
The Legends of Sleepy Hollow and Rip Van Winkle by Washington Irving

THE LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW**1**

The Horseman has to return to the graveyard before dawn. And he is always late. That is why he rides so fast.

2

Because the farmers give him food and a bed to sleep in. He does not have a house of his own.

3

Because her father has a fine farm and Katrina is his only child. One day, she is going to inherit the farm. Then she will be rich. If Ichabod marries her, he will not have to work any more.

4

Brom wants to marry Katrina and he is angry because Ichabod visits her. He wants to play a trick on Ichabod. He teaches his dog to make a terrible noise whenever Ichabod sings in the schoolhouse. When this happens, the children laugh at Ichabod.

5

Student's own answer. The student should guess that Ichabod wants to ask Katrina to marry him.

6

Because in the stories, the Headless Horseman appeared by the church and the bridge.

7

The student should guess that the "head" which the horseman threw at Ichabod was really a pumpkin.

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THE LEGEND OF RIP VAN WINKLE

1

Because his wife is always angry with him. He wants to get away from her. *The student could add: Rip's wife hates the dog and sometimes beats it. Rip wants to get the dog away from her too.*

2

Because there are no clouds in the sky and it is not going to rain. The weather is not the kind which makes thunder.

3

The night before, Rip had walked through an opening between some rocks. Then he had found the place where the strange old men were playing. Today the opening has disappeared and Rip cannot find the place again.

4

There are three Rips—(1) Rip Van Winkle, who is the main person in this story; (2) Rip Van Winkle, who is the son of the first Rip; (3) Rip Gardenier, the child of the first Rip's daughter, Judith.

5

The strange old men were Hendrick Hudson and his friends. They had died two hundred years before, but their ghosts or spirits return to the Catskill Mountains every twenty years to watch over the Hudson River. *Note for teachers: If they have the information from another source, students might mention that the river is not really named after Hendrick Hudson, the Dutch explorer. It is named after an English explorer who came to the area long after the Dutchmen. But this is not mentioned in the book, which gives the story as Washington Irving's narrator tells it. In Irving's original story, such mistakes are part of a satire on the backward-looking societies of the region and their politics. This aspect of the story has not been included in this retelling.*