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(英语课程标准四级之二)

*The Legends of Sleepy Hollow
and Rip Van Winkle*

睡谷和瑞普·凡·温克尔的传说

WASHINGTON IRVING

原著 华盛顿·欧文

“骑手的头还在战场上，”睡谷的人讲，“每天深夜，他总骑马回去找。”

乡村教师——伊卡博德·克兰——见到了无头骑手。有这回事吗？

瑞普·凡·温克尔不爱干农活，老婆总是冲他发火。他想丢开烦恼，无忧无虑地过日子。他拿上枪，带着狗，走进了卡兹吉尔丛山。



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（第 100 卷）第 1 号



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Retold by Anne Collins

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注释 张 春



上海外语教育出版社



MACMILLAN

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

睡谷和瑞普·凡·温克尔的传说 = The Legends of Sleepy Hollow and Rip Van Winkle / (美) 欧文著; (英) 柯林斯改写; 张春注. — 上海: 上海外语教育出版社, 2003
(轻松读经典丛书)
ISBN 7-81080-691-2

I. 睡… II. ①欧…②柯…③张… III. 英语—语言读物, 小说 IV. H319.4: I

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2002)第 092722 号

图字: 09-2002-683号

出版发行: 上海外语教育出版社

(上海外国语大学内) 邮编: 200083

电 话: 021-65425300 (总机), 35051812 (发行部)

电子邮箱: bookinfo@sflep.com.cn

网 址: <http://www.sflep.com.cn> <http://www.sflep.com>

责任编辑: 谢 宇

特约编辑: 邓中良

印 刷: 上海江杨印刷厂
经 销: 新华书店上海发行所
开 本: 787×965 1/32 印张 2.625 字数 45 千字
版 次: 2003 年 2 月第 1 版 2003 年 2 月第 1 次印刷
印 数: 10 000 册

书 号: ISBN 7-81080-691-2 / I · 062
定 价: 3.90 元

本版图书如有印装质量问题, 可向本社调换

Macmillan Heinemann English Language Teaching
Between Towns Road, Oxford OX4 3PP
A division of Macmillan Publishers Limited
Companies and representatives throughout the world
This retold version for Heinemann ELT Guided Readers
Text © Anne Collins 2000
Illustrations © Francisco Meléndez 2000
Design © Macmillan Publishers Limited 2000

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This version first published 2000

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First published by Macmillan Publishers Limited,
United Kingdom.

This edition is for sale in the People's Republic of China
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本书由麦克米伦出版有限公司授权上海外语教育出版社出版。
仅供在中华人民共和国境内销售。

出版说明

为了促进我国中学生的英语学习,培养他们的文化素养和文学修养,上海外语教育出版社经过长时间的酝酿和市场调研,决定将英国麦克米伦出版公司的一套文学名著简写本引荐给我国的中学生。

麦克米伦出版公司是从20世纪初开始陆续出版这套文学名著简写本的。为了满足世界各地英语为非母语国家,也包括英语国家不同程度中学生的阅读需要,他们请专家对一些大家耳熟能详的世界文学名著进行了改写,在保留原著的故事情节和原著者的创作风格的同时,适当地降低了语言的难度,至今已经推出了200多本。若干年过去了,这些书仍然受到世界各地读者的欢迎。

外教社从麦克米伦出版公司的这套文学名著简写本中精心挑选了40本,汇成一套“轻松读经典丛书”,难易程度跨越“英语课程标准”的3级—8级。这套丛书选编了英、美、法等国文学大师的经典之作,包括莎士比亚、狄更斯、马克·吐温、哈代、大仲马等著名作家的作品。为了让中学生在阅读过程中更好地把握原书的精髓和作家的创作历程,外教社还特地对读物中的语言难点做了注释;并加入了一篇关于作家、作品的背景介绍。

我们衷心希望“轻松读经典丛书”能够有助于提高我国中学生的文学欣赏水平,陶冶他们的道德情操,增强他们的英语阅读能力,成为开启中学生英语文学名著阅读之门的金钥匙。

外教社编辑部

2002年11月

简 介

华盛顿·欧文,美国作家,1783年4月30日生于纽约。年轻时学习法律,曾先后在几家律师事务所执业。从1802年开始创作故事,撰写文章。作品起初发表在报上,后收集成册出版。

1804年至1806年欧文在欧洲旅行。1805年再次离开美国,在欧洲定居多年。先去英国利物浦,在他哥哥开设的公司里工作。11年后去西班牙,任职于政府部门,住在马德里。随后又到英国定居几年,1832年回国。他的书在当时已极为畅销。

1842年,欧文再次去马德里工作,并任政府要职。1846年欧文回国,他住在纽约附近的塔里镇一幢漂亮的宅子里,直到1859年过世。

欧文是美国第一位幽默故事大家。他也写些旅游见闻札记,还著有美国第一任总统华盛顿传记。

《睡谷的传说》和《瑞普·凡·温克尔》最初出现在《见闻札记》一书里。该书1820年出版,是欧文最畅销的作品之一。

17 世纪初,荷兰人从尼德兰来到北美洲这片新大陆——他们是早期开拓者。他们大多在哈得逊河流附近建起家园。大约 200 年后,就是《瑞普·凡·温克尔》故事开始时,该地已是英国殖民地。英国拥有这块大陆,从 1760 年到 1820 年由乔治三世统治。北美有人对此感到高兴,喜欢这位英国国王——对他忠心耿耿。还有许多人不想他们的土地被英国统治。他们要生活在独立的国土,有自己的政府,自己的法律。他们和英国军队打了一仗。美国人打赢了,英国人离开了殖民地。瑞普·凡·温克尔的故事结束时,他生活在一个独立自主的国家——美利坚合众国。他们拥有一位总统,不是一位国王。它的第一任总统是乔治·华盛顿。

本书的另一则故事《睡谷的传说》发生在 19 世纪早期,也就是上面提到的这场战争之后。

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THE LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW

1

The Ghost of the Soldier

ON the eastern bank of the great Hudson River¹, in North America, there is a small town. Its name is Tarry Town. Once the town had a different name. Why did it change? This is the reason. Wives often sent their husbands to the market in the town to buy and sell things. "Come back quickly," the wives always said. But the husbands never returned home quickly. They stayed or "tarried" in the town and they drank beer at the inns there. So people started to call the place Tarry Town.

About two miles from Tarry Town is a little hollow—or valley—between some high hills. A small river runs through this valley. The valley is a very peaceful place. Everyone who goes there soon feels peaceful. They quickly forget their troubles. And everyone who lives there always

1 Hudson River: 哈得逊河

feels sleepy. Because of this strange peaceful feeling, the valley is called “Sleepy Hollow”.

Dutch settlers first came to Sleepy Hollow early in the seventeenth century. They made their homes there. But before the Dutch people¹ came, Native Americans had lived there. These people believed in many different spirits². Perhaps these spirits made Sleepy Hollow a strange and mysterious³ place.

There was something very strange about the people who lived in Sleepy Hollow in the early years of the nineteenth century. They were as peaceful and as sleepy as the valley itself. They believed strongly in God. But they also believed very strongly in ghosts and spirits. They often saw strange things at night. They often heard music in the forest when nobody else was there.

There were many stories about ghosts and spirits in Sleepy Hollow and the area near it. The most famous of these stories was about the ghost of a man on a horse. Lots of people saw the man—that is what they said. He rode a huge black horse, as fast as the wind. He was always seen late at night. And there was something even more terrible about him. He had no head! So the people who lived in the area

1 Dutch people: 荷兰人 2 spirit: 鬼怪 3 mysterious: 神秘的



called him, “The Headless Horseman¹”.

Many people had seen the Headless Horseman late at night. He rode in Sleepy Hollow and he also traveled on the other roads in the area. He was often seen near a small church², a few miles from the valley.

Who was this Headless Horseman? Nobody really knew. But some people told a story about him.

“The Headless Horseman is the ghost³ of a soldier,” they said. “This soldier was killed in the war between Britain and the American colony. There was a terrible battle in this area. In this battle, the soldier’s head was shot off by a cannonball⁴ from a British gun.

“His body was taken to a little church near the battlefield,” these people continued. “It was buried in the graveyard next to the church. But his head still lies somewhere on the battlefield. Every night, the Horseman rides back to the battlefield to look for his head. But he never finds it. And he always has to return to the graveyard⁵ before dawn. All ghosts have to go back to their graves before the daylight comes. And the Headless Horseman is always in a hurry because he’s always late. That’s why he rides so fast.”

1 the Headless Horseman: 无头骑手 2 church: 教堂 3 ghost: 鬼魂 4 cannonball: 炮弹 5 graveyard: 墓地

2

The Schoolmaster

THE schoolmaster of Sleepy Hollow was a man named Ichabod Crane. His name was a good one because he looked like the kind of bird which is called a crane¹. He was very tall and thin, with narrow shoulders and long arms and legs. His head was small, and very flat on the top. He had huge ears, large green eyes and a very long nose. He was not handsome at all.

Ichabod's clothes did not fit him well. They were loose, and they flapped² in the wind. So when he walked, the schoolmaster looked very strange.

The school was a low building with one large room, and Ichabod was the only teacher there. This schoolhouse stood by itself at the bottom of the valley. The hills around it were covered with trees. A small river ran near the schoolhouse.

1 crane: 鹤 2 flap: 飘动



On summer days, the windows of the school-house were always open. Anyone who passed could hear Ichabod's pupils saying their lessons in sleepy voices.

When lessons had finished for the day, Ichabod often went home with one of the children. Some boys and girls had pretty older sisters. Ichabod liked young, pretty ladies. And some of his pupils had mothers who were good cooks. Ichabod liked to go home with these children most of all.

Ichabod was very thin, but he ate a huge amount of food. He loved talking about food and he loved thinking about food. Most of all, he loved eating it.

Ichabod loved food, but he loved singing too. He taught a group of young people to sing psalms¹ —religious² songs. Once a week, the group met for psalm-singing lessons. And every Sunday, Ichabod stood with his pupils in the church in the valley and sang psalms with them.

Ichabod had a good life. He did not earn very much money from teaching. He could not buy a house of his own. So he stayed at the houses of different farmers in the area. He stayed with each farmer for a week. Each week, a

1 psalm: 赞美诗 2 religious: 宗教的

farmer gave the schoolmaster a bed to sleep in and food to eat. And Ichabod helped the farmers with the work on their farms. He mended fences. He took water to the horses. He cut wood for the farmers' fires. Sometimes he helped the farmers' wives to look after their children.

The farmers' wives were always happy to see Ichabod. They often invited him to tea. They made delicious¹ cakes for him. The young women of the area liked Ichabod too. Sometimes he took walks with them, or read them funny stories. They smiled at him whenever they met him.

All the people of Sleepy Hollow respected Ichabod Crane because he was a schoolmaster. He was clever—he worked with his mind, not with his hands. “He’s a very intelligent² man,” everyone said. Most of the people in the valley could not read or write. But Ichabod *could* read. So he was an important man in the area.

Ichabod Crane believed in God, but he also believed very strongly in ghosts and spirits. On summer evenings, after lessons had finished, he often lay on the grass beside the small river. He lay on the warm grass and read his favorite book. It was a book about ghosts.

1 delicious: 可口的 2 intelligent: 有才智的



Ichabod loved the stories in this book, but they frightened him. He believed everything that he read in them! He often read the book until the sky was dark. Then he could no longer see the pages, so he stopped reading. But then he had to walk back in the dark, to the farmhouse where he was staying.

A forest covered a large part of the area. Often, Ichabod had to walk through the forest to get to the farmhouse. These walks in the dark were terrible for him. He saw ghosts and spirits all around him. The branches of the trees looked like ghostly hands. And they were all trying to grab¹ him.

And there were strange noises in the forest at night. They were really the noises of animals and birds in the trees. But to Ichabod, they were the sounds of evil spirits. Sometimes, his heart beat fast with fear and his legs would not move.

“This is terrible!” he thought, whenever this happened. “There are evil spirits here. They’re hiding in the trees and they want to take me away with them. What can I do? I’ll sing a psalm. Then the spirits won’t be able to hurt me.”

So Ichabod often sang a psalm as he walked

1 grab: 抓住

through the dark forest:

*I'm not afraid of ghosts
or evil spirits of the night.
God will always lead me
from the darkness to the light.*

The people of Sleepy Hollow often sat outside the doors of their houses in the evenings. They heard the sound of Ichabod's strange, high voice as he passed their homes.

"What's that strange noise?" they asked each other. "Is it a spirit? Oh, no, it's only Ichabod Crane. He's singing as he walks home through the forest!"

On winter evenings, Ichabod sometimes sat with the old women of Sleepy Hollow. He sat by their kitchen fires with them, eating apples and listening to their wonderful ghost stories.

Ichabod's favorite ghost stories were about the Headless Horseman. But when he had to walk home through the forest in the dark winter night, he tried to forget about the stories. He was even more frightened than in the summer.

"Does the terrible Horseman only travel on the roads?" he asked himself. "Or does he haunt¹ the forest too?"

1 haunt: (鬼魂)出没