The Devil & Tom Walker

# Notes- Romanticism

* Tom Walker walks upon a swampy area where Kidd the pirate has buried his treasure.
* He kicks a skull, which prompts the Devil to come out and claim he’s in his territory.
* We learn this area has become somewhat of a graveyard for the rich (the devil has killed them).
* (We know this is a satire to poke fun at the issue of Loan Sharks and them “selling themselves to the devil for money”)
* Meanwhile, we learn that Tom and his wife do not get along, are very greedy, and will do anything to keep their assets separate.
* The Devil offers Tom a deal (which we don’t yet know) and he goes home to tell his wife.
* His wife tells him to take it, but he WON’T agree with his wife, so he won’t. This prompts her to go meet with the devil with all of their expensive silver.
* She never returns, and Tom finds her liver and heart in a tree tied up in her apron.
* He eventually makes the deal with the devil (to be a loan shark), making oodles of money, with which he purchases a huge house and a horse and carriage (which he doesn’t take care of)
* Finally, he begins to get scared of what will happen in his afterlife, and begins attending church very strictly, carrying two bibles with him everywhere (all while still sharking people out of money)
* A final borrower came to his place of work and begged for him not to take his home. (He owed too much money on it); Tom said “The devil take me if I have taken a penny from you.”
* Shortly, the devil knocks on the door and leaves with Tom Walker, no one hearing from him again.

**Romanticism**

* Focus on nature, highly charged emotions (greed)
* Dark, creepy, supernatural (American Gothic)