

“Did you sleep?” his daughter asked.

“Yes, I did,” he answered.

The people in the town listened to Rip. A lot of people didn’t believe his story.

But one man said, “I believe you. I understand. The mountains are strange. There are strange noises up there. I hear them, too.”

“What noises?” people asked.

“I don’t know. Maybe they’re ghosts. But I believe this man and his story,” the man said.

Then the people in the town believed Rip, too.

## Chapter 7 Rip is Home Again

Rip lived with his daughter and her family. Rip’s son lived with them, but he didn’t like working. He didn’t work on the farm.

Rip didn’t work because he was old. He played with the children and he talked to the men in the hotel. Some men were his old friends. Rip liked the people in the town, and they liked him. He had new friends. They talked to him about the war with Britain, and about their new country, the United States of America.

People often came to Rip and asked, “Are you Rip Van Winkle?”

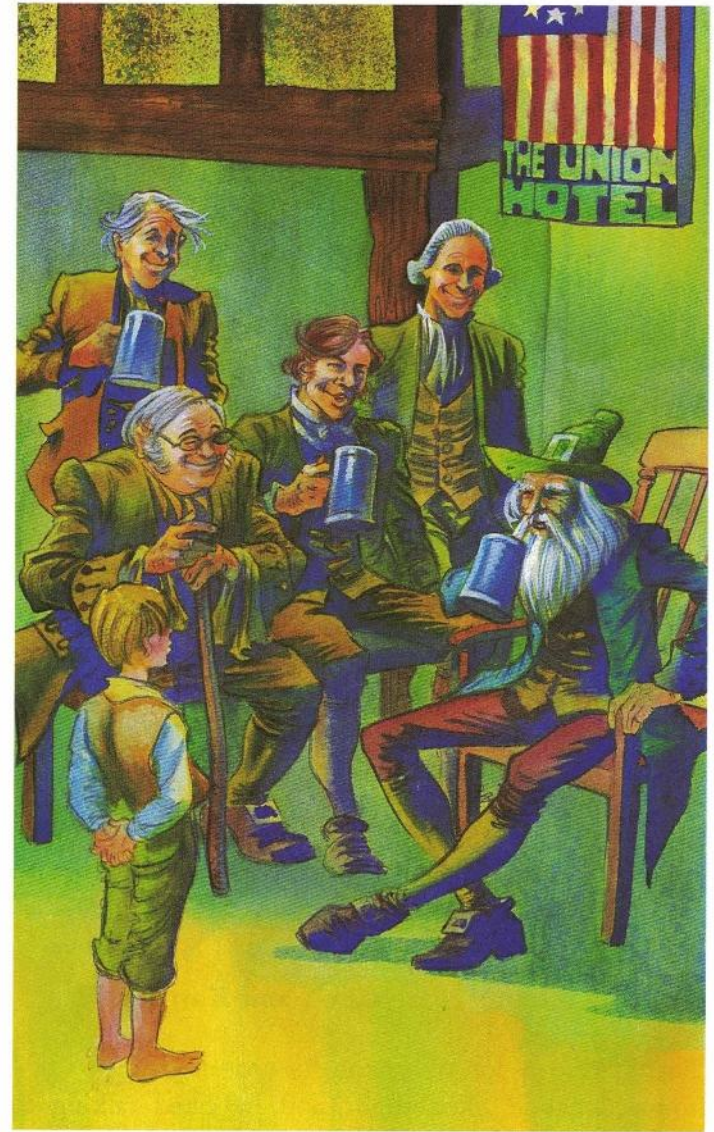
“I am,” he answered.

“Did you sleep for twenty years in the mountains?”

“Yes, I did.”

“Can we hear your story?” they asked.

“Yes,” he said. And he started his story—the story of Rip Van Winkle.



*Rip didn't work because he was old.*