

RIP VAN WINKLE P. 154  
GUIDED READING QUESTIONS

YOU MAY ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS ON THIS PAPER.

1. What might the early, detailed description of the mountains suggest about their eventual role in the story?
2. What attitude does the narrator seem to have toward Rip?
3. How is Rip unlike the typical American frontier hero?
4. Why does Rip say nothing in response to his wife?
5. How would you describe Irving's portrayal of marriage in this story?
6. Why does Vedder not talk?
7. What clues indicate that the character mentioned on p. 158 is magical and not an ordinary person?
8. What does the thunder suggest?
9. How do the extended descriptions of the little men, the amphitheater, and the ninepins game contribute to the atmosphere of the story?
10. In plain language, what appears to make Rip fall asleep?
11. How does Irving create suspense in the beginning of p. 160?
12. What clues let us know a great deal of time has passed?
13. At what point in the passage on p. 161 did you become convinced the American Revolution had taken place while Rip slept?

14. How does Rip feel about not recognizing anyone in the altered setting?
15. Why does Rip take comfort in the news of his wife's death?
16. How does the tone change as the 2<sup>nd</sup> column on p. 164 begins?
17. What words and phrases help restore the genial tone?
18. Is Rip a different person for having had his experience in the mountains? Explain.
19. How does the story of Rip Van Winkle exemplify the characteristics of the American Romantic period? Give examples.