八年级英语课外阅读学案

The gifts

By O. Henry

 One dollar and eighty-seven cents. That was all. Three times Della counted it. One dollar and eighty-seven cents. And the next day would be Christmas. She could not afford a present, so she sat down and cried.

 Jim and Della had two possessions which they were both proud of. One was Jim's gold watch that was from his father and his grandfather. The other was Della's beautiful hair. It fell about her, and reached below her knee.

 Della put on her old brown jacket and her old brown hat. Then she went out of the door and down the stairs to the street.

She stopped at a store. The sign in front of the store read "Hair Goods".

 "Will you buy my hair?" asked Della.

 "Twenty dollars," the woman said.

 Then Della searched through the stores looking for a present for Jim.

 She found it at last. It was a watch chain. The bill was twenty-one dollars.

 At seven o'clock, the coffee was made and dinner was ready.

 Jim was never late. Della heard his steps on the stairs.

 The door opened and Jim walked in. He stopped inside the door. His eyes were fixed on Della, and there was an expression in them that she could not read.

"Jim," she cried, "don't look at me that way. I sold my hair to buy you a Christmas present."

 Jim drew a box from his pocket and put it on the table.

 Della opened it. There lay the set of combs that she had always wanted .Now they were hers, but her hair was gone.

 She smiled and held out Jim's present. "I hunted all over town to find it. Give me your watch. I want to see how it looks on it."

 Instead of obeying, Jim sat down, put his hands behind his head and smiled.

 " Della," he said, "I sold the watch to get the money to buy your combs."

**生词解释**

1. count 数数 2.afford 买得起 3.possession 个人财产；私人物品

4.sign 标志牌 5.expression 表情 6.hunt 搜索

Task 1: Read and predict

1. When did the story take place?

2. Why did Della count her money?

3. What was Della’s problem?

Task 2: Main idea

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| **Part** | **Structure** | **Paragraph** | **Main idea** |
| Part1 | beginning | Para 1-2 | Della decided to\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. |
| Part 2 | development(发展) | Para3-8 | Della \_\_\_ her hair and bought \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_for her husband. |
| Part 3 | climax(高潮) | Para9-17 | Jim gave Della a beautiful set of \_\_\_ but Della sold her hair, Della gave the chain to Jim, but he didn't have \_\_\_\_\_\_ any more. |

Task 3: Read Para1-2 and answer

1. Why did Della count the money three times?

A. She wanted to make sure how much money she had.

B. The money was valuable for her and not easy to get.

C. She was eager to buy a gift for her husband, but she didn’t have enough money.

D. A, B and C

2. What possessions did each of them have?

Task 4: Read Para 3-8 and put the sentences into the right place

*A. “Please God, make Jim think I am still beautiful,” thought Della.*

*B. It was surely made for Jim and on one else.*

*C. She took off her hat and her beautiful hair fell off like a waterfall.*

*D. “Give it to me quick," said Della.*

*E. They took Twenty-one dollars from her for it*

Della put on her old brown jacket and her old brown hat. Then she went out of the door and down the stairs to the street.

She stopped at the store. The sign in front of the store read: " Hair Goods"
"Will you buy my hair?" asked Della.

"I buy hair. Let me look at your hair" said Madame.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_
"Twenty dollars," said Madame.

2.\_\_\_\_\_.

For the next two hours, she was searching through the stores for Jim's present.
She found it at last. It was a watch chain. 3.\_\_\_\_\_\_. The chain was very simple but classical in design. In fact, the chain perfectly matched Jim’s gold watch. As soon as she saw it she knew that it must be Jim’s.

4. \_\_\_\_\_\_, and she hurried home with the 87 cents. With that chain on his watch Jim might be properly anxious about the time in any company.

On the way home, Della felt excited as well as worried. 5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Task 5: Read Para 9-17 and answer

1. What was Jim’s reaction(反应) when he saw Della?

2. How did he feel?

3. Why did they both smile at last?

4. How do you understand the surprising end of the story?

Task 6: Draw the flow of Della’s feeling

Task 7: Group discussion

1. What do you think of the story? Make examples.

2. What can you learn from the story?

Task 8: Write a report on the story

(1) The name of the story and the writer:

* This is a report on the short story “The gift” written by…

(2) The main characters

* This story has … main characters: ……

(3) The plot of the story

* Before Christmas, ……
* (use 3-5 sentences to describe the plot of the story.)

(4) Your personal opinion of the story

* This short story is…… (for example)
* The story tells us that…

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