

from "The Devil and Tom Walker" by Washington Irving

### Open-Book Test

**Short Answer** Write your responses to the questions in this section on the lines provided.

1. In the beginning of "The Devil and Tom Walker," Irving gives the reader some background about the treasure of the pirate Captain Kidd. Reread the first paragraph and determine what meaning the reader is meant to infer from this information. What is the writer setting up for the reader?  
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2. In paragraph 3 of "The Devil and Tom Walker," does Irving use direct or indirect characterization to describe the character of Tom's wife? Briefly explain your answer.  
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3. In paragraph 3 of "The Devil and Tom Walker," what information shows you the level of selfishness to which Tom and his wife have sunk? How do they treat each other?  
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4. In "The Devil and Tom Walker" locate the paragraph beginning, "Oh, I go by various names. . . ." Does Irving use direct or indirect characterization in revealing the character of the Devil? Briefly explain your answer.  
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5. Read the paragraph toward the middle of "The Devil and Tom Walker," which begins "The most current and probable story. . . ." Then explain how Tom feels about the disappearance of his wife.  
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6. In the sixth paragraph of "The Devil and Tom Walker," find context clues to help you figure out the meaning of the vocabulary word *treacherous*.

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7. In "The Devil and Tom Walker," the reader does not learn the name of Tom's wife. She is simply referred to as "Tom's wife." What does this suggest about the attitudes toward women during this Puritan period?

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8. Read the passages in the Graphic Organizer. What do you learn about Tom Walker's character through each of these examples of either direct or indirect characterization? Fill in the right side of the chart with words that tell you about Tom's character. Then identify the example as direct characterization (**DC**) or indirect characterization (**IC**).

"Your grounds! . . . no more your grounds than mine;" [Tom said to the Devil.]	_____
In proportion to the distress of the applicant was the hardness of [Tom's] terms.	_____
"You have made so much money out of me," said the speculator [to Tom].	_____

9. In "The Devil and Tom Walker," reread the paragraph which follows the passage in which Tom makes his deal with the Devil, beginning, "His reputation for a ready-moneyed man. . . ." What is Irving telling the reader about people's attitudes toward money in the early 1700s?

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10. In the third paragraph from the end of "The Devil and Tom Walker," what do you learn about the beliefs of the Boston Puritans during this period? In what kinds of supernatural beings did they believe? Were they frightened by events that seemed to be of a supernatural nature?

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