*The Devil and Tom Walker Analysis*

***Please fill in the thematic paragraphs below with the missing details. Be sure to answer the consequent questions as well.***

**Greed**

This story focuses largely on a theme of greed and its negative effects. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is known throughout the Charles Bay for his greed, and it is this greed that leads him to\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in exchange for money. Tom's plight is meant to warn readers not to let greed blind them because it can have disastrous consequences.

**Values**

Tom's choices in this story are reflections of his valuing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ over the well being of others. He is more concerned with the loss of his valuable property than he is with the murder of his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. He shows no sympathy for those who come to him seeking loans, and instead he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. In author Irving's eyes, Tom's values clearly lie in the wrong place, and in the end he is punished for it. However, he does refuse to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, which shows us he has some shred of humanity.

**Religion**

The theme of religion also figures prominently into this story, particularly at the end when Tom believes he can atone for his sins by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, while still continuing his miserly, heartless practices. Irving clearly condemns the hypocrisy that often accompanies religion, just as Tom displays in the text. This story also subtly condemns the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for their intolerance in persecuting those who do not believe what they do.

**Bargaining**

When bargaining with anyone—this case in particular, with the devil—caution must be taken, and "The Devil and Tom Walker" makes this extremely clear. Tom does not anticipate the consequences of the deal he has agreed to, and later on faces the fearful prospect of an eternity of damnation because of it. Tom's wife is not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when she rushes to agree to the devil's terms, and as a result, she is murdered. It is a clear message to readers to be careful where they \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; ensure the terms are understood fully, or one may find himself regretting what he has agreed to.

**Good vs. Evil**

As this is a tale about a deal with the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, obviously the theme of good versus evil comes into play. The author clearly believes that greed and hypocrisy are the root of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and from Tom's fate it is clear that these do not go unpunished. However, this story also implies that this fate is avoidable; with a set of proper values and sound judgment, people can live "good" lives, combat evil, and evade the devil as Tom was unable to do.

**Temptation**

In most stories involving the devil, the devil incarnate represents \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; this one is no different. Tom's interactions with Old Scratch illustrate just how disastrous temptation can be, and they warn readers to be extremely cautious before giving themselves over to it. It is a show of strength to be able to resist desire in favor of what is right; Tom was weak, and he paid the price.

**Take a look at the following quotes and note their significance in the corresponding boxes.**

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| "They lived in a forlorn-looking house that stood alone and had an air of starvation. A few straggling savin-trees, emblems of sterility, grew near it; no smoke ever curled from its chimney; no traveller stopped at its door." | Which tenet of Romanticism does this quote embody? How does this description also account for the relationship between the couple? |
| "It is true he was dressed in a rude Indian garb, and had a red belt or sash swathed round his body; but his face was neither black nor copper-color, but swarthy and dingy, and begrimed with soot, as if he had been accustomed to toil among fires and forges. He had a shock of coarse black hair, that stood out from his head in all directions, and bore an axe on his shoulder." | What specific clues does this passage give that the stranger was truly the devil incarnate? |
| ""Deacon Peabody be damned," said the stranger, "as I flatter myself he will be, if he does not look more to his own sins and less to those of his neighbors."" | How does detail foreshadow the undoing of Tom Walker? |
| "Tom consoled himself for the loss of his property, with the loss of his wife, for he was a man of fortitude. He even felt something like gratitude toward the black woodsman, who, he considered, had done him a kindness." | What do you learn about Tom’s values from this passage? |
| "He proposed, therefore, that Tom should employ it in the black traffic; that is to say, that he should fit out a slave-ship. This, however, Tom resolutely refused; he was bad enough in all conscience, but the devil himself could not tempt him to turn slave-trader." | How does this quote reveal Tom’s hypocrisy? |