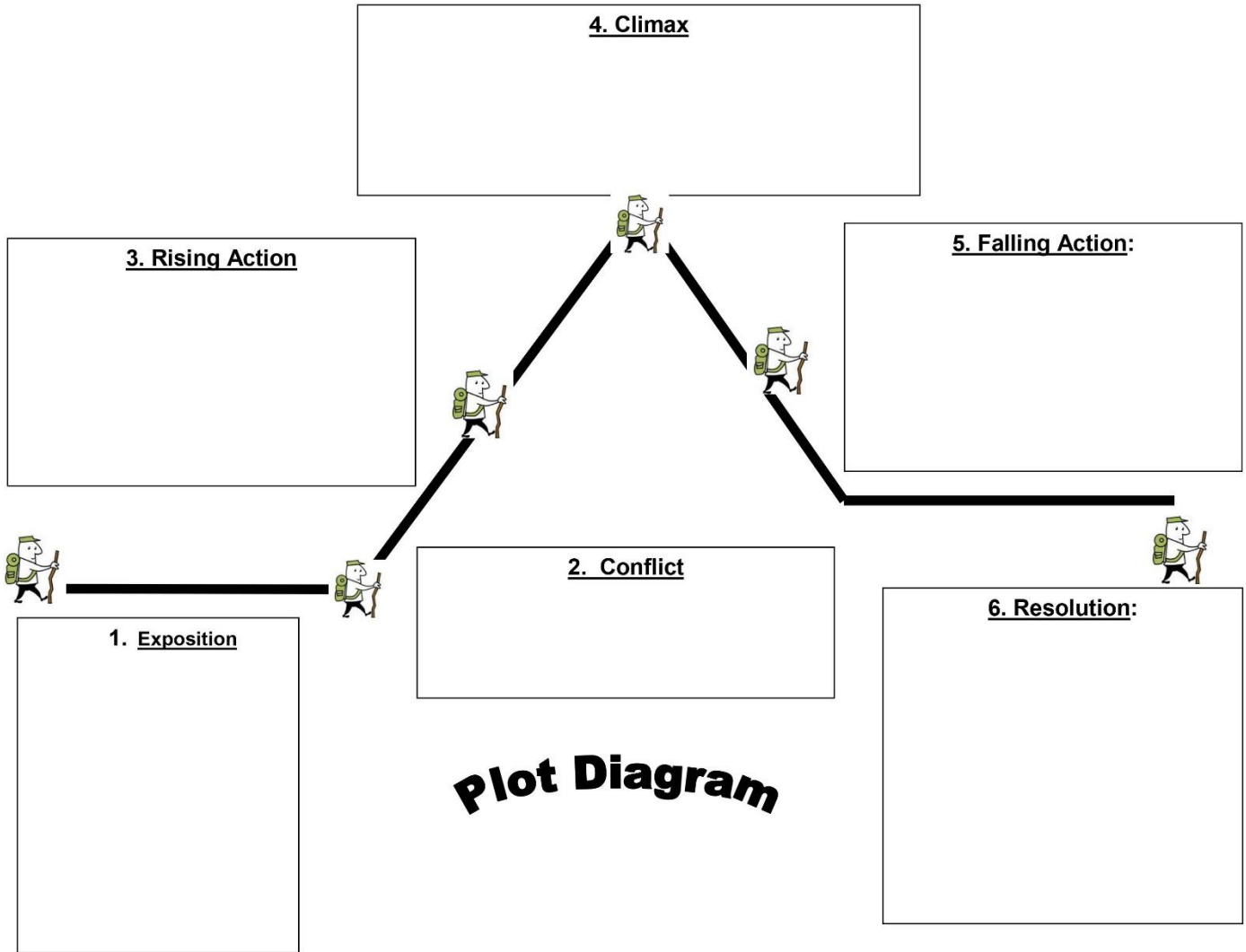


“The Gift of the Magi”

Reading Analysis.

Complete the Plot diagram below, write one sentence to define each element in the story.



Close and Critical Reading.

- Highlight & Label: words and phrases from the text that emphasize the couple's poverty.
- Highlight & Label: examples of **foreshadowing** from the text.
- Highlight & Label: examples of **allusions** in the text.
- Highlight & Label: examples of **metaphors** in the text.
- Highlight & Label: examples of **similes** in the text.
- Highlight & Label: examples of **personification** in the text.
- Highlight & Label: examples of **hyperbole** in the text.
- Highlight & Label: words in the text that emphasize the importance of Jim's watch and Della's combs.
- Highlight & Label: lines from the text that support the following **theme**: it is better to give than to receive.

Answer the questions below using complete sentences. Any response that is not a complete sentence will not be accepted for points.

1. How do Jim and Della feel toward each other? What evidence from the story leads you to come to your opinion? Explain.
2. What does Della do to get money for Jim's present? What does her action suggest about her character? Explain.
3. Re-read your response to question #2. Is Della's character dynamic or static? Explain.
4. How does Jim react when he sees that Della has cut her hair?
5. Why does Della misunderstand Jim's reaction?
6. How does Jim get the money for Della's gift? What does his action suggest about his character?
7. How does he react to the watch chain? Why does he react in such a way? Explain.
8. Re-read your responses to questions#6-7. Is Jim's character dynamic or static? Explain.
9. In what voice does the narrator tell the story? What kind of impact does this have on the story? How might the story be different if he used a different voice? Explain.
10. O. Henry says of these "two foolish children" that they were "the wisest." How do you think he defined wisdom? Explain.

11. How does the final paragraph reinforce the theme of the story? Explain.