

“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.