



Pneumonia Strikes

In a little district west of Washington Square¹, the streets have run crazy and have broken the district² into strange shapes³. This district is called Greenwich Village. An artist once discovered⁴ a valuable⁵ feature⁶ of this district. On such streets, it is very likely that a bill collector⁷ with a bill for paints, paper, and canvas would get lost⁸ while trying to find the address of the artist who owes⁹ him money! So, artists came in large numbers to quaint¹⁰, old Greenwich Village.

1. square [skwer] (n.)
2. district [ˈdɪstrɪkt] (n.)
3. shape [ʃeɪp] (n.)
4. discover [dɪˈskʌvər] (v.)
5. valuable [ˈvæljuəbəl] (a.)
6. feature [ˈfi:tʃər] (n.)
7. bill collector
8. get lost

9. owe sb sth
10. quaint [kweɪnt] (a.)
11. brick [brɪk] (n.)
12. rent [rent] (v.)
13. studio [ˈstjuːdiəʊ] (n.)
14. taste [teɪst] (n.)
15. alike [əˈlaɪk] (a.)



At the top of an ugly, three-story brick¹¹ apartment building, Sue and Johnsy rented¹² a small studio¹³. Sue was from Maine; Johnsy was from California. They had met at a small cafe on Eighth street and found that their tastes¹⁴ in art, food, and clothes were so much alike¹⁵ that they decided to rent a place together. That was in May.

✓ Check Up

What is not true about Sue and Johnsy?

- a They have a lot in common.
- b They live in the same apartment.
- c They often buy paints and paper on credit.

Ans: c

In November, a cold, unseen¹ stranger whom the doctors called pneumonia came to Greenwich Village, touching people here and there with his icy² fingers. A small woman with blood thinned³ by the warm California sun was no match for⁴ the tough⁵ and deadly⁶ illness⁷. Johnsy got pneumonia, and it made her very ill. She lay, hardly moving on her iron-framed bed,

looking through the small window at the brick wall of the building next door.

One morning, the busy doctor invited Sue into the hallway⁸. His eyes were sad under his bushy⁹ gray eyebrows¹⁰.



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| 1. unseen [ʌn`si:n] (a.) | 10. eyebrow [`aɪbraʊ] (n.) |
| 2. icy [`aɪsi] (a.) | 11. chance [tʃæns] (n.) |
| 3. thin [θɪn] (v.) | 12. clinical thermometer |
| 4. match for | 13. depend on |
| 5. tough [tʌf] (a.) | 14. will [wɪl] (n.) |
| 6. deadly [`dedli] (a.) | 15. give up |
| 7. illness [`ɪlnɪs] (n.) | 16. matter [`mætər] (v.) |
| 8. hallway [`hɔ:l`weɪ] (n.) | 17. medicine [`medɪsən] (n.) |
| 9. bushy [`bʊʃi] (a.) | 18. get well |



“She has one chance¹¹ in – let us say, ten,” he said, as he looked at his clinical thermometer¹². “And that chance depends on¹³ her will¹⁴ to live. Some-times when people give up¹⁵ trying to live, it doesn’t matter¹⁶ what medicines¹⁷ I give. Your friend has decided, for some reason, that she is not going to get well¹⁸.”

✓ Check Up

What’s no match for pneumonia?

- a The deadly illness
- b The California sun
- c A cold, unseen stranger

Ans: b

“Is she worried about anything?” continued the doctor.

“She . . . she wanted to paint the Bay of Naples¹ some day,” said Sue.

“Paint²? Nonsense! Does she have any important worries³, like about a man, for instance⁴?”

“A man?” asked Sue, with a touch of⁵ sarcasm⁶ in her voice. “Is a man worth⁷ dying for? But, no, doctor; there is nothing of the kind.”

“Well, she is weak,” said the doctor. “I will do all that science, as I understand it, can accomplish⁸. But whenever my patient⁹ begins to count¹⁰ the days until her own funeral¹¹, I subtract¹² 50 percent from the power of medicine to cure. If you could get her to ask one question about the new winter clothing styles, I will promise you a one-in-five chance for her, instead of¹³ one in ten.”

1. the Bay of Naples

2. paint [peɪnt] (v.)

3. worry [ˈwɜːri] (n.)

4. for instance

5. a touch of

6. sarcasm [ˈsɑːrkæzəm] (n.)

7. be worth v-ing

8. accomplish [əˈkɒmplɪʃ] (v.)

9. patient [ˈpeɪʃənt] (n.)

10. count [kaʊnt] (v.)

11. funeral [ˈfjuːnərəl] (n.)

12. subtract [səbˈtrækt] (v.)

13. instead of...