“The Devil and Tom Walker”
By Washington Irving
Today’s Objective

CA Focus Standard(s):

3.3 Analyze the ways in which mood achieves specific aesthetic purposes.

3.6 Analyze the way in which authors through the centuries have used archetypes drawn from myth and tradition in literature.

Objectives: By reading and discussing “The Devil and Tom Walker” by Washington Irving students will be able to--

1. Explain how setting and word choice creates mood.

2. Describe what makes the story’s protagonist archetypal.
WHAT IS MOOD?

♦ Mood is the *emotional effect* that the text creates for the audience.

♦ FOR EXAMPLE:

♦ “The swamp was thickly grown with great gloomy pines...which made it dark at noonday...”

♦ USE YOUR MOOD LIST TO PREDICT THE STORY’S MOOD.
What is archetypal about “The Devil and Tom Walker”?

An original or fundamental imaginative pattern that is repeated through the ages.

An archetype can be a plot, an event, a character, or an object.

What is archetypal about Irving’s story?

“The Devil and Tom Walker” by Washington Irving is about a man who sells his Soul to the devil for worldly gain.

The most famous and influential version of this tale is Faust by Johann Wolfgang Goethe (1749-1832).

For this reason, stories in which the protagonist sells his soul to the devil are usually called Faustian legends.
As you read...

1. Determine the mood of the story by paying attention to sensory details and imagery in the story.

2. How does the author create humor in a story in which there few happy events?
After you read...

1. Describe the characteristics of this story that make it an example of American Romanticism.

EVIDENCE: SAYS-MEANS-MATTERS CHART & SUMMARY
Main Character

When the narrator describes Tom Walker and his wife as, 
“...so miserly that they even conspired to cheat each other
(p. 154)”

The narrator is demonstrating that the story’s main characters are despicable and greedy.

This is important because they stand as depictions and embodiments of everything Romanticism was against: archetypes that represent greed and value of material things above all else.
Setting & Mood

Descriptions of setting such as, "The swamp was thickly grown with great gloomy pines and hemlocks, some of them ninety feet high, which made it dark at noonday, and a retreat for all the owls of the neighborhood (p. 154)." create a **foreboding** mood.

This helps the reader__________________________________________.

An examination of this line reveals ____________________________.
Symbols

Symbols of nature such as, “the great trees, fair and flourishing without, but rotten at the core” (p. 155).

In this statement, the author describes ____________________________.

This description makes me think that ________________________.
Romantic Theme

At the end of the story, the narrator states, “______________”

In this statement, the narrator shows that ________________________________.

This resolution reminds the reader that ________________.
With your partner...

1. Determine the mood of the story by paying attention to sensory details and imagery in the story.

2. How does the author create humor in a story in which there few happy events?