



Sleepy Hollow Study Guide

Interactive Plays

Kitty's unique interactive plays weave history, literature, manners, customs, dance and music into theatrical presentations where audience members - both teachers and students - portray the key characters and historical figures of the times. Great sensitivity is used when involving participants, as some folks would prefer to simply sit back and watch the antics of their comrades.

In order to set good examples of theatre etiquette, it is respectfully requested that teachers attend programs without papers or homework in hand.

The Sleepy Hollow Halloween Show

Sleepy Hollow, NY (1799) The show weaves the characters from Washington Irving's delightful story into a new and exciting tale. Designed to be spooky (but not scary), the show begins where the original story leaves off. Herr Van Tassel has just thrown his gala and Ichabod Crane was last seen riding home. No one seems to know what happened to Ichabod until now. Determined to find the real identity of the Headless Horseman, Ichabod Crane enlists the help of Katrina Van Tassel in his search. They encounter a wayward coach, a graveyard of dancing skeletons and Rip Van Winkle appears for a game of nine pins. In the end the Headless Horseman is revealed. Students are left with a question that can only be answered by reading Washington Irving's story.



Katrina Van Tassel

The character is a fictitious colonial woman. She wears a fashionable hand-made Colonial dress, a mob hat, laced boots and a choker.

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Performance Objectives

Create a supportive environment whereby students' participation results in a positive, self-affirming experience that allows them to co-create the show with the character by

- Introducing students to the essence of Colonial Life
- Demonstrating the differences between the 16th and 21st Centuries
- Inviting students to participate in depicting those differences
- Encouraging students to read American Literature.

Pre-Show Preparation

Familiarize students with Washington Irving's stories: "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" and "Rip Van Winkle" so the names and characters are familiar to them.

Discuss the colonial time period in which the stories are set.

Post-Show Activities

Create a Halloween celebration with colonial and/or contemporary games

Have students write their own explanation as to what happened to Ichabod after he was knocked from his horse.

The Artist

Having developed her unique style of interactive theatre since 1987, Kitty combines her passion for history with her love of theatre to create 16 different high-energy shows.

Ms. Jones brings 4000 years of history and literature to life in programs ranging from *The Mysteries of Ancient Egypt* to *Women's Rights*. Since 1996, she has written, choreographed, produced and performed her own original material for Kit's Interactive Theatre. Kitty Jones has appeared on TV, Film and the stages of New York.

