

Name:

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The Devil & Tom Walker (p. 242)

1. Using context clues, what do you think “miserly” means?
2. Using textual evidence (quotes), describe the relationship between Tom and his wife (Answers to this question are throughout the story, not just in the beginning).
3. What does Irving mean when describing their house with an “air of starvation”?
4. Explain the metaphor Irving uses to describe the horse.
5. What simile is used to describe the fallen trees in the swamp?
6. What did Tom find?
7. Describe the devil.
8. List 3 of the names that the devil uses.
9. What is unusual about the tree that Tom is sitting on?
10. How does the devil prove to Tom that he is truly who he says he is?
11. Who is Crowinshield?
12. Why does Tom refuse to make a deal with the devil initially?
13. What does his wife do about his refusal?
14. When did Tom’s wife return?
15. What did she take with her?
16. What is the significance of the carrion crows?
17. Explain the gruesome find.
18. “Tom consoled himself for the loss of his property with the loss of her wife, for he was a man of fortitude”. Explain.
19. What is the devil’s “condition” in making his deal with Tom?
20. There is one job that Tom refuses to do. What does this character’s refusal tell us about the author’s views on this type of job?
21. What job does he accept?
22. When Tom set up his business, the author says Tom was a “universal friend to the needy, and acted like a ‘friend in need’”. What do you think this means?
23. What does it mean to say that Tom became a “violent churchgoer”? What literary device is this an example of?
24. Explain the significance of this phrase: “He had left his big Bible on the desk buried under the mortgage he was about to foreclose”.
25. What was Tom Walker’s fate?
26. What happened to Tom’s possessions?

