
Reading Log
 “Rip Van Winkle” by Washington Irving
 21st Century Skills: Communication and Critical Thinking

1. **AMERICAN ROMANTIC HERO** -- Rip Van Winkle is considered an American Romantic Hero. Romantic heroes have the following qualities: they are young (or young at heart); they are innocent and pure; they have a knowledge and understanding of people and life; they love nature; and they quest for higher truth. **Pick three of these characteristics to prove why Rip Van Winkle is a Romantic hero. Be sure to support each point with evidence from the story.**

Characteristics of the American Romantic Hero	How does Rip Van Winkle illustrate this characteristic? Provide examples from the text.	Page Number
1.		
2.		
3.		

2. Give three adjectives to describe Rip Van Winkle in the beginning of the story. What has made him this way? Cite evidence from the text to prove your answer.

3. When Rip awakens from his 20-year nap and is still in the woods, what three things show us that a significant amount of time has passed?

4. Several symbols of the newly created United States of America confuse Rip, who still thinks he's under the rule of King George III when he walks back into town. *Name two patriotic items that confuse Rip, but would likely delight a reader of this story in 1819.* (include page numbers).

5. What is the role of nature in the story? What does it represent? Use evidence or specific details from the story to support your answer. Write your response in a complete paragraph (5-6 complete sentences).

6. **CHARACTERISTICS OF ROMANTIC LITERATURE** – American Romanticism can be identified by the following characteristics: distrust of civilization; nostalgia for the past; concern for individual freedom; love for beauty of the natural landscape; and interest in the supernatural. Complete the chart below giving evidence as to how “Rip Van Winkle” is representative of American Romantic literature using at least three of these characteristics..

Characteristic	Example	Page Number
1.		
2.		
3.		

7. How did Dame Van Winkle die? How is this consistent with what we know about her from earlier in the story? (include page numbers)

