

Name: _____ Teacher: _____ School: _____

Grade 4: Lesson 9 Write a narrative finishing the story.

Washington Irving's The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

as retold by Kim T. Griswell

The party was in full swing when Ichabod arrived. Farmers strutted about in their best homespun coats and breeches. Their wives swished along in calico dresses, while their daughters sported straw hats with fine ribbons. Their sons tugged at tails of short square-skirted coats with shiny brass buttons. Into the middle of it all rode Brom Bones on Daredevil. A **gaggle** of young girls soon surrounded him.

Katrina Van Tassel watched tight-lipped from the front porch. When she caught sight of Ichabod, she waved buoyantly, her tight lips loosening into a too-broad smile. "Mr. Crane! I am so glad you came. Do come inside."

Brom Bones reared his horse. Daredevil's front hooves flailed. "Show off while you can," Ichabod chuckled to himself. "Your days as a guest at the Van Tassel estate are about to end."

Ichabod followed Katina to the banquet table. She stood in open-jawed awe as he heaped his plate with broiled fish, roasted chicken, and boiled beef. Then she bade him enjoy his meal and took her leave. Ichabod imagined himself lord of the manor, sending her off to attend to their guests. Then he helped himself to honey cakes, crumbling **crullers**, and slices of peach and pumpkin and apple pie. He ate and ate until his stomach burst the button on his dusty black jacket.

After supper, Ichabod joined the men in the **drawing room**. He listened with great interest to their tales of haunted fields, haunted brooks, haunted bridges, and haunted houses.

"See here, Crane!" Farmer Van Tassel held up a work-worn hand. "A man of learning, such as yourself, must have a head filled with more than local legends."

"Oh, indeed." Ichabod nodded and his head bobbed along. "I am a great reader of books. My favorite is Cotton Mather's *History of New England Witchcraft*. History," he said, "explains so much."

What history explained, he never said. For at that moment, Katrina walked into the room. "Can I bring you anything, Father?" she asked.

"No. Thank you, my dear." The farmer patted her smooth white hand. "Go and enjoy yourself with your friends."

As Katrina left the room, the schoolteacher's heart thudded. What would it be like to hold that soft white hand?

"Mr. Crane," Brom Bones interrupted the teacher's thoughts. "Have you heard about the night my Daredevil outran the Galloping Hessian?"

"No." Ichabod's nose twitched like a rat's on the scent of spoiled cheddar. "I have not."

“Well.” Brom Bones leaned forward. “It happened on a night much like this one. I was on my way home from a party at this very farm. I had just passed the church and was headed for the bridge that crosses the stream into Sleepy Hollow when I heard hoofbeats at my back.”

Ichabod’s glassy green eyes went wide. “Hoofbeats?”

“Indeed.” Brom nodded. “Louder and louder they came. It was none other than the Headless Horseman.” Brom glanced at the schoolteacher with a wink and a nod. “I was near the churchyard where the fiend is buried. Up ahead was the one-lane bridge. At my side was the ghost.”

Ichabod glanced around. With Brom Bones spinning the story and the other men listening, surely he could slip away. It was time to make his case to the fair Katrina. The teacher edged toward the door, hoping his exit would go unnoticed.

He found Katrina alone in the parlor, and drew the door closed behind him. What happened in that room? No one knows. But a few short minutes later, Ichabod Crane stormed into the hall. His face was moon-pale. His fists were clenched, and his great saucer ears were as red as smashed tomatoes. She had tricked him! Used him to make that horse-riding buffoon Brom Bones jealous. How dare she!

Ichabod rushed from the house. He yanked his plow horse from the feedbag and swung his bony frame into the saddle.

Task: Write a narrative to finish the story. What happened after Ichabod Crane left? Use details from the text to help you decide what happened next. Remember to include:

- descriptive details
- clear event sequences.
- dialogue
- variety of transitional words and phrases
- conclusion
- correct grammar and punctuation

Start from these lines:

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