**«One thousand dollars» *by O. Henry***

*The response essay by*

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I’ve just read one of the O'Henry stories which like all his works is very meaningful.

The main character is Young Gillian. He inherits from his uncle Septimus Gillian the amount of $1000, and, following the deceased uncle’s will he has to provide the lawyers with a report of how he has used use this money. He is very shocked by this news because it fell short of his expectations of inheriting a fortune and rolling in money after the death of his well-off relative. Moreover, Septimus has left his money to the study of bacteria, the rest to his servants ($10 each) and the same to his ward - Miss Hayden. Then after asking his friend and a few other people the same question about his situation, Young Gillian makes a decision to give the money to miss Hayden with whom he is desperately in love, even if this love is unfortunately unrequited. The day he brings the lawyers his report of spending the money they tell him that there is an addition to the will. It says that if he spends the thousand in a wise way, he will get $50000 more, but if he uses it in a wasteful and foolish way, this amount will be paid to miss Hayden. Gillian reaches for his report very quickly ahead of the lawyers, rips it and says that he has spent the money gambling. After this he happily leaves the confused lawyers.

At first sight, this story seems to be about spending money, but O Henry doesn't miss a chance of a plot twist. It turns out to be the value of love in people’s lives. The main character knows that the girl doesn't love him back and sacrifices the money to her anyway. The author proves to us that love is priceless and I agree with this idea. You can have all the money in the world but it can’t buy you happiness and it certainly can’t buy you love. I’ve never encountered this problem, I think because I'm too young for love, but, in my opinion, the same works also for friendship and family. One Russian proverb perfectly explains it «Do not have a 100 rubles, have a 100 friends». Speaking about the relevance of this topic nowadays, I always remember the words of a famous American talk show host Oprah Winfrey. She says: «Everyone wants to ride with you in the limo, but what you want is someone who will take the bus with you when the limo breaks down.»