The Legends of Sleepy Hollow and Rip Van Winkle

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

Intro & Chapter 1

A. WARM UP

Use your own experience to answer the following questions. There is no right or wrong answer. Be ready to talk about your answers in class.

- In Australia and many other western countries, we have a custom of going to a bar or pub after work. Do you have similar customs in your country?
- Do you know any strange ghost stories?
- Does your country have any native (indigenous) people? Do they have interesting and different stories?
- Do you know any stories that are set in graveyards?

B: CHAT

Talk in pairs or groups about the following words. Think about how they fit into the story.

Wives / husbands / returned / tarried / peaceful place / forget / Native Americans / spirits / strange / man on a horse / The Headless Horseman / ghost / soldier / little church / battlefield / buried / graveyard

C. VOCABULARY

Look at the following words from the story. Do you know what they mean? Match the words to their meaning.

1. ___ Wife
2. ___ Peaceful
3. ___ Spirit
4. ___ Bury
5. ___ Graveyard

(a) a ghost, phantom or apparition.
(b) the woman to whom a particular man is married.
(c) a piece of ground, sometimes beside a church, set aside for people to be buried in.
(d) quiet, calm, and tranquil.
(e) to dig a hole, put something in it, and replace the soil or other material removed.
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D. PHRASES

Match the following phrases from the text (sometimes more than one combination is possible)

1. On the eastern bank of the great Hudson River, in North America,…
2. Because of this strange feeling,…
3. There was something very strange about the people,…
4. There are many stories about ghosts and spirits,…
5. He was always seen,…
6. Many people had seen the Headless Horseman,…
7. The Headless Horseman,…
8. In this battle,…
9. Every night,…
10. All ghosts have to,…

a. …in Sleepy Hollow and the area near it.
b. …late at night.
c. …is the ghost of a soldier, they said.
d. …the Horseman rides back to the battlefield to look for his head.
e. …there is a small town.
f. …the soldiers head was shot off by a cannonball from a British gun.
g. …go back to their graves before the daylight comes.
h. …the valley is called ‘Sleepy Hollow’.
i. …at night.
j. …who lived in Sleepy Hollow in the early years of the nineteenth century.

E. COMPREHENSION

Please answer the following questions about the text.

Introduction
1. What do we learn about Washington Irving?
   (i) America –
   (ii) Europe –
      ▪ Madrid –

A Note about the Stories
1. What kind of people lived in North America?
2. What did the people in North America want at that time?
3. When do the stories take place?

Chapter 1: The Ghost of the Soldier
1. The Headless Horseman always rides fast – as fast as the wind. The people of Sleepy Hollow know the reason for this. What is the reason?

Based on the story from Macmillan, 2009
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Chapter 2 & 3

A. WARM UP

Use your own experience to answer the following questions. There is no right or wrong answer. Be ready to talk about your answers in class.

- Who do you respect?
- Do you believe all the things you read?
- Ichabod sings a psalm in this story, so that the spirits won’t hurt him. Do you have any songs that comfort you (make you feel comfortable and not frightened)?
- The perfect partner. Do you believe in a soul mate?

B: CHAT

Talk in pairs or groups about…

crane / not handsome / loose / flapped / schoolhouse / pupils / huge amount of food / psalms / mended fences / delicious cakes / respected Ichabod / ghosts and spirits / strange noises / favorite ghost stories / shadow / Katrina Van Tassel / admiration / inherit / fields / ripe fruit / marry her

C. VOCABULARY

Look at the following words from the story. Do you know what they mean? Match the words to their meaning.

1. ___ Flap
2. ___ Pupil
3. ___ Psalms
4. ___ Shadow
5. ___ Admiration
6. ___ Inherit
7. ___ Ripe

(a) a young student, taught at school or by a private teacher.
(b) a feeling of pleasure and approval, and often wonder.
(c) religious songs.
(d) to move or sway in one direction and then another repeatedly and often noisily.
(e) ready to be picked and eaten because it is mature and has reached optimum (best) flavor.
(f) to become the owner of something when someone dies.
(g) a darkened shape on a surface that falls behind somebody or something blocking the light.

Based on the story from Macmillan, 2009
**D. PHRASES**

Match the following phrases from the text (sometimes more than one combination is possible)

1. The schoolmaster of Sleepy Hollow…
   - a. …did not fit him well.
2. Ichabod’s clothes…
   - b. …respected Ichabod Crane because he was a schoolmaster.
3. When lessons had finished for the day…
   - c. Katrina.
4. Ichabod loved food, but…
   - d. …with their work on their farms.
5. And Ichabod helped the farmers…
   - e. …waiting for me on that farm.
6. All the people of Sleepy Hollow…
   - f. …he started dreaming about his future life.
7. Ichabod’s favorite ghost stories…
   - g. …was a man named Ichabod Crane.
8. And when Ichabod saw all these things…
   - h. …he loved singing, too.
9. From that time, Ichabod thought day and night about…
   - i. …were about the Headless Horseman.
10. There’s a wonderful life…
    - j. …Ichabod often went home with one of the children.

**E. COMPREHENSION**

Please answer the following questions about the text.

*Chapter 2: The Schoolmaster*

1. Ichabod Crane is a schoolmaster, but he often helps farmers with their work on their farms. Why?

*Chapter 3: Ichabod and Katrina*

1. Why does Ichabod want to marry Katrina Van Tassel?
A. WARM UP

Use your own experience to answer the following questions. There is no right or wrong answer. Be ready to talk about your answers in class.

- What does it mean to be jealous? Is it always bad to be jealous?
- Have you ever ridden a horse? If so, tell us about a time you did.
- On April fools day in the West, people play tricks on each other. Do you ever or have you ever played a trick on someone?
- Have you ever been to a dance?

B: CHAT

Talk in pairs or groups about...

- admired / marry / handsome / excellent horse rider / playing tricks / farmhouse / angry / evil spirits / terrible noise / pupils / borrow a horse / Gunpowder / expensive saddle / autumn / best clothes / unpleasant surprise / jealous / graveyard / dawn / daredevil /

C. VOCABULARY

Look at the following words from the story. Do you know what they mean? Match the words to their meaning.

1. ____ Admire
2. ____ Handsome
3. ____ Evil spirit
4. ____ Terrible
5. ____ Pupil

(a) a young student, taught at school or by a private teacher.
(b) very serious or severe.
(c) to regard someone or something with a feeling of pleasure or to have a high opinion of somebody.
(d) a ghost that tends to cause harm.
(e) good-looking facial features or a pleasing appearance.
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D. PHRASES

Match the following phrases from the text (sometimes more than one combination is possible)

1. Brom Bones was not afraid… a. …tricks on the schoolmaster.
2. When other young men from the area saw… b. …getting ready for the party.
3. But when Brom Bones hears about… c. …a good horse rider.
4. He started playing… d. …was Katrina.
5. Ichabod spent a long time… e. …of anybody or anything
6. Ichabod was not… f. …more than me?
7. The most beautiful girl at the party… g. …and he doesn’t come back until just before dawn.
8. In the dining room, a great table… h. …Brom’s horse outside the Van Tassel’s farmhouse, they smiled sadly.
9. Every night now, he rides from the graveyard… i. …was covered with all kinds of wonderful food.
10. Does Katrina really like Brom Bones… j. …Ichabod’s visits to Katrina, he was not happy.

E. COMPREHENSION

Please answer the following questions about the text.

Chapter 4: Brom Bones

1. Why does Brom Bones teach his dog to make a terrible noise?

Chapter 5: The Party

2. “I want to ask you a question,” Ichabod says to Katrina. What does he want to ask her?
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Chapter 6 & 7

A. WARM UP

Use your own experience to answer the following questions. There is no right or wrong answer. Be ready to talk about your answers in class.

- Ichabod remembered the story of Major Andre and he felt a little afraid. Do you ever get a little frightened by stories, such as at the movies?
- Ichabod was able to have a lucky escape when the headless horseman passed by. Have you ever had a ‘lucky escape’?
- Why do you think Ichabod may have gone back to New York?

B: CHAT

Talk in pairs or groups about…

midnight / Gunpowder / dream / afraid / Major Andre’s tree / I’m dreaming / haunts that bridge / bad temper / head stood up / terrified / the saddle broke / escape / old church / passed by him / miss their lessons / marks / pumpkin /

C. VOCABULARY

Look at the following words from the story. Do you know what they mean? Match the words to their meaning.

1. ____ Dream
2. ____ Haunt
3. ____ Drown
4. ____ Capture
5. ____ Foolish
6. ____ Disappear

(a) showing, a lack of good sense or judgment.
(b) to catch and then forcibly lock up or restrain (confine) a person.
(c) a sequence of images that appear to the mind of a sleeping person.
(d) to frequent (visit) a place or appear to somebody in the form of a ghost.
(e) to be gone from or no longer be seen without any explanation.
(f) to die, or kill a person by immersion (submerge) in a liquid, normally water.
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D. PHRASES

Match the following phrases from the text (sometimes more than one combination is possible)

1. As he rode along, the schoolmaster remembered…
   a. …was standing in front of him.
2. Ichabod remembered this story…
   b. …of a large man on a huge horse.
3. A huge black shape…
   c. …the headless horseman passed by him, riding as fast as the wind.
4. It had the shape…
   d. …waited at the schoolhouse all morning.
5. He was carrying…
   e. …but they could not find him.
6. As he lay there…
   f. …the ghost stories that people told at the Van Tassel’s party.
7. Ichabod’s pupils…
   g. …had heard the story of Ichabod Crane’s disappearance.
8. The men looked for Ichabod for a long time…
   h. …and drowned in the deep water.
9. Perhaps he fell off my horse…
   i. …his head in his hands.
10. Soon, everybody in Sleepy Hollow…
    j. …and his heart began to beat fast.

E. COMPREHENSION

Please answer the following questions about the text.

Chapter 6: A Terrible Race
1. When Ichabod gets near the bridge by the old church, he remembers the stories that he heard at Van Tassels’ party. Why?

Chapter 7: What happened to Ichapod?
1. “Why is the pumpkin here? It’s very strange,” says Hans Van Ripper. Why is the broken pumpkin near the bank of the river?
The Legend of Rip Van Winkle

Chapter 1 & 2

A. WARM UP

Use your own experience to answer the following questions. There is no right or wrong answer. Be ready to talk about your answers in class.

- Are you a lazy person, or are you someone who is active?
- Rip often went drinking with his friends. Do you often go out with your friends?
- Have you ever been hiking in the mountains?
- Why is it dangerous to stay in the mountains at night?

B: CHAT

Talk in pairs or groups about...


C. VOCABULARY

Look at the following words from the story. Do you know what they mean? Match the words to their meaning.

1. ___ Cloud
2. ___ Popular
3. ___ Lazy
4. ___ Afraid
5. ___ Nod
6. ___ Stupid

(a) frightened about something.
(b) a visible mass of water or ice in the atmosphere from which rain falls.
(c) showing a lack of intelligence, perception, or common sense.
(d) liked or appreciated by a wide range of people.
(e) to lower and then raise the head quickly in order to show agreement or recognition.
(f) unwilling to do any work or make an effort.

Based on the story from Macmillan, 2009
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D. PHRASES

Match the following phrases from the text (sometimes more than one combination is possible)

1. There are many strange stories…
   a. …a group of old men were playing a game of nine-pins.
2. Rip’s wife…
   b. …the mugs to the old men.
3. Rip Owned a small farm…
   c. …about the Catskill mountains.
4. Rip was very happy…
   d. …was always angry with him.
5. The village schoolmaster, Derrick Van Bummel…
   e. …to get out of the house and away from his wife.
6. As Rip turned towards the path…
   f. …he heard a voice.
7. This man’s clothes…
   g. …but he never did any work on it.
8. In the middle of the wide grassy place…
   h. …into a mug and drank it.
9. He wants me to give…
   i. …often joined the group of men at the inn.
10. Rip poured some of the golden liquid…
    j. …were very old-fashioned.

E. COMPREHENSION

Please answer the following questions about the text.

Chapter 1: Life in the Village

Why does Rip take Wolf into the Catskill Mountains?

Chapter 2: A Strange Meeting

“It’s a very strange kind of thunder,” Rip says to himself. Why does he think this?
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Chapter 3 & 4

A. WARM UP

Use your own experience to answer the following questions. There is no right or wrong answer. Be ready to talk about your answers in class.

- What would you do if you went to sleep one night and then woke up twenty years later?
- In the story, there were many changes to the village, the country and to the people in the time that Rip was away. What changes do you think will happen in your city in the next 20 years?

B: CHAT

Talk in pairs or groups about...


C. VOCABULARY

Look at the following words from the story. Do you know what they mean? Match the words to their meaning.

1. ___ Puzzled
2. ___ Astonished
3. ___ Congress
4. ___ Spy
5. ___ Crazy
6. ___ Election
7. ___ Government

(a) The process of choosing somebody or of being chosen by vote.
(b) Being baffled or confused when thinking about a problem in an effort to solve or understand it.
(c) A group of people who have the power to make and enforce laws for a country or area.
(d) Somebody who watches other people in secret.
(e) To surprise somebody a great deal.
(f) A formal assembly of representatives, as of various nations, to discuss problems.
(g) One who is or appears mad or insane.

Based on the story from Macmillan, 2009
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D. PHRASES

Match the following phrases from the text (sometimes more than one combination is possible)

1. Rip looked around for his gun… a. …where he had followed the old man.
2. Rip found the path… b. …that strange drink last night.
3. Rip walked down the mountain… c. …was standing near the door of the inn.
4. The village… d. …but none of the answers made him feel better.
5. What was in… e. …but he could not find it.
6. A crowd of people … f. …what was happening.
7. They stared at this strange-looking man with… g. …and he never came back.
8. He could not understand… h. …with the old, broken gun.
9. Rip asked about some other friends… i. …his long beard and rusty old gun.
10. My father went away with his dog and gun… j. …seemed to have changed.

E. COMPREHENSION

Please answer the following questions about the text.

Chapter 3: Down from the Mountain

Rip wants to find the strange old men who were playing nine-pins. He wants to ask them for his dog and his gun. But he does not succeed. Why not?

Chapter 4: “I Don’t Know Who I Am”

How many people in the story are named Rip? What are the full names of these people?
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Chapter 5

A. WARM UP

Use your own experience to answer the following questions. There is no right or wrong answer. Be ready to talk about your answers in class.

- Would you want an easy life?
- Rip escaped the nagging of his wife by going into the mountains and sleeping for a great deal of his life. What do you think about Rip’s life?
- If you were the villagers, would you believe Rip? How did he make them believe the story?
- What is the best way to make people believe in you?
- What do you think about this story?

B: CHAT

Talk in pairs or groups about…

barrel / mountain / shake their heads / Peter Vanderdonk / telling the truth / ghosts and other spirits / every twenty years / Hendrick Hudson and his friends / I believe Rip’s story / election / Judith Gardenier / easy life / new friends / United States Inn / war with Britain / United States of America.

C. VOCABULARY

Look at the following words from the story. Do you know what they mean? Match the words to their meaning.

1. ___ Barrel
2. ___ Forget
3. ___ Believe
4. ___ Lean
5. ___ Change
6. ___ Learn

(a) to accept that something is true or real.
(b) to become different, or make something or somebody different.
(c) a cylindrical container with a flat top and bottom, used to store liquids.
(d) to acquire knowledge of a subject or skill through education or experience.
(e) to fail or be unable to remember something.
(f) to be in or move to a position that is at an angle to the vertical.

Based on the story from Macmillan, 2009
## D. PHRASES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Match the following phrases from the text (sometimes more than one combination is possible)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. He told them about…</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. When Rip had finished…</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Peter Vanderdonk was…</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. He was the first European…</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. They were wearing old Dutch clothes…</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Peter Vanderdonk believed his story…</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Only a few of Rip’s old friends…</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Rip lived happily with Judith Gardenier…</td>
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<td>9. Rip had a lot to learn…</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. I’d like a mug of Rip Van Winkle’s…</td>
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<tr>
<td>a. …the oldest person in the village.</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. …and they were playing a game of nine-pins.</td>
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<tr>
<td>c. …and everybody else believed Peter.</td>
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<tr>
<td>d. …were still alive when he returned to the village.</td>
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<td>e. …the old man with the barrel.</td>
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<td>f. …wonderful liquid tonight.</td>
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<td>g. …but he was very happy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h. …nobody said anything for a moment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i. …and her family.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j. …who came to this part of the country.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## E. COMPREHENSION

Please answer the following questions about the text.

**Chapter 5: The Spirits of the Catskills.**

Who has Rip met in the Catskill Mountains? Why were they there?