

Name: _____

“The Devil and Tom Walker” classwork questions

Directions: Since this is PDF, you can answer directly on this page; it is not necessary to write the answers on a separate piece of paper if you do not wish to. Make sure you are writing in complete sentences. **HAVE PRINTED OUT TO SUBMIT AFTER WE DISCUSS THE ANSWERS ON TUESDAY.**

1. Why are Tom and his unnamed wife perfect for each other? What the personality traits they share that make them a good match for the other?
2. How does the Walker house and property reflect the people who live there?
3. How does Washington Irving help build *mood* and *suspense* through description of the *setting* to *foreshadow* that something evil will occur in the swamp?
4. What is Tom’s treatment of the skull he finds with the tomahawk buried in it and how does this reinforce his characterization.
5. This short story is a satire; how does Irving depict the element of religious and moral hypocrisy that he believed existed in the burgeoning new America? (Examples can be taken from various portions of the story)
6. What does Tom notice about “most of the tall trees” (157) that were in the swamp? What does this mean?
7. How does Washington Irving incorporate into this story his views on how the white men treated the Native people?
8. What is Mrs. Walker’s immediate reaction when she is told about her husband’s interactions in the woods? What sin(s) is she guilty of?
9. Why does Tom reject his wife’s request?
10. What is Tom’s immediate reaction when he realizes his wife is first missing? What is his reaction when he realizes that she is dead?
11. What does Tom find in the checkered apron?
12. How does Washington Irving incorporate his views on the slave trade into the story? (What is his opinion of this institution?)
13. What deal does Tom make with the Devil? Be specific.
14. When Tom acquires money, how does he behave? How does he treat others?
15. What *paradoxes* exist regarding Tom’s lifestyle once he acquires money? (In other words, what about his behavior and choices seem to be in direct opposition to each other?)
16. What happens to Tom and all his property in the end?
17. Towards the end of the short story, what reference does Irving make to the lunacy of Salem?
18. Create a motto or moral for this story; what is the lesson to be learned?