

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Washington Irving** was born into a rich Scottish family in New York in 1783. He studied law but literature was his real passion. While he was working as a lawyer<sup>1</sup>, he started to write for newspapers and magazines. His articles and stories satirized<sup>2</sup> the customs<sup>3</sup> and manners<sup>4</sup> of the Americans. New York was home to many Dutch settlers<sup>5</sup> and Irving wrote about them in his first book *A History of New York*, published in 1809. This humorous account by a fictional<sup>6</sup> character called Diedrich Knickerbocker was immensely successful and was described as 'the first great book of comic literature written by an American'.



## ABOUT THE BOOK

*The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* (1809) tells the story of a schoolteacher from Connecticut, Ichabod Crane, who comes to the small village of Sleepy Hollow. When he meets Katrina Van Tassel, the pretty daughter of a wealthy farmer, he falls in love. But he has a rival, the boastful<sup>1</sup> Brom Bones. After a party at her house, Katrina rejects Ichabod's courtship<sup>2</sup> and he rides home dejected<sup>3</sup>. On the way back he encounters the terrifying Headless Horseman, the ghost of an enemy soldier from the Revolutionary War<sup>4</sup>. A frightening chase ensues and Ichabod disappears. The people of Sleepy Hollow believe that Ichabod's ghost now haunts the village.

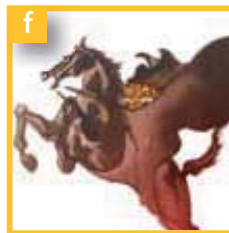
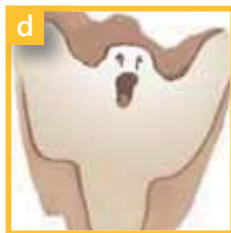
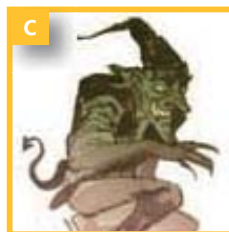
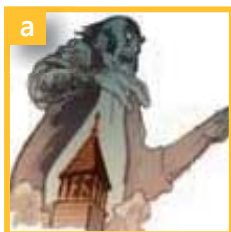


# BEFORE READING

## 1 Match the words and the pictures.

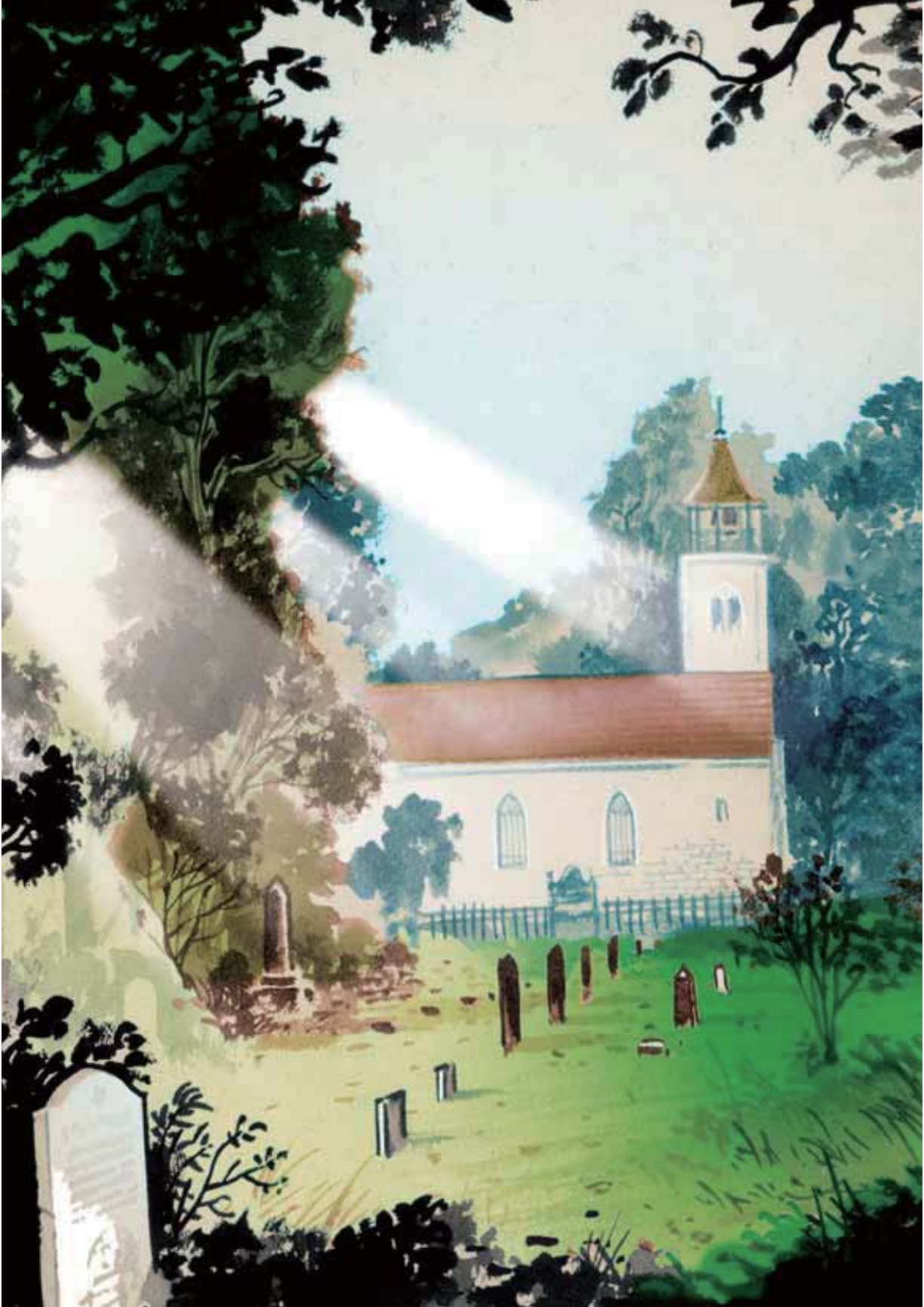
\_\_\_\_ ① ghost  
\_\_\_\_ ② dragon  
\_\_\_\_ ③ giant

\_\_\_\_ ④ witch  
\_\_\_\_ ⑤ goblin  
\_\_\_\_ ⑥ headless horseman



## 2 Complete the sentences with the words above.

- (a) A \_\_\_\_\_ mixes ingredients in a big pot or cauldron to make magic potions.
- (b) A \_\_\_\_\_ is huge. It has got wings and a long tail.
- (c) A \_\_\_\_\_ is an enormous person.
- (d) The \_\_\_\_\_ was killed on the battlefield and his ghost still rides his horse.
- (e) A \_\_\_\_\_ appears after death and usually haunts old castles.
- (f) A \_\_\_\_\_ is a bold little creature that plays tricks on people.





## A QUIET VALLEY



*The following account<sup>1</sup> was found among the papers of the late<sup>2</sup> Diedrich Knickerbocker.*

On the eastern shore of the Hudson River there is a small town called Greensburgh. This place is better known as Tarry Town. It was given this name by the wives of that area because on market days their husbands ‘tarried,’ or wasted time, at the local tavern<sup>3</sup>. I cannot confirm this myself but I mention<sup>4</sup> it just to be precise.

There is a little valley surrounded by high hills about two miles from here. This is one of the quietest places in the whole world. A small stream glides<sup>5</sup> through it so silently that it could lull<sup>6</sup> one to sleep. Only the sound of the birds ever interrupts this tranquility.

I remember that, when I was very young, I once wandered into a grove<sup>7</sup> of trees. It was noon, when all nature is strangely quiet. The trees shaded one side of the valley. I couldn’t think of a better place than this little valley where I could escape from the world and its distractions, and quietly dream away the remnants<sup>8</sup> of a troubled<sup>9</sup> life.

1 account [əˈkaʊnt] (n.) 描述；報導

2 late [leɪ] (a.) 已故的

3 tavern [ˈtævən] (n.) 小酒館

4 mention [ˈmenʃən] (v.) 提及

5 glide [ɡlaɪd] (v.) 緩緩流過

6 lull [lʌl] (v.) 使安靜；使入睡

7 grove [ɡrov] (n.) 小樹林；樹叢

8 remnant [ˈremnənt] (n.) 殘餘

9 troubled [ˈtrʌblɪd] (a.) 紛擾的

## COUNTRY LIFE AND CITY LIFE

- Do you live in the country or in a city?
- Where would you prefer to live – the countryside or the city? Why?



Because of the lazy atmosphere of the place and the character of its inhabitants, who are descended from the original Dutch settlers, this valley has been known for a long time by the name of Sleepy Hollow<sup>1</sup>. The young men who live here are called the Sleepy Hollow Boys. A drowsy<sup>2</sup>, dreamy influence seems to hang over the land. Supposedly, a German doctor put a spell<sup>3</sup> on the place during the early days of the settlement.

According to another story an old Indian chief held his powwows<sup>4</sup> here. Certainly something seems to have cast<sup>5</sup> a spell over the minds of the good people. They have all kinds of strange beliefs. They go into trances<sup>6</sup>, have visions, frequently see strange sights, and hear music and voices in the air. The whole neighborhood is full of stories of superstitions<sup>7</sup> and haunted<sup>8</sup> places.

However, one dominant spirit haunts this magical region. It is the apparition<sup>9</sup> of a figure on horseback, without a head. Some people think it is the ghost of a soldier whose head was carried away by a cannon ball in a battle during the Revolutionary War. The local people often see him hurrying along in the dark of night. He haunts not just the valley, but the adjacent roads and a nearby church.

1 hollow ['hɒlə] (n.) 山谷

2 drowsy ['draʊzi] (a.) 昏昏欲睡的

3 spell [spɛl] (n.) 咒語；魔咒

4 powwow ['paʊ,wau] (n.) 巫師；巫術儀式

5 cast [kæst] (v.) 投下

6 trance [træns] (n.) 恍神；催眠狀態

7 superstition [ˌsʊpə'stɪʃən] (n.) 迷信

8 haunted ['hɒntɪd] (a.) 鬧鬼的

9 apparition [ˌæpə'riʃən] (n.) 幽靈