Activity 3: Historical Context

Directions: After reading the story’s historical context on page 4 of your story packet, use complete sentences to answer the following items.

1. In which city can the reader assume this story takes place?
____________________________________________________________________________________

2. In which time period can the reader assume this story takes place?
____________________________________________________________________________________

3. What details from the story help support these assumptions?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

4. Fill in the details below.
   a. Electricity was not ___________________________________________________________________
   b. Wigs were made with:________________________________________________________________
   c. Watches were commonly _____________________________________________________________

5. Describe the roles of men and women in 1906, when the story was published
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

6. During this time, women did not have the right to _____________________________.

7. In the United States, an _____________________ was building, made worse by the large amount of ___________________ needed to help the people of ______________________________, after the 1906 ____________________ that registered __________________ on the Richtor scale. This cracked ___________________________ and started a ____________________
that lasted _______________ and burned _______________ of the city. _______________
_______________ people died, _________________ were left homeless, and
over $_______________ in property was destroyed.

8. O. Henry did not allude (refer to) the current events of his day because ________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________.

9. Even though O. Henry did not have his characters discuss the hard economic times of the early 1900’s,
what evidence in the story indicates that they may have been affected by them? Answer thoroughly and
thoughtfully, and cite evidence from the story.
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