

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 storys 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 2 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 story's enduring relevance speaks to the timeless nature of these themes and their continued impact on human experience. 3

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