

PRACTICE SHEET ANSWER SCHEME

Subject: English	Topic: The Last Leaf		
Grade: IX	Div.: _____	Roll No: _____	Date: _____

Q 1 Read the given extracts and answer the questions that follow.

- (a) *She talked about clothes and fashions, but Johnsy did not respond. Johnsy continued to lie still on her bed. She brought her drawing-board into Johnsy's room and started painting.*
- Why did Johnsy continue to lie still on her bed?
Johnsy was suffering from pneumonia and was weak and depressed. So she continued to lie still in her bed.
 - Why did Sue talk about clothes and fashion?
Sue talked about clothes and fashion because she was trying to cheer up Johnsy who was depressed due to her illness.
 - Why did Sue bring her drawing-board into Johnsy's room?
Sue brought her drawing-board into Johnsy's room to give her company and help her not to feel lonely.
 - Give the synonym of the word 'respond'.
reply/ answer
- (b) *Then they found a ladder and a lantern still lighted lying near his bed. There were also some brushes and green and yellow paints on the floor near the ladder.*
- Who is 'his' in these lines?
'His' in these lines is Behrman, the sixty-year-old painter and neighbour of the young artists, Sue and Johnsy.
 - Why was the lantern still lighted?
The lantern was still lighted because Behrman had been painting the leaf outside throughout the stormy night. He was completely wet and must have not had the stamina to switch it off.
 - Why were green and yellow paints and ladder there?
There were green and yellow paints because Behrman had painted a natural looking ivy leaf using these colours. He had used a ladder to paint the leaf at the same high spot where the last leaf had been - visible from Johnsy's window.
 - Give the antonym of the word-'lighted'
extinguished

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Q 2 Answer each of the following questions in about 30-40 words.

- (a) Why did Sue call for the doctor?

Johnsy was down with Pneumonia. Her frail body was unable to cope with the severity of the attack. She lay in her bed miserable, forlorn, just gazing out of the window. There was no change in her condition. Alarmed at her friend's plight, Sue had asked the doctor to come and examine Johnsy.

- (b) What report did the doctor about Johnsy's condition after the storm?

The doctor gave an encouraging report about Johnsy's condition after examining her in the afternoon a day after the storm. He believed that the report was encouraging because now Johnsy had regained her will to live.

- (c) How did Johnsy associate herself with the falling leaves?

It was autumn and the leaves on the ivy creeper were falling gradually. This depressed an already ill Johnsy and strangely enough she associated her falling health with the leaves. She believed that she would die when the last leaf fell.

- (d) Why did Sue pour out her worries to Behrman?

Sue poured out her worries to Behrman because she was alarmed at her friend Johnsy's deteriorating condition and wanted guidance and support from the elderly well-wisher.

Q 3 Answer each of the following questions in about 100-150 words.

- (a) What did Johnsy admit to Sue when the last leaf did not fall? Or When did Johnsy realise her mistake?

Johnsy was suffering from pneumonia. There was a creeper on the wall facing her window. Johnsy had a fancy that she would die when the last leaf fell. One night, there was only one leaf left. She thought that she would also die with the falling of the leaf. But that night, Behrman painted a leaf in its place. So it did not fall. When Johnsy saw the last leaf intact, she admitted that Sue had looked after her so lovingly and she in turn had been a bad and non-cooperative, depressed and gloomy. She had now realised that it was a sin to want to die.

- (b) Describe Behrman as a person, and the way he saved Johnsy's life.

Behrman was a man with a golden heart. Compassion and readiness for extreme sacrifice were the hallmarks of his nature. When he realized that Johnsy would cling to her life only as long as the last leaf remained in the creeper, he decided to outsmart the destructive power of the night storm by painting an identical leaf. He had the painting fixed in the window to make Johnsy feel that the night's storm had failed to dislodge the leaf. In the process, he saved a precious life, but lost his own. He

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succumbed to the pneumonia attack triggered by exposure to the rain, wind and chill of the night. The painting was, no doubt his master piece, which he had all along dreamt of accomplishing. Unfortunately, he didn't live to receive the admiration and the result.