

Name: _____ Date: _____

Vocabulary:

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow and “You Live in Sleepy Hollow”

1. **absorb (AB-sawrb)** *verb*; To absorb something is to take it in or soak it up. A sponge can absorb water, a brain can absorb information, and an activity can absorb your time. If something absorbs your attention, it holds your attention completely. (The adjective *absorbed* means “deeply interested or involved.”)

2. **brood (BREWD)** *noun or verb*; As a noun, *brood* refers to a family of young animals or children. It is most often used to refer to a group of young birds that all hatched at the same time.

As a verb, *brood* means to sit on your eggs and incubate them—if you are a bird. If you are not a bird, to brood is to think about something all the time in a worried, gloomy way.

3. **cacophony (kuh-KOF-uh-nee)** *noun*; A mix of harsh, loud, unpleasant sounds that makes you want to block your ears: that’s cacophony.

4. **flax (FLAKS)** *noun*; Flax is a type of plant. It is made into the fabric called linen. People and certain animals eat the seeds of flax, which are called—you guessed it—*flaxseeds*.

5. **groggily (GRAW-gih-lee)** *adverb*; *Groggily* is the adverb form of the adjective *groggy*, which means confused or foggy-headed because of being sleepy or sick. You might be groggy when you first wake up, particularly if you didn’t get enough sleep. If you groggily finished your homework, it might not be your best work: you were a little dazed and unfocused as you were doing it.

6. **mercenary (MUR-suh-neh-ree)** *noun*; A mercenary is a soldier who is paid by a foreign country to fight in its army. Soldiers who are not mercenaries often fight out of loyalty to their country or for a cause. A mercenary, on the other hand, fights only to get paid.

7. **musket (MUHS-kit)** *noun*; A musket is a type of long gun that soldiers used from the 16th to 18th centuries, before the invention of the rifle.

8. rapt (RAPT) *adjective*; *Rapt* means “showing complete delight or interest.” If you are watching something with rapt attention, you are completely focused on it—even carried away by it.

9. witching hour (WIH-ching OW-er) *noun*; This old-fashioned expression refers to the time of night when creatures such as witches, demons, and ghosts are believed to be at their most powerful. Today, *witching hour* is usually used as a synonym for midnight.

Directions: In the space below, list any other words from the play or essay whose definitions you are not sure about. For each word, use context clues to try to figure out the meaning. Then look up the word in a few different dictionaries. Discuss the meaning of the word with your teacher or another adult. Then write a definition for the word and one example sentence.

Vocabulary Practice:

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow and “You Live in Sleepy Hollow”

Directions: Below are six possible titles and summaries for four imaginary books. Choose the best title for each book. Briefly explain your choices.

Book Titles

- A. *The Muskets* B. *Mercenary* C. *The Brood*
 D. *The Witching Hour* E. *Rapt* F. *The Flax Shirt*

Book Summaries

1. Sarabeth just moved to a small town in Maine. She’s been warned not to go outside after midnight. One night, she finds out why.

Title (A-F): _____ Why I chose this title: _____

2. Sam can’t tear her eyes away from a mysterious painting—even as it begins to pull her into its world.

Title (A-F): _____ Why I chose this title: _____

3. The discovery of two 150-year-old guns hidden in a basement wall reveals family secrets dating back to the Civil War.

Title (A-F): _____ Why I chose this title: _____

4. Desperate for money, a young man becomes a soldier in a foreign country’s army.

Title (A-F): _____ Why I chose this title: _____

Directions: Fill in the circle next to the best answer to each multiple-choice question.

5. Andrea was awake past midnight because she was so focused on reading *The Muskets* that she didn’t notice how late it had gotten. At about 12:15, her mom came downstairs.

It would have made the most sense for Andrea’s mom to say which of the following?

- Ⓐ “Andrea, I am rapt to see you awake! Are you some kind of mercenary?”
- Ⓑ “I knew one of my brood was awake! What are you doing up at the witching hour?”
- Ⓒ “Stop this cacophony. Do you absorb me?”

6. Julie watched a three-hour video about pigeons. She found it fascinating; not once did her attention drift.

Which of the following describes Julie’s reaction to the video?

- Ⓐ She found the video absorbing.
- Ⓑ She watched the video with rapt attention.
- Ⓒ both A and B

7. Half-awake, James shuffled into the kitchen. He poured a bowl of cereal and sprinkled it with what he thought was flaxseed—but was actually hot pepper flakes. Oops.

Which summarizes what happened?

- Ⓐ James groggily sprinkled hot pepper flakes instead of flaxseed on his cereal.
- Ⓑ James, brooding, created a cacophony in his cereal.
- Ⓒ James made his cereal groggy by sprinkling hot pepper flakes onto it.