

“The Last Leaf” Name _____ Period _____

CLOZE ACTIVITY Date _____ Score _____

DIRECTIONS: Fill in the blanks with words or phrases that complete the sentence according to the meaning in the story.

In May of (1) _____, in a small, Greenwich Village (2) _____, Sue and Johnsy [two artists] meet, become friends, and take an apartment to (3) _____ expenses.

In November Johnsy is taken ill with (4) _____. Outside Johnsy's bedroom window is a brick wall (5) _____ with an ancient (6) _____. All but a few of the leaves have fallen, and she has convinced herself that she is not going to get well. She believes that “When the last leaf falls off the vine, she will (7) _____.”

It is the day of “house calls” for doctors, and the (8) _____ tells Sue that Johnsy must get her mind on something other than her (9) _____, if she is to get well. Sue is worried and goes (10) _____ and reveals her fears to Mr. Behrman, an ancient, (11) _____ artist who sees himself as a father figure to Sue and Johnsy. Only (12) _____ leaf remains on the vine now, and even Mr. Behrman is worried that tonight it too will fall victim to the (13) _____.

The next (14) _____, when Sue and Johnsy look out the window, the last leaf is (15) _____. Johnsy thinks about her situation, and convinces herself that fate caused the leaf to stay on the vine so that she would not (16) _____. With this change in attitude, Johnsy gets well fast. The doctor comes and verifies Johnsy's (17) _____. The doctor mentions to Sue that (18) _____ has pneumonia and is beyond help. He (19) _____ that same day.

Later that day Sue (20) _____ how Mr. Behrman became ill. She tells (21) _____ that, on the (22) _____ when the last leaf was about to (23) _____, Mr. Behrman had taken a (24) _____, climbed the wall, and painted a (25) _____ of the last leaf on the brick wall, so that Johnsy would not know it had fallen.

Answer Choices For Cloze Activity
 “The Last Leaf”

- | | | | | |
|------|-------------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| (1) | 1734 | 1975 | 1899 | 1492 |
| (2) | house | restaurant | shop | street |
| (3) | buy | sell | trade | share |
| (4) | influenza | malaria | pneumonia | typhoid |
| (5) | covered | spread | opened | worked |
| (6) | oak tree | ivy vine | wisteria | moss |
| (7) | faint | die | live | hope |
| (8) | carpenter | mechanic | paratrooper | doctor |
| (9) | sickness | happiness | boyfriend | family |
| (10) | across the street | upstairs | downstairs | next door |
| (11) | successful | unsuccessful | young | musical |
| (12) | one | two | three | four |
| (13) | sun | waves | avalanche | wind and rain |
| (14) | morning | evening | day | week |
| (15) | gone | withered | frozen | still there |
| (16) | be sad | be happy | die | successful |
| (17) | recovery | relapse | illness | death |
| (18) | her mother | her brother | Mr. Behrman | her father |
| (19) | recovers | dies | gets sick | visits |
| (20) | discovers | plans | finds | destroys |
| (21) | Sue | Johnsy | Mr. Behrman | a friend |
| (22) | morning | night | day | week |
| (23) | die | turn yellow | grow | fall |
| (24) | ladder | wheel barrow | truck | shovel |
| (25) | bedpost | surrey | picture | bedroom |

“The Last Leaf” NAME _____ PERIOD _____
SEQUENCE ACTIVITY DATE _____ SCORE _____

DIRECTIONS: The following incidents happened in the play, but they are not in the correct sequence. Number them in the order that they occurred.

- [] Mr. Behrman dies.
- [] The doctor tells Sue that Mr. Behrman has pneumonia and is beyond help.
- [] Johnsy tells Sue that she believes she will die when the last leaf falls.
- [] Mr. Behrman poses for Sue.
- [] Johnsy is taken ill with pneumonia.
- [] The doctor tells Sue that Johnsy must get her mind on something else besides her sickness.
- [] Sue and Johnsy meet, become friends.
- [] Johnsy convinces herself that fate caused the leaf to stay on the vine.
- [] Sue goes downstairs and reveals her fears to Mr. Behrman.
- [] Sue tells Johnsy that Mr. Behrman painted the last leaf on the wall.
- [] Johnsy becomes obsessed with the ivy vine outside her window.
- [] Sue and Johnsy rent an apartment.
- [] The doctor tells Sue that all Johnsy needs now is care and good food.

DIRECTIONS: Answer the following questions about “The Last Leaf.” Give your answers in complete sentences.

1. Where does the story take place? _____

2. What kind of people were attracted to this place around the turn of the century? _____

3. Where did Sue and Johnsy first meet? _____
4. When did Sue and Johnsy meet? _____
5. Where was Johnsy from? _____
6. What time of the year did Johnsy get pneumonia? _____

7. When Sue first learned about Johnsy's feeling that she would die when the last leaf fell, what excuse did Sue give Johnsy for going downstairs to get Mr. Behrman? _____

8. What was Behrman's occupation? _____
9. Johnsy had a dream of painting a particular scene someday. What was this scene she dreamed of painting? _____

10. Where did Behrman die? _____
11. What was the evidence that told them that Behrman was the person who painted the last leaf on the wall? _____

12. What was Mr. Behrman's masterpiece? _____

DIRECTIONS: The following words and phrases are used in the story. Use the references next to the word to find the word in the script. Read the paragraph that contains the word and the paragraph above and below it. Then write the meaning of the word.

1. irregular [pg 2, col 1, para 1] _____

2. quaint [pg 2, col 1, para 1] _____

3. epidemic [pg 2, col 1, para 1] _____

4. clusters [pg 2, col 1, para 1] _____

5. gables [pg 2, col 1, para 1] _____

6. scoffed [pg 5, sc 4, para 1] _____

7. economics [pg 3, sc 1, Narr] _____

8. pneumonia [pg 3, sc 2, para 1] _____

9. ravager [pg 3, sc 2, para 1] _____

10. zephyrs [pg 3, sc 2, para 2] _____

11. smote [pg 3, sc 2, para 2] _____

12. curative [pg 3, col 2, last para] _____

13. dreary [pg 4, sc 3, para 3] _____

14. persistent [pg 5, sc 5, para 1] _____

15. sill [pg 5, sc 5, para 1] _____

16. eaves [pg 6, sc 5, last para] _____

17. port [pg 6, col 2, last para] _____

“The Last Leaf” NAME _____ PERIOD _____

LISTENING SKILLS ACTIVITY DATE _____ SCORE _____

DIRECTIONS: The details listed below occur on the tape. They are listed here in the order that you will hear them. Each detail is described so that you will easily recognize it when you hear it. You need to listen to the entire play to get all the answers. Before listening to the tape, go over this sheet carefully, so that you know what you are listening for. When you hear a detail, write the answer in the blank quickly, then immediately begin listening for the next detail. You may remember some of the details from having heard the tape earlier. If you do, don't fill them in early; wait until you hear them on the tape.

1. The small district just west of Washington Square had houses that were quite old. To what year in - history did these “beautiful, old, brick houses” date? _____
2. Johnsy and Sue met in a restaurant. On what street was the restaurant located? _____

3. Johnsy was what her friends called her. What was Johnsy's real name? _____
4. What was Sue's last name? _____
5. What city in California had Sue visited? _____
6. How long had Sue been in the “Village” when she and Johnsy met? _____
7. What month did Sue and Johnsy find an apartment to share? _____
8. What did the doctor think was more important to think about than a painting the Bay of Naples?

9. How many leaves were still on the vine, when Sue went into Johnsy's room after the doctor had gone the first time? _____
10. How long had Behrman been trying to make it as an artist? _____
11. What color shirt was Behrman wearing when he posed of the hermit-miner? _____
12. After Johnsy decided to get well, the doctor came again and declared her on the way to recovery. During what part of the day did he come? _____
13. How many days had Mr. Behrman been ill when he died? _____

Discussion/Writing Activity “The Last Leaf”

Refer to LITERARY TERMS section for definitions of terms.

DIRECTIONS: When using these questions as writing assignments, use separate paper.

1. The ending of “The Last Leaf” was meant to surprise.
 - a. Did you think it would end differently?
 - b. How did you think it would end?
 - c. Why did you think it would end this way?
 - d. If you knew it would end as it did, explain how you knew.
2. The author of a story has the power to create his CHARACTERS any way he wishes.
 - a. Why do you think O. Henry made Behrman a pathetic, old unsuccessful artist?
 - b. Is there a contradiction in Behrman's CHARACTER?
 - (1) What is the contradiction?
 - (2) Why do you think O. Henry created this contradiction?
 - c. Why do you think O. Henry cast Sue and Johnsy as struggling, naive artists?
3. Do you think Mr. Behrman would have painted the leaf on the wall if he had known he would catch pneumonia and die?
4. Who are the main CHARACTERS?
5. What is the SETTING of time and place of “The Last Leaf”?
6. Is it easy to determine the SETTING? How is the setting revealed to you?
7. What is the period of time that the story covers?
8. What is the MOOD of the story? List some examples of mood development in “The Last Leaf.”
9. Identify some instances of PERSONIFICATION in “The Last Leaf.”
10. Discuss THEME in “The Last Leaf.”

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31																		
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ACROSS

1. The outside end wall of houses, under the roof peak
6. What the ivy covered wall was made of
7. Postal abbreviation for California
9. A place to sleep
11. A city in Italy
14. A lustful man
15. One who paints
16. The month Sue and Johnsy found a place to rent
17. A kind of wine
20. A major outbreak of disease
21. Johnsy's friend
23. To hit or strike hard (past participle)
26. Part of the title
27. A road in a city
28. Just after sunset
30. Crooked, uneven
31. She was ill.
32. New _ _ _ _ (the setting of the story)

DOWN

1. Behrman drank this to excess.
2. The brand name of a pen
3. The town where Johnsy was from
4. A reason Sue and Johnsy decided to share rent
5. Unusual or old-fashioned in a pleasing way
8. Directly underneath the roof in a gabled house
10. Johnsy was this.
12. Expressing contempt
13. Holds an artist's stretched canvas
18. To keep at something
19. Mr. Behrman served in this way for Sue.
22. Polite and attentive to women
24. Cardboard border between a picture and a frame
25. A unit of time measurement
29. Part of the title
30. A kind of climbing vine