

## **Keepsake Box Assignment**

In “The Gift of the Magi” Della and Jim go to great lengths to obtain treasures that they present to each other for Christmas.

Although their gift-giving doesn’t go exactly as they plan, Della and Jim still find special meaning in the keepsakes that they receive from each other.

Keepsakes remind us of the special people and moments that give meaning to our lives. With that in mind, your assignment is to gather your own box of keepsakes.

### **CRITERIA:**

1. Collect 5 items that reflect you and your family’s past.
2. Place the 5 items in some sort of box or container. The container should also have some special meaning. (No credit for a shoe box!!! 😊)
3. Do not include any item that is too valuable for a classmate to touch.
4. Complete the written essay and bring it with you the same day that the keepsake box assignment is due.

### **What kind of box should you use?**

It needs to be large enough to hold all 5 items. It could be anything from a suitcase to a lunch box to a pajama bag. The keepsake box should have some special meaning to you or your family.

### **What kind of items should you include in your keepsake box?**

Include any 5 items which have a special memory for you. Consider these categories:

- \*Something from an older relative--a keepsake is usually over 25 years old-that has been handed down to you.
- \*Something that you connect with your childhood that has a special memory (a book, an old stuffed animal, a toy, a medal etc.)
- \*Something that is part of your life right now that was given to you by someone important to you.
- \*Something that you collected when you were on a trip or a special visit.
- \*Something that you associate with your family’s heritage.

### **Can I include photographs?**

Certainly, you may want to include photos, but remember, you can only include 5 total items. You might want to include:

- \*A photo of an early home or place where you, a parent, or a grandparent once lived.
- \*A photo of a person whom you care about.
- \*A photo of yourself as a child.
- \*A photo of yourself with your family doing something that has special meaning for you.

NOTE: Please don't include an entire family photo album!!!

### **What do I do for the essay part?**

After you have collected your 5 items, you should write a 2-page expository essay that describes the items and explains their importance. Use this format:

**INTRODUCTION:** Explain how memories and family are important to you and tell how this assignment relates to the idea of memories and family.

**BODY:** Write a short paragraph that describes each item. Tell why the item is important to you or your family. Describe any special memories that you associate with this item. Also explain the importance of the box or container.

**CONCLUSION:** Summarize why you chose to include these items and make some overall observation about your own memories and family.

### **When is this assignment due?**

You should bring your **keepsake box of 5 items and your essay** to class on

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We will share our keepsake boxes that day. You will not have to present to the entire class, but several other classmates will hear you talk about your items and memories. Have fun and be thoughtful in putting your 5 items together!!! 😊