

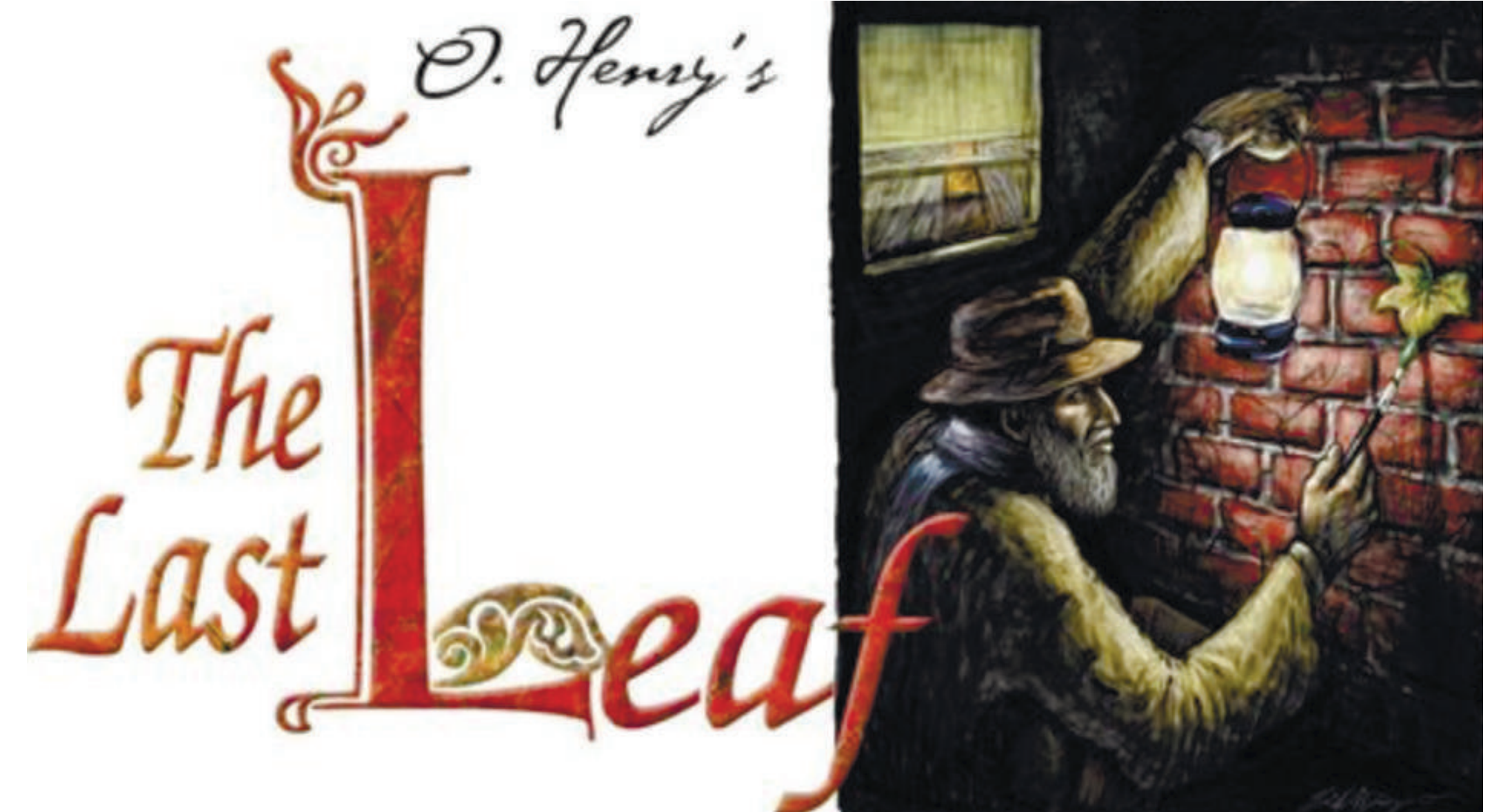
"The Last Leaf" by O. Henry

skyteach

Activity 1

Before reading the book, answer the following questions:

1. Do you like reading short stories or novels?
2. What is the difference between a novel and a short story?
3. Do you know any famous American or English short story writers?
4. Is O. Henry an American or an English writer?
5. What was his real name? What do you know about the origin of his pen name?



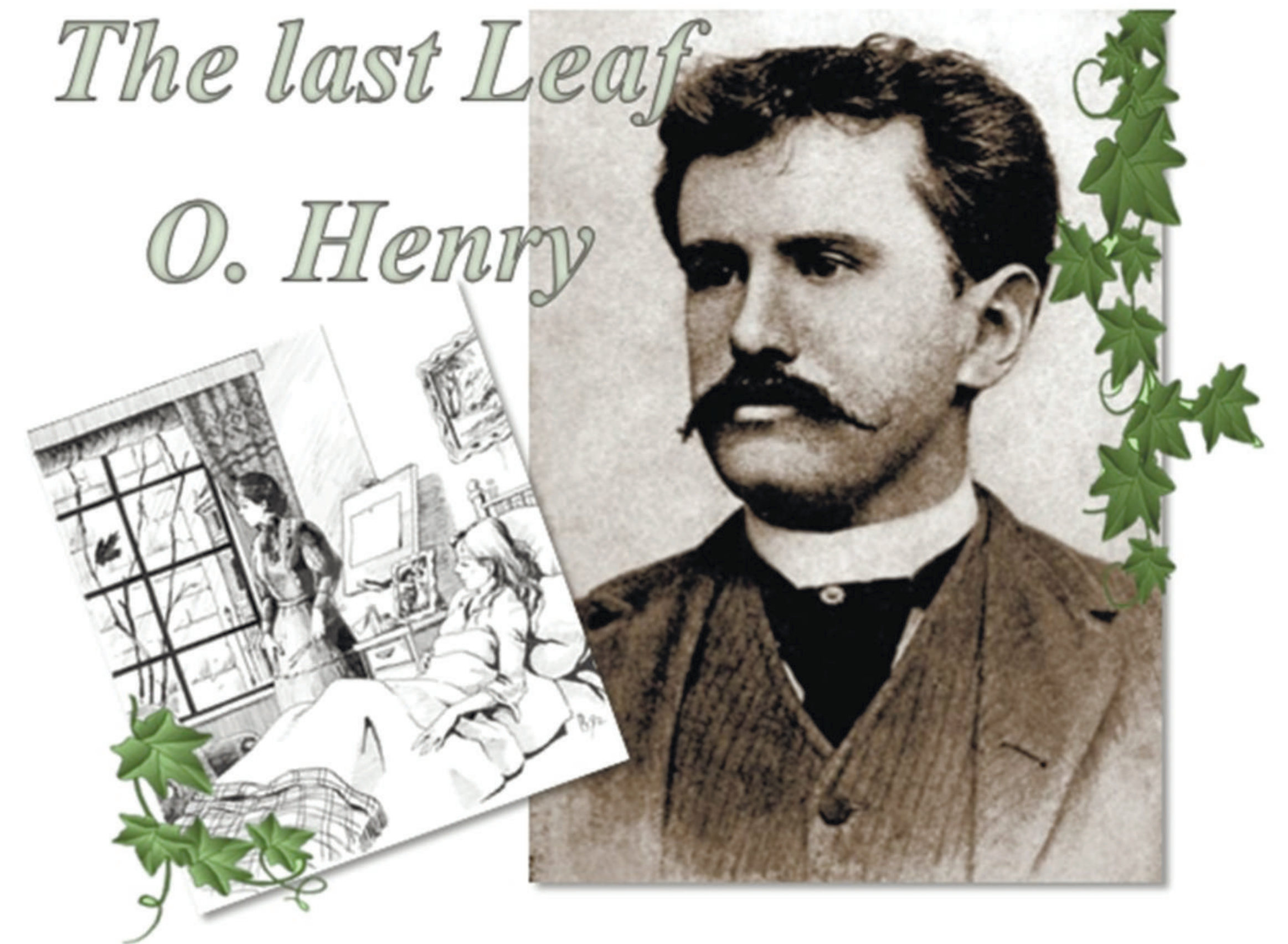
Activity 2

Match the words and the definitions:

1. pneumonia		A. charmingly old-fashioned
2. scorn		B. an acute or chronic disease caused by viruses, bacteria, or physical and chemical agents and characterized by inflammation of the lungs
3. ravager		C. a mischievous child
4. imp		D. contempt for a person or object thought to be hateful or inferior: disdain
5. quaint		E. to bring heavy destruction on
6. masterpiece		F. very serious, critical
7. blow		G. a work of outstanding skill
8. acute		H. a climbing plant related to the grapevine
9. clinging		I. move creating an air current
10. vine		J. adhering, sticking together

Activity 3

Read the short story "The Last Leaf", find 10 irregular verbs and write down their three forms.



Activity 4

Do the quiz.

1. Where do the actions take place?

- a) Anniston
- b) Gothman city
- c) Greenwich Village
- d) Haddonfield

2. What does Sue do?

- a) She is an artist.
- b) She is a singer.
- c) She is an English teacher.
- d) She is a dancer.

3. Who is Behrman?

- a) a doctor
- b) a musician
- c) a painter
- d) an actor

4. Who gets sick first?

- a) Sue
- b) one of their neighbors
- c) Johnsy
- d) Behrman

5. Who paints the last leaf?

- a) Johnsy
- b) their friend
- c) Behrman
- d) Sue

6. What is the last leaf symbol of?

- a) fortitude
- b) death
- c) a new life
- d) a chance

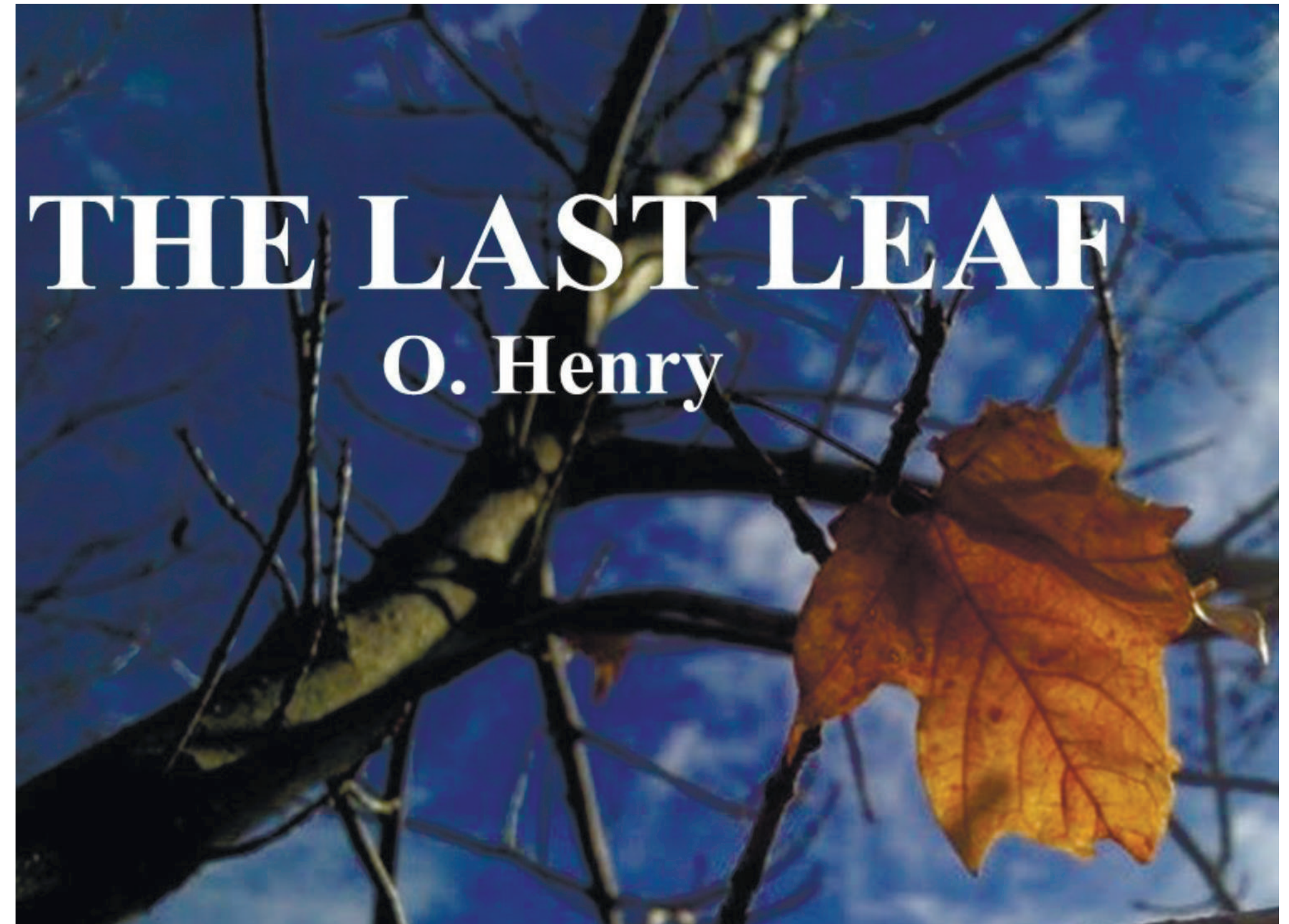
7. Why did Behrman paint the leaf?

- a) Behrman was retired and he had free time to paint the leaf.
- b) Old Behrman had been working on a painting of a leaf for many years.
- c) Behrman wanted to paint a masterpiece and he wanted to protect Johnsy.
- d) Sue asked him to paint the leaf.

Activity 5

Discuss the following questions:

1. How can you describe Sue?
2. Is there a real friendship between Sue and Johnsy?
Give specific examples from the text.
3. Who is your favorite character so far?
4. What are your associations about the last leaf?
What in your opinion does it symbolize: hope, fortitude or death?
5. What are the conflicts in "The Last Leaf"?
6. What is the main theme of the story?
7. Can you think of another ending?



Answers

Activity 1

2. A novel is a relatively long work of narrative fiction, normally written in prose form, and which is typically published as a book.

A short story is a piece of prose fiction that typically can be read in one sitting and focuses on a self-contained incident or series of linked incidents, with the intent of evoking a "single effect" or mood, however, there are many exceptions to this.

3. American short story writers - Mark Twain, Stephen Crane, Jack London, Hans Christian Andersen

English short story writers - Charles Dickens, Arthur Conan Doyle

4. American

5. His real name was [William Sydney Porter](#). He gave various [explanations for the origin of his pen name](#).

Activity 2

1. - b

2. - d

3. - e

4. - c

5. - a

6. - g

7. - i

8. - f

9. - j

10. - h

Activity 3

1. pay - paid - paid

2. come - came - come

3. can - could - could

4. go - went - gone

5. sing - sang - sung

6. blow - blew - blown

7. hear - heard - heard

8. get - got - got

9. put - put - put

10. fall - fell - fallen

Activity 4

1. - c

2. - a

3. - c

4. - c

5. - c

6. - a

7. - c

Answers

Activity 5

1. She is a very friendly and caring person.
2. They are real friends. When Johnsy is ill, Sue looks after her and does her best for keeping her good mood.
3. The answer depends on the student's choice.
4. In fact, the last leaf symbolizes the fortitude. After the windy night when Johnsy sees that the surviving leaf, she experiences encouragement and starts a new way of her life.
5. The main conflict in the story is a conflict between characters. The suspense is created when Johnsy says that as soon as the last leaf falls off of the vine, she will die. She says "When the last one falls I must go, too." So, the main conflict is the tension created as they waited to see what happened. Other minor conflicts appear as we first find out that Johnsy is sick, and as she continues to get worse, Sue insists that she will get better, Johnsy doesn't agree with Sue so there is a conflict between the two on that issue.
6. The main theme of the story is sacrificing yourself for the sake of another person. Berhman, being a rude person, paints the last leaf on the windy and severe day and gets sick. He dies but the last leaf painted by him gives life to Johnsy.