

**Level 6-3**  
**The Last Leaf**

**Workbook**

**Teacher's Guide and Answer Key**

# Teacher's Guide

## A. Summary

### 1. Book Summary

Johnsy and Sue were struggling artists who lived in an old apartment building in Greenwich Village, New York City. When Johnsy came down with pneumonia, the doctor who came to see her told Sue that Johnsy had to want to live or she would die. Then Sue found Johnsy counting the leaves on the ivy that was growing on a wall outside her bedroom window. Johnsy said that when the last leaf fell, she would die. Sue was afraid. She went downstairs to see their friend, an old painter named Behrman. Behrman was not very good at painting and could never finish a picture. Sue told him about Johnsy. When they went to see Johnsy, they saw rain and snow falling and the wind blowing outside. They were afraid that all the leaves would soon fall and Johnsy would die. The next morning, one leaf remained, and it was still there the following day after a storm. Looking at the leaf that would not fall, Johnsy began to talk about living and her plans for the future. Then came news of Behrman's death. He had caught pneumonia after painting outside in the freezing rain. The picture was his masterpiece. It was a picture of an ivy leaf on the wall outside Johnsy's window, a picture that kept Johnsy alive.

### 2. Chapter Summary

#### ► Chapter 1

In New York City, there is a place called Greenwich Village. It's a cheap place to live, so many poets and artists live there because they are poor. Two of these artists were Sue and Johnsy. They met and decided to live and paint together because they liked many of the same things. They liked to paint pictures and eat salad, and they liked clothes and fashion. Six months after they moved in together, Johnsy, who was a small and weak woman, caught pneumonia. She was very sick, and all she did was lie in bed all day looking out the window.

#### ► Chapter 2

After the doctor came and checked on Johnsy, he told Sue that Johnsy had only one chance in ten to live. She had to want to live; if not, she would die. He said Johnsy needed to be interested in something to keep her alive, so Sue had to try to get her excited about life.

### ► Chapter 3

After the doctor left, Sue cried. She was very worried about Johnsy, but she didn't want Johnsy to know. She stopped crying and took her drawing board to Johnsy's room. Sue whistled. She wanted Johnsy to feel happy. Sue made money by drawing pictures for magazines. As she was drawing, she heard a strange sound coming from Johnsy.

### ► Chapter 4

Johnsy was looking out the window and counting backwards. Sue looked out the window to see what Johnsy was counting. All she saw was a very old ivy plant growing on the wall of a building. It had lost most of its leaves because of the cold weather. Johnsy said that when the last leaf fell from the ivy vine, she would die.

### ► Chapter 5

Sue told Johnsy that she was not going to die but would get better soon. Johnsy said that she was going to watch the last leaf fall before it got dark and then she would die. Then another leaf fell. Sue was afraid. She told Johnsy to close her eyes and not look out the window. Johnsy then fell asleep.

### ► Chapter 6

As Johnsy slept, Sue went to see an old painter, Behrman. Behrman lived on the ground floor of the building. He was a heavy drinker. He had tried to paint pictures for forty years but was never any good at it. Sue told Behrman about Johnsy and how she believed that she would die when the last leaf fell. Behrman was saddened to hear this. As they walked to Sue's apartment, he told her that one day he would paint his masterpiece and be rich. Then he would take Sue and Johnsy away from that cold building. When they got to the apartment, it had started raining and snowing outside and was very windy. They knew that all the ivy leaves would soon be gone. They were afraid for Johnsy.

### ► Chapter 7

The next morning, after Johnsy woke up, she asked Sue to open the blind so she could see the ivy. Sue was afraid of what they would see. After all the rain, wind, and snow, there was still one leaf left on the vine. Johnsy said that she was sure the last leaf was going to fall the night before because of the wind, but it would surely fall this day. The day went by, but the leaf didn't fall. That night, another storm came. The next morning, the leaf was still there. Then Johnsy said that the leaf was telling her it was wrong to want to die. She said she felt better already, and she talked about the future. She wanted to live.

## ► Chapter 8

When the doctor came, he gave Sue hope that Johnsy would live. Then he told her that Behrman was dying of pneumonia and he was going to take him to the hospital. Sue didn't tell Johnsy. The next day, the doctor came and told Sue that Johnsy would be fine. Then Sue told Johnsy that Behrman had died in the hospital of pneumonia. Behrman had gotten sick because he was out in the freezing rain painting a picture on the wall. Then she showed Johnsy that the last ivy leaf was in fact Behrman's masterpiece. He had painted it so Johnsy would live.

## **B. Background and Themes**

★ **Sacrifice:** Because of his love for Johnsy, Behrman sacrificed his own life to give her the great gift of life.

★ **Love:** Sue and Behrman did everything they could to keep Johnsy from dying.

★ **Belief:** Johnsy was ready to die because she believed that she was going to die. But when she decided that she could live if she wanted to, her strong belief helped her to recover.

# Answer Key

## Part A Story Focus

### Before You Read

*(Answers may vary.)*

#### ► Introduction

1. It is a short story.
2. It was written by O. Henry.
3. It is from America.

#### ► Characters

1. Sue: scared, loving
2. Johnsy: sick, young
3. The Doctor: wise, kind
4. Behrman: old, giving

## **While You Read**

*(Answers may vary.)*

### **► Chapter 1**

#### **A. Preview Questions**

1. I think they are friends.
2. They are eating salad and drinking wine.
3. They are probably at an outdoor restaurant.

#### **B. Review Questions**

1. They like to live in Greenwich Village.
2. It is a cheap place to live.
3. She caught pneumonia.

### **► Chapter 2**

#### **A. Preview Questions**

1. They are Sue and probably a doctor.
2. They are probably talking about Johnsy.
3. I think she is worried.

#### **B. Review Questions**

1. He said her chances were one out of ten.
2. He said that she had to want to live.
3. She needed to be excited about life.

### **► Chapter 3**

#### **A. Preview Questions**

1. She is drawing a picture.
2. She is looking out the window.
3. Sue looks worried, and Johnsy looks sad.

## **B. Review Questions**

1. She didn't want Johnsy to know that she was worried about her.
2. She drew a picture of a handsome cowboy.
3. They made money by drawing pictures for magazines.

## **► Chapter 4**

### **A. Preview Questions**

1. It is a brick wall with a vine growing on it.
2. It is ivy.
3. They are falling.

### **B. Review Questions**

1. Johnsy was counting backwards.
2. She was counting the leaves left on the ivy vine.
3. She believed she was going to die.

## **► Chapter 5**

### **A. Preview Questions**

1. She is sleeping.
2. She is probably telling Johnsy to sleep.
3. There are three leaves left on the vine.

### **B. Review Questions**

1. She told Johnsy that she was not going to die and would get better soon.
2. She thought the last leaf was going to fall.
3. She pretended she was not scared.

## **► Chapter 6**

### **A. Preview Questions**

1. He is an artist.

2. He was probably drinking the night before and has just woken up.
3. They are gin bottles.

### **B. Review Questions**

1. He always said he was going to paint a wonderful picture.
2. He made money as a model.
3. He loved Johnsy and didn't want her to die.

## **► Chapter 7**

### **A. Preview Questions**

1. She looks better.
2. She still looks worried.
3. There is only one leaf left.

### **B. Review Questions**

1. There was one leaf left.
2. There was another storm.
3. She thought it was showing her that she was bad for wanting to die.

## **► Chapter 8**

### **A. Preview Questions**

1. It is not real.
2. Someone painted it on the wall.
3. I think they are Behrman's.

### **B. Review Questions**

1. Her chances were even.
2. Behrman died of pneumonia.
3. It was the last leaf that he painted on the wall.



### **Mini Quiz**

a. Fools rush in where angels fear to tread.

→ Only a fool would try to do something that a supernatural being would avoid.

b. The best-laid plans of mice and men often go astray.

→ Even though we make a very good plan, it might fail.

c. Faith can move mountains.

→ If you believe strongly enough that something will happen, it will happen.

## After You Read

*(Answers may vary.)*

### ► Pattern Practice

4. A: Does Larry show any interest in being on the team with us?

B: Sure, he does.

5. A: Does she listen to Rob's music?

B: No, she has shown no interest in it at all.

### ► Challenge

1. The doctor said that Johnsy had just one chance out of ten to live.

2. Sue pretended not to be scared in front of Johnsy.

3. Johnsy was counting the leaves on the old vine.

4. Behrman drank too much, and he was often angry.

## **Part B Skill Focus**

### **Vocabulary Preview**

#### **A.**

1. b, g, h

2. a, d, f

#### **B.**

1. blind

2. ivy

3. fever

4. masterpiece

5. Pork chops

6. vine

7. whistle

## Reading Comprehension

### ► Beginning: Chapters 1–3

#### A.

1. F   2. T   3. F   4. T   5. F

#### B.

1. She is Johnsy.
2. She is an artist.
3. She has pneumonia.
4. She does not have hope.

#### C.

1. a   2. d   3. b   4. c   5. b   6. d

### ► Middle: Chapters 4–5

#### A.

1. F   2. F   3. T   4. T   5. T

#### B.

1. Johnsy
2. Johnsy
3. Sue
4. Sue

#### C.

1. b   2. a   3. c   4. d   5. b   6. c

### ► End: Chapters 6–8

#### A.

1. T   2. F   3. T   4. F   5. T

#### B.

a → c → b → d

#### C.

1. b   2. c   3. a   4. b   5. d   6. c

## Think and Write

Sue	Both	Johnsy
was from Maine drew for a magazine tried to save her friend used Behrman for a model	was an artist lived in Greenwich Village had a friend named Behrman	was from California was small and weak had pneumonia was counting leaves

\* Extra: was not a good artist

## Vocabulary Review

1. They found that they **were similar** in many ways.
2. The doctors said the illness was **called** pneumonia.
3. She had nothing more serious **on** her mind.
4. I think she shows some **interest** in fashion.
5. It **was** necessary for Sue to make money to buy food.
6. She **wanted** him to model as a lonely old miner.
7. He **drank** too much, and he was often angry.
8. The leaves keep **falling** off the brick wall.
9. Sue was **cooking** some chicken soup on the gas stove.
10. Sue had to nurse her friend **well**.

## Summary

A.

4	2
1	3

B.

*(Answers may vary.)*

1. Sue and Johnsy found that they were similar in many ways.
2. Sue was drawing a picture for a magazine.
3. Behrman was waiting to paint something wonderful.
4. The leaf didn't move when the wind blew because it was a painting.

## Book Report

**Story** 1. similar      2. pneumonia      3. Otherwise  
4. gin                  5. masterpiece