

Questions and Answers - The Devil and Daniel Webster – Set 1

How many pages long is The Devil and Daniel Webster?

"The Devil and Daniel Webster" by Stephen Vincent Benét is a short story, and its length can vary depending on the edition and formatting. Typically, it ranges from about 10 to 20 pages in most printed versions.

Who wrote The Devil and Daniel Webster?

"The Devil and Daniel Webster" was written by Stephen Vincent Benét, an American author and poet. This short story was first published in 1937 and has since become one of his most famous and enduring works.

Why does Jabez Stone seek the help of Daniel Webster?

Answer: Jabez Stone seeks the help of Daniel Webster when the devil comes to claim his soul because he believes Webster is the best lawyer who can defend his case.

What is the setting of the story, both in terms of time and place?

Answer: The story is set in New Hampshire during the 19th century, specifically in the early 1800s.

What is the outcome of the supernatural trial in the story?

Answer: Daniel Webster successfully defends Jabez Stone in the supernatural trial, and the devil is forced to release Stone's soul, leaving empty-handed.

Questions and Answers - The Devil and Daniel Webster – Set 2

Who serves as the judge in the supernatural trial?

Answer: Justice Hathorne, a historical figure from the Salem witch trials, serves as the judge in the supernatural trial.

What is the significance of the character Scratch in the story?

Answer: Mr. Scratch is the devil, and his character represents temptation and the consequences of making a pact with evil.

What is the role of American historical figures in the story?

Answer: American historical figures, including Captain Kidd, Peter Stuyvesant, and Benedict Arnold, serve as members of the jury of the damned in the supernatural trial.

What does Daniel Webster use as his primary weapon in the trial against the devil?

Answer: Daniel Webster uses his exceptional skills of persuasion and oratory as his primary weapon in the trial against the devil.

What is the central moral lesson of "The Devil and Daniel Webster"?

Answer: The central moral lesson of the story is that the power of justice, moral strength, and American values can overcome temptation and malevolence, even in the face of supernatural challenges.

Questions and Answers - The Devil and Daniel Webster – Set 3

Why did Jabez Stone agree to the devil's bargain in the first place?

Answer: Jabez Stone agreed to the devil's bargain because he was facing severe financial hardship, and he believed that trading his soul for seven years of prosperity was his only way out.

What is the significance of the name "Daniel Webster" in the story?

Answer: The name "Daniel Webster" carries significance because Daniel Webster was a real historical figure known for his exceptional skills as a lawyer and orator. In the story, he is portrayed as the defender of human souls against evil forces.

How does the story portray the character of Daniel Webster?

Answer: Daniel Webster is portrayed as a larger-than-life figure, both in his physical stature and his abilities. He is depicted as a champion of justice, freedom, and American ideals.

What is the role of the character Mary Stone in the story?

Answer: Mary Stone is Jabez Stone's wife, and her character represents the moral conscience and goodness that Jabez loses sight of in his pursuit of wealth and success.

What happens to Jabez Stone's physical appearance during the seven years of his pact with the devil?

Answer: Over the seven years, Jabez Stone becomes increasingly corrupt, and his physical appearance deteriorates, reflecting the toll of his immoral choices.

Questions and Answers - The Devil and Daniel Webster – Set 4

What is the significance of the jury of the damned being composed of historical figures who had made questionable choices in their lives?

Answer: The jury of the damned underscores the idea that even individuals who have made morally questionable choices in their past can recognize the importance of justice and redemption.

What is the setting of the final climactic scene in the story?

Answer: The final climactic scene of the story takes place at Jabez Stone's farm during a violent thunderstorm, providing a dramatic backdrop for the supernatural trial.

What does Mr. Scratch (the devil) offer to Daniel Webster as part of a deal during the trial?

Answer: Mr. Scratch offers to release Jabez Stone's soul if Daniel Webster agrees to abandon his case, but Webster rejects the offer.

What role does the Bible play in the story's resolution?

Answer: The Bible plays a pivotal role as a symbol of faith and moral strength during the trial, especially when Daniel Webster cites passages from it in his defense.

What message or moral lesson does the story convey about the human condition?

Answer: The story conveys the message that, even in moments of moral weakness and temptation, individuals have the capacity for redemption and the power to resist evil forces through the strength of their principles and the pursuit of justice.