“The Gift of the Magi” by O. Henry

Reading Strategy: Asking Questions

One way good readers monitor their comprehension of a text is by asking questions as they read. By stopping to question something that is unclear, you will better understand and remember what you read. Ask questions to

• clarify the meaning of a word, sentence, or idea.
• determine what caused an event to happen or why a character acted in a certain way.
• predict what will happen next.

DIRECTIONS: Read the following passages from “The Gift of the Magi.” Below each one are examples of questions that readers might ask themselves as they read. Add two questions of your own.

In the vestibule below was a letter-box into which no letter would go, and an electric button from which no mortal finger could coax a ring. Also appertaining thereunto was a card bearing the name “Mr. James Dillingham Young.”

1. What does the word vestibule mean?

2. Why can’t anyone “coax a ring” from the doorbell?

3.

4.

Suddenly she whirled and stood before the glass. Her eyes were shining brilliantly, but her face had lost its color within twenty seconds. Rapidly she pulled down her hair and let it fall to its full length.

5. What is the meaning of glass in this context?

6. Why has she pulled down her hair?

7.

8.