“The Gift of the Magi” Questions Fishbowl

Blog responses:

* I think what makes a gift giver foolish or wise if the person gives a gift worth something and has use in life, they are wise. If they give something that has no purpose or the person doesn't need it, they are foolish.
* I think a gift giver is wise because they spend time and energy giving to other people. I think it is not wise because you might sacrifice too much to give a gift.
* I think a gift giver is wise when the gift is really well thought out and is very useful. In the short story "The Gift of the Magi" Della and Jim were foolish gift givers because they both sold their most important belongings to buy each other presents, and both presents were not very useful and not well thought out.
* A gift giver is foolish is when they don't ask I the person what they want and give them something that they might already have. But a gift giver can also be wise when they ask the person what they want so they make sure they don't give them something they don't want. Jim and Della were foolish because they ask what they wanted so then their plan ended backfiring.
* In my opinion a gift can be foolish when someone already has that item. But a gift giver is foolish when they don't ask what that person wants. I think that Della and Jim were both wise because they gave up their most prized possession which shows that they really do love each other.
* A gift giver is wise because they know it is better to give than to receive. Jim and Della were wise to give gifts and to do whatever it takes to get gifts for each other.

Questions:

1. Why couldn’t Della celebrate Christmas without giving Jim a present?
2. Why did Jim tell Della to put away the presents?
3. Why was Jim mad/confused about Della cutting her hair?
4. Why did Jim and Della both sell their most prized possessions when they could’ve sold a different item?
5. Why was Jim late?
6. What is the last paragraph of the story telling us?
7. Why do Jim and Della think it is important to buy a big present, when they already have love?
8. Is the theme, “you can be sad, but still be happy?”
9. Why did Della turn white?
10. Where do Della and Jim work?