

CHAPTER 1

Sleepy Hollow is a small town. It's in the **woods** in a valley. It's a scary place. Some people think it's cursed by a wizard, others think a German doctor **cast a spell** there. There is **evil** magic in Sleepy Hollow. There are lots of stories about Sleepy Hollow. People see ghosts there.

The most **frightening** ghost is the headless horseman.

People say he's a soldier from the war and he's looking for his head. A cannonball hit him and he lost it.

The headless horseman is a ghost. He rules over Sleepy Hollow. He rides in the woods. He rides in the valley. He rides on the roads to Tarry Town.

People say he's buried in the churchyard and he rides out every night to the battlefield to find his head.

wood or **woods** (n) a small forest

spell (n) magic

cast a spell (idiom) to influence someone/something by using words thought to be magic

evil (adj) very bad, unpleasant

frightening (adj) scary, making you feel afraid



*Sleepy Hollow is a small town.
It is in the woods in a valley.*

The **headless** horseman is very fast. He only rides at night. He's always back in his grave by morning. People tell stories about him all over the country. They call him *the Headless Horseman of Sleepy Hollow*.

People in Sleepy Hollow know all about the horseman. They are born with evil magic around them. Newcomers to Sleepy Hollow start to see ghosts.

When I visited Sleepy Hollow, I saw the ghosts. I came home to New York and the magic went away.

Thirty years ago, a man went to Sleepy Hollow. His name was Ichabod Crane. He went to Sleepy Hollow to teach children. He was a clever man. He liked to believe in magic. He read books on magic. He came to Sleepy Hollow and he found real magic.

headless (adj) without a head



*Thirty years ago, a man went to Sleepy Hollow.
His name was Ichabod Crane.*

CHAPTER 2

Ichabod Crane was from Connecticut. Connecticut was famous for its teachers and its woodsmen.

Ichabod Crane was a strange-looking man. He wasn't a **woodsman**. He was very tall and very thin. He had very narrow shoulders and very long arms and legs. His hands were very big. His head was very small. He had big ears, big eyes and a pointy nose. His clothes didn't fit. They were too big.

His school was a small building. It was made of logs. It only had one room. It had some windows. There were holes in the wood. Pages from old books were stuffed in the holes. It was easy to get inside. It was hard to get out again.

The school was outside the town. It was at the bottom of a hill. The river was close by. It had trees around it. There was a big birch-tree at one end of the school.

Ichabod Crane was a strict teacher. He wasn't **cruel**. He **punished** strong children twice as much as weak children. He told the bad children, "You will remember this and thank me for it."

woodsman (n) a man who lives in the forest and knows a lot about it
cruel (adj) unkind, unpleasant, causing pain, violent
punish (v) to make someone suffer for a crime or a wrongdoing

COMPREHENSION CHECK

Test-1

Are the following sentences True (T) or False (F)?

1. Ichabod Crane didn't believe in magic. T / F
2. Ichabod Crane was the teacher in Sleepy Hollow. T / F
3. Katrina Van Tassel was in love with Ichabod. T / F
4. There was a lot of gossip in Sleepy Hollow. T / F
5. The people of Sleepy Hollow hated Brom Van Brunt. T / F
6. Ichabod was best friends with Brom Van Brunt. T / F
7. Brom Van Brunt was also called Brom Bones. T / F
8. Ichabod Crane was a very handsome man. T / F
9. Ichabod Crane's horse was called Gunpowder. T / F
10. Sleepy Hollow was next to the Hudson River. T / F

Test-2

Who said this in the story?

*Ichabod Crane, People of Sleepy Hollow, The Messenger
Mr. Van Tassel or Brom Van Brunt*

1. "I'll beat Ichabod Crane. I'll tie him up."
.....
2. "This is just like Brom's story!"
.....
3. "I can sell a lot of food from the farm when I marry Katrina."
.....
4. "I have an invitation for Mr. Ichabod Crane."
.....
5. "If I can reach the bridge, I'll be safe."
.....
6. "She's in love with me."
.....
7. "Please, enjoy yourself."
.....
8. "They'll make nice pies."
.....
9. "I saw the horseman. He's not frightening."
.....
10. "There goes Brom Bones making trouble."
.....

Test-3

Answer the following questions.

1. Who did Katrina Van Tassel marry?
2. Who told the story about the headless horseman at Mr. Van Tassel's party?
3. What is the name of Ichabod Crane's favourite book?
4. Where did Ichabod Crane live?
5. Who was Ichabod Crane in love with?
6. What was Ichabod very good at?
7. What was the name of Ichabod's horse?
8. Where did Ichabod go in the afternoon?
9. How did Mr Van Tassel invite Ichabod to the party?
10. Where was Ichabod Crane from?

Test-4

Put the list in order by entering 1 to 10 in the purple circles.

- a. The older boys took Ichabod Crane home for dinner.
- b. The headless horseman chased Ichabod Crane.
- c. Ichabod Crane spent winter evenings with housewives.
- d. Ichabod Crane was in love with Katrina Van Tassel.
- e. The headless horseman ran past Ichabod Crane.
- f. Brom Van Brunt always caused trouble.
- g. Thirty years ago, Ichabod Crane went to Sleepy Hollow.
- h. A messenger invited Ichabod Crane to Mr. Van Tassel's party.
- i. Ichabod Crane went to the party.
- j. The people told stories about the war.