

Name _____

Ichabod Crane and the Headless Horseman

In the sleepy town of Sleepy Hollow, a young boy named Thomas loved telling ghost stories. His favorite tale was about the Headless Horseman, a spooky figure who rode through the woods at night searching for his lost head.



One crisp autumn evening, Thomas and his best friend Emily decided to walk home from school through the old forest. "Do you think the Headless Horseman is real?" Emily asked, clutching her lantern tightly.

Thomas smirked. "Of course not! It's just a story to scare people." But as they ventured deeper into the woods, the wind howled through the trees, and the shadows seemed to dance. Suddenly, the sound of hooves echoed in the distance.

"Who's there?" Thomas called out, his voice trembling. A dark figure on a mighty black horse emerged from the mist. The rider wore a flowing cape, but-most terrifying of all-his head was missing!

Emily grabbed Thomas's arm. "It's him!" she whispered. The Headless Horseman raised his arm, holding a glowing pumpkin.

"Don't be afraid!" a cheerful voice called out. The friends stared in confusion as the figure removed a mask, revealing the face of Mr. Harper, their schoolteacher. He laughed. "I'm practicing for the town's Halloween play!"

Relieved, Thomas and Emily laughed along. "You really had us scared!" Thomas said, still catching his breath.

From then on, Thomas made sure to include the "real" Headless Horseman in his stories, but he always ended them with a good laugh.