

The headless horseman



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F: Specific Introduction C: Use of Transitions A: 2 comparisons 2 Contrasts

Sleepy Hollow and the Headless Horseman There are many forms of Washington Irving's The Legend of Sleepy Hollow. In some cases there are movies made, and in others there is an actual story has been created, most of which that have different authors or creators. I have found two movies, and one story that are about the scary headless horseman, all of which I find very interesting to read and watch. I have found many similarities between the Original story and the movie created by Disney, but it seems that the movie created by Tim Burton just isn't as closely related to the other two versions. Three ways in which I have found differences are in each version, are their unique characterization, plot, and style. The first main difference between the versions is characterization. In the Disney and Original versions, Ichabod Crane is a school teacher who loves apples. In Tim Burton's Movie, he is a constable that is aided by Young Masbeth. Another difference is that in Burton's movie, Ichabod marries Katrina. This never occurs in the Original or Disney form of Sleepy Hollow. Katrina is also viewed as sweet and innocent in the Original and Disney form, but according to Tim Burton, she does witchcraft, surprisingly intuitive, and firm in her beliefs. You would never assume that of her in the Original and Disney form, where she is flirtatious and provocative, ditsy and an avid book reader. They make it appear as though all of the men love and fawn over her while competing for her attention. The main characters are mentioned in all three versions, but just little personality changes have been made to fulfill the highest possible degree of attention or viewing pleasure from the audience. The second main difference between the pieces is in their plots. According to Tim Burton's form, he had a scary scene at a church. The headless horseman couldn't

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enter the church because Katrina had created a Pentagram on the church floor. This protected the loved ones inside the church. This never occurred in the Original or Disney editions. Tim Burton's form of Sleepy Hollow was also the only form to tell the story about how the headless horseman came about the motive for taking heads. Tim Burton also has another plot twist where the stepmother was mentioned, and attempted to kill Katrina. This definitely wasn't part of the plot for the Original and Disney versions. The other two versions just seem to have the headless horseman appear and throw a pumpkin at Ichabod. After the pumpkin is thrown, Ichabod disappears which ends the story. The Tim Burton story ends when the headless horseman recovers his own head, and takes the evil stepmother back into hell with him. The Original and Disney versions have a different ending only due to the fact that they create a happier ending for the children. The third main difference between the two groups is the style of the two movies. It seemed as though Tim Burton wanted to portray a gory, love story, with a main character that is haunted by his past, while the Original and Disney form are happy children stories, with upbeat music, and intriguing characters. According to Disney, there is a scene at a dance where cheerful music is played. During the festivities, Brom Bones and Ichabod try to get woo Katrina. Tim Burton doesn't have a dance scene; instead he has a stylish scene of a witch almost attacking Ichabod. The witch gives him information about the headless horseman. Constable Crane then uses the information and doctor skills crack the mystery of the haunted town. Tim Burton's version is geared for adults instead of the younger generations. Disney tried to portray a style of a clownish cartoon, rather than the intelligence that a character may have. Each form of the legendary story is made vivid and

interesting in all three versions. The original and Disney versions are more closely related in characters and in plot, but the Disney movie brings the words to life, and pulls it all together with an interesting Ichabod Crane. Tim Burton however, used the theme of the Legend of Sleepy Hollow, but added his own unique plot twist and character changes. I enjoyed every version, and hopefully you did too.