

*Who is Rip Van Winkle?*



*Rip plays with Wolf. He will do his work some other time.*

- Preview:**
1. Read the name of the story.
  2. Look at the picture.
  3. Read the sentences under the picture.
  4. Read the first three paragraphs of the story.
  5. Then answer the following question.

You learned from your preview that Rip Van Winkle liked

- a. being sad.
- b. being happy.
- c. to work on his farm.
- d. being rich.

*Turn to the Comprehension Check on page 10 for the right answer.*

**Now read the story.**

Read to find out how Rip Van Winkle got along with his wife.

## *Who is Rip Van Winkle?*

Anyone who has made a trip up the Hudson River has seen the Catskill Mountains. The mountains are to the west of the river. They go up and up above the land.

At the bottom of the mountains, there was once a village. It was an old Dutch village. There lived a man named Rip Van Winkle.

Rip Van Winkle was a kind man. He worked hard to help others. But he did not work hard to make money. Rip was lazy at that kind of work! He did not keep his farm looking well. His house was falling down. His plants would not live. His children looked as run down as his farm. All of this did not keep Rip from trying to be happy.

The women and children of the village liked Rip. He always had time to listen to them. But Rip's wife did not like how Rip lived. Every day she told him what she did not like. She told him over and over.

Rip's one friend at home was his dog, Wolf. Rip and Wolf would go into the woods to look for animals. Rip's wife did not like the dog. She put Wolf out of the house.

Times got harder and harder for Rip Van Winkle. When he could not listen to his wife anymore, he would leave the house. He would go to see

his old friends. They would sit on a bench next to a tree. All of them would tell what they thought about everything. Some days, Rip's wife would come. She would tell them they were all good at doing nothing.

Rip and Wolf took long walks in the woods. They got away from Dame Van Winkle and the farm. Rip told Wolf that he would always be Wolf's friend. Wolf let Rip know that he felt that way, too.

*Who is Rip Van Winkle?*

**COMPREHENSION CHECK**

*Choose the best answer.*

1. Rip Van Winkle lived in a village at the bottom of  
 a. a small hill.  
 b. a great lake.  
 c. the Hudson River.  
 d. the Catskill Mountains.
2. Rip Van Winkle was  
 a. a nice man.  
 b. a very old man.  
 c. a hard-working man.  
 d. an ugly man.
3. The Van Winkle Farm  
 a. was pretty to look at.  
 b. was well taken care of.  
 c. was run down and falling apart.  
 d. had beautiful plants all around it.
- ④ Rip Van Winkle  
 a. worked hard on the farm.  
 b. had a job in the village.  
 c. was a sick man.  
 d. was a lazy man.
- ⑤ Rip Van Winkle's wife  
 a. tried hard to make her husband happy.  
 b. was not pleased with her lazy husband.  
 c. wanted to sell the farm.  
 d. wanted to leave the village.
6. Rip Van Winkle did no work on the farm, but he worked hard to help his  
 a. mother.  
 b. children.  
 c. friends.  
 d. wife.
7. Dame Van Winkle did not like  
 a. her children.  
 b. her neighbors.  
 c. housework.  
 d. Rip's friends, or his dog, Wolf.
8. When Rip Van Winkle got tired of listening to his wife, he  
 a. went fishing.  
 b. went shopping.  
 c. took off to see a show.  
 d. went for a walk with Wolf.
- ⑨ Another name for this story could be  
 a. "Happy Days."  
 b. "Lazy Days."  
 c. "Good Times."  
 d. "Making Money."
- ⑩ This story is mainly about  
 a. a man's love for his dog.  
 b. a dog named Wolf.  
 c. a man who liked to please himself.  
 d. a happy farm family.

**Preview Answer:**

b. being happy.

*Check your answers with the key on page 67.*

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