

# Tom walker essay (short)



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

Leolt was once said by Luke Dickens, that ??? The Devil tricks us into hell using own vices???, this seems to be very logical. This quote is portrayed very well is the story ??? The Devil and Tom Walker??? by Washington Irving. In this quote, the Devil uses our moral weaknesses (or vices) to get us into what is ultimately hell. In this story the protagonist is Tom Walker and is shown to be a selfish and greedy man willing to do anything to gain wealth, riches, and fame. A fine example of this is, out of greed, Tom pledged both himself and his morals to the devil for the sake of riches and wealth. He could have chosen a more noble way of achieving these goals but while making himself big because of this, disappointment haunted Tom in the end.

Furthermore, I agree with this quote because it is normally easier and sometimes more rewarding to follow the wrong path which can appear to be more enticing. The roots of Tom??™s selfishness were very apparent in his home. Tom loved looking out for himself so much that he is described in the story as a ??? miserly fellow??|he had a wife as miserly as himself; they were so miserly that they even conspired to cheat each other.

??? Tom, so completely in love with himself, had kept everything to himself to the point where his wife felt the need to steal behind his back and faced his fury over this. Also, Tom had a ??? miserable??? horse that Tom was too cheap to feed. The whole town seemed to know about this and Tom indulged in a bad reputation. This disturbing habit soon infected his work, also.

In support of the quote, while creating for himself a good name, he squeezed the debtors until every penny dropped into his own account. In the story ??? Tom was the universal friend to the needy, and acted like ??? a friend in

need??™; that is to say he always exacted good pay and security.??? While his greed for wealth caused him to cheat others out of money and keep it for himself. There are several examples of symbolism in this story. An example of this is the inscription of the names on the trees of the corrupted people destined for hell. When the trees were cut, it marked the end of the life of whoever was on that tree.

They would be doomed to an eternity in hell. The Bible under the mortgage papers means Tom values money over religion. Foreshadowing can also be seen when Tom goes through the forest and chooses the shortest path home.

This reflects his future decision of choosing the shortest way to making money, by making deals with the devil. The author uses irony in the sense that people are responsible for their own down fall by making wrong choices yet the devil is blamed every time. The story proves some truth in the quote when people were subdued by the devil??™s ploy.

Tom accepted the fame and money in exchange for his soul and body. His wife portrayed similar characteristics when she betrays Tom with the black man just like Tom betrays the Devil.