

Respond to the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.
Please write your answers in complete sentences.

Study Questions: “The Devil and Tom Walker”

1. What three euphemisms (“a word or phrase used in place of a term that might be considered too direct, harsh, unpleasant, or offensive”) are used in reference to the devil in the story? What are three common monikers (names) for the devil that are used today?
2. What vivid simile is used in the description of Tom’s horse?
3. Identify the three metaphors (following the description of Tom’s horse) used to describe the landscape.
4. What two metaphors are used in the paragraph to describe Tom’s living quarters and its inhabitants?
5. What vivid simile is used to describe the trees in the swamp?
6. What does the great tree scored with the name of Deacon Peabody and “fair and flourishing without, but rotten at the core” represent?
7. What does the devil say on page that gives voice to wronged Native Americans? What ironic term does the devil use to refer to the white man?
8. What humorous comment does the narrator make in this section?
9. The quotation “a great man had fallen in Israel” is an example of what rhetorical device?
10. What does Tom give to the devil in exchange for Captain Kidd’s buried treasure?
11. Identify the use of alliteration in this section.
12. What business/occupation does Tom agree to enter?
13. What most likely happened to Tom’s wife?
14. What darkly humorous comments (2) does the narrator make about the loss of Tom’s wife?
15. What business does Tom refuse to enter into? What euphemism is used for this business? What social comment might Washington Irving be making here?
16. What metaphor and simile are used to describe how Tom exploits his customers?
17. As he gets older and has regrets about his deal with the devil, how does Tom try to save his soul? Does it work? Explain.
18. Explain the symbolism in the following line: “He (Tom) had left...his big Bible on the desk buried under the mortgage he was about to foreclose.”
19. Identify two similes in this section.
20. Why are the people of Boston not shocked or scared as they watch the devil take Tom away? What is the subtle allusion Irving is making here? (HINT: we discussed this in class)
21. What moral does Tom Walker’s fate suggest? (state it in a complete sentence)
22. Identify two examples (using direct quotations) of each of the following characteristics of romantic fiction:
 - a. Interest in the past (hint: the Pequot wars; Captain Kidd’s treasure, the “7 year” deal)
 - b. Supernatural elements
 - c. Human nature (what human weaknesses are criticized in the story?)
 - d. Nature (specifically, the “sublime” or “mysteriously or darkly beautiful”)