

Level 5-7

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

Workbook

Teacher's Guide and Answer Key

Teacher's Guide

A. Summary

1. Book Summary

Long ago, the people of the town of Sleepy Hollow had a legend about a headless ghost. The ghost, they said, was a British soldier whose head was shot off, and he rode a horse at night looking for it. Ichabod Crane was the school teacher in Sleepy Hollow. He wanted to marry a girl named Katrina van Tassel from a rich family there. But so did a young, handsome man called Brom Bones.

One night, Ichabod went to a party at the home of the van Tassels. Brom Bones was there, too. After the party, Ichabod left looking unhappy following a talk with Katrina.

On his way home, Ichabod was chased by the headless horseman. He made his old horse go as fast as it could, and he finally made it across the bridge by the church. He thought he was safe then. But when he turned to look back, he saw the horseman throw his flaming head at him. It hit him in the face, and he fainted.

The next day, there was no sign of Ichabod—only a broken pumpkin near the bridge and his horse in a field. Ichabod was never seen again, and Brom Bones and Katrina were married. Every time anyone told the story of Ichabod Crane and the headless horseman, Brom Bones would just smile strangely and then laugh at the part about the pumpkin.

2. Chapter Summary

► Chapter 1

Long ago, in the small town of Sleepy Hollow along the Hudson River in New York, there was a legend about a headless ghost who rode a horse in the night. People said it was the ghost of a British soldier whose head was shot off by a cannon ball, and he rode around looking for his head before returning to the churchyard where his body was buried.

► Chapter 2

Sleepy Hollow had a small schoolhouse, and the teacher was Ichabod Crane. Ichabod loved to read books about ghosts, witches, and magic. The people of Sleepy Hollow liked him because he told stories well and sang well in church. He also liked to go to parties, where he ate well. His students didn't like him though, because he beat them for almost any reason. Life was pleasant for Ichabod, except for his problem with a girl.

► Chapter 3

The van Tassels were one of the richest families in Sleepy Hollow. Ichabod liked the daughter, Katrina, and he gave her singing lessons in order to be with her. He wanted to marry her, and he also wanted her family's farm. But other men in the village liked Katrina as well, and she did not show any special interest in Ichabod. One of the men who also spent a lot of time with Katrina was Brom Bones.

► Chapter 4

"Brom Bones" was a nickname for Abraham van Brunt, who was a large, strong, and handsome man. He was a kind of hero, and the only man who could ride a wild, black horse called Daredevil. Ichabod was too smart to fight with Brom for Katrina, and he decided to let the girl make the choice. Brom played tricks on his rival by making a mess in the schoolhouse at night and teaching his dog to howl when Ichabod sang in church. The battle over the affection of Katrina went on a long time. But one night things changed.

► Chapter 5

One night, Ichabod went to a party at the van Tassel's house. To get there, he borrowed a thin, old work-horse named Gunpowder. Ichabod had a good time at the party, eating and dancing with Katrina. He also joined in a conversation around the fire about the headless horseman. Brom told of how he had raced the ghost to the wooden bridge near the church, where it disappeared in flames with the sound of thunder. When the party ended, Ichabod left looking unhappy after talking with Katrina.

► Chapter 6

It was midnight and very dark. As Gunpowder walked slowly through the woods, Ichabod thought of the stories told at the party and he became afraid. Then he saw a big dark shape. When it came nearer, he saw that it was a headless black rider on a black horse, and he was holding something in his hand that looked like a head! Ichabod made Gunpowder go as fast as it could. When they made it across the old bridge near the church, he stopped and looked back. Suddenly, the horseman threw his head at Ichabod. The head, with flames coming out, struck Ichabod in the face and knocked him out.

► Chapter 7

The next morning, Ichabod didn't show up at school. People later found Gunpowder in a field and a broken pumpkin near the bridge, but there was no sign of Ichabod, and he was never seen in Sleepy Hollow again. Katrina married Brom Bones, who was often seen to smile in a strange way when the story of Ichabod Crane was told.

B. Background and Themes

★ **Superstition:** Some people believe and are frightened by stories of supernatural or magical things.

★ **Love:** Ichabod and Brom Bones both love Katrina, but Katrina does not seem to feel the same way about either man.

★ **Money:** Ichabod dreams of improving his life of poverty by marrying into the rich van Tassel family.

★ **Practical Jokes:** Brom Bones plays jokes on Ichabod and probably even dressed as the headless horseman to scare the gullible teacher away from Sleepy Hollow in the end.

Answer Key

Part A Story Focus

Before You Read

(Answers may vary.)

► Introduction

1. It is a short story.
2. Washington Irving wrote it in the early 1800s.
3. Another famous story by him is “Rip van Winkle.”

► Characters

1. Ichabod: smart, greedy
2. Brom: strong, mean
3. Katrina: lovely, rich
4. The Horseman: scary, dead

While You Read

(Answer may vary.)

► Chapter 1

A. Preview Questions

1. It is a churchyard.
2. It makes me feel afraid.
3. Yes, I think I can.

B. Review Questions

1. It was about a headless ghost riding on a horse in the night.
2. It was shot off by a cannon ball.
3. It was buried in the churchyard.

► Chapter 2

A. Preview Questions

1. It is Ichabod Crane.
2. I think he likes to read.
3. He is probably a writer or a teacher.

B. Review Questions

1. He was a teacher.
2. Everybody in the town of Sleepy Hollow, except his students, liked him.
3. They didn't like him because he beat them.

► Chapter 3

A. Preview Questions

1. She is Katrina van Tassel.
2. She is rich.
3. I think he likes her.

B. Review Questions

1. They were one of the richest families in Sleepy Hollow.
2. He wanted the girl and the family farm.
3. She didn't show any signs of love for him.

► **Chapter 4**

A. Preview Questions

1. It is Brom Bones.
2. He is going to hit Ichabod.
3. I think it is because he likes Katrina, too.

B. Review Questions

1. It was Abraham van Brunt.
2. He wanted to marry Katrina.
3. He taught his dog to howl when Ichabod sang in church.

► **Chapter 5**

A. Preview Questions

1. It is at a party.
2. He is Brom Bones.
3. I think he is telling Ichabod to stay away from Katrina.

B. Review Questions

1. It was at the van Tassels' house.
2. He rode an old horse named Gunpowder.
3. He looked unhappy.

► **Chapter 6**

A. Preview Questions

1. It is the headless horseman.
2. I think it is really Brom Bones.
3. I think he will faint and fall off the horse.

B. Review Questions

1. The headless horseman did.
2. He hit Ichabod with his flaming head.
3. His world went black.

► **Chapter 7**

A. Preview Questions

1. It is the bridge near the church.
2. They are looking at a broken pumpkin.

3. I think he ran away.

B. Review Questions

1. They looked for him.
2. They found a broken pumpkin.
3. He smiled strangely, and he laughed at the part about the pumpkin.

Mini Quiz

a. All's fair in love and war.

→ In war, you can do anything to win, and there are no rules. It's the same when two men want the same woman—there are no rules either.

b. The early bird gets the worm.

→ The person who is ambitious and goes to work before everyone else gets rewarded.

c. All that glitters is not gold.

→ Not everything that looks valuable to us is in fact valuable.

After you read

(Answers may vary.)

► Pattern Practice

4. A: It looks like Susie has her eye on the top prize.

B: Yes, and she is working very hard for it.

5. A: My father has his eye on that chocolate cake.

B: That looks good to me, too.

► Challenge

1. The headless horseman is wearing a soldier's clothes, with a coat, a shirt, pants, a belt, and a sash over his shoulder.
2. Ichabod is wearing a coat, a shirt, a neckerchief, a hat, and pants.
3. The headless horseman is riding a big black horse.
4. Ichabod is riding a small old horse with his feet almost touching the ground.

Part B Skill Focus

Vocabulary Preview

A.

Across

1. mistakes 5. mess 7. handsome 9. goblin 11. plenty 12. chase

Down

2. instead 3. hero 4. especially 6. lovely 8. witch 10. owner

B.

1. the ghost disappeared
2. we heard thunder
3. headed for the trees
4. could see flames
5. afraid to eat pumpkin
6. shadows of the trees
7. borrow your clothes

Reading Comprehension

► Beginning: Chapters 1–2

A.

1. T 2. F 3. T 4. F 5. T

B.

1. The ghost
2. The ghost
3. Ichabod
4. Ichabod

C.

1. b 2. d 3. c 4. b 5. c 6. a

► Middle: Chapters 3–5

A.

1. T 2. F 3. T 4. F 5. T

B.

1. He is Brom Bones.
2. He is a kind of hero.
3. He is not afraid to fight anyone.
4. He wants to marry Katrina.

C.

1. c 2. b 3. c 4. d 5. b 6. d

► End: Chapters 6–7

A.

1. F 2. F 3. T 4. T 5. F

B.

d → b → c → a

C.

1. a 2. c 3. c 4. d 5. b 6. a

Think and Write

Ichabod	Both	Brom
is a teacher likes to read likes to eat beats children	likes Katrina rides a horse goes to a party	is a hero is not afraid of anyone plays tricks marries Katrina

Vocabulary Review

1. Sleepy Hollow had a legend about a headless ghost.
2. The soldier's head was shot off by a cannon ball.
3. Ichabod beat his students when they made mistakes.
4. Brom Bones was strong and handsome.
5. However, she did not love Ichabod.
6. He taught his dog to howl every time Ichabod began to sing.
7. The ghost disappeared with flames and the sound of thunder.
8. They were heading for the old bridge.
9. They found a broken pumpkin on the road.
10. Suddenly, the horseman jumped on the road.

Summary

A.

4	3
1	2

B.

(Answers may vary.)

1. Ichabod had his eye on Katrina.
2. Ichabod was too smart to consider fighting Brom.
3. The old work-horse raced across the bridge.
4. They found signs of a chase on the road.

Book Report

Story 1. legend 2. lovely 3. However 4. chased 5. pumpkin