I mention this spot with all possible laud, for it is in such little retired Dutch valleys, found here and there embosomed in the great State of New York, that population, manners, and customs remain fixed, while the great torrent of migration and improvement, which is making such incessant changes in other parts of this restless country, sweeps by them unobserved. They are like those little nooks of still water, which border a rapid stream, where we may see the straw and bubble riding quietly at anchor, or slowly revolving in their mimic harbor, undisturbed by the rush of the passing current. Though many years have elapsed since I trod the drowsy shades of Sleepy Hollow, yet I question whether I should not still find the same trees and the same families vegetating in its sheltered bosom.

In this by-place of nature there abode, in a remote period of American history, that is to say, some thirty years since, a worthy wight of the name of Ichabod Crane, who sojourned, or, as he expressed it, “tarried,” in Sleepy Hollow, for the purpose of instructing the children of the vicinity. He was a native of Connecticut, a State which supplies the Union with pioneers for the mind as well as for the forest, and sends forth yearly its legions of frontier woodmen and country schoolmasters. The cognomen of Crane was not inapplicable to his person. He was tall, but exceedingly lank, with narrow shoulders, long arms and legs, hands that dangled a mile out of his sleeves, feet that might have served for shovels, and his whole frame most loosely hung together.

His schoolhouse was a low building of one large room, rudely constructed of logs; the windows partly glazed, and partly patched with leaves of old copybooks. It was most ingeniously secured at vacant hours, by a withe twisted in the handle of the door, and stakes set against the window shutters; so that though a thief might get in with perfect ease, he would find some embarrassment in getting out,—an idea most probably borrowed by the architect, Yost Van Houten, from the mystery of an eelpot. The schoolhouse stood in a rather lonely but pleasant situation, just at the foot of a woody hill, with a brook running close by, and a formidable birch-tree growing at one end of it. From hence the low murmur of his pupils’ voices, conning over their lessons, might be heard in a drowsy summer’s day, like the hum of a beehive; interrupted now and then by the authoritative voice of the master, in the tone of menace or command, or, peradventure, by the appalling sound of the birch, as he urged some tardy loiterer along the flowery path of knowledge. Truth to say, he was a conscientious man, and ever bore in mind the golden maxim, “Spare the rod and spoil the child.” Ichabod Crane’s scholars certainly were not spoiled.

He assisted the farmers occasionally in the lighter labors of their farms, helped to make hay, mended the fences, took the horses to water, drove the cows from pasture, and cut wood for the winter fire. He laid aside, too, all the dominant dignity and absolute sway with which he lorded it in his little empire, the school, and became wonderfully gentle and ingratiating. He found favor in the eyes of the mothers by petting the children, particularly the youngest; and like the lion bold, which whilom so magnanimously the lamb did hold, he would sit with a child on one knee, and rock a cradle with his foot for whole hours together.

In addition to his other vocations, he was the singing-master of the neighborhood, and picked up many bright shillings by instructing the young folks in psalmody. It was a matter of no little vanity to him on Sundays, to take his station in front of the church gallery, with a band of chosen singers; where, in his own mind, he completely carried away the palm from the parson. Certain it is, his voice resounded far above all the rest of the congregation; and there are peculiar quavers still to be heard in that church, and which may even be heard half a mile off, quite to the opposite side of the millpond, on a still Sunday morning, which are said to be legitimately descended from the nose of Ichabod Crane. Thus, by divers little makeshifts, the worthy pedagogue got on tolerably enough, and was thought, by all who understood nothing of the labor of headwork, to have a wonderfully easy life of it.

From his half-itinerant life, also, he was a kind of travelling gazette, carrying the whole budget of local gossip from house to house, so that his appearance was always greeted with satisfaction. He was, moreover, esteemed by the women as a man of great erudition, for he had read several books quite through, and was a perfect master of Cotton Mather’s “History of New England Witchcraft,” in which, by the way, he most firmly and potently believed.

He was, in fact, an odd mixture of small shrewdness and simple credulity. His appetite for the marvellous, and his powers of digesting it, were equally extraordinary; and both had been increased by his residence in this spell-bound region. No tale was too gross or monstrous for his capacious swallow. It was often his delight, after his school was dismissed in the afternoon, to stretch himself on the rich bed of clover bordering the little brook that whimpered by his schoolhouse, and there con over old Mather’s direful tales, until the gathering dusk of evening made the printed page a mere mist before his eyes. Then, as he wended his way by swamp and stream and awful woodland, to the farmhouse where he happened to be quartered, every sound of nature, at that witching hour, fluttered his excited imagination,—the moan of the whip-poor-will from the hillside, the boding cry of the tree toad, that harbinger of storm, the dreary hooting of the screech owl, or the sudden rustling in the thicket of birds frightened from their roost. His only resource on such occasions, either to drown thought or drive away evil spirits, was to sing psalm tunes and the good people of Sleepy Hollow, as they sat by their doors of an evening, were often filled with awe at hearing his nasal melody, “in linked sweetness long drawn out,” floating from the distant hill, or along the dusky road.

| **#** | **Topic**  **Reference** | **q** | **options** |
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|  |  | Which of these options are true?  1) The valleys remain unchanged  2) there has been a lot of migration in the valleys  3) The Valleys are near a rapid stream  4) The valleys is in the city of New York |  |
|  |  | Which of these options are false?  1) Ichabod originates from these valleys  2) The population of New York has not stopped increasing  3) The narrator went to Sleepy Hollow a long time ago  4) Ichabod went to Sleep Hollows to teach |  |
|  | Meaning  \*\*\*\*make cognomen a glossary term | “The cognomen of Crane was not inapplicable to his person” | What does this mean? |
|  |  | “He assisted the farmers occasionally in the lighter labors of their farms,  41 helped to make hay, mended the fences, took the horses to water, drove the  42 cows from pasture, and cut wood for the winter fire.” | Which of these were not mentioned as a task whilst working on the farm? |
| 1 | Phrase | ‘..I mention this spot with all possible laud’ (line 1) means that.. | The narrator dislikes this town  The narrator is praising this town  The narrator is scared of this town  The narrator is disgusted |
| 2 | Grammar | ‘They are like those little nooks of still water…’ (line 5) is use of: | Metaphor  Allegory  Simile  Alliteration |
| 3 |  | Which of the following statements are true:  The narrator feels migration is making positive changes  Sleepy Hollow hasn’t changed a lot over the years  Sleepy Hollow is fast paced like a river  There are many other towns like Sleepy Hollow | A and B  C and D.  B and D  A and C |
| 4 |  | Ichabod Crane was a | 1. A pioneer 2. A teacher 3. A woodman 4. A legionnaire |
| 5 |  | What does the phrase ‘The cognomen of Crane was not inapplicable to his person’ (line 15) mean? | Everyone knew his name in the village  Crane knew a lot about his name  He is being compared to a crane  He did not suit his name |
| 6 | Vocabulary | A ‘withe’ (line 21) is | 1. A piece of cloth 2. A branch 3. A piece of rope 4. A lock |
| 7 |  | Which statement about the schoolhouse is NOT correct | 1. The windows are fully functioning 2. The schoolhouse is on top of a hill 3. The schoolhouse is next to a river 4. The schoolhouse is under a birch tree |
| 8 |  | The line ‘the appalling sound of the birch, as he urged some tardy loiterer along the flowery path of knowledge’ (line 26) refers to | 1. The river outside the classroom 2. The teacher scolding students 3. A method of corporal punishment 4. A tree making noise outside |
| 9 |  | Which of the following occupations do Crane occupations include… | 1. Farm hand 2. Parson 3. Babysitter 4. Schoolmaster |
| 10 | Phrase | The phrase ‘divers little makeshifts’ (line 48) means | 1. By chance 2. By hook or by crook 3. Little by little 4. By the by |
| 11 | Vocabulary | The word ‘pedagogue’ refers to | 1. Someone who has an easy life 2. Someone who teaches 3. Someone who is religious 4. Someone who labours in a field |
| 12 | Phrase | The schoolmaster is described as a ‘travelling gazette’ (line 50) Which of the following is closest in meaning. | 1. A travelling salesman 2. Someone who is like an animal 3. A newspaper 4. Someone who gossips |
| 13 |  | The schoolmaster can be described as | 1. Knowledgeable 2. Superstitious 3. Sceptical 4. Agnostic |
| 14 | Grammar  “sweeps by them unobserved.” | A” |  |
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