

Name: _____ Teacher: _____ School: _____

Grade 4: Lesson 8 Describe the events of a story.

Washington Irving's The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

as retold by Kim T. Griswell

Ichabod Crane's saucer ears pricked up, yet his shoulders sagged. Katrina Van Tassel? So, Brom Bones has set his sights on **Heer** Van Tassel's daughter, too. The young lady had already caught the teacher's eye, as had her father's estates. Van Tassel's lands rolled from the banks of the Hudson all the way to Sleepy Hollow. One day, they would all belong to Katrina, and so Katrina, Ichabod mused, should belong to a cautious and learned man. A man such as himself. Not to the foolish Brom Bones.

"I shall woo her quietly," Ichabod decided. "No need to battle the **brute** for her hand. I will win her with song!"

The schoolteacher took great pride in his voice. So, the very next Sunday, he hurried to church, choosing a spot close to the Van Tassel family. The schoolteacher took out his psalm book, cleared his throat and began to sing. Swallows burst from the rafters. Mice squeezed out of knotholes and fled into the fields. The vain Mr. Crane never noticed; all he saw was Katrina Van Tassel. The young woman seemed to sway toward him. Surely that was approval in her eyes! Ichabod's heart fluttered. Katrina would not be the first young woman to **swoon** when she heard him sing.

A snort came from the back of the church. Ichabod turned to see Brom Bones and his gang. Brom's eyes were narrowed. The muscle in his jutting jaw twitched. "I must move my plan forward, quickly," Ichabod muttered to himself, "before the buffoon puzzles things together in his pea-sized brain."

When the service ended, Ichabod wormed his way close to Katrina. He gave her father a stiff bow, then offered her his arm. "May I?" She glanced toward the back of the church as if searching for someone. Then she tucked her gloved hand into the crook of Ichabod's arm.

Outside, Brom Bones was already cinching the straps of his saddle. "Brom!" Katrina waved her free hand. "Have you met the new schoolteacher?"

In answer, Brom hoisted himself into the saddle and walked Daredevil toward them. "I have not," Brom said. "But his flapping coattails look familiar." His dark eyes sparkled.

Heat crept up Ichabod's thin neck and flushed his hollow cheeks.

Katrina shook her head at Brom. "How rude! Come, Mr. Crane. Let us leave Mr. Van Brunt to chase coattails."

A few days later, a young boy arrived at the schoolhouse. "Sir!" the boy gasped. "You've an invite"—he gulped a breath—"from Farmer Van Tassel." And he held out an envelope with a shaking hand.

"Well, well!" Ichabod took the envelope and shooed the boy on his way. Inside, he found an invitation to a party to be held that very night at Van Tassel's estate. He grabbed his hat, stuck his too-long limbs into the sleeves of his greatcoat, and sent his students home early.

Ichabod Crane spent the next hour grooming. He slicked down his thin hair, he chewed fresh peppermint leaves to freshen his breath, and he brushed his dusty black suit. He even borrowed a broken-down plow horse from Farmer Van Ripper. "His name is Gunpowder," the farmer said. "The old fellow once had quite a spark in him." Ichabod galloped away as proud as a knight on a quest.

It was a fine autumn afternoon. Wild ducks flew overhead. Birds flitted from bush to bush and tree to tree. Ichabod bobbed along past groves of ripe red apples. He passed fields of yellow Indian corn and orange pumpkins. His twitching nose smelled honey in the hives and fragrant buckwheat. He dreamed of stacks of pancakes made by the sweet white hands of Katrina Van Tassel. If his plan went well, by the end of the evening, Katrina—and her father's fields—would be his.

Task: Describe the other two events from the story: Ichabod tries to impress Katrina at church by singing, and Ichabod receives a party invitation. The chart you created in the lesson about the events will be very helpful to use as an outline. Don't forget to think about how you might transition between each of your explanations. Also, be sure to add a concluding sentence.