

“The Devil and Tom Walker” Part One pages 318–328 Reading Guide

I. Define these words using context clues

morass (319) _____

meager (322) _____

miser (322) _____

forlorn (322) _____

piteously (322) _____

precarious (322) _____

prostrate (322) _____

quagmire (322) _____

impregnable (323) _____

repose (323) _____

surmise (325) _____

trifles (326) _____

sullen (327) _____

dolefully (327) _____

cloven (328) _____

sauntering (328) _____

resolute (328) _____

II. Write quality sentences providing context clues using these words:

termagant (322) _____

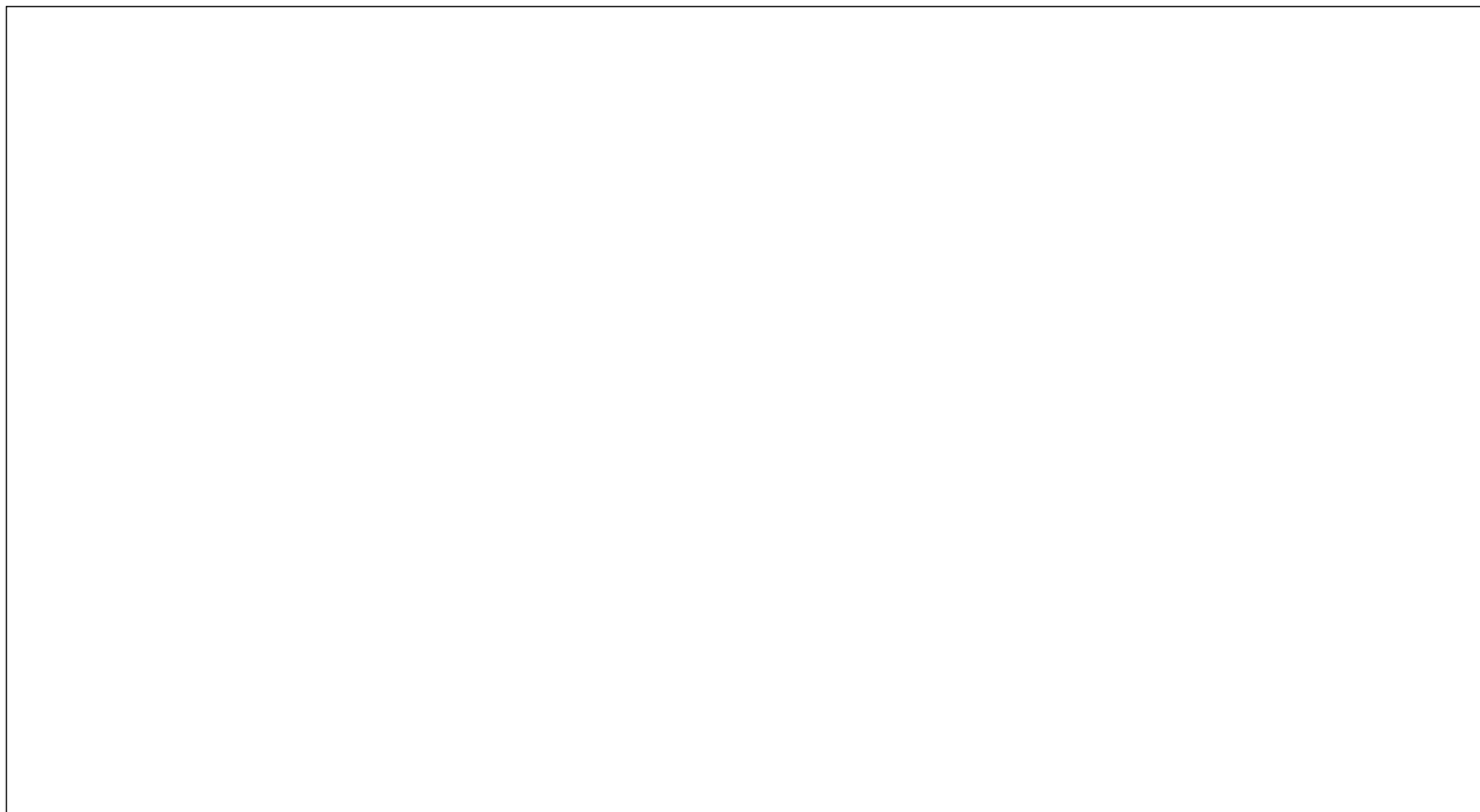
bittern (323) _____

melancholy (323) _____

propitious (325) _____

avarice (327) _____

III. Plot Picture: Using pages 320-323, draw a map of the setting including river, inlet, bay, trees, high ridges, swamp, grove, fort, skull, names on trees, treasure, place Tom meets Old Scratch



IV. For each device, provide a specific textual example and page number.

Satire with HUMOR	Satire with EXAGGERATION	Satire with IRONY	Satire with ABSURD SITUATIONS	Archetype
Setting	Simile	Metaphor	Alliteration	Allusion
Parallel Structure	Implicit Meanings	Hyperbole	Tone	Characterization

V. Comprehension Questions: ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS ON ANOTHER SHEET OF PAPER PLEASE.

1. Provide an objective summary for the passage.
2. Why did the author begin the story with a historical account of the setting?
3. What impact did the descriptions of Tom, his wife, their house, and the horse have on the story?
4. When the author uses the word "inmate" in the second page of p. 322, what effect did it have on the passage?
5. What might the short cut symbolize?
6. What words from p. 322 create the mood of the setting?
7. What is the Faust legend?
8. What three qualities make the setting a good place for burying treasure?
9. Which legendary person buried treasure in this inlet? What happened to him?
10. How are Tom Walker and his wife similar? What key characteristic do they share?
11. When describing the place Tom Walker and his wife live, Irving emphasizes a sense of emptiness and hunger. Write down at least three examples of phrases he uses to add this sense of emptiness.
12. Why do people have a bad opinion of the old fort that Tom Walker stops at?
13. In what ways are Deacon Peabody and the tree that has his name similar?
14. What two events convince Tom Walker that the stranger is who he says he is?
15. After Tom Walker refuses the stranger's offer, Tom's wife decides to accept the offer herself. What happens to her?
16. What can you infer about Tom Walker's reaction to the swamp and the grisly discovery of the skull?
17. Why did Irving decide to use trees to indicate wicked individuals?
18. Based off lines 115-118, what do the descriptions explain about the author's attitude toward the activities of the early settlers? What descriptions were provided to help you infer this?
19. Explain what in the story symbolizes hypocrisy, greed, shortcuts to wealth, pride, moral decay.
20. Why doesn't Tom fear the devil at their first meeting?
21. What is the author's attitude of Tom so far?
22. What effect are the sounds intended to create throughout this passage? List at least three examples.

VI. Constructed Response:

How does the author develop the themes of misery and pain for the greedy in the text? Provide at least two textual examples.

“The Devil and Tom Walker” Part Two pages 329-332 Reading Guide

I. Define the following words using context clues:

(329) deluged:

(330) parsimony:

(330) reproach:

(330) expediency:

(330) superfluous:

(331) piety:

II. Use the following words in quality, context-filled sentences:

(329) speculating:

(329) propitious:

(330) ostentation:

(331) censurer:

III. Comprehension Questions:

1. How does Tom compare with the devil in terms of his greed and mercilessness?
2. What comment is Irving making about usurers in general? How do you know?
3. (Lines 256-258) What effect do the words “fever” and “patient” have on the passage?
4. What is ironic about lines 264-268?
5. Why was Tom’s house unfinished?
6. (Top of page 330) Why does the author use personification to describe the sound of the axletrees?
7. What impact do the starving horses have on the tone? (330)
8. As Tom ages, how does he change? Why?
9. Explain the irony of Tom being tough on other sinners.
10. (Top of 330) What images describe Tom and his clients? What do these images tell you about his methods?

11. In the second paragraph of page 330, what does Irving's descriptions of churchgoers suggest about this kind of individual?
12. Give two specific examples of alliteration. What effect does Irving's use of alliteration have on paragraph 2 (page 330) have on the passage?
13. What measures did Tom take to prevent the devil from getting him? (3)
14. What do the green spectacles symbolize?
15. How does the change in weather foreshadow the next events?
16. What effect does the use of "you" by the narrator have on the passage?
17. What effect does the irony & satire on the top of page 331 have on the story?
18. What does the number three symbolize?
19. How does Irving make Tom's final capture more dramatic?
20. What is Irving's purpose in writing this story?
21. What is the narrator's attitude?
22. What message to the images in lines 341-345 suggest about material possessions and those who seek them?
23. Explain how each of the following images support characterization and mood:
 *the trees and the swamp *the hewn trees *Tom's new house *Tom as a churchgoer
24. Explain Irving's satirical messages about: *the women *the Puritan attitude *the slave trade *moneylenders
25. List three examples of parallel structure from the passage.

“The Devil and Tom Walker” Part Three pages 330-332 Reading Guide