

One Thousand Dollars

FICTION SELECTION
Unit 3, Part 1, Grade 10



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Preparing to Read

Connect to Your Life

Many people dream about inheriting a large sum of money because they like to imagine how extra money would improve their lives.


- If you were to inherit a significant amount of money, what would be a responsible way of spending it?
- What ways might be less responsible?
- How might your choices affect your life?

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Preparing to Read

Build Background

- A city of contrasts, New York City at the beginning of the 1900s was a bustling center of 4 million people.
- While many people struggled to make a living, the wealthy few lived a life of leisure and were often more concerned about their social standing than the plight of the less fortunate.



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Preparing to Read
Build Background

- In 1906, O. Henry published a collection of short stories set entirely in New York City.
- He titled his work *The Four Million* because he was convinced that everyone in the city, rich or poor, had a story worth telling.



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Preparing to Read
Build Background

- The following selection, set in New York City during this era, opens just as the main character has inherited \$1000 from his wealthy uncle.
- This sum of money would have bought much more in 1900 than it would today.



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Preparing to Read
Words to Know

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| • acquaint | • pendant |
| • disreputable | • precariousness |
| • encumber | • prudent |
| • expenditure | • stipulate |
| • genially | • venerable |

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Preparing to Read

Focus Your Reading

- The **plot**, or the sequence of related events in a story, usually follows a pattern.
- It begins with the **exposition**, in which important background information is given.
- Next, during the **rising action**, the **characters** and **conflict** are developed.
- This leads to the **climax**, or the **turning point** of the action.
- The **falling action** consists of events that occur after the climax.

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Preparing to Read

Focus Your Reading

- Events in a plot are often related by **cause and effect**.
- One event in the story can cause another, which is the effect.
- The effect may in turn cause another event, and so on.



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Preparing to Read

Focus Your Reading

Reader's Notebook

- The events in this story unfold through a series of related conversations with each one leading directly to the next.
- Use the graphic to show how they are related.



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Reading and Analyzing Literary Analysis

Plot

- Remember the four stages of plot:
 - » exposition, rising action, climax, and falling action.
- Exposition is important in understanding how the plot unfolds.
- O. Henry immediately introduces the conflict, followed by the development of the exposition, in which more characters are introduced.

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Reading and Analyzing Active Reading

Cause and Effect

- A cause-and-effect relationship often shows how one event can cause another that is the effect.
- Then this effect can cause the next event.
- This relationship, called a causal chain, structures the plot of this story.



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Reading and Analyzing Literary Analysis

Character

- The character of Gillian is revealed by what he says, as well as what others say and think about him.
- Note the details that help define Gillian.



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Reading and Analyzing
Active Reading

Cause and Effect

- What effect does the conversation with Old Bryson have on Gillian?



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Reading and Analyzing
Reading Skills and Strategies

- Clarifying
 - Clarify Old Bryson's character by noticing what the narrator reveals, as well as what he says.
- Connecting
 - The early 20th century was the beginning of a new way of life in America.
 - Industrial development resulted in many people moving from rural, agricultural areas to urban areas.

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Reading and Analyzing
Literary Analysis

- Theme
 - What lessons has Gillian learned about life that resulted from his conversations with each character?
- Plot
 - What is the climax or turning point of the story?



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