One Thousand Dollars

FICTION SELECTION
Unit 3, Part 1, Grade 10
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?
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.
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.
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.
Preparing to Read

Words to Know

- acquaint
- disreputable
- encumber
- expenditure
- genially
- pendant
- precariousness
- prudent
- stipulate
- venerable
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
Cause and Effect

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