Name Date

Per “The Last Leaf”

Thinking It Through

1. At the end of the story, Sue calls the leaf “Behrman’s masterpiece.” What does she mean?

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1. If you were Johnsy, what would be your feelings at the end?

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1. Although the last paragraph comes as a surprise to most readers, it at least seems like a *possible* ending to the story. This is due to O. Henry’s careful *foreshadowing*. **List two things** the reader is told about Behrman that help foreshadow the ending.

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1. “The Last Leaf” deals with not one but several BIG IDEAS about life. In your opinion, **what is one important theme** in the story? Why? These words may guide your thinking: *love, faith, courage*

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1. As you know, the technique of giving human qualities to non human subjects is known as *personification*. For example, people may speak of *Mother Nature* and *Father Time*. **How does O. Henry use personification** on page 1 of the story?

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1. We said in class that O. Henry’s name is synonymous (means the same as) **irony**. What is ironic in this story?

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William Sydney Porter (a.k.a O. Henry)