

Name _____ Date _____

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

Rip Van Winkle



CAST (in order of appearance)

NARRATOR

MRS. VAN WINKLE, RIP VAN WINKLE's wife

RIP VAN WINKLE

LITTLE MAN

VILLAGE PERSON 1

VILLAGE PERSON 2



SETTING: *A village in the mountains of New York, a long time ago.*

Scene 1: The home of RIP VAN WINKLE

1 **NARRATOR:** Long ago, there lived a man named Rip Van Winkle. Rip spent his days telling stories and jokes. He loved to fish and sleep. But he didn't like to work. Everyone in the village loved Rip, except ...

2 **MRS. VAN WINKLE:** *(yelling)* Rip, Rip, Rip Van Winkle, wake up! You have lots of work to do today.

3 **RIP VAN WINKLE:** *(sleepily)* Good wife, let me sleep a little bit longer. It's so warm and cozy here.

4 **MRS. VAN WINKLE:** Rip Van Winkle, you are as sluggish as an old dog on a hot day. Get up and get to work!

Scene 2: The forest near the village

5 **NARRATOR:** Finally, to get away from his wife's yelling, Rip got up and went out. Instead of working, he went for a stroll in the forest. As he was walking, he heard a strange voice.

6 **LITTLE MAN:** *(calling from offstage)* Rip, Rip, Rip Van Winkle.

7 **RIP VAN WINKLE:** Oh no, has my wife followed me even here? *(A LITTLE MAN enters carrying a very large barrel. The man is dressed oddly in all green and has a peculiar look on his face.)*

8 **LITTLE MAN:** Would you help me carry this heavy barrel up the mountain?

9 **NARRATOR:** Carry a barrel up a mountain? That was more work than Rip Van Winkle had done in his entire life!

10 **RIP VAN WINKLE:** *(thinking)* Well, that barrel probably weighs about six tons. But I could help this funny little man and then take a nice nap at the top of the mountain. My wife will never find me there. *(turning to the LITTLE MAN)* Sure, my friend, I'm happy to help you.



- 11 **NARRATOR:** Rip and the little man climbed and climbed and finally reached the top of the mountain. The man opened the barrel and poured out two full cups. Rip was thirsty so he drank quickly. Then he fell asleep. When Rip woke up, he had quite a surprise.
- 12 **RIP VAN WINKLE:** Have I slept all day and all night? I'll surely be in hot water now! My wife won't be pleased. (*touches his chin*) What's this? How did I grow such a long beard in one night? And it's white!
- 13 **NARRATOR:** Rip began his long hike back down the mountain. At last, he saw his village.
- 14 **RIP VAN WINKLE:** There's the church, but what are those other buildings? Surely people did not build new homes overnight.
- 15 **NARRATOR:** As Rip entered the village, he was shocked that he didn't see anyone he knew. The people in the village just stared at him.
- 16 **RIP VAN WINKLE:** Does anyone here know Mrs. Van Winkle?
- 17 **VILLAGE PERSON 1:** Poor Mrs. Van Winkle has been dead for more than ten years.
- 18 **RIP VAN WINKLE:** (*surprised*) Does anyone remember her husband, Rip?
- 19 **VILLAGE PERSON 2:** I remember Rip and his crazy stories. He went off one day twenty years ago and never came back.
- 20 **RIP VAN WINKLE:** I am Rip Van Winkle! I have an amazing story to tell you!



1. The following item has two parts. Answer Part A and then answer Part B.

Part A

Which statement **best** describes Mrs. Van Winkle’s perspective?

- A. She thinks her husband is lazy.
- B. She thinks her husband acts like a dog.
- C. She thinks her husband is too old.
- D. She thinks her husband tells too many jokes.

Part B

Which detail from the play **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- A. “Rip, Rip, Rip Van Winkle, wake up!”
- B. “You have lots of work to do today.”
- C. “Rip Van Winkle, you are as sluggish as an old dog on a hot day.”
- D. “He went off one day twenty years ago and never came back.”

2. What does the word peculiar mean as it is used in line 7?

- A. friendly
- B. mean
- C. funny
- D. strange

3. Which sentence from the play shows the narrator’s perspective on Rip Van Winkle?

- A. “Long ago, there lived a man named Rip Van Winkle.”
- B. “As he was walking, he heard a strange voice.”
- C. “That was more work than Rip Van Winkle had done in his entire life!”
- D. “When Rip woke up, he had quite a surprise.”



4. How does the dialogue in Scene 1 help develop the rising action of the plot?
- A. it shows Rip’s happy relationship.
 - B. It shows Rip’s sadness.
 - C. It shows Rip’s character flaws.
 - D. it shows Rip’s calm nature.
5. How does Scene 2 contribute to the theme that develops in Scene 1?
- A. It shows Rip being strong and helpful.
 - B. It shows how Rip continues to try to avoid doing work.
 - C. It shows Rip being kind and gentle.
 - D. It shows that Rip likes to climb mountains.
6. Which line from the play uses hyperbole?
- A. “Finally, to get away from his wife’s yelling, Rip got up and went out.”
 - B. “Oh no, has my wife followed me even here?”
 - C. “Well, that barrel probably weighs about six tons.”
 - D. “Rip and the little man climbed and climbed and finally reached the top of the mountain.”



7. Read this sentence from line 12.

"I'll surely be in hot water now!"

What does the phrase in hot water mean in the sentence?

- A. in trouble
 - B. taking a bath
 - C. yelled at
 - D. welcomed home
8. How do lines 16–20 develop Rip's character?
- A. They make Rip seem more caring about his family.
 - B. They show that the village people feel sorry for Rip.
 - C. They make Rip seem proud of what he has done.
 - D. They show that Rip has slept and been away for a very long time.



Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

Rip Van Winkle: The Truth

- 1 I'm telling the truth! Some people in the village don't believe this story. But every word of it is true. It is as true as my beard is white.
- 2 I grew up in this village near the mountains of New York. When I was a young man, I married a delightful woman. She was smart and hardworking. One fine day, after my loving wife had kissed me good-bye, I headed out to plow the fields. I planned to plow all day. But on my way, I met a funny-looking little man. The poor man was lugging a barrel four times his size. I offered to help him, of course.
- 3 "Where would you like this barrel taken, my good sir?" I asked him.
- 4 "To the top of that mountain," he replied.
- 5 The top of that mountain was dozens of miles away and all uphill, but I am always willing to lend a hand. I hoisted the barrel up, and off we went. I was thirsty by the time we reached the top. The little man took the lid off the barrel and poured us each a cupful of the contents. I hadn't even finished my drink when I fell deeply asleep. When I woke up, I was surprised to see that both the barrel and the little man were gone.
- 6 "Have I slept all through the day and the night?" I wondered. "I must rush home because my dear wife will be missing me."
- 7 As I was getting up, my hand brushed my face. I now had a long white beard! How did it grow in a single night?
- 8 I raced down the mountain to the village. So many things had changed overnight. There was only an old shack where my house should have been. Where were my old friends? Where was my darling wife? Finally, I asked an old woman passing by.
- 9 "Do you know where Mrs. Van Winkle lives?"



- 10 “Oh, she died chasing a chicken ten years ago,” the old woman told me.
- 11 “Ten years,” I gasped, unable to think clearly. “And what about her loving husband, Rip?”
- 12 “That lazy man? He ran off about twenty years ago and never came back,” the old woman said.
- 13 That was when I realized that I’d been asleep on that mountain for twenty years. The drink in that barrel was some kind of potion, no doubt about it. And that mysterious little man was to blame for the whole situation.



9. Which sentence from the passage uses hyperbole?
- A. "The top of that mountain was dozens of miles away and all uphill, but I am always willing to lend a hand."
 - B. "I was thirsty by the time we reached the top."
 - C. "The little man took the lid off the barrel and poured us each a cupful of the contents."
 - D. "When I woke up, I was surprised to see that both the barrel and the little man were gone."
10. How is the setting of this passage **different** from the setting in Scene 1 of the play? Select **two** answers.
- A. The village is much larger.
 - B. Rip now lives in New York.
 - C. It takes place many years later.
 - D. The mountain is farther away.
 - E. Rip's house is now an old shack.
11. The following item has two parts. Answer Part A and then answer Part B.

Part A

From whose perspective is the story told?

- A. The little man's
- B. An outside observer's
- C. Mrs. Rip Van Winkle's
- D. Rip Van Winkle's

Part B

Which detail from the passage supports the answer to Part A?

- A. "And what about her loving husband, Rip?"
- B. "One fine day, after my loving wife had kissed me good-bye, I headed out to plow the fields."
- C. "She was smart and hardworking."
- D. "So many things had changed overnight."



12. What does the word lugging mean as it is used in paragraph 2?
- A. fixing
 - B. rolling
 - C. carrying
 - D. filling
13. Which statement from the passage **best** shows Rip’s perspective on his wife?
- A. “When I was a young man, I married a delightful woman.”
 - B. “I must rush home because my dear wife will be missing me.”
 - C. “I raced down the mountain to the village.”
 - D. “Do you know where Mrs. Van Winkle lives?”
14. What does the word hoisted mean as it is used in paragraph 5?
- A. lifted
 - B. wrapped
 - C. tipped
 - D. shook
15. Which detail from the passage **best** describes the villagers’ perspective on Rip?
- A. “When I woke up, I was surprised to see that both the barrel and the little man were gone.”
 - B. “There was only an old shack where my house should have been.”
 - C. “‘Oh, she died chasing a chicken ten years ago,’ the old woman told me.”
 - D. “‘That lazy man? He ran off about twenty years ago and never came back,’ the old woman said.”



- 16 Think about the passages you have read about Rip Van Winkle. How are the perspectives of Rip Van Winkle **different** in these two passages? Write 2–3 sentences to explain. Support your answer with details from **both** passages.



Editing Task

There are words or phrases in the passage that are underlined to show they may be incorrect. For each underlined word or phrase, choose the best answer.

Long ago in ancient Greece, there lived a young woman named Pandora. She was talented and also very curious.

One day, Zeus, the king of the gods, gave Pandora a gift.

"Pandora this jar is now yours," said Zeus forceful. "Guard it more carefully than anything you have ever owned. Never, never open it."

Pandora was happy to get a gift from Zeus, a very powerful god. But as time passed, she became more curiouser about what was inside the jar. Finally, her curiosity got the better of her.

Pandora opened the lid of the jar. As soon as she did, all kinds of miseries and evils poured out. Pandora tried to close the jar as quicker as she could, but she was too late. There was only one thing left in the jar: hope. Ever since Pandora's mistake, people have been sadder than they were before, but they still have hope. And we all know the expression, "Hope always remains."

- 17.** Replace Pandora this jar is now yours with
- A.** Pandora this jar is now yours (no change)
 - B.** Pandora. This jar is now yours
 - C.** Pandora, this jar, is now yours
 - D.** Pandora, this jar is now yours
- 18.** Replace forceful with
- A.** forceful (no change)
 - B.** force
 - C.** forcefully
 - D.** more forceful



19. Replace powerful with
- A. powerful (no change)
 - B. power
 - C. powerfully
 - D. more powerful
20. Replace more curiouser with
- A. more curiouser (no change)
 - B. curious
 - C. curiouser
 - D. curiously
21. Replace quicker with
- A. quicker (no change)
 - B. quickly
 - C. quickest
 - D. more quicker



Writing Task

You have read the play “Rip Van Winkle” and the story “Rip Van Winkle: The Truth.” Write a narrative that retells the story of Rip Van Winkle from Mrs. Van Winkle’s perspective.

Be sure to

- answer the prompt completely.
- write at least one paragraph.
- use correct spelling and grammar.
- use correct capitalization and punctuation.
- use details from **both** passages.

Write your answers in the space provided. **Anything you write that is not in the space provided will NOT be scored.**





