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Romanticism in washington arving's "rip van winkle" and "the legend of sleepy hollow"

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UNIVERSITY OF BURUNDI



FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE DEPARTMENT

ROMANTICISM IN WASHINGTON IRVING'S "RIP VAN WINKLE" AND "THE LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW"

By

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A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Award of the Degree "Licence en Langue et Littérature Anglaises"

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to:

my late parents;

my grandmother;

my uncles and aunts;

my brothers and sisters;

my friends.

May they feel, through this work, my profound attachment and inspiration.

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ABSTRACT

This work aims at showing Washington Irving's "Rip Van Winkle" and "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow"that Romanticism which was developed in the late 18th century in America presents characters that learn to deal with the new emerging American society. The analysis carried out in this work attempts to show that the setting used by Washington Irving throughout vivid description of landscape, people and environment, some characters face several problems and manage to solve them. It also reveals characters whose attitudes present different situations that are beyond our understanding and supernatural and they react imaginatively. Thematically, some mystical situations, folklore, history and gothic elements affect human nature and society .This study intends to prove that despite what happens in our environment,some human beings do not change despite what happens to them and some prefer not to cope with new situations that occur in the society.

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MOTIVATION

Reading Washington Irving's " Rip Van Winkle" and the" Legend of Sleepy Hollow", we realize that he presents characters, places and situations that present traditions and legends of American culture. The values and beliefs of the main characters are similar to what we find in everyday life. People want to live the world they want and imagine as individuals. They find freedom and peace in the natural beauty of landscape. This love of adventure and the past has to be relived in our actual imagination.

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Life is the way we imagine it and the past, the old has not to be abandoned in favour of the new. The world is constantly evolving. Man meets new scenery, discovers new people and face different situations. These events make him think about a creative inspiration that has its existence in the present. The description of the land and people living in the countryside and the atmosphere portrayed; all are to be imaginative endeavor of man as an individual.

What to think or to write about is the main question of the writer. Washington Irving imagines what to say and write. If some writers like Emerson and Whitman find interest to write about the present, Washington Irving is mainly concerned with the affection and love for legends of the past. His revolt against order of Kings, established orders and his interest for nationalism is what introduced a researcher to Romanticism.

Romanticism or the Age of romanticism in the American Literature is a movement which began in the late eighteenth century to early nineteenth century. It is the period between 1784 and 1865. Romanticism began in Europe and was a new cultural movement that opposed what existed such as reason, progress and empiricism. According to the *Dictionary of Contemporary English*, Romanticism is a way of writing or painting that was popular in the late 18th and early 19th century, in which feelings, imagination, and wild natural beauty were considered more important than anything. Therefore, cultural nationalism, symbols and folklore are important to explain the origin of some events and help us undrestand ourselves. How we think, dream, travel is a solution of how we imagine. This is posssible if man like other individuals finds pleasure in a perfect environment and landscape. His solitude shows the ideal life he leads either in his city, country or outdoors. As a result, this makes them more active to be isolated and lonely in the society. The feeling to be isolated makes them to be against new city and new norms. For this reason, they want to produce as natural inspiration as possible. Romanticism can also refer to a philosophy interested in individuality. It acknowledges the role of an individual in search for peace and tranquility. Through their imagination, human beings

want to be free. They can choose to move from where they are to another place or think they can improve their way of thinking.

According to *Britanica Concise Encyclopedia*, Romanticism emphasizes on the individual, the subjective, the irrational, the imaginative, the personal, the spontaneous, the emotional, the visionary and the transcendental. Among its attitudes were a deepened appreciation of the beauties of nature; a general exaltation of emotion over reason and the senses over the intellect, a turning upon the self and a heightened examination of human personality, a preoccupation with the genius, the hero, and the exceptional figure ; a new view of the artist as a supremely individual creator; an emphasis on imagination as a gateway to transcendent experience and spiritual truth, a consuming interest in folk culture, national and ethnic cultural origins ; and the medieval era, and a predilection for the exotic, the remote, the mysterious, the weird, the occult, the monstrous, the diseased, and even the satanic.

There is a rebellious attitude of the individual to find interest and pleasure in nature. One can express his emotion by appreciating the beauty of the environment where he lives. Washington Irving has affection in what happened in the past and has the faculty to display it imaginatively. He has a way of thinking that is what makes him the first American short story writer.

Romanticism started as a literary movement but soon came to include visual arts, particulary painting, the most notable balance valued in 18th century culture was abandoned in favour of emotional intensity, often taken to extreme rapture, nostalgia(for childhood or the past), honor, melancholy or sentimentality.

The main focus of romantic writers is the landscape that plays a major role.The portrait and description of people, places, and animals and how they exist in the world is what preoccupied them.The changes and evolution they face is inevitable. All Romantic writers showed a new interest in the national realm of dream or superstitution and legend.

The Wikipedia Encyclopedia suggests that Romanticism celebrates the self and makes an assumption that the natural world was inherently good, while human society was filled with corruption. That is, the departure from the attitudes and forms of classicism.If the world can not rely on reason and

corruption that undermine people and society, Romanticism becomes a turning in upon the self and a heightened examination of human personnality.

Certain aspects of politics are the focal points romantic writers emphasise on. Aidan Day in *Romanticism* observes that: "The political radical aspects of literature of the period would more usefully be described as 'late enlightenment', while the term Romantic may be taken to define, among other things, 'an essentially conservative tendency of thought'" (138).

Washington Irving is able to ironically and humorously present American politics of 18th century. Americans under colonisation were ruled by Britain and lack of liberty and expression were displayed in some of his writings. This famous, first American writer was a merchant's son, born April 3, 1783 raised in New York city, Washington Irving was the youngest of eleven children. His father was William Irving, a self made Scotsman who prospered in the hardware business after having imigrated to America only twenty years before. As the boy of the family and often rather sickly, Washinton Irving became the spoiled pet whose whims were generally indulged, particulary by his beautiful vivacious mother, if less so by his more strict, Presbyterian father who insisted on daily prayers and Bible readings. His mother, Sarah Sanders Irving named him Washington in honor of George Washington under whom the United States gained Independence.

After the age of sixteen, Washington was not required to go to college as his brother had done, since it was thought that the confined quarters and close association with books would exacerbate his poor health. Instead, he was encouraged to spend much of his time outdoors, and he eagerly embraced this life style, wondering the city of New York and the surrounding countryside of the Hudson River Valley. It was during these rambles that his imagination was stimulated and his love of adventure sparkled; making him eventually unwilling to settle into the more banal routine of most his contemporaries.

His developing enjoyment of the sensational and unusual is evident in his boyhood claim that he knew every spot where a murder or robbery had been committed, or a ghost seen. He was a precarious child, sensitive lovable dreamer, who particularly enjoyed music and drama, slipping out in secret at night to attend plays in New York's John Street Theater.

His romantic desire for adventure was enhanced by his dreamy contemplation of all his various excursions into the Hudson River area. It was until he was thirty-seven, however, that he established himself as professional author. The cheap importation and reproduction of English books made literature a precarious occupation in a career in law and business, while stealing as much time from works as possible for his writing. Also, his imagination was encouraged by his discovery of the magical world of books, especially travel narratives about exciting journeys to exotic lands.

In May 1815, Irving left the country for what would be a seventeen-year sojourn in Europe, where he worked first as an importer in Liverpool, then as an attaché to the American legation in London. His diverse works range from *The Life and Voyage of Christopher Columbus (1822)* and The *Alhambra (1832),* both written during his stay in Spain, to *A Tour of the Prairies (1839)* written in his return from Europe. However, his *Sketch Book (1819*-20), which included "Rip Van Winkle" and "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" remains his most recognised and influencial contribution to American literature.

Suffering from ill-health off and on for many years, he settled in America in 1858 and his health deteriorated. Irving's social life continued to dominate his days.He was not interested in practicing law, preferring the companionship of his male friends than the flirtatious affections of ladies. In 1859, he died of heart attack at Sunnyside surrounded by his family and was burried at Sleepy Hollow Cemetery.

The Sketch Book was published in 1820 and was considered as one of first romantic pieces written by an American author. It is a book that talks about America and the work was enormously popular in the New World as well as the Old. It is obvious Irving may have revered Europe and its past, but what he wanted to tell the world was to find American tradition and legends that would reflect the emerging culture. As a traveller in Europe, much of his motivation and inspiration were the classic German folk stories that he chose to use the same theme to the valley, it is for this reason why both characters and settings are Americans.

Critics generally agree that "Rip Van Winkle" and "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow"are the models of the modern American short stories and both tales introduced imageries and archetypes that enriched the national literature. These two stories brought their influences on German folktale. "Rip Van Winkle"has the sleep motif that is one that has been widely known in folk and tales throughout history.The same similar story appeared in Diogenes Leartius, Epimenides (C.200) in which Epimenides is sent by his father to look for sheep.After sleeping in the cave for fifty seven years, he wakes up thinking he had only a short nap, and begins to look for his sheep.There is a parallel in german version that inspired Irving and pushes him to write the "The Legend Of Rip Van Winkle". Another exemple is seen in the Tale of Peter Klaus, which appeared in the Collection of German folk stories also including the Brothers Grimm tales published in 1912. Peter Klaus was given some liquor and falls asleep, and by the time he wakes up twenty years later, all his goats including a dog have disappeared, but he does have a foot-long beard.

As far as "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" is concerned, the story was based on a German folktale firstly recorded by Kary Masaus but Irving was to create a new literature in United States and decide to make it classic by choosing characters of that region.The critic Philip Young tried to comment on Rip, the first man whose character is for many Americans an image of "immature, self-centered, careless and above all-and perhaps dangerously-innocent". Rip is an innocent child with a dog who escapes from responsibilities of growing up and finds refuge and peace in nature.

A metaphor for the new world that was to revolt against the domination of England,Rip rebels against his demanding wife.We see that Rip is free only after the death of his wife. It is also a way to escape "the petticoat government". The image of Dame Van Winkle does not have similarity in German folktale. However, it is the major cause for Rip not to feel happy at home.

Other critics view the story deeply psychological in a sense that human being reacts with the superego in order to live. There is always in a person's mind an idea to revolt against established order whether good or bad. Rip though lazy is a happy man, humorous even though Richard Henry Dana considered him as "lack of intellectual content". Dana observed that " in

adopting the authorial persona of Geoffrey Crayon with his prose style modeled after eighteenth century essayist - Irving lost the robustness, high color, and comic vigor of his previous incarnations as Johnathan Oldstyle"(Qtd from Encyclopedia.com accessed on 15 May 2011).

By creating short stories, Irving is able to include myth and folklore into fiction, setting and landscape, which reflects his themes and mood that are observed in most of his writings. Including supernatural elements and ghosts in some stories, we notice how tense imagination and creativity are combined and this makes us focus on Romanticism where imagination and individuality are intertwined.

Another point to raise is an understanding of how in any society, the context in which a text is set, shows two dimensions where there are dominators and dominated.Arden Reed in *Romanticism and Language* upholds it and supports the idea that :

> Romantic writers also formulated the context that made such a faculty indispensable. Because they frequently represented their world as made up of dualities (subject and object, self and nature, nature and culture for exemple) they found it necessary to posit a force that could effect a balance or reconciliation of opposite or discordant qualities. (15)

The Scheth Book was one of Washington Irving's works about America and it was internationally recognized as a man of letters. Irving's early writing earned the admiration of literary figures like Hawthorne, Poe, Caleridge, Byron, Scott and Dickens. Washington travelled widely both at home and abroad and intimate of royality and high society in Europe and America.

Reading Washington's two short stories, Andrew Benett and Nicholas Royle argue that" the two short stories help us to know the time in which they are set. They provide imaginative representations of specific historical moments, events or periods."(113)

Washington was inspired by some romantic writers and poets from Europe. We can mention for instance William Blake whose poems celebrates the beauty of nature and invites us to see life as innocent children and love of solitude. By creating a new form of writing such as short story, he defies the classical conventions of the the late 18th century and early 19th century.

Most critics converge on the idea that Irving liked to write about places and cities he visited. "The Legend of Sleeepy Hollow" is a typical exemple as Amanda Dcosta argues in *Short Story Reviews: "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow"* that:

> It is said that "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" first took its form during this time where he came accross the nearby town of Sleepy Hollow ...Sleepy Hollow was a Dutch town famous for its queer and odd tales of ghosts and superstitions. Irving takes the opportunity to create a romantically fashioned piece out of this folklore, sets it in a 1790 scene and presents something that has become a much loved work of art. (4)

As a traveler, Irving drew much infuences of his writing in Europe. Critics saw his works as lack of originality and intellectual content. According to James W. Tuttleton, The Sketch Book was one of the books that could tell Europeans as well as Americans what it is truly American culture and tradition.He argues that:

> *The Sketch Book* contains Irving's two best-loved stories "Rip Van Winkle" and "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow". It also includes many sketches of English country and city life, as well as nostalgic portraits of vanishing traditions, like the

> old celebration of christmas.One of Irving's captivating books, it reveals both the brilliance European fables and themes to native purpose. (40)

Richard Henry Dana observed that Irving's style is pleasant, fun and humorous. He is a modeler who "adopts the authorial persona of Geoffrey Crayon with his prose style ".He uses places and people from urban cities and continental, the reason he was later accused to be a true American. However, by creating and imaginating Hudson River, he was trying to rove to the world that what matters for him was the landscapes he considered most to reflect legends of America. Ghost stories that most people were to believe in were set in those quiet places like Sleepy Hollow.

This work will be based on two literary theories which are the sociological, psychoanalytic theory. The sociological theory is a literary theory that originated in the theories of Hypolyte Taine. He upholds the idea that a text is determined by three main elements: "race", "milieu"and "moment". "Race"refers to the national characteristics typical in the text as a work of art. "Milieu"is linked with the writer's environment including all social aspects of his family background. "Moment" is concerned with the major intellectual currents of a period. In their book *Theory of Literature,* Austin Warren and Réné Wellek indicate important factors that sustain the sociological approach. First of all, the heredity and environment of the writer shape the social attitudes and ideas that are typical in the work. Also, Warren focusses on the world presented in the work itself. That is, the way the writer portrays his culture and society. Finally, Warren pays attention to the world in which the work entered; that is the audience. Its impact on the reader, how they critically receive it, and what emotion does it arouse in them.

As far as psychoanalytic theory is concerned, it states the argument that the unconscious influences most of our way of doing, feeling and saying. Supporters of this theory include Sigmund Freud, Carl Gustav Jung, Henry Muray and Alfred Adler. Freud emphises on the unwareness of a human mind in what he does. Also, an individual is made by the society in which he depends upon. In the *Anatomy Of Mental personality*, Freud gives us a definition of the unconscious: "We call 'unconscious' any mental process the existence of which we are obliged to assume-because for instance, we infer it in some way from its

effects-but of which we are not directly aware (Guerin, 199). There are certain actions that involve our conscious process to act in a short period of time.These forces are particular to individuals and the society is strong enough to submit an individual to his own condition or behavior.

The applicability of the sociological theory is relevant to the fact that the two short stories talk about the past and the authors is trying to redefine it in the present and focusses on the characters imaginative world. Irving tries to find romantic affection for legends of the places he enjoyed and travelled most. That is, the Kaatskill Mountains, Tarry Town and Hudson.These regions display for him and the readers American culture, people and the history of the 18th century.

In addition, as a wanderer, Irving creates characters who find freedom in wandering. Rip is a wanderer who finds pleasure meeting people in the street like children and women. He also decides to leave his wife and children to escape in the mountains where he could be confortable.He does not want to stay with the demanding wife.The same freedom is what makes Ichabod to flee the headless man and the society. Ichabod is a homeless teacher who finds liberty in changing places to improve his way of living.The freedom aspect can also show how the ghost (headless man) always rides back in the night to find his head before daybreak. Irving is able to portray the society of people who are considered as lazy and refuse responsibilities, enjoy or prefer moving from place to place.Ichabod is able to spend most of his time with girls and in search for them.This would make other boys jealous.The same scenario happens to Rip who enjoys spending time with children making his nagging wife frustrated.This shows that the two characters flee responsibilities in their own homes that is, their environment.

While decribing the moment in which the stories takes place, we can start by "Rip van winkle"which cleary starts "many years ago when the country was still a province of Great Britain."(46) But by the time Rip returns to the viliage after sleeping twenty years, the Revolutionary War is over. This is an indication that the story describes major and particular period that Americans could not forget. It does convey the beginning where America was under British colonization, that is, dependence and the end which is a sign of freedom, independence.Therefore, the story must take place sometime in the 1760's to

1780's.The story begins in 1769 to end in 1789 which is the year Washington, the first American President is elected.

In "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow", the main key point of the story is the headless horseman who loses his head. He is supposed to be the ghost of "a Hessian Soldier who had his head blown off by a cannonball in the Revolutionary war" (4).

The psychoanalytic theory is relevent to the understanding of this study because it operates with the working of the mind.The changes and happenings are unconscious and inevitable.It enables us to analyse the role of human psyche in Washington Irving's short stories. In fact, some characters because of the mystical interventions pass from the unconscious to the conscious and vice versa. Irving's interest in the supernatural suggests the possibility to discover truths through imagination. Obviously, Ichabod in "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" is able to disguise the workings of his mind. Irving is attempting to give elements of local color to the story. In "Rip Van Winkle" mystic qualities are of great importance.

By presenting fictional characters in "Rip Van Winkle"and "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow"human beings face mysterious experiences in time and place. They are however responsible for the mysterious changes that inevitably happen and want to be free and tranquil. They sometimes do not change as well as some parts of their environment.

Hence, this work examines romantic properties such as feelings, imagination and individuality as reflected in "Rip van Winkle" and "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow". Extensively, it looks into the setting, characters and themes; how Irving imaginatively was inspired by nature, the supernatural, places and people. The language he adopts, culture and tradition as we will see, the product of such a society are purely American romanticism.

From pre-war to post war period, America from colonisation, the revolutionary war to independence is the scope of this work. It consequently has a particularity from other works for the reason why it places much attention to individuality and freedom as portrayed in the short stories and a new form of imitating the american life from the end fo 18th to the early 19th century.

The significance of this work is that it will help researchers on the issue of romanticism.They would like to quest the individual attitudes towards nature and mysterious changes human beings are faced with. To any imaginative person and researchers, this work would be useful.

This work is composed of five parts.The General Introduction, three chapters and the General Conclusion.The introduction presents an overview of the whole work. Chapter one entitled "Setting in 'Rip Van Winkle' and ' The Legend of Sleepy Hollow'" traces some places and the time in which the events of the story occur.It largely describes the landscape,atmosphere and the mood that are created in the two short stories.The second chapter is titled "Characterisation in 'Rip Van Winkle' and 'The Legend of Sleepy Hollow'". It closely examines the way characters are portrayed in the two short stories, their attitudes and what it reveals as romantic characteristics.The third chapter titled "Theme in 'Rip Van Winkle' and 'The Legend of Sleepy Hollow'" discusses the themes developed in the stories. It generally seeks in detail to tackle on issues of mystery, change, integration of folklore and use of gothic elements and active imagination.The general conclusion summarizes major arguments in the work, brings out findings and recommendation for further researchers.

CHAPTER ONE

SETTING IN "RIP VAN WINKLE" AND "THE LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW"

This chapter puts much attention on the picturesque "local locor"elements and certain historical truths that are revealed in the stories and how american people in the 19th century were used to their simplistic way of thinking and living.The mood, feeling and atmosphere that are depicted show the romantic gothic literature that Washington Irving attempts to write about in time and place.

There is a high level of moral enthusiasm and commitment to individualism that characterised the heroic people of the region. They try to show that the natural world is inherently good, while their society is corrupted and filled with injustice. The hardships they undergo in their environment are what make the two short stories the first literary genre ever published in America. There is a thirsty and preoccupation of heros to seek for freedom which is the main motivation of American romantic writers. Both short stories describe the Hudson region, which is beautiful, fertile and mysterious. With the Dutch settlement in the area, precisely in New York, the City was under Britsh domination.

The setting can be defined as the surroundings in which an event or series of events takes place, especially in a story.It does focus on two main things such as time and place. In "Rip van Winkle" and "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow", the setting plays a major role to describe how the place, that is, the environment shapes the minds of people who live in it; their attitudes and their way of thinking. The description of landscape shows the evolution of the story. Time and place are much better employed in these two short stories. The creation and imagination of Hudson Valley which is located at the opening sentence in "Rip van winkle", we are presented a brief decription of the area where the story takes place:

> Whoever has made a voyage up the Hudson must remember the Kaaterskill Mountains. They are disremembered branch off the great Appalachian family, and are seen away to the West of the river swelling up to a noble height, and lording it over the surrounding country. Every change of the season,

> every change of weather, indeed every hour of the day, produces some changes in the magical hues and shapes of these mountains and they are regarded by all the good wives, far and near, as perfect barometers. When the weather is fair and settled they are clothed in blue and purple, and print their bold outlines of the clear evening sky; but sometimes, when the rest of the landscape is cloudless, they will gather, a hood of grey vapours about their summits, which, in the last rays of the setting sun, will glow and light up like a crown of glory. (10)

This detailed account of place shows where the story takes place in a small village on the Hudson River.Hudson is a river in New York, and the Kaaterskill (now spelled Catskill) Mountains are part of the Appalachian mountain range. The Catskill Mountains to the West dominate the scenery. The different changes that happen in that small village are the result of how housewives use them like barometers to indicate how prominent the mountains are with regard to the weather. The activities that are done in that rural village indicate how villagers are organised and make their daily living. The village is located in New York and is merely American setting that is displayed in the work. Another place worth mentioning is Stony Point which is a small bay on the Hudson river, and Antony's Nose is a mountain.Both is in Southeastern New York.

As far as history is concerned, we notice that "Rip Van Winkle" reports how the village was peopled from ancient times in the following lines:

> It is a little village of great antiquity, having been founded by some of the Dutch colonist in the early times ofthe province, just about the beginning of the government of the good Peter Stuyvesant, and there were some of the houses of the original settlers standing within a few years, built of small yellow bricks brought from Holland, having latticed windows and gable front, surmounted with weather-cocks.(10)

Houses in the village are built out of yellow bricks brought over from Holland. Since Peter Stuyversand was Governor from 1646-1664, those houses were at least 100 years old, which was fairly remarkable. We are told that the

story starts " many years ago, when the country was still a province of Great Britain ",(10) but by the time Rip returns to the village after sleeping twenty years, the revolutionary war is over. Therefore, the story must probably take place sometime in the 1760's-1780.

This is the startpoint with Henry Hudson's arrival in 1609. The past is important in narrating this story because how this landscape is portrayed is a clear indication that Hudson River Valley is an area steeped in local folklore and legend would serve as inspiration in writing.The historical background of Hudson River and its population reveals the need to find tradition and legends that reflect the American culture. Setting the story in the valley of United States make characters and landscape uniquely American in the process.The activities done in the village are particular about people and place in a particular locality.

In every situation, history is linked to the time something happened that is, the description of the village, how it was governed under colonisation.Peter Stuyvesant was the last governor of the Dutch colony of New York.The country became a province of Great Britain after Stuyvesant surrendered New Netherland to England in 1664, allowing it to become the British colony of New York.

In the short story "Rip Van Winkle", while traveling in Kaaterskill Mountains, Rip is with his dog Wolf, his best companion. He sits at the foot of the tree and enjoys the lazy life in solitude provided by the region. We notice the kind of mood in which he finds himself and see how he is confronting the sublimity of nature and its picturesque qualities. He wants to be isolated and decides to take a trip towards Kaaterskill mountains.He finds in addition, a place very pleasant because he could contemplate Husdon and appreciate its natural beauty as it is noted in these passages:

> From an opening between the trees he could overlook all the lower country from many a mile of rich wooldland.He saw at a distance the lordly Hudson, far far below him, moving on its silent but majestic course, or the sail of a logging, bark, here and there sleeping on its glassy bosom, and at last loosing itself in the blue highlands. (11)

The mountains show that Rip, probably alone, can be happy with his dog. He can converse easily with and takes away all the problems he used to encounter while he was in the village, particulary at home. However, Rip is to meet strange people who surprise and befriend him.They wore Jerkins. Jerkins are those close-fitting, hip-length jackets, usually sleveless and callarless worn by men in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. They were often worn over a doublet, a close-fitting, waist-length jacket, with or without sleeves. Their noise would echo along the mountains and they were in group. Rip was to obey to everything they compelled him to do.

Furthermore, there is another important place as mentioned earlier that is called Stony Point. It is a small bay on the Hudson River and the area is famous to remember that heavy fight occured during the Revolutionary War.Some Rip's neighbours like Brom Dutcher died on the ground. If Stony Point is said to be the foot of Antony's Nose; this mountain as well as the bay are located in the Southeastern New York.

At the outset of history, Irving uses the Kaaterskill Mountains. These mountains are invested with human qualities. He tells us in the beginning of the story that they are part of a "family", the appalachian family.Making the mountains alive enables them to become mysterious and unpredictable; they may even play tricks on those who venture within their confines.This upholds the idea that romantic writers create a link between an individual (self) and nature at one point and an individual with culture on the other point. All life dependency on the mountains is what people who live in Hudson Valley refer to describe and tell the time, identify whether it is going to rain or not.The noise that can be produced in mountains can easily be heard by the villagers.

As far as the historical context is concerned, we can emphasize on the beginning of the story itself that is; five or six years before the American Revolution. America was under colonisation during the period between 1760's-1860's and the country was considered as a province of Great Britain.This is then to say that the story begins in 1769 and ends in 1789 and this is the year that George Washington was elected as the first American President.The New World during colonisation, is clearly displayed with the description or the picture painted in the village. We have houses in "yellow bricks"which were brought from Holland. During colonisation, new settlers sought to lay a

foundation that recognizes their origin and identity.These houses show that colonisers have authority in controlling, dominating and governing local citizens. Americans were not free because they have to respond to the demanding settlers and all their thoughts were undermined by orders and rules.

The American Revolution is therefore the struggle that Americans carried out to liberate their country and themselves from dependence towards freedom and independence. The war will not be easy because people will be killed and houses destroyed.The Dutch Settlers will be chased but their footprints will remain. Henry Hudson River was named after English man Henry Hudson who explored it in 1609. Even today, Hudson is known being one of battlefields for Americans.The kaaterskill Mountains were also named after Kaaterskill, the Dutch word which means a local stream as well as lakes, waterfalls and gorges.

In the second short story "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow", land description is also of great importance to take into consideration. Like "Rip Van Winkle", the first paragraph of the story provides us an overview of the place where all events happen:

> In the bosom of those spacious coves which indent the eastern shore of Hudson, at that board expansion of the river dominated by the ancient Dutch navigators the Tappanzee and where they always prudently shortened sail and implored the protection of St Nicholas when they crossed, there lies a small market-town or rural part, which by some is called Greensburgh, by which is more generally and properly known by the name of Tarry Town. (282)

This very long and first sentence warns us and makes us to be aware of the vast space located in East and the place is called Hudson Valley. It is not by hasard to name it Tarry Town because the village is situated geographically in rural milieu built by Dutch navigators who, for the first time discovered the region. For the fact that people who discovered the place did not want to move, they decided to stay and establish themselves in a valley which is snug. It is for this reason that the village is called Tarry Town and is the most beautiful places in

America from the early settlement of colonisers. The name Tarry Town also got its background from the wives whose husbands tended to linger about the village tarven.This exhibition of the scene and people who live in that area are what play a key role through the whole story.

About two miles, there is a valley among the hills which is said to be "the quietest places in the whole world" (282). It is Sleepy Hollow. Sleepy Hollow was called so because it is so quiet and tranquil that it lulled people to sleep.The atmosphere that can be described in this story is that the area is said to have "drowsy, dreamy influence" on people. It seems to make them more susceptible to different fantaisies associated with the night.Many of the inhabitants accepted the idea that the place was bewitched and believed in the local stories about various supernatural happenings. Although they accepted this wild superstititions, they do not seem to be unduly frightened but instead think of these strange visions and sounds as natural.

In general, this area seems to have a very laidback, comfortable atmosphere, which allow the story to describe supernatural events without having them seem terrifying. Local people live on farming, story telling, squirrel shooting and other different activities that make them to be happy. From the early days of settlement, the valley has been discovered by Master Hendrick Hudson who discovered also the area. It is worth noticing that several events that are significant take place in the night that is, a ghost who used to come in the village searching for his head. He must hurry to get back to the churchyard where he is burried before daybreak.This time (night) is important because, as people believe in local stories, several ghost stories are told in the night and villagers know that in the village this is part of their everyday life.The setting in Hudson is uniquely American in the process because it reveals America and its past and people want to relive and remember it.

Like "Rip Van Winkle", the same place that is seen in "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" story is the Dutch settlement in Tarry Town, New York and happens in 1790. Sleepy Hollow was a secure little area of the town itself.The description of "Tarry Town" is fictional in a sense that it is primarly Dutch settled village and one that is very calm, remote and pastoral.

Irving's love of adventure is what makes him to set most of his famous works in Hudson River area.This reflects his early life as a man who likes to spend most of his time wandering.When he was a little boy, he claims that he knew every spot where a murder or robbery had been commited, or a ghost seen. His excursions into the Hudson River area and his extended stay in 1798 in the peaceful region of Sleepy Hollow and Tarry Town will push and inspire him to concentrate on his works as recognition of these places. "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow"that occurs in Sleepy Hollow makes people not to situate and precise clearly where and when the place has been discovered.There are various versions to talk about it:

> Some say that the place was bewitched by a high German doctor, during the early days of settlement; others that an Old Indian chief the prophet or wizard of his tribe, held his powwows there before the country was discovered by Master Hendrick Hudson.Certain it is, the place still continues under the sway of some witching power, that hold a spell over the minds of the good people, causing them to walk in a continual revery. (282)

Sleepy Hollow is located at Tarry Town and because of the revolutionary war, Europeans made explorations and discovered the region.Hendrick Hudson may be the first settler to discover the region but since during the revolution Britain had to seek for mercenaries to hire in war, Germans were included and involved in the fight. It would not be easy for villagers to say who first discovered the region but the probable true indication was the ruler of the region.

In addition, people refer to the stories that are told like ghost stories particularly in the night and villagers believe in witches and the power of superstititions.Fighters for Britain could be killed during war and that is why the predominant spirit and tale that haunted people is that of a Hessian trooper who was killed in the area and his head is lost.He could come back in the night to look for his lost head.

Sleepy Hollow moreover, is unconsciously inhabited by people who are trapped by witching influences.They continue to imagine and think about

ghosts because they are stories told in the village.The population in that region would be of diverse background including migrants, natives and would have different maners and customs.For this fact, different attitudes would bring about different changes.The area is characterised by several activities that are pushed backward in the American history.That is, the key figure Ichabod who is a schoolmaster in the story to mention "some thirty years since" to mean that the region was known a long time ago.

The night was the most fearful moment in the village because terrible and dangerous things could happen.The main character Ichabod was also purchased by terrors of walk towards home as it is portrayed in this passage:

> How often was he appaled by some shrub covered with snow, which, like a sheeted spectre beset his very path-- How often did he shrink with curdling awe at the sound of his own steps on the frosty crust beneth his feet; and dread to look over his shoulder, lest he should behold him! --and how often was he thrown into complete dismay by some rushing blast, howling among the trees, in the idea that it was the galloping Hessian on one of his nightly scourings. (258)

These are terrors of the night and the evils that haunt vallagers. During the day, there is no trouble and people carry on their day-to-day activities. Like in "Rip Van Winkle" Hudson was a fertile region for cultivation as it is stated also in these lines:

> Hudson, one of those green, sheltered, fertile nooks, in which the Dutch farmers are so fond of nestling. A great elmtree spread its broad branches over it; at the foot of which bubbled up a spring of the softest and sweetest water, in a little well, formed of a barrel; and then stole sparkling away through the grass, to a neighbouring brook, that bubbled along among elders and dwarf willows. (287)

As this valley is located on the foot of the mountain, peasants would set a reference from the hills to schedule their activities.The soft wind from nice trees and mountains would regulate the weather and condition the organisation of their jobs. Because farming was mostly done by women, some

men would profit the occasion to help them in order to socialize.The different conversations that could motivate them were related to singing and gossiping. Rich farmers had big properties where different crops are formidable to contemplate. Anyone who could travel in the Hudson valley could see while walking or jogging, the beauty of the valley made by several plants and crops found in the field:

> On all sides he beheld vast store of apples; some hanging in oppressive opulence on the trees; some gathered into baskets and barrells for the market. Others heaped up in rich piles for the ciderpress. Farther on he beheld great fields of Indian Corn, with its golden ears peeping; and the yellow pumpins lying beneath them, turning up their fair round bellies to the sun, and giving ample prospects of the most luxurious of pie. (292)

Viewing the idea that man and nature are intertwined, man depends on nature and the description depicted shows that all nature's possessions are what man appreciates and enjoys.The effort of man is to safeguard the environment and acknowledge the products it provides such as trees, water, corn to mention a few.This is an indication that Hudson is a fertile place that make the well-being of its inhabitants.

Furthermore, man communicates naturally with nature. The places he visits, peoples he encounters push him to look further to what he is supposed to see and start thinking about certain natural elements that are profitable to man because unable to escape from it, man becomes accustomed to the role played by them. We can mention for instance Irving's description of the the sun and the emanating odor of the vegatation as stated below:

> ...and yellow pumpkin lying beneath them, turning up their fair around bellies to the sun, and giving ample prospects of the most luxurious of pies; and anon he passed the fragrant buckwheat fields, breathing the odor of the bee-hive, and as he beheld them, soft anticipation stole over his mind of dainty Slapjacks, well buttered, and garnished with honey or treacle, by the delicate little dimpled hand of Katrina Van Tassel. (292)

Hudson valley is surrounded by a range of hills such as Stony Point and Kaaterskill mountains which exhibit a panoramic view of the scenes described in the story. Discovered by Master Hendrick Hudson, the setting is referred to as Henry Hudson, this region has a historical origin to the understanding of how it was peopled and the climate presented in the story.Since it was said to be an area with comfortable atmosphere; this push us to affirm probably that the community around the mountain are calm people. The weather as well as the mood are described as follows:

> The sun gradually whealed his broad disk down into the West. The wide bosom of Tappanzee lay motionless and glassy, excepting that here and there a gentle undulation waved and prolonged the blue shadow of the distant mountain. A few amber clouds floated in the sky, without a breath of air to move them. (292)

Hudson sailed in 1609 and was the first man to discover the river that was named after him.Then, from present-day New York city to Albany, up to what the Dutch called the Tappan Zee, and now it is called Hudson river.The Tappan Zee Bridge which is located in New York city is celebrated even today.The villagers do not need watches or other object to tell the time because the sun rises from the East and regulates the organization of the community .The climate changing caused by clouds and wind in the area serves to control different attitudes with regard to certain activities carried out.

In this Dutch community, ghost stories are given enough time because people like them.They believed that many of the stories they listen to are real and happen in their everyday life.Like the story of the headless horseman, villagers are frightened of what happened because what they hear or see and also imagine themselves, think that they are in danger.

The supernatural stories are the main characteristics of the region to be called Sleepy Hollow. Sleepy Hollow is named again so because of the spirits that haunt villages, an atmosphere of dreams and fancies that infect the land like the description below:

> Several of Sleepy Hollow people were present at Van Tassel's, and, as usual, were doling out their wild and wonderful

> legends.Many dismal tales were told about funeral trains and mournful and wailings heard and seen about the great tree where the unfortunate Major André was taken and which stood in the neighbourhood. (295)

In this dell, many beautiful trees were planted alongside the river.There is a cemetery where the dead rest in peace. According to the legend, during the battlefield, many Americans died and were burried in Sleepy Hollow. For this reason, the words Sleepy Hollow were used to indicate a place not only is isolated but also quiet in honnor to those who lost their lives during the revolutionary war.Because of many trees surrounding the road and bridge that helped people to cross the river, it was very fearful to travel during the night.This moment was favourite for the headless horseman to hount people in the night.

Different kinds of trees found in Hudson Valley had certain historical truth and are symbolically represented in the area. Several tales are told around them to remember famous people:

> In the centre of the road stood an enormous tulip-tree, which towered like a giant above all the other trees of the neighbourhood, and formed a kind of landmark.Its limbs were gnaled, and fantastic, large enough to form trunks for ordinary trees, twisting down almost to the earth and rising again into the air. It was connected with the tragical story of the unfortunate André who had been taken prisoner hard by; and was universally known by the name of Major André's tree.The common people regarded it with a mixture of respect and superstition, partly out of sympathy for the fate of its ill-starred namesake, and partly from the tales of strange sights and doleful lamentation told concerning it. (297)

The natural environment made of water, stream, lands, and sky may sometimes be fearful and threatening to mankind.It is hard to cross a stream during the night. Fear increases if man finds that he cannot resist those situations where he realises that he is trapped in danger and face

death.Travelers during the night could come accross ghost or goblins and hardly escape them.

In these short stories, that is, "Rip Van Winkle" and "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow", we said that much emphasis concerns the description of the environment; place and time which are the main focal points in this chapter.They are set in America and are widely recognized in american popular culture.They are based on and constructed from German tales but set the New World. All actions and people are situated in rural village in Eastern New York, near Hudson River and the Kaaterskill mountains.

The mood depicted in the stories tells us people characterised by a lazy attitude with regard to the problems they are challenged with.They seek freedom by changing their home to other areas where they think they can be free such as mountains and other areas.The night is the most fearful time when people hardly escape and find superstitous things.

In this chapter, we notice that the place that is described is Hudson region which is located at the foot of Kaaterskill Mountains.It was discovered by Henry Hudson who is said to be the first settler.This wil therefore present characters who learn to live in this quite and tranquil rea.

CHAPTER TWO

CHARACTERIZATION IN "RIP VAN WINKLE" AND "THE LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW"

This chapter focusses on how characters are portrayed in the stories; their behavior, attitudes and why they are presented as such. Why the author chooses them to act as custodians of tradition. It clearly meets the need of romantic writers to prove the main characteristics of romanticism. Characters exhibit romantic attitudes and perspectives towards their natural conditions and environment. The characters are basically individualistic as they prefer the artistic rather than the materialistic temper of the overpowering majority.

In the two short stories, the protagonists play a key role in the movement of the stories. Romantic writers like Washington Irving put much emphasis on individuality and explore the mind of characters that is, dreams and journeys. The characters exhibit tendencies that are imaginary and fantastical.

Fictional characters are important part of writing because without them, the text would be void of meaning.They provide information about human nature and help us to make judgements about ourselves and about humanity at large. We identify ourselves within a context and they are essential in a good writing. Characterisation does not only focus on protagonists but also secondary characters or antagonists.It gives us a sense of reality in the world.It provides ideas to enter deeper into a character's heart and examines his motivations.

Before begining with the heart of the matter, it is good to start by defining characterization. Characterization according to *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English* is "the way in which a writer makes a person in a book, film or a play seem like a real person.

It is also the way in which the character of a real person or thing is described".

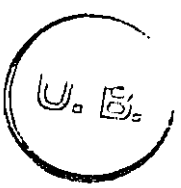
In "Rip Van Winkle" and" The Legend of Sleepy Hollow", it is characterization that moves these stories along because of compelling

characters in their different and difficult situations as they create their own issues and thanks to them, detailed descriptions and vivid imageries are made to consider these two short stories among the best classic literature in America.Through their actions, speech and dreams, characters are presented by means of descriptions.

According to the *Dictionary of Literary Terms*, "characterization is the way a writer presents characters". Characters can be analysed in a number of ways such as the protagonist and antagonist.The protagonist is the main character, who is not necessarly a hero or a heroine.The antagonist is the opponent. He may be the society like Hudson village, environment, a person like Rip's wife or even an aspect of the protagonist such the main characters's inner fate. In this chapter, we will mainly be concerned by those two types of characters and much attention will be put on protagonists because they play a major role in the stories by revealing their personality and they help us to obtain a sense of imagination throughout the stories.

In the first short story, "Rip Van Winkle", we have the protagonist and secondary characters; the antagonists. Beginning with the main character, Rip is presented to us as a man of kindnes and simplicity. As any human being is given qualities according to the society in which he lives, Rip is described as a villager in a very long inhabited society during the British domination and he is kind-hearted, gentleman. He originates from a big family though he does not have the same qualities or characteristics like his family ancestors. The following passages exemply it:

> ...there lived many years since, while the country was yet a province of Great Britain, a simple-good-natured fellow of the name Rip Van Winkle. He was a descendant of the Van Winkles who figured so gallantly in the chivarlous ways of Peter Stuyversant and accompanied him to the siege of Fort Christina.He inherited however, but little of the martial character of his ancestor. I have observed that he was a simple good—natured man; he was moreover, a kind neighbour and obedient henpecked husband. (10)



The repétion of the "good-natured" is an indication and a warning for readers that this character is strictly disciplined by the society and depends on others.He is not a bad man at all because with other neighbours, he is patient and obedient. He furthermore, becomes the object of our curiosity and fascination.Through the power of identification, he is not like other people from his ancestors.He is then considered as an individual who owes much of his life on the society. Rip has a home and a wife who controls what he does:

> ...for those men are most apt to the obsequious and conciliating abroad who are under the discipline of shrews at home.Their tempers, doubtless, are rendered pliant and maleable, and a curtain lecture is worth all the sermons in the world for teaching the virtues of patience and long-suffering. A termagent wife, may therefore, in some respects be considered a tolerable blessing; and if so, Rip Van Winkle was thrice blessed. (10)

If the society may be good or bad, Rip has a total lesson from his wife who is always reminding him of his duties. He is not able to resist the demanding woman with whom they live together. Rip has learned to respond to these sclodings with meekness. In order to endure his wife's temper, he has become obedient to her. By obliging and reminding her husband what to do, everybody in the surrounding area, particularly other wives know who Dame Van Winkle is and during their evening gossiping, Rip and his wife would be a top story and profit the occasion to blame Rip's wife.

Rip is known as a generous man in the society especially to childern as stated in these lines:

> The children of the village, too, would shout with joy whenever he approached. He assisted at their sport, made their playthings, taught them to fly kites and shoot marbles, and told them long stories of ghosts, witches, and Indians. Whenever he went dodging about the village he was surrounded by a troup of them hanging on his back, and playing a thousand tricks on him with impunity and not a dog would bark at him throughout the neighbourhood. (10)

Children are so fond of him because as opposed to other adults, he never hesitates to participate fully in all of their pastimes. Rip likes children's activities and enjoyment which push him to behave like them. He is happy while playing and teaching them.This is probably because some adults like his wife do not like him. This is a significant situation where we are allowed to see the relationship between mature and immature adults and children's relations in their ordinary life.Through the instances given above, Irving is to tell us exactly what happen to Rip both in his home and outside in the street. Rip tells children ghost stories perhaps to sharpen their mind and increase their level of imagination and that is why they like him.Since fictional characters are presented in this short story, we have advantage to know people in fiction better than we know them in real life.

Like other human beings, Rip has weaknesses like the following sentences state them:

> The great error in Rip's composition was an insuperable aversion to all kinds of profitable labour.It could not be from the want of assiduity or perseverance, for he would sit on a wet rock, with a rod as long and heavy as a Tartar's lance, and fish all day without a murmur even though he should not be encouraged by a single nibble.He would carry a fourling piece on his shoulder for hours together, trudging through woods and swamps and hill and down dall, to shoot a few squirrels and wild peagons. (11)

These sentences prove to the reader that any lucrative labor was not Rip's preoccupation. He likes to work at his own and we may understand that condolence is the main trait that he supposes to carry on.He does not care whether the time is rushing or not.He no longer wants anyone to tell him what to do. He is humourously presented as a person who likes to lead an easy life and pleasure in doing what he wants to do.This central character does not like to execute any kind of activity that requires much efforts or physical strengh. Shooting birds in the forest is the preferred activity that Rip enjoys most.

Though spited by his wife, other categories of people like women in the village admired him as stated below:

> He would never refuse to assist a neighbor even in the roughest toil, and was a foremost man at all country frolic for husking Indian Corn or building stone fences; the women of the village, too used to employ him to run their errands, and to do such little odd jobs as their less obliging hasbunds would not do for them. (11)

We would expect if vallagers know that Rip is not responsible at home to be incapable to do a profitable job in the village. However, he is able to assist any person in the neighbourhood because Rip is more than willing to carry out any type of activity offered to him. He does whatever service for his neighbors 'even in the roughest toil.' These women in the village would not know that Rip is a do-nothing husband at home.There is a kind of irony for a man who is not responsible at his own home but dares do even what other men cannot do in their homes. For this fact, Rip is admired by other women but his own.These women also are greatful if Rip voluntarly responds to the invitation that is, eagerly to help them. Building fences is an activity in the community which is incredibly difficult but Rip would do it enthusiastically. So,'he was ready to attend to anybody's business but his own.'(11)

Rip was a favorite of women and children in the village presumably because they were unable to criticize him. In contrast to their husbands, women appreciate him even though he declared impossible to work on his farm as noted in these lines:

> In fact, he declared it was of no use to work on his farm; it was the most pestilent little piece of ground in the whole country; everything about it went wrong and would go wrong, inspite of him. His fences were continually falling to pieces; his cow would either go astray or get among the cabbages; weeds were sure to grow quicker in his fields than anywhere else the rain always made a point of setting in just as he had some outdoor work to do; so that though his patrimonial estate had dwindled away under his management, acre by acre, patch of Indian Corn and potatoes, yet it was the worst-conditioned farm in the neighbourhood. (11)

Whoever has read this passage or anyone who has visited Rip's home, without asking more questions, he would answer himself. We are told exactly what happened to Rip's farm, cows, crops to make us aware that in his everyday situation, he was not a hardworking man. These are activities that require men's intervention because in American culture, men were supposed to prove that they could physically and morally work and deserve to have and support a family.These, in addition, are natural things that cultivators enjoy doing in rural places. Since the village area was fertile, farming and cattle rearing were principal activities that people depended on. Anyone who could be incapable to work on farm would be considered as lazy. Seeing Rip's home, we can guess his character even though we cannot go deeper into his mind. We only know what is going on because of what we see in the text. Nothing indicates how Rip manages to solve that problem of folding his hands or closing his eyes when things go wrong. What is more, Rip did not lack diligence and perseverence. What he cannot do for his own interest and for the sake of family, he would do it for others. His fences are destroyed but it does not mean he is useless at all.

Not only farms, crops that include properties are neglected at Rip's but also his children:

> His children, too, are ragged and wild as if they belonged to nobody.His son Rip, an urchin begotten in his own likeness, promised to inherit the habits, with the old clothes of his father.He was generally seen trooping like a colt at his mother's heel, equiped in a pair of his father's cast-off galligaskins, which he had much ado to hold up with one hand, as a fine lady does her train in bad weather. (11)

We obseved earlier that Rip was a preferred man by children and women in the village.However, what we are presented here to show how his own son looks like, is regrettable. His child wears dirty and tatty clothes and pretends to behave like his father. As the proverb 'Like father, like Son', Rip's son inherits from the father some of nasty habits because he got inspiration from his parents. We see how Rip transmits some of his attitudes to his own son.Presumably, this is the reason why Rip is not welcomed at home because his wife does not like the child to imitate the father.Urging Rip to be dutiful and

responsible is perhaps in possible ways what could motivate the son to be dynamic and responsible like his parents. The farm is the source of food and income but it is falling into ruin.This is a source where Rip could get money to buy good clothes for him and his family but also because of lazyness and ignorance, this land remains in rocks, unproductive and infertile. It was sold off most of it piece by piece.Truth to be told, there is no time to spend working on the land and consequently, there is no money forth coming. Rip is the man who likes to take everything easily and that is why he is called a 'simple' man.He likes to eat simple food and considers himself happy. Because he does not like to work, there is no indication that he asks much food to eat.The following lines note it:

> Rip van Winkle, however was one of those happy immortals, of foolish, well-oiled disposition, who takes the world easily, eat white bread or brown, whichever can be got with least thought or trouble, and would rather starve on a penny than work for a pound. If left to himself, he would have whistled life away in perfect contentment. (11)

Rip is among the 'happy immortals'probably because he is against any hard work that is profitable and imposed but which may not provide him joy. It would be bad if he wanted to eat much without working.Presumably this is because any hard work for him is imposed and forced but not for his free will. we see the great error in Rip's composition that is a strong dislike of profotable labor. He prefers to die of hunger than working to earn money. This natural human tendency to resist to work is one that makes the story to be related to idleness.The easy life maybe for idle people and such attitude enables people see themselves as hoplessly unlucky.

In addition, Rip's personality is that of little ambition to be developped in the world. He is content with the little he gets and few possessions. His description as 'one of these happy fools' is presented sympathetically. He is like a child who likes to live a day but happy. As a result, he is opposed to adults who always worry about how to live.

However, his wife's complaints against him are a cause of great distress to Rip. We are told :

> but his wife kept continually dining in his ears about his idleness, his carelessness, and the ruin he was bringing on his family. Morning, noon, and night her tongue was incessantly going, and everything he said or did was sure to produce a torrent of household eloquence. Rip had but one way of replying to all lectures of the kind, and that, by frequent use, had grown into habit. He shrugged his shoulders, shook his head, cast up his eyes, but said nothing. (11)

Dame Van Winkle is Rip's nagging wife and is also his antagonist in a sense that she always opposes Rip's reaction at home. Dame Van Winkle is a demanding woman. She does not like her husband to behave like a good-for-nothing person. She complains about Rip's behavior because he is not a child to always remind him what he is assigned to do. Rip is then unfortunate because he is not a child. He is a mature person and his wife is understandably frustrated by his lack of effort to provide everything for his family. Dame Van Winkle is labelled a 'termagant' wife to show to the world that her concerns are legitimate. We are told that his wife continually complains in his ears about his idleness. In response, Rip always just shrugged his shoulders.

It is fairly reasonable and understandable for her to feel frustrated over the fact that Rip lets his own possessions such as farm to go to ruin while he happly performs and responds tasks for anyone else in the neighbourhood who might ask for his help. He is a coward and upsets his wife who suffers and bears the consequences for his behavior.

Rip's companion is his loved dog wolf.They could be together and enjoy their idleness which makes Dame Van Tassel to hate it. She regarded them as companions in idleness and even looked upon wolf with an evil eye as the cause of his master's going so often astray. Where Rip is, is where wolf is and this could push Rip's wife to hate them. This observation for a man who is despised at home and finds pleasure in being with an animal is one of Romantic writers like Irving to find peace and tranquility in nature and animals.They prove the tendency that animal sometimes may be our best friends and understand us.Wolf is able to penetrate into Rip's mind and realises that he is not happy.

We may try to analyse why Wolf is an amusing creature for Rip.First of all, Rip's dog is called Wolf whereas we sometimes associate Wolf to animals which are ferocious and savage.A wolf is wild animal which is fearless and can not be domesticated.Rip's dog, to our surprise is Rip's best companion which accepts to suffer with him in the hands of Dame Van Winkle. It is abused and mistreated with equal passivity to his master's.

In the house, 'his tail droped to the ground or curled between his legs.He sneaked about with gallous air, casting many a sidelong glace at Dame Van Winkle, and at least flourish of a broomstick or ladle he would fly to the door with yelping precipitation'(12). As the society restricts the freedom of all creatures and forces them to conform to the rules against their nature, it is possibly suggested that the true nature of both the dog and the man have been thwarted by the oppresive rule of Dame Van Winkle.

Wolf is presented to comfort Rip and that is why they share their lazyness.Unable to console himself, Wolf can. Rip has also another chance to escape from his wife's responsabilities and obligations and joins other people in the village as in the following passage:

> For a long while, he used to console himself, when driven from home, by frequenting a kind of perpetual club of the sages, philosophers, and other idle personnages of the village, which held its sessions on a bench before a small inn, designated by a rubicund portrait of his Majesty George the third .Here they used to sit in the shade through a long lazy Summer's day, talking listlessly over village gossip, or telling endless sleepy stories about nothing. (12)

We attempt to understand why Rip is lazy because even the environment where he is, the atmosphere and people described, prove that people are not hardworking. Rip lives with people who like to gossip.By joining a club of 'sages ', we may think that he is to be wise. On the contrary, this is a company of friends with whom they gather to talk nothing in order to kill their time. He is with Nicholas Vedder, the owner of a village inn where those men like to meet. Vedder instead of encouraging his fellow men to be dutiful and assume responsibility, he shares in indolence.This is another moment where Rip finds

himself happy. Derrick Van Brummel is a village schoolamaster who also shares the company with Rip. We may ask ourselves why these people enjoy sleepy stories. They are also informed about what is happening in the country and 'how sagely they would deliberate upon public events some months after they had taken place' (12). They are interested in the past situation which means that they do not pay much attention to the future.This upholds the idea that romantic writers focus on the past and tradition and glorify its contents as part of what makes a human being worth living.

Local admnistration shares with Rip the same opinion in story telling as it is stated bellow:

> The opinion of this junta were completely controlled by Nicholas Vedder, a patriarch of the village and landlord of the inn, at the door of which he took his seat from morning till night, just moving sufficiently to avoid the sun and keep in the shade of a large tree so that the neighbours could tell the hour by his movements as accurately as by a sun-dial.It is true he was rarely heard to speak, but smoked his pipe incessantly. (12)

Nicholas Vedder is a local leader who initiates the club in spending the day uselessly.This is also Irving's aim to write this story where we notice that he is purely intending for fun and entertainment but deeper truth is revealed.Vedder is happy to be with his neighbours and doing nothing. There is a distrust of civilization because as we know if they do not work, they can not be developped. As a writer who shows deep love for the natural landscape, Irving shows where these men are sitting 'in the shade of a large tree' which make them to enjoy the conversation. His neighbours could see his reactions when he is happy or not. Although these men are not accomplishing anything useful, they consider themselves as philosophers engaged in a serious discussion.

Rip escapes in the mountains and flee into the woods with his dog. In this work, nature is presented as a solubrious influence that is, a place where one can escape the incessant demands of civilization. Rip takes his best and faithful

friend-a dog - as a natural creature to be separated from his nagging wife, a symbol of civilization. Rip also represents an individual possibly who wants to create a balance in his family. Dan Van Winkle wants 'too much' from her husband and therefore, Rip was unhappy. Rip is a character who does not do any interaction and contact with his family that also provoked his unhappiness. Selfishness comes into play, and the idea of family becomes more vague and uncertain.

For the fear that his wife would come and take him from other men; Rip realizes that the only thing to do is to leave his family. He would flee into the woods with his dog and a gun as we mentioned earlier because he had no choice. It is in Autumn (September) that Rip begins to experience his life in the Kaatskill Mountains enjoying his favorite sport of Squirrel shooting and the solutide that nature provides. Nature may sometimes be a place where good and bad things can happen. Human beings are not void of fear like other animals. When Rip was about to descend; "he heard a voice from a distance, hallowing:'Rip Van Winkle, Rip van Winkle'! He looked round, but could see nothing" (13). Rip responds to this reaction with emotion because he is confused. It is hard for him to guess or identify who is calling. Here, we note the role of the subconscious mind in human being. At any insight, for Rip, this voice reminds him that he is facing the same nightmare of being called once again by his wife to attend to his adult responsabilities. Both Rip and his companion first reaction were fear. Rip will not be free until he saw only a stranger. He could not expect to meet someone in the mountains. Also, he is surprised to see that he can find any other human being in this place. As usual, Rip is kind in offering any assistance to his neighbours other than his wife, other people are good.The meeting with a stranger in a place that is unfamiliar is what is to bring about Rip's trouble in the mountains.The stranger did not say any word than communicating with gestures indicating Rip to help him.It is not easy to satisfy or please everyone.

Rip does not hesitate to follow the stranger to nowhere he knows which is to cause his down like in the following passage:

> Passing through the ravine they came to a hollow, like a small amphitheatre, surrounded by perpendicular precipices, over the brinks of which impending trees shot their branches, so

> that you only cought glimpses of the azure sky and the bright evening cloud. (13)

In the amphitheatre, Rip saw strange people including the commander and they were playing ninepins. Rip was eager to help the stranger but how strangely he was dressed and behaving so oddly, Rip would hesitate to help him.He kindly accepts the offer.They head to a place unknown for Rip and it is about the evening not to notice how difficult it would be for Rip to come back. As they are walking together though Rip is fearful, he continued to trust his fellow man. He even offers him liquor and because Rip is naturally and understandably thirsty, he enjoys the drink that finaly leads him to sleep.

When Rip wakes up in the mountains, we realize that his fear is rising again when he states: "what excuse shall i make to Dame Van Winkle?"(16). The fact that he is back to look for his dog and unfortunately does not find, shows that Rip's thoughts are exactly always the same. He reinforces the idea that everything that takes place is a fantasy that enables him to avoid reality. Rip thinks that he only has a short nap but when he is back to the village, he is surprised to see that his sleep equals to twenty years because he is also surprised to see that things have changed particularly when he hardly finds his house and wife.We pretend to sympathise with him because he regreatably recognizes the role played by his wife to keep it always in neat.Only an old woman can know Rip who is now homeless.After presenting himself and telling the story of how he was away for twenty years, the neighbours came to accept what he says. It is Peter Vanderdonk, an old resident of the village who confirms Rip's identity and cites evidence to indicate Rip's unusual story is true. Thanks to Peter Vanderdonk, villagers also come to believe that really Rip sleeps away twenty years as if they were only one night .Vanderdonk is one of the "descendant of the historian who wrote one of the earliest accounts of the province"(17). When he assumes them that the Catskill Mountains "had always been haunted by strong beings"; (18) the villagers apparently accept without hesitation. Finally, Rip after presenting himself to different people in the village, his daughter Judith Gardenier welcomes him.She is grown up and married. She takes him after he does not have where to stay. Rip is again happy and continues to enjoy his old habits that is, idleness. This is Irving's main concerns that society may change but human beings sometimes do not

change.Rip shares the company with other old men sitting in the inn and spending their time telling stories.

In the second short story "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow", we are presented Ichabod Crane as the main character and the protagonist. Whithout him, it would be difficult to see what is told in the story. In addition, the description he is given portrays his attitudes and behavior in the village. Set in Sleepy Hollow which was a Dutch town for its tales of ghosts and superstititions, Ichabod is a character to play important scenes and make the story the most and much loved work of art. He is challenged by his antagonist Brom Bones actually 'Abraham'or in the Dutch abreviation, Brom Van Brunt. Physically, these two characters are not similar. The contrast in their physical differences is to play a major role in the story. We also find the heroine Katrina Van Tassel who also plays a key role in the story since both Ichabod and Brom Bones are running after her heart.

Ichabod is a well-known character in the region for the profession he is currently doing as stated in the following lines:

> 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 for frontier Woodsmen and country Schoolmasters. (283)

The narrator of this short story tells the story in Washington's romantic style of writing where an individual in the nature exhibits his attitudes in an environment where he is supposed to be. This is very important for us to understand who Ichabod is and what he is to show us as readers. He is the protagonist in the story and a long time ago, he lives as a bachelor in Sleepy Hollow. He has the privilege to be among the very few aducated in American society of the 19th century and he teaches in primary school.He is from Connecticut with no other intention but teaching the children in the region.

This school is located in the trees controlled by pionneers. For this fact, Ichabod's job is supervised by children's parents of the area but not all people in the Sleepy Hollow. This is an indication that he depends on the society and particulary the parents of those children he instructs in the basic skills of reading, writing and arithmetic. Considering and comparing with other people, he is supposed to be a better man in the society. A brief description is given to Ichabod's character also by portraying his phyisical shape:

> The cognmen 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 shovells, and his whole frame most loosely hung together.His head was small; and flat at top; with huge ears, large glassy eyes, and a long snipe nose, so that it looked like a weather-cock, perched upon his spindle neck, to tell which way the wind blew. (283)

Ichabod Crane is a good name that fits the description above. The name Crane suggests that he looks like a tall bird, a crane.He is tall and thin like a crane. He does not make much money as a teacher and this as we will see it late he is lazy with regard to how farmers considered him because he lives in their houses. If we attempt to analyse seriously Crane's condition, we see that he is not as serious as educated people are supposed to be. Highly educated, according to him, he does not prove it because without farmers' money and houses, he cannot survive. It was customary for the local schoolmaster to live in the houses of the farmers whose children attended the school. Because they provide room and board, members of the community were not supposed to pay much money in salary to Ichabod. Also, as part of the community, it was how to make him to feel at ease. He did not have many possessions because at each place only a week was enough to change the residence. Even though Ichabod is considered as member of the locality, he works in an isolated area as stated in the following lines:

> The school-house stood in rather lonely but pleasant situation, just at the foot of a woody hill, with a brook running close by, and a formidable birth tree growing at one end of it. From hence the low murmur of his pupil's voices, conning

> over their lessons, might be heard in a drousy summer's day, like the hum of a bee-hive; interrupted now and then by the authoritative voice of the master, in the tone of menace or command ; or, preadventure, by the appalling sound of the birth, as he urged some tardy loiterer along the flowery path of knowledge.Truth to say, he was a conscientious man, and even bore in mind the golden maxim 'spare the rod and spoil the child'--Ichabod Crane's scholars certainly were not spoiled. (284)

Ichabod's school is located in a place surrounded by trees which make the atmosphere calm and cool. He knows how to handle his class and pupils by his authoritative voice. He considers himself as serious and proud of his profession. He believes he is a good teacher who must fulfil his reponsibilities because he knows without this job, he could hardly survive. Ichabod is always wondering how to increase the revenue from his school.Though thin and tall like a Crane,he ate too much which constitutes a burden for children's parents who were supposed to provide him food and shelter. After school,he finds occasion to chart with his pupils particulary beautiful girls. It makes boys jealous and frustrates them.

As a member of the society, Ichabod would do two things to make himself useful to the farmers as noted in this passage:

> 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 found favor in the eyes of the mothers, by petting the children, particulary the youngest; and like the lion bold, which whilom so magnanimously the lamb did hold, he would sit with his foot for whole hours together. (284)

Local people thought that Ichabod's profession is luxurious; they have a tendency to be resentful of having to provide room and board in addition to a salary for the schoolmaster. That is why they consider him as a lazy person since farmers think that teaching is easy compared to the physical labor they have to perform.Thus, Ichabod did whatever he could to keep on the good side

of the families with whom he stayed. To attract farmers and pay their attention, he would do any work around the farm like caring for livestock or mending fences. He would also take care for children whose parents were busy cultivating. We may draw some parallels in this story with "Rip Van Winkle". Like Rip, villagers in Hudson live on land cultivation and this make their daily living. Since Ichabod could not cultivate, he was considered like a man who escapes responsibilities. Profitable labor like cultivating is what pushes farmers to realize that teaching is not important. Similarly, for Rip who could do nothing at home, Ichabod would react to farmers'need but physical labor. The qualification of these two characters as idle is of the fact that they both refuse to do what the society wants from them but prefer to lead a life in their own way.

In addition to his teaching profession, Ichabod was a good singer and was a "singing-master of the neighbourhood". He has a soft voice which make people like girls to like him.For this reason women in the countryside think he is an important person as it is observed bellow:

> The Schoolmaster is generally a man of some importance in the female circle of rural neighbourhood; being considered a kind of iddle gentlemanlike personage, of vastly superior taste and accomplishments to the rough country swains, and indeed, inferior in learning only to the parson.His appearences, therefore, is apt to occasion some little stir at the tea-table of a farmhouse, and the addition of a supernumerary dish of cakes or sweet meats, or, peradventure, the parade of a silver teapot. Our man of letters, therefore, was peculiarly happy in the smiles of all the country damsels. How he would figure among them in the church yard, between services on Sundays! gathering grapes for them from the wild vines that overrun the surrounding trees reciting for their amusement all the epitaphs on the tombstones; or saunting, with a whole bevy of them, along the banks of that adlacent mill-pond; while the more bashful country bumpkin hung sheeply back; envying his superior elegance and address. (285)

In the 19th century, Americans generally considered educated people to be the light of the society and schoolmasters were respected particularly those living in rural regions like Hudson. Educated people thought they were superior in their habits. For local citizens with little knowledge, it was a privilege to associate with such a learned person. Therefore, women who are good at cooking or preparing any other kind of meal would invite him to their nicest food in an attempt to show him their own refinement. Ichabod would like it and also profit the occasion to chart with girls. Boys would not like it and feel unhappy and jealous notably his way of talking. Ichabod is a teacher who does not examine his ordinary consideration. Even though he has a profession, he is not well paid to satisfy his needs. Instead of managing with the little he gets, he rather wants to spend it uselessly. He wants to associate with rich people to see if he can profit from them. People like women respect him because "he had read several books quite through" (285).

The description that is given to Ichabod does not march with his attitude in their society as noticed in these lines:

> He was, in fact, an odd mixture of small shrewdness and simple credulity. His appetite for the marvelous and his power of digesting it, were equally extraordinary; and both had been increased by his residence in this spellbound region. (285)

Ichabod is a very thin person but eats much food like big people.In the sense of humor, Irving presents us a character who is proud of himself but also a hypocrite because he sometimes pretends to be what he is not. Ironically, Ichabod likes to read several books about ghosts and admits to have read several books all the way through and he believes that witches indeed did exist. We expect him to have mastered the wisdom of how to live fully in such kind of environment but he seems not. We are told that ghost stories and tales are fearful and dreadful but he has as a living in this "spellbound region". He wants to live only by his profession that is, teaching and reading afterwards. There is no indication to another lucrative activity that he aspires to or plans to carry out. If in "Rip Van Winkle" after Rip's escape from duties at home, he joins a company of old villagers with whom they kill the time by talking about endless stories; it is the contrary to Ichabod. His after class activities are only reading and enjoying the beautifulnes of nature that excites his imagination. Ichabod

and Rip hate any physical labor and of course enjoy what they do. What Ichabod could do to face ghosts and evil spirits was to sing gospels which sometimes would disturb people of Sleepy Hollow. Irving's purpose is to display the kind of behavior of people who believe they are doing something good in the society whereas in practice they may constitute a burden to their environment.

He also shows us how a character is in the society whether he is appreciated or not. Apart from reading ghost tales as a pass-time, he also joins the company of others as stated bellow:

> Another of his sources of fearful pleasure was to pass long winter evenings with the old Dutch wives, as they sat spinning by the fire, with a row of apples roasting and spluttering along the hearth, and listen to their malverous tales of ghosts and goblins, and hounted houses, and particularly of the headless horseman, or galloping Hessian of the Hollow, as they sometimes called him. (286)

After reading, Ichabod would walk towards home in the night. In his mind, after spending the afternoon reading, he is filled with wild thoughts and imaginations. He is frightened by almost everything he heard or saw.He also imagines himself surrounded by unknown danger. It is worth reminding that Ichabod's home changes frequently that is why Ichabod has also an interest in the supernatural because most of the stories he reads talk about superstitious events and characters which suggests his beliefs in the possibility of discovering the truth through imagination.The most dreadful story known in the village is that of a headless Hessian Soldier who lost his head during the war. Ichabod is a comic figure in the sense that reading to prove that he is highly educated and does not work hard to earn money to buy some food. Considering the general truth that "we are what we eat" can be shown by the fact that if Ichabod is a thin person, we see that Ichabod's spirit as well as his body proves the opposite. He eats too much but does not work enough. He also walks in the night alone.Terrors of the night, phantoms in the darkness would push him to have fear.He thinks all what he wants from ghosts and witches even though he didn't see or meet them, is to get someone. Ichabod likes to teach music to the children of the village whose parents pay him money. Among those children, he

has a soft and foolish heart for girls. He is indebtedly interested in Katrina Van Tassel, a daughter of a rich farmer. He meets her because of his instructions in psalmody.Teaching music is Ichabod's part-time job to earn his living.

Katrina Van Tassel is another character worth mentioning in this short story. As a secondary character, without her, we would not see Ichabod's intention to think about his future as a teacher.She is described as young and a beautiful creature as stated in the following passage:

> She was a blooming lass of fresh eighteen; plumb as a patridge, wipe and melting and rosy cheeked as one of her father's peaches, and universally famed, not merely for her beauty, but her vast expectation.She was withal a little of coquette, as might be perceived even in her dress, which was a mixture of ancient and modern fashions, as most suited to set off her charms. She wore the ornaments of pure yellow gold, which her great-great grandmother had brought over from Saardam; the tempting stomacher of the olden time; and withal a provokingly short petticot, to display the prettiest foot and ankle in country around. (286-287)

Katrina is known for his beauty and the way she dresses proves that she is from a well-to-do family. She expects to inherit her father's properties that is, his richness.Through her appearance, she is proud of herself. Ichabod is running after this creature with a perchant love for her hoping to profit from her father's properties.She is not presented as a hardworker in the society but a person who attracts men. Everything begins when Ichabod as a teacher, helps her to learn music. She is a lovely daughter of a wealthy Dutch farmer, Baltus Van Tassel. Ichabod is eager to win her heart. Ichabod would not have been interested in her "after he had visited in her father's mansion" and it is noted in this paragraph:

> When he entered the house the conquest of his heart was complete.It was one of those spacious farmhouses, with high-ridged, but lowly-slaping roofs, built in the style handed down from the first Dutch settlers; the low projecting eaves forming

> a piazza along the front, capable of being closed up in bad weather. (288)

This description of Katrina's father's house is one of what will motivate Ichabod to continue thinking about her. As mentioned earlier in Ichabod's dependency on parents' money and shelter, Ichabod is immediately impressed by the big and nice house of Katrina's. He thinks that if Katrina accepts his love, they can live happly in that house too. Here, it is clearly Katrina's wealth that attracts most and persuades Ichabod.While meeting Katrina at school, we are told how he thinks about her as far as living together with her is concerned. It is only there at her father's that he sees evidence of just how prosperous her father is.The description about the house with its various furnishings can be considered quite a luxurious one for that time. After contemplating the house; 'Ichabod laid his eyes upon these regions of delight, the peace of his mind was not an end' (288). His desire to gain her affections arises mostly from the fact that she is the daughter of Van Tassel and will thus inherit this plentiful lifestyle.

However, the battle will not be easy for Ichabod to marry Katrina.This is because Katrina's ambition and behavior is quite bizarre. She is described as a "coquette" who is a "labbyrinth of whims" (288). So, it is not easy to win an engagement from her to give her heart to any man. Katrina is also has a "host of rustic admirers "(288) who will join together to defeat any competitor who seems to be gaining any advantage on the others in conquest to win her.Ichabod does not seem to see his problems to face them. Katrina is sure that for her beauty, men will compete to win her heart. Ichabod has an important antagonist in this short story as far as love issues and materialism are concerned.This principal rival is described in the following passages:

> Among these most formidable was a burly, roaring, roistering lad, of the name Abraham, or according to the Dutch abreviation Brom Van Brunt, the hero of the country round, which hung with his feats of strength and hardihood. He was broad-shouldered and double-joined, with short curly black hair, and a bluff, but not unpleasant countenance, having a mingled air of fun and arrogance. (299)

As his name suggests, Brom Bone is a man, who is strong like bones.He is able to use his physical strength as well as his wealth and reputation.He is hard like bones.

Ichabod's visits to Katrina were to reveal his intention to love her but his enemy, Brom Van Brunt, nicknamed Brom Bones is a burly outdoors-man who is strong and somewhat haughty. He is powerfully built, handsome, and full of high spirit. But we hear that Brom Bone constitutes a problem blocking the road to Katrina's love. Compared to Ichabod who is tall and thin, Brom Bones's physical character is quite the opposite.He is a young man and would become a hero to all young ladies. His shoulders are big.His back is wide and his hair short and curly. He is also famous in the village as stated bellow:

> He was famed for great knowledge and skill in horsemanship, being as dexterious on horse-back as a Tartar.He was foremost at all races and cock-fights; and, with all disputes, setting his hat on one side, and giving his decisions with an air and tone admitting of no gainsay or appeal.He was always ready for either a fight or a frolic. (289)

The fact that Brom Bones always wins the horse races in Tarry Town and earns many prizes pushes Katrina to lose confidence in Ichabod.What Ichabod can do, is to pay regular visits to her pretending to court her. Ichabod is probably able to make frequent visits to her house without openly wooing her because he has been hired to teach her to sing.

These two competitors are not willing to give up Katrina.That is why Brom Bones has different approaches to show to Ichabod that he too is interested in wining her heart.In physical terms, Brom Bones wants to do battle for his ladylove and wins. He wants also to utter threats concerning what he pretends to do to the schoolmaster in physical competition. Seemingly, Ichabod begins to realize that there is no chance to fight with him. We see how Brom Bones does not engage a love affair with Katrina but pretends to prove to the villagers that he is a man who deserves such a beautiful lady.Horse riding and cock fights are games that are traditionally known and admired in American culture. Also Brom Bones demonstrates materialism, an intention that Irving reveals in the text. Ichabod considers himself an educated person; he too wants to show

to the villagers that by his intelligence, he can get whatever he wants and leads a happy life. These characters are the prototype of American emerging culture based on the desire to become happier by all means.There is a character conflict between them on one hand and the society that treats people to search for wealth on the other hand.Ichabod seeks to profit from Katrina´s rich farm to continue depending on others whereas Brom Bones uses his wealth and reputation to get and aspire to whatever he wants.However, Ichabod does not see any wrong he is committing to the society. He is conscious that his profession is suitable to the confidence people have in him. He does not cheat because this is how the villagers treat him.

Brom Bones tries to steal Katrina because this is how he can proceed. Beginning by his attitude, he is a man who is proud and wants the whole village to notice him as demonstrated in this passage:

> He had three or four companions, who regarded him as their model, and at the head of whom he scourded the country, attending every scene of feud or merriment for miles around. In cold weather he was distinguished by a fur cup, surmounted with a flaunting fox´s tail; and when the folks at a country gathering described this well-known crest at a distance, whisking about among a squad of hard riders, they always stood by for a squall.Sometimes his screw would be heard dashing along past the farmhouses at midnight, with whoop and halloo, like a troop of Don Cassacks; and the old dames, startled out of their sleep, would listen for a moment till the hurry- scurry had clattered by, and they explain, "Ay, there goes Brom Bones and his gang !"The neighbors looked upon him with a mixture of awe, admiration and good will; and when any madcap prank, or rustic brawl occurred, and vicinity, always shook their heads, and warranted Brom Bones at the botton of it. (289)

With this detailed description, we observe that sometimes late at night, Brom Bones and his friends would rush through shouting from the back of their horses. We also realize that those who could get their sleep, particularly ladies would be awaken from their period of resting because they know that it is

Brom Bones and his group. Brom Bone is Ichabod's enemy that he has to face for Katrina's heart. If Ichabod were wise, he would not try but we notice that he can resist the man who always attempts to humiliate him. Brom Bones intermingles with Ichabod's affair at the schoolhouse and prevents him from teaching singing. We would feel that ' he was in form and spirit like a supple jack-yielding, but though he bowed beneth the slightest pressure, yet, the moment it was away-jerk !he was as erect, and carried his head as high as ever'(289).

Ichabod is able to realize that he has a terrible opponent. He cannot fight in open because he believes Katrina loves him. He earns extra money teaching young people to sing but could not compete with Brom Bones financially. We are allowed to see the emerging attitudes of the society where Ichabod represents the American and ordinary culture and Brom Bones a symbol of aristocracy who feels confident and proud of his wealth. Whereas Ichabod finds pleasure walking on foot, Brom Bones is never seen without a horse, a symbol of aristocrats. Waging a war against his rival wouldd 'have been madness' because he knows that Brom bones is manipulated by society which believes those who are not emerging financially can hardly love a rich and beautiful lady like Katrina.That is why the only thing Ichabod prefers to do is to pay regular visits to the farmhouse.

Balt Van Tassel is another character in the story who displays his neutral position. His description is worth noting in the move of the story because 'he was an easy indulgent soul; he loved his daughter better ever than his pipe, and, like a reasonable man and an excellent father, let her have her way in every thing' (289). We believe that Balt Van Tassel is not to prevent his daughter from choosing the one she loves between Ichabod and Brom Bones.The choice is probably hers. This freedom aspect though not clearly easy, is what makes the story to be truly romantic because Katrina does not have anyone to impose her any authority. However, as herself considers "coquette" and proud enough to act, we see that chances are for Brom Bones to win the race. Ichabod does not see the effect of materialism in his society because we are told that he does not want to work hard to earn more money. Like Rip, Ichabod does not like any lucrative labor. He is free to remain a teacher, a profession some women in the locality despise. His

antagonist will make Katrina notice that Ichabod is poor and depends on parents' contribution for his survival and probably does not have a good reputation.

Brom Bones by showing up and proving to Ichabod that he is strong; he provokes him when he is at the schoolhouse and also stops up the chimney while Ichabod is teaching singing. This is among the things Brom Bones does to ridicule Ichabod in front of Katrina to prove to him that he does not deserve her and could give up.

During the party at Bultus Van Tassel's, Ichabod's invitation brought by a Negro, consciously pushes him not to look how he is.He wants to prove to Katrina's that he is able to win her. He takes much time to prepare himself physically and emotionally.He tries to make himself look good, putting on his best suit and what have you.To prove to the world that he can behave like other rich people, he borrowed a horse on which to ride to the party.This horse is from the farmer with whom he lived, a choleric old Dutchman of the name of Hans Van Pipper.

Although this horse with the name 'Gunpowder'may have had a 'spark'in him which gives him this name, he is now a 'broken-down plough-horse'with his skinny body, his horse is not at all like other steed of a hero in a romantic story. Presenting the steed as, 'gount and shagged' is to show to the world that Ichabod is maybe like his horse in shape and for this reason, cannot compete with Brom Bones. This horse may probably be filled with evil powers to prevent Ichabod to fulfil his mission.Ichabod is invited in the party.This event happen in autumn, where nature has a 'rich and golden liverly' to associate with the idea of abundance.This atmosphere will lead us to how Ichabod seemingly behave like a man confident and considers himself like a fearless man. By crossing nice fields towards Katrina's, he thinks that this is what he will inherit if he happens to win her heart. There is a romantic depiction of nature that attracts Ichabod to live a dependency life:

> Farther on he beheld great fields of Indian corn, with its golden ears peeping from their leafy coverts, and holding out the promise of cakes and hasty pudding, and the yellow pumpkins lying beneth them, turning up their fair around

> bellies to the sun, and giving ample prospects of the most luxurious fo pies, and anon he passed the fragrant buckwheat fields, breathing the door of the bee-hive, and as he beheld them, soft anticipation stole over his mind of dainty slapjacks, well buttered, and garnished with honey or treackle, by delicate dimpled hand of Katrina Van Tassel. (292)

Farmers and other people are gothering to attend the party but Brom Bones is described as "the hero of the scene". His horse is 'a creature; like himself, full of mischief, which noone else could manage' (293). The horse is clearly large, powerful and wild. Like Brom, it seems to be an impressive physical specimen, full of high spirit and difficult for ordinary men to control. Irving is attempting to show us the differences between Brom Bone's steed and Ichabod's.This is another way of contrasting the two men.

Ichabod is recieved with "hospitable attention" because as a teacher, he believes maybe that he is the best guest to accept Katrina's reaction, he does not know what will happen next. During the dance time, he is happy to be with Katrina. However, this makes Brom Bones jealous.In this party, ghost stories are to be told and the best that shapes their mind is one that of a headless horseman whose "rushing speed" has earlier been described as a "midnight blast"if the Hessian had not vanished as they approached the end of the race. The story teller who would be the best would make himself the hero of every exploit.It is during the night that Ichabod resolves to leave Katrina's house because he spent much time telling ghost stories.These stories have hightened his imagination.

He was with a group of people after dancing with Katrina and even though he has to go home, he is convinced that he has a romantic conversation and moment with Katrina.Irving tells how Katrina reacts towards Ichabod's attitudes, seriously shows that she has never been interested in him. This is how Irving uses his imaginative ability to create characters who exhibit strong emotion and feeling. The evidence of the frustration of his hopes comes from the fact that he takes no notice of the "scene of rural weather on which he had so often gloated" (295).

Ichabod is in a place where local superstititions are popular and the object he approaches, like trees where Major André was taken captive, his imagination goes wild. Ichabod's reaction towards the people and places he mets, shows how he is astonished and it creates perils for him that do not exist. Like "Rip Van Winkle", Rip is terrified when he tries to walk in the mountains towards home.He meets strange people and feels frustrated. Ichabod too is terrified when he tries to get across the bridge which leads into the swamp and is encompassed by covernous gloom of strange and large trees where Major André was captured. As a result, his heart begins to thump and he begins to express his anxiety by kicking his horse repeatedly.The horse's movement is an indication that Ichabod's misfortune is the consequences of his attitudes in the party with Brom Bone's intention to show him that he no longer merits Katrina.

Ichabod also sees something huge and black by the brook and "the hair of the affrighted pedagogue rose upon his head with terror" (297). We notice that Irving's intention is to let us know that there mysterious elements that inevitably happen in our everyday life.However, after realising that it was too hard to escape, especially a ghost which could ride upon the wings of the wind, he gathers up the courage to face the danger and asks the question but no reaction, he "beat the sides of Gunpowder and shutting his eyes, began singing a psalm with fervor" (297).

We see that Ichabod is chased by the ghostly Hessian Soldier and is frightened and thrown from his steed after realising that he is headless. As he is to approach Sleepy Hollow, Gunpowder turns to the opposite side. Since Ichabod is unable to controll his steed, he believes he is approaching the church but can not precise the place. This incident happened to Rip when he wakes up after sleeping twenty years, he recollected all incidents. Ichabod thinks that by approaching the Bridge, he is safe. It is worth mentioning that this is a major focus for romantic writers on how a character's weaknesses or strentghs are exhibited in time.The night is in this context bad and individuals face the wind of change. Ichabod struggles to fight back to get freedom as indicated in the following lines :

> Ichabod casts a look behind to see if his pursuer should vanish, according to rule, in a flash of fire and brimstome. Just then he saw the goblin rising in his stirrups and in the very act

> of hurling his head at him. Ichabod endevoured to dodge the horrible missile but too late he was tumbled healong into the dust, and Gunpowder, the black steed, and the goblin, passed by like a whirwind. (299)

This is Ichabod's struggle with his steed against Brom Bones'attack. Irving may attempt to tell us the conflict between these horse riders because Ichabod is a Yankee from Connectcut whereas Brom Bones is a Dutch from New York.It is also the regional contrast that is displayed in this work. Brom Bones is materialistically rich and pretends to be proud of it by preventing Ichabod,a traditionally-poor man to deserve the heart of Katrina. However, we notice that Brom Bones is the local hunk capable to dominate on a suitor for Miss Katrina.

It is with the meeting of Ichabod with a giant monster that pushes him to disappear from the valley. He leaves Tarry Town probably because he missed Katrina and people talk about the broken orange pumpkin found lying near Ichabod's hat.Few days later, Ichabod is heard to be a lawyer in another village and doing other activities continuing to depend on people's contribution to earn his living.

In this chapter, we realize that characters are presented by means of description. There are main protagonists like Rip and Ichabod who are considered by the society as lazy people because they do not want to do any profitable job.They want to lead a simple life without constituting a burden on the families who lodged them.They are individuals who like the natural environment with its beauty rather than the so-called civilization with its materialistic orientation.

CHAPTER THREE

THEMES IN "RIP VAN WINKLE" AND "THE LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW"

In this chapter, we will try to explore the main themes in the two short stories and how they serve as the central message that is, an insight about life.Culture and tradition are key words that propel these stories.The main characters in the two short stories are actors whose attitudes are at the same time linked with people, history and other elements of nature.We will also attempt to analyse different elements of tradition that push these protagonists to act as custodians of tradition.

As we saw in the first chapter, the location of these stories also includes the beliefs and values of both protagonists and antagonists but how they want to preserve the past, tradition and memory is not the same and that is what is worth mentioning in this work. The different places that are described in the stories will help us try to examine how people view their presence in America and why they are always remembered in American culture. We mentioned earlier that these two short stories are legends which mean that they are traditions that are handed down from the past, generation to generation and constitute an important part of American culture.

In the *Dictionary of Contemporary English*, theme is defined as the main subject or idea in a piece of writing, speech, film etc. It is also a message, or general truth about life, expressed in a work of art. There may be one theme or several in a single piece of writing. It is what a writer repeats or develops in his or her work.

This chapter also attempts to show how the central theme is linked with the setting that is described together with the people living in are characterised by a different view on how they handle various situations that happen in their society and environment. The Revolutionary War that takes place in Hudson region in particular and America in general does not sometimes change the beliefs and values of some Americans. Despite those changes and other infuences observed in the society, some people still acknowledge that the past is important and must be relived in the present. We also try to analyse how certain elements or what happens to us even though they can be beyond our understanding, mysterious or imaginative events have more historical truths

and make these stories perfect and in reality, the changes that happen, hardly change the minds of people.

Beginning with the first short story "Rip Van Winkle",in the first paragraph, Kaaterskill mountains are invested with human qualities and are described like "Appalachian family, and are seen away to the West river; when the weather is fair and settled, they are clothed in blue and purple ... "(10). The Kaaterskill also called Catskill here, are described like characters and may help us to analyse them by means of personification. They are like a family to let us know that for a long time, they are living and are known to have certain characteristics of an old family, a component of people where human beings live. As we know, people live in mountains oand the sun and the weather regulate living things on mountains or around. A family is an important part of our life because every people have its origin and they are remembered from generation to generation.

From this perspective, the main character Rip is also described as "a descendent of Van Winkles who figured so gallantly in the chivarlous days of Peter Stuyvesant" (10). Rip is part of the society who has origin in the family name Van Winkle's and he is given a family name 'Rip Van Winkle' which is the title of the story. Like most of the works, sometimes the title may help us understand or reveal the content of the story or suggest something to us. In addition; most of us inherit from our ancestors as members of the society made by several families. We can be brave, courageous as our ancestors. However, this is not always the truth because in this work, Rip 'inherited, but little of the martial character of his ancestors '. (12)

As we will see in this short story, characters in general particularly the protagonists behave in a way that is not what we expect them to be. As for the case of family relashionship, Rip is from a valiant family and this suggests to us that they are strong and fearless people. However, Rip is not like people from his family.We would feel interested or happy to see that Rip has the same quality like his family members but it is not the case. In this area peopled first of all by Dutch Colonists has a sense of the past that will help us to describe different footprints left by colonisation in the early nineteenth century in America.

As "Legend of Sleepy Hollow" suggests, these two short stories pay much attention on how the past is always present. As we mentioned in the second chapter, the different attitudes of some characters that are described in the two stories make us to analyse scrupulously why these people particulary main characters are partrayed as lazy people. We can guess from the early begining of "Legend of Sleepy Hollow", the work starts by a poem:

> A pleasing land of drowsy heat it was
> of dream that wave before the half-shut eye;
> And of gay castles in the clouds that pass,
> For every flushing round a summer sky. (339)
>
> *CASTLE OF INDOLENCE*

This is a poem found among the paper of the late Diedricker Knickerbocker.The poem is an epigraph from James Thomson's "Castle of Indolence",a poem that is told to be against indolence, a word that denotes lazyness.In both short stories, we see how the weather and people that are described show that the mood that is revealed in the area of pastoral and farming activities prove that these people are somehow calm, quiet and indolent. Worth noticing in the Hudson region is that the two short stories share the same background. The setting of these stories gives us an information that the region was named after the explorer whose name was Henry Hudson who arrived in 1609 from England.These legends tell us that it is a peaceful and quiet place in the world and many tales have been handed down from past generation to explain their slothfulness.That is why people would gather under trees and enjoy stories that are told in village.

Certain beliefs in the society are accepted by most villagers such as the ghosts that hount the region. Both protagonists face the presence of inevitable situations that happen in the society. They meet strange people and are challenged with mysterious people. Washington's description of Hudson village where towns like Tarry Town and Sleepy Hollow have the literal meaning of places to escape the "real world" in search for other peaceful and quiet places.These towns located in the Hudson region prove that there is a history related to the ghosts that hounted the area. Andrew Benett and Nicholas Royle argue that:

> Ghosts have history. They are not what they used to be. Ghosts in a sense have history.They do not after all, come from nowhere, even if they may appear to do just that. They are always inscribed in context: they at once belong to and hount the idea of a place (hence 'spirit of a place' or genius loci), and belong to and hount the idea of time. (133)

Ghost stories are related to the past of the region, a sign that there used to be some people in any given locality and people are to believe it. The different stories that are told over generation make people to believe it. An important subject of this work has been discussed how some people not only acccept those stories as true but also how they constitute an important part of their tradition that is, Legends, how they link what they believe to be true to the places they live in their society and some exhibit certain behavior to admit their strengths and weaknesses. By acting like individuals depending on their values and do not totally accept to cope with probably new situations and incidents, members of the society sometimes accept what occurs in their environment not easily and prefer to keep their attitudes.

Legends talk about a specific person or place. In these short stories, Henry Hudson, the explorer of the region is said to regularly come back to visit the area. In "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow", a key figure is a headless horseman whose head is shot off and always comes back after twenty years.These memorable incidents though sometimes fearful, make people to accept them as true.There is mystery.

Beginning with "Rip Van Winkle", we see that Rip escapes from his nagging wife to the mountains but we are told that even though he finds himself in the nature, he does not know where he is as stated below:

> In the long ramble of the kind, on a fine autumnal day, Rip had unconsciously scrambled to one of the highest parts of the Kaatskills Mountains. He was after his favorite sport of squirrel-shooting, and the still solitudes had echoed and re-echoed with the report of his gun ...As he was about to descend, he heard a voice from a distance hallooing: " Rip Van Winkle" , "Rip Van Winkle" . He looked round, but could see

> nothing but a crow winging its solitary flight across the mountains. He thought his fancy must have deceived him, and turned abain to descend, when he heard the same cry ring through the still eveninng air: "Rip Van Winkle! Rip Van Winkle! "at the same time Wolf bristled up his back; and giving a loud growl, skulked to his master's side, looking fearful down into the glen. (13)

It is in September that Rip decides to leave home. This time is crucial for us and that is how Irving makes us imagine throughout the story why Rip wants to leave at this moment. In the mountains it is supposed to be a cold period in which together linked with this setting allow us to understand why in unkown place, man is filled with fear.Though he is doing his routine activities, he has an intention to spend more times away from family. We notice the exploration of Rip's mind as an individual with his solitude in nature. Rip is alone to experience another terrible journey with his companion. He relies on his mind but does not control his mental capacity to take care a stand. He does not understand why he hears a voice calling his name in an isolated place.This sounds a bit strange because as we will see, strange happpenings sometimes are inevitable in a place that is so strange and unfamiliar to everybody.

We are however, allowed to accept that in nature different kinds of situations can happen.There is also a distrust of civilization. Rip would go in another town or village to some of his neighbours. Like his neighbours with whom they share the companionship, we expect him to see them and tell his problem. However, Rip proves to the world that he does not have any problem. Traditionally, people used to travel to sharpen their imagination and discover new things. Rip is able to reveal us his travel impressions in the mountains. Though alone, he finally meets strange people unexpectedly in the mountains and as kind and generous he is, he shares the company with the strangers and drinks with them.

As a man who likes to assist people except his wife, Rip is motivated to help the stranger probably because they can have together the liquor. Rip does not respond to his instinct maybe because he is thirsty and hungry. When Rip is introduced to other people in the amphetheatre, his fear arises because these people seem to amuse themselves but "they maintained the gravest faces, the

most mysterious silence" (14). In the midst of these strange men Rip is even more comfortable than with Dame Winkle. He drinks with them without fear:

> He was naturally a thirsty soul, and was soon tempted to repeat the drought. One taste provoked another, and he reiterated his visits to the flagon so often that at length his senses were overpowered, his eyes swam in his head, his head gradually declined fell into a deep sleep. (14)

After drinking a liquor, Rip looses his mind.He unconsciously wishes to sleep in unkown place.The sleep motif is what pushes us to argue that there is mystery in what we may try to explain why Rip accepts to stay in mountains.Rip can not control himself and is weak. It is said that it was a short nap but when he wakes up, we see that he arises finding everthing changed. Mysterious events happen so often to us and they are beyond our way of grasping things that we can not control.

In *The General Introduction to the Core Classic Text*, Lisa Scallet argues that "the sleep motif is one that has been popular in folk and fairly tales throughout history" (36). We are allowed to say that folktales and legends share this property to focus on individuals undergoing different changes in themselves, in an environment that is probably unfamiliar to them. Rip is in the Kaaterskill mountains, the setting of this story and we see his belief in the possibility of discovering truth through imagination. He drinks from the flagon because he sees the men drinking and enjoying themselves. By portraying people in the mountains, these personnages are Irving's intention to give elements of local color to this story and the mythic quality of the tale he created.

When Rip wakes up, he is greatly surprised not only by his own condition and appearance but also consciously recorded all the events:

> On waking, he found himself on the green knoll whence he had first seen the old man of the glen. He rubbed his eyes-it was a bright sunny morning. The birds were hopping and twittering among the bushes the eagle was wheeling aloft and breasting the pure mountains breeze surely; thought Rip 'I have not slept here all the night.'He recalled the occurrences

> before he fell asleep.The strange man with a keg of liquor-the mountain ravine-the wild retreat among the rocks-the woebegone party at ninepins-the flagon-'Oh! That flagon! thought Rip;'what excuse shall i make to Dame Van Winkle?'(14)

This flagon constitutes elements of supernatural that is, the drink that lulled Rip to sleep. What is important to argue here is how after sleeping, Rip wakes up and is able to recognize the whole scene. There is fear of the time passing and he finds himself in a world that he has never made. This is an issue worth noting for romantic writers to show to us that sometimes we are "careless dreamers" and we fear to return from where we are from.This also concerns the author himself when he was in Europe, he has a fear to return to a changed America. Like Rip, the fact that he retells us the entire scene is to make us see that he is trying to find his identity. Even though Rip has decided to retreat to nature, he still remembers his home and Dame Van Tassel.We can say that Rip refused to be civilized and decides to leave home to the mountains. When then he wakes up, we notice that he finds himself where he was with the appearance of the little man and the reason he has the thought that are exactly what they were before when all started, reinforces the idea that everything that happened was a fantaisy that enabled him to avoid reality.

Similar to "Rip Van Winkle", mysterious elements, together with the supernatural and imagination are depicted in "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow". Ichabod is in love with the rich and famous doughter. Invited at Katrina's party, Ichabod makes preparations to prove that he deserves Katrina.Horse riding is a precious habit for Americans, a sign of aristocracy and well-to-do people.Certain things without knowing how they are, are presented to us:

> The gallant Ichabod now spent at last an extra-hour at his toilet; brushing and furnishing up his best and indeed only suit of rusty black, and arranging his looks by a bit of broken looking glass, that hung up in the school-house.That he might make his appearance before his mistress in the true style of a cavalier, he borrowed a horse from the farmer with whom he was domiciliated, a choleric old Dutchman, of the name of Hans Van Pipper, and, thus gallantly mounted, issued forth

> like a knight-errant in quiet of adventurer. But it is met i should, in the true spirit of romantic story, give some account of the looks and equipments of my hero and his steed.The animal he bestrode was a broken-plough-horse, that had outlived almost everything but his viciousness.He was gount and shugged, with ewe neck and a head like a harmer; his rusty mane and tail were tangled and knotted with beurs; one eye had lost its pulpil, and was glaring of a genuine devil in it. Still he must have had fire and mettle in his day, if we may judge from the name he bore of Gunpowder. (291)

Ichabod has to prove that he can win Katrina's love.He takes good care of his appearance as he gets ready to the party. However, he has no horse to ride on.We see the focus on the supernatural through the descriptions that are given to the horse he borrowed.It is equiped with devils and has a particular looking as its name "Gunpowder"suggests. Irving is attempting to satirize the cultural life of Americans in the 19th century. We will see later that it is after the party that Ichabod meets with the headless horseman. Ichabod's steed is filled with witch powers and seems not to be normal. It is also in Autumn, a sign of abundance. He has to travel in the trees from his home. Although Gunpowder may have had a 'spark' in him which gives him his name, he is now a "broken-down plow house" (292). Certainly, this description is the most memorable in the story to let us know how the story goes on.

Brom Bone's horse is called "Daredevil" and is similar to him in appearance and actions.Brom Bone is described as "a creature like himself, full of mischief, which noone else could manage" (293). His horse is clearly large and strong and savage.Like Brom, it seems to be an impressive physical specimen full of high spirits and difficult. Through the portrait of the horses Irving suggests something about the two men.

Even though some people do not believe in ghosts, others are apparently convinced of the reality of the headless horseman. Brom Bones during the party tells the story about ghost. He seems to have got the better of the ghost. He even claims that Daredevil would have beaten the headless horseman whose "rushing speed" have earlier been described as a "midnight blast" (283) if the Hessian had not vanished as they approached the end of the race.

Clearly, we see that the time these people spend in telling Ghost stories has heightened their imagination. Ichabod believes that he has had good times with Katrina after dancing with her. However, as Irving mentions in the story, there is no indication that Katrina shows she loves Ichabod. She had never seriously been interested in him. The evidence of the frustration of his hopes comes from the fact that he takes no notice of "the scene of the rural wealth on which he had so often gloated" (296). It is only after when Ichabod leaves Katrina's while travelling in the valley that his fear arises as he approched the old; large tree. Local superstititions abound about this tree where Major André, a fighter during the war, was taken captive.So when Ichabod approaches it, his imagination goes wild. Yet, each of the things he hears answered his just a blast of wind in the branches. The white he sees hanging in the tree (which probably calls to mind the stories he heard that evening of a woman in white who hounted the region) turns to be a place where the tree has been stripped of its back by its lightening. When he hears the gloom, he becomes very frightened but he decides that this is caused by branches rubbing against each other in the breeze. In this passage, we see the author's continuing the theme of overactive imagination and how it creates perils for him (Ichabod) that do not actually exist.

Like Rip who is frightened when he meets strange people in the mountains, Ichabod is also terrified since the bridge which leads into the swamps is encompassed by the "covernous gloom"of a large tree "matted thick with wild grape reines" (297) and expresses his anxiety by kicking his horse repeatedly. Instead of dashing quickly accross the bridge as he had hoped, the horse freaks and "ran boardside against the fence"(298). Jerking the reins, kicking with his other foot, and using his whip only cause the poor horse first to plunge into a "thicket of branches and bushes"on the opposite side of the raod and then came to a dead stop by the bridge " whith a suddeness that nearly sent his rides sprowing over his head"(297).

In addition, Ichabod sees something huge and black by the brook and he is so terrified by this " mishappen" a " towering "figure that looks like " some gigantic monster ready to sprink upon the traveler" (297) that his " hair rose upon his head with terror"(297). Ichabod does not run or turn back. It is

however too late to try to escape "the ghost that could ride upon the wings of the wind" (297).

We see that Ichabod is fighting with a strange human being he can not recognize. It was said that it was a headless horseman. Because it was during the night while Ichabod was riding towards his home; probably that this headless horseman was to look for his head lost during the war as he usually did in the night.

Apart from these mysterous incidents that happen to these main characters, there are also different changes that inevitably happen to them on one hand and in their environment on the other hand. Beginning with "Rip Van Winkle", when Rip wakes up and finds himself alone in the mountains, he notices that he is very "stiff and wanting in his usual activity" (15). He also realizes that he has rhumatism and can hardly walk. This is an indication that he begins to think that he will get more trouble with Dame Van Winkle for just having stayed out all the night. Because we can not think that his wife is happy but we are told that Rip "shall have a blessed time wiith Dame Van Winkle" (15). This is an irony since we observed that Rip's wife does not acknowledge any activities done by her husband. Rather than being blessed, he will be cursed.

When Rip returns to the village, his face has greatly changed because he has every long beard, his dog has disappeared and his gun rusted. He cannot hide his feelings and consciouly realizes that he is "famished for want of his breakfast" (15). He grieved to give up his dog and his gun; he dreaded to meet his wife; but it would not do to starve among the mountains. He also "shook his head, shouldered the rusty firelock, and with a heart full of trouble and anxiety, turned his steps homeward. Rip begins to regret what happened and resolves himeslf to turning back to the village. As he approaches the village, he notices that the village is not how it used to look like. It is much more populated with houses he has never seen before. He cannot recognize the people he meets because they are strange and new faces:

> A troop of strange children ran at his heels, hooting after him pointing at his grey beard.The dogs too, not one of which he recognizes for an old acquaintance barked at him as he

> passed. The very village was altered, it was larger and more popular.There were rows of houses which he never seen before and those which had been his familiar hounts had disappeared. Strange names were over the doors-strange faces at the windows-everything was strange. His mind now misgave him; he began to doubt whether both he and the world around him were not bewitched. Surely this was his native village, which he had left but the day before. (15)

However, when he looks to the distant Catskill Mountains and Hudson River, they look exactly as they were when he left. This is an important part of what romantic writers such as Irving reveal to the world. We are attempting to show that nature sometimes remains the same and untouched and tells herself in all the glory but civilization (those changes) are only transitory and human nature most of the case does not change. Rip sleeps twenty years in the mountain which means that while he was in the mountains (nature), drastic changes were taking place in the village that is, the Revolutionary War.This is the main point about how the way life in America has changed after the Revolutionary War with all the new people and activities. We see how the present America was from dependence (colonization) and the Revolutionary War (struggle of Americans) to the independence (freedom and civilization).

Rip is surprised when he gets to his own home and it takes him some effort to even find the house, and when he finally does come close to it, he hardly recognizes it. It has fallen into decay "...the roof fallen in, the windows shattered and the doors off the hinges" (16). We see the way Rip loved his wife even though she always reprimands him. He thinks that his wife is no longer living and there is evidence in the fact that the house, which she had "always kept in neat order"is now in a sorry state. Also, he is confused to see that the dog he thinks would be Wolf snarls at him, leading at him to say that "my very dog has forgotten me!"This is a hard blow because as mentioned earlier, Wolf was Rip's best companion and closest friend. However, we may pretend to understand that for twenty years, it is not possible for a dog to live through that period.

Another part of the story worth mentioning is the two symbols newly created that also surprise Rip. There is a flagpole outside the inn with a flag of

stars and stripes which Rip finds strange. Also there is a portrait of General Washington that has replaced the one that Rip used to know.That is, the portrait of King George that used to hung in the inn. Again, he notices that a blue coat has replaced the red (an allusion to the nickname for British Soldiers of " Redcoats "based on their appareil); a sword has replaced the specter(General Washington was commonly known as the " sword of the Revolution "for his military leardership).These are among other symbols to show that the royalty is surrogated. Despite Washington's arrival on power, that is democracy embraced, many colonists do not look at Washington as a royal figure and followed him with the same sort of unquestioning loyality. This is another way Washington Irving suggests that human nature has stayed essentially the same in spite of all the supernatural changes.

In addition, the people Rip meets are talking about things that makes no sense to him.That is, the "rights of citizens, election, members of Congress, liberty, Bunker's Hill" (16). There are new terms that Rip does not know where to start so that he can know what is going on. After asking about his former friends, the answer include references to "matters he could not understand-war, congress, Stony Point."(16) All these are terms related to the Revolutionary War.When Rip mentions his own name, he is disapointed to see that all of his old friends who might identify him are gone. He cries out "Does nobody here know Rip Van Winkle?"(17)After a big astonishment, people show Rip a person leaning against a tree who is a "precise copy of himself the day he went up the mountains, apparently as lazy and certainly as ragged" (17). We see here that Rip is confused and doubted his own identity: " I was myself last night, but i fell asleep on the mountains, and they've changed my gun, and everything's changed, and i'm changed, and i can't tell what's my name or who i am ! "(17).

This is how Rip is confident of who he is and how he is. He has clearly no doubt his own identity. This fear of loss of identity is also another part of important points worth mentioning in this work. When Rip is recognized by some people in the village, his old and married daughter Judith tells what happens to her father and Rip is happy to have someone who knows him. Rip does not leap at the chance to identify himself until he has reassured himself that his wife is no longer around to nag him. Then, he asks her a question

before revealing his true identity, he wants to know "where is your mother?" (18). It is only when his daughter tells him that Dame Van Winkle " broke a blood vessel in a fit of passion at a peddler" (18) which suggests that she dies in a very terrible condition. Rip ends up his living at his daughter's. Since she has a "stout, cheerly farmer for a husband" to take care of all the work around the house, Rip is free to resume "his old walks and habits" (19).

This is a major issue of romantic writers discussed in this work that Rip manages to resume his childlike habits. He takes the same place once again on the bench outside the inn and became "reverred as one of the patriarchs of the village and a chronicle of the old times before the Revolutionary War" (19). By sleeping twenty years, he escapes the resonsibilities and we expect to change his odd habits when he comes back to the village but we see that he is always the same.

In "Legend of Sleepy Hollow", there are some changes that are indirectly depicted in the story. Ichabod is a young school teacher who moves from Connecticut to instruct children in Tarry Town. We notice earlier that he is not satisfied with his profession as a teacher. His life is characterized by instable conditions. Ichabod embodies Washington Irving's own life who used to spend his time outdoors, wandering around the city of New York and the surrounding countryside of the Hudson River Valley. Furthermore, as an educated person, Ichabod likes to read books about ghost and this shapes his magical world. The different transformations he undergoes in his mind are much influenced by the ideas he collected in books.There are no drastic changes in "Legend of Sleepy Hollow" like those raised in "Rip Van Winkle". Even so, some physical and psychological changes are observed:

> 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, estimed 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. (285)

We find out how Ichabod's imagination influences the way he acts in the neighbourhood for which all his life depends upon.From the fact that he is not working in Connecticut where he is from proves maybe the idea that his identity is disturbed and lost.We expect him to stay where he is working but we see that he is persistently changing house to house.A teacher is customary lodged and fed by parents' children. Our great surprise is that he is not comfortable with that life as an educated person. It is also for a teacher to be part of the community where he is working but we finally grasp the idea that Ichabod is a person who refuses a stable life. Since he would live only a week at a time at each place (to lessen the burden on the family), he could only have few possessions so that he could easly carry them with him as he moves from place to place.Like Rip, Ichabod likes a dependency life. He does not manage to get his own home to be free. They refuse to be civilized and behave like children who do not know why they lead an easy life.

As far as changes are concerned, they deal with imaginative thoughts in Ichabod's mind.He is motivated by the ghost stories he reads about the village. Benett and Royle argue, "the ghost is fundamental to our thinking about the human: to be human is to have a spirit, a soul, a ghost. Ghost disturb our senses of the separation of the living from the dead-which is why they can be so frightening, so uncanny" (133).

There are more ghost stories in this long-settled village because, presumably many settlements at that time were filled with people who would quickly move on when an opportunity to make their foutune elsewhere presented itself.Ghosts are a sign of living people or human in any given community. Ichabod believes in ghosts. They are alive to visit the region. Neverthless, ghost would have many friends and families still living in the area upon whom they could go calling.These change the way Ichabod sees Hudson region in general and people living in the area in particular. He thinks everybody is filled with superstition. For this reason, we see Ichabod riding a horse filled with ghost and spirits while going to Katrina's. After the party, his imagination is shaped by the ghost stories they tell which "sank deep in the mind of Ichabod."We would expect him to stay at Katrina's and wait for her reaction but at the end of the day, Ichabod leaves the place without any notice. What happens to him afterwards is Irving's purpose to reveal us that Ichabod's

averactive imagination and how it creates perils for him that do not actually exist.Ichabod disappears forever and settles in another town continuing the same life as a lawyer and a teacher.The true character of Ichabod is then one of those people who,despite several misfortune and mishappening, even though they manage to cope with the winds of change that are observed in the world, but accept to remain the same people.

In this chapter, major points have been raised. We tried to show how Irving depicts two main characters Ichabod and Rip as characters who live in a society that is traditionary based on values and habits commonly shared.Hudson region as well as America situated on the foot of Katskill Mountains is an area where the Revolutionary War takes place. Several changes have been operated. People lose their home and identity. Civilization is established. People escape responsibility and others are materialistically oriented. Despite those changes, the dominant cultural values, beliefs in ghosts and spirits do not change.From dependence to independence; the author's intention is that sometimes human nature is the same.

GENERAL CONCLUSION

This work examined Romanticism in the works of Washington Irving, an American writer of the 19th century. By Irving's vivid description, American landscape and people are depicted through different situations that happen to their lives.These events remind them of the past in order to prepare them for the future. Irving celebrates the discovery and settlement of America by emphasizing the beauty of the landscape as well as the imagination of the people who inhabit it.

We thoroughly observed that some characters in accordance with their environment are driven by their imaginative way of doing certain things that lead them to show a sense of freedom.The main characters in both short stories were viewed by the society as people who liked to lead their lives in the way they wanted not in the way the society wished them to be.This lead to our research to develop the role played by them as individuals who preferred to escape responsibiblities. Perceived by some members of the society like lazy people, these characters are used by Irving to celebrate the beauty in the discovery and settlement of America.

Whereas in "Rip Van Winkle", Rip has to face his wife's demanding traits, in "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow", vivid contrasts were made to show that both Rip and Ichabod are common men that, despite the struggle for Americans to create a new country, certain people like Rip and Ichabod preferred not to face the new happenings that appealed to Americans in the 19th century.

This work throws light on the cultural significance that characterized folk literature by showing the values and tradition of Americans. Hudson and Kaatskill Mountains are celebrated even today for their contribution in the American history and literature. As culture and tradition are intertwined, people in the Hudson community acknowledged the role of ghosts that dwelt in Hudson; footsprints of the Revolutionary War. Certain things that showed their dreams made them to rely on their beliefs.This was the point for main characters not to like civilazation.The result led to American Independence from Britain.

Washington Irving's life as a wanderer accounts for certain characters who acted like him. As a wanderer, traveller and a reader, the main characters

are like "wanderers" who visited one place to another without any specific reason.Rip and Ichabod traveled the same regions that Irving acknowledged to know most. Irving's excursions in the Hudson River region are transcribed in the stories revealing his Romantic inclination; the imagination was one of the focal elements in the creation of America. Rip wandered in the mountains where he meets strange people. Ichabod's world was shaped by the magical books he read about ghosts. In addition, the setting of these stories in the Kaatskill Mountains insisted on the period of the Revolutionary War, which created characters who were Americans.

" Rip Van Winkle " and " The Legend of Sleepy Hollow " dealt with basic truths of human experience and Washington Irving's use of natural elements of the supernatural, tried to focus on the role played by ghosts.The dominant role mysterious events play in the works is complex and difficult to understand. Irving is here probably suggesting that the heroic exploits of the early settlers should be remembered in myth and folklore.

Irving's use of irony was also what we attempted to understand how he was able to present who really Americans were.Rip and Ichabod were icons of American society who were expected to assume responsibilities rather than escaping them.They were only stimulated by love of adventure and active imagination in their search for freedom.

Painting a picture of America from dependence to independence, Washington Irving showed us how some people acted like lazy human beings and wished to depend on others to live. This uphold the idea that though the emerging American country was rapid, some Americans were reluctant to cope with the newly created modes of working and thinking. They wanted freedom to continue their routine activities or preferred to have people working for them.The hypothesis that sometimes human mind does not change despite the physical, psychological situations that happen to them has been justfied. Whereas Rip's wife urged him to fulfil his duty at home and worked hard to survive, Rip, after the struggle in the mountains, continued to do-nothing at his daughter's. Ichabod did not make much effort to uplift his conditions and be economically independant and wished to associate with well-to-do families to continue with his lazy attitudes. In spite of the problems they faced in the

society which the protagonists they remain in the minds of readers as custodians of tradition and love for the imagination.

In this work, our wish may be that suplementary research might be carried out to explain the sense of the past of a particular region and how it plays an important role in the present. Each region, country has its romantic ideas to tell to the world. The elevation of individuals and passions shall be put together with creativity in which the community members feel a sense of developing and protecting their nature and landscapes. Legends that characterised the history of any country and place should be interested on as new forms of literature that could contribute and enrich history to be canonized in a new genre of literature like short stories. Ghost literature that emphasize on the existence of human beings in any given area should be carried out to tackle on issues of mysterious happenings that overturn and challenge the world and constitute among others important points of romanticism.

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