

# Answer Key | The Last Leaf

## Pre-reading Activity 1: Vocabulary Matching

### Part 1: Match and Rewrite

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

### 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.*

- A doctor visits Johnsy.
- Sue gives Johnsy food.
- Sue takes care of Johnsy.
- 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?

- 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?

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

## Post-reading Activity 2: Helping Friends

Sue's and Old Behrman's helpful actions	Your drawing of the scene in the story
<p><b>What does Old Behrman do for Sue?</b> (pp. 15-16)</p> <p>Old Behrman lets Sue <i>paint a picture of him</i>. Sue can sell the picture for money to buy food.</p>	Drawings will vary.
<p><b>What does Sue do for Johnsy?</b> (p. 17)</p> <p>Sue <i>buys and cooks food</i> for Johnsy. Sue hopes the food will make Johnsy stronger.</p>	Drawings will vary.
<p><b>What does Old Behrman do for Johnsy?</b> (p. 17)</p> <p>Old Behrman <i>goes outside in the cold and paints a leaf on the wall</i> for Johnsy. She sees the leaf and decides to get better.</p>	Drawings will vary.