

## A Reading and interaction

### 2 Work in pairs and discuss the questions.

- (1) What makes a sick person give up the hope of ever becoming well again? What makes a sick person want to fight and become well again?

.....

.....

- (2) Would you do the same as Behrman to help Johnsy? Why or why not?

.....

.....

### Mini-project

#### Characterization

**Character analysis is essential for understanding short stories. Readers can get to know a character by studying:**

- |                                      |                                  |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ■ his / her words                    | ■ his / her actions              |
| ■ how the writer describes him / her | ■ comments from other characters |

Discuss the following questions and present the results to the class.

- (1) What kind of person is Old Behrman? You may use the words given below.

- |                 |              |                              |         |
|-----------------|--------------|------------------------------|---------|
| ■ selfless      | ■ optimistic | ■ single-minded              | ■ poor  |
| ■ materialistic | ■ ambitious  | ■ compassionate <sup>①</sup> | ■ brave |
| ■ warm-hearted  | ■ humble     | ■ others: .....              |         |

- (2) How did you come to the conclusion? Find evidence of your answer in the passage.

- (3) Is this character credible? Why? Can you find such people in your life?

Old Behrman was a humble man with a big heart. Though he struggled to make a living, he still had a dream of painting a masterpiece sometime in the future. For example, the author wrote that the old man "had been always about to paint a masterpiece" and Behrman himself told Sue that "Someday I will paint a masterpiece" even though he only "earned a little by serving as a model to young artists". I think such people are not uncommon in real life. There are always ordinary people who dream big. Therefore, the character is credible.

① compassionate /kəm'pæʃənət/ adj. 有同情心的