

# the LEGEND of SLEEPY HOLLOW

## Study Guide



### About the Story...

LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW is based on the famous story by American author Washington Irving.

The story centers on Ichabod Crane, a gawky, awkward school teacher freshly hired to take over the school at Tarry Town in upstate New York. Ichabod is very sure that he's smarter than everyone else, which doesn't make him very popular among the other young men in the village. However, he also has one great weakness - he is frightened to death by his belief in witches, ghosts, and goblins!

On arriving in Tarry Town, Ichabod meets Katrina Van Tassel, the only daughter of a local farmer, and her beau (boyfriend), Brom Bones, a local farm worker. Brom wants to make sure that Katrina doesn't get interested in Ichabod, so he makes sure that Ichabod finds out that there's a wooded spot just outside town known to the locals as "Sleepy Hollow" - and that Sleepy Hollow is the home to the area's most famous ghost - the one and only Headless Horseman!

And that's the "set up" to the story - you'll have to watch the play to find out how it all ends up!

**GreatWorks**  
touring theatre

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LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW is presented by GreatWorks Theatre of Chicago. GreatWorks has a roster of literary adaptations and historically based shows designed for students grades K through 8th - more information about GreatWorks is available on our website - [www.greatworkstheatre.com](http://www.greatworkstheatre.com)



### About the Author

The author of our story was a man named Washington Irving.

He was born on April 3, 1783 in Manhattan, NY. Washington's family had come to America from England and Scotland. He became famous in the early 1800s for being an author, but he was also an essayist, historian, biographer and American diplomat (someone who represents the United States in our dealings with other countries).



Sleepy Hollow is only one of the two most famous of his stories - the other is another one you may have heard of called 'Rip Van Winkle' about a man who falls asleep for 20 years and wakes up to discover that his town has totally changed.



Statue of Rip Van Winkle in Irvington, NY, a town named after the author.

**SLEEPY HOLLOW  
WORDS**

BROM  
CLASSICAL  
FRIGHTENING  
HEADLESS  
HOLLOW  
HORSEMAN  
ICHABOD  
IRVING  
KATRINA  
LITERATURE  
SLEEPY  
SPOOKY  
TRICKS  
WASHINGTON  
WOODS

# The Legend of Sleepy Hollow Word Search!

W P N W A H N A I S D M L G K  
K A Q A O T N X J L O O O X Z  
S M S L M I F D W E B R G Z Z  
J P L H R E F A C E A B K Q A  
B O O T I V S L X P H X M T L  
W W A O A N A R L Y C F U M I  
M K B K K S G H O I I U P V T  
V K Q F S Y G T R H Q I V M E  
B G N I V R I V O K S Q L Q R  
B R C T R I C K S N O D G D A  
S A B A P P S S E L D A E H T  
L D M P O X F N T N C A E S U  
H I O F R I G H T E N I N G R  
R H L O L Q N W J V F B C V E  
D V G F W S C V N T I I Z V A

Ichabod Crane believes in ghosts and goblins -  
what sorts of things make you a little nervous?

FUNNY FACT - the thing that most grownups are  
scared of is standing in front of a group of people  
and having to talk to them - good thing actors  
and teachers don't have that problem!

I'm scared of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_





# FUN FACTS ABOUT THE LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW THAT WE BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW!

1. Brom Bones was modeled after a real person named Abraham Martling (Brom is a nickname for Abraham) from Washington Irving's home town. He was the town's blacksmith and he rode a big, black horse!

2. The real Ichabod Crane was an Army Captain that was called "Captain Crane." He wasn't very happy that Washington Irving used his name for the character of Ichabod.

3. The town the play is set in is called "Tarry Town" which is based on a real village in New York called Tarrytown, about 30 miles north of New York City. The high school in Tarrytown's teams are called "The Horsemen".

4. There is a town in Illinois called Sleepy Hollow! Many of the town's street names reflect that of the tale and the image of the Headless Horseman is found on town publications and city landmarks.

# SO WHAT REALLY HAPPENS TO ICHABOD CRANE?

One of the mysteries of SLEEPY HOLLOW is trying to guess exactly what happens to Ichabod at the end of the story! It's fun to compare your ideas with other students. So write down what YOU think happens to him here!

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# WHERE DOES HALLOWEEN COME FROM ANYWAY?

Halloween is one of the most popular holidays in America with both adults and kids! But why do we celebrate it in the first place?

Halloween comes on October 31st, and is actually based on the old Irish holiday of "Samhain" (pronounced "sow-wen"). In Ireland, it marks the last day of what the Irish consider autumn, and it celebrates the gathering of the harvest and getting ready for the three dark months of winter. It also comes the day before the traditional Catholic holy day that remembers friends and family members who have died, so telling stories of ghosts and spirits (for fun) became a big part of Samhain.

When Irish immigrants came to America, they brought the holiday with them, and over the years, it became a truly American celebration, with costumes, trick or treating, parties, and scary movies! In the United States, it's also the biggest day of the year for two industries in particular - pumpkin growers and candy makers!



In Ireland they still celebrate Samhain, but they use turnips and gourds to carve up rather than pumpkins!



# HOW DO YOU MAKE A PLAY?

GreatWorks Theatre produces a lot of shows every school year, but the process of putting together a play is pretty similar whether it's a play for student audiences or a Broadway production!

## Step One - Find a Story & Write the Play

We look at lots of different stories every year, and choose ones that we think will be entertaining for audiences. A person who writes plays is called a Playwright. Even though they're "writers", the job title uses the old English word "wright", which means a person who 'makes' something.

## Step Two - Hire the Actors

Actors find new plays to be in by "auditioning" for the producers, where they will show the producer how they act and sound when playing the specific character. GreatWorks gets anywhere from 500 to 1000 actors every year for our audition process, and will end up hiring 50 to 60 for a season.

## Step Three - Set/Costumes/Props

The 'set' describes the physical pieces on stage to help set the mood for the show. Costumes help the audience figure out who the characters are, and 'props' (short for "properties") are the things actors might pick up or carry on stage. All of them are designed to help the story make sense.

## Step Four - Practice, practice, practice

Whether you're in a school play or a professional play, you have to learn your lines, learn your "blocking" (where you move on stage), and figure out how to make each moment the best it can be.

With professional actors, knowing how to learn lines quickly and make smart choices about the character and their performance is part of the job - and for most of them, our show is only one of 10 or 15 shows they might be in every year!

## WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE PLAY

Attending the theatre is very different from watching TV or going to the movies. For one thing, the actors are real people who are performing right then and there. They can see and hear everything that happens in the audience. Because of this, YOU are an important part of the play and it's important to do your job as an audience member well. Here are some tips before you see the play.

1. Please be quiet and respectful so everyone else around you can hear what's happening and so the actors can do their job.
2. If something is funny, it is okay to laugh!
3. The actors may ask you to participate. Don't be afraid to respond, ask a question or volunteer!
4. Keep your hands to yourself and your eyes up front.
5. If you like the play, be sure to clap at the end.
6. Have fun! Enjoy yourself! And if you like the idea of being on stage, make sure to audition next time your school does a show!

