

Indexed Notes

American Literature

Title: *Devil and Tom Walker*

Name: _____

To better understand the relationship between form and function, use these notes to “index” the various elements and devices that help to define a story’s genre, theme, and structure. As you read, fill in the boxes below and ask yourself what effect they have on the story? A story is nothing more than the sum of its parts—*these are the parts*.

<p>Plot and Conflict</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Linear <input type="checkbox"/> Nonlinear</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Man vs. Man <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Man vs. Himself</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Man vs. Society <input type="checkbox"/> Man vs. Nature</p>	<p>Explain the <i>central</i> conflict:</p> <p><i>Tom sells his soul in exchange for wealth, but his greed is something he comes to regret... and his punishment something he cannot escape.</i></p>
<p>Character</p> <p>Protagonist: <i>Tom Walker</i></p> <p>Role: <i>Miserly Husband</i> <i>Greedy Usurer</i></p> <p>Motivation: <i>Money and Greed</i></p>	<p>“Quote” an example of <i>indirect</i> characterization and list two meaningful adjectives that one might infer about the protagonist’s internal character:</p> <p><i>“He shrugged his shoulders... ‘Old Scratch must have had a tough time of it!’”</i></p> <p>1.) <i>cold-hearted</i></p> <p>2.) <i>self-centered</i></p>
<p>Setting</p> <p>Where: <i>The swamps and woodlands outside of Boston—Charles Bay</i></p> <p>When: <i>1727: the end of Puritanism</i></p>	<p>“Quote” the <i>best</i> example of atmosphere:</p> <p><i>“The swamp was thickly grown with great gloomy pines and hemlocks... which made it dark at noonday... full of pits and quagmires, partly covered with weeds and mosses... a gulf of black, smothering mud”</i></p>
<p>Point-of-View</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1st Person <input type="checkbox"/> 2nd Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3rd Person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Omniscient <input type="checkbox"/> Limited</p>	
<p>Clarify the theme in a <i>full</i> sentence that expresses either a <i>universal</i> insight or message. Do <i>not</i> mention the story. Then <i>choose</i> one powerful literary device and <i>explain</i> how it supports the <u>theme</u>, <u>structure</u>, or <u>style</u>.</p> <p>Theme: <i>There are no shortcuts in life—greed is rarely rewarded and there’s always a price to pay.</i></p> <p>Lit Device #1: <i>Foreshadowing</i> Explanation: <i>Though “ill-chosen” and dangerous, Tom takes a shortcut home at the beginning of the story, foreshadowing the ill-chosen and dangerous shortcut he tries to take to gain wealth by dealing with the devil, a shortcut that (as the <u>theme</u> suggests) does not end well.</i></p> <p>Lit Device #2: <i>Symbolism</i> Explanation: <i>As in many folk tales, <u>stock</u> characters are used to <u>symbolize</u> traits that support the <u>theme</u> (Tom = Greed, Wife = Selfishness, Devil = Temptation).</i></p>	