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The Tale of Rip Van Winkle

Rip Van Winkle was a simple, happy man who lived in the village of Catskill, New York. Children always asked him to play. Dogs always came up to him for attention. He liked to visit at the village inn. He was a helpful neighbor. He was always good at doing someone a favor.

But Rip hated doing his own work. He would do anything to get out of chores. His own children ran wild. His wife had to ask him many times to help out.

One day, Rip was walking deep in the woods. He carried his favorite fishing pole over his shoulder. Once again, he was avoiding doing his work. Suddenly, he saw a figure in front of him. He was surprised to see another person. The other man was strange. He was short and wide, with thick, bushy hair and a beard.

“My bag is heavy,” the person said. “Will you help me carry it?”

Always ready to help another person, Rip agreed. Soon, they came upon a group of more strange people. Rip set down his bag. Inside was a jar full of liquid. The people all drank some. Rip drank some too. It was delicious!

It made Rip tired. He laid his head down. He shut his eyes. Soon, he was asleep.

When Rip awoke, the people were gone. He looked around. His fishing pole was there. But it was tangled. The hook was rusty. Rip looked around, but he was alone. Confused, he walked back home.

When he walked into the village, children surrounded him. He did not know any of them. Strange dogs wanted attention. But they were all unfamiliar.

Rip hurried home. No one was there. His house looked abandoned! Where was his family?

He ran to the village inn. He did not know what to do. He sat at a table and put his head in his hands.

"Hello, stranger," the server said.

"I'm no stranger," Rip cried. "I'm Rip Van Winkle."

"You can't be Rip Van Winkle," the server said. "My father was Rip Van Winkle. He walked away 20 years ago and hasn't been seen since."

1. Reread *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*. Then compare it to *The Tale of Rip Van Winkle*. Do the stories have similarities? How are they different?
2. Find Sleepy Hollow on a map. Then, find Catskill. How far apart are they? Could you walk from one to the other? How long would it take you?
3. What if Ichabod Crane came back after 20 years? Write a new ending to *The Headless Horseman*.

Haunted House Right Here

Write a story turning a place you know into a haunted place. Is it a place you see every day? Is it a place you saw on vacation? Is it the place you are in now?

Think of things about the location that make it memorable. Make a list. Then turn those features into a creepy tale.

What Is Your Location Like? Describe it!	What Makes It Creepy?
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.

(title)