

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

Washington Irving

Why is the thrown 'head' more suspicious once Ichabod expects the Horseman to vanish at the bridge?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	The Horseman obeys the story until he does not
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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	The chase
START	If I can but reach that bridge,” thought Ichabod, “I am safe.”
END	It encountered his cranium with a tremendous crash
PASSAGE ID	sec-sh-03

THE MOVE

Use a violated rule to create interpretive doubt

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Ichabod relies on the local rule that the Horseman must vanish at the bridge. When the figure crosses the expected boundary and throws its 'head,' the violation makes the supernatural story less stable and a physical trick more plausible.

MARK

Underline the rule Ichabod remembers about the bridge. Circle what he expects the Horseman to do. Star the action that violates the story’s rule and creates doubt about what he is actually seeing.

NOTICE

- What prediction does the legend allow Ichabod to make?

- Why does breaking the prediction matter more than simply frightening him?
- How can a violated supernatural rule become evidence for a non-supernatural explanation?

THINK

Answer provisionally: Why is the thrown 'head' more suspicious once Ichabod expects the Horseman to vanish at the bridge? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: Why is the thrown 'head' more suspicious once Ichabod expects the Horseman to vanish at the bridge? 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	The thrown head becomes suspicious because it violates the rule Ichabod expects: the Horseman should vanish at the bridge. When the figure crosses and throws something physical, the legend stops explaining the evidence cleanly.
EVIDENCE	Use the expected bridge rule and the actual behavior that contradicts it.
WATCH FOR	Do not say the violation proves Brom is the rider. It creates doubt by making the supernatural story less consistent.
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.

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START ANCHOR	If I can but reach that bridge,” thought Ichabod, “I am safe.”
END ANCHOR	It encountered his cranium with a tremendous crash

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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 - Underline the rule Ichabod remembers about the bridge. Circle what he expects the Horseman to do. Star the action that violates the story’s rule and creates doubt about what he is actually seeing.
2. NOTICE - What prediction does the legend allow Ichabod to make? Why does breaking the prediction matter more than simply frightening him? How can a violated supernatural rule become evidence for a non-supernatural explanation?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: Why is the thrown 'head' more suspicious once Ichabod expects the Horseman to vanish at the bridge?
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.