

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

by [the Editors of Publications International, Ltd.](#)

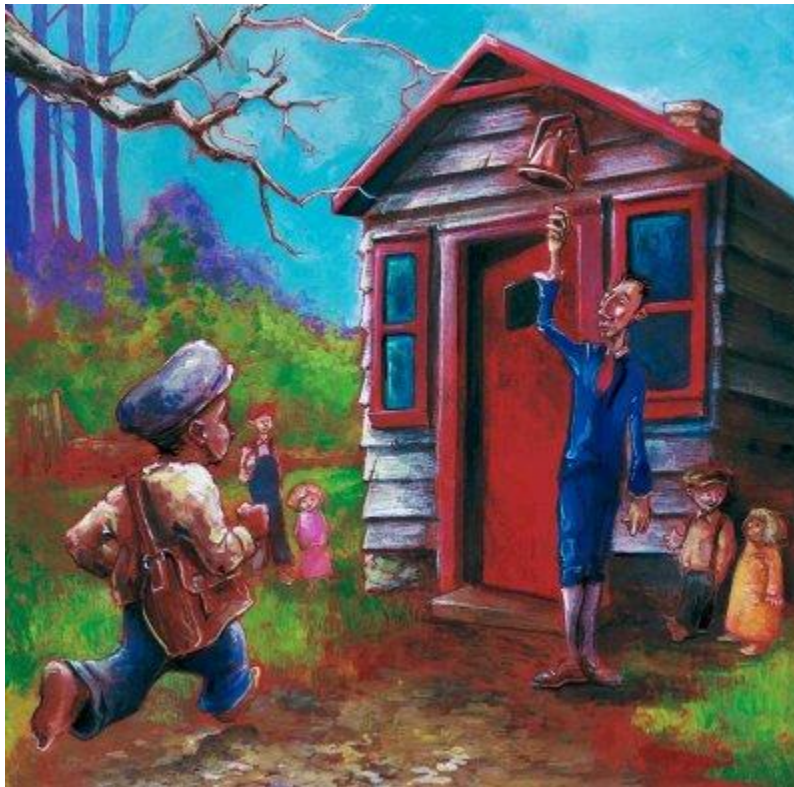
Characters:

Ichabod – teacher

Katrina – woman that Ichabod likes

Brom – man who also likes Katrina

Headless Horseman – man without a head riding a horse



A messenger goes to the schoolhouse and gives Ichabod an invitation to a party.

Sleepy Hollow is a town in New York. It is near the Hudson River.

The people who lived in Sleepy Hollow were strange. They heard voices and saw strange things. Sleepy Hollow was haunted. There were ghosts.

There was a man riding on his horse. But the man did not have a head. People loved to talk about the ghost.

"He was a soldier," someone said.

The people of Sleepy Hollow called this spirit (ghost) the Headless Horseman (Man without a head).

Ichabod Crane lived in Sleepy Hollow. He was a tall, nice teacher. Ichabod's students thought his arms and legs too long for his body.

"He looks like a scarecrow!" the students said.

Ichabod loved all scary things. One of his favorite things to do was go to the river and read scary stories.

Ichabod loved a young lady named Katrina Van Tassel. Katrina was one of Ichabod's music students. She was beautiful.

"I am only a schoolteacher," Ichabod would say, "but I know I could make her happy."

Ichabod worried that Katrina would fall in love with Brom Bones. He was stronger than Ichabod. Everybody in Sleepy Hollow knew he was strong.

"Oh, Brom Bones!" the women would say. "He is so strong and brave!"

"Wherever there is a fight or a party, Brom is there," The men would say.

Katrina liked Brom, but Ichabod would not stop trying.

"I will not lose!" Ichabod thought. Ichabod visited Katrina and walked with her at night.

Brom didn't like that Ichabod was also seeing Katrina. Brom made things difficult Ichabod. Brom began playing practical jokes. One night, Brom went into the Ichabod's classroom and turned everything upside-down. Ichabod looked silly in front of Katrina.

One day, a boy came to Ichabod's schoolhouse. The boy gave him an invitation to a party.

"What is that?" asked his students.

"It is for a party tonight at the house of the Van Tassels'," replied Ichabod. Ichabod was happy because Katrina was going to the party.

Ichabod left the school 1 hour early.

Ichabod began to get ready for the party.. He combed his hair and looked in the mirror. Finally, Ichabod stepped back and looked at himself.

"Perfect!" he said.

Ichabod rode his horse.

It was a strange sight to see Ichabod riding an old horse. His elbows stuck out like grasshoppers' legs. His arms flapped about like wings. As he rode, his black coat fluttered around him in the wind.

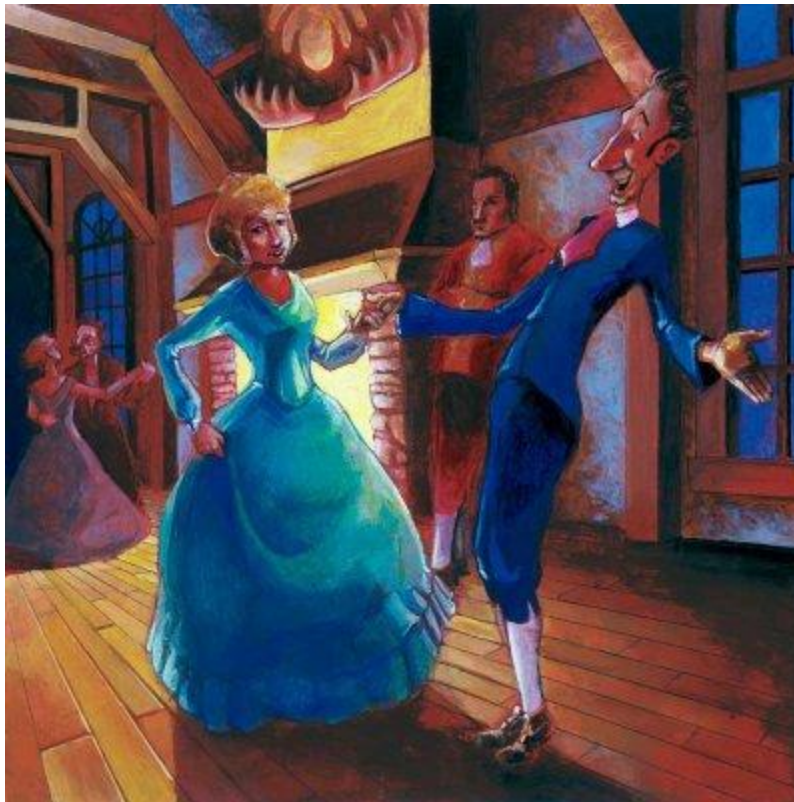
Ichabod walked into the party. He saw Brom Bones talking with some people. Brom came in his favorite horse, Daredevil. Daredevil was bad like Brom. No one could control the horse. Ichabod could hear Brom's strong loud voice.

"And then I lifted all five men with one hand!" Brom said.

Ichabod was sad. Would Katrina choose him and not choose Brom?

Then, the music started. People began to walk into the ballroom (dance room)

"May I dance with you?" Ichabod asked Katrina quickly.



Ichabod asks Katrina to dance.

They were dancing. Katrina smiled happily, but Brom was not happy. He stood in the corner and watched Ichabod.

After dancing with Katrina, Ichabod began to talk to some people. They were telling ghost stories. They were talking about the Headless Horseman (man without a head). Some people in the town have seen him.

"Somebody saw the Headless Horseman at one of his favorite places -- the bridge next to the church," someone said.

Ichabod left the party. It was 12 o'clock at night. Ichabod felt nervous. His heart was beating loudly. He remembered all of the ghost stories he had heard at the party.

"I must be brave!" said Ichabod, his voice trembling.

Ichabod felt so lonely. He began to whistle. He thought he heard someone else whistling, but it was just the wind.

Ichabod was on his horse. Then he jumped up. He saw something white hanging in the middle of a tree.

"A ghost!" yelled Ichabod.

It wasn't a ghost. It was a tree. The tree was white because lightning struck it.

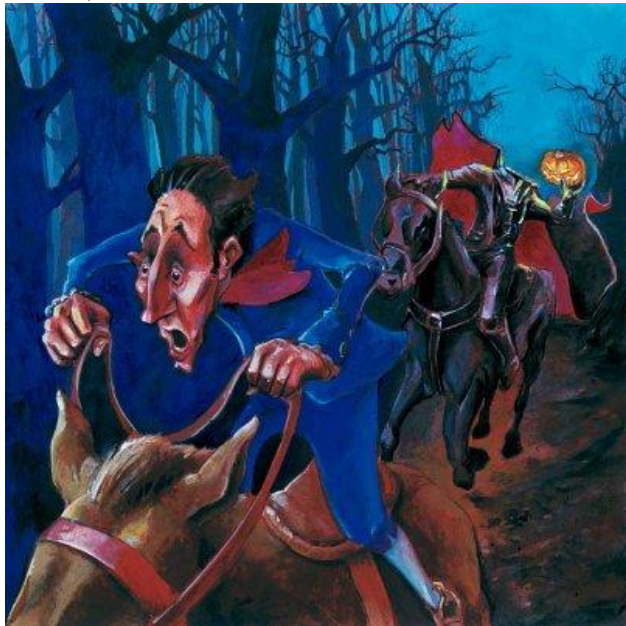
Then Ichabod heard a thumping noise. Ichabod turned his head towards the noise. He saw something big standing in the shadows.

"Who are you?" shouted Ichabod.

Ichabod turned his head. The figure was a large man riding a great black horse. Ichabod's teeth began to chatter. Then he saw that the man was...headless (no head)!

"The Headless Horseman!" Ichabod gasped.

"Faster, faster!" Ichabod told his horse.



The Headless Horseman chases Ichabod Crane through the forest.

When Ichabod looked behind him, he screamed in horror. He was scared. The Headless Horseman was about to throw his head! Ichabod moved his body, but it was too late. He fell off his horse.

The Headless Horseman went away. He rode off into the night.

The next morning, people went to look for Ichabod. They only found Ichabod's horse. Then they found his hat and a shattered pumpkin.

Ichabod never came back to Sleepy Hollow. When the townspeople told the story, Brom Bones always had a smile on his face. Did Brom throw a pumpkin at Ichabod or did Ichabod really see the Headless Horseman? No one knows for sure. It is a mystery of Sleepy Hollow.