

CBSE Class 09 English Language and Literature

Revision Notes

Moments Chapter-7

The Last Leaf

Sue and Johnsy, two young artists, shared a small flat. Johnsy fell seriously ill in November. She had pneumonia. Sue, her friend, got worried to see her lying restless on the bed, gazing out of the window. Even though the doctor visited everyday, there was no improvement in her condition. One day the doctor asked Sue if anything was bothering Johnsy because she was not responding to medicines. It seemed as if she had given up hope to get well. Sue tried her best to make her feel happy and start taking interest in her surroundings. But Johnsy was sad. She kept her gaze on the window only and started counting backwards. Sue heard her do this and anxiously looked out of the window. She saw an old ivy creeper climbing the wall opposite their window. The creeper was shedding its leaves in the strong wind outside. Johnsy was counting the leaves left on the creeper.

Johnsy had made up her mind that with the fall of the last leaf, she will die. But Sue could not see any point in her belief as it was autumn and trees shed their leaves during this season. Sue tried hard to make her understand that there was no connection between her illness and the leaves. But Johnsy was sure that she will sleep forever once the ivy sheds its last leaf.

She somehow manages to make her go to sleep and rushes to call Behrman, who lived on the ground floor of the same building and was a painter too. She poured out her worries to Behrman. He also thinks that it is so foolish of Johnsy to think like that.

They both then go to Johnsy's room and find her sleeping.

The weather was getting bad. It was raining heavily and chilly wind was blowing. They went to the other room and saw that only the last leaf was left on the creeper. Behrman didn't say anything and went to his room. Next morning when Johnsy woke up, she asked Sue to draw back the curtains so that she could see outside. Sue surprisingly tells Johnsy that there was still one leaf left, all green and healthy. Johnsy could not believe as the wind was very strong the last night. Every now and then, Johnsy checked if the leaf was still there. The same night

,again there was a storm but the leaf was still there.

Now ,Johnsy was hopeful that she would get well soon.

When she recovered completely,Sue disclosed that the last leaf that had helped her get better, was not the original one but a masterpiece ,which looked more than real, was drawn by Behrman.

Behrman had drawn that leaf on the wall the same night without bothering about the rain or cold.He had died the next day of pneumonia.