The Legend of Sleepy Hollow
By Washington Irving

A Literature Unit using Blooms Taxonomy
By T. Shaw June 2013

The Headless Horseman
About Washington Irving and his book

The Headless Horseman was written in 1820 by Washington Irving along with his other famous story ‘Rip van Winkle’. It is the most popular and most enduring American story of its kind written in this era.

The story is set in 1790 in the countryside around the old Dutch settlement of Tarry Town (historical Tarrytown, New York), in a secluded glen called Sleepy Hollow. Sleepy Hollow is known for its ghosts and the frightening atmosphere that haunts the imaginations of its inhabitants and visitors. The most infamous ghost in the Hollow is the Headless Horseman, said to be the ghost of a Hessian mercenary who had his head shot off by a stray cannonball during the American Revolutionary War, and who "rides forth to the scene of battle in nightly quest of his head".

Washington Irving was born in New York City on April 3, 1783. Irving achieved international fame for his fictional works, including the stories Rip Van Winkle and The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, as well as for his biographies and historical writings. (Irving wrote a biography of Christopher Columbus and his namesake George Washington) Irving served as the United States ambassador to Spain and helped to promote international copyright before his death in 1859.

Ichabod Crane, Respectfully Dedicated to Washington Irving. William J. Wilgus (1819–53), artist Chromolithograph, c. 1856
REMEMBERING

Legend of Sleepy Hollow word search

ICHABOD
DSTQTQVJEBHADN
LVQDYUVTUGUAETHCEGA
WEYLSNSTQFNYYURSRZM
ZOGGQVOYCSSKPAOPAE
SWIEMTKHETVUADCLANNNS
OCSTNBGCKZNPSSSDNIUYR
NGHUDSYZDJNISSRRBLO
XCROKZSSFKGECTLPBIH
YLTQOYSJEUSRALKIGHT
FRPLYLCWBLCKNENBDFXW
GNIVRIRUDDDRRJJONIDD
KLXXBOOEFEGZACGJSOCC
MRQYWMCACAWITENHCZDNS
SWDBXLEACZAHHERXOUF
HAJOLSORVHLSUQCTRH
UWNIDDBKDXJEOUSBBZAO
REDWOPNUGESRYIEHBO
SKIVLFJLSTMTEPAGGHHI
YQWVWMDMVUBWNNSEQW
SJRQBTXEUUSTUSTLOFR

BROM BONES
CRANE
FRIGHT
GHOSTS
GUNPOWDER
HEADLESS
HESSIAN
HORSEMAN
HUDSON
ICHABOD
IRVING
KATRINA
LEGENDS
PANIC
SCARED
SCHOOL TEACHER
SOLDIER
TALES
VANTASSEL
REMEMBERING

The Headless Horseman
The Legend of Sleepy Hollow crossword.

The Headless Horseman
Across
2. Ichabod galloped hard to reach the ........ which he felt would save him.
3. Ichabod ate loads of ........ and would invite himself for dinner.
5. Brom would ........ when people talked about Ichabod Crane and the Headless horseman as if he knew something they didn't.
8. Gunpowder and Ichabod galloped off in a wild ........
11. The name of Brom's horse.
12. The Headless ............

Down
1. Ichabod Crane had this job.
2. A local bully.
4. They found Ichabod's hat and a shattered ...........
6. The ironic name for Ichabod's horse
7. The setting for the story.
9. Ichabod looked something like a ..... with his long neck and lanky arms and legs.
10. The beautiful local girl Brom and Ichabod loved.
12. The name of the major river near Sleepy Hollow.

The Headless Horseman Pursuing Ichabod Crane. oil, 26 7/8 x 33 7/8 in., Smithsonian American Art Museum.

The Headless Horseman
The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

UNDERSTANDING
Create a comic describing the origins of the Headless Horseman
**The Legend of Sleepy Hollow**

**UNDERSTANDING**

List and illustrate the physical differences between Ichabod Crane and Brom Bones and their respective worlds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ichabod Crane</th>
<th>Brom Bones</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and his world</td>
<td>and his world</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**UNDERSTANDING**

Write 6 discussion questions for us to explore/research based on ‘The legend of Sleepy Hollow’ and ‘Rip Van Winkle’

Examples:

What did Katrina say to Ichabod that gave him a ‘gloomy face’ before he set off on his fateful encounter with the horseman?

Or

If you fell asleep for twenty years list some of the differences you think you’d find when you woke up

*The Headless Horseman*
The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

APPLYING

Complete two of these tasks

- Design a ‘Snake and ladders’ type board game based on the ‘Headless Horseman’.
- Create a diorama showing the scene when the horseman chased Ichabod.
- Design a poster for the library to advertise Rip Van Winkle to other readers.
- Re-write the Headless Horseman as a picture storybook or puzzle book with appropriate illustrations.

1. Research a mini-project on-
2. The history of the American revolution
3. The founding of New York by the Dutch
4. A profile of George Washington the first President of the United States or scientist/statesman Benjamin Franklin.
5. The voyage of the Mayflower
6. The mystery of Roanoke Island
7. Early American explorers (Henry Hudson, Cabot, Lewis and Clarke)
8. Supernatural creatures and superstitions.

(Consider presenting your mini-project as a PowerPoint presentation.)

Washington Irving by John Wesley Jarvis (1780-1840)
The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

ANALYSING

Literary Sociogram

Draw portraits of the characters and rule lines connecting them with a caption explaining their relationship and how it may have changed during the story.

Ichabod Crane

Katrina Van Tassel

The Headless Horseman

Baltus Van Tassel

Abraham Van Brunt (Brom Bones)

The old farmer’s wives

Hans Van Ripper

The Headless Horseman
**The Legend of Sleepy Hollow**

**ANALYSING**

- What do you believe are the major themes/morals of Rip Van Winkle and the Headless Horseman and how do you feel about them? (Consider responding as an acrostic poem)
- Explain why or why not you think the following characters are credible or incredible. (Ichabod Crane, Brom Bones, Katrina Van Tassel or Rip Van Winkle)
- Complete a literary report card on one of the characters.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REPORT CARD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A = Outstanding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B = Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C = Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D = Improving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E = Failure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Name: ..........................
Grade: .................
Teacher: ..........................

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUBJECT</th>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>COMMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Imagination</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honesty</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courage</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Happiness</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*The Headless Horseman*
The Legend of Sleepy Hollow
Missing persons poster pro-forma for Ichabod crane
The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

EVALUATING

Do these characters possess attributes, which could make them your friends? Explain why.

Rip Van Winkle
(Before his long sleep)

Ichabod Crane

Brom Bones

The Headless Horseman
The Legend of Sleepy Hollow CREATING
Design a hardback book slipcase cover for ‘The Headless Horseman’. Include a blurb of the story on the back cover as well as a few biographical notes on Washington Irving.
Design a ‘Location of Local Ghosts’ map for the Sleepy Hollow area showing where potential ‘danger spots’ might be. (Include: the school, Van Tassel and Van Ripper farms, the town, its church, river, brooks, bridges and creepy forests and paths.)
The Legend of Sleepy Hollow
CREATING
The Missing chapter

Write another chapter of ‘The Legend of Sleepy Hollow’, telling what may have happened to Ichabod Crane after his disappearance or what happened in his hometown while Rip Van Winkle was sleeping.

Or

Create missing persons poster for Ichabod Crane

Create a Legend of Sleepy Hollow pop-up card (Pintable’s attached) Use the scene above for inspiration.

The Headless Horseman
Suddenly he _1_ a groan. His _2_ chattered in fright. But it was just two limbs of the _3_ rubbing against _4_ other. Ichabod passed by. Nothing happened.

But up ahead, the _5_ was even darker and _6_. He had to cross a little stream that everyone _7_ was haunted. Nobody liked to cross that stream _8_ dark. As Ichabod approached it, his heart began to thump.

"Come on, _9_," he said. "Let's hurry up."

He gave the horse a few _10_ in his ribs to make him move faster. But the _11_ would never do what his rider wanted. First he banged into a fence sideways. Then he _12_ across the road into a bramble bush.

When he came to the stream, the stubborn horse _13_ dead. Ichabod nearly went flying right _14_ the animal's head.

As he righted _15_ in the saddle, the schoolmaster heard a sound. He _16_ into the darkness. Deep in the shadow of a grove he was _17_ to make out a black and towering shape. He couldn't see _18_ it was, but he imagined it to be a gigantic monster _19_ to spring on him.

Choose from these words

plunged stopped over what heard teeth tree each himself spookier road Gunpowder said after kicks horse able peered ready who
Analysing
The Legend of Sleepy Hollow (*Character Traits for*...)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Actions that demonstrate the trait.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proud, selfish,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>superstitious, coward,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bullying, vain,</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>intelligent, timid,</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>practical joker,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>standoffish, determined</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>brave, loyal, problem-</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>solver, generous</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*The Headless Horseman*
The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow Writing ideas

1. Write a sequel to The Legend of Sleepy Hollow. Attempt to explain what you think "really" happened to Ichabod Crane that night after he left the party. Start by explaining what Katrina Van Tassel said to him and explain exactly who or what chased him to his fate (whatever you decide that fate should be).

2. After we see him knocked from his horse by a flying pumpkin, Ichabod vanishes without a trace, though Irving gives us a rumour that he went on to become a lawyer and eventually a judge. Imagine the residents of Sleepy Hollow feel sorry about the fate of Ichabod and they produce a ‘missing

3. person’s poster’ for him in the hope that he might come back. (It could also take the form of an advertisement in a western newspaper asking for him to return.)

4. Write a story about some episode in Ichabod Crane's life after "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" or an imaginary obituary summing up what he made of himself after his fateful encounter with his own worst fears. Maybe he encounters more ghosts, witches and spirits while out west.

5. Suppose that Brom Bones is actually the Headless Horseman who gives Ichabod the fright of his life and drives him away from Sleepy Hollow. If this is what really happened, explain how Brom used Ichabod's own faults to defeat him.

6. Paint / draw a picture of the headless horseman.

7. Legends are stories based on events, which took place a long time ago. Legends are about real people and usually distort the truth and exaggerate the positive or negative characteristics about a person. Identify the parts of The legend of Sleepy Hollow, which show why this tale is considered a legend.
8. Have you ever felt scared or afraid like Ichabod. How did you show it? Did you believe that you saw strange figures or ghosts? Did this feeling last for long? How did you get over it? Tell your story.

9. Use Publisher to create a brochure about visiting the real spooky Sleepy Hollow as a tourist attraction.

10. Create a story map about all the horrific locations around Sleepy Hollow. (Described briefly in the book)

11. Go on Discovery Puzzlemaker and create your own cryptogram, criss cross puzzle or wordsearch based on the story.

Are you superstitious?
After listening to the story consider your superstitions or those held by members of your family. Consider some of the superstitions below and add to the list or create a cartoon about one of these superstitions.

• Breaking a mirror
• A black cat or black butterfly approaching them
• Using a broom to ward off bad luck
• Walking under a ladder

Internet bibliography

Maps of America: http://scarlett.libs.uga.edu/darchive/hargrett/maps/maps.html
Tarrytown Chamber of commerce: http://www.sleepyhollowchamber.com/
Colonial Williamsburg: http://www.history.org/
EdSite Unit plan: http://edsitement.neh.gov/view_lesson_plan.asp?ID=256
E-Book version: http://authorsdirectory.com/b/sleep10.htm
Art: http://americanart.si.edu/art_info/1001/2000/10/103100.html

Very informative site about the story: http://www.schooltales.com/sleepyhollow/title.html (Also includes Rip van Winkle text)
Weird site: http://www.zuzu.org/sleep2.html
Irving biography: http://www.hudsonvalley.org/education/Background/abt_irving/abt_irving.html
Folklore site: http://www.americanfolklore.net/lesson-plans.html
Interesting site: http://www.mce.k12tn.net/reading34/hollow.htm (Check out the pumpkin craft) also: http://www.make-stuff.com/hollidays/jackolantern.html
American writers: http://www.cloudnet.com/~edrbsass/edadolescentlit.htm#
e-notes: http://www.enotes.com/legend-sleepy/
This site is worth a visit: http://www.tqny.org/NYC051575/about_literature.htm
Halloween stuff: http://www.equinewebdesign.com/links/links_halloween.html
and http://www.rexanne.com/hwn-kids.html (Includes great links page)

The Headless Horseman
The Headless Horseman

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

Write a description of the scene you create or a blurb about the story and attach to the front cover of the pop-up book.

The background of the cemetery is marbled using a marbling kit

The Headless Horseman
The Headless Horseman
Sleepy Hollow pop-up graveyard scene.
Write on the tombstones of 2 characters from the story.

The Headless Horseman
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Legend of Sleepy Hollow</th>
<th>Comparing Ichabod and Brom</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job:</td>
<td>Job:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Education</td>
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<td>Interests:</td>
<td>Interests:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skills:</td>
<td>Skills:</td>
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The Headless Horseman