ESL Book Report

The Last Leaf — Book Report

by O. Henry

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

What I need to include מה צריך להיות בעבודה

- ☐ **Part 1:** Book details.....10 points
- ☐ **Part 2:** Characters.....15 points
- ☐ **Part 3:** Summary.....20 points
- ☐ **Part 4:** Vocabulary in use.....15 points
- ☐ **Part 5:** Problem & solution.....10 points
- ☐ **Part 6:** Message of the story.....15 points
- ☐ **Part 7:** My opinion.....10 points
- ☐ **Part 8:** Language & neatness.....5 points
- ☐ I wrote full sentences in my own words.
- ☐ I checked my spelling, capital letters and periods.

TOTAL SCORE

_____

/ 100

(teacher)

Part 1: Book Details

פרטי הספר

_____ **/ 10**

Title of the story: *(2 points)*	
Author (writer): *(2 points)*	
Where does the story happen? (city) *(2 points)*	
When does the story happen? (month or season) *(2 points)*	

What kind of text is it? Circle one. *(2 points)*

a poem a short story a news article a song

Part 2: Characters

הדמויות _____ / 15

Describe each character. Use the words in the box to help you. Finish the sentences.

Words to describe people מילים לתיאור דמויות			
sick	weak	sad	young
old	kind	caring	brave
helpful	worried	hopeful	fierce-looking
a good friend	an artist	a painter	a failure

Johnsy *4 points*	Johnsy is _____ At the beginning, Johnsy thinks that _____ _____

Sue *4 points*	Sue is _____ Sue helps Johnsy when she _____ _____

Mr. Behrman *5 points*	Mr. Behrman is _____ He looks fierce, but really he is _____ For Johnsy, he _____ _____

The doctor *2 points*	The doctor says that Johnsy _____

Part 3: Summary סיכום הסיפור _____ / 20

What happens in the story? Write 2–3 sentences in each box. Use the starters and the words below.

Helping words מילות קישור			
First,	Then,	After that,	Finally,
because	but	so	when

Beginning *(6 points)* התחלה

Sue and Johnsy are _____

They live in _____

In November, Johnsy _____

_____

Middle *(7 points)* אמצע

Johnsy looks out of the window and _____

She thinks that when the last leaf falls, _____

Sue goes downstairs and tells Mr. Behrman _____

_____

End *(7 points)* סוף

In the morning, Johnsy sees that _____

Johnsy wants to live, so _____

Sue tells Johnsy that Mr. Behrman _____

_____

Part 4: Vocabulary in Use

שימוש באוצר מילים

_____ / 15

Choose 5 words from the box. Write one sentence with each word. Your sentence can be about the story or about your life. Underline the word.

Words from the story			
pneumonia	ill	brick	chance
desire	whisper	ivy vine	leaf (leaves)
fierce-looking	failure	masterpiece	wicked
sin	lantern	ladder	

Example: *My little brother was <u>ill</u>, so he stayed in bed.*

Each sentence = 3 points: the word is correct (1) + the meaning is right (1) + a full sentence (1).

1. Word: _____ *(3 points)*

Sentence: _____

_____

2. Word: _____ *(3 points)*

Sentence: _____

_____

3. Word: _____ *(3 points)*

Sentence: _____

_____

4. Word: _____ *(3 points)*

Sentence: _____

_____

5. Word: _____ *(3 points)*

Sentence: _____

_____

Part 5: Problem & Solution

בעיה ופתרון

_____ / 10

The problem: What is Johnsy's problem? *(4 points)*
Think: How is she? What does she believe about the leaves?

Johnsy's problem is that _____

_____

_____

_____

The solution: How is the problem solved? *(4 points)*
Think: What does Mr. Behrman do? What happens to Johnsy?

The problem is solved when _____

_____

_____

_____

The key moment: Johnsy sees that the last leaf is still on the wall. How does she feel? Why? *(2 points)*

She feels _____

because _____

_____

Part 6: The Message of the Story

המסר של הסיפור

_____ / 15

A. What does the story teach us? Put a ✓ next to the true ideas. *(3 points)*

- ☐ Hope can help a person live.
- ☐ Never listen to doctors.
- ☐ A true friend helps and does not give up.
- ☐ Do not judge people by how they look.
- ☐ Money is the most important thing.
- ☐ Giving to others, even when it is hard, is a great thing (sacrifice).

B. Choose ONE message from A. Explain it with an example. *(6 points)*

One message of the story is _____

I know this because in the story, _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

C. Why is the painted leaf Mr. Behrman's masterpiece? *(6 points)*

It is only a small leaf! Think: What did it do for Johnsy? What did it cost Mr. Behrman?

The leaf is his masterpiece because _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Part 7: My Opinion

הדעה שלי

_____ / 10

My favorite part of the story *(3 points)*

My favorite part is when _____

because _____

The character I like most *(3 points)*

I like _____

because _____

My rating and recommendation *(4 points)*

Color the stars: ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Circle: I recommend I don't recommend this story to my friends

because _____

Part 8: Language & Neatness

שפה, סדר והשקעה

_____ / 5

Check your work before you give it to the teacher. The teacher gives 1 point for each line.

Check	**Me ✓**	**Teacher**
I wrote full sentences.		/ 1
I used capital letters and periods (.).		/ 1
My writing is neat and easy to read.		/ 1
I answered all the parts.		/ 1
I wrote in my own words and did my best.		/ 1

Score (for the teacher)

Part	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**Total**
Points	/10	/15	/20	/15	/10	/15	/10	/5	**/100**
Score									

FOR THE TEACHER

Grading Rubric — The Last Leaf Book Report

How to grade quickly: Parts 1–7 are graded for **ideas and understanding**. Small spelling and grammar mistakes do not lose points there if the meaning is clear. Language and neatness are graded only in Part 8. Give credit for answers in the student's own words that show they understood the story.

Part / points	Full points	Partial points	Low / 0
1. Book details *10 points*	5 items × 2 points. Correct title, author, place, time and text type (short story).	**1 point** per item: partly right (e.g. "America" for New York, "winter" for November / autumn, "Henry" for O. Henry).	**0** for an item that is wrong or missing.
2. Characters *15 points*	Johnsy 4 · Sue 4 · Behrman 5 · Doctor 2. Fitting describing words **and** a true fact about what the character thinks or does.	About half: only describing words, or only a fact; or one detail not true to the story.	**0–1**: wrong character facts, copied words that do not fit, or blank.
3. Summary *20 points*	Beginning 6 · Middle 7 · End 7. Main events are correct, in the right order, 2–3 sentences per box (see model answers).	**3–4** (B) / **3–5** (M, E): some key events missing, slightly out of order, or very short.	**0–2**: one idea only, events wrong, or blank.
4. Vocabulary in use *15 points*	5 sentences × 3 points: word from the list (1) + right meaning (1) + full sentence that makes sense (1).	**2**: right word and meaning, but not a full sentence; **1**: the word is there but used with the wrong meaning.	**0**: no word from the list, or no sentence.
5. Problem & solution *10 points*	Problem 4: Johnsy is very ill (2) + believes she will die when the last leaf falls (2). Solution 4: Behrman paints a leaf on the wall (2) + Johnsy gets hope / gets better (2). Feeling 2: a feeling (1) + a reason (1).	**2** for problem or solution when only half is there (e.g. "she is sick" with no leaf).	**0**: wrong or blank.
6. Message *15 points*	A 3: ticks the 4 correct ideas and none of the 2 wrong ones. B 6: a clear message (2) + a correct example from the story (4). C 6: the leaf saved Johnsy / gave her hope (3) + Behrman gave his life / it was his best and kindest work (3).	A: **2** = 1 mistake, **1** = 2 mistakes. B / C: **3–4** when the idea is right but the example or reason is weak or general.	A: **0** = 3+ mistakes. B / C: **0–2**: no real idea or not connected to the story.
7. My opinion *10 points*	Favorite part 3: a real part of the story (1) + a reason (2). Character 3: a character (1) + a reason (2). Rating 4: stars (1) + recommend circled (1) + a reason (2).	Give the first point for the choice; the reason points when the reason is short or general ("because it is nice" = 1).	**0**: blank. (Any honest opinion is fine if it is explained.)
8. Language & neatness *5 points*	1 point each: full sentences; capitals and periods; neat writing; all parts answered; own words and effort.	Give the point when the criterion is true for most of the report.	**0** for each criterion that is mostly missing.

FOR THE TEACHER

Model Answers — Key Points to Look For

Part 1 – Book details (10)

- Title: The Last Leaf • Author: O. Henry (real name William Sydney Porter)
- Place: New York (an artists' building / a small district in New York) • Time: November (autumn / fall)
- Kind of text: a short story

Part 2 – Characters (15)

- **Johnsy:** young, an artist, very ill / weak, sad, has no hope. She thinks she will die when the last leaf falls. Later she becomes hopeful and wants to live.
- **Sue:** young artist, Johnsy's best friend, kind, caring, helpful. She takes care of Johnsy, tries to make her eat soup, tells her the doctor's words, asks Mr. Behrman for help.
- **Mr. Behrman:** old painter, fierce-looking, "a failure" as an artist, but really kind, brave and generous. He goes out on a cold, stormy night and paints the last leaf on the wall; he gets pneumonia and dies.
- **The doctor:** says Johnsy has one chance in ten; her chance depends on her desire to live. (Later: she is out of danger.)

Part 3 – Summary (20)

- **Beginning:** Sue and Johnsy are young artists and best friends. They live in a studio at the top of a building in New York. In November Johnsy gets pneumonia and becomes very ill.
- **Middle:** The doctor says she has one chance in ten. Johnsy looks out of the window and counts the ivy leaves. She believes she will die when the last leaf falls. Sue tells Mr. Behrman; he is angry at the idea. That night there is a cold storm of rain and snow.
- **End:** In the morning one leaf is still on the wall, and it stays. Johnsy understands it is wrong to want to die; she eats and gets better. Sue tells her that Mr. Behrman died of pneumonia: he painted the leaf on the wall in the storm. It was his masterpiece.

Part 4 – Vocabulary in use (15)

- Check meaning: pneumonia = lung sickness; ill = sick; brick = block for walls; chance = possibility; desire = strong wish; whisper = speak very quietly; ivy vine = climbing plant; leaf = flat green part of a plant; fierce-looking = looks angry/scary; failure = someone/something that does not succeed; masterpiece = best work; wicked = very bad; sin = a wrong thing against God's law; lantern = lamp you carry; ladder = steps you climb.
- Example: "Behrman used a **ladder** to paint the leaf." / "I have a strong **desire** to visit London."

Part 5 – Problem & solution (10)

- **Problem:** Johnsy is very sick with pneumonia and she believes she will die when the last leaf falls from the ivy vine. She has lost her desire to live.
- **Solution:** Mr. Behrman paints a leaf on the wall on a stormy night. The leaf never falls, so Johnsy gets hope, eats and gets better.
- **Key moment:** She feels surprised / ashamed / hopeful / happy, because the leaf did not fall in the storm, so she understands she should want to live.

Part 6 – Message (15)

- **A. Correct (✓):** Hope can help a person live · A true friend helps and does not give up · Do not judge people by how they look · Giving to others is a great thing (sacrifice). **Wrong:** Never listen to doctors · Money is the most important thing.
- **B. Examples:** Hope – the leaf gave Johnsy hope and she got better. Friendship – Sue stayed with Johnsy and asked Behrman for help. Looks – Behrman looked fierce but was the kindest. Sacrifice – Behrman went out in the storm and gave his life for Johnsy.
- **C.** It is not big or famous, but it saved Johnsy's life and gave her hope. He worked his whole life to paint a masterpiece; this small leaf was his greatest work because of what it did – and he gave his life to paint it.

Part 7 – My opinion (10)

- Answers will vary. Look for a real moment from the story (e.g. "when Johnsy sees the leaf is still there", "when Sue tells about Behrman") and a reason with "because". Any rating is fine if it is explained.

Part 8 – Language & neatness (5)

- One point each for: full sentences · capitals and periods · neat writing · all parts answered · own words and effort. Be generous with weak writers who clearly tried.