

1. Find out something about the writer's biography. How might the writer's life and experiences have contributed to the substance of the story?
 - He was single
 - adopted a daughter that died of TB
 - was going to be a lawyer, but decided to become a writer after he no longer had to run the family business.
 - Rip van winkle was inspired by german folktales
2. Find out what was going on in the United States at the time of the story's publication: historically, politically, socially, culturally. In what ways does the story reflect its time?
 - The American Revolution (end of it)
 - The formation of the United States
 - the story is quite literally about how Rip Van Winkle "travels" through time
3. Pay attention to patterns of imagery, metaphor, allusion, foreshadowing, dramatic irony, and other literary techniques.
 - very nice imagery on page 30 (the first paragraph)
 - "He...told them stories of ghosts, witches, and Indians." (31)
 - metaphor? (31, top)
 - "The great error in Rip's composition was an isuperable aversion to all kinds of profitable labor" (31)
 - personification: "her tongue was incessantly going" (32)
 - dog imagery (32)
 - scenery imagery (33)
 - simile "Nothing interrupted the stillness of the scene, but the noise of the balls, whenever they were rolled, echoed along the mountains like rumbiling peals of thunder" (35)
 - i like the description of the town on page 36
 - good showing not telling and incorporation of history on page 37
 - nine pins has to be a metaphor for something.