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## TEACHER'S EDITION

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# Happy Holidays!

This week, *Scholastic News* presents the first of two classroom plays for this school year. Since the holidays are here, we decided to present an adaptation of O. Henry's classic story *The Gift of the Magi*. The play includes themes of selflessness, generosity, and love.

Thank you so much for being a subscriber this year. We look forward to heading into 2010 with you. In our first January issue, we will review the top stories of 2009. In addition, we plan to cover bullying, the Winter Olympics, Black History Month, and the 2010 Census in early 2010. Stay tuned! And have a safe and happy new year!

*Stephanie Smith*  
Stephanie Smith, Editor  
*Scholastic News 4*



### TEACHING TIP OF THE WEEK

#### Teaching Irony

*The Giving Spirit* is a play that presents an opportunity for students to begin to understand the concept of irony. Explain to students that an ironic situation is one in which the actual result is very different from, or opposite of, what is expected or intended.

Ask students what was unexpected about the ending of the play. Were they surprised? How does the author use this surprise ending to make a point? Conclude by having students think of other books or stories that they've read that had ironic endings. Or ask them to think of situations they've experienced themselves that were ironic.

## TEACHING THE COVER STORY

### The Giving Spirit

#### Standard

**LANGUAGE ARTS:** Students should learn how to recognize and analyze a story's plot, setting, and problem resolution.

#### Summary

*Scholastic News* presents a play based on O. Henry's short story *The Gift of the Magi*.

#### Pre-Reading Discussion

Would you be able to give up something you treasured to give someone you love a nice gift?

#### Background

*The Gift of the Magi* was first published in the early 1900s.

O. Henry's title references figures that are important in Christianity. In the Christian religion, three wise men, called the Magi, brought gifts to celebrate the birth of Christ.

*The Gift of the Magi* is used in classrooms nationwide to teach components of literature, such as irony, and basic themes of selflessness, giving, and true love.

#### Post-Reading Discussion

Della treasured her hair, and Jim treasured his pocket watch. What is your greatest treasure?

#### Resource

• *The Gift of the Magi* by O. Henry (Candlewick, 2008).



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# The President's Prize.....p.2

## Standard

**SOCIAL STUDIES:** Students should understand the U.S.'s relationship to other nations and to world affairs, and how nations interact with one another.

## Summary

On December 10, President Barack Obama will be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. He is the first U.S. President in 90 years to win that award while in office. The Nobel Peace Prize committee says it gave Obama the award because of his efforts to work with other nations to resolve world issues.

## Pre-Reading Discussion

What do you think a Nobel Peace Prize is? Why do you think the award is given out?

## Background

The Nobel prizes are named after Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel. He died in 1896. Nobel left behind money to be awarded to people in certain fields who had done their best to help humanity. Since 1901, Nobel Prizes have been awarded in the fields of physics, chemistry, medicine, peace, and literature. A sixth Nobel Prize for economics was added in 1968.

The first two people to win the Nobel Peace Prize were Jean Henry Dunant and Frédéric Passy, in 1901. Dunant, from Switzerland, was the founder of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Passy was from France. He was the founder and president of a French group that worked to promote peace.

## Lesson Extension

Ask students to come up with their own Nobel awards in six categories. Have them think of friends, family members, or public figures to nominate under each category. Students should then write down why they nominated those people. Then have the class vote on who should get each award.

## Post-Reading Discussion

What do you think are some of the accomplishments of people who won a Nobel Peace Prize? If you wanted to work to make the world a more peaceful place, what are some of the things you would do?

## Resource

- For more information on the history of Nobel prizes, and this year's winners and past winners, visit [www.nobelprize.org](http://www.nobelprize.org).

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# U.S. Nobel Winners

This week you read about President Barack Obama receiving the Nobel Peace Prize. He is the fourth U.S. President to win that prize. The U.S. Presidents and Vice President who have won the Nobel Peace Prize are listed below. Use the chart to answer the questions.

## U.S. OFFICIALS WHO HAVE WON THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

U.S. Leader	Years Served	Year He Won	Main Reason for Winning
<b>President Theodore Roosevelt</b>	(1901-1909)	1906	Helping end the war in 1905 between Japan and Russia
<b>President Woodrow Wilson</b>	(1913-1921)	1919	Founding the League of Nations, a group of countries that worked together to prevent wars
<b>President Jimmy Carter</b>	(1977-1981)	2002	Working to bring peaceful solutions to international conflicts
<b>Vice President Al Gore</b>	(1993-2001)	2007	Raising awareness about global warming and its effects on Earth
<b>President Barack Obama</b>	(2009-present)	2009	Supporting international cooperation; speaking out on nuclear weapons

Source: www.nobelprize.org

- Which U.S. leader won a Nobel Peace Prize for establishing the League of Nations?  
 (A) Woodrow Wilson    (C) Al Gore  
 (B) Jimmy Carter    (D) Barack Obama
- The first time a U.S. President won a Nobel Peace Prize was in what year?  
 (A) 1906    (C) 2002  
 (B) 1919    (D) 2009
- How many years after Woodrow Wilson became President did he win the Nobel Peace Prize?  
 (A) four    (C) six  
 (B) five    (D) seven
- President Barack Obama helped end a war between Japan and Russia.  
 (A) true    (B) false
- Al Gore is the first and only U.S. Vice President to win a Nobel Peace Prize.  
 (A) true    (B) false
- Who won the Nobel Peace Prize after his presidency was over?  
 (A) Theodore Roosevelt  
 (B) Jimmy Carter  
 (C) Al Gore  
 (D) Barack Obama

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Cause and Effect

- The **cause** is the reason something happened.
- The **effect** is what happened as a result.

Below are things that happened in this week's play, *The Giving Spirit*. Fill in the missing effects and causes. Find the effects by asking, **What happened as a result?** Find the causes by asking, **Why did it happen?**

**FOR EXAMPLE:**

**Cause:** Della and Jim walk down Broadway and window-shop.  
**Effect:** Della sees expensive combs that she admires.

<b>1</b>	<b>Cause:</b> Della counts her coins with her neighbor.	→	<b>Effect:</b> _____
<b>2</b>	<b>Cause:</b> Della looks at her long hair in the mirror.	→	<b>Effect:</b> _____
<b>3</b>	<b>Cause:</b> Della sells her hair at Madam Sophie's Wig Shop.	→	<b>Effect:</b> _____
<b>4</b>	<b>Cause:</b> _____	→	<b>Effect:</b> Mrs. Porter curls Della's hair.
<b>5</b>	<b>Cause:</b> _____	→	<b>Effect:</b> Jim is surprised when he comes home.
<b>6</b>	<b>Cause:</b> _____	→	<b>Effect:</b> Della and Jim learn their love is the most valuable gift of all