

大学课外英语 · 2 ·

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〔美〕 华盛顿·欧文 原著
赵文学 许琦 导读

瑞普·凡·温克尔

华盛顿·欧文 1783 年 4 月 3 日生于纽约，早年攻读法律，后从事写作。1890 年化名迪德里希发表《纽约外史》并赢得广泛的赞誉。1815 年赴英，经营家传企业，但以失败告终。此后继续写作，出版了《见闻札记》。这些作品为他赢得了国际声誉。1826 ~ 1829 年赴西班牙，在此期间写了《哥伦布传》和《阿尔罕伯拉》。1829 年去英格兰，后回到家乡，一直在那工作和研究直到 1859 年 11 月 28 日去世。

Washington Irving

Rip Van Winkle and Other Stories

Washington Irving was born in New York City on April 3rd, 1783. Although trained in law, he turned to writing. *A History of New York from the Beginning of the World to the End of the Dutch Dynasty* (1809), written under the name of Diedrich Knickerbocker, won him wide popularity. He journeyed to England in 1815 to manage a branch of the family industry which ended in failure. Turning to writing to support himself he wrote *The Sketch Book of Geoffrey Crayon, Gent* (1819-1820) from which these stories are taken and which earned him international acclaim. In 1826 he went to Spain on a diplomatic assignment and remained there for three years. This stay inspired the writing of *The History of the Life and Voyages of Christopher Columbus* (1828) and *The Alhambra* (1832). In 1829 he went to England and eventually returned to his home in Tarrytown, New York, where he worked and studied until his death on November 28th, 1859.

La Spiga

RIP VAN WINKLE

A POSTHUMOUS WRITING OF DIEDRICH KNICKERBOCKER

By Woden, God of Saxons
From whence comes Wensday, that is Wodensday,
Truth is a thing that ever I will keep
Unto thylke day in which I creep into
My sepulchre...

CARTWRIGHT

The following Tale was found among the papers of the late Diedrich Knickerbocker, an old gentleman of New York, who was very curious in the Dutch history of the province and the manners of the descendants from its primitive settlers. His historical researches, however, did not lie so much among books as among men, for the former are lamentably scanty on his favorite topics, whereas he found the old burghers, and still more their wives, rich in that legendary lore so invaluable to true history. Whenever, therefore, he happened upon a genuine Dutch family, snugly shut up in its low-roofed farm-house, under a spreading sycamore, he looked upon it as a little clasped volume of black letter and studied it with the zeal of a bookworm.

The result of all these researches was a history of the province during the reign of the Dutch governors, which he published some years since. There have been various opinions as to the literary character of his work, and, to tell the truth, it is not a whit better than it should be. Its chief merit is its scrupulous accuracy, which indeed was a little questioned on its first appearance, but has since been completely established, and it is now admitted into all historical collections as a book of unquestionable authority.

The old gentleman died shortly after the publication of his work, and now that he is dead and gone, it cannot do much harm to his memory to say that his time might have

whence: where. **Wodensday**: Woden's day.

ever: always.

unto: until. **thylke**: (*archaic*) that. **creep**: move quietly.

sepulchre: place where a dead body is put.

tale: story. **late**: *here*, dead, deceased.

settlers: people who come and live in a country. **did not lie**: *here*, were not. **former**: the first mentioned, *i.e.*, books.

lamentably: sadly. **scanty**: limited. **topics**: subjects. **whereas**: while. **burghers**: inhabitants of a borough.

lore: collective knowledge. **whenever**: every time.

happened upon: found.

snugly: comfortably. **shut up**: closed inside. **low-roofed**: having a roof which slopes close to the ground. **spreading**: covering a wide area. **sycamore**: type of tree. **clasped**: closed with a fastening. **volume of black letter**: book. **zeal**: enthusiasm. **bookworm**: person who loves books.

since: ago.

whit: the smallest particle.

scrupulous: careful, precise. **indeed**: in fact. **questioned**: doubted.

unquestionable: undoubted.

shortly: a short time.

harm: damage.

been much better employed in weightier labors. He, however, was apt to ride his hobby his own way; and though it did now and then kick up the dust a little in the eyes of his neighbors and grieve the spirit of some friends, for whom he felt the truest deference and affection, yet his errors and follies are remembered "more in sorrow than in anger," and it begins to be suspected that he never intended to injure or offend. But however his memory may be appreciated by critics, it is still held dear by many folks whose good opinion is well worth having particularly by certain biscuit bakers, who have gone so far as to imprint his likeness on their new-year cakes, and have thus given him a chance for immortality, almost equal to being stamped on a Waterloo Medal, or a Queen Anne's Farthing.

Whoever has made a voyage up the Hudson must remember the Kaatskill Mountains. They are a dismembered branch of the great Appalachian family, and are seen away to the west of the river, swelling up to a noble height and lording it over the surrounding country. Every change of season, every change of weather, indeed, every hour of the day produces some change in the magical hues and shapes of these mountains, and they are regarded by all the good wives; far and near, as perfect barometers. When the weather is fair and settled, they are clothed in blue and purple, and print their bold outlines on the clear evening sky; but, sometimes, when the rest of the landscape is cloudless, they will gather a hood of gray vapors about their summits, which, in the last rays of the setting sun, will glow and light up like a crown of glory.

At the foot of these fairy mountains, the voyager may have descried the light smoke curling up from a village, whose shingle roofs gleam among the trees, just where the blue tints of the upland melt away into the fresh green of the nearer landscape. It is a little village of great antiquity, having been founded by some of the Dutch colonists in the early times of the province, just about the beginning of the

employed: used. **weightier:** more serious. **labors:** work.
was apt: had the tendency. **hobby:** (*archaic*) small horse.
did ... kick up the dust: disturb (*note use of did for emphasis*).
now and then: occasionally. **grieve the spirit:** make sad.
deference: respect. **yet:** but. **errors:** mistakes.
follies: foolish things. **sorrow:** sadness.

injure: harm, damage. **however:** still, nevertheless.
held dear: believed strongly. **folks:** people.
is well worth: deserves, merits.
biscuit bakers: makers of biscuits. **imprint:** make a mark by stamping. **likeness:** image. **thus:** in this way.
stamped: impressed, printed.
Farthing: old bronze coin worth a quarter of a penny.

whoever: any person who. **voyage:** journey by water.
dismembered: divided.
branch: subdivision.
west: point of the horizon where the sun goes down. **swelling up:** becoming greater. **height:** vertical distance from the bottom to the top. **lording it over:** standing imperiously. **surrounding country:** country all around. **indeed:** in fact. **hues:** colours. **shapes:** forms. **regarded:** considered.
wives: *here*, women. **far:** distant. **barometers:** instruments for measuring the pressure of the atmosphere. **fair:** pleasant.
settled: unchanging. **clothed:** covered. **purple:** colour of red and blue mixed together. **print:** mark. **bold:** *here*, clear, well-marked. **outlines:** lines showing shape. **landscape:** countryside. **cloudless:** without clouds. **gather:** collect. **hood:** *here*, covering. **gray:** colour between black and white. **summits:** tops.
setting: going down. **glow:** shine. **light up:** be illuminated. **fairy:** enchanted, beautiful. **voyager:** traveller. **descried:** seen. **curling up:** going up in a twisted way. **shingle:** made of small, flat stones. **gleam:** shine softly. **tints:** variety of colours. **upland:** higher part of a region. **melt away:** disappear.
founded: established. **Dutch:** from Holland.
early: old.

government of the good Peter Stuyvesant (may he rest in peace!), and there were some of the houses of the original settlers standing within a few years, built of small yellow bricks brought from Holland, having latticed windows and gable fronts, surmounted with weathercocks.

In that same village, and in one of these very houses (which, to tell the precise truth, was sadly time-worn and weather-beaten), there lived many years since, while the country was yet a province of Great Britain, a simple, good-natured fellow of the name of Rip Van Winkle. He was a descendant of the Van Winkles who figured so gallantly in the chivalrous days of Peter Stuyvesant, and accompanied him to the siege of Fort Christina. He inherited, however, but little of the martial character of his ancestors. I have observed that he was a simple, goodnatured man; he was, moreover, a kind neighbor, and an obedient, henpecked husband. Indeed, to the latter circumstance might be owing that meekness of spirit which gained him such universal popularity, for those men are most apt to be obsequious and conciliating abroad who are under the discipline of shrews at home. Their tempers, doubtless, are rendered pliant and malleable in the fiery furnace of domestic tribulation, and a curtain lecture is worth all the sermons in the world for teaching the virtues of patience and long-suffering. A termagant wife may, therefore, in some respects, be considered a tolerable blessing; and if so, Rip Van Winkle was thrice blessed.

Certain it is that he was a great favorite among all the good wives of the village, who, as usual with the amiable sex, took his part in all family squabbles and never failed, whenever they talked those matters over in their evening gossipings, to lay all the blame on Dame Van Winkle. The children of the village, too, would shout with joy whenever he approached. He assisted at their sports, made their playthings, taught them to fly kites and shoot marbles, and told them long stories of ghosts, witches, and Indians. Whenever he went dodging about the village, he was surrounded by a troop of them, hanging on his skirts,

rest: lie in death.

settlers: colonists. **standing:** *here*, put up. **within:** not later than. **bricks:** blocks of clay, moulded and baked by sun or fire and used for building purposes. **latticed:** with small squares of glass in a framework of lead. **gable:** three-cornered part of an outside wall between sloping roofs. **surmounted:** having on the top. **weathercocks:** pointers in the shape of a cock, moved by the wind to show its direction. **sadly:** unhappily. **time-worn:** in a bad condition because of the passing of time. **weather-beaten:** damaged by the weather. **yet:** still. **good-natured:** kind, gentle. **fellow:** man. **figured:** behaved. **gallantly:** bravely, courageously. **chivalrous:** gallant, courteous. **accompanied:** went with. **siege:** operation of armed forces to capture a fortified place. **inherited:** received from an ancestor. **however:** all the same. **but:** only. **martial:** characteristic of war. **ancestors:** persons from whom one is descended. **moreover:** in addition. **neighbor:** person living near others. **henpecked:** ruled by his wife. **Indeed:** in fact. **to ... be owing:** may be the cause of. **latter:** the last mentioned, *i.e.* being henpecked. **meekness:** quality of being mild. **gained:** gave. **for:** because. **most apt:** the most likely to have the tendency. **obsequious:** submissive, obedient. **conciliating:** trying to find peaceful solutions. **abroad:** *here*, out of the house. **shrews:** bad-tempered women. **tempers:** characters. **doubtless:** without doubt. **rendered:** made. **pliant:** easily influenced. **malleable:** easily adapted. **fiery:** burning. **curtain lecture:** *here*, a long rebuke at home, in private. **termagant:** noisy, quarrelsome woman. **therefore:** for that reason. **blessing:** favour of God. **thrice:** three times. **blessed:** fortunate. **certain it is:** *emphatic*. **amiable:** pleasant. **took his part:** supported him. **squabbles:** quarrels. **never failed:** *here*, always managed. **talked ... over:** discussed. **gossipings:** talks about the affairs of other people. **lay all the blame on:** give all the responsibility to. **approached:** came near. **playthings:** toys. **kites:** frameworks of wood covered with cloth or paper, made to fly at the end of long strings. **shoot:** *here*, make move quickly. **marbles:** small glass balls used as toys. **witches:** women using magic for evil purposes. **dodging about:** moving quickly about to avoid being seen. **troop:** *here*, large number. **hanging:** holding. **skirts:** *here*, long ends of a jacket or coat.

clambering on his back, and playing a thousand tricks on him with impunity; and not a dog would bark at him throughout the neighborhood.

The great error in Rip's composition was an insuperable aversion to all kinds of profitable labor. It could not be from the want of assiduity or perseverance, for he would sit on a wet rock, with a rod as long and heavy as a Tartar's lance, and fish all day without a murmur, even though he should not be encouraged by a single nibble. He would carry a fowling piece on his shoulder for hours together, trudging through woods and swamps and up hill and down dale to shoot a few squirrels or wild pigeons. He would never refuse to assist a neighbor even in the roughest toil, and was a foremost man at all country frolics for husking Indian corn or building stone fences; the women of the village, too, used to employ him to run their errands and to do such little odd jobs as their less obliging husbands would not do for them. In a word, Rip was ready to attend to anybody's business but his own; but as to doing family duty and keeping his farm in order, he found it impossible.

In fact, he declared it was of no use to work on his farm; it was the most pestilent little piece of ground in the whole country; everything about it went wrong, and would go wrong, in spite of him. His fences were continually falling to pieces; his cow would either go astray or get among the cabbages; weeds were sure to grow quicker in his fields than anywhere else; the rain always made a point of setting in just as he had some outdoor work to do; so that though his patrimonial estate had dwindled away under his management, acre by acre, until there was little more left than a mere patch of Indian corn and potatoes, yet it was the worst-conditioned farm in the neighborhood.

His children, too, were as ragged and wild as if they belonged to nobody. His son Rip, an urchin begotten in his own likeness, promised to inherit the habits, with the old clothes, of his father. He was generally seen trooping like a colt at his mother's heels, equipped in a pair of his father's cast-off galligaskins, which he had much ado to hold up

clambering: climbing. **tricks**: jokes.

with impunity: without risk of punishment. **not a dog would bark**

at: *here*, all dogs knew and were friendly towards. **throughout**:

in every part of. **neighborhood**: area near the place. **composi-**

tion: *here*, character. **aversion**: dislike. **profitable**: making a

profit. **labor**: work. **want**: absence. **assiduity**: constant appli-

cation. **for**: because. **wet**: covered with water. **rod**: thin, straight

piece of wood used for fishing. **Tartar**: member of a Mongoloid

people who established a powerful state in central Asia under

Genghis Khan. **lance**: long pointed weapon. **murmur**: *here*,

complaint. **nibble**: small bite; *here*, from a fish. **fowling piece**:

light shot-gun used in hunting birds. **shoulder**: part of the body

where the arm joins the trunk. **hours together**: many hours.

trudging: walking heavily. **woods**: area of land covered by trees.

swamps: areas of soft wet land. **hill**: elevation smaller than a

mountain. **dale**: valley. **shoot**: kill with a gun. **squirrels**: tree-

living rodents with bushy tails and which feed on nuts, seeds, etc.

assist: help. **roughest**: requiring the most physical effort. **toil**:

unpleasant job. **foremost**: first. **frolics**: light-hearted occasions.

husking: removing the dry coverings of. **Indian corn**: maize.

fences: barriers between fields. **run their errands**: do their

commissions. **odd**: occasional. **but**: except. **of no use**: useless.

pestilent: annoying.

fences: barriers.

go astray: get lost.

cabbages: cultivated plants with edible green leaves. **weeds**:

wild plants growing where they are not wanted.

setting in: *here*, falling heavily. **outdoor**: in the open air.

though: although. **patrimonial**: inherited. **estate**: land. **dwin-**

dled: become smaller. **management**: care, direction. **acre**: unit

of measure for land. **mere**: simple. **patch**: very small area.

worst-conditioned: in the worst condition. **farm**: area of land

used for growing crops, raising animals, etc. **ragged**: with old and

torn clothes. **urchin**: troublesome small boy. **begotten**: created.

likeness: resemblance.

trooping: *here*, marching.

colt: young horse. **heels**: back parts of the feet. **equipped in**:

wearing. **cast-off**: thrown away, abandoned. **galligaskins**: loose

wide trousers worn by men in the 17th century. **ado**: trouble.

with one hand as a fine lady does her train in bad weather.

Rip Van Winkle, however, was one of those happy mortals of foolish, well-oiled dispositions who take the world easy, eat white bread or brown, whichever can be got with least thought or trouble, and would rather starve on a penny than work for a pound. If left to himself, he would have whistled life away in perfect contentment; but his wife kept continually dinning in his ears about his idleness, his carelessness, and the ruin he was bringing on his family. Morning, noon, and night, her tongue was incessantly going, and everything he said or did was sure to produce a torrent of household eloquence. Rip had but one way of replying to all lectures of the kind, and that, by frequent use, had grown into a habit. He shrugged his shoulders, shook his head, cast up his eyes, but said nothing. This, however, always provoked a fresh volley from his wife, so that he was fain to draw off his forces and take to the outside of the house – the only side which, in truth, belongs to a henpecked husband.

Rip's sole domestic adherent was his dog, Wolf, who was as much henpecked as his master, for Dame Van Winkle regarded them as companions in idleness, and even looked upon Wolf with an evil eye as the cause of his master's going so often astray. True it is, in all points of spirit befitting an honorable dog, he was as courageous an animal as ever scoured the woods – but what courage can withstand the ever-during and all-besetting terrors of a woman's tongue? The moment Wolf entered the house his crest fell, his tail drooped to the ground, or curled between his legs, he sneaked about with a gallows air, casting many a sidelong glance at Dame Van Winkle, and at the least flourish of a broomstick or ladle he would fly to the door with yelping precipitation.

Times grew worse and worse with Rip Van Winkle as years of matrimony rolled on; a tart temper never mellows with age, and a sharp tongue is the only edged tool that grows keener with constant use. For a long while he used to console himself, when driven from home, by frequent-

train: part of a long dress that trails on the ground.

mortals: human beings. **foolish**: simple. **well-oiled**: smooth. **dispositions**: characters. **whichever**: no matter which. **got**: obtained. **least**: smallest. **rather**: prefer. **starve**: die of hunger. **to himself**: alone.

whistled: produced a high pitched sound through rounded lips, especially when happy. **whistled life away**: spent his life whistling and not working. **contentment**: happiness, satisfaction. **kept**: continued. **dinning**: *here*, complaining. **idleness**: laziness, indolence. **carelessness**: quality of doing things without serious attention. **bringing on**: causing. **noon**: afternoon. **going**: moving. **torrent**: *here*, great quantity. **household**: domestic. **eloquence**: powerful language. **but**: only. **replying**: answering. **grown into**: become. **shrugged**: lifted slightly. **shook**: moved from side to side. **cast up his eyes**: looked upwards. **provoked**: caused. **volley**: burst of words in rapid succession. **fain**: compelled. **draw off his forces**: retire, withdraw. **take to the outside of**: go out of. **henpecked**: ruled by his wife. **sole**: only. **adherent**: supporter.

regarded: considered. **idleness**: state of not being active. **looked upon ... with an evil eye**: considered ... bad.

astray: away from the correct path or direction. **true it is**: (*emphatic*) it is true. **befitting**: right, suitable, for.

scoured: went rapidly into every part of.

withstand: resist. **ever-during**: everlasting, endless. **all-besetting**: attacking on all sides.

his crest fell: *here*, he became humble. **tail**: movable part at the end of an animal's body. **drooped**: bent downwards. **curled**: curved. **sneaked**: went quietly and secretly. **gallows**: wooden structure on which a criminal is hanged by the neck until dead. **gallows air**: expression of one who is about to be hanged. **casting ... glance**: looking quickly. **sidelong**: out of the corner of the eyes. **flourish**: movement. **ladle**: large spoon used in cooking. **yelping**: making the high pitched sounds of a dog in pain. **precipitation**: haste, hurry. **rolled on**: passed. **tart**: sharp, acid. **mellows**: becomes sweeter. **edged**: sharpened. **tool**: instrument. **grows**: becomes. **keener**: sharper. **a long while**: a long time. **console**: give comfort to. **driven from**: forced to leave.

ing a kind of perpetual club of the sages, philosophers, and other idle personages of the village, which held its sessions on a bench before a small inn, designated by a rubicund portrait of His Majesty George the Third. Here they used to sit in the shade through a long, lazy summer's day, talking listlessly over village gossip or telling endless sleepy stories about nothing. But it would have been worth any statesman's money to have heard the profound discussions that sometimes took place when by chance an old newspaper fell into their hands from some passing traveler. How solemnly they would listen to the contents, as drawled out by Derrick Van Bummel, the schoolmaster, a dapper, learned little man who was not to be daunted by the most gigantic word in the dictionary; and how sagely they would deliberate upon public events some months after they had taken place.

The opinions of this junta were completely controlled by Nicholas Vedder, a patriarch of the village and landlord of the inn, at the door of which he took his seat from morning till night, just moving sufficiently to avoid the sun and keep in the shade of a large tree, so that the neighbors could tell the hour by his movements as accurately as by a sundial. It is true he was rarely heard to speak, but smoked his pipe incessantly. His adherents, however (for every great man has his adherents), perfectly understood him, and knew how to gather his opinions. When anything that was read or related displeased him, he was observed to smoke his pipe vehemently and to send forth short, frequent, and angry puffs; but when pleased, he would inhale the smoke slowly and tranquilly and emit it in light and placid clouds, and sometimes, taking the pipe from his mouth and letting the fragrant vapor curl about his nose, would gravely nod his head in token of perfect approbation.

From even this stronghold the unlucky Rip was at length routed by his termagant wife, who would suddenly break in upon the tranquillity of the assemblage and call the members all to naught; nor was that august personage, Nicholas Vedder himself, sacred from the daring tongue of

frequenting: often going to. **sages**: wise men.
idle: lazy, not willing to work. **sessions**: meetings.
bench: long wooden seat. **before**: in front of. **inn**: public house where lodging, drink and meals may be had. **designated**: given a name. **rubicund**: of a reddish colour. **portrait**: picture. **used to sit**: had the habit of sitting. **shade**: relative darkness produced by the blocking out of light. **through**: during. **lazy**: causing indolence. **listlessly**: in a tired, bored, way. **gossip**: talk about the affairs of others. **endless**: having no end. **sleepy**: inducing sleep. **been worth**: deserved. **statesman**: person taking an important part in the management of state affairs. **profound**: serious. **took place**: happened. **by chance**: accidentally. **drawled out**: spoken so the the sounds of the vowels were longer than usual. **dapper**: smart in appearance. **daunted**: discouraged. **most gigantic**: longest. **sagely**: wisely. **deliberate**: discuss.
taken place: happened.
junto: *here*, group.
landlord: keeper.
took his seat: sat.
avoid: *here*, not to be in.
neighbors: people living near.

sundial: device that shows the time by the shadow of a rod or plate on a scaled dial. **incessantly**: continuously. **adherents**: supporters.

gather: *here*, understand.
displeased: did not please.
vehemently: strongly. **send forth**: produce.
puffs: short, quick sendings out of smoke. **inhale**: draw into the lungs. **tranquilly**: quietly. **emit**: let out. **light**: *here*, not dense.

curl: twist, curve. **gravely**: seriously.
nod: move up and down as a sign of agreement. **in token**: as a sign. **approbation**: approval. **stronghold**: place where a cause or idea has strong support. **at length**: after some time, finally. **routed**: forced out. **termagant**: noisy, quarrelsome. **break in**: interrupt. **assemblage**: group. **naught**: ruin. **august**: dignified. **personage**: character, person. **sacred**: *here*, safe. **daring**: challenging.

this terrible virago, who charged him outright with encouraging her husband in habits of idleness.

Poor Rip was at last reduced almost to despair, and his only alternative, to escape from the labor of the farm and clamor of his wife, was to take gun in hand and stroll away into the woods. Here he would sometimes seat himself at the foot of a tree and share the contents of his wallet with Wolf, with whom he sympathized as a fellow sufferer in persecution. "Poor Wolf," he would say "thy mistress leads thee a dog's life of it; but never mind my lad, whilst I live thou shalt never want a friend to stand by thee!" Wolf would wag his tail, look wistfully in his master's face, and if dogs can feel pity, I verily believe he reciprocated the sentiment with all his heart.

In a long ramble of the kind of a fine autumnal day, Rip had unconsciously scrambled to one of the highest parts of the Kaatskill Mountains. He was after his favorite sport of squirrel shooting, and the still solitudes had echoed and re-echoed with the reports of his gun. Panting and fatigued, he threw himself, late in the afternoon, on a green knoll, covered with mountain herbage, that crowned the brow of a precipice. From an opening between the trees he could overlook all the lower country for many a mile of rich woodland. He saw at a distance the lordly Hudson, far, far below him, moving on its silent but majestic course, with the reflection of a purple cloud or the sail of a lagging bark here and there sleeping on its glassy bosom, and at last losing itself in the blue highlands.

On the other side he looked down into a deep mountain glen, wild, lonely, and shagged, the bottom filled with fragments from the impending cliffs, and scarcely lighted by the reflected rays of the setting sun. For some time Rip lay musing on this scene. Evening was gradually advancing; the mountains began to throw their long blue shadows over the valleys. He saw that it would be dark long before he could reach the village, and he heaved a heavy sigh when he thought of encountering the terrors of Dame Van Winkle.

virago: violent, bad-tempered woman. **charged**: accused. **out-right**: openly.
despair: desperation.

clamor: noise. **gun**: firearm. **stroll away**: go for a quiet walk.

share: divide. **wallet**: *here*, small bag fixed to the belt.
fellow: companion.
thy: your. **mistress**: woman in charge of a house.
thee: you. **never mind**: do not give importance. **lad**: boy. **whilst**: while. **shalt**: shall. **want**: need. **stand by**: support.
wag: move from side to side. **wistfully**: sadly.
verily: really. **reciprocated**: returned.

ramble: walk for pleasure.
unconsciously: not intentionally. **scrambled**: climbed.
was after: was practising.
still: without movement, quiet. **solitudes**: solitary areas.
reports: sounds of explosions. **panting**: taking short, quick breaths. **fatigued**: very tired. **threw himself**: sat or lay down quickly. **knoll**: small hill. **herbage**: grass and other plants.
crowned: covered the top. **brow**: *here*, top of a slope.
overlook: have a view of from above.
woodland: land covered with trees. **lordly**: majestic.

lagging: slowly moving. **bark**: barque, small sailing boat.
here and there: in various places. **glassy**: smooth and shiny.
bosom: *here*, expanse. **losing itself**: disappearing. **highlands**: high mountainous country.
glen: narrow valley. **lonely**: solitary. **shagged**: rough.
impending: overhanging, perpendicular. **cliffs**: steep faces of rock. **scarcely**: hardly, almost not. **setting**: going down.
musling: thinking deeply or dreamily.
shadows: dark areas produced by the blocking off of light.

heaved a heavy sigh: took in a deep breath and exhaled.
encountering: meeting.