

Devil And Tom Walker Literature Answers

Devil And Tom Walker Literature Answers Devil and Tom Walker Literature Answers I This essay will delve into the short story The Devil and Tom Walker by Washington Irving exploring its key themes symbols and character development We will analyze the story's rich symbolism the complex character of Tom Walker and the commentary it offers on greed avarice and the consequences of making a deal with the devil II The Deal with the Devil A Symbolic Analysis The Devil and Tom Walker is deeply rooted in folklore and cautionary tales often featuring the trope of a Faustian bargain Toms agreement with the devil is a powerful symbol of the human desire for wealth and material possessions even at the expense of ones soul The story presents the devil as a manifestation of temptation and the dark side of human nature The Devils Appearance Irvings description of the devil is both grotesque and alluring highlighting the duality of evil The devil is depicted as a black man with a face as dark as a tempest This suggests his sinister nature while his eyes as red as fire symbolize the allure of power and the temptations he offers The Buried Treasure The treasure that Tom finds is a powerful symbol of material wealth and its corruptive influence Its location in a cursed and abandoned place signifies the dangers associated with pursuing such illgotten gains The story suggests that wealth can be a source of misery and ruin leaving Tom consumed by his greed The Devils Terms The devils demands are symbolic of the price one pays for indulging in greed Toms initial refusal followed by his eventual acceptance illustrates the power of temptation and its ability to override moral principles The pact with the devil signifies a complete surrender to the darkness within III Tom Walker A Study in Greed and Moral Decay Tom Walker is a compelling character who undergoes a significant transformation throughout the story Initially portrayed as a miserly and unprincipled man his encounter with the devil accelerates his moral decline Hypocrisy and Selfishness Tom is a hypocrite displaying a superficial religiosity while engaging in unethical practices His relentless pursuit of wealth reveals his underlying selfishness and lack of compassion He even exploits his wifes greed to seal the deal with the devil The Power of Avarice Toms greed is a consuming force that drives him to act against his better judgment He abandons any sense of morality in his relentless pursuit of material possessions His obsession with wealth ultimately leads to his isolation and eventual downfall The Consequences of a Faustian Bargain Toms deal with the devil comes at a heavy price He suffers a life of constant fear and guilt haunted by the knowledge of his transgression His soul is marked by the black mark on his forehead a constant reminder of his pact with the devil IV The Storys Commentary on Society and Greed Beyond the individual story of Tom Walker The Devil and Tom Walker offers commentary on societal values and the dangers of unchecked greed The Corruption of Wealth The story critiques the obsession with wealth that permeated American society during Irvings time It highlights the corrupting influence of money and the tendency for people to compromise their morals for material gain The Dangers of Superstition The presence of the devil and the superstitious beliefs of the community reflect the anxieties of the time Irving uses this element to explore the fear of the unknown and the influence of superstition on peoples actions The Importance of Morality The story ultimately emphasizes the importance of moral principles and the

consequences of succumbing to temptation Toms tragic fate serves as a warning against the dangers of greed and the pursuit of illgotten gains V Conclusion The Devil and Tom Walker remains a timeless tale that resonates with readers due to its exploration of universal themes Through its compelling characters and vivid imagery the story cautions against the dangers of avarice the consequences of making deals with the devil and the importance of maintaining moral integrity The devil as a symbol of temptation serves as a reminder of the power of darkness that lurks within the human heart and the potential for corruption when morality is compromised in the pursuit of material gain The storys enduring relevance speaks to the timeless nature of these themes and their continued impact on human experience 3

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washington irving rl 8 il 8 12 tom bargains with ol scratch and finds you can t avoid giving the devil his due theme punishment for greed 38 pages tale blazers

the devil and tom walker by washington irving classic short horror stories the devil by his interest in popular legends the first of the great american writers shows his sympathy with the romantic movement which prevailed in his time in all the countries

of europe his devil however has not been imported from the lands across the atlantic but is a part of the superstitions of the new world the author himself did not believe in old scratch the real devils for him were the slave traders and the witch hunters of salem fame it is interesting now to read a contemporary critic of washington irving s devil story if mr irving believes in the existence of tom walker s master we can scarcely conceive how he can so earnestly jest about him at all events we would counsel him to beware lest his own spells should prove fatal to him eclectic review 1825 few people in those days had the courage to take old nick good naturedly even the clever madame de stael said goethe was greatly scandalized that i kept the devil in such good humour the devil appears in many colours principally however in black and red it is a common belief in scotland that the devil is a black man as may also be seen in robert louis stevenson s story thravn janet there is no warrant in the biblical tradition for a black devil satan however appeared as an ethiopian as far back as the days of the church fathers the black colour presumably is intended to suggest his place of abode whereas red denotes the scorching fires of hell the devil was considered as a sort of eternal salamander in the new testament he is described as a fiery fiend red was considered by oriental nations as a diabolical colour in egypt red hair and red animals of all kinds were considered infernal the apis was also red coloured satan s red beard recalls the scandinavian god donar or thor who is of phoenician origin judas was always represented in mediaeval mystery plays with a red beard and down to the present day red hair is the mark of a suspicious character the devil also appears as yellow and even blue but never as white or green the yellow devil is but a shade less bright than his fiery brother the blue devil is a sulphur constitutioned individual he is the demon of melancholy and fills us with the blues as the spirit of darkness and death the devil cannot assume the colours of white or green which are the symbols of light and life the devil s dragon tail is according to sir walter scott of biblical tradition coming from a literal interpretation of a figurative expression a few interesting remarks on the expression the devil and tom walker current in certain parts of this country as a caution to usurers will be found in dr blondheim s article the devil and doctor foster in modern language notes for 1918

you re no idiot of course you know that samuel clemens had a better known pen name moby dick is a famous whale and the raven only said nevermore but when it comes to understanding the great works of mark twain herman melville and edgar allan poe you d rather rent the videos than head to your local library don t tear up your library card yet the complete idiot s guide to american literature teaches you all about the rich tradition of american prose and poetry so you can fully appreciate its magnificent diversity

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the devil take me said he if i have made a farthing washington irving

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