



## Rip Van Winkle's Return

by Eric A. Kimmel

illustrated by Leonard Everett Fisher

### Summary

This is an adaptation of the famous Washington Irving story about the man who fell asleep for 20 years. He awakes to a much changed family and world.

### Ideas for Classroom Use

#### Discussion Questions

Discussion questions - encourage children to find examples from the story to document their answers.

How would children describe young Rip Van Winkle at the beginning of the story? Dame Van Winkle?

How did Rip like to pass the time of day?

Why and how do you think he fell asleep for 20 years?

Who was King George? Who was George Washington?

What are some of the many changes Rip encountered upon returning to his village?

Nine pins is like what game we play today?

What might it have been like for Rip's daughter to finally recognize her father?

### Responding to the Text

#### Writing

##### Descriptive Journal Writing

Encourage children to imagine waking up one morning to discover that twenty years have passed. What changes in the world can they imagine discovering? Have children write a journal entry describing the wonders of the world they have "fallen awake" to. It could simply begin with:

"Dear Diary, imagine my surprise..."

##### Letter of apology

Or...encourage children to imagine they wake up and discover that they have children of their own that they've never met! Have children write a letter of apology to their husband or wife (that they've also never met) and children for being absent for many years. How will they explain their absence? What is their family like – their spouse and/or children, their home? Provide opportunities for children to read these hilarious letters to each other!



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### Responding to the Text

#### Art

##### **Before/Now/Then Discussion collage**

Gather children together to talk about the changes in our world over the past 20 years. Talk about the differences and improvements that have been made in how homes are built, in transportation, in technology and electronics, in the food we eat, and in the clothes we wear. For instance, twenty years ago, personal computers were just being made more available to the everyday person. Can children even imagine a world without these everyday items in their home?

Using chart paper or a large whiteboard, list some of your children's comments in two different categories: **Twenty Years Ago** and **Now**

Invite children to think about changes that might be made in the future. What do they think homes will look like? How will we get ourselves around? What kinds of foods will we be eating? What might our clothes look like? And, what kind of electronic devices and technologies will be used twenty years from now?

Add the third category of **Twenty Years from Now** on your chart on the and list some of the ideas that your children generate.

**\*\*\* Homework activity: In preparation for the collage activity to follow, encourage children to have a family discussion about the changes they've most noticed in our world. When children bring back additional ideas, add them to the charts you've been creating with the class.**

##### **Collage**

Divide your class into groups for the topics of Homes, Transportation, Food, Clothing, and Electronics and Technology. Present each group with a large piece of poster board. Encourage children to depict, using their own illustrations as well pictures from magazines, the changes that have occurred over time – 20 years ago, Now, and 20 years in the future. For example, the food group might draw lots of meat and potatoes, fresh fruit and lots of vegetables. For present time, children might show hamburgers, hot dogs, pasta, pizza, etc. Who knows what they'll come up with in terms of the food we may be eating twenty years from now?!