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| **Mood**  **Mood is** the overall feeling or atmosphere of a story, play, or poem.   1. **Explain** the *mood* Irving creates with "The Devil and Tom Walker."    * The mood of most stories can be described with one or two adjectives, such as gloomy, sentimental... 2. **Cite** specific examples from the text that illustrate the mood.    * Start with the **setting.** Pay close attention to the details of time and place, and think about how the setting makes the reader feel.    * Look carefully at Irving’s **diction,** or **word choice.** For example, in the first sentence of this story, the description of a “wooded swamp or morass” helps create a feeling of darkness and foreboding.    * Consider the **plot.** Does the story end happily, or does it present a bitter or tragic outlook on life? | **Tone: Humor & Irony**  As a **humorist**, Irving relied heavily on subtle tone to address difficult topics (e.g. religious hypocrisy, American's dark past, etc.) while enticing his audience to see his side.   1. **Identify** the *humorous and or ironic* aspects in the following passages:  * Pp. 294, paragraph 3 * Pp. 294, last paragraph (revealed through characterization) * Pp. 295, paragraph 2  1. **Interpret** Irving's **tone**. Record specific words or phrases that help indicated his tone (feelings toward the subject matter). |
| **Archetypes in Gothic Literature**  "The Devil and Tom Walker is an American version of the **archetypal** story of Faust, the sixteenth-century German philosopher who sells his soul to the devil for knowledge and power.   1. **Define** *archetype* and **cite** contemporary examples of how this story has been retold/repeated through the ages.    * What do you think inspired him to retell a tale rather than create a wholly original story? 2. Each Faust legend puts a different spin on the story, and its ending varies; for example, the Faust character may face eternal flames, find forgiveness and love, or somehow cleverly beat the devil.    * How would you describe Irving’s spin on the Faust legend?    * Since gothic writers were concerned with social criticism: what is satirical about his spin on the story's ending? | **Satire: Materialism and Greed**  The protagonist of the story, Tom Walker, allowed greed and selfishness to control him. As a result of this, he pledged both himself and his morals to the devil for the sake of riches and wealth.   1. **Cite** examples of Tom’s selfish attitude through Irving's characterizations of Tom and his description of Tom’s home.    * How is this a *satire* of **materialism** and of America during the time period? 2. Irving seems to think that most individuals are excessively materialistic, and do not care about the outcome of situations they might get themselves into.    * **For example, w**hen Tom began truly succeeding in his business as a broker, he became a man of rank in society, power and wealth at his use.    * How is this still true in American Society today? |
| **Satire: Marriage**  Married couples should always be the best means of support to each other, but in Tom and his wife's case, they served as obstacles that bring each other down.   1. **Cite** examples of how Tom and his wife's marriage is characterized.    * What can we infer is the author's *satirical* commentary on **marriage**? 2. **Create** your own satirical commentary on modern marriage.   For example, use a series of images, a cartoon, etc. or construct your own creative interpretation. | **Satire: Religious Hypocrisy**  One of the most important ideas of the story, is how it (Irving) opposes the whole idea of Puritanism--and of religious hypocrisy.   1. **Cite** examples of either the Puritans being depicted as hypocrites and/or Tom practicing religion in a hypocritical way.    * **Explain** how these examples *satirize* **religious hypocrisy** during the time period? 2. Irving seems to think that they way some people (American Puritans in this case) practice(d) religion is hypocritical.    * **Cite** some examples of how this is still true in American Society today. |