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grammar, style, and proofreading exercises

**The Grammar Dog Guide to
The Legend of
Sleepy Hollow
by Washington Irving**

**All exercises use sentences from the story.
Includes over 250 multiple choice questions.**

About Gramwardog

Gramwardog was founded in 2001 by Mary Jane McKinney, a high school English teacher and dedicated grammarian. She and other experienced English teachers in both high school and college regard grammar and style as the key to unlocking the essence of an author.

Their philosophy, that grammar and literature are best understood when learned together, led to the formation of Gramwardog.com, a means of sharing knowledge about the structure and patterns of language unique to specific authors. These patterns are what make a great book *a great book*. The arduous task of analyzing works for grammar and style has yielded a unique product, guaranteed to enlighten the reader of literary classics.

Gramwardog's strategy is to put the author's words under the microscope. The result yields an increased appreciation of the art of writing and awareness of the importance and power of language.



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THE LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW by Washington Irving – Grammar and Style
All exercises use sentences from the story

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SAMPLE EXERCISES - THE LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW by Washington Irving

EXERCISE 5 COMPLEMENTS

Identify the complements in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

d.o. = direct object i.o. = indirect object p.n. = predicate nominative p.a. = predicate adjective
o.p. = object of preposition

- ___1. The dominant spirit, however, that haunts this enchanted region and seems to be commander-in-chief of all the powers of the air is the apparition of a figure on horseback without a head.
- ___2. He was a native of Connecticut, a State which supplies the Union with pioneers for the mind as well as for the forest, and sends forth yearly its legions of frontier woodsmen and country schoolmasters.
- ___3. His head was small, and flat at top, with huge ears, large green glassy eyes, and a long snipe nose . . .

EXERCISE 6 PHRASES

Identify the phrases in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

par = participle ger = gerund inf = infinitive appos = appositive prep = preposition

- ___1. A drowsy, dreamy influence seems to hang over the land, and to pervade the very atmosphere.
- ___2. Indeed it behooved him to keep on good terms with his pupils.
- ___3. The schoolhouse stood in a rather lonely but pleasant situation, just at the foot of a woody hill, with a brook running close by, and a formidable birch tree growing at one end of it.

EXERCISE 12 STYLE: ALLUSIONS AND SYMBOLS

Identify the type of allusion used in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

a. mythology b. religion c. chivalry/Medieval romance d. folklore/superstition

- ___1. I had wandered into it at noontime, when all nature is peculiarly quiet, and was startled by the roar of my own gun, as it broke the Sabbath stillness around, and was prolonged and reverberated by the angry echoes.
- ___2. Certain it is, the place still continues under the sway of some witching power that holds a spell over the minds of the good people . . .

SAMPLE EXERCISES - THE LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW by Washington Irving

EXERCISE 13 STYLE: LITERARY ANALYSIS – SELECTED PASSAGE 1

Read the following passage the first time through for meaning.

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 marvelous tales of ghosts and goblins, and haunted fields, and haunted brooks, and haunted bridges, and haunted houses, and particularly of the headless horseman, or galloping Hessian of the Hollow, as they sometimes called him. He would delight them equally by his anecdotes of witchcraft, and of the direful omens and portentous sights and sounds in the air, which prevailed in the earlier times of Connecticut; and would frighten them woefully with speculations upon comets and shooting stars, and with the alarming fact that the world did absolutely turn around, and that they were half the time topsy-turvy!

Read the passage a second time, marking figurative language, sensory imagery, poetic devices, and any other patterns of diction and rhetoric, then answer the questions below.

- 1 Another of his sources of fearful pleasure was to pass long winter evenings with the
- 2 old Dutch wives as they sat spinning by the fire, with a row of apples roasting and
- 3 spluttering along the hearth, and listen to their marvelous tales of ghosts and goblins,
- 4 and haunted fields, and haunted brooks, and haunted bridges, and haunted houses,
- 5 and particularly of the headless horseman, or galloping Hessian of the Hollow, as they
- 6 sometimes called him. He would delight them equally by his anecdotes of witchcraft,
- 7 and of the direful omens and portentous sights and sounds in the air, which prevailed
- 8 in the earlier times of Connecticut; and would frighten them woefully with speculations
- 9 upon comets and shooting stars, and with the alarming fact that the world did absolutely
- 10 turn around, and that they were half the time topsy-turvy!

- ___1. In Line 1 *fearful pleasure* is an example of . . .
a. personification b. simile c. metaphor d. oxymoron
- ___2. The underlined words in Line 3 are an example of . . .
a. assonance b. consonance c. alliteration d. rhyme
- ___3. In Line 10 the **PREDOMINANT** poetic device is . . .
a. assonance b. consonance c. alliteration d. rhyme