



### ABOUT YOU

Answer the questions and talk about your ideas.

- 1 Would you like to travel into the future? Why? Why not?
- 2 What do you think your town will look like twenty years from now?
- 3 How do you feel when you wake up from a very long sleep?

- 1** Read the text. As you read, think about this question.  
What does Rip think and feel as he walks into the town?

### 'Rip Van Winkle' (1819) Washington Irving

The morning was passing and Rip felt very hungry without breakfast. He didn't want to **starve** among the mountains. He shook his head, and turned towards home.

- As he approached the village he met a number of people, but he didn't know them, which surprised him, because he thought he knew everyone in the country. Their dress, too, was of a different fashion from usual. They all stared at him with surprise, and when they looked at him, stroked their chins. The way they **stroked** their chins made Rip do the same and, to his **astonishment**, he found his beard had grown a **foot** long!

- He had now entered the village. A group of children ran behind him, calling after him, and pointing at his grey beard. The dogs barked at him as he passed. Again, he didn't know any of them. The village was different; it was larger and more **populous**. There were houses which he had never seen before, and where were his favourite places? Strange names were over the doors – strange faces at the windows – everything was strange ... Surely this was his village he left only the day before? There were the

In about 1760 a man called Rip Van Winkle goes for a walk in the mountains with his dog near his village. He meets some strange men in the mountains and spends an evening with them having a kind of party. He wakes up in the morning in the mountains and starts walking home. Rip doesn't know that he has, in fact, slept for twenty years ...



- mountains – there was the **silver** Hudson river far away, the same as always. What was happening? It was difficult to find his own house, which he approached in silence ... He saw a dog that looked like his dog Wolf – Rip called him by name, but the dog showed his teeth, and **carried on**. 'My dog,' **sighed** poor Rip, 'has forgotten me!'

### GLOSSARY

<b>starve</b>	become sick or die because you don't have enough food
<b>stroked</b>	gently moved your hand over a surface
<b>astonishment</b>	extreme surprise
<b>foot</b>	a length of about 30 cm
<b>populous</b>	a place with a lot of people living there
<b>silver</b>	a valuable, shiny metal and colour
<b>carried on</b>	continued walking
<b>sighed</b>	breathed out slowly and loudly because you were unhappy

