

**AMERICAN
AUTHORS
FOR YOUNG FOLKS**

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American authors for young folks by Amanda B. Harris

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AMANDA B. HARRIS

**AMERICAN
AUTHORS
FOR YOUNG FOLKS**



WASHINGTON IRVING

AMERICAN AUTHORS

FOR

YOUNG FOLKS

BY

AMANDA B HARRIS

Author of

Wild Flowers and Where they Grow
Field, Wood, and Meadow Rambles
Dooryard Folks
and others

BOSTON

D LOTHROP COMPANY

FRANKLIN AND HAWLEY STREETS

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PLEASANT AUTHORS FOR YOUNG FOLKS.

L

WASHINGTON IRVING.

LET us suppose," as that charming story-teller, Annie Keary, used to begin, "let us suppose" that these young people have never read Washington Irving, or never read him except in school-book "exercises." There they may have had a page or two out of Rip Van Winkle; perhaps the ludicrous description of Ichabod Crane, his school and his horse; possibly a mutilated chapter from the *Alhambra*—just enough to give a taste, yet just enough to spoil the subject.

But do they really know Rip, and his dog Wolf? Poor vagabond Rip with his twenty years' sleep!

If not, they have missed one of the masterpieces of English prose, not a sentence of which could be spared. Some things are simply perfect, complete, all right just as they stand, so that

One shade the more, one ray the less
Would half impair the nameless grace,

and this is of the happy number — an inspiration.

Nor is there anything to be taken from or added to the *Legend of Sleepy Hollow*. Have you, my young people, read it as it stands—all about the perturbations and whimsicalities of pedagogue Ichabod, and that distracting piece of naughtiness, Katrina Van Tassel? Have you ever tried to imagine Sleepy Hollow, that drowsy place, immortal valley on the Hudson that will be famous as long as American literature lasts? or, in your "mind's eye" have you seen the queer, gabled, Dutch houses of old Knickerbocker New York, in the days of the renowned Wouter Van Twiller? where the burgher used to sit "on the bench at the door of his white-washed house," under the sycamore or willow and smoke the sultry afternoon through, "listening to