

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

**Grade 4: Lesson 10 Write a narrative finishing the story.**

**Washington Irving's The Legend of Sleepy Hollow**

**as retold by Kim T. Griswell**

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.

All cheer had drained from the night. The green countryside had no color, no sound. As the night grew darker, the tales Ichabod had heard earlier rattled like knucklebones in his head. A tree became a looming beast reaching toward him. A rustle in the bushes became a restless spirit with blazing eyes. Ichabod tried to hum away his fears.

He was drawing close to the church and the one-lane bridge—the same bridge Brom Bones had raced toward with the Headless Horseman at his back. And at that very moment . . . the schoolteacher heard a moan. His knees knocked against the saddle. His heart jumped into his throat. He kicked old Gunpowder's flanks. The plow horse lurched forward, snuffing and snorting.

A shadowy figure bolted onto the road so close by that Ichabod imaged he could feel its breath! Ichabod's trembling fingers nearly dropped the reins. It was a horseman, huge and hulking. He was mounted on a night-black steed.

Old Gunpowder stopped short, nearly sending his rider sprawling over his head. "Who's there?" Ichabod's voice shook.

The shadow did not answer.

Ichabod edged old Gunpowder past the shadow. The silent horseman rode close by, hidden by the dark. The teacher nudged the plow horse into a jog. The black phantom jogged along. The fiend rode so close that anyone watching might have mistaken it for the shadow of the terrified schoolmaster and his broken-down steed.

Could Ichabod outrun the horseman? Brom Bones had done so. As they reached the top of a hill, Ichabod turned, hoping to get a better look. A full moon rose behind the shadow. To his horror, Ichabod could now see what he faced: The cloaked giant was headless! Yet . . . *was that a head on the pommel of the saddle?*

"AUGH!" screamed Ichabod. His frantic cry terrified Gunpowder, and the old plow horse dashed away. Stones flew. Sparks flashed. Ichabod's coat flapped behind him. The headless shadow raced along.

The great black steed panted; its hot breath blew on the back of the schoolteacher's neck. Ichabod glanced over his shoulder to see the fiend rising in the stirrups. The horseman lifted the great round head from his saddle, and he threw it with all his might, toward Ichabod Crane.

*Boom!* The projectile smashed into the teacher like a cannonball. Black pain bloomed in his head. Ichabod Crane crashed from his horse and tumbled headlong into the dust. And the world went black.

The next morning, old Gunpowder was found **cropping** the grass at Farmer Van Ripper's gate. And Ichabod Crane? He did not appear at breakfast. He did not show up for dinner. Searchers found his hat trampled in the dirt near the church. They found hoof tracks—two sets—dug deep into the road. They found one other thing: a shattered pumpkin.

All that remained of Ichabod Crane's time in Tarry Town were a few belongings in his attic room: two shirts, two pairs of socks, an old pair of corduroy pants, and a dog-eared book of psalms.

Some swore they'd seen the gangly schoolteacher in other towns. He was a shopkeeper now. Or a bookseller. Or a shadow sitting in somber silence at an inn. But Brom Bones spread a different tale, of Ichabod Crane's frantic flight from the Headless Horseman. When he told the part about the smashed pumpkin he always winked at his bride—Katrina Van Brunt—and his eyes sparkled with laughter.

**Task:** Pretend you are a reporter for the Sleepy Hollow Gazette. Report on the events that happened after Ichabod finds out Katrina is using him to make Brom jealous. Start reporting as Ichabod is leaving the Von Tassel party. At the end of the article, the editor of the paper has also asked you to include your opinion of what you think really happened at the scene using evidence you have uncovered.