

**VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT****The Devil and Tom Walker**

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**Context and Definition**

The Vocabulary words are listed below. Using context clues, determine which Vocabulary word best completes each sentence, and write the word in the blank. On the line following each sentence, write a definition of the word.

EXAMPLE: You may find this tale so bewitching that you will want to read it in one sitting.  
captivating; fascinating.

**prevalent**  
**obliterate**

**stagnant**  
**avarice**

**precarious**  
**resolute**

**impregnable**  
**parsimony**

**melancholy**  
**superfluous**

1. People avoided the remains of the fort where Tom stopped: It made them feel gloomy and \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Tom's wife, her \_\_\_\_\_ awakened by the mention of gold, urged him to comply with the black man's terms. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Tom's increasingly strange measures to prepare for the end of the world were proven \_\_\_\_\_ by the appearance of the devil at the end of the story. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Because of his \_\_\_\_\_, Walker left much of his large and ostentatious house unfinished and empty. \_\_\_\_\_
5. In the swamp, the dead trunks of pines and hemlocks lay still in the dark, \_\_\_\_\_, pools. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Nothing could \_\_\_\_\_ the black mark that had been burned into Walker's forehead: It was permanent. \_\_\_\_\_
7. During the time period in which this story takes place, New Englanders were not unfamiliar with earthquakes, which were \_\_\_\_\_.
8. The footholds being \_\_\_\_\_, Tom had to pick his way carefully as he traveled through the forest. \_\_\_\_\_
9. The Indians who had built the fort thought it \_\_\_\_\_, and so used it as a place of refuge for women and children. \_\_\_\_\_
10. After his wife had been missing for days, Tom was \_\_\_\_\_ in his attempt to find her—or at least the valuable items she had carried off. \_\_\_\_\_