**11th grade Honors American Literature**

**“The Devil and Tom Walker” Study Guide pg 228**

1.morass

2. Miserly

3. Forlorn

4.termagantant

5.quagmire

6.precarious

7. Incantation

8.garb

9.swarthy

10.buccaneer

11.commencement

12.avarice

13.obstinate

14.extort

15,propitious

16. Ostentation

17.parsimony

18. Zeal

19.superfluous,

20. Piety

**Reading Questions**

Answer each of the questions below and record the textual evidence that led you to that particular conclusion.  Record only the relevant parts of the quotations and use ellipses; document page numbers.

1. What does the description of their house tell you about Tom Walker and his wife?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Conclusion or Inference** | **Textual Evidence** |
|  | The word choice of “inmates” suggests…. |

1. What kind of relationship did Tom Walker have with his wife?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Conclusion or Inference** | **Textual Evidence** |
|  |  |

1. What clues were there that the person Tom was talking to was the Devil?

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| --- | --- |
| **Conclusion or Inference** | **Textual Evidence** |
|  |  |

1. What motivates Tom’s wife to meet with the Devil?  What motivates Tom to meet again with the Devil? Explain the differences (if any) and what the author is trying to tell the reader.

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| --- | --- |
| **Conclusion or Inference** | **Textual Evidence** |
|  |  |

1. What job does Walker accept? Why would the Devil like this kind of occupation?

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| --- | --- |
| **Conclusion or Inference** | **Textual Evidence** |
|  |  |

1. How did Tom Walker’s job affect him and his personality?   Did he change as a result of his bargain with the devil or is he essentially the same man as before?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Conclusion or Inference** | **Textual Evidence** |
|  |  |

1. How does Tom try to “cheat” the Devil and their deal?  Why does he attempt to do so?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Conclusion or Inference** | **Textual Evidence** |
|  |  |

8.  **Allegory:**  an extended metaphor that's carried out through the length of a story, allegory uses characters, themes, locations or any number of story components to represent an underlying meaning.  The underlying meaning has moral, social, religious, or political significance, and characters are often personifications of abstract ideas. How is “The Devil & Tom Walker” an allegory?  What moral lesson is it trying to teach us? If you’re having difficulty with this question, move on to the next one and look at the individual symbols that build the allegory and then come back to this.

9.  What do the following symbols mean in “The Devil & Tom Walker”?  See how I completed some of them for you? I’m so nice. Remember that the symbolism has to make sense within the context of the story

* **The Devil:** Temptation
* **The shortcut through the swamp:** "Shortcuts" to wealth (or another desired outcome)
* **The rotted trees in the forest:**
* **Tom Walker:**
* **The Bible buried under mortgage papers:**
* **Tom Walker's new house:**
* **Tom Walker as an evil broker:**
* **Money turned to wood chips and shavings:**