

Exam Practice

Extract Based Questions

Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow

1 "The next morning Sue came and sat on Johnsy's bed. Taking Johnsy's hand in her and she said, "I have something to tell you. Mr. Behrman died of pneumonia this morning. He was ill for only two days. The first day the Janitor found him on his bed. His clothes and shoes were wet and he was shivering. He had been out in that stormy night."

- (i) Name the author and story from which this extract has been taken.
 - (a) Oscar Wilde, The Last Leaf
 - (b) Anton Chekov, The Beggar
 - (c) Oscar Wilde, The Happy Prince
 - (d) O' Henry, The Last Leaf
- (ii) What did Mr Behrman die of?
 - (a) Cancer
 - (b) Skin infection
 - (c) Pneumonia
 - (d) High fever
- (iii) The statement that is true about Mr Behrman according to the extract is
 - (a) he was a twenty-year old painter.
 - (b) he died due to pneumonia.
 - (c) he was a careless fellow.
 - (d) he was a very famous painter.
- (iv) Why was he out in the stormy night?
- (v) Who found Mr. Behrman the first day?

Ans. (i) (d) O' Henry, The Last Leaf
(ii) (c) Pneumonia
(iii) (b) he died due to pneumonia.
(iv) He was out in the stormy night to paint the ivy leaf.
(v) Mr. Behrman was found by the Janitor the first day he was sick.

2 She quickly rushed to the bed and heard Johnsy counting backwards. She was looking out of the window and was saying, "Twelve!" After sometime she whispered "eleven", then "ten", then "nine", "eight", "seven."

- (i) Who is 'she' in the first line of the extract?
 - (a) Sue
 - (b) Johnsy
 - (c) Johnsy's mother
 - (d) Johnsy's sister
- (ii) What was Johnsy counting?
 - (a) The number of cars
 - (b) The number of leaves
 - (c) The number of water drops
 - (d) The number of petals

- (iii) Why was Johnsy counting it?
 - (a) To divert her mind
 - (b) To entertain herself
 - (c) To pass her time
 - (d) Because of her strange belief
- (iv) Why was she counting in reverse?
- (v) What misconception had Johnsy developed in her mind?

Ans. (i) (a) Sue
(ii) (b) The number of leaves
(iii) (d) Because of her strange belief
(iv) She was counting in reverse because the number of leaves on the ivy creeper were reducing.
(v) She would die with the fall of last leaf on the creeper, misconception had Johnsy developed in her mind.

3 She talked about clothes and fashions but Johnsy did not respond. Johnsy continued to lie still in her bed. Sue brought her drawing board to Johnsy's room and started painting. To take Johnsy's mind off her illness, she whistled while working.

Suddenly she heard Johnsy whispering.

- (i) What was Johnsy whispering?
 - (a) About her last wish.
 - (b) She was counting the leaves of the ivy creeper.
 - (c) That she wanted to paint an ivy creeper.
 - (d) That she wanted to meet Mr Behrman.
- (ii) When the writer says, "continues to lie still", he means
 - (a) she is dead
 - (b) she is motionless
 - (c) she is lazy
 - (d) she is sleeping
- (iii) The statement that is true about Johnsy, according to the extract is
 - (a) she has no will to live.
 - (b) she needs love and care.
 - (c) she is suffering from Pneumonia
 - (d) All of the above
- (iv) What can be said about the relationship shared by the girls as given in the extract?
- (v) What did she try to talk about with Johnsy?

Ans. (i) (b) She was counting the leaves of the ivy creeper
(ii) (b) She is motionless

- (iii) (d) All of the above
- (iv) According to the extract, the girls are best friends and roommates.
- (v) She tried to talk about clothes and fashion with Johnsy.

4 In the evening there was another storm but the leaf did not fall. Johnsy lay for a long time looking at the leaf. Then she called out to Sue. "I have been a bad girl. You have looked after me so lovingly and I have not cooperated with you. I have been depressed and gloomy. The last leaf has shown me how wicked I have been. I have realised that it is a sin to want to die."

- (i) The word 'sin' means
 - (a) to offend
 - (b) crime
 - (c) disgrace
 - (d) Both (b) and (c)
- (ii) For what reason was Johnsy gloomy?
 - (a) She was unemployed.
 - (b) She was poor.

- (c) She was suffering from pneumonia.
- (d) She met with an accident.
- (iii) How does Johnsy relate the last leaf to herself?
 - (a) She believes that just like the last leaf she also has to live.
 - (b) She believes that the last leaf indicates God's decision on her life.
 - (c) She believes that the last leaf indicates her physical condition.
 - (d) She believes that after the last leaf falls, she will die.
- (iv) What can we say about Johnsy's feelings from the given extract?
- (v) Why did the leaf not fall?

- Ans. (i) (d) Both (b) and (c)
- (ii) (c) She was suffering from pneumonia.
- (iii) (d) She believes that after the last leaf falls, she will die.
- (iv) Johnsy is regretful.
- (v) The leaf did not fall because it was painted.

Short Answer (SA) Type Questions

1 What did the two friends in the story 'The Last Leaf' do? Where did they live?

Ans. The two friends in the story 'The Last Leaf', Sue and Johnsy, were artists. They used to paint and earn for their living. They lived in a small flat on the third floor of an old building.

2 Describe the things Sue did to make Johnsy interested.

Ans. Sue tried her best to make Johnsy take an interest in things. She talked about clothes and fashions. She started painting in Johnsy's room so that she notices her and even whistled while painting to divert her mind from illness.

3 Name the creeper that Johnsy continuously looked at. Why was it shedding its leaves?

Ans. The name of the creeper that Johnsy continuously looked at was ivy creeper. The ivy creeper was climbing on the wall, opposite to their window. It was shedding leaves because it was autumn season and a storm with heavy rainfall and strong winds had come.

4 How did Johnsy spend her day?

Ans. Johnsy spent her day lying on her bed. She kept looking out of the window and counted the leaves that were remaining on the ivy creeper. At times, she also slept.

5 Describe the strange belief of Johnsy. Did it come out to be true?

Ans. The strange belief of Johnsy was that she would die once the last leaf on the creeper would fall. Johnsy kept on counting the remaining leaves on the ivy creeper outside her window. No, her strange belief did not come true as the last painted leaf did not fall from the ivy creeper.

6 Who was Behrman? Why did he come to Sue's flat?

Ans. Behrman was the neighbour of Sue and Johnsy. He was a sixty years old painter who lived on the ground floor of the old building. He came to Sue's flat as she wanted him to pose as an old miner so that she could complete her painting.

7 What made Johnsy change her mind?

Ans. Johnsy change her mind when she saw that even after strong winds and heavy rainfall, the leaf was still hanging on the creeper. She was filled with hope. She also wanted to get cured soon and live just like the leaf which looked green and healthy.

8 How did Behrman save Johnsy's life?

Ans. Behrman saved Johnsy's life by painting a leaf that looked similar to the last leaf on the ivy creeper. The leaf staying intact on the creeper inspite of the strong winds and storm led Johnsy to change her mind and save herself.

Long Answer (LA) Type Questions

- 1** What was Johnsy's illness and how did she get well?

Ans. Johnsy, a young artist became ill due to pneumonia in November. Her high fever was accompanied by her mental illness. Because of her illness, Johnsy was depressed and had lost all hopes of living. She also developed a strange superstition. She believed that she would die as soon as the last leaf from the ivy creeper outside her window would fall. Even though her friend and roommate, Sue and her doctor tried to cure her, she did not get well.

According to her doctor, her lack of willingness to live was affecting her health. Johnsy started getting well when she saw that even after going through the storm, the strong winds and the heavy rainfall, the last leaf was hanging. She realised that her friend and doctor were trying to help her while she was sad and hopeless. She also understood that her desire to die was sin. This led her to think positive and get cured soon.

"Behrman's visit to Sue's flat was a blessing in disguise for Johnsy." Justify the above statement.

Ans. It is true that 'Behrman's' visit to Sue's flat was a blessing in disguise for Johnsy. Johnsy was suffering from pneumonia and had lost her willingness to live.

She had also developed a strange belief that she would die as soon as the last leaf of the ivy creeper would fall. Her friend Sue, had tried hard to make Johnsy positive but nothing worked. Sue needed to complete a painting project and earn money for Johnsy's treatment. She had to paint an old miner and so called her sixty year old neighbour Behrman.

She told him all about Johnsy's condition and belief. Behrman saw the creeper. He knew that the last leaf would fall soon. So, he quietly left the room. Without telling anyone, he went out in the stormy night and painted a leaf to bring back hope in Johnsy's life and it worked. The healthy and green leaf made Johnsy realise her mistake. She gained hope and willingness to live. Consequently, her recovery was fast and she was well.

Therefore, Behrman by his act not only saved Johnsy's life but also sacrificed his own life for her.

- 3** What lessons do you learn from the story 'The Last Leaf'?

Ans. The story 'The Last Leaf' teaches us to be positive in life and never believe in superstitions. When there is nothing left in your life then the excitement to live gets lost. But, an inspiration is always there to keep you going ahead in the life. A thought which is positive keeps you well on the path of life.

The story teaches us not to lose hope in difficult circumstances and help others.

Johnsy, an artist in the story, falls ill and loses hope of living. She could not get well despite the best efforts of her roommate, Sue and her doctor.

She even develops a strange belief. Later on, she realises that her superstition was stupid and nonsensical. She also learnt that life is precious and it is a sin to want to die. This realisation in Johnsy came because of a sixty year old painter, Behrman.

After realising Johnsy's ailment, he painted a realistic leaf on the creeper. In the process of doing so, the old man had caught pneumonia and eventually had died. He sacrificed his life to help his neighbours Sue and Johnsy. This selfless act of Behrman teaches us to be compassionate and helpful towards others.

- 4** Give a character sketch of Behrman.

Ans. Behrman was a sixty-year-old painter who lived just below Sue's apartment. He was a poor alcoholic and earned some money as a model to other painters. Although he had a rough exterior look, he was a very kind man with lots of affection for Sue and Johnsy. He was also very intelligent and thoughtful.

He somehow wanted to boost Johnsy's dying confidence to improve her health. Sue was very depressed with her life and her sickness from pneumonia. She believed that she would die when the last leaf from the ivy plant outside their window would fall.

So, Behrman bravely withstood the cold outside and painted an ivy plant leaf on the window. He painted the leaf for Sue to believe that the leaf did not fall and hence she would also live long like the leaf.

This also made Sue realise her mistake and decide to live. However, unfortunately, Behrman contracted pneumonia and died it and could not save his own life. This reveals his self-sacrificing character.