

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

15.3

TAKE-HOME

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

### Excerpt from “Rip Van Winkle”

*Read the following excerpt from the Reader and complete the activity that follows.*

One day, seeking to escape the hard work of the farm and the complaints of his wife, Rip grabbed his gun and walked into the Catskill Mountains to hunt for squirrels. All day the mountains echoed with the sound of shots fired from his gun. Finally, he sat down on a little green hill that looked down into the valley below. Rip admired the scene as evening gradually advanced and sighed as he thought about the journey home.

As he was about to descend, he heard a voice calling, “Rip Van Winkle! Rip Van Winkle!” He caught sight of a strange figure climbing up the rocks, carrying something on its back. Rip was surprised to see any human being in this lonely place, but he concluded that it must be one of his neighbors in need of assistance. Rip hurried down to help. The stranger was a short old fellow with a grizzled beard. His clothes were old-fashioned and he carried a stout keg that Rip supposed was full of something refreshing to drink. He made signs for Rip to assist him, and together they clambered up a narrow gully. Every now and then long rolling **peals** like thunder seemed to issue out of a deep ravine. Passing through this ravine, they came to a hollow.

In the center was a company of odd-looking persons playing at **ninepins**. The thunderous noise Rip had heard from afar was the sound of the ball rolling toward the pins. Like Rip’s guide, they were dressed in an outlandish fashion, with enormous **breeches**. What seemed particularly odd to Rip was that these folks looked very serious indeed. They played without speaking and were, in fact, the most **melancholy** party he had ever witnessed. They stared at Rip in such a way that his heart turned within him and his knees banged together.

Rip and his guide joined the party. His guide emptied the keg into large tankards, and the men sipped in silence. When they were done, they returned to their game. As Rip's fear subsided, he ventured to taste the beverage, too. Before long, the events of the day and the mountain air overpowered Rip, and he fell into a deep sleep.

*Use the space below to type a brief summary of the events included in the excerpt. Use your own words and include all the details that are important for understanding the passage.*

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NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*Type the correct core vocabulary words from the word bank to complete each sentence.*

peal

ninepins

breeches

melancholy

1. The villagers listened to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the church bells as the wedding ceremony ended.
2. The long, gray winters with little sunshine made my whole family feel \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Although both games are played with pins and balls, the scoring for bowling is quite different from that of \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Some young schoolboys still wear woolen \_\_\_\_\_ to school.