

The Gift of the Magi

Book Unit ~ Part I



Created by Gay Miller



Gay Miller

Thank you for downloading this portion of *The Gift of the Magi Book Unit*. Other book units may be found at

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This book unit will be provided in four blog posts.

The posts will include:

- vocabulary
- comprehension
- constructed response questions
- writing project

This packet contains vocabulary. The second post will contain two versions of the story. Both versions contain the same vocabulary words.

I hope your students enjoy using this book study.



The Gift of the Magi

By William Sydney Porter
(O. Henry)

Genre ~ Classics & Short Stories

Grade Level Equivalent: 6.1

Lexile Measure[®]: 940L

Simplified Version

Grade Level Equivalent: 4.9

Vocabulary List

instigate (verb) - to purposely agitate or incite; provoke

synonyms: prompt, initiate, start, activate, originate, bring about, set off

Which **instigates** the moral reflection that life is made up of sobs, sniffles, and smiles, with sniffles predominating.



prosperity (noun) - the state of being wealthy and successful

synonyms: affluence, opulence, success, richness, fortune

The "Dillingham" had been flung to the breeze during a former period of **prosperity** when its possessor was being paid \$30 per week.



unassuming (adjective) - without airs or pretensions; modest; reserved

synonyms: humble, meek, ordinary, demure, simple

Now, when the income was shrunk to \$20, though, they were thinking seriously of contracting to a modest and **unassuming** D.



depreciate (verb) - to disparage or treat as having little value; belittle

synonyms: devalue, deflate, reduce, decline, downgrade, lessen, decrease in value

Had the queen of Sheba lived in the flat across the airshaft, Della would have let her hair hang out the window some day to dry just to **depreciate** Her Majesty's jewels and gifts.



falter (verb) - to hesitate because of being confused or not sure

synonyms: waver, weaken, fade, pause, wane, abate, fumble, fail

Once she **faltered** for a minute and stood still while a tear or two splashed on the worn red carpet.



prudence (noun) – good judgment and caution; sensibleness

synonyms: forethought, carefulness, practicality, wisdom, care, good sense

When Della reached home her intoxication gave way a little to **prudence** and reason.



sentiment (noun) - a way of thinking or feeling about something

synonyms: emotion, response, reaction, attitude, opinion, outlook

It was not anger, nor surprise, nor disapproval, nor horror, nor any of the **sentiments** that she had been prepared for. He simply stared at her fixedly with that peculiar expression on his face.



patent (adjective) - readily open to notice or observation; evident; obvious

synonyms: clear, blatant, bold, unobstructed

"You've cut off your hair?" asked Jim, laboriously, as if he had not arrived at that **patent** fact yet even after the hardest mental labor.



ecstatic (adjective) in a condition of extreme delight, overpowering emotion, or religious trance; enraptured

synonyms: overjoyed, thrilled, elated, blissful, rapturous, jubilant, joyous, gleeful

White fingers and nimble tore at the string and paper. And then an **ecstatic** scream of joy; and then, alas! a quick feminine change to hysterical tears and wails, necessitating the immediate employment of all the comforting powers of the lord of the flat.



ardent (adjective) - having or showing very strong feelings such as passion, loyalty, or desire

synonyms: eager, devoted, committed, zealous, enthusiastic

Jim had not yet seen his beautiful present. She held it out to him eagerly upon her open palm. The dull precious metal seemed to flash with a reflection of her bright and **ardent** spirit.



instigate

prosperity

unassuming

depreciate

falter

prudence

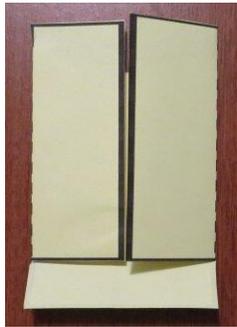
sentiment

patent

ecstatic

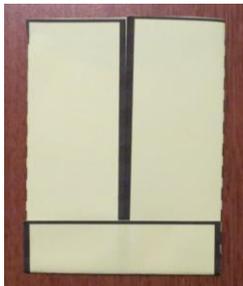
ardent

Vocabulary Storage Pocket



Print one vocabulary storage pocket for each student on colored paper.

Have students cut out the pocket on the bold lines.



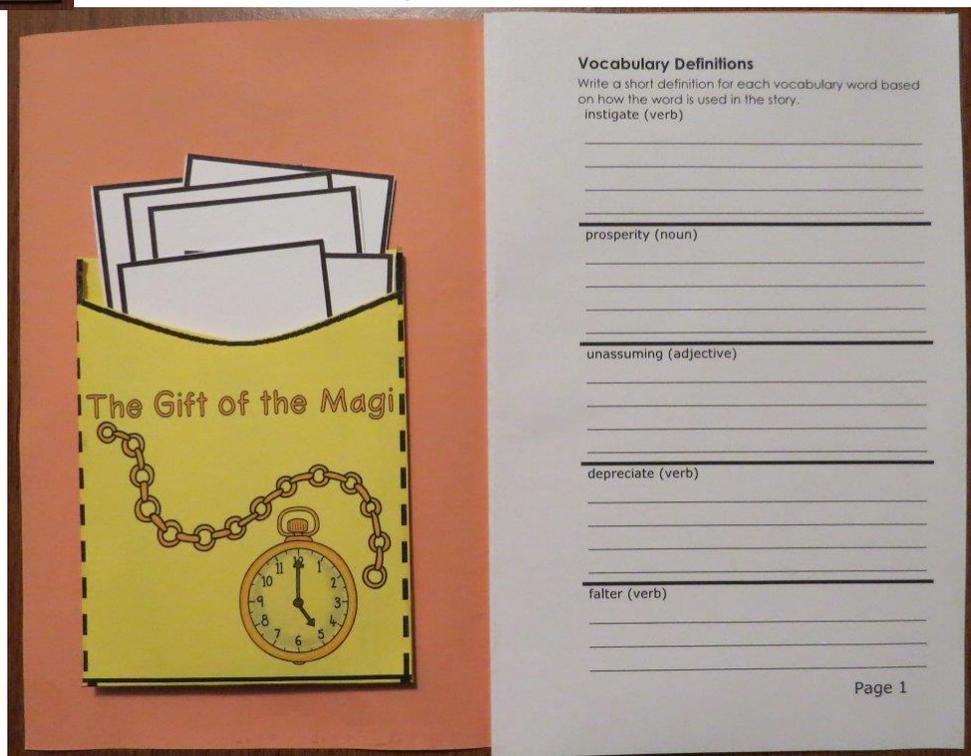
To make the pocket, fold the left and right sides toward the back of the pocket on the dotted lines.

Next fold the bottom flap up toward the back.



Glue the flaps in place.

Glue the pocket to the inside of the front cover of the vocabulary booklet.



Vocabulary Practice Booklet

Making the Mini-Book

I recommend that you duplicate the cover onto construction paper or card stock. Standard construction paper is 9 by 12 inches which makes the cover a bit larger than the pages inside.

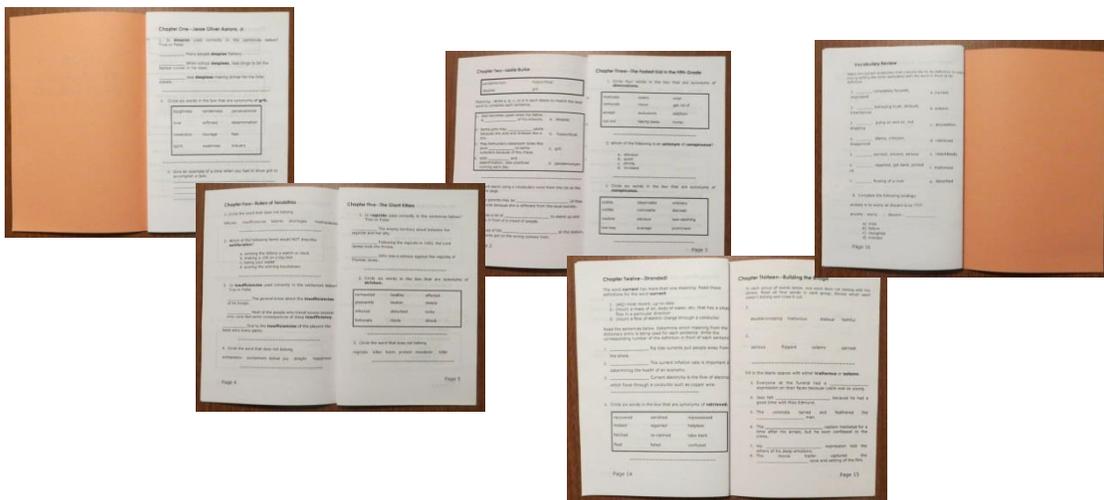


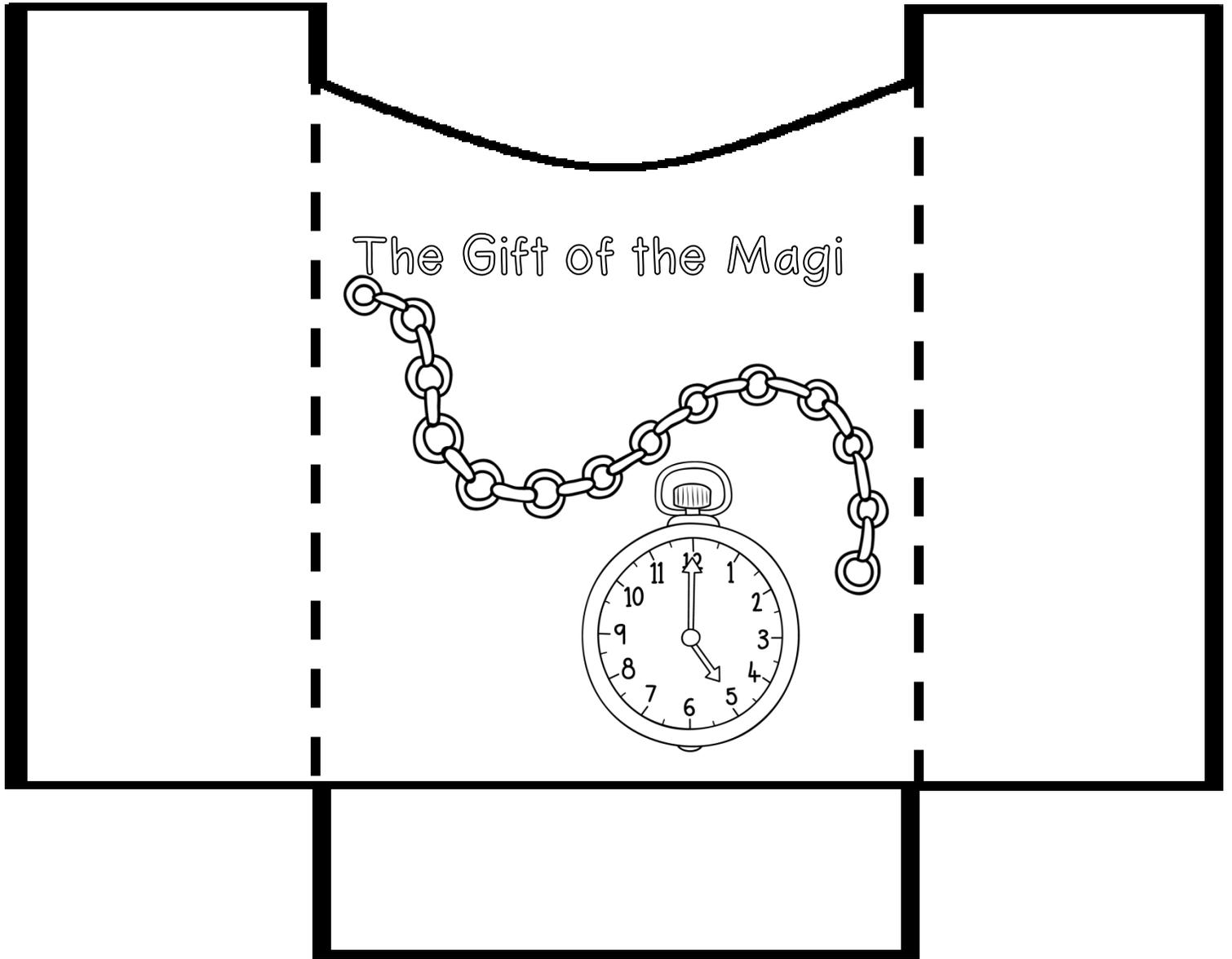
This book cover was printed on standard sized copier paper which will work equally well if you do not have a copier that will print construction paper.

Your pages must be duplicated on the front and the back. I ran my pages front and back directly from the printer. This is a simple process with only eight pages. Simply place the page that has been printed on one side back into the printer for the reverse side to be printed. Once all the pages have been printed arrange them in numerical order and staple down the middle to form the book.

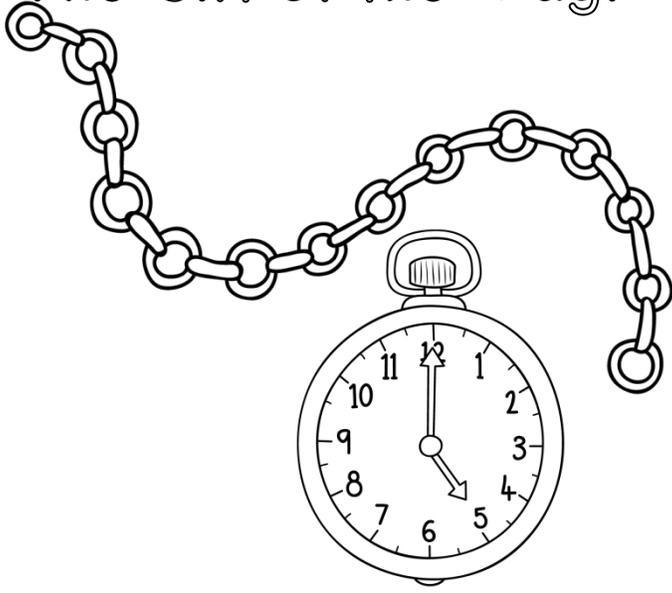
To print the 8 page (2 Pieces of Paper) comprehension book back-to-front follow this guide:

Pages 8 & 1 front with Pages 2 & 7 on back
Pages 6 & 3 front with Pages 4 & 5 on back



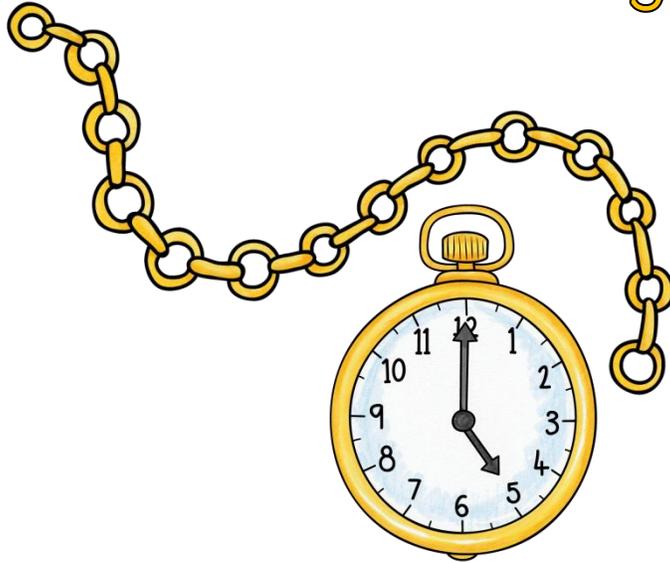


The Gift of the Magi



After printing this page on colored paper, have the students cut out the pocket on the bold lines. Next fold the left and right sides toward the back of the pocket on the dotted lines. Then fold the bottom flap up toward the back. Glue the flaps in place. Finally glue the pocket onto the interactive notebook.

The Gift of the Magi



After printing this page on colored paper, have the students cut out the pocket on the bold lines. Next fold the left and right sides toward the back of the pocket on the dotted lines. Then fold the bottom flap up toward the back. Glue the flaps in place. Finally glue the pocket onto the interactive notebook.

THE GIFT OF THE MAGI



THE GIFT OF THE MAGI



Vocabulary Review

Write a synonym for each word listed:

1. instigate _____

2. prosperity _____

3. unassuming _____

4. depreciate _____

5. falter _____

6. prudence _____

7. sentiment _____

8. patent _____

9. ecstatic _____

10. ardent _____

Vocabulary Definitions

Write a short definition for each vocabulary word based on how the word is used in the story.

instigate (verb)

prosperity (noun)

unassuming (adjective)

depreciate (verb)

falter (verb)

Vocabulary Definitions

prudence (noun)

sentiment (noun)

patent (adjective)

ecstatic (adjective)

ardent (adjective)

1. Circle six words in the box that are synonyms of **ecstatic**.

miserable	thrilled	blissful
depressed	delighted	dejected
overjoyed	sad	despondent
jubilant	downhearted	gleeful

~~~~~

2. Circle six words in the box that are synonyms of **ardent**.

|                |            |                 |
|----------------|------------|-----------------|
| eager          | passionate | strong feelings |
| halfhearted    | reluctant  | lackadaisical   |
| unenthusiastic | devoted    | zealous         |
| lukewarm       | committed  | indifferent     |

3. Matching - Write a, b, c, or d in each blank to match the best word to its definition.

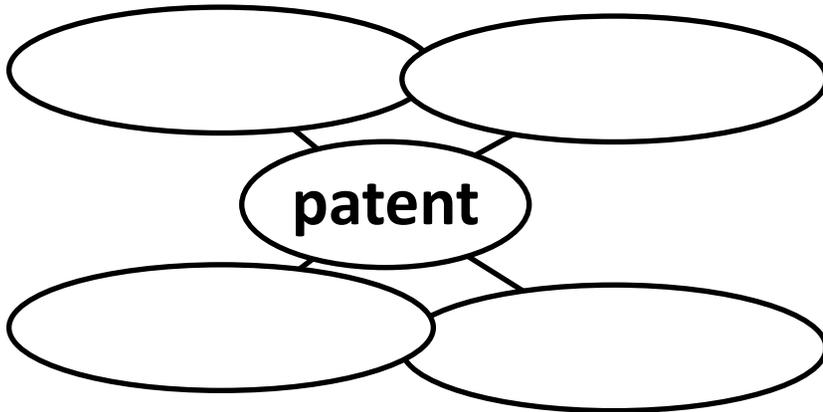
|                                             |              |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------|
| _____ readily open to notice                | a) prudence  |
| _____ a way of thinking or feeling          | b) sentiment |
| _____ to hesitate because of being confused | c) falter    |
| _____ good judgment and caution             | d) patent    |

1. Circle six words in the box that are synonyms of **sentiment**.

|           |                 |              |
|-----------|-----------------|--------------|
| disbelief | response        | indifference |
| emotion   | reaction        | attitude     |
| hate      | disinterest     | outlook      |
| antipathy | way of thinking | concrete     |

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2. Fill in the word web with synonyms for **patent**.



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3. Write a sentence using the word **patent**.

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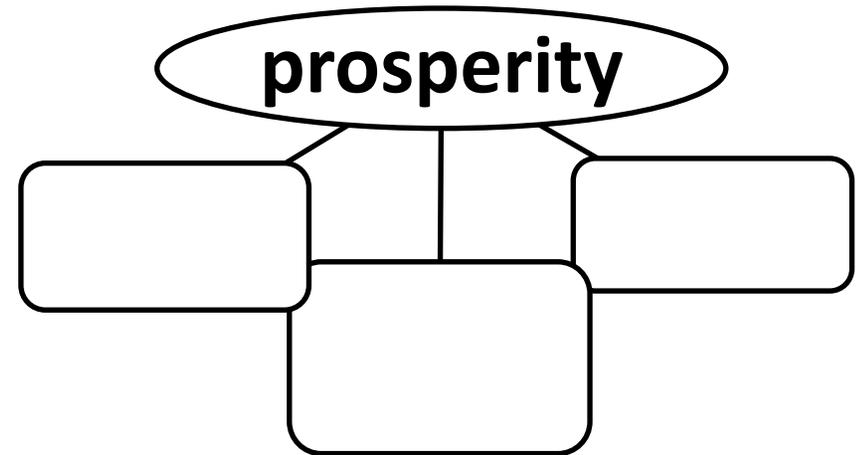
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1. Circle six words in the box that are synonyms of **instigate**.

|          |               |         |
|----------|---------------|---------|
| prompt   | suppress      | curb    |
| restrain | keep in check | set off |
| start    | bring about   | incite  |
| initiate | hold back     | muffle  |

~~~~~

2. Fill in the word web with synonyms for **prosperity**.



~~~~~

Fill in the blanks with **instigate** or **prosperity**.

- The leader of the movement was the one to \_\_\_\_\_ the riot.
- The Great Depression was a time of little \_\_\_\_\_.
- As a woman of \_\_\_\_\_, she has a private jet.
- You will \_\_\_\_\_ the workers to strike with this talk of unfairness.

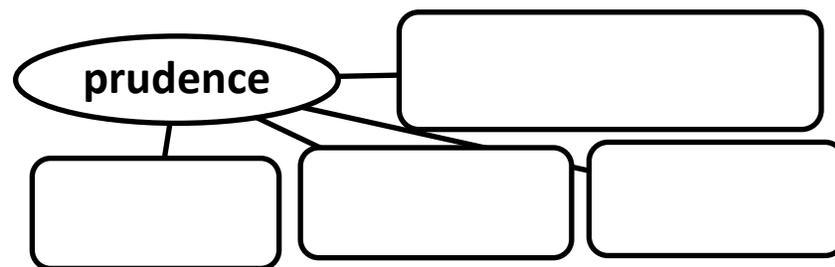
Matching - Write a, b, c, or d in each blank to match the best word to its synonym.

|                              |                      |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. _____ agitate or incite   | a) <b>prosperity</b> |
| 2. _____ having little value | b) <b>depreciate</b> |
| 3. _____ humble              | c) <b>instigate</b>  |
| 4. _____ wealth              | d) <b>unassuming</b> |

Fill in the blanks using forms of the vocabulary words from the box above.

5. Revolutionaries \_\_\_\_\_ an uprising.
6. The government \_\_\_\_\_ the value of the dollar.
7. The lady was so \_\_\_\_\_ that you'd never guess she was a world-renowned actress.
8. The sultan has great \_\_\_\_\_.
9. The economy \_\_\_\_\_ after the beginning of World War II.
10. Although he was rich and powerful, he remained an \_\_\_\_\_ man.

1. Fill in the word web with synonyms for **prudence**.



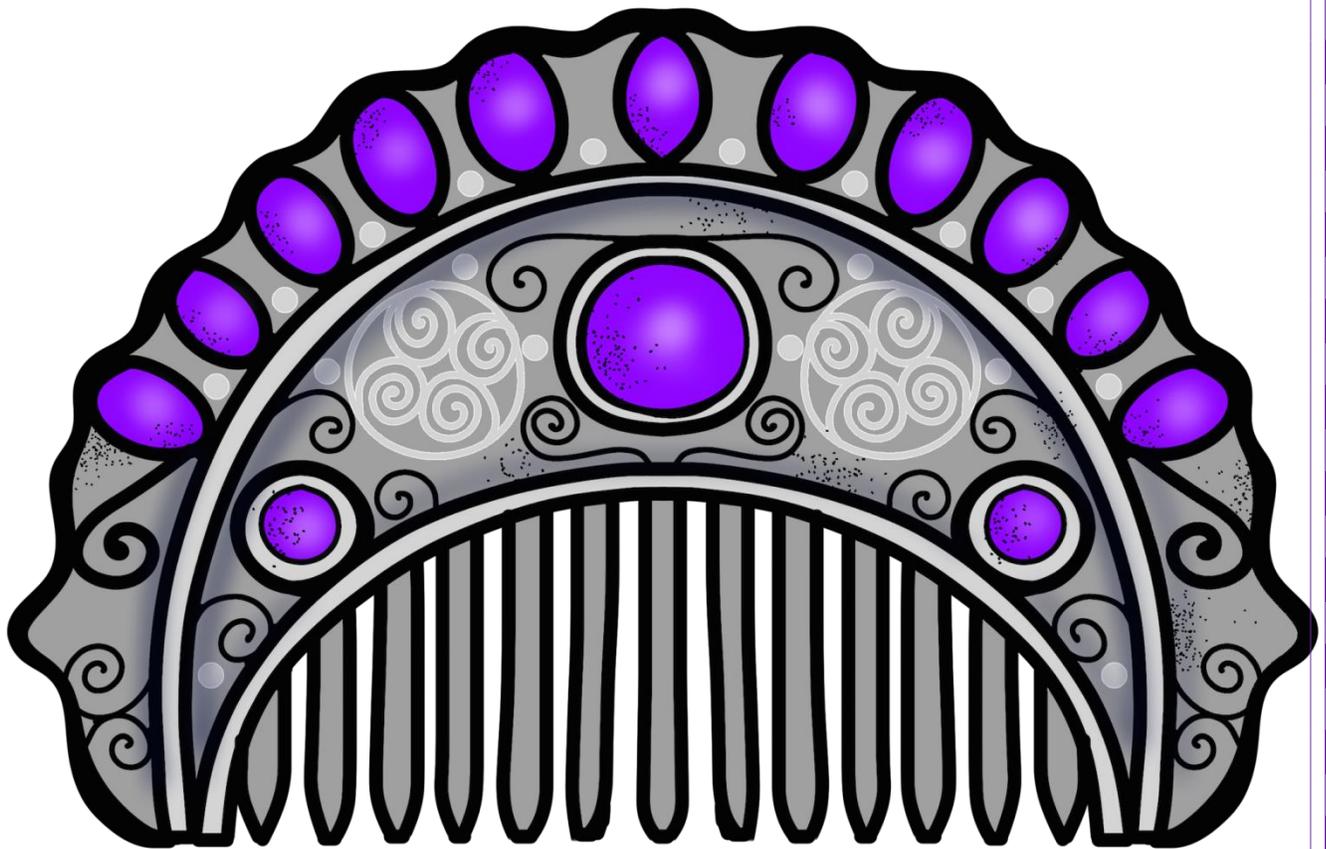
2. Circle six words in the box that are synonyms of **falter**.

|                 |            |          |
|-----------------|------------|----------|
| revive          | improve    | fumble   |
| waver           | perk up    | wane     |
| make a comeback | weaken     | recover  |
| pause           | recuperate | hesitate |

Fill in the blanks using forms of **falter** or **prudence**.

3. She \_\_\_\_\_ over the words in her speech.
4. He showed \_\_\_\_\_ in riding his bike only on designated trails.
5. It is \_\_\_\_\_ not to walk on the frozen pond.
6. The knight said, "I will never \_\_\_\_\_ in my quest for the Holy Grail."
7. He became so angry that he was no longer \_\_\_\_\_.

The following copy of the  
vocabulary booklet is the  
answer key.



## Vocabulary Review

Write a synonym for each word listed:

1. instigate agitate
2. prosperity wealth
3. unassuming humble
4. depreciate devalue
5. falter hesitate
6. prudence practicality
7. sentiment emotion
8. patent obvious
9. ecstatic delight
10. ardent eager

## Vocabulary Definitions

Write a short definition for each vocabulary word based on how the word is used in the story.

instigate (verb)

to purposely agitate or incite

---

prosperity (noun)

the state of being wealthy and successful

---

unassuming (adjective)

without airs or pretensions; modest; reserved

---

depreciate (verb)

to disparage or treat as having little value; belittle

---

falter (verb)

to hesitate because of being confused or not sure

## Vocabulary Definitions

prudence (noun)

good judgment and caution; sensibleness

---

sentiment (noun)

a way of thinking or feeling about something

---

patent (adjective)

readily open to notice or observation; evident; obvious

---

ecstatic (adjective)

in a condition of extreme delight, overpowering emotion, or religious trance; enraptured

---

ardent (adjective)

having or showing very strong feelings such as passion, loyalty, or desire

1. Circle six words in the box that are synonyms of **ecstatic**.

|           |             |            |
|-----------|-------------|------------|
| miserable | thrilled    | blissful   |
| depressed | delighted   | dejected   |
| overjoyed | sad         | despondent |
| jubilant  | downhearted | gleeful    |

~~~~~

2. Circle six words in the box that are synonyms of **ardent**.

eager	passionate	strong feelings
halfhearted	reluctant	lackadaisical
unenthusiastic	devoted	zealous
lukewarm	committed	indifferent

3. Matching - Write a, b, c, or d in each blank to match the best word to its definition.

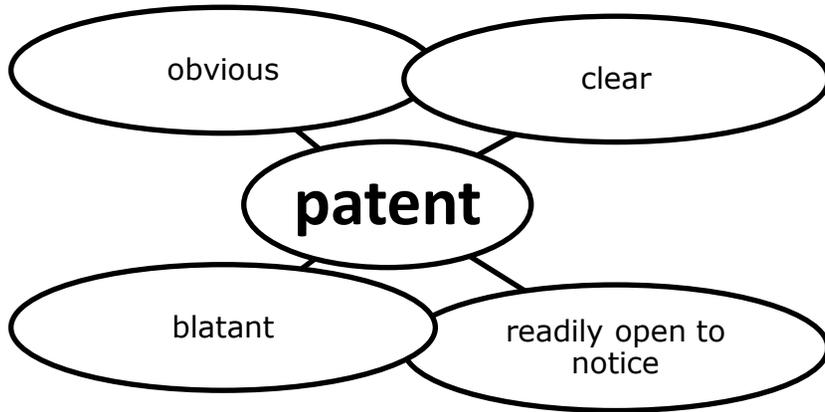
<u> d </u> readily open to notice	a) prudence
<u> b </u> a way of thinking or feeling	b) sentiment
<u> c </u> to hesitate because of being confused	c) falter
<u> a </u> good judgment and caution	d) patent

1. Circle six words in the box that are synonyms of **sentiment**.

disbelief	response	indifference
emotion	reaction	attitude
hate	disinterest	outlook
antipathy	way of thinking	concrete

~~~~~

2. Fill in the word web with synonyms for **patent**.



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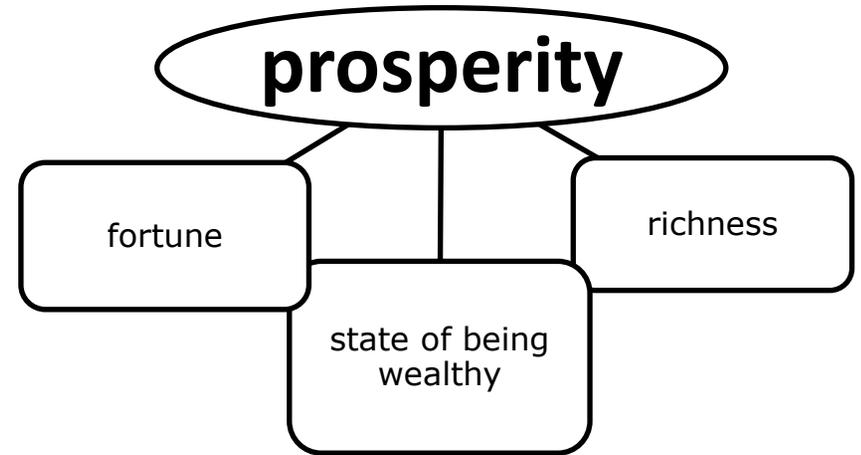
3. Write a sentence using the word **patent**.

1. Circle six words in the box that are synonyms of **instigate**.

prompt	suppress	curb
restrain	keep in check	set off
start	bring about	incite
initiate	hold back	muffle

~~~~~

2. Fill in the word web with synonyms for **prosperity**.



~~~~~

Fill in the blanks with **instigate** or **prosperity**.

- The leader of the movement was the one to **instigate** the riot.
- The Great Depression was a time of little **prosperity**.
- As a woman of **prosperity**, she has a private jet.
- You will **instigate** the workers to strike with this talk of unfairness.

Matching - Write a, b, c, or d in each blank to match the best word to its synonym.

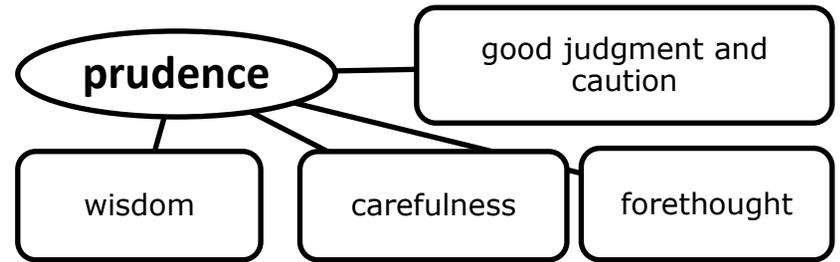
1. _____ c _____ agitate or incite	a) prosperity
2. _____ b _____ having little value	b) depreciate
3. _____ d _____ humble	c) instigate
4. _____ a _____ wealth	d) unassuming

~~~~~

Fill in the blanks using forms of the vocabulary words from the box above.

5. Revolutionaries **instigated** an uprising.
6. The government **depreciated** the value of the dollar.
7. The lady was so **unassuming** that you'd never guess she was a world-renowned actress.
8. The sultan has great **prosperity**.
9. The economy **depreciated** after the beginning of World War II.
10. Although he was rich and powerful, he remained an **unassuming** man.

1. Fill in the word web with synonyms for **prudence**.



~~~~~

2. Circle six words in the box that are synonyms of **falter**.

revive	improve	fumble
waver	perk up	wane
make a comeback	weaken	recover
pause	recuperate	hesitate

~~~~~

Fill in the blanks using forms of **falter** or **prudence**.

3. She **faltered** over the words in her speech.
4. He showed **prudence** in riding his bike only on designated trails.
5. It is **prudent** not to walk on the frozen pond.
6. The knight said, "I will never **falter** in my quest for the Holy Grail."
7. He became so angry that he was no longer **prudent**.

# Vocabulary Test

---

Matching – Match each definition with its vocabulary word by placing the correct letter in front of the word.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ **unassuming**                      a) good judgment and caution; sensibleness
2. \_\_\_\_\_ **patent**                              b) the state of being wealthy and successful
3. \_\_\_\_\_ **prudence**                        c) to hesitate because of being confused or not sure
4. \_\_\_\_\_ **prosperity**                        d) having or showing very strong feelings such as passion, loyalty, or desire
5. \_\_\_\_\_ **sentiment**                        e) without airs or pretensions; modest; reserved
6. \_\_\_\_\_ **depreciate**                        f) in a condition of extreme delight, overpowering emotion, or religious trance; enraptured
7. \_\_\_\_\_ **falter**                                g) to purposely agitate or incite; provoke
8. \_\_\_\_\_ **ardent**                                h) readily open to notice or observation; evident; obvious
9. \_\_\_\_\_ **instigate**                        i) a way of thinking or feeling about something
10. \_\_\_\_\_ **ecstatic**                        j) to disparage or treat as having little value; belittle

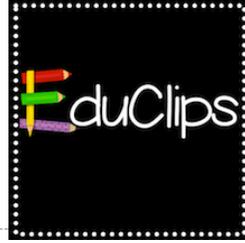
# Vocabulary Test Answer Key

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Matching – Match each definition with its vocabulary word by placing the correct letter in front of the word.

1.   e   **unassuming**      a) good judgment and caution; sensibleness
2.   h   **patent**            b) the state of being wealthy and successful
3.   a   **prudence**        c) to hesitate because of being confused or not sure
4.   b   **prosperity**        d) having or showing very strong feelings such as passion, loyalty, or desire
5.   i   **sentiment**        e) without airs or pretensions; modest; reserved
6.   j   **depreciate**        f) in a condition of extreme delight, overpowering emotion, or religious trance; enraptured
7.   c   **falter**              g) to purposely agitate or incite; provoke
8.   d   **ardent**              h) readily open to notice or observation; evident; obvious
9.   g   **instigate**         i) a way of thinking or feeling about something
10.   f   **ecstatic**         j) to disparage or treat as having little value; belittle

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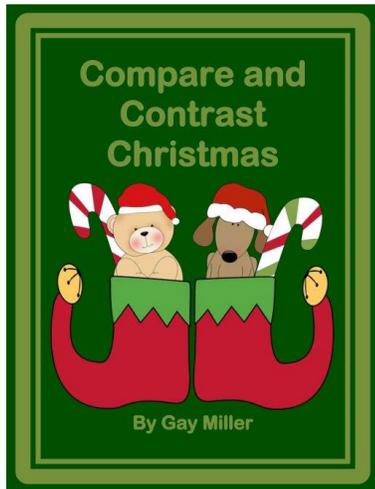
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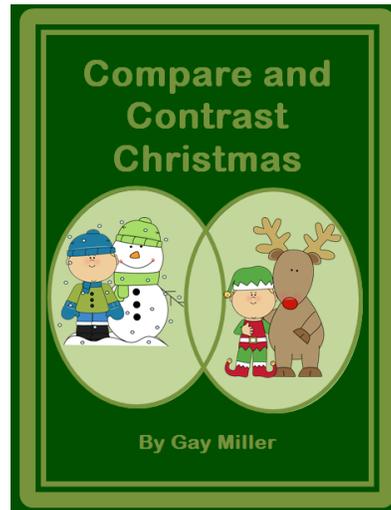
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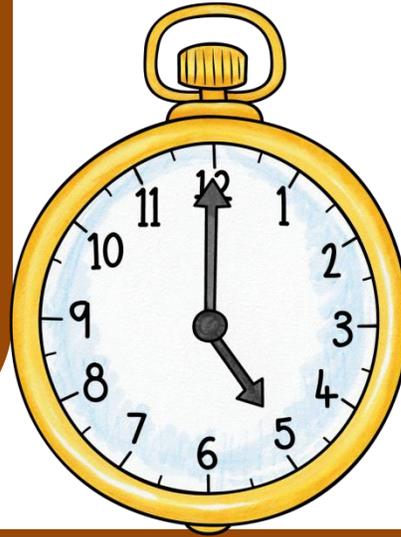
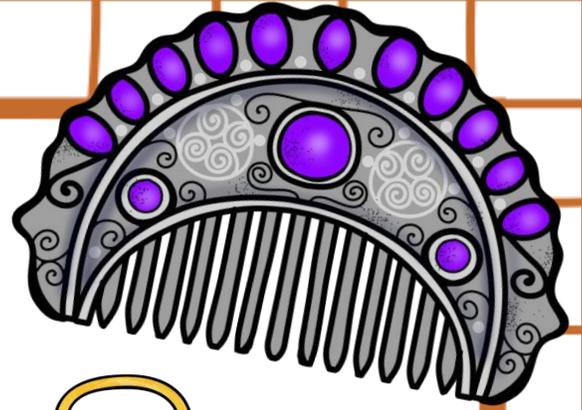
[Compare and Contrast Christmas](#)



[This is a free sample from the Compare and Contrast Christmas pictured to the right.](#)

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