

Name: _____

The Devil & Tom Walker



1. How does the physical setting of the story reflect the moral decay of the characters and, indeed, of the whole society presented in this story?

2. How is the story "The Devil and Tom Walker" an example of Romanticism? Identify three elements of romanticism.

3. What bad trait do both Tom Walker and his wife have? How is this trait shown in the way they collect eggs?

4. After the devil cuts down a tree, what does he do with it? What is that a symbol of?

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5. What happens in Tom's wife's first encounter with the devil? What does she take the second time?

6. What different ideas does the devil suggest for how the money should be used? What is Tom's response to each?

7. When he gets old, what different things does he do to avoid keeping his end of the bargain he had made with the devil?

8. What has happened to Tom's wealth by the end of the story?

9. Why does Washington Irving concoct a story about a poor man, who doesn't get on so great with his wife or have many friends, makes a pact with the devil. What is the theme of the tale; that is, what is the author suggesting through this tale?