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JAKO KULTURNÍ FENOMÉN**

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**Diploma Thesis
THE LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW AND ITS
ADAPTATIONS AS A CULTURAL PHENOMENA**

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Tina Pochmanová

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ABSTRACT

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The main aim of this diploma thesis is to present „The Legend of Sleepy Hollow“ and its adaptations as a cultural phenomena. The reader is presented with content of the book by Washington Irving and a brief comparison with two film adaptations. The relationship between literature and film adaptations is, in my opinion, very current, and there should be paid more attention to it. The target of this thesis was to prove that the story isn't only a piece of literature. When there is a connection between literature, history, and culture, the story becomes so important that it can show the identity of one nation.

The research shows the results, when the connection between literature, culture and history was introduced to the students of University of West Bohemia. Graphs and pictures, along with commentaries and results of the questionnaire are part of this thesis as well. Even though this might not be a typical for ELT, both the teachers and the students should be encouraged to deal with culture and literature more.

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1. Introduction

The presented diploma thesis will concentrate on piece of literature called “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow”, written by Washington Irving, and its many adaptations. Through this thesis I would like to emphasize the importance of this legend for American people. I have chosen several texts including the original book, Tim Burton`s movie and television series also called Sleepy Hollow. My main aim is to discover why has exactly “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” become such a cultural phenomena, and to present it to students of the University of West Bohemia.

There are many books by classic American authors, which seem as popular today as ever, but only few of them are as culturally influential as “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow”. If one searches for “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” on the Internet, one finds a number of posters, pictures, audio books, film reviews, fan fictions and a huge connection with the American celebration of Halloween. All of this indicates that this piece of literature has become an important part of American culture and history. What is it about this fictional town “Sleepy Hollow”, set in the quiet Hudson River Valley that has set so many readers and viewer`s imagination on fire?

According to Irving (2012), this colonial Dutch village, one of the quietest places in the whole world, is inhabited by original Dutch settlers. They believe their community to be bewitched by a German doctor, who lived there in the early years of their settlement, or that the powers of an even older Indian chief were hold there over the land. The people there have these spirits and powers in mind and the whole neighborhood seem to be given to all kinds of marvelous beliefs - they see strange things and they hear voices in the air. Therefore there is a very popular legend of the headless horseman who is believed to be a ghost of a Hessian trooper. Through this figure one can sense the connection with Revolutionary War, very important event in the American history.

Another aspect for this story's fame might be, as already mentioned, the Halloween celebration, one of the most popular American celebrations. Because there is a presence of pumpkins in the story and the whole story is very spooky, it has become a part of Halloween tradition. But why is this story so popular nowadays? In this thesis I would like to find an answer to this question.

As this story is partly scary because of the legend of the headless horseman, it is, in my opinion, attractive for filmmakers to remake it all over again and again. The horror isn't the only attractive thing, it is also the intersection of charm and horror. In this story appear one of the most important historical events in American history, the Revolutionary War, and contributes to the legend and lore surrounding Halloween as a traditional American celebration, which makes it so important for American culture. Another thing that makes this story special is its future. The story's historical importance is, in my opinion, clear. There are tough broad possibilities for another adapting of "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow". The reality that a hundreds year old story is still being adapted again and again speaks for itself.

This diploma thesis is divided into two parts - the theoretical part and the practical part. The main focus of the theoretical part is not only on the history of "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" and a comparison of the book with its adaptations, but also on life of Washington Irving, as he was one of the most important American writers. I also briefly mention the Revolutionary War and Halloween, as these are also closely connected to the story. Because there is a comparison of book and film, I briefly describe the relationship between the literature and its film adaptations. Through the plot of the book, which is also described in the thesis, and the comparison of the book with its adaptations, one can already see the connection between American cultural history in Halloween, Revolutionary war, and this legend.

In the practical part of my thesis I create a lesson in which I present "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" and its influence on American culture to the students of The University of West Bohemia. There will be two questionnaires included - the first one was given to the students before the lesson and the second one after.

The main aim of the lesson will be to present to the students all the information about Revolutionary War and Halloween and based on their knowledge of this story, I want them to understand the historical and cultural importance of these background events.

Because all these events along with the book are very important for American culture, I would like them to compare this book with any important Czech book or movie, in order to access to their own culture. Finally, there will be my own commentaries of the lesson in the last chapter of the thesis.

This diploma thesis contents the lesson plan to the class, pictures taken in the class, notes I was given from one of the students and also results of the questionnaire pictured in a graph.

The question I would like to answer in this thesis is:

1. Why is “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” so popular today?

2. Theoretical background

The theoretical background is based on my research on the piece of literature “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow”. The life of the author and his work, comparison of adaptations and history of two very important American events are included.

2.1 Washington Irving`s life

According to Janice Campbell (2014), after the Revolutionary War the situation of American writing wasn`t easy. Some people were worried that American literature lacked national feeling and they wanted books, which could express the national character. Many believed that American literature was too young to be independent from the British literature. Others thought that even striving for national literature was a mistake. This conflict wasn`t cleared for almost a hundred years. Though the first popular literature of new independent America were novels. There were several influential authors during this era, including Charlotte Temple, Charles Brockden Brown, but the most important of them was Washington Irving.

According to Peter B. High (1968), the center of American writing in the early nineteenth century was New York. These writers were called “Knickerbockers” and the period at the beginning of the nineteenth century, is called the “Knickerbocker era” of American Literature. The name “Knickerbocker” comes from a book written by Washington Irving, *A History of New York*, using the penname Dietrich Knickerbocker.

The first American post Revolutionary man of letters, Washington Irving, was born on April 31. 1783, as the last one of eleven children. He was named after George Washington, the first American president and the hero of American Revolution. Not only was he a writer, but Irving also served as the U.S. ambassador to Spain and pushed for stronger copyright laws before his death as well.

According to Campbell (2014), since he was a young boy, he loved theatre, music and was very passionate and full of life. Sadly, in his father`s eyes these were serious evils. Irving therefore found a passion for writing and his first works were audacious satires for the theatre, and the local audiences.

In his twenties he started traveling to Europe in order to help his shattered health. He thought of staying in Europe but he came back to America eventually.

In Gray (2003), "Educated privately, Irving began writing essays under the pen name Jonathan Oldstyle for the *Morning Chronicle*, which was edited by his older brother Peter. After touring Europe from 1804 - 06, he returned to New York to practice law - though by his own admission, he was not a good student, and in 1806 he hardly passed the bar" (p. 205).

In America he composed a collection of stories and essays that later became *The Sketch Book of Geoffrey Crayon, Gent*. After publishing the book, Irving fell in love with Matilda Hoffman, a beautiful daughter of one of his old friends.

In Hattie Tyng Grinswold (1902):

She was a most lovely person, in body and mind, and in his eyes the paragon of womanhood. He was young, romantic, full of sensibility, and his love for this beautiful girl filled his whole life. He was poor and could not marry, but he had many arguments with himself about the propriety of doing so even without an income. "I think," he finally writes, "that these early and improvident marriages are too apt to break down the spirit and energy of a young man, and make him a hard-working, half-starving, repining animal all his days. (p. 117)

According to Campbell (2014), because of not being able to marry Matilda, Irving suffered from very melancholic moods. Therefore he went to Europe again in 1817 and there he decided to make writing his profession. In his fifties Washington Irving returned to America. Even though he had made some money from his books, he wasn`t rich. Yet, Irving bought a house at Tarrytown and provided for his nieces and two brothers.

The third time Washington Irving went to Europe he became a minister to Spain. He returned in 1846 to America to enjoy thirteen more years of his life. Washington Irving died on November 28, 1859 and was buried on a little elevation overlooking Sleepy Hollow, the place he made famous.

In Cambell (2014), George W. Curtis thus delightfully sketches the man:

Irving was as quaint a figure as Diedrich Knickerbocker in the preliminary advertisement of the 'History of New York.' Thirty years ago he might have been seen on an autumnal afternoon, tripping with an elastic step along Broadway, with low-quartered shoes neatly tied, and a Talma cloak - a short garment that hung from his shoulders like the cape of a coat. There was a chirping, cheery, old-school air in his appearance, which was undeniably Dutch, and most harmonious with the associations of his writings. He seemed, indeed, to have stepped out of his own books; and the cordial grace and humor of his address were delightfully characteristic. (p.129)

2.2 Irving`s work and “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow”

As mentioned before, one of the first important works by Irving was *A History of New York*, by Dietrich Knickerbocker. This book shows the history of New York, but in a humorous way. The legends and stories he writes about in his book were mostly invented by Irving himself, as the idea was to give New York a special local color. Petr B. High (1968) writes, “But more importantly, the book is a masterpiece of comedy which laughs at the Puritans and at New York`s early Dutch governors” (p. 31).

Another important work written by Washington Irving is *The Sketch Book*. This book contains the stories “Rip Van Winkle” and “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow”, which are two of the best-loved stories in American literature and both are considered the first two American short stories. According to Peter B. High (1968), the plots of both “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” and “Rip Van Winkle” are based on German folk tales. The *Sketch Book* though contains thirty-two stories. Peter B. High (1968) explains the books` composition, “The majority are on European subjects, mostly English. Like many important American writers after him, Irving found that the rich, older culture of the Old World gave him a lot of material for his stories. Few of his stories are really original” (p. 32).

“Rip Van Winkle” is a story about a man, who accidentally sleeps for twenty years. The story started before the Revolution. After he woke up, he found out that his wife was dead and his daughter was happily married. Rip is a very friendly man and people in his town liked him. Although being such a good man, Rip is being constantly nagged by his wife. Therefore he goes to Kaatskill mountains with his dog one day. There he met a man dressed in an old Dutch clothes. Rip van Winkle helps the man and follows him to find more men dressed the same way. Rip drank there some liquor and then he fell asleep. He woke up the next morning and when he went back to the town, he found out that he had been missing for twenty years.

“The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” is story about Ichabod Crane, who moves to a town called Sleepy Hollow, and a headless horseman. Both these stories are very popular and there are many adaptations of both of them. Both “Rip Van Winkle” and “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” are also closely connected to the Revolutionary war.

In “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow”, the connection is visible through the figure of the headless horseman, who was a soldier during the Revolutionary War. He was a Hessian soldier and these soldiers were one of the most hated during the war. According to George Yagi (2015), they were very cruel, wild and barbaric people. Therefore, the representation of the war in the book is through the horseman, who is also very wild and cruel character. Although he doesn't really harm anybody in the book, in both adaptations chosen for this thesis` purpose, he is a cold-blooded murderer.

In “Rip Van Winkle”, where the character of Rip woke up after the Revolution, Irving wants to show how people changed during the Revolution. According to Brian Freeman (2010), “Rip Van Winkle” is a symbol for early America's struggle. Therefore, Rip should have been an inspiration for American people to set free and to set their own rules and culture.

According to Freeman (2010):

The revolution awoke the fire within the American Spirit and the townspeople became alive with anticipation of their new government. One main issue of the story was one of identity, especially at this time in history. The people of America, twenty years after Rip Van Winkle fell asleep, found their identity. The American people after receiving their freedom celebrated and became excited by holding elections. Rip, having difficulty finding himself throughout the story, finally finds his identity when his daughter finds him and takes him home to live with her. Rip Van Winkle finds his wife has long been dead. With the overbearing authority Dame Van Winkle gone, Rip Van Winkle is able live the rest of days happy. Rip Van Winkle, much like America, could now enjoy the new freedom that he deserved.

2.3 Sleepy Hollow - content

Placing: a Dutch village called Sleepy Hollow

Main characters: Ichabod Crane, Kartina van Tassel, Abraham “Brom Bones” Van Brunt, the headless horseman

The narrator of the story is a man, Dietrich Knickerbocker, who claims to retell a story about a man from Manhattan.

Being a schoolmaster, Ichabod Crane comes to Sleepy Hollow that is claimed to be the one of the quietest places in the world. This Dutch village is believed to be cursed by a German doctor or by an old Indian chief. The settlers in this village also believe these tales and horror stories.

Irving (2012):

They are given to all kinds of marvelous beliefs, are subject to trances and visions, and subject to trances and visions, and frequently see strange sights and hear music and voices in the air. The whole neighborhood abounds with local tales, haunted spots, and twilight superstitions; stars shoot and meteors glare oftener across they valley than in any other part of the country, and the nightmare, with the whole ninefold, seems to make it the favorite scene of her gambols. The dominant spirit, however, that haunts this enchanted region, and seems to be commanded -in chief of all the powers of the air, is the apparition of a figure on horseback without a head. (p. 370)

This headless horseman is believed to be a Revolutionary war soldier whose head has been carried away by a cannonball. Although the body of the Hessian trooper is buried in the churchyard, the ghost of his still keeps haunting around the Hollow like a midnight blast. Though he hurries back to the churchyard before the day breaks. Ichabod Crane, a native from Connecticut, came to Sleepy Hollow thirty years after the Revolution.

In Irving (2012):

He was tall, but exceedingly lank, with narrow shoulders, long arms and legs, hands that dangled a mile out of sleeves, feet that might have served for shovels, and his whole frame most loosely hung together. His head was small, and flat at top, with huge ears, large green glassy eyes and a long snip nose, so that it looked like a weathercock perched upon his spindle neck to tell which way the wind blew. (p. 372)

Simply said, Ichabod Crane is tall and skinny, he loves scary stories but because of his strong belief in these stories, he is very afraid of them. He is basically the anti-hero of this story.

Ichabod Crane lives in a schoolhouse by a woody hill. He was very beloved in the town because of his manners and nice behavior to children. He soon fell in love with Katrina Van Tassel, beautiful daughter of Baltus Van Tassel, a farmer from the Hollow, and with her father`s money.

In Irving (2012), “He was satisfied with his wealth but not proud of it, and piqued himself upon the hearty abundance, rather than the style, in which he lived” (p. 372). The money of Katrina`s family is actually the main reason for Ichabod`s need to marry Katrina.

Ichabod was charmed when visiting the residence of the Van Tassels. He was, not to mention, thinking about gaining Katrina and her father`s money as well. Though he wasn`t the only one who was trying to gain Katrina`s heart. One must not forget to mention Abraham Van Brunt, the hero of the country, universally known by his nick name Brom Bones - the rival Ichabod Crane had to contend.

As Brom Bones found out about Ichabod`s intentions, he and his group started to sabotage him - they smoked out his school by stopping the chimney or broke into the schoolhouse at night.

One night in autumn, Ichabod Crane was invited to a merry-making to be held at Van Tassel`s house. Ichabod prepared himself quite thoroughly, as he even borrowed a horse from an old Dutchman Hans Van Ripper.

Written in Irving (2012), "Ichabod was a suitable figure for such a steed. He rode with short stirrups, which brought his knees nearly up to the pommel of the saddle; his sharp elbows stuck out like grasshopper`s; he carried his whip perpendicularly in his hand like a scepter; and as his horse jogged on the motion of his arms was not unlike the flapping of a pair of wings" (p. 372).

From the description upon can be seen that Ichabod was really a ridiculous figure.

At the party at Van Tassel`s house, everything seemed to go well for Ichabod, as he was dancing with Katrina, the beautiful daughter of Baltus Van Tassel, the woman Ichabod wanted to marry. In the meantime, the rival of Ichabod, Abraham "Brom Bones" Van Brunt, jealous as he was, was sitting in the corner by himself. At the party, Ichabod gathered together with a group of older Dutchmen, talking about the Headless Horseman of Sleepy Hollow - the famous legend everyone knew about.

It is said, that later that night, when Ichabod was returning home, a strange horseman seemed to follow him. He soon realized that it was the headless horseman who was chasing around the town. After the night full of horror, Ichabod appeared neither at breakfast nor at dinner. One of the settlers of Sleepy Hollow, an old Dutch man, went looking for Ichabod, worried about his fate. An inquiry was set and soon they found a hat of Ichabod and close to it a spattered pumpkin but Ichabod`s body was nowhere to find.

It was said by an old farmer that Ichabod Crane was still alive. In Irving (2012), "That he had left the neighborhood, partly through the fear of the goblin and Hans Van Ripper, and partly in mortification at haven been suddenly dismissed by the heiress" (p. 373).

After Ichabod Crane`s disappearance, Brom Bones married Katrina. The old woman in Sleepy Hollow though say, that Crane was spirited away by supernatural means and the schoolhouse is said to be haunted by the ghost of the unfortunate pedagogue. This story began to be the favorite story around. In Gray (2003), "In this last story, as in many others, Irving contrasts the personality of the New England "Yankees" which that of New Yorkers. Ichabod Crane, a New Englander, is made a comic figure. He is greedy and superstitious. He "Headless Horseman" who frightens him out of the valley is not real. He was invented by local New Yorkers, in order to frighten outsiders" (p. 207).

2.4 Sleepy Hollow - background

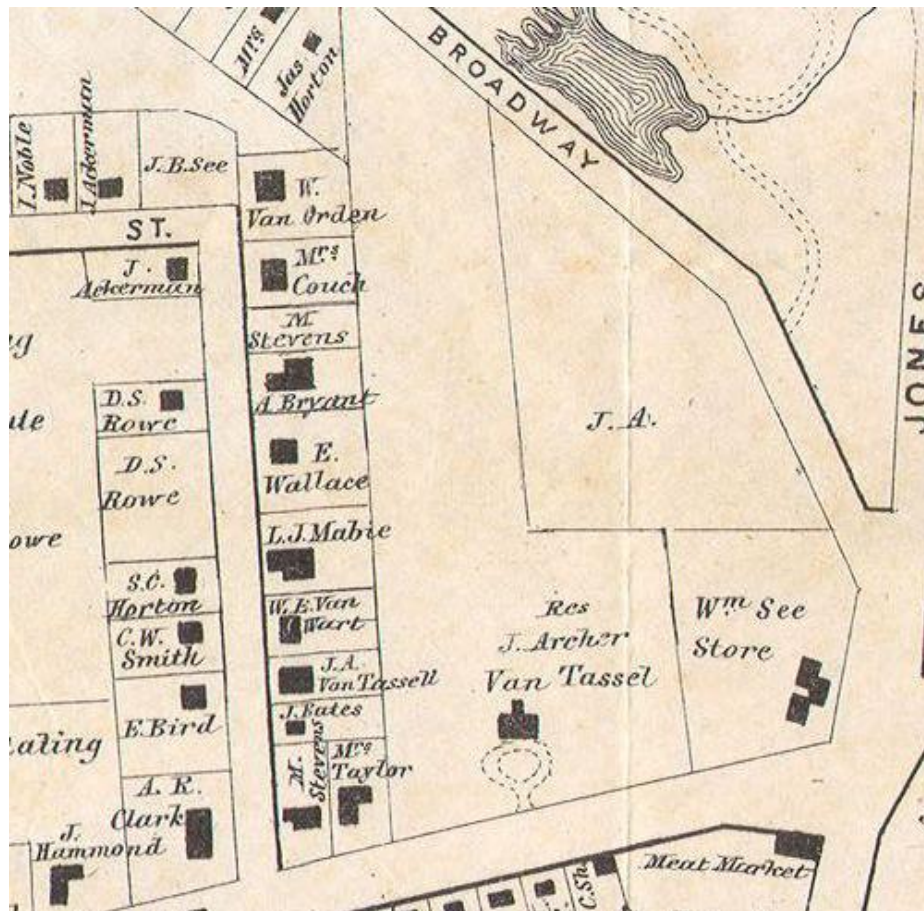
As I mentioned already, “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” is based on an old German folk tale. It is also said, that the characters in the story are based on real people. The town Sleepy Hollow is also based on real town. Here, let me comment a bit on the story behind “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow”.

According to Browne (2011), when writing “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow”, Irving was actually staying in the area where Sleepy Hollow was located. He supposedly interacted a lot with the soldiers who were there. According to Patrick Browne (2011), there also was a real Ichabod Crane. He was a career soldier born in Elizabeth, New Jersey but this man was nothing like the character in the book. The only similarity was the name. When the Major Crane found out about the character being named after it, he resented being associated with such a character.

The character of Crane was inspired by an actual schoolmaster, Irving`s friend Jesse Merwin. After the story was published, there was a correspondence found between Merwin and Irving, proving that these two knew each other. Unlike Major Ichabod Crane, Jesse Merwin was actually glad to be connected with the Ichabod Crane character in Irving`s book.

Browne (2011) claims, that the origin of the headless horseman is rather unclear. According to Irving`s story, the headless horseman was a ghost of a soldier from Revolutionary war. Some people say, that this was a local tale from the Hudson River Valley told to Irving when he was a young boy. Others argued, that Irving was inspired by old European folklore, to be more exact by a tale about a rider who goes through a town at night. Others again claimed, that he was a real Hessian soldier and his body was found fully decapitated. Some also said that he was decapitated by a canon shot that went straight through his head. According to Bravura Media Company (2016), there is a church in Tarrytown that claims to have an unmarked grave on its graveyard. The grave is said to belong to the headless horseman.

The Van Tassel family, who lived in Sleepy Hollow, was based on a real life family. When living in Tarrytown, Irving had neighbors named Van Tassels. Below is a map of Tarrytown, Sleepy Hollow, which shows that Van Tassel really lived in Sleepy Hollow in the year 1867. The whole map is to be found in the “Attachment” section.



2.5 American Revolutionary war

The War of Independence is one of the most important events in the history not only of the United States but also of the European continent. This conflict was between the British North American colonies and Britain.

Written in the book Outline of U.S. history (2005), the colonies needed more land for settlement because of a fast increase in population. The British government was facing an expansion too, therefore they needed more money to support the growing empire. It seemed reasonable for the colonies to start paying higher taxes.

Because the taxes were never discussed with the colonists, therefore they established “No Taxation without Representation”, as they didn’t have any votes in the British Parliament. The taxes were determined anyway, on everything except for tea. Being called “The Boston Tea Party”, there was another conflict between the colonists and Great Britain. The colonists disguised them as Indians and they threw away tea evaluated of 10 000 Pounds.

Thus, the war between the colonies and United Kingdom started in 1775, George Washington was called there as the commander. Even though George Washington had his failures, he later became a general of the whole Confederation of 13 colonies. In 1776, New York was occupied by British army led by the general Howe. In the same year, on 4: July 1776, Thomas Jefferson wrote The Declaration of Independence, thus the 13 colonies established the United States of America.

One year later general Howe took Philadelphia. After being exchanged for general Clinton, British were defeated by Charleston. Even though it looked like the United Kingdom was going to win, they were defeated in 1781. In 1783 they finally became truly independent. Being in a Great Depression after the war, the United States had to establish a constitution. The constitution was established in 1787 and in 1789 George Washington was elected the first US president.

The representation of the American revolutionary war in the book “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” is clear through the figure of the headless horseman, who was a ghost of a Hessian trooper that died during the war, as well as Baltus Van Tassel.

In the TV series, on the other hand, it is the figure of Ichabod Crane, who is transformed into a Revolutionary War soldier as well.

2.6 Halloween

Celebrated on October 31., Halloween is one of the most famous American celebrations. Halloween has always been a celebration filled with mystery, magic and fear. There are several Halloween traditions including wearing costumes, visiting haunted houses, carving pumpkins, bobbing for apples or going “trick or treat” – children go from house to house and say “trick or treat” (give us a treat or we will play a trick on you).

According to history.com (2009), the origin of Halloween goes far to the ancient Celts. The Celts had a celebration named “Samhein”, after one of their Gods. The 31. of October was the end of their calendar year, so they celebrated it along with the end of the summer. It was believed that on that night the souls of their dead ancestors could come back to the Earth to visit them. But from the souls that were lost nothing good was expected, thus they scared the good people through the night. The people thus left food on their doorstep in order to prevent the ghost from coming to haunt them.

At approximately 800 AD, the pope named the 1. November the day of “All Hallows”. Therefore is the 31. October called “All Hallows` Evening” which was during the centuries shortened to Halloween. Halloween was originally celebrated in England. Later in America, Halloween was more common in Maryland and other southern colonies, rather than in New England.

According to history.com (2009):

In the second half of the nineteenth century, America was flooded with new immigrants. These new immigrants, especially the millions of Irish fleeing Ireland’s potato famine of 1846, helped to popularize the celebration of Halloween nationally. Taking from Irish and English traditions, Americans began to dress up in costumes and go house to house asking for food or money, a practice that eventually became today’s “trick-or-treat” tradition. Young women believed that on Halloween they could divine the name or appearance of their future husband by doing tricks with yarn, apple parings or mirrors“

From 18. century till now, Halloween has become a community and family celebration with the most common way of celebrating it being parties for children and adults as well.

One of the most famous Halloween traditions is carving pumpkins and lighting their faces in order to make a Jack-o'-lanterns. Here, one can see the connection between Halloween and The Legend of Sleepy Hollow. In both the book and the movie by Tim Burton, there are numbers of pumpkins. The other reason for this connection is the atmosphere and the fear associated with both.

Let me say, that "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" even helped create American Halloween tradition. One of the story's adaptations indicates, that the headless horseman was Abraham Van Brunt – dressing himself as the horseman. He found it funny, because he was able to scare his rival Ichabod. Therefore people nowadays dress into funny or scary costumes every year, in order to have the similar effect on other people. Another reason for this story being so important is the atmosphere. When reading "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow", there are many feelings involved. One can feel scared, it is spooky on the one hand and funny on the other hand – just as Halloween.

According to Parade magazine (2013), carving pumpkins for Halloween started first in the 19. century, after appearing in "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow".

In Parade magazine (2013):

One of the best-known literary works in which a pumpkin stands in for a man's foolishness is Washington Irving's *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, published in 1848 and set in the rural countryside of New York's Hudson River valley. As a central element of the tale, the pumpkin represents the area's rusticity as well as the buffoonery of its main character, Ichabod Crane. In the story, Crane, a silly, gangly, itinerant schoolteacher, spends his idle hours spooking himself by reading local ghost stories, especially a notorious one about the Headless Horseman.

2.7 Connection between film and literature

According to Corrigan (2012), it is very hard to describe the relationship between film and literature, thus these two have a very long history. The relationship between images and words can be traced to the beginnings of civilizations. The beginning of connection between film and literature can be located in cave drawings, Egyptian hieroglyphics or Chinese ideograms. These are a combination of visual and verbal signs. (p. 7)

In Corrigan (2012), “The historical tale of the relationship between film and literature gains considerable momentum in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries when the recognizable precedents in the debate began to appear. One of these precedents is a social and cultural anxiety about the proliferation of writing, spectacles, and entertainments attracting lower- and middle-class audiences” (p. 7).

To sum up, people started being attracted by the visual signs, as words and pictures are both a separate way to communicate. Thus, it may even seemed, that this new medium started to replace books – people seemed to be more and more under the spell of images that under the power of words which seemed quite discriminated by then, as movies became a visual summary of an emotional situation.

Now, when filming a literature, there are certain rules that must be followed. Filming a piece of literature must follow the social and aesthetic directions that were established during the film development. The literature shouldn't be pictured in the perspectives of theatre, thus there must be a narrative tradition. When making a film, one should always keep in mind to use the cultural and popular currency of famous pieces of literature.

Speaking of adaptations of famous literature pieces, according to Corrigan (2012), “The literary attraction in these early adaptations, staged often as “action-tableau”¹ but eventually as narratives, is in many ways pragmatic.

¹ Actions of vivid or graphic description.

As the demand for movies increases exponentially and audiences grow more demanding and sophisticated about what they want to see on film, literature provides an abundance of ready-made materials that could be transposed to film” (p. 13).

Simply said, one can see it clearly nowadays. Turning into a bestseller, there is very good chance that a book will be sooner or later transformed into a movie. This is also a big advantage for film makers, as people want to see words being brought to life. However, this tendency is more that just finding a new subject matter. Thus, literature as an adaptation can be seen as a way of negotiating a new and respectable cultural position for movies and their audiences.

In “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow”, the need of seeing the words visualized is very clear, as there are various adaptations of the story. In 1949 was filmed animated movie *The Adventures of Ichabod and Mr. Toad*. In 1999 Tim Burton filmed a movie *Sleepy Hollow*. In the same year, another animated movie was made – *The Night of headless horseman*. The latest adaptation is a TV series *Sleepy Hollow*. With this evolution, one can see that “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” was made for everyone. Animated stories for children, and horror and detective movies for adults. Also, the needs of the viewers and readers change as the time flies. When Irving wrote “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow”, it seemed to be scary enough. Many years later people needed something scarier, thus Tim Burton added some cruelty to the character of the headless horseman, Ichabod Crane became a detective, as teachers are too boring and Katrina Van Tassel became a witch. Now, when the TV series *Sleepy Hollow* is so current, the viewers get supernatural creatures and horsemen of the Apocalypse. All of this show that even though one add something to the story, “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” is, and will be, always current and interesting for the viewers.

2. 8 Tim Burton`s movie Sleepy Hollow

Even though there are various adaptations of the story, I chose a movie by Tim Burton and a TV series, because these are the most popular ones. In this part of the thesis it is clear, that both Halloween and the Revolutionary war are reflected in this piece of literature, and its adaptations as well.

One of the most famous adaptations of “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” is a movie by Tim Burton called simply *Sleepy Hollow*. The movie was directed in 1999 and the main characters starring Johnny Depp and Christina Ricci. The *Sleepy Hollow* movie is a combination of horror and detective movie.

In this adaptation, Ichabod Crane is a police constable sent to a village called Sleepy Hollow to investigate strange murders. The victims are always found without their heads.

From its very beginning, there are number of pumpkins present, thus it suggests the connection with Halloween. When Ichabod Crane comes to Sleepy Hollow, he is allowed to stay in the house owned by Baltus Van Tassel. When Ichabod Crane meets with people from the town, they tell him the legend of a Hessian soldier who later became the headless horseman – his head was cut off by his own sword. Once, Ichabod even witnesses headless horseman killing one of the village`s inhabitants. Every time there is a person killed, it`s only the person`s body that is found. The heads of the victims keep disappearing. Ichabod and Katrina found the tree of dead and there were all of the heads. According to Ichabod, the horseman took the heads, until his one his returned to him.

Later in the movie was showed, that Katrina`s stepmother was controlling the headless horseman and she wanted the horseman to kill Katrina. Ichabod figured it all out and even though he was on his way out of the village, he returns in order to save Katrina`s life. Finally, Katrina`s life was saved and the horseman got his own head back, thanks to Ichabod. In the end, Ichabod and Katrina travel to New York to live there.

2.9 Differences between the movie and the book

Because it is an adaptation inspired by the book, there are several differences between the movie and the book. In this short chapter, let me briefly describe the biggest differences and then present them very clearly in a table.

There is a similarity in the plot. Ichabod Crane comes to Sleepy Hollow, a place haunted by a headless horseman. He falls in love with Katrina van Tassel and he fights for her heart with Abraham “Brom Bones” van Brunt, though, there are several differences which are to be presented below.

Ichabod Crane is a police constable, unlike in the original book, where he is a schoolmaster. Based on his heroic behavior, he is the hero of this movie. He is very charming, unlike in the book, where he seems to be very comic figure and the story's antihero.

Another figure, the headless horseman, was a names soldier in the book and in the movie as well. Even though he is just a legend in the book, he is a murderer killing many people in *Sleepy Hollow* in the film. Also, in the movie his head is told to be cut off by his own sword, unlike in the book, where it is claimed that his head was taken off by a cannonball..

In the movie, Abraham van Brunt wants to marry Katrina Van Tassel, but he is later killed by the headless horseman. In the book, Abraham van Brunt becomes the headless horseman himself.

The figure of Katrina van Tassel, the daughter of Baltus Van Tassel, isn't described in detail in the book. In the movie she seems to be interested in magic and she is charmed by Ichabod Crane, as she leaves with him to New York in the end of the movie.

Table 1: Differences between the book and the movie

BOOK	MOVIE
Ichabod Crane is the antihero	Ichabod Crane is the hero
Ichabod Crane is a schoolmaster	Ichabod Crane is a police constable
Headless horseman is a legend	Headless horseman is a murderer
Abraham stays alive	Abraham is killed by the horseman
Ichabod Crane disappears	Ichabod Crane goes to live to New York

Even though the story “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” seemed to be pretty scary when it was first published, for the end of 20. century it simply wasn’t scary enough. This has also to do with the fashion of the century and the changes people go through. Earlier, even though the teachers were always funny figures, by the times of Irving they were more respected then hundreds of years later. Therefore, to make a detective from a teacher makes much more sense. Detectives are respected and their job is interesting. Correspondingly, the headless horseman being just a legend isn’t good enough either. Making him a murderer adds the flavor of fear and oddity to the story, along with the detective chasing this headless monster. What makes this legend therefore so special is the variety of adaptations one can make from it, the movie by Tim Burton being the first example.

2. 10 TV series Sleepy Hollow

This TV series, also called *Sleepy Hollow*, is the newest adaptation of “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” written by Washington Irving. This TV series started in year 2013 a nowadays there is fourth season on TV now. The *Sleepy Hollow* TV series is very supernatural. The reason might be, that supernatural is trending nowadays. This shows, that the topic is very current even now. The TV series is set in the actual village *Sleepy Hollow*, New York.

The story of Ichabod sleeping for a very long time and waking up in a completely different era is connected with the story “Rip van Winkle” also written by Washington Irving.

Unlike the movie *Sleepy Hollow* by Tim Burton, which shows a big connection with Halloween, this TV series shows this connection with Revolutionary war. Ichabod Crane, who was a soldier during the War of Independence, presents personalities such as General George Washington, Benjamin Franklin.

In the series, Ichabod Crane and his partner, Lt. Abigail Mills, solve many supernatural mysteries. The headless horseman in the book is Death serving to his master, Moloch. There are three other horsemen in the TV series and Crane learns that one them, the Horseman of War, was his own son, Henry, who he had never met.

There are other new characters appearing in the series, such as Abigail Mills and her sister and all of other monsters that Ichabod Crane and his partner fight.

2. 11 Differences between the TV series and the book

Because of the modern element of supernatural, there are many differences between the TV series and the original book. Here, let me briefly comment on the biggest differences. Later in the chapter, the differences will be shown in a table. One must not forget to mention, that this series was only inspired by “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” and its supernatural elements have nothing to do with the original story.

What is similar within the movie and the book, Ichabod Crane wanted to marry Katrina van Tassel and his rival of Katrina`s heart was Abraham van Brunt.

In the TV series, Ichabod Crane is a soldier during the Revolutionary War. This shows, again, the connection between “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” and the Revolutionary War. In the first few episodes, he woke up after hundreds of years later in the modern world. Obviously, there is nothing like that in the text by Washington Irving, thus this shows a slight connection between one of his other stories – “Rip Van Winkle”. In the TV series, Ichabod Crane was the one, who beheaded the headless horseman.

The figure of the headless horseman in this show is a killer, as well as in the movie by Tim Burton. He is also one of the horsemen of the Apocalypse. In reality, the headless horseman in Abraham Van Brunt, the rival of Ichabod Crane.

Abraham Van Brunt was friend of Ichabod during the Revolutionary War. Later, because of his rage of Ichabod marrying Katrina, he became the headless horseman.

Katrina van Tassel was Ichabod`s wife and she was also a witch. Ichabod and Katrina had a son, Henry, who is also one of the horsemen of the Apocalypse.

Table 2: Differences between the book and TV series.

BOOK	TV series
Ichabod Crane was a schoolmaster	Ichabod Crane was a soldier
Headless horseman was a legend	Headless Horseman was a murderer
Abraham stay alive	Abraham was killed and became horseman
Katrina doesn't marry Ichabod	Katrina was married with Ichabod
There is Katrina's father	No reference for Katrina's father

The second example of changing the nature of a story is the TV series *Sleepy Hollow*. One can notice the people's tendency to turn back for old tales, the examples being vampires (*Dracula*, the TV series *The Vampire Diaries*) or scary stories like "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" or *Walking dead*. Thus, the current need is for supernatural. Therefore, Ichabod Crane chases for monsters in this story and he, along with his partner, tries to stop the Apocalypse that is about to happen. Because there are number of seasons of this series, the original story "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" is expanding rapidly, which is another reason for Washington Irving's book being the cultural phenomena of America.

2. 12 Literature and culture in ELT

In Cruz (2010), “Literature and Culture in English Language Teaching (ELT) at an undergraduate level can be seen as the bridge between the target language and its soul. They provide students with a closer interaction with English-Speaking countries in the sense that both portray the world in a contextualized situation and open the door to the perception that there is a complex and immanent relationship between grammar and a humanistic interactive field that mutates constantly, since it adapts to the needs of its speakers and changes according to their context.”

Put simply, for English learners is important to know not only the grammar but the context of the country, here being literature and its cultural influence, as well. Through literature, children get an authentic texts with the language in its use and they can see a typical geopolitical context of the origin of the piece of literature, thus children will see the language of people living in a particular area.

According to Cruz (2010), through literature and the personal and emotical experience are children able to build a relationship with language, since they are able to reconstruct it on their own learning processes. There is a much clearer syntactic structure in a literature text and therefore the learners can get used to the formation and function of a sentence. Regardless the grammar, children get a sense of cultural and geography thanks to the literature as well (an example being “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow“ and its huge cultural influence).

There are two types of reading in ELT. Efferent reading² occurs when readers gain many information regarding the target language and country, for example historical way of life, weather, architecture, clothing etc. Thus, the students are so concentrated on the language itself. On the other hand, according to Cruz (2010), aesthetic reading³ can help the students connect the text with their own cultural context.

² Taking away particular information

Retrieved from: <http://composing.org/digitalmedia/efferent-vs-aesthetic-reading/>

³ Exploring the work and oneself

Retrieved from: <http://composing.org/digitalmedia/efferent-vs-aesthetic-reading/>

Knowing their own culture, it helps the students understand a context of a text. Therefore, knowing the culture of the target language could help understand the language itself, as they can adapt their own cultural experiences. In Tucker and Lambert (1972), the culture in ELT could be therefore seen as a means developing an awareness and sensitivity towards the values and traditions of the people whose language is being studied.

3. Methods

This chapter describes the practical part of the thesis, concretely the research method, participants and the research questions. The main aim of the research was to present “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” to students and, by teaching a lesson based on the legend, to try to make them understand the cultural and historical importance of this piece of literature.

3.1 Research tools

As the best research tool for my research seemed to be a quantitative questionnaire. Because the intention was to see a difference prior and after a taught lesson, I included two questionnaires. The first one, given to the students prior to the lesson, included five questions, which tested their common knowledge regarding “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” and its adaptations, Halloween. and also knowledge of any books or movies culturally important for Czech Republic. The exact questions in this questionnaire were:

1. Have you ever heard about “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow”? If so, what do you know about this story?
2. This story has a number of adaptations - there is a book, a movie or a TV series. Have you read/seen any of these adaptations? If so, which one?
3. What do you know about Halloween?
4. Why do you think that Halloween is so popular in America?
5. Can you think of any Czech book/movie that is very important and influential for Czech culture? If so, which one, and why do you think that exactly this one?

After filling the first questionnaire, the students were asked to read “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow”. The lesson was based on the content of the book and its main characters, as well as the celebration of Halloween and the Revolutionary war, being two very important events in the United States of America. The main aim of the lesson was to establish the connection between the legend and these two events.

After the lesson, the students were given another questionnaire, which tested the newly gained knowledge. This questionnaire included four questions, this time with regard to the content of “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” and its connection to Halloween and the Revolutionary war and the ability of seeing any resemblance between this legend and important Czech movies or books the students mentioned in the first questionnaire. The exact questions were:

1. How would you comment on the content of “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow“?
2. What makes “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow a Halloween story“?
3. How is “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow“ connected with one of the most important events in the American history - the Revolutionary war?
4. Can you see any resemblance between popular Czech movies or books (Pelíšky, Saturnin, Osudy dobrého vojáka Švejka, Tři oříšky pro Popelku) and “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow“?

(patriotism, historical importance)

The results of the questionnaires are described in the following chapter.

3. 2 Research participants

This research was carried out at the University of West Bohemia, at the Faculty of Education, department of English Language. The students I taught were in second year of the undergraduate program. The subject the students attend is called American cultural studies and there are twenty-five students in total attending it. The first questionnaire was filled by twenty of the students, the class taught by me was attended by twenty students as well and the second questionnaire was filled by seventeen students. The class`s lecturer is William Bradley Vice, Ph.D.

Most of the students were of Czech nationality, although there were two Erasmus students. Because they all study English, some as a major and some as a minor. The attendance of the American culture studies is compulsory. There is also class of British cultural studies in the undergraduate program as well.

3. 3 Research Procedure

The first questionnaire was given to the students on 21. March 2017. Afterwards, the lesson regarding “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow“ was taught on 28. March 2017. The lesson lasted 60 minutes and it was supervised by the lecturer of the class, William Bradley Vice Ph.D. The second questionnaire was given to the students one week after the lesson, on 4. March 2017.

The exact date of the lesson was chosen because of the continuity of the lesson plan. Being one of the most important influencers of American culture, Washington Irving and his piece of literature are composed to the subject of American cultural studies. Prior to the lesson, the students were assigned to read “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow“. During the lesson, there was cooperation from the students` side as they were answering my questions regarding the lesson`s topic.

As I introduced the research methods, in the following chapter I would like to comment on the lesson and the questionnaires and their results in detail.

4. Results and commentaries

This chapter contains my comments on the lesson's results, along with three graphs showing the percentage representation of the results.

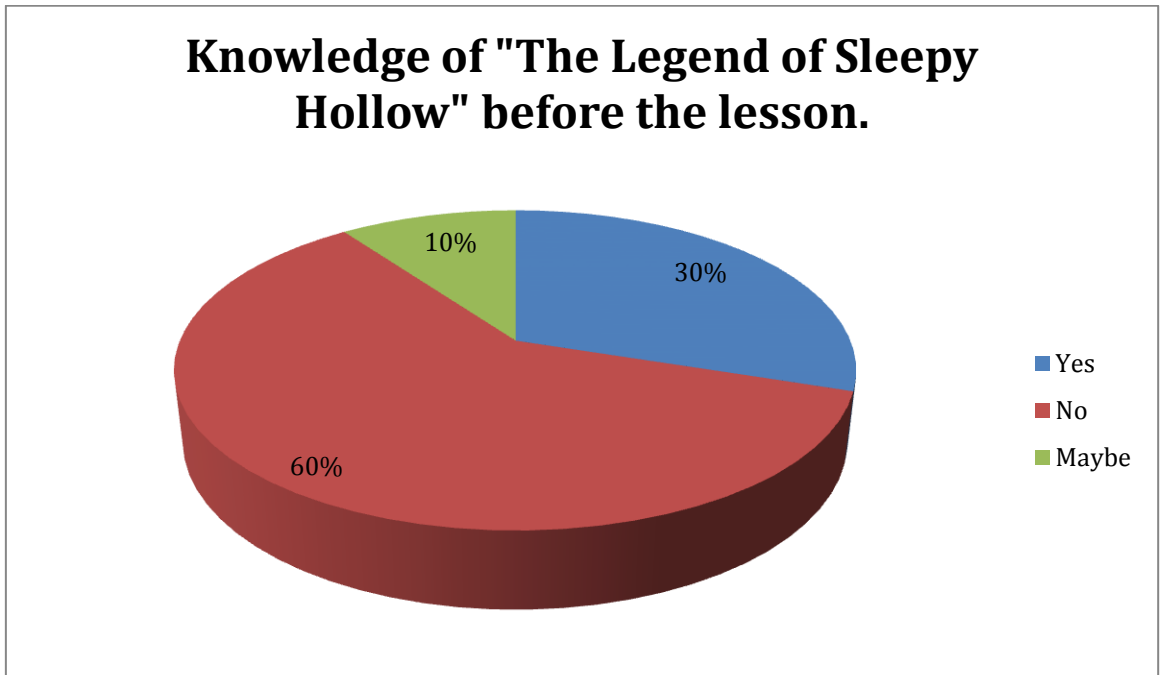
4. 1 First questionnaire

To my surprise, quite a few students were aware of "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" and they even knew some of its adaptations – either the book or movie with Johny Depp, which seems to be the most favorite one of all the adaptations. One of the students also wrote, that "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" is a Halloween story, which means, that he could already see any connection between the story and Halloween. Though, there are quite big differences in the knowledge of the students, as some of them knew really lot about this legend and some of them weren't aware at all.

Correspondingly, the answer to question number two, the students who knew "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" mostly knew some of its adaptations. The students, who weren't aware of this story, also didn't know any of the adaptations. Others, who knew some information about "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" were therefore able to name some adaptation. It was either the movie with Johny Depp or TV series.

The third and forth questions were about Halloween. All of the students were able to get together some information about this celebration and its popularity in America.

The last question in the questionnaire was, if the students can think of any Czech movie/book that is very culturally important for us. Everybody could think of a book or a movie, examples being - *Osudy dobrého vojáka Švejka za světové války* or *Saturnin*, which were also the ones mentioned most frequently. Another movies mentioned were *Popelka* or *Pelíšky*.

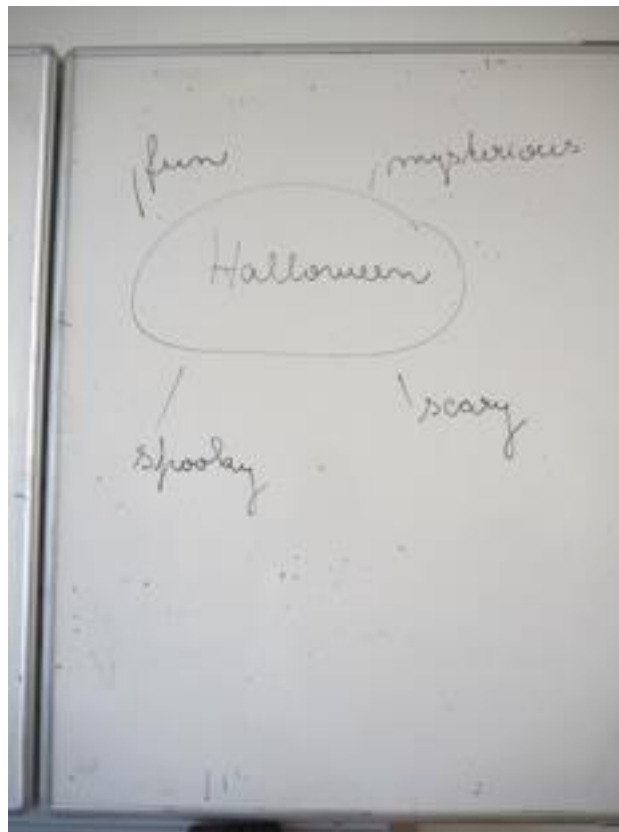


4. 2 Lesson

Let me mention, that the lesson plan a copy of notes from one of the students and the photos I showed the students at the beginning of the lesson are to be found in the “Attachment” section. The text contains pictures of the notes on the board I have made during the lesson, in order to get illustration to the information about the lesson.

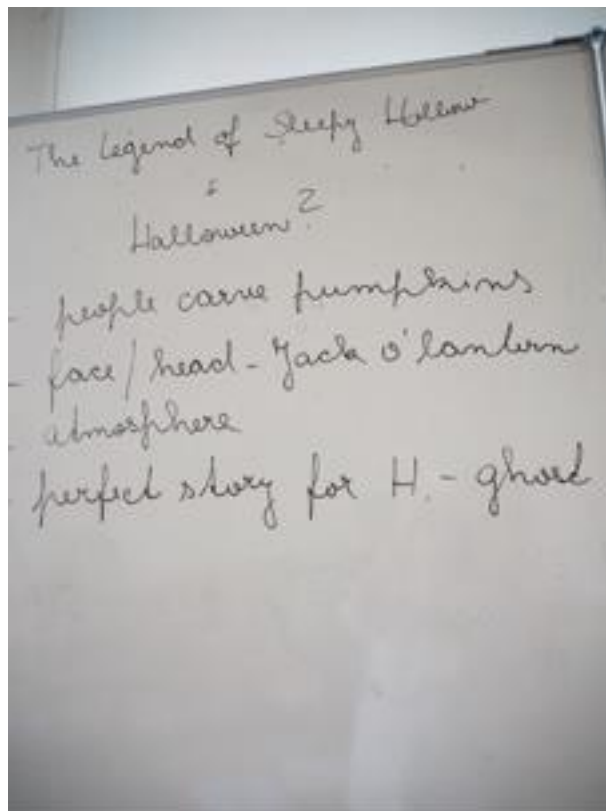
The main aim of the lesson was to discuss “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow“ with the students and to show them the connection of this story with American Halloween celebration and American Revolutionary war. This later led to understanding why this book is such and important piece of American history.

At the beginning of the lesson, I showed the students two pictures of pumpkins and I asked them, what the pictures are connected with. Because they were connected with Halloween, all of the class put together all basic information about Halloween. I also asked them their feelings one can have when experiencing Halloween and I made a mind map consisting of those feelings. According to the students, Halloween is scary, spooky, mysterious and also fun.

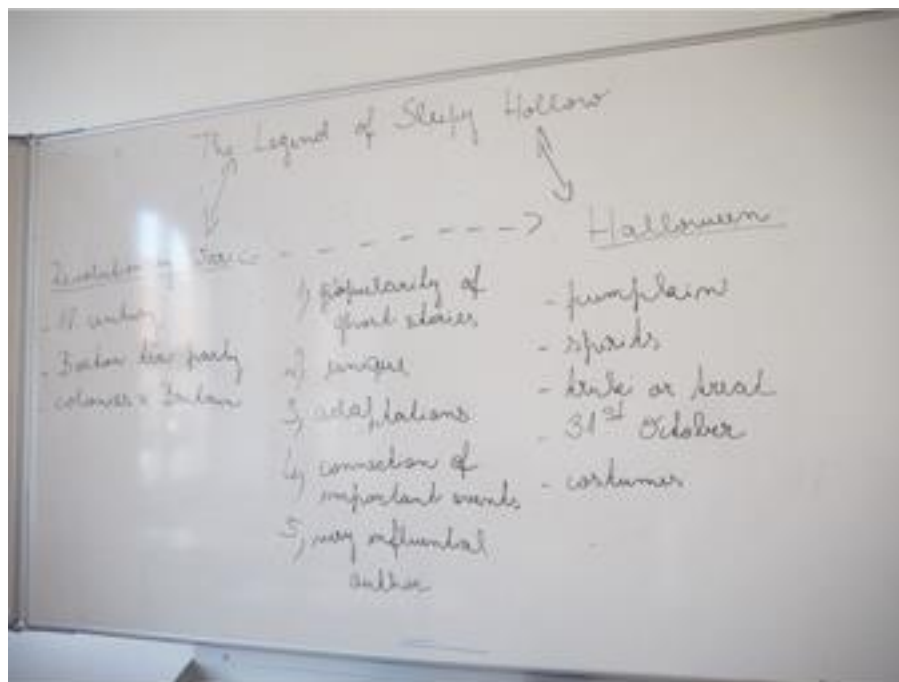


Through Halloween, the students and I got to the connection of Halloween and “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow“, as the pictures I showed them before were connected not only with Halloween but with the story as well. We were talking about the connection of Halloween and “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow“. As it can be seen in the picture below, Halloween and the story are connected because:

- people carve pumpkins -> the typical Halloween activity is carving pumpkins and in The Legend of Sleepy Hollow there are also pumpkins involved
- face/head - Jack o` Lantern -> the pumpkins carved on Halloween are mostly having a face/head and in the story there was headless horseman
- atmosphere -> on Halloween and in the story is very scary atmosphere
- ghost -> on Halloween the children get dressed as ghosts and there was a ghost in “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow“, which makes it perfect story for Halloween



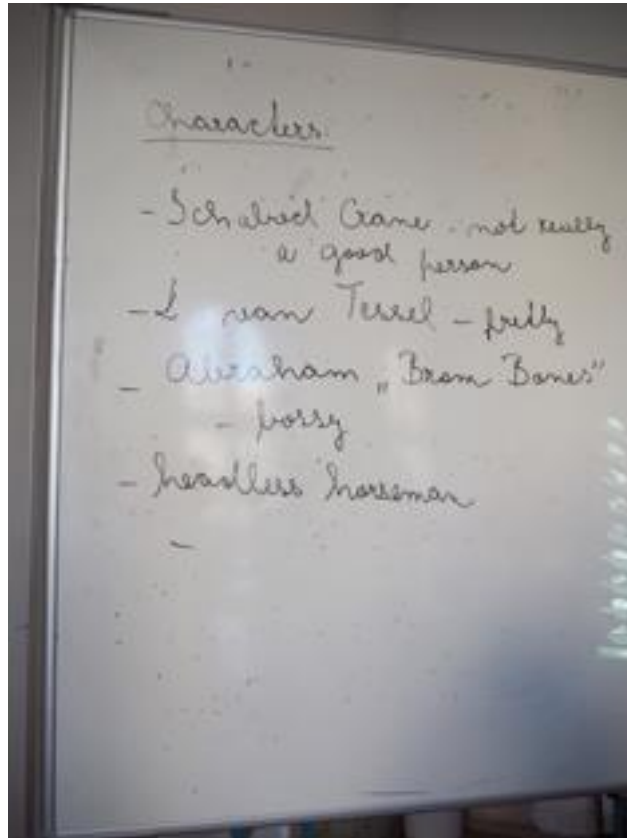
Because the headless horseman, one of the main characters of the story, was a Hessian trooper - a soldier from the Revolutionary war, I asked the students for basic information about this war. They knew that it was in the 18. century, it was a war between the colonies and the Britain and the war started with an event “ the Boston Tea party”. Because there were information about Halloween and the Revolutionary war on the board and all of the students agreed that both these events are connected with “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow“, I created a little triangle on the white board - see picture below.



Later in the lesson, one of the students retold the plot of the legend and I asked about the main characters. With the students together, we listed all of the characters and their elemental personal qualities. It could be seen that all of them have read the story, if not the whole story, than at least the content and they understood very well all of the personal qualities of the characters.

Here is the list of characters the students and I put together:

- Ichabod Crane - not really a good person, the antihero of this story
- Katrina van Tassel - pretty girl, the daughter of a very rich man
- Abraham "Brom Bones" van Brunt - bossy
- headless horseman - ghost, headless



Later I played the students a video on YouTube called "Top ten notes: The Legend of Sleepy Hollow". This video was about the top ten main reasons, why is The Legend of Sleepy Hollow so popular nowadays. However, in the video are also basic information about the story everyone is supposed to know.

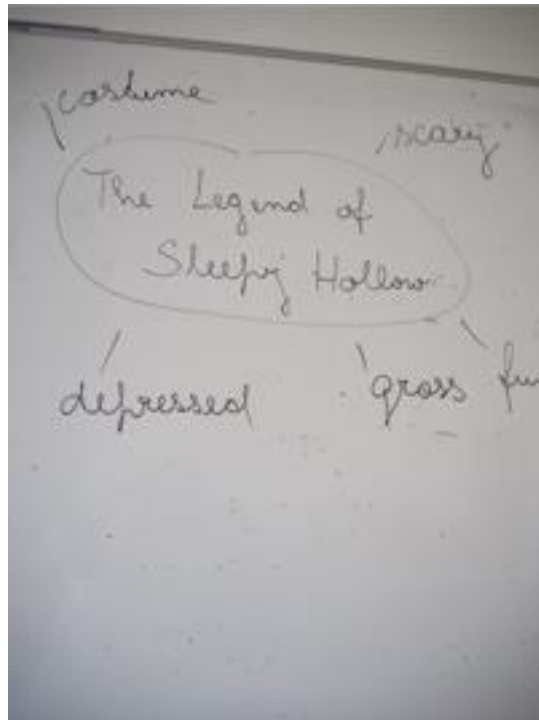
In my opinion, the information listed in the video are really important:

In WatchMojo.com (2014):

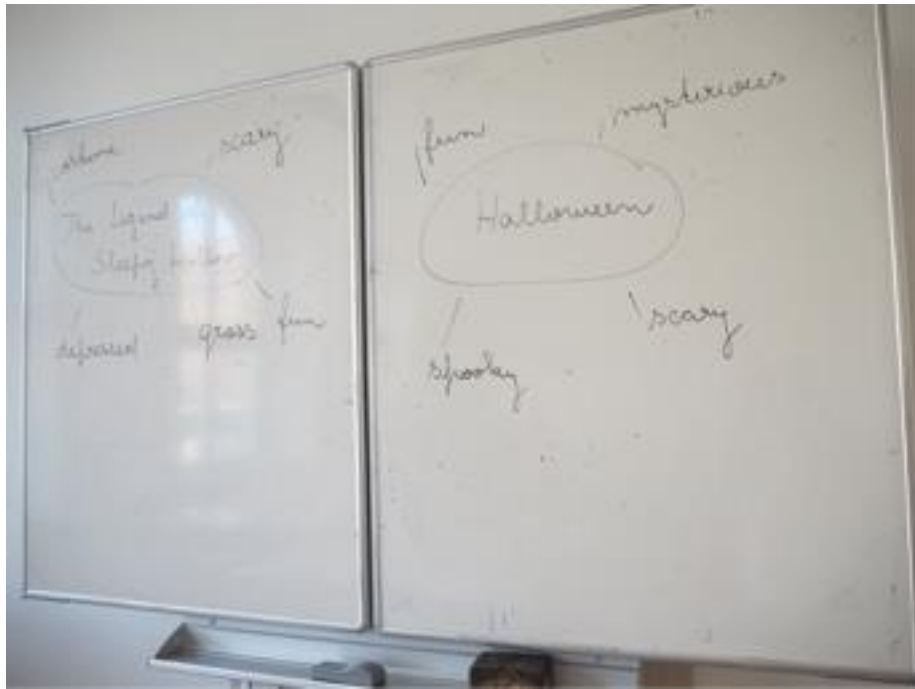
1. The author - Washington Irving found a worldwide success with his collection of short stories.
2. Influences and Inspirations - Washington Irving published *The Sketchbook of Geoffrey Crayon, Gent* which included The Legend of Sleepy Hollow - the supernatural in the story was probably inspired by a German folk tales and the characters are based on people the writer met.
3. Setting and era - the legend takes places in an isolated village in the year 1890. This area, also called the Glen, is very popular for its story of a headless horseman.
4. Plot - the narrator, Dietrich Knickerbocker, tells a story about a man from Manhattan. Thanks to D. Knickerbocker we learn the story of Ichabod Crane.
5. Ichabod Crane - he is very tall and skinny, he loves scary stories but because he believes in it, he is afraid of them, he is the antihero of this book.
6. Abraham "Brom Bones" van Brunt - the main rival of Ichabod, very good horseback rider with many friends - simply said, he is the very opposite of Ichabod. There is a suggestion in the story, that "Brom Bones" might have been the "ghost", as he liked playing pranks on Ichabod.
7. Katrina and Baltus van Tassel - Katrina is an only child and both Ichabod and Abraham want to marry her for her father`s money.
8. Values and themes - there are many different themes, like the pursuit of wealth, it touches on how does it feel to be an outsider there are relationships between the man and the nature and the supernatural
9. Modern popularity - thank to this story, Washington Irving became popular in the whole world and he was one of the first American writers who could write for living.
10. Adaptations - there are many adaptations of the story, including animated movies, TV series and a movie from 1999.

After watching this video, I asked the students about the feelings that this story brings in them. The feelings were actually very similar to the feelings one can experience on Halloween:

- scary
- gross
- fun
- depressed
- costumes

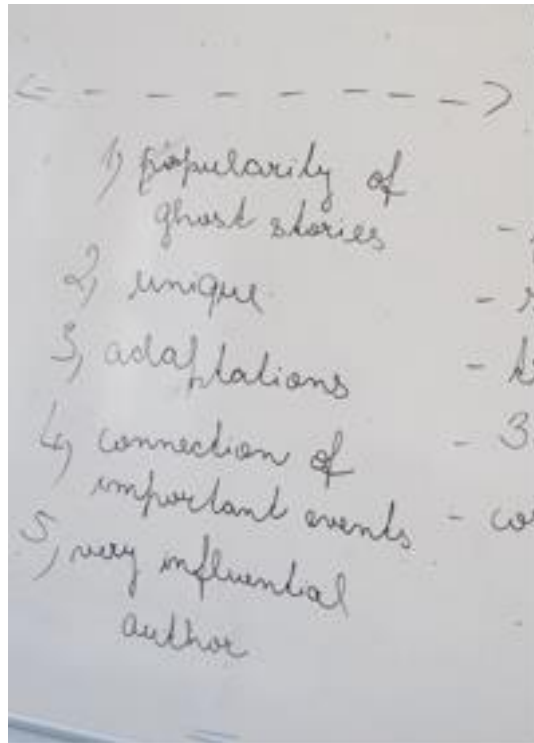


With these two mind maps compared and put together, it is clear that the feeling involved in “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow“ and in Halloween are similar. This is another proof for the huge connection between the story and this American celebration. The two mind maps are to be seen below.



The last task I did with the students was, where they can come up with top five reasons for Sleepy Hollow being so popular today.

- These are their answers:
1. popularity of ghost stories - people have always loved ghost stories and they will always love them
 2. unique - this story is unique -> there is headless horseman, teacher, rich daughter but still it is hard to find a similar story
 3. adaptations - there are many adaptations of the story including a Disney movie, TV series or movie by Tim Burton
 4. connection of important events - the story connects, as it was mentions earlier, Halloween and the Revolutionary war, very important cultural and historical events in the USA
 5. very influential author - Washington Irving is considered the first true American writer and "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" is considered the first American horror story



To sum this lesson up, the students were prepared because they read “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” in advance and, in my opinion, they understood the plot very well. As the students are mostly focused in studying English, they seem quite interested in the topic I presented to them.

4. 3 Second questionnaire

After the lesson, the students were to fill another questionnaire, which was testing their current knowledge on “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow“. This questionnaire was filled by fifteen students. The main aim of this questionnaire was to prove, whether the information of the students are now equal - there were big differences in answers within individual students in the first questionnaire, and whether they can see the connection between this story, Halloween and the Revolutionary war.

The questionnaire itself and sample questionnaires filled by the students are to be found in the “Attachment” sections. Now, let me briefly comment on the results of the questionnaire. I will go through each one of the questions.

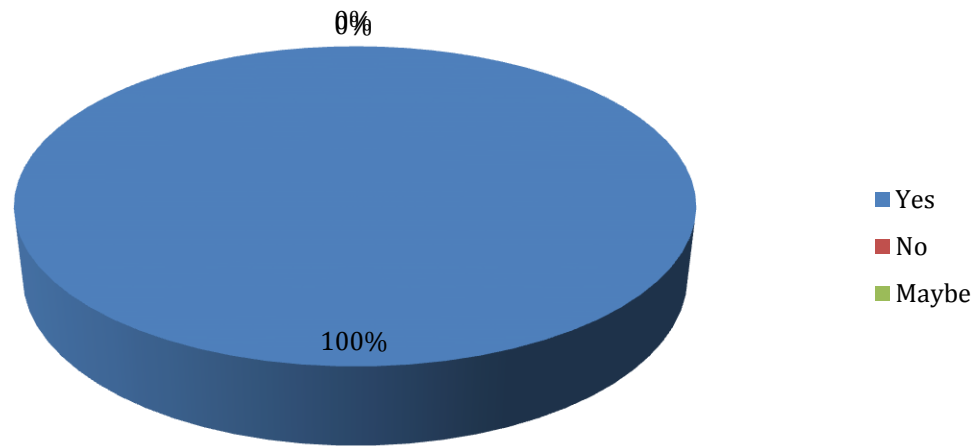
In the first question, the students were to comment on the content of “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow“. They all were aware, what the plot of this story is. The students even added, that The Legend of Sleepy Hollow:

- it was the first horror story
- it could be the beginning of Halloween celebration
- it is very well written
- the story`s main protagonist is the story`s antihero as well

The second question was to prove, whether they can see a connection between “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow“ and Halloween. Based on the answers, I can say, that they all are aware of this connection. The students gave pretty clear answers, that Halloween and this story both are scary but also funny, there are pumpkins involved in both the story and the celebration.

The third question was, again, based on the students` understanding of historical connection – this time between the story and the Revolutionary war. The students showed to understand this connection because there was a headless horseman in the legend, who used to be a soldier during the Revolutionary war. Some of them have also seen the connection through the death and scary atmosphere.

Understanding the connection between the legend and culture and history



The last question was, whether the students can see any resemblance between “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow“ and any important Czech movie or book, in the means of patriotism. Most of the students could see the similarities there and they mentioned books and movies like *Pelíšky*, *Osudy dobrého vojáka Švejka za světové války*, *Popelka*. Here, let me comment a bit more on the reasons of their answers.

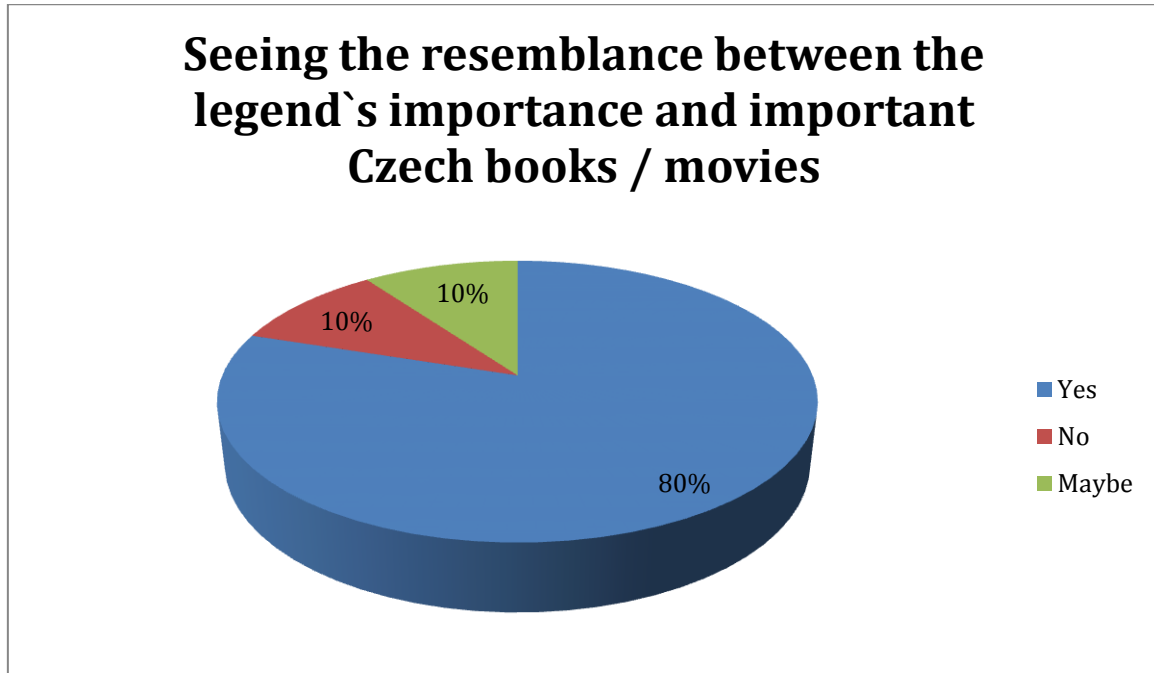
There is a resemblance between this story and similar Czech stories because:

- it shows a period we didn't live in
- it is both based on historical events
- both Czech books and “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow“ are very popular and everybody knows them
- there is symbolism – “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow“ (pumpkin), *Tři oříšky pro Popelku* (nuts)
- it connects people culturally and it makes people united
- both can be considered a part of culture

One of the students wrote, that there is resemblance between this story and Czech myths, for example “Blaničtí rytíři”.

One of the students then, on the other hand, didn't see any resemblance at all.

Below, there here is a graphic representation of the question. I had to exclude two students, who were there on Erasmus and therefore weren't aware of the Czech national books mentioned in the description above.



Based on the questionnaires and the graphs presented in this chapter, I would say, that the aim of my lesson was fulfilled. In my opinion, the students are aware of the content of “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” and its connection between Halloween and the Revolutionary war.

One must not forget to mention, that the students were perfectly able to connect the historical and cultural significance “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” has for American people, with such stories, historically and culturally important for Czech people.

5. Implications

This chapter is composed of three parts: pedagogical implications, limitation of the research and suggestions for further research. The aim of the first part is to provide some advice to English teachers and students. In the second part, there is a throwback to the research and finally, in the last part are some suggestions for any further research.

5.1 Pedagogical implications

In the previous chapter was showed, that English learners are able to connect a piece of literature with any historical and cultural events, providing they have all information they need. In ELT, teachers are mostly focused on grammar, facts and geography, thus literature is left behind.

The situation differs only later with university students. All of the students showed an interest in “The Legends of Sleepy Hollow“, its adaptations and its cultural influences. Therefore, I would suggest to engage literature and history not only to the university, but also to grammar schools or high schools.

5. 2 Limitations of the research

The biggest limitation within this research is, in my opinion, the level of English of individual students. Although there is a possibility to read “The Legends of Sleepy Hollow“ in Czech translation, the plot is still pretty complicated to understand. Therefore, this story is suitable for grammar schools or universities. Another reason for this story’s teaching being complicated is, because the focus of this research is not only on the legend, but also on history and culture, the students must be aware of not only Halloween and its traditions and the reason for its popularity, but also the War of Independence, at at least common level.

Another limit might be the thoroughness of the students, which is always an unpredictable factor within a research. Now let me comment on the limits of my own research. Even though the students were assigned to read the story, and most of them certainly did what they were supposed to, there were also some students, who clearly didn’t read the whole book. Hand in hand with the thoroughness goes also the level of activity of the students. Some of the students might be shy and quiet and they don’t want to speak loud when asking a question. Therefore, in the lesson, I had to ask some students namely and then they would answer.

Technical limitations are another problem I have suffered with during my research and one should always count with any kind of these problems. Luckily, there was a student with a laptop and his own internet source, who helped me with my problems.

6. 3 Suggestions for Further Research

There are certainly various ways for deepening this research. One of them might be to include more question into questionnaire, thus the questionnaire wouldn't test just common knowledge. The questions could be more specific, regarding the topics of Halloween and its history and traditions, and the War of Independence and its most important events. Considering "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow", there could be bigger focus on the plot and the main characters and their personal qualities. Correspondingly, there could be a focus on the importance of this story for the American culture nowadays. Thus, the intent could be focused on finding similarly important Czech pieces of literature and later try to find similarities between Czech and American "national" books/movies.

Next, one could try to make this research not only at university, but also in grammar school. I think, that it is important also for grammar school students to learn something about culture and history of the target country. With Sleepy Hollow being so culturally important, there is a great chance for the students to learn a lot regarding Halloween and Revolutionary war.

It must be pointed out, that even though there are many possibilities for future continuance with this research and the research has brought many interesting results, one must always keep in mind, that for such a research there must a certain level of English within the English learners.

7. Conclusion

The main aim of the last chapter of the thesis is, to summarize the main idea of the thesis and also to review whether the preset targets of the thesis were fulfilled. There were two questions set at the beginning of this thesis and during the writing I wanted find an answer to them. In my opinion, I have found an answer to both of them.

“The Legend of Sleepy Hollow“ is so popular nowadays, because it connects two very important events for American culture – Halloween and the Revolutionary war. It isn't only connected to Halloween, the story even helped to create the celebration as we know is today. Correspondingly, the Revolutionary war was an event, that helped to create the nation. Halloween, on the other hand, is something that connects the people all over the country even today. The connection here is the decisive factor. A nation needs to be connected and it is exactly, what “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow“ does. It connects not only Halloween and the Revolutionary war, but the people. Connection, history and future – all of there factors is something “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow“has. The future of the adaptations and the future of expanding the story more.

As a follow up to my previous statement, let me say, that a connection, future and history along with a sense of patriotism is something, that every nation needs. Therefore, with help of the students of The University of West Bohemia, I could come up with a list of books and movies, that have similar impact of Czech nation. The pieces of literature are, as mentioned before, *Pelíšky*, *Osudy dobrého vojáka Švejka za světové války* or *Tři oříšky pro Popelku*.

What was very important for me when writing the thesis and preparing the research part for the university students was, whether they are also able to see the connection between Halloween and the Revolutionary war. It has been proved during the lesson and then by the questionnaires given to them, that they are not only able to see this connection, but also to see the patriotism and the importance.

Therefore, writing this thesis has in the end become something more for me. At the beginning I honestly didn't know for sure, what I want. But when writing and reading all of the books, I myself understood the deep connection and importance of this story. In my opinion, this book and the adaptations are something every student of English should be aware of, in case they want better understanding of the American culture.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

Lesson plan for the lesson in University of West Bohemia

Time	Procedure (What the teacher does)	Tasks (What the students do)	Interaction	Aims
5 min	Shows the students pictures connected with Halloween and The Legend of SH, asks what they have in common	Answer, that they are connected with TLoSH and Halloween	Individual work	Learners will recognize the topic of the lesson
5 min	Asks Ss what they know about Halloween, writes it on the board	Answer the teacher's questions	T and Ss	Learners will be aware about the topic of Halloween
5 min	Asks about plot of TLoSH, its characters etc	Answer the teacher's questions	T and Ss,	Learners will be able to tell information about TLoSH
5 min	Asks, what Halloween and TLoSH have in common	Answer the teacher's question	T and Ss	Learners will be able to connect the story they read with Halloween
5 min	Asks the students about Revolutionary war, fills what the students don't know	Answer the teacher's question	T and Ss	Learners will be able to tell information about the war
8 min	Asks the Ss about the connection between TLoSH, Halloween and Revolutionary war, writes it on the white board	Answer the questions	T and Ss	Learners will see the connection between these events and the story

10 min	Plays a video about TLoSH	Make notes based on the video	Individual	Learners will hear new information about the story, they will see some adaptations.
7 min	Asks the students, why they think that TLoSH is such a cultural phenoman	Based on the notes from the lesson and the video, they answer the questions	T and Ss	Learners will be able to connect THoSH, Halloween and the Revolutionary war and they will be able to tell the reasons for it being so popular

APPENDIX B

Pictures showed during the lesson.



Retrieved from: <http://bookriot.com/2015/10/09/incredible-literary-jack-olanterns>



Retrieved from: <https://www.elegran.com/blog/2013/10/its-halloween-10-ways-to-bring-on-the-spook-in-nyc>

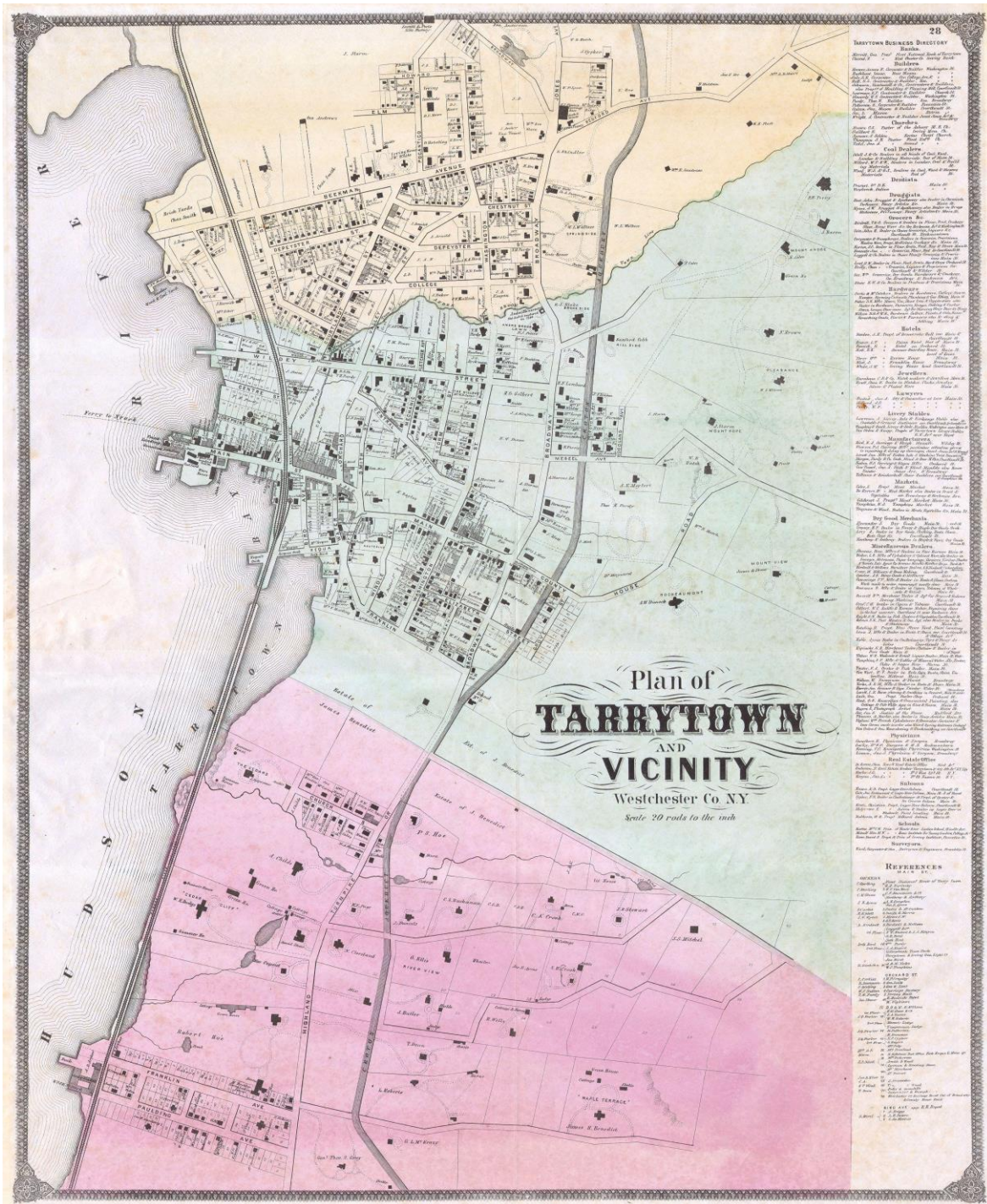


1998 Headless Horseman by K. Hammond

Retrieved from: <https://cz.pinterest.com/sacrawf21/halloween/>

APPENDIX C

The map of Sleepy Hollow, Tarrytown in 1867.



Retrieved from: <http://www.historicmapworks.com/Atlas/US/693/>

APPENDIX D

Completed questionnaire 1 – the student knew The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

Questionnaire

1. Have you ever heard about "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow"? If so, what do you know about this story?

Yes, I have. I've seen a movie with Johnny Depp and I know there's a TV series about that. It's about a horse rider without head, he's killing people with his sword - he's cutting their heads.

2. This story has a number of adaptations - there is a book, a movie or a TV series. Have you read/seen any of these adaptations? If so, which one?

I've seen a movie with Johnny Depp and I know there's a TV series but I haven't seen it yet.

3. What do you know about Halloween?

It's a holiday celebrated in the USA, kids are wearing costumes and go "trick or treating". People ~~are~~ carve the pumpkins.

4. Why do you think that Halloween is so popular in America?

Because the children have fun and people like ghosts, myths and these "scary" things.

5. Can you think you any Czech book/movie that is very important and influential for Czech culture? If so, which one a why do you think that exactly this one?

Maybe "Tři ošklaví pro Popelku" - the Czech movie version of this story is probably the most popular movie in the Czech Republic. It's on TV every Christmas and not just children love it, I think it's because the main actress L. Šafářková!

APPENDIX E

Completed questionnaire 1 – the student didn't know The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

Questionnaire

1. Have you ever heard about "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow"? If so, what do you know about this story?

No

2. This story has a number of adaptations - there is a book, a movie or a TV series. Have you read/seen any of these adaptations? If so, which one?

No

3. What do you know about Halloween?

it celebrated ~~on 31 October~~ in Autumn
people wear costumes and go from house to house and sing a song
people who open the door have to give them something (sweets, money...)

4. Why do you think that Halloween is so popular in America?

- I don't know, maybe because it's a family event with friends
- everybody ~~has~~ ^{has} to celebrate it (it's as a holiday)
- it's important for Americans (their typical holiday)

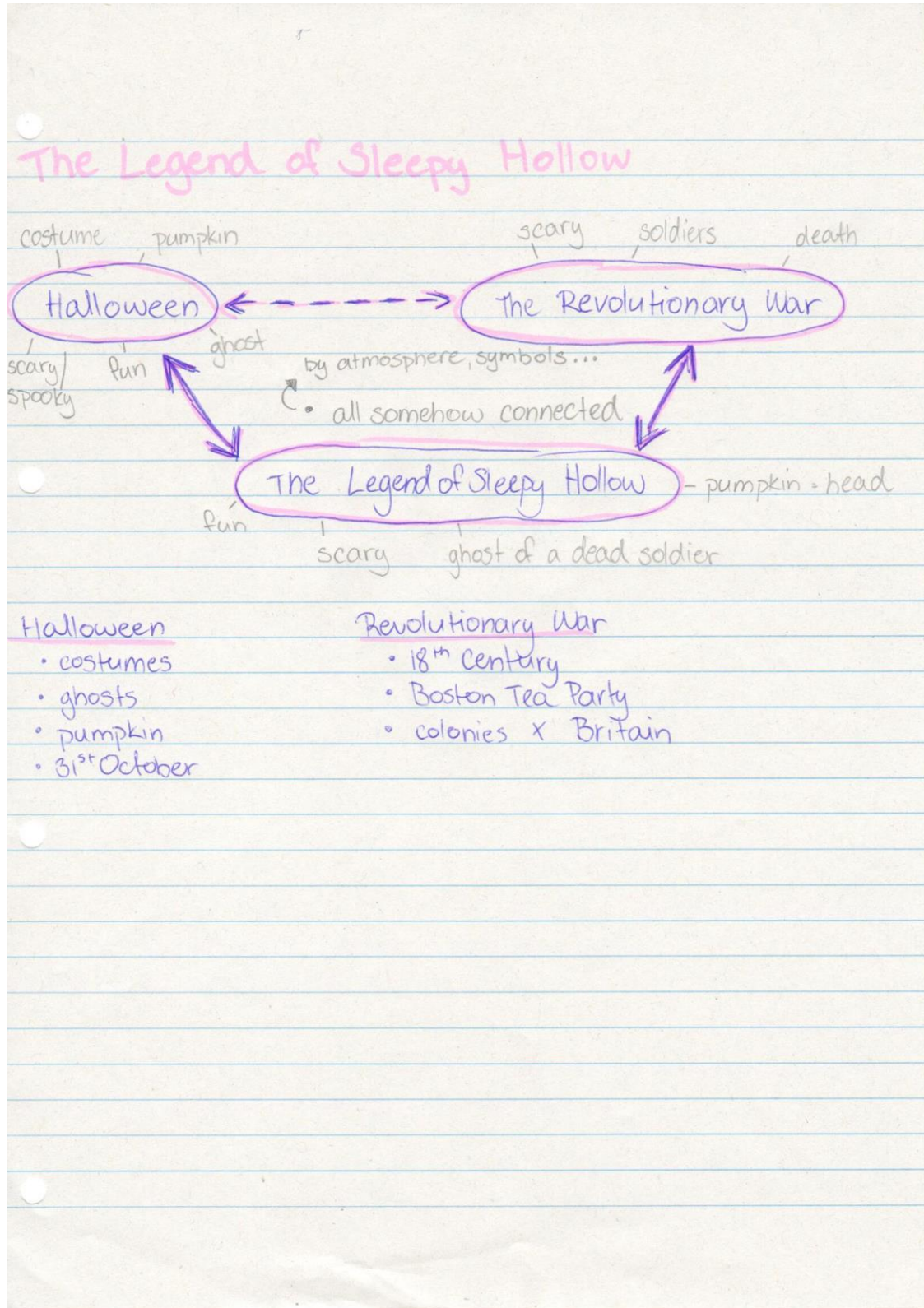
5. Can you think you any Czech book/movie that is very important and influential for Czech culture? If so, which one a why do you think that exactly this one?

"Škaré praškové česko" - because it ~~is~~ ^{accounts} ~~connects~~ ^{connects} our history, our grandfathers

1

APPENDIX F

Notes from the class about The Legend of Sleepy Hollow - from of the students



APPENDIX G

Completed questionnaire 2 – the student can see a resemblance between The Legend of Sleepy Hollow and similar Czech stories

Questionnaire:

1. How would you comment on the content of The Legend of Sleepy Hollow?

- It's a story about a horseman with a pumpkin instead of his head and a teacher Ichabod Crane who wants to solve this mystery of killing people and throwing a pumpkin on them.
- It's full of scary scenes, mystery, deaths, ghosts, ...

2. What makes the Legend of Sleepy Hollow a Halloween story?

- Because it's about the pumpkin head → symbol of Halloween
- ghosts, scary feelings, ...
- It's based on tradition and remembrance (kind of celebrating ^{of} it)

3. How is The Legend of Sleepy Hollow connected with one of the most important events in the American history - the Revolutionary war?

- It's scary, people die here, it's kind of national "treasure" of the USA (in sense of remembering it and celebrate it as a honor or law)

4. Can you see any resemblance between popular Czech movies or books (Pelišky, Saturnin, Osudy dobrého vojáka Švejka, Tři oříšky pro Popelku) and The Legend of Sleepy Hollow? (patriotism, historical importance)

- ☒ yes, I think that people remember these stories, it's kind of breadmarks of ^{the} country, symbol of the country, people like it
- it's kind of national question, something people are proud of ~~about~~
- in historical point of view it's the question of crucial historic moments and things that exist till now

APPENDIX H

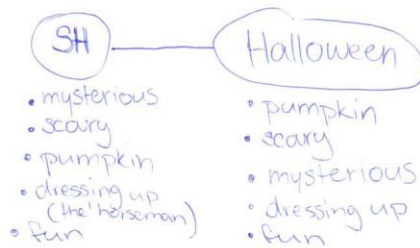
Completed questionnaire 2 – the student can see a resemblance between The Legend of Sleepy Hollow and similar Czech stories

Questionnaire:

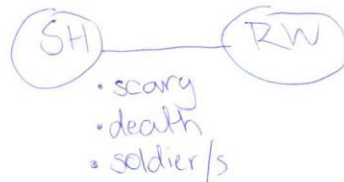
1. How would you comment on the content of The Legend of Sleepy Hollow?

- 1st horror story
- quite scary, but fun to read
- about mysterious town of Sleepy Hollow and its legend of Headless Horseman

2. What makes the Legend of Sleepy Hollow a Halloween story?



3. How is The Legend of Sleepy Hollow connected with one of the most important events in the American history - the Revolutionary war?



4. Can you see any resemblance between popular Czech movies or books (Pelíšky, Saturnin, Osudy dobrého vojáka Švejka, Tři oříšky pro Popelku) and The Legend of Sleepy Hollow? (patriotism, historical importance)

Pelíšky is based on a historical events of '67/'68
↳ SH on the Revolutionary

SUMMARY IN CZECH

Tato diplomová práce se zabývá dílem „Legenda o Ospalé díře“ od Washingtona Irvinga. Vzhledem k důležitosti toho díla pro Americkou kulturu je v teoretické části této práce rozebrán obsah tohoto díla, společně se dvěma nejvýraznějšími adaptacemi. V teoretické části se také čtenář seznámí s životem a dílem W. Irvinga, s oslavami Halloweenu a válkou o nezávislost, které jsou úzce propojeny s dílem „Legenda o Ospalé díře“ – jak je dále dokázáno ve výzkumné části této práce.

Výzkum byl proveden pomocí dotazníkového šetření a výuky jedné hodiny u studentů 2. ročníku bakalářského programu na Západočeské univerzitě v Plzni. Výsledek výzkumu, jeho grafické znázornění, fotografie i další komentáře jsou k nalezení v praktické části této práce. V závěru práce jsou okomentovány limity výzkumu a možné další dopady na výuku anglického jazyka.