Study Guide for “The Gift of the Magi”

I. VOCABULARY: Be able to define the following words and understand them when they appear in the story or class discussion.

agile

assertion

cascade

chronicle

coveted

inconsequential

instigate

predominating

prudence

vestibule

II. LITERARY TERMS: Be able to define each term and apply each term to the story.

plot structure

Fill in the plot diagram:

setting ____________________________________________

What is the setting of the story? ________________________________________

situational irony ________________________________________________
simile
example: __________________________________________________________

metaphor
example: __________________________________________________________

allusion
example: __________________________________________________________

theme
What is the theme of the story? ______________________________________

III. QUESTIONS: Answer the following questions.

1. How much money does Della have?
2. What did Della want to do with the money?
3. What is the last name of the family in the story?
4. What has happened to Jim’s weekly salary?
5. What are the two possessions that Jim and Della take a lot of pride in?
6. What does Della do for extra money and how much does she get?
7. How old is Jim?
8. What does Jim give Della as a gift?
   - How is this ironic?
9. How did Jim get the money to buy Della’s gift?
   - How is this ironic?