

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Score \_\_\_\_\_

? CHECK QUIZ

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**THE LAST LEAF**

O. HENRY

Based on your knowledge of the selection, complete each of the following statements in the space provided.

1. The protagonists, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are two women who live in \_\_\_\_\_, NY, because \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The protagonists aspire to be \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The protagonists' neighbor is \_\_\_\_\_, who is a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.
4. One of the roommates is suffering from \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The doctor says that the sick person will \_\_\_\_\_ because she lacks \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The person who is sick always planned to \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The sick person is counting \_\_\_\_\_. She has decided that she will \_\_\_\_\_ when \_\_\_\_\_.
8. The neighbor comes to the apartment in order to \_\_\_\_\_.
9. The neighbor always intends to \_\_\_\_\_, but he has not even \_\_\_\_\_.
10. On the last nights described in the story, the weather is \_\_\_\_\_.
11. On the last morning described in the story, the protagonist discovers that the \_\_\_\_\_.  
She decides that she has been \_\_\_\_\_, and is determined to \_\_\_\_\_.
12. The protagonist discovers that their neighbor has \_\_\_\_\_.
13. The "last leaf" is the neighbor's \_\_\_\_\_.

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Based on your understanding of the selection, briefly answer each question in the space provided.

1. Why does Johnsy compare herself to a leaf? What is the significance of the comparison?

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2. What is the connection between Behrman and the two young women?

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3. What are the indications that Johnsy is determined to live?

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4. How did Behrman contract pneumonia?

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5. How is the fact that the story was first published in 1905 relevant to the prognosis given by the doctor?

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6. Why is Johnsy describes as “merciless” on the morning after the rainfall?

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LITERARY CRITIQUE

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7. Why is the last leaf described as Behrman’s “masterpiece”?

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8. What is the great irony in the story?

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9. How important to Johnsy’s survival is the painting of the last leaf?

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10. What is implied about the power of friendship?

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11. Who is the main character in this story? Explain your answer.

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12. What is the effect of the use of personification in this story? Cite two examples.

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13. Do Sue and Johnsy fit the description of the “starving artist”?

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LITERARY CRITIQUE

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14. What journey is referred to in the sentence, “The loneliest thing in all the world is a soul when it is making ready to go on its mysterious, far journey.”

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15. What is the author’s attitude toward his characters?

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## READING COMPREHENSION

### THE LAST LEAF

O. HENRY

After reading the following excerpt from “The Last Leaf,” circle the letter of the response that best completes each of the statements below.

Johnsy’s eyes were open wide. She was looking out the window and counting — counting backward.

“Twelve,” she said, and a little later “eleven”; and then “ten,” and “nine”; and then “eight” and “seven,” almost together.

Sue looked solicitously out of the window. What was there to count? There was only a bare, dreary yard to be seen, and the blank side of the brick house twenty feet away. An old, old ivy vine, gnarled and decayed at the roots, climbed halfway up the brick wall. The cold breath of autumn had stricken its leaves from the vine until its skeleton branches clung, almost bare, to the crumbling bricks.

“What is it, dear?” asked Sue.

“Six,” said Johnsy, in almost a whisper. “They’re falling faster now. Three days ago there were almost a hundred. It made my head ache to count them. But now it’s easy. There goes another one. There are only five left now.”

“Five what, dear? Tell your Sudie.”

“Leaves. On the ivy vine. When the last one falls I must go, too. I’ve known that for three days. Didn’t the doctor tell you?”

1. Johnsy counts backward because she
  - a. is trying to fall asleep.
  - b. is counting the remaining leaves.
  - c. is playing a game with Sue.
2. The ivy vine is described as
  - a. flourishing.
  - b. newly planted.
  - c. withering.
3. Johnsy is feeling
  - a. excited.
  - b. ill.
  - c. angry.
4. Sue is depicted as
  - a. nervous.
  - b. angry.
  - c. caring.
5. Johnsy thinks that she will soon
  - a. be well.
  - b. die.
  - c. plant a new vine.

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 VOCABULARY REVIEW

**THE LAST LEAF**

O. HENRY

Match each vocabulary word in the left-hand column to its definition in the right-hand column. Write the letter of the correct answer in the space provided.

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|----------------------|--|
| _____ 1. daub        | a. concerned, attentive, or anxious about another's welfare                          |
| _____ 2. mite        | b. having notched, sawlike teeth   |
| _____ 3. acute       | c. to travel across, over, or through  |
| _____ 4. chivalric   | d. to handle, as a weapon  |
| _____ 5. dissolution | e. ridicule, scorn, or mockery   |
| _____ 6. mastiff     | f. a soft warm breeze from the west; any gentle breeze                               |
| _____ 7. swagger     | g. disintegration; decay; termination  |
| _____ 8. morbid      | h. suggesting an unhealthy mental state or attitude                                  |
| _____ 9. wield       | i. relating to a code of honor promoting bravery, courtesy, and devotion to the weak |
| _____ 10. ravage     | j. to walk in a boastful, defiant, or insolent manner                                |
| _____ 11. serrated   | k. a crude, inartistic painting  |
| _____ 12. congenial  | l. to devastate; to do ruinous damage  |
| _____ 13. traverse   | m. severe, sharp, or intense; of disease, brief and severe                           |
| _____ 14. derision   | n. a large, powerful dog   |
| _____ 15. zephyr     | o. having the same tastes, habits, or temperament; compatible                        |
| _____ 16. solicitous | p. a very small object, creature, or particle  |
| _____ 17. monocle    | q. an eyeglass for one eye   |