



# The Legends of Sleepy Hollow *and* Rip Van Winkle

Washington Irving



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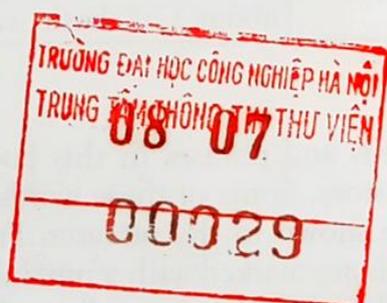
MACMILLAN READERS

ELEMENTARY LEVEL

WASHINGTON IRVING

The Legends of  
Sleepy Hollow  
*and*  
Rip Van Winkle

Retold by Anne Collins



MACMILLAN

*Founding Editor: John Milne*

The Macmillan Readers provide a choice of enjoyable reading materials for learners of English. The series is published at six levels – Starter, Beginner, Elementary, Pre-intermediate, Intermediate and Upper.

### **Level control**

Information, structure and vocabulary are controlled to suit the students' ability at each level.

### **The number of words at each level:**

Starter	about 300 basic words
Beginner	about 600 basic words
Elementary	about 1100 basic words
Pre-intermediate	about 1400 basic words
Intermediate	about 1600 basic words
Upper	about 2200 basic words

### **Vocabulary**

Some difficult words and phrases in this book are important for understanding the story. Some of these words are explained in the story and some are shown in the pictures. From Pre-intermediate level upwards, words are marked with a number like this: ...<sup>3</sup>. These words are explained in the Glossary at the end of the book.

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## A Note About the Author

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Washington Irving was an American writer. He was born on April 30th, 1783, in New York. As a young man, he studied law and he worked in several law companies. But from 1802, he also wrote stories and essays. At first, these were published in newspapers, but later they were collected together and published in books.

During the years 1804–6, Irving traveled in Europe. He left the United States again in 1815, and he lived in Europe for many years. At first, he worked in a company which was owned by his two brothers, in Liverpool, in England. Eleven years later, he went to live in Madrid, in Spain. He worked for the United States government there. After that, he returned to England for several years, and in 1832, he went back to the United States. His books were now very popular there.

During the years 1842–6, Irving worked in Madrid again. This time, he had a more important government job. Then he returned for the last time to the U.S. He lived in a beautiful house in Tarry Town (Tarrytown), near New York, until his death in 1859.

Irving was the first great American writer of humorous stories. He also wrote books about the countries which he visited, and a book about the life of George Washington—the first U.S. president.

*The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* and *The Legend of Rip Van Winkle* first appeared in *The Sketch Book*, Irving's most popular book, which was published in 1820.

## A Note About These Stories

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Dutch people arrived in North America from the Netherlands early in the seventeenth century. They came to live in a new land—they were settlers. Many of them made their homes in the area around the Hudson River, in the east of the land. But at the time when *The Legend of Rip Van Winkle* begins, nearly two hundred years later, this part of North America was a British colony. The land was owned by Britain. The colony was ruled by King George the Third, who was the British king from 1760 to 1820. Some people in North America were happy about this. They liked the British king—they were loyal to King George. But many others did not want their land to be ruled by Britain. They wanted to live in an independent country. They wanted their own government and they wanted their own laws. There was a war between these people and the British army. The Americans won the war, and the British left the colony. At the end of Rip Van Winkle's story, he is living in an independent country—the United States of America. The country has a president, not a king. The first president of the United States was George Washington.

The other story in this book, *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, takes place after the war with Britain, early in the nineteenth century.



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