

Name/Date: _____

Junior English

“The Devil and Tom Walker” critical reading activity.

Directions: Please answer all questions COMPLETELY and ACCORDING TO THE STORY.

1. What is a *morass*?
2. What are the **three** reasons Irving gives for the tree being the ideal location for the buried treasure?
3. What, from the story, can you infer that hens do before they lay eggs?
4. What does using the word **“inmates”** suggest about the Walker home?
5. What does Tom’s face indicate about the marital communication of the Walkers?
6. Copy **three** words from the text that indicate the mood established by the description of the Walker home. Write these words below.
7. What does Irving state about “short cuts”?
8. To what animal is Tom compared as he travels through the treacherous forest?
9. What can you infer that **“delving”** means?
10. What action does Tom Walker take directly before he hears the gruff voice of the black man?
11. Name **three** things that the black man claims to have done.
12. What is the black man’s signature?

13. What finally convinces Tom that his meeting with the black man was not an illusion? (Note: this answer has nothing to do with the answer to number 12)

14. Why is Tom Walker particularly upset about his wife leaving for the second time?

15. Explain the meaning of the following, "old black legs played shy."

16. What task does Tom refuse to do for the black man?

17. What has happened in the country that makes it a "**propitious**" (Giving or indicating a good chance of success; favorable) time to be a usurer?

18. What is unusual about the house Tom builds with his newly found wealth?

19. Name **two** preparations Tom makes for judgment day.

20. What happens to Tom's money when he dies?