

NEH Hudson River Workshop Lesson Plan 2013

Teacher: Lourdes Orta

Subject: Interdisciplinary (Literature, History, Science)

Grade Level: 9th-11th Grade

Summary:

Using *Rip Van Winkle* by Irving as a basis, students will learn about sleep disorders. Students will learn about the psychological, biological, physiological, environmental, and gender-specific causes of sleep disorders. Students will be able to recognize the relationship between medical science and the literature they read in English.

This lesson melds together the world of literature, history, and the practice of medicine. Students will be exposed to the life/times of Washington Irving: his work as an essayist, short story writer, US Ambassador. After having listened to a CD live performance of *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, and after having participated in a close reading/small-group discussion of *Rip Van Winkle*, students will be asked to determine what may have caused Rip Van Winkle's 20 year sleep. Students will be asked to consider the following:

- **Causes of sleep disorders**
- **Effects of sleep deprivation on body and mind**
- **Treatments, drugs, medications necessary to treat this condition**

The students must also consider if Rip Van Winkle's condition is due to:

- ❖ **Physiological causes**
- ❖ **Biological causes**
- ❖ **Psychological causes**
- ❖ **Environmental causes**
- ❖ **Gender-specific causes**

Students will watch Discovery Channel's video *100 Greatest Discoveries- Medicine* (full documentary) prior to completing their own mini research paper.

While viewing this documentary, students will be asked to note in which ways medicine evolved throughout the 18-19 century and must recognize the major advancements during this span of time.

Students will then develop claims and counterclaims; plan, revise, edit, and rewrite; **conduct a 3-5 page research project** in which they solve the problem by diagnosing Rip Van Winkle's condition; be prepared to engage in collegial discussions by posing and responding to questions; integrate/synthesis multiple sources.

The following Common Core standards will be addressed:

9-10. 1 A, 9-10. 1 B/C, 9-10 2, 9-10.2 A, 9-10.2 B, 9-10 1 B, 9-10. 5, 9-10. 7