



### Math and Reading Connection

#### Using the story “The Gift of The Maji” from Mrs. Carvajal’s Web Site

One dollar and eighty-seven cents. That was all. Sixty cents of it was in pennies. Pennies saved one and two at a time by bulldozing the grocer and the vegetable man and the butcher. Three times Della counted it. One dollar and eighty-seven cents. The next day would be Christmas. There was clearly nothing left to do but flop down on the shabby little couch and howl. So Della did.

Della finished her cry and attended to her cheeks with the powder rag. She stood by the window and looked out dully at a grey cat walking a grey fence in a grey backyard. Tomorrow would be Christmas Day, and she had only \$1.87 with which to buy Jim a present. She had been saving every penny she could for months, with this result. Twenty dollars a week doesn't go far. Expenses had been greater than she had calculated. They always are. Only \$1.87 to buy a present for Jim. Her Jim. Many a happy hour she had spent planning for something nice for him. Something fine and rare and sterling; something just a little bit near to being worthy of the honor of being married to Jim.

Suddenly she whirled from the window and stood in front of the mirror. Her eyes were shining brilliantly, but her face had lost its color within twenty seconds. She knew how to get that money and there was no time to waste.

1. How many pennies does Della have if she has sixty cents in pennies?
2. How many dimes does Della have if she does not count the pennies?
3. How many days would Della have to wait for Christmas if this year's Christmas is on 12/25/2005 and today's date is 10/17/2005?
4. How much money did Della earn if she worked for 13 weeks?
5. How much money did Della spend knowing that her “expenses had been greater than she had calculated?”
6. What would be the price of the story's title if a consonant costs \$0.23 and a vowel costs \$0.17?
7. What would you do if you see yourself on the same predicament as Della's?

