

O. Henry's
The Gift of the
Magi

and other stories

Student Learning Materials

Published by
The Office of English Language Programs
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs
United States Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20037
americanenglish.state.gov

In this publication, there are many links to other websites. These links to websites do not constitute an endorsement by the U.S. Department of State of the site or the opinions presented therein.

Photographs © Shutterstock.com



MAMMON AND THE ARCHER









PRE-READING ACTIVITY 1: CROSSWORD PUZZLE

The story “Mammon and the Archer” has two main themes: money and love. “Mammon” means material wealth, or greed. “The Archer” in the title refers to Cupid, the Roman god of love. This activity will help you learn some of the important words and use them in a crossword puzzle.

PART 1: LEARN THE WORDS

Directions:

1. Read the sentences in the table below. Use the sample sentence and pictures to guess the meaning of the vocabulary words.
2. In the column **Rating the Word**, write a symbol to show how well you know the words:
 - + I know it
 - ? I'm not sure
 - I don't know it
3. If you do not know the word, look it up in a dictionary.

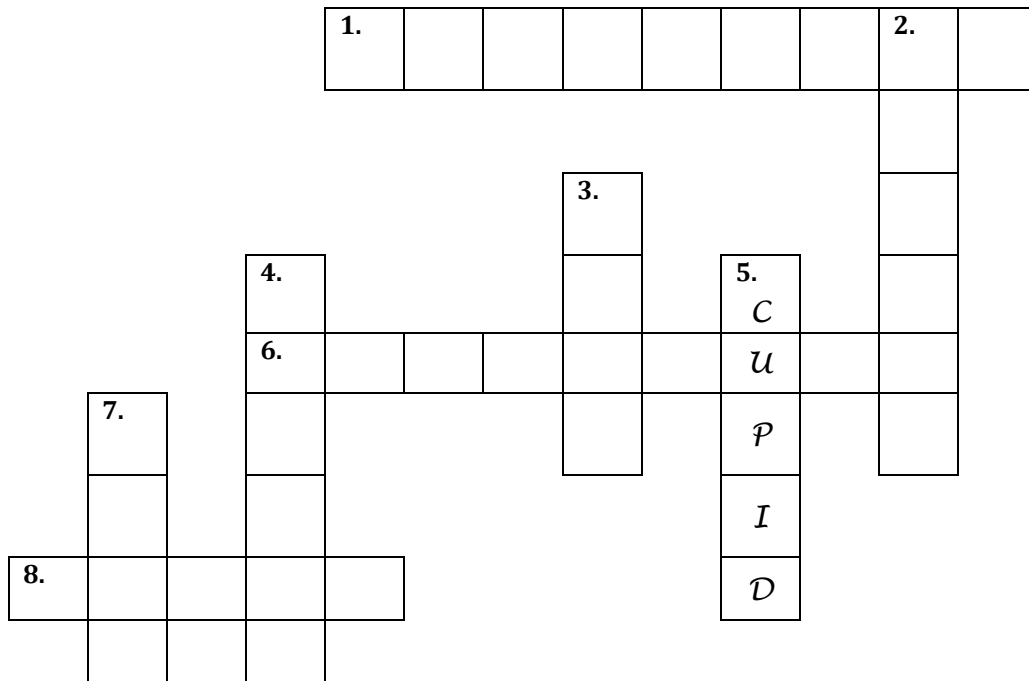
Words	Pictures	Sample Phrases and Sentences	Rating the Word
mammon (p. 72)		Title: <u>Mammon</u> and the Archer	
archer (p. 72)		Title: Mammon and the <u>Archer</u>	
soap (p. 72)		What do you pay for the <u>soap</u> that you use?	
gentleman (p. 73)		You are a <u>gentleman</u> .	
ring (p. 75)		At eight the next evening Ellen took an old gold <u>ring</u> and gave it to Richard.	
wagon (p. 75)		But within that minute, a <u>wagon</u> had stopped in front of the cab.	
adventure (p. 76)		It's a wild <u>adventure</u> story, but I like it.	
Cupid (p. 77)		I thought <u>Cupid</u> wouldn't be there," Anthony said, laughing.	

PART 2: CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Directions: Now that you have learned some of the keywords from the story in **Part 1**, complete the crossword puzzle using the words from the **Word Bank** below.

Word Bank

Cupid	ring	mammon	gentleman
adventure	wagon	soap	archer



Across

1. A man of high social status
6. An exciting or dangerous experience
8. A vehicle with four wheels that is usually pulled by animals (such as horses)

Down

2. A person who shoots with a bow and arrow
3. A piece of jewelry that is usually worn on a finger
4. Material wealth; thought of as a harmful thing that corrupts people
5. The god of love. In ancient Rome, people pictured him as a small fat boy, carrying a bow and arrows.
7. A cleaning agent, usually in the shape of a bar, which is used for washing something.

PRE-READING ACTIVITY 2: ANTICIPATION GUIDE

The story “Mammon and the Archer” is about an old man, Anthony Rockwall, and his son, Richard Rockwall, who live in New York. In the story, Anthony tries to help his son to win his true love. This anticipation guide activity will help you predict what will happen in the story.

Directions:

1. Before you read the story, read the statements in the table below.
2. Mark the statement “T” if you think it is going to be true or “F” if you think the statement will be false. An example is given below.
3. Compare your answers with a partner, if you have one.
4. After reading the story, fill in ***After You Read*** based on your comprehension of the text.

Before You Read	After You Read	Statements
	T	Anthony Rockwall is a rich businessman.
		Richard Rockwall works for his father.
		Anthony Rockwall thinks that money can make a person a gentleman.
		Richard Rockwall believes that money cannot buy everything.
		The girl that Richard loves does not want to meet him because she is poor.
		Richard’s aunt talks to the girl and convinces the girl to meet Richard.
		Anthony Rockwall pays money to the girl to meet his son.
		The girl accepts Richard’s proposal and they decide to marry.

WHILE-READING ACTIVITY 1: STORY DEVELOPMENT

In the story “Mammon and the Archer,” Richard Rockwall wants to ask Miss Lantry to marry him. However, he cannot talk to her because of her very busy schedule. Follow Richard Rockwall and identify what he thinks and does in the events in the story.

Directions: As you read **pages 72-77**, pay attention to the way the characters think and behave. Each of the boxes on the next page represents a major event in the story. Read the question in each box carefully. Identify what the characters think and do in each event. Answer each question by completing the sentence in the box. The first sentence provides an example.

Different views on money (pp. 73-74)

Why does Anthony Rockwall ask Richard Rockwall, "Are you sick?"

Richard Rockwall looks upset and shows a different attitude to money.

Richard Rockwall's struggle (p. 74)

What is Richard Rockwall's trouble?

Richard Rockwall wants to express _____ to Miss Lantry. But he does not have the chance because Miss Lantry is _____.

Ellen's view (pp. 74-75)

What is Ellen's view on money and love?

Ellen supports Richard Rockwall's view on money and she believes that _____.

In a cab to Wallack's Theater (p. 75)

Why does Richard Rockwall stop the cab on the way to Wallack's Theater?

Richard Rockwall drops _____.

The traffic jam (p. 75)

What happens to Richard Rockwall and Miss Lantry after the cab stops?

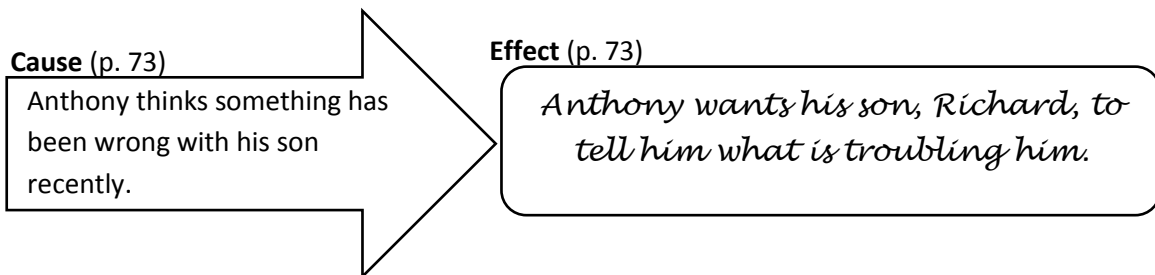
Richard Rockwall has found _____ but they cannot _____.

WHILE-READING ACTIVITY 2: CAUSE AND EFFECT

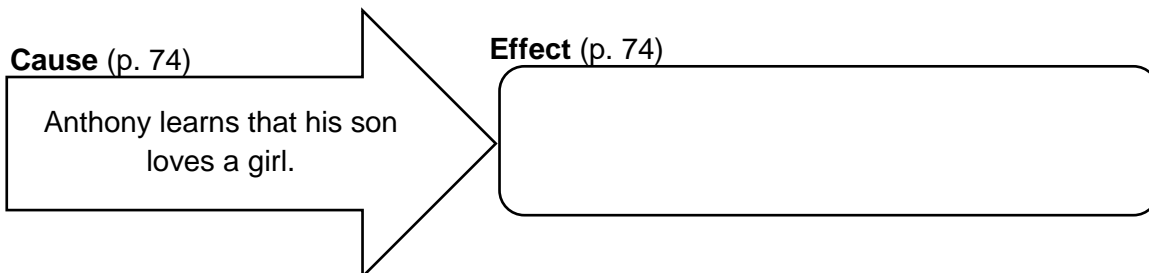
It is important to understand cause-and-the effect relationships in the story--how one event leads to the next one.

Directions:

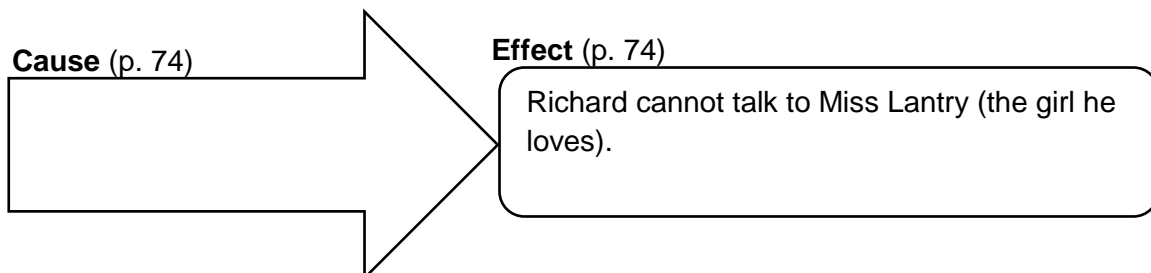
1. As you read **pages 72-77**, pay attention to how the events happen. Some events from the story are described below. Some of these events are **causes**, other events are **effects**. As you read the story, write down the missing event. You can use words from the story or choose your own words. An example is given.



What does Anthony talk to Richard (his son) about?



What is Richard's trouble?



What is Anthony's solution to the problem?

Cause (p. 74)

Anthony thinks that money
can buy everything.

Effect (pp. 74, 76-77)



How does Ellen help Richard to talk to the girl?

Cause (p. 75)

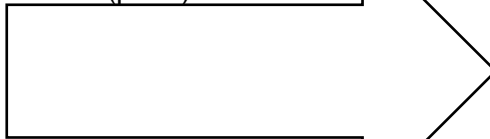
Ellen gives a gold ring to
Richard to give it to Ms.
Lantry.

Effect (p. 75)



How does Richard manage to talk to the girl?

Cause (p. 76)



Effect (p. 76)

Richard finally gets a chance to talk to Miss
Lantry in the cab.

What does Ellen think at the end?

Cause (p. 77)

Ellen does not know that
Anthony arranged the traffic
jam.

Effect (p. 77)



POST-READING ACTIVITY 1: CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

Characters in “Mammon and the Archer” have different views on money and love. This activity will help you understand these characters better.

Directions: Read the information about the characters in the **Character Description Table**. Match the character descriptions from the table with the **Character Names** below. Write each character’s name in the right column in the table. An example is given for you.

Character Names

Anthony Rockwall	Richard Rockwall	Ellen
Miss Lantry	Kelly	Suffolk-Jones

Character Description Table

Character Descriptions in the Story	Character Names
Tries to impress Suffolk-Jones that he is a gentleman (p. 72)	
Looks down on Anthony Rockwall (p. 72)	
Neighbor of Anthony Rockwall (p. 72)	
Believes in the power of money (p. 73)	
Scheduled to leave for Europe (p. 74)	
A rich and busy girl (p. 74)	
In love with Miss Lantry (p. 74)	
Paid to work for Anthony Rockwall (p. 76)	<i>Kelly</i>
Has doubts about buying time with money (p. 74)	
Believes in true love (p. 74)	
Sister of Anthony Rockwall (p.74)	

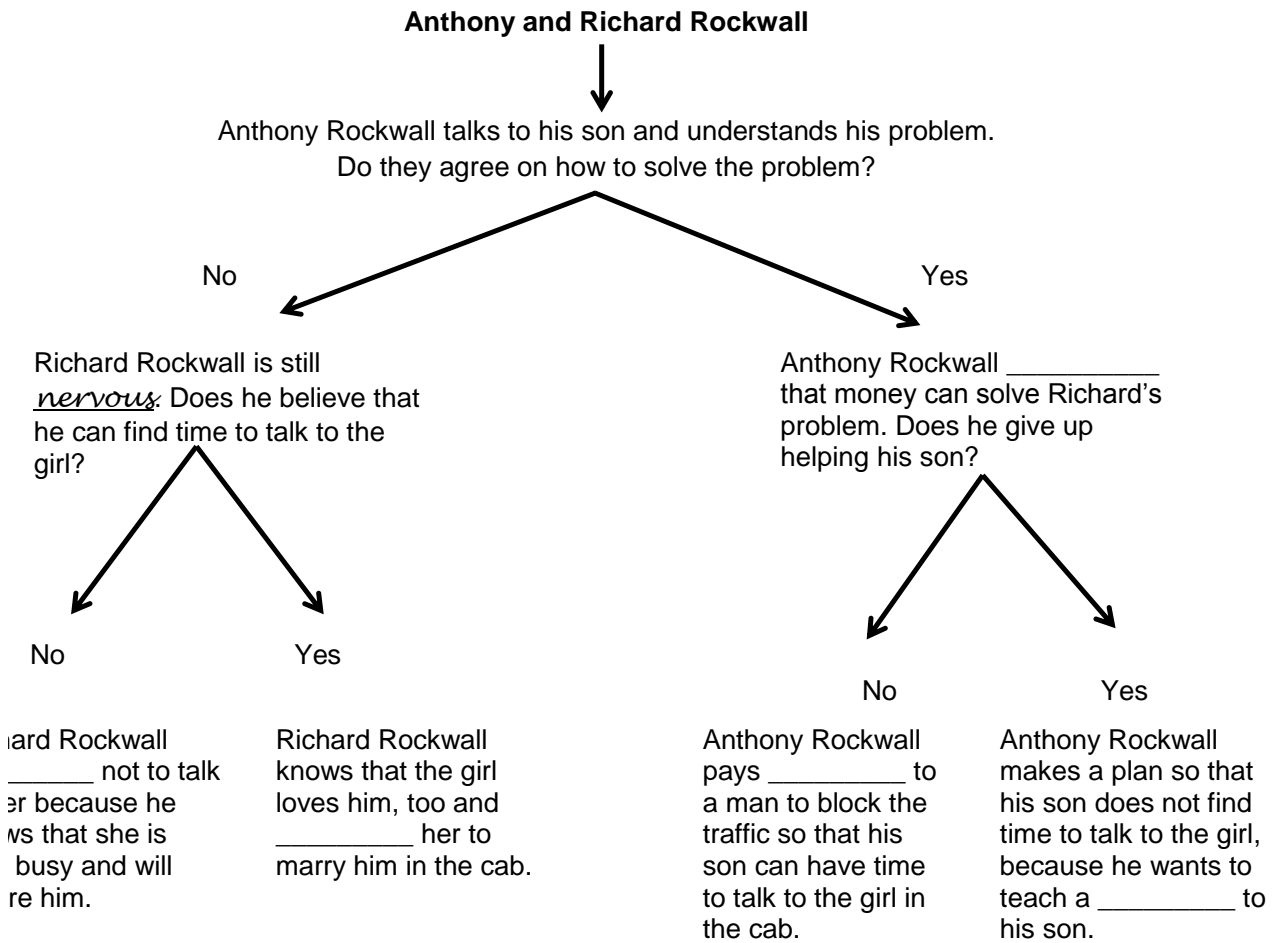
POST-READING ACTIVITY 2: CHOOSE A NEW PATH FOR THE MAIN CHARACTERS

“Mammon and the Archer” is a story about Richard and Anthony Rockwall. Richard wants to marry Miss Lantry, the girl he loves. Richard and his father make difficult decisions that have consequences. In this activity you will select decisions for both characters that could result in different endings for the story.

Directions: Use the words in the **Word Bank** to fill in the diagram below. Use the questions to help you find the best word for each blank. The first blank has been completed as an example. As you fill in the gaps, turn the dotted lines to solid lines for the path you choose.

Word Bank

decides	lesson	money	asks	believes	nervous
---------	--------	-------	------	----------	--------------------



ANSWER KEY | Mammon and the Archer

Pre-reading Activity 1: Crossword Puzzle

1. <i>G E N T L E M</i>							2. <i>A N</i>	
								<i>R</i>
				3. <i>R</i>				<i>C</i>
		4. <i>M</i>		<i>I</i>	5. <i>C</i>			<i>H</i>
	6. <i>A D V E N T U R E</i>							<i>E</i>
	7. <i>S</i>		<i>M</i>		<i>G</i>	<i>P</i>		<i>R</i>
	<i>O</i>		<i>M</i>			<i>I</i>		
8. <i>W A G O N</i>						<i>D</i>		
	<i>P</i>		<i>N</i>					

Pre-reading Activity 2: Anticipation Guide

Answers will vary in the **Before You Read** column.

Before You Read	After You Read	Statements
	<i>T</i>	Anthony Rockwall is a rich businessman.
	<i>F</i>	Richard Rockwall works for his father.
	<i>T</i>	Anthony Rockwall thinks that money can make a person a gentleman.
	<i>T</i>	Richard Rockwall believes that money cannot buy everything.
	<i>F</i>	The girl that Richard loves does not want to meet him because she is poor.
	<i>F</i>	Richard's aunt talks to the girl and convinces the girl to meet Richard.
	<i>F</i>	Anthony Rockwall pays money to the girl to meet his son.
	<i>T</i>	The girl accepts Richard's proposal and they decide to marry.

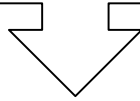
While-reading Activity 1: Story Development

Answer may vary.

Different views on money (pp. 73-74):

Why does Anthony Rockwall ask Richard Rockwall, "Are you sick?"

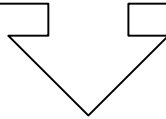
Richard Rockwall looks upset and shows a different attitude to money.



Richard Rockwall's struggle (p. 74)

What is Richard Rockwall's trouble?

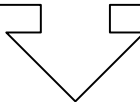
Richard Rockwall wants to express his love to Miss Lantry, but he does not have the chance because Miss Lantry is too busy and is leaving for Europe soon.



Ellen's view (pp. 74-75)

What is Ellen's view of money and love?

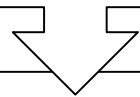
Ellen supports Richard Rockwall's view on money and she believes that love is more powerful than money, and money cannot buy happiness.



In a cab to Wallack's Theater (p. 75)

Why does Richard Rockwall stop the cab on the way to Wallack's Theater?

Richard Rockwall drops the ring Ellen gave him and stops to search for it.



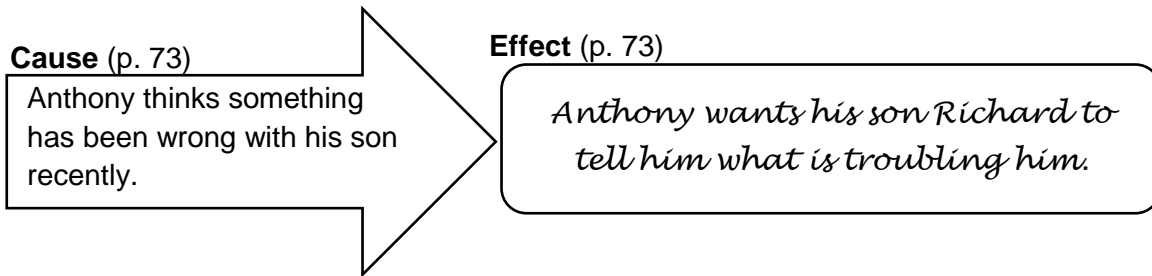
The traffic jam (p. 75)

What happens to Richard Rockwall and Miss Lantry after the cab stops?

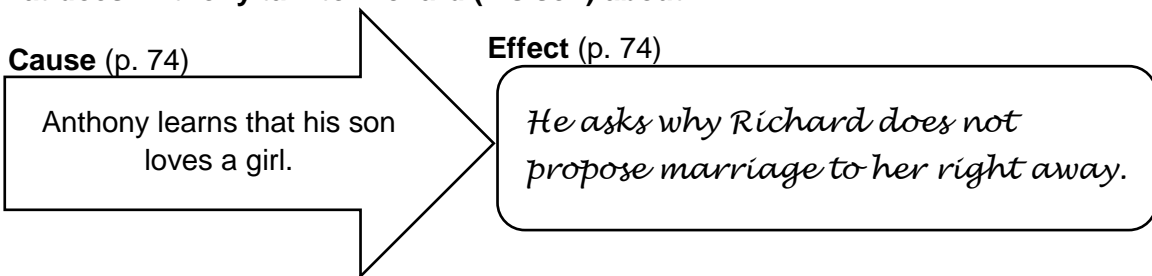
Richard Rockwall has found the ring but they cannot go to the theater as their cab is surrounded by other cabs and wagons for two hours.

While-reading Activity 2: Cause and Effect

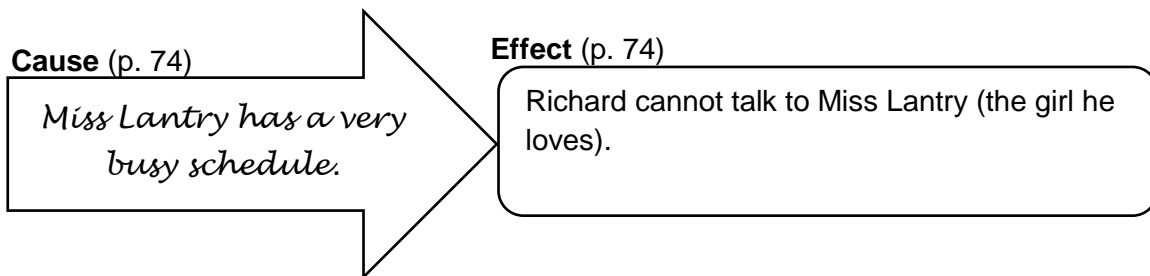
Answers may vary.



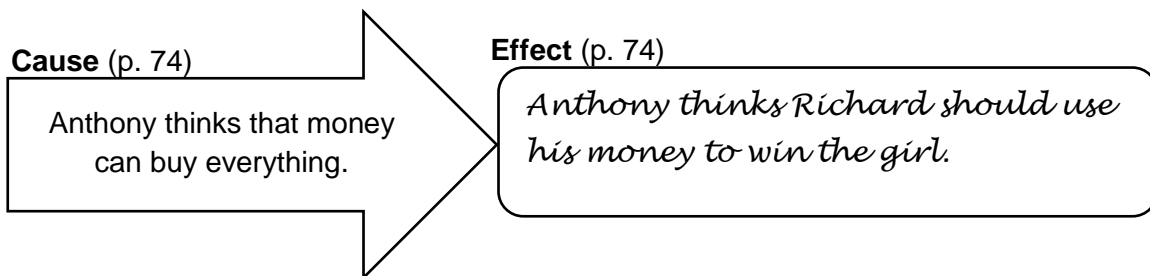
What does Anthony talk to Richard (his son) about?



What is Richard's trouble?



What is Anthony's solution to the problem?



How does Ellen help Richard to talk to the girl?

Cause (p. 75)

Ellen gives a gold ring to Richard to give it to Ms. Lantry.

Effect (p. 75)

Richard drops the ring and stops the cab to go and get it.

How does Richard manage to talk to the girl?

Cause (p. 76)

A huge traffic jam occurs. The cab cannot move in any direction.

Effect (p. 76)

Richard finally gets a chance to talk to Miss Lantry in the cab.

What does Ellen think at the end?

Cause (p. 77)

Ellen does not know that Anthony arranged the traffic jam.

Effect (p. 77)

She thinks that Ms. Lantry accepted Richard's proposal because of the gold ring.

Post-reading Activity 1: Character Description

Character Descriptions in the Story	Character Names
Tries to impress Suffolk-Jones that he is a gentleman (p. 72)	<i>Anthony Rockwall</i>
Looks down on Anthony Rockwall (p. 72)	<i>Suffolk-Jones</i>
Neighbor of Anthony Rockwall (p. 72)	<i>Suffolk-Jones</i>
Believes in the power of money (p. 73)	<i>Anthony Rockwall</i>
Scheduled to leave for Europe (p. 74)	<i>Miss Lantry</i>
A rich and busy girl (p. 74)	<i>Miss Lantry</i>
In love with Miss Lantry (p. 74)	<i>Richard Rockwall</i>
Paid to work for Anthony Rockwall (p. 76)	<i>Kelly</i>
Has doubts about buying time with money (p. 74)	<i>Richard Rockwall</i>
Believes in true love (p. 74)	<i>Ellen</i>
Sister of Anthony Rockwall (p.74)	<i>Ellen</i>

