

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

Washington Irving

How does Irving make the place itself responsible for what people are willing to believe?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Sleepy Hollow makes belief contagious
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION Short story - Sleepy Hollow description near the opening START this sequestered glen has long been known by the name of SLEEPY

HOLLOW

END Headless Horseman of Sleepy Hollow.

PASSAGE ID	sec-sh-01
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THE MOVE

Read setting as a cause of interpretation

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Irving describes Sleepy Hollow as if belief were atmospheric: dreams, stories, and supernatural expectations seem to hang in the air. The setting does not force anyone to believe, but it creates a community in which extraordinary explanations feel normal.

MARK

Circle words that describe the physical atmosphere of Sleepy Hollow. Underline language about dreams, visions, stories, or supernatural beliefs. Star the line that most directly blends place with interpretation.

NOTICE

- What features of the place are physical, and which belong to the people's shared imagination?

- How does repeated storytelling make certain explanations easier to believe?
- Why might the same event be interpreted differently outside Sleepy Hollow?

THINK

Answer provisionally: How does Irving make the place itself responsible for what people are willing to believe? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: How does Irving make the place itself responsible for what people are willing to believe? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	Irving makes belief feel environmental by surrounding Sleepy Hollow with repeated stories, dreams, visions, legends, and a shared expectation of the supernatural. The place creates an interpretive culture before any one event occurs.
EVIDENCE	Use atmosphere language plus examples of recurring local stories or the Headless Horseman tradition.
WATCH FOR	Do not say the location literally causes ghosts. Explain how community and setting make supernatural explanations feel normal.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

Washington Irving

How does Irving make the place itself responsible for what people are willing to believe?

START ANCHOR	this sequestered glen has long been known by the name of SLEEPY HOLLOW
END ANCHOR	Headless Horseman of Sleepy Hollow.

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK - Circle words that describe the physical atmosphere of Sleepy Hollow. Underline language about dreams, visions, stories, or supernatural beliefs. Star the line that most directly blends place with interpretation.
2. NOTICE - What features of the place are physical, and which belong to the people’s shared imagination? How does repeated storytelling make certain explanations easier to believe? Why might the same event be interpreted differently outside Sleepy Hollow?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: How does Irving make the place itself responsible for what people are willing to believe?
4. WRITE - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.