The Gift of the Magi”  
- Audio recording of the story  
- Projector and screen  
- Whiteboard and markers  
- Highlighters and pens  
- Vocabulary handout  
- Comprehension quiz  
- Reflective writing worksheet

## Lesson Objectives

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:  
1. Use skimming and scanning to identify key details and main ideas (intensive reading).  
2. Read for pleasure and personal connection (extensive reading).  
3. Discuss character motivations and story themes.  
4. Write a reflective paragraph connecting the story to their own experiences.

## Warm-up and Objective Discussion (15 minutes)

Warm-up Activity (10 mins):  
Ask students: “What’s the most meaningful gift you’ve ever given or received?”  
Students pair up and share their stories. Volunteers share with the class to build engagement and emotional connection.  
  
Objective Discussion (5 mins):  
Write the objectives on the board. Explain: “Today we’ll explore two ways of reading. First, we’ll look closely at the text to find specific information. Then, we’ll enjoy the story and think about how it connects to our lives.”

## Instruct and Model (20 minutes)

Paragraphs 1–2:  
- Skimming for Main Idea: “One dollar and eighty-seven cents. That was all.”  
- Scanning for Details: “Three times Della counted it. One dollar and eighty-seven cents.”  
Students skim these paragraphs to understand Della’s financial situation and emotional state.  
Ask students to scan for the exact amount of money and how she saved it.  
  
Listening: Replay the paragraph and ask students to underline key words they hear.  
Speaking: In pairs, students discuss: “What do we know about Della so far?”  
Writing: Students write a one-sentence prediction: “What do you think will happen next?”

## Guided Practice (20 minutes)

Paragraphs 6–9:  
- Skimming for Action: “Suddenly she whirled from the window and stood before the glass.”  
- Scanning for Specifics: “She let it fall to its full length.” and “Will you buy my hair?” asked Della.  
Students skim to find what Della decides to do and scan to identify what she sells and why.  
  
Listening: Play the audio of the same section. Students check their answers.  
Speaking: Group discussion: “Would you do what Della did? Why or why not?”  
Writing: Each student writes a short summary of what happened so far (3–4 sentences).

## Independent Practice (20 minutes)

Paragraphs 10–17:  
Students read the rest of the story silently, focusing on enjoyment and emotional engagement (extensive reading).  
  
Writing: Reflective writing: “Have you ever made a sacrifice for someone you love? How did it feel?”  
Speaking: In small groups, students share their reflections and discuss the story’s message.  
Listening: Play the final paragraph. Students listen for the twist ending and discuss its impact.

## Assessment (15 minutes)

Reading:  
- Comprehension quiz with:  
 1. How much money did Della have? (Paragraph 1)  
 2. What did she sell to buy Jim’s gift? (Paragraph 9)  
 3. What did Jim sell to buy Della’s gift? (Paragraph 16)  
- Theme-based questions:  
 1. What does the story say about love and sacrifice? (Final paragraph)  
 2. Why are Della and Jim compared to the Magi? (Final paragraph)  
  
Writing: Evaluate reflective paragraphs for clarity, depth, and personal connection.  
Listening: Students answer 2 questions based on audio clips.  
Speaking: Informal assessment of participation in group discussions.