Making Inferences

What happens to Ichabod Crane at the end of *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*? Washington Irving doesn’t say—he leaves it to you to draw your own conclusion. To decide what you think happened, you need to make some inferences about characters and events in the story. What does it mean to make an inference? It means that you use clues from the text to figure out something the author doesn’t tell you directly.

**Directions:** Read each set of lines from *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*. Think about the questions in small type on the sides. Then make an inference to answer the question below the lines. We did the first one for you.

1. Consider these lines from Scene 2:

   **Katrina:** But don’t you get paid?

   **Ichabod** *(turning red)*: My wages are hardly enough for a loaf of bread. But I am quite rich in the mind. I've read so many books—

   Why does Ichabod turn red? How does he feel and why?

   **What can you infer from these lines about how Ichabod feels about Katrina? Explain.**

   These lines suggest that Ichabod has a crush on Katrina. He wants to impress her. He turns red because he's embarrassed that he doesn't make more money, and tells her how smart he is to impress her.

2. Consider these lines from Scene 3:

   **Ichabod:** Katrina and her father are having a party tonight. Should I attend?

   **Van Ripper:** Of course. Why wouldn’t you?

   **Ichabod:** Well, Brom Bones will be there. He said if he caught me near Katrina, he’d flatten me like a pancake.

   What can you guess about how Brom feels about Katrina? What does this line tell you about the kind of person Brom is?

   **What can you infer from these lines about how Brom feels about Katrina? What can you infer about his personality? Explain.**
3. Consider these lines from Scene 3:

**Van Ripper (laughing):** Brom may be rough, but he’s full of good humor.

**Ichabod:** I am merely giving Katrina singing lessons. I cannot deny, of course, her many charms.

**Van Ripper:** And that she stands to inherit a large estate.

**Ichabod:** Shouldn’t Brom have some competition?

**Van Ripper** (laughing): Brom may be rough, but he’s full of good humor.

**Ichabod:** I am merely giving Katrina singing lessons. I cannot deny, of course, her many charms.

**Van Ripper:** And that she stands to inherit a large estate.

**Ichabod:** Shouldn’t Brom have some competition?

Other than her “charms,” what is a possible reason that Ichabod is interested in Katrina? Explain.

What kind of relationship do Ichabod and Brom have? In other words, how do they see each other?

4. Consider these lines from Scene 8:

**Brouwer:** The next morning, Gunpowder wandered home, but Ichabod Crane did not return.

**New Schoolmaster:** What happened to him?

**Jansen:** Nobody knows. A search led to the bridge. Ichabod’s crumpled wool hat was found on the bank of the brook, and close beside it, a shattered pumpkin, of all things.

**SD3:** Brom Bones chuckles to himself.

How does Brom feel about Ichabod’s disappearance? How do you know?
Directions: Answer the questions below.

5. Is Brom Bones the kind of person who might play a trick on someone? Explain, using lines from the play to support your answer.

6. Find a line that describes Brom Bones’s horse. Write it here:

Now find a line that describes the Headless Horseman’s horse. Write it here:

What do you notice when you compare the two horses?

7. Think about the last line of the play:

   Knickerbocker (holding the crumpled wool hat): Others suspected that perhaps Brom Bones knew much more of this matter than he chose to tell.

   What is Knickerbocker suggesting? Do you think that what he is suggesting is true? Explain.