

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

by Washington Irving

Finding the Main Idea

Washington Irving wrote "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" in 1820. It is a haunting tale about a thin and timid teacher named Ichabod Crane, who has a terrifying encounter with the legendary Headless Horseman. In this passage, Ichabod is leaving for a party on an old, borrowed horse.



Ichabod Crane runs from the Headless Horseman.

Ichabod was a suitable figure for such a steed. He rode with short stirrups, which brought his knees nearly up to the pommel of the saddle; his sharp elbows stuck out like grasshoppers'; he carried his whip perpendicularly in his hand, like a sceptre, and as his horse jogged on, the motion of his arms was not unlike the flapping of a pair of wings. A small wool hat rested on the top of his nose, for so his scanty strip of forehead might be called, and the skirts of his black coat fluttered out almost to the horse's tail. Such was the appearance of Ichabod and his steed as they shambled out of the gate of Hans Van Ripper, and it was altogether such an apparition as is seldom to be met with in broad daylight.

The Main Idea and Supporting Ideas

Write the main idea of the paragraph in your own words.

Write three supporting ideas for the main idea.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

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Actual wording and supporting ideas will vary. Example of correct answers:

Write the main idea of the paragraph in your own words.

Ichabod looked ridiculous riding the horse.

Write three supporting ideas for the main idea.

1. **His elbows stuck out and made him look like an insect.**

2. **His arms and elbows flapped as the horse moved.**

3. **His coattails fluttered a long way behind him.**