

GREAT ILLUSTRATED CLASSICS

**THE LEGEND
OF SLEEPY HOLLOW
AND RIP VAN WINKLE**

Washington Irving

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Jack Kelly**

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Around the Fire

The Legend Of Sleepy Hollow

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When the good folk of Sleepy Hollow got together around the fire on dark and windy nights, their talk often turned to a mysterious being who had been seen riding along nearby roads.

“He was a Hessian cavalryman who lost his head in the Revolutionary War,” one said. “A cannonball took it clean off.”

“He’s a ghost, the commander of all the evil

THE LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW

spirits in these parts," another claimed.

Nobody knew for sure. But many a farmer, out late at night, would see this apparition go swooping past—an enormous, terrible figure mounted on a powerful stallion. He was the Headless Horseman!

"His body's buried in the churchyard," said one man, who claimed to be an expert on the subject. "At night he rides out to the battlefield where he was killed to look for his missing head. Toward dawn you'll see him go tearing through the Hollow as fast as he can ride. He has to get back to his grave before daybreak."

One of those who listened most closely to these ghostly tales was Ichabod Crane. Ichabod was the town's schoolmaster, and a man who thought he knew a thing or two about ghosts himself.

Ichabod, indeed, looked something like a crane. He was a tall, lanky young man with long arms and legs, hands that dangled a mile



The Town's Schoolmaster