Answer Key | The Last Leaf

Pre-reading Activity 1: Vocabulary Matching

**Part 1: Match and Rewrite**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Words</th>
<th>Definitions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>painter</td>
<td>A type of disease or illness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>painting materials</td>
<td>A flat (usually green) part of a tree or plant growing from a stem or twig</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>masterpiece</td>
<td>An artist who paints pictures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sickness</td>
<td>A part of a tree that grows out from the trunk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to get well</td>
<td>Things for painting, such as paint and brushes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>leaf</td>
<td>A person’s best work, a great piece of art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>branch</td>
<td>To feel better, not be sick anymore</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Part 2: Words in Context**

1. Getting well
2. Leaf
3. Branch
4. Painter, painting materials
5. Masterpiece
6. Sickness

**Pre-reading Activity 2: Relate to Your Life – How Do You Get Well?**

*Note: Some readers might choose fewer options. They may only select the things that they thought actually helped Johnsy get well.*

- [x] A doctor visits Johnsy.
- [x] Sue gives Johnsy food.
- [x] Sue takes care of Johnsy.
- [x] Johnsy stays in bed and sleeps.
- [ ] Johnsy takes medicine.
- [ ] Old Behrman (Johnsy’s friend) takes care of her.
While-reading Activity 1: Cause and Effect
Answers may vary. Suggested answers are below.

How will Sue help Johnsy?

**Cause (p. 14)**
Sue will work. She will paint a picture to sell.

**Effect (p. 14)**
*Sue will earn money and buy food to make Johnsy strong again.*

Why is Old Behrman not a success?

**Cause (p. 15)**
He had never painted a good picture.

**Effect (p. 15)**
He had no success as a painter.

What does Old Behrman do after talking to Sue?

**Cause (p. 15)**
Sue tells Old Behrman about Johnsy and the leaves on the tree.

**Effect (p. 16)**
*Old Behrman lets Sue paint a picture of him. They realize the last leaf must not fall.*

What will happen when the last leaf falls?

**Cause (p. 16)**
Johnsy thinks the leaf will fall.

**Effect (p. 16)**
*Johnsy says that when that happens she will die.*
What made Johnsy want to get better?

**Cause (p. 17)**

*Johnsy sees the leaf. It is still there.*

**Effect (p. 17)**

Johnsy decides to eat. She decides to get better.

In the end, Old Behrman helped Johnsy. What happens to Old Behrman?

**Cause (pp. 17-18)**

Old Behrman goes out in the cold rain. He paints a leaf on the wall.

**Effect (pp. 17-18)**

Old Behrman dies of pneumonia, but he leaves behind his “masterpiece,” the painted leaf.

While-reading Activity 2: What’s Next?

Answers for predictions may vary.

*Summary #1:* You have read the first two pages of “The Last Leaf.” Stop and recap what has happened. Which statement is the best summary?

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**X** Johnsy has pneumonia, a bad sickness. Her friend Sue talks to the doctor.

---

____ Sue and Johnsy are going to Paris. They will paint pictures there.

---

*Summary #2:* After you finish reading the story, complete the sentence below.

Mr. Behrman got sick and died because

---

____ he visited Johnsy. He caught pneumonia from her.

---

**X** he went outside in the cold. He painted a leaf on the wall for Johnsy. It helped Johnsy realize she really wanted to get better.
Post-reading Activity 1: How Many Leaves Were There?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of leaves on the tree</th>
<th>Description of Johnsy’s thoughts and actions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>hundreds of leaves</td>
<td>Johnsy tells Sue she is counting leaves. She tells Sue that she will die when the last leaf falls.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>five leaves</td>
<td>Johnsy thinks the last leaf will fall overnight, and then she will die, too.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>four leaves</td>
<td>Counting so many leaves made Johnsy’s head hurt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>one leaf</td>
<td>Johnsy changes her mind. She wants to get better. She wants to eat.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>one leaf is still there</td>
<td>Johnsy doesn’t want anything to eat. She doesn’t want Sue to buy any food for her.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Post-reading Activity 2: Helping Friends

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sue’s and Old Behrman’s helpful actions</th>
<th>Your drawing of the scene in the story</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What does Old Behrman do for Sue? (pp. 15-16)</td>
<td>Drawings will vary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Behrman lets Sue <strong>paint a picture of him</strong>. Sue can sell the picture for money to buy food.</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

| What does Sue do for Johnsy? (p. 17) | Drawings will vary. |
| Sue **buys and cooks food** for Johnsy. Sue hopes the food will make Johnsy stronger. |

| What does Old Behrman do for Johnsy? (p. 17) | Drawings will vary. |
| Old Behrman **goes outside in the cold and paints a leaf on the wall** for Johnsy. She sees the leaf and decides to get better. |