

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

Washington Irving

Which details support Brom Bones more strongly than the supernatural explanation?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	The pumpkin competes with the ghost story
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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 - final paragraphs after Ichabod disappears
START	was found the hat of the unfortunate Ichabod, and close beside it a shattered pumpkin.
END	always burst into a hearty laugh at the mention of the pumpkin
PASSAGE ID	sec-sh-04

THE MOVE

Weigh rival explanations without forcing certainty

WHY THIS PASSAGE

The ending supplies evidence for both legend and prank, but the shattered pumpkin and Brom Bones’s reaction give the natural explanation a concrete advantage. Irving still refuses to close the case completely.

MARK

Create two columns: GHOST and BROM. Place each piece of ending evidence under the explanation it supports. Star any detail that could reasonably fit both.

NOTICE

- Which evidence is physical rather than based on rumor?
- What does Brom's laughter suggest that the pumpkin alone does not prove?
- Why does Irving preserve uncertainty even when one explanation appears stronger?

THINK

Answer provisionally: Which details support Brom Bones more strongly than the supernatural explanation? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: Which details support Brom Bones more strongly than the supernatural explanation? 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 pumpkin, lack of a body, Ichabod's later reported survival, and Brom's knowing laughter all support a prank more directly than a literal ghost. None individually proves the case, but together they outweigh rumor.
EVIDENCE	Choose at least two concrete details and compare them with the evidence supporting the supernatural explanation.
WATCH FOR	Do not force certainty. The strongest answer weighs evidence and still acknowledges what the text leaves unresolved.
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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Which details support Brom Bones more strongly than the supernatural explanation?

START ANCHOR	was found the hat of the unfortunate Ichabod, and close beside it a shattered pumpkin.
END ANCHOR	always burst into a hearty laugh at the mention of the pumpkin

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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 - Create two columns: GHOST and BROM. Place each piece of ending evidence under the explanation it supports. Star any detail that could reasonably fit both.
2. NOTICE - Which evidence is physical rather than based on rumor? What does Brom's laughter suggest that the pumpkin alone does not prove? Why does Irving preserve uncertainty even when one explanation appears stronger?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: Which details support Brom Bones more strongly than the supernatural explanation?
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.