

Curative Shorts Questions

The Last Leaf

By O. Henry

Notes About Answering Questions Curatively: *These questions are meant to deepen your understanding of the story and its curative aspects for you, others, and the world around you. Curative Reading goes beyond understanding a story from a literary perspective to a place where your imagination gets to reshape a meaning that supports you and inspires you to move forward through challenging change. There are no right or wrong answers, only curiously curative ones. Sharing these questions is optional.*

Where does this story take place?

We all bring experiences from our real lives (including situations and places) into a text while reading it. According to researcher, Nikolajava from University of Cambridge, this is known as a “life to text” experience. Reflect on a place in the story that sparked a memory or thought of your own real life and write a line or two about this text to life moment.

Write a line or two about Behrman and the life he lived as an artist.

“I will do all that science, so far as it may filter through my efforts, can accomplish. But whenever my patient begins to count the carriages in her funeral procession I subtract 50 per cent from the curative power of medicines.” Write a sentence or two about your thoughts on the interplay between science and belief for Johnsy.

Can you find the sentence that uses the word curative in it?

The doctor tell Sue that Johnsy has a 50 – 50 chance of living and that she will win with good nursing. When he comes back again he says it is now all up to nutrition and care. Reflect on the role nutrition and care play in your own beliefs for a healthy body or a healthy society. Write a line or two about this.

What role does art play in this story?

What role does death play in this story?

Has reading this story been curative for you in any way? If so, write a line or two about this.