

Washington Irving

“The Devil and Tom Walker”

Anti-transcendentalists

- ❖ Humanity is not god-like.
- ❖ People are basically not good.
- ❖ Evil exists in human beings.
- ❖ Sin, pain and evil are real.

1. Swamp with buried treasure from Kidd the pirate (ill-gotten money – stolen)
2. Forlorn (sad) house with a starving horse. Tom and his wife were too cheap to feed it.
3. Tom’s face sometimes showed evidence of fighting with his wife. She scratched him. She was mean!

4. Shortcut home through swamp –finds remains of an Indian fort in the swamp & a cloven skull with a tomahawk in it

5. In the swamp he sees names of great men (who got rich by cheating or stealing) carved on trees
Trees look flourishing on the outside but are rotten at the core – like the people they symbolize (hypocrites)

6. He meets the Devil – Old Scratch
(He had red eyes and a red sash; He was covered in soot)

7. Finger print burned into his forehead (mark of the Devil)
Deal with the Devil

8. Hears Crowninshield is dead – (proof he met Devil)
Refuses to make the deal just to spite his wife

9. His wife goes to meet the Devil carrying their valuables. She disappears.

10. He finds her apron in a tree with a heart and liver in it.

11. There was evidence of a fight with his wife and the Devil.

12. Tom sells his soul to the Devil – becomes a money lender (usurer – one who lends money especially at a high rate of interest.)

13. Times were hard after a financial crisis, and there were plenty of people desperate to borrow money from Tom.

14. He built a big house to show off (out of ostentation: showiness) but didn't furnish it. Neglects his horses again.

15. Tom became extremely religious in his old age – worried (hypocrite)

16. Kept a Bible on his desk where he read it while he cheated people.

17. One day he said "The devil take me," and he did – taken on a horse (climax)

18. His house burned to the ground and all possessions destroyed.

19. See him on horse in a white gown & cap haunting the swamp.