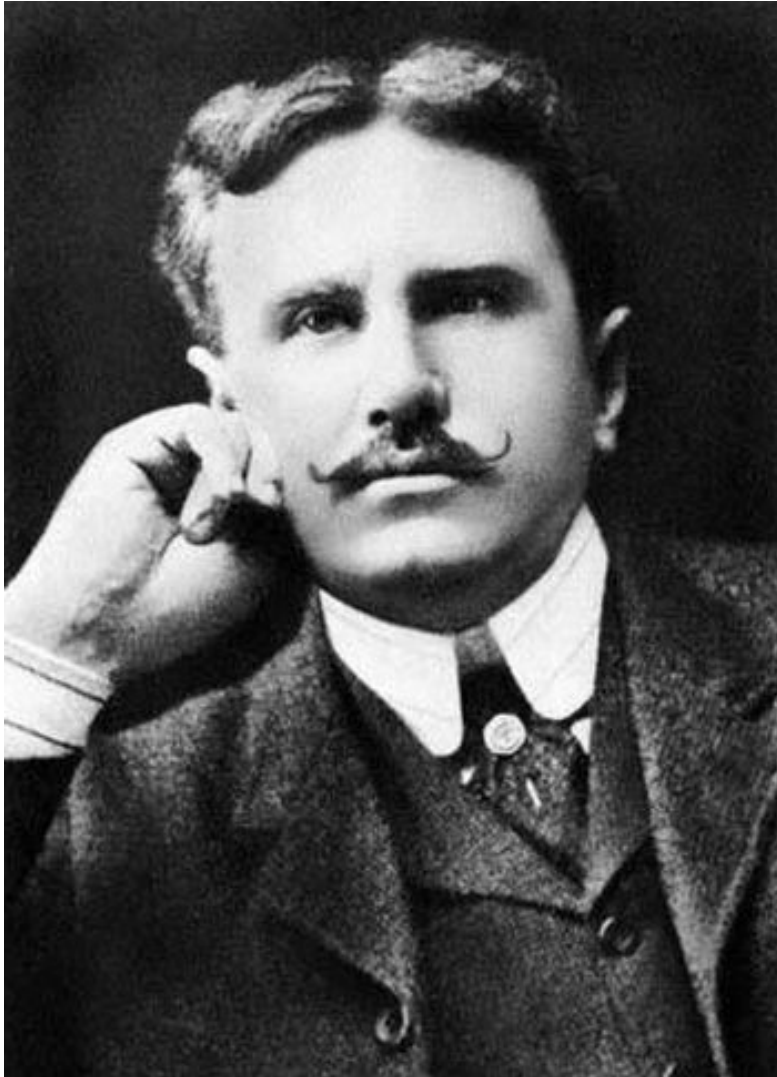


O. Henry



O. Henry



- O. Henry is one of the most famous American short story writers. O. Henry's real name was William Sydney Porter and he was born in Greensboro, North Carolina on September 11, 1862.
- At age of 20 (1882) he moved to Texas, where he had various jobs. He married Athol Estes in 1887; they had a son and a daughter. His wife died from tuberculosis in 1897.

In 1894 while working for First National Bank in Austin, Porter was accused of stealing \$4000. He went to prison in Columbus, Ohio for 3 years eventually.

While in prison Porter first started to write short stories and it's believed that he has found his writer's pseudonym there.

After Porter was released from the prison in 1901, he changed his name to O. Henry and moved to New York in 1902.

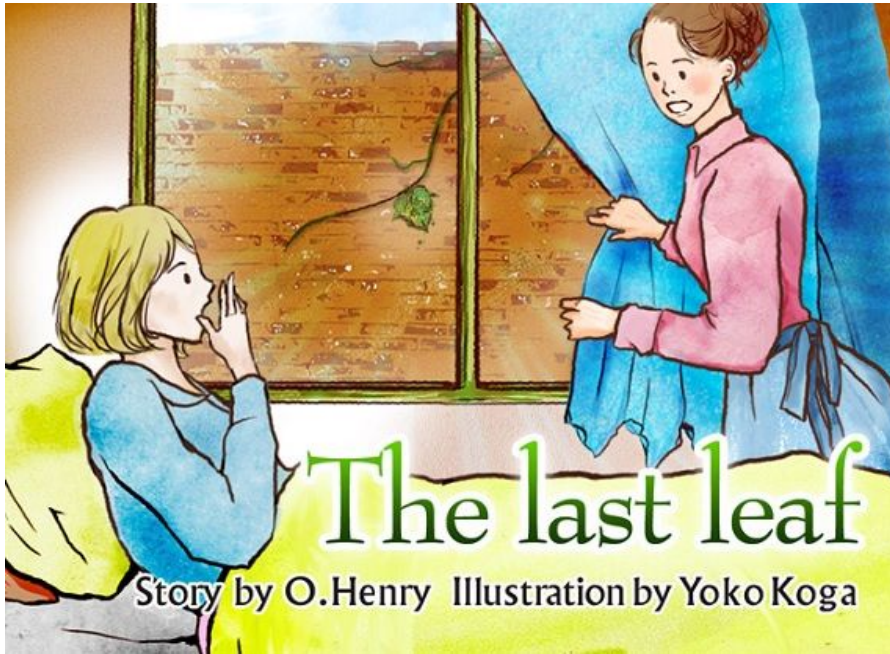
From December 1903 to January 1906 o. Henry wrote a story a week for the New York World magazine, and published several short stories in other magazines.

O. Henry's short stories are famous for their surprise endings and humor.

O. Henry's wrote such classic short stories as The Ransom of Red Chief, "The Gift of the Magi" and "The Furnished Room".

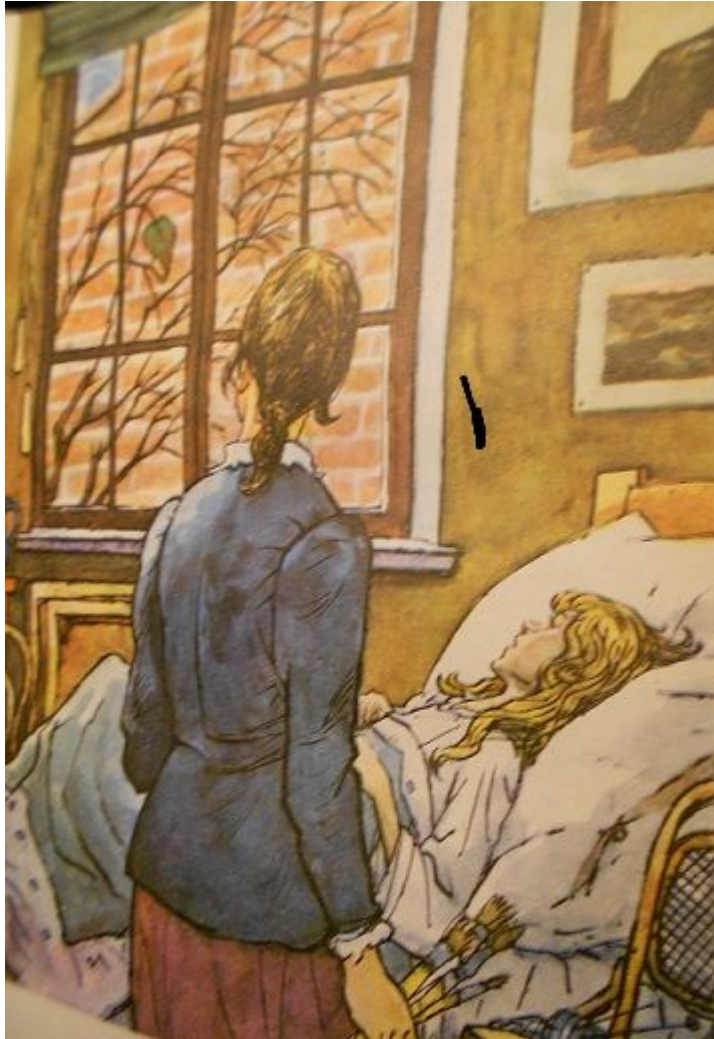
In his last years O. Henry had financial and health problems. An alcoholic, O. Henry died on June 5, 1910 in New York City, virtually broke.

THE LAST LEAF



- A woman named Johnsy has come down with pneumonia, and is now close to death. Outside the window of her room, the leaves fall from a vine. Johnsy decides that when the last leaf drops, she too will die, while her best friend Sue who stays with her, tries to tell her to stop thinking so pessimistically. In the same apartment building, an elderly, frustrated artist named Behrman lives below Johnsy and Sue. Behrman has been claiming that he will paint a masterpiece, even though he has never even attempted to start. Sue visits Behrman, telling him that Johnsy, who is dying of pneumonia, is losing her will to live. Sue tells Behrman that Johnsy claims that she will die when the last leaf falls off of the vine outside her window. Behrman scoffs at this as foolishness, but—as he is protective of the two young artists—he decides to visit Johnsy and see the vine from her window.

THE LAST LEAF



In the night, a very bad storm comes and wind is howling and rain is splattering against the window. Sue closes the curtains and tells Johnsy to go to sleep, even though there is still one leaf left on the vine. Johnsy protests against having the curtains closed, but Sue insists on doing so because she doesn't want Johnsy to see the last leaf fall. In the morning, Johnsy wants to see the vine to be sure that all the leaves are gone, but to their surprise, there is still one leaf left.

While Johnsy is surprised that it is still there, she insists it will fall that day. But it doesn't, nor does it fall through the night nor the next day. Johnsy believes that the leaf stayed there to show how wicked she was, and that she sinned in wanting to die. She regains her will to live, and makes a full recovery throughout the day.

THE LAST LEAF



In the afternoon, a doctor talks to Sue. The doctor says that Mr. Behrman has come down with pneumonia and, as there is nothing to be done for him, he is being taken to the hospital to be made comfortable in his final hours. A janitor had found him helpless with pain, and his shoes and clothing were wet and icy cold. The janitor couldn't figure out where he had been on that stormy night, though she had found a lantern that was still lit, a ladder that had been moved, some scattered brushes, and a palette with green and yellow colors mixed on it. "Look out the window, dear, at the last ivy leaf on the wall. Didn't you wonder why it never fluttered or moved when the wind blew? Ah, darling, it's Behrman's masterpiece - he painted it there the night that the last leaf fell."

No story

- Mr. Chalmer's friend, Tripp looked much older than his age because of his illness. He was always borrowing money and when he asked for a dollar, he wanted to earn it by helping Mr. Chalmers, a journalist, to get a story. He told him a love story about a beautiful girl from Long Island who came to look for her boyfriend, George, in New York and got disappointed. Tripp took the journalist to meet the girl and speak to her. The boy pitied the girl and convinced her to go back home. Mr. Chalmer's great surprise was to discover that Tripp was the girl's boyfriend.

The Pimienta Pancakes



The main character of this literary work Judson Odom told a story.

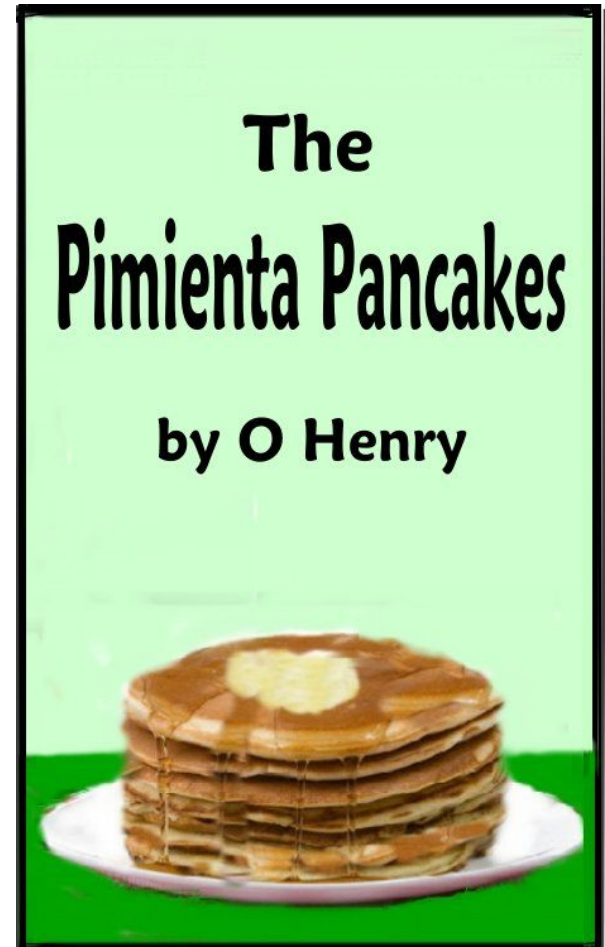
When he was younger he fell in love with Miss Willella Learright (she was uncle Emsley's niece), but when he wanted to spend more time with her, Lackson Bird appeared. He became Judson's rival.

The Pimienta Pancakes

‘If I could get that recipe, so I could make them pancakes for myself on my ranch, I'd be a happy man,’ says Bird.

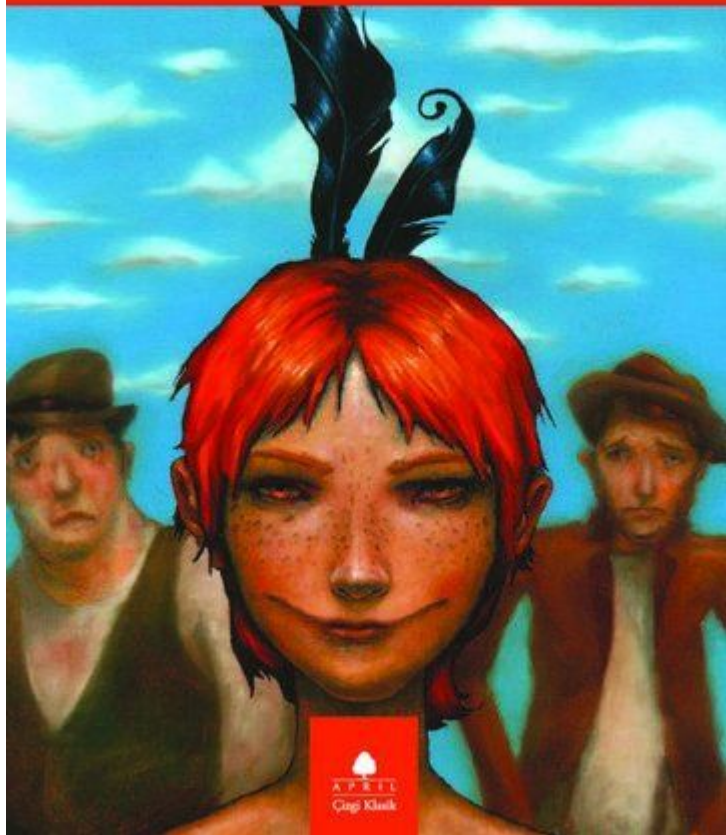
While Judson tried to find out the recipe, Willella and Jackson Bird were married.

‘Yes, it looks like Jackson Bird has gone and humbugged you some.’ said Uncle Emsley.



THE RANSOM OF RED CHIEF

O. Henry



- Two small-time criminals, Bill and Sam, kidnap Johnny, the red-haired son of an important citizen named Ebenezer Dorset, and hold him for ransom. But the moment they arrive at their hideout with the boy, the plan begins to unravel.

The Ransom of Red Chief

THE RANSOM OF RED CHIEF

O. HENRY



- Styling himself Red Chief, the brat proceeds to drive his captors to distraction with his unrelenting chatter, malicious pranks, and demands that they play wearying games with him. Desperate to get rid of the little terror, the kidnappers lower the ransom.

The Ransom of Red Chief



The father, who knows his son well and realizes how intolerable he will be to his captors and how desirous they will soon be to rid themselves of the delinquent, rejects their demand and offers to take the boy off their hands only if they pay him. Knowing a good deal when they see it, the men hand over the money and the howling boy—who had actually been happier being away from his stricter father and thus does not want to be "rescued" from his more-lenient captors—and flee.

THE LAST LEAF



Are you ready to die for one other person?

And if you are who it will be? The person you love or just a passerby?

Sources

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Last_Leaf
- http://www.literaturecollection.com/a/o_henry/
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Ransom_of_Red_Chief
- <http://ashesfromburntroses.blogspot.ru/2014/04/short-story-analysis-ransom-of-red.html>