

# SILAS MARNER

GEORGE ELIOT

# LIVING LITERATURE SERIES

A PERMA-BOUND PRODUCTION

TEACHER'S GUIDE      GUIDE WRITTEN BY MARY ELLEN SNODGRASS

## SYNOPSIS

Unmarked by welcome or even acknowledgement, the arrival of Silas Marner, slender unassuming young man who suffers from myopia as well as sporadic catalepsy, in the provincial town of Raveloe, concludes a miserable chapter in the weaver's early life. His peaceful residence in Lantern Yard has been marred by unfounded suspicion that Silas has taken money from a dying senior deacon. The close association of his best friend, William Dane, with the crime, the arbitrary drawing of lots by fellow chapel members to determine Silas's guilt, and William's subsequent marriage to Silas's former fiancée demoralizes Silas and reduces his faith in mankind. His lonely existence on the outskirts of Raveloe, his new home, is relieved only by impersonal business dealings, the rare application of Silas's skills in herbal medicine to suffering townspeople, and the slow accumulation of money.

In the fifteenth year of Silas's residence in Raveloe, a chain of events draws him into the life of the community. His only source of entertainment, the hoarded earnings from the weaver's trade, is stolen by Dunstan, a dissolute son of Squire Cass who has bled his brother Godfrey of collected rents by threatening to reveal his brother's marriage to Molly Farren, an altogether unsuitable choice of wife for the future squire. The community members attempt to investigate the crime but fail to connect the theft to the disappearance of Dunstan Cass.

The townspeople, particularly Dolly Winthrop and her young son Aaron, bestow compassion on Silas, who sinks into abject depression at his loss. As he steps into the doorway to hear church bells ring in the new year, Silas stiffens into a cataleptic trance. He is unaware of the drama taking place at his feet: while the gentry frolic at the Red House in an annual gathering, Molly Farren struggles through the snow toward the party to embarrass Godfrey before his friends. Her opium habit causes her to slip into drugged sleep, resulting in death by freezing; her young daughter toddles out of Molly's grasp and into Silas's cottage.

At the Red House Silas's announcement of the tragedy breaks up the evening's merriment. When Dr. Kimble pronounces Molly dead from exposure, attention turns toward care for the child, whom Silas refuses to relinquish. The weaver's adoption of the orphan at first astounds the townspeople; their gradual acceptance of him as Eppie's father results in a renewal of hope in the weaver, who learns the mysteries of parenthood from Dolly and exults in Eppie's companionship.

Relieved of the stigma of his hasty marriage to a barmaid, Godfrey is free to marry Nancy Lammeter, a prim local maiden who has all but despaired of Godfrey's unpredictable courtship. Despite their material wealth, the loss of their only child in infancy mars their happiness. When the draining of the stone pit reveals Dunstan's skeleton, Godfrey's riding whip, and the stolen money of Silas Marner, Godfrey bares his guilty conscience by confessing to his wife that the woman found dead in the snow was his wife and Eppie his child.

Godfrey and Nancy immediately visit Silas's cottage to congratulate him on his good fortune and to offer a rightful place in their home to Eppie, whom the recalcitrant father acknowledges as his own. Eppie's negative reply discloses her loyalty to Silas as well as to her future husband, Aaron Winthrop. She spurns the opportunity of living in wealth among gentlefolk and clings to her old father. The last scene of the novel shows a contented Silas exiting the church after Eppie's wedding and the approach of the wedding party to the cottage by the stone pit, complete with garden provided by Aaron.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

A rare individual in the Victorian era, Mary Ann Evans was able to extend her education beyond the prescribed perimeters of the nineteenth century womanhood and to publish five major novels, establishing for herself a place among the literary giants of the period. Born in 1819 in Warwickshire, England, Evans received simple schooling, which she augmented with independent studies and challenging intellectual pursuits, including the assistant editorship of the *Westminster Review*. The small inheritance she obtained after her father's death supported her during the writing of *Scenes of Clerical Life* (1857), *Adam Bede* (1859), *The Mill on the Floss*, (1860), *Silas Marner* (1861), and *Middlemarch* (1872), all of which were published under the *nom de plume* of George Eliot. Following the death of her companion and adviser for twenty-four years, George Henry Lewes, Evans married John Cross in 1880, but died that same year.

## CRITIC'S CORNER

George Eliot is known for her depth of character development and for the serious presentation of real-life struggles. *Silas Marner*, which is most commonly read as the best example of her skill, reflects Eliot's belief in a second chance for people caught in wretched

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circumstances not of their own making. The strength of character found in a simple country weaver provides the backbone of this novel of morals. The outcome features a kind of justice which eventually rewards the honest man with unforeseen benefits.

### GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. To recognize the basic aspects of the novel—plot, character, setting, tone, theme, and mood.
2. To identify symbols and the author's purpose in creating them.
3. To identify the cause-and-effect relationship between elements of the plot.
4. To analyze the motivation of characters who face momentous decisions.
5. To examine the theme of compensation as it is revealed in the lives of the four main characters.

### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To contrast the life of the main character in Lantern Yard with his subsequent residence in Raveloe.
2. To investigate the workings of justice in the lives of the four main characters.
3. To analyze the social structure of an English village in the first half of the nineteenth century.
4. To explain the symbolic meaning of Raveloe as the name of the town.
5. To trace the alterations in the Cass family through three generations.
6. To isolate the author's purpose in creating a rigidly moral story.
7. To discuss the effect of the Industrial Revolution on nineteenth century England.

### MEANING STUDY

Below are words, phrases, sentences or thought units that have particular meaning in the story. Explain the meaning each has in this book. Page numbers are given so that you can note the context from which the item is taken.

1. "... they'd have taken me to the workhouse. . ." (p. 168)  
*(a poorhouse or minimum security prison where vagrants and petty criminals are made to work. If Eppie had found no home with Silas, she would have been sent to an institution to live.)*
2. "... my property's got no entail on it. . ." (p. 71)  
*(the legal limitation of inheritance to a specific line or class of heirs. Squire Cass is therefore not required to name his sons as heirs of the Red House. In view of his freedom from entailment and his*

*disappointment in their lack of maturity and responsibility, he threatens to disown his profligate sons and remarry.)*

3. "It was at this point in their history that Silas's cataleptic fit occurred. . ." (p. 12)  
*(a condition in which feeling departs from the body and the muscles become stiff. During these attacks Silas has no awareness of events or passages of time when he recovers from the seizure.)*
4. "... it was the custom of their Lantern Yard brethren to call them David and Jonathan." (p. 11)  
*(The religious group to which Silas Marner and William Dane belong compares the young men's friendship to that of two biblical characters who maintained a firm relationship throughout the persecution of David by Jonathan's father, King Saul, whom David eventually replaced on the throne of Israel.)*
5. drawing lots (p. 14)  
*(deciding an issue by the random selection of an object from a lottery. This arbitrary method of deciding Silas's fate forces the young weaver to seek another home where he can begin a new life apart from the suspicion of Lantern Yard.)*
6. a large factory (p. 181)  
*(The story of Silas Marner is set in the era known as the Industrial Revolution, during which time England underwent a remarkable change from cottage industry to a vast, impersonal factory system. On his return to Lantern Yard, Silas is unable to locate his former hometown because of the immense growth which has taken place.)*
7. the peddler's earrings (p. 64)  
*(The concern over a wandering peddler's earrings or lack of them indicates a deep-founded prejudice against gypsies or nomadic Romanic peoples who even today frequent the highways of Europe. The verb gyp is derived from gypsy and suggests a negative attitude toward business dealings with the swarthy people who reject a settled lifestyle in favor of wheeled dwellings and extreme decoration of person and belongings.)*
8. farrier (p. 48)  
*(a blacksmith; also, one who treats the diseases of animals)*
9. squire (p. 69)  
*(a title of respect given to the main landowner of a district. Godfrey relinquishes the title of squire after his father's death.)*
10. apothecaries (p. 101)  
*(pharmacists or druggists. Dr. Kimble assumes the title of doctor, although his medical skill is the outgrowth of his knowledge of drugs and not any indication of professional training in medicine.)*

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11. guineas (p. 20)  
(a unit of monetary value equivalent to 21 shillings.  
These coins were last minted in 1813.)

### COMPREHENSION STUDY

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important and you should be ready to defend your answers by referring to passages in the book.

#### Questions 1-5 Literal Level

1. Why does Silas Marner fail to discern Molly's death and Eppie's arrival?  
(*Silas is plagued by two physical weaknesses: his myopic eyes and the occasional cataleptic seizures which render him unconscious of the events at his door. His arrested posture suggests that he observes the young woman freezing to death under the furze bush near the stone pit; however, his eyes see nothing until consciousness once again returns to his body. When Silas is in control of his faculties, he turns to face the hearth, catching sight of "gold." His nearsighted gaze—along with his subjective submersion in the loss of the money bags—feeds his brain a distorted picture: what he perceives as a heap of golden coins is the curly topknot of the baby.*)
2. How does Godfrey's behavior exasperate both his father and Nancy?  
(*Both Squire Cass and Nancy Lammeter anticipate Godfrey's announcement of serious intentions to marry. Because they have no knowledge of Godfrey's predicament resulting from an ill-advised marriage both Squire Cass and Nancy misread Godfrey's off-again, on-again courtship of a likely candidate for future mistress of the Red House. In addition to his shilly-shallying behavior, Godfrey appears to mishandle his father's rents, although the reason for his profligacy is an effort to forestall Dunstan's announcement of his brother's folly with hush money. The death of Molly is a second chance for Godfrey, who follows the expectations of both his father and his girlfriend and marries a proper girl of his own class.*)
3. How does Dolly Winthrop's friendship benefit Silas?  
(*Silas reaps the benefits of his neighbor's compassion after the robbery. Her gentle proddings remind Silas that life continues, even after the loss of worldly goods. She coaxes him into a new awareness of religion, and, after the arrival of Eppie, she counsels him on the care and upbringing of young children. Her advice on discipline, the donation of Aaron's outgrown clothes, and the offer of free laundry service for Eppie are illustrative of the humble gifts of a good neighbor.*)

4. How does Eppie reward her father for adopting her?  
(*Eppie adores Silas and makes every effort to spare him loneliness and trouble. As she matures, she seeks his advice about marrying Aaron and continuing to live at the cottage by the stone pit. She promises never to desert Silas and makes plans to brighten their home with the addition of a flower and herb garden. When Godfrey and Nancy tempt her to accept her real father and assume residence at the Red House, Eppie replies with simple grace, ". . . I should have no delight i' life any more if I was forced to go away from my father, and knew he was sitting at home, a-thinking of me and feeling lone. We've been used to be happy together every day, and I can't think o' no happiness without him. And he says he'd nobody i' the world till I was sent to him, and he'd have nothing when I was gone. And he's took care of me and loved me from the first, and I'll cleave to him as long as he lives, and nobody shall ever come between him and me."*)
5. Describe Dunstan's death.  
(*Having caused the destruction of a valuable horse, Dunstan turns his attention toward the theft of Silas's reputed wealth. After he locates the store of coins in the floor at the hearth, Dunstan stumbles into the foggy night, falls into the stone pit, and drowns. His body is located fifteen years later wedged between two stones.*)

#### Questions 6-8 Interpretive Level

6. How does George Eliot make use of New Year's Eve as a symbol?  
(*Both Silas and Godfrey make new lives for themselves in the new year. Silas gains the warmth of Eppie's companionship and acceptance by the people of Raveloe; Godfrey sheds the burden of his first wife, sees his child accepted by a new father, and pledges his love to Nancy, the object of his affection. The arrival of a new year symbolizes a second chance in the lives of the two main characters.*)
7. Discuss Silas's naiveté in the investigation of the Lantern Yard robbery and his resulting despair at being wrongfully accused.  
(*Although the appearance of William Dane at the scene of the crime and his subsequent location of the money bag should have given Silas a clue to the identity of the thief, he doesn't reach that conclusion until he remembers the lost penknife, which he used to cut a strap for his former friend. Silas's reaction reflects his naive belief in ultimate justice: "I am sore stricken; I can say nothing. God will clear me." During the drawing of lots Silas continues to place his faith in heavenly guidance, "relying on his own innocence being certified by immediate divine interference. . . ." In the words of the author, "Poor*

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*Marner went out with that despair in his soul—that shaken trust in God and man which is little short of madness to a loving nature.”)*

8. What is ironic about the author’s choice of Raveloe for the name of the town?

*(Several lives are both raveled and rewoven during the story. Silas’s twisted love of gold is fortunately replaced with human trust, which he had lost in Lantern Yard. Godfrey’s ill-begun family is also raveled and rewoven into the texture of Silas’s humble cottage when the weaver insists on providing a home for the orphaned child. The raveling of Dunstan’s existence is justice done to a bully, blackmailer, liar, and thief. The reweaving of the Cass family reveals a stronger texture, partly because Godfrey acknowledges his wrongdoing and accepts the consequences to himself and his family name and partly because he has included the strength of a noble wife in the makeup of his second marriage.)*

### Questions 9 and 10 Critical Level

9. According to the events of the novel, what is George Eliot’s belief about justice?

*(George Eliot champions a belief in retribution. Her characters suffer for their minor faults no less than for their serious shortcomings—Dunstan pays the supreme penalty for a string of sins, including larceny and extortion; Godfrey suffers for rejecting his wife and child; Molly dies as a result of her dependence on drugs. Yet several instances of unfairness exist in the makeup of the tale. It seems blatantly unjust for Nancy to grieve the loss of her infant, to buoy her hopes for a second chance at motherhood, and to lose that opportunity when Eppie refuses to alter her allegiance to Silas. Likewise, the injustice which Silas endures at the hands of his former brothers in faith seems harshly exacted in light of his attempts to find truth fifteen years after the fact. It appears that George Eliot seeks justice tinged with realism: the price humans pay for life is haphazard and at times capricious. Justice exists in the overall accounting but is heavily taxed with ignoble surcharge.)*

10. Discuss the theme of agape—altruistic, open-handed generosity and love—as it appears in the novel.

*(George Eliot emphasizes the generosity of several characters. Dolly Winthrop, the most notable example, freely gives attention and encouragement to Silas, whom the community has labeled a “poor mused creatur.” In similar fashion Silas sees the pain of his mother Hepzibah reflected in the suffering of Sally Oates, and he assists her with his herbal medicines. Unselfish acts of kindness appear at frequent intervals of the novel, contrasting the crass behavior of scoundrels like William Dane and Dunstan Cass.)*

### Question 11 Creative Level

11. Compose diary entries written by Eppie at one-year intervals from her tenth birthday to her twentieth. Project what her life is like when she and Aaron come to live with Silas.

### STUDENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

1. Compose news stories which give the facts of the most important events in the novel, such as the discovery of Molly’s body, Eppie’s adoption, Dunstan’s death, Silas’s recovery of his money.
2. Make a ledger page in which you record Silas’s expenditures after he recovers his money. What do you suppose he will purchase for the newlyweds?
3. Draw sketches of Eppie’s garden, the wedding scene, the Rainbow, a gala evening at the Red House, Wildfire, or Silas at his loom. Try to capture the style of the nineteenth century in your work. Which of your drawings would make a good cover for the book?
4. Describe how you would film the novel. Whom would you choose for the main parts? What costumes would be essential? How would you film the night of the robbery? Which characters would you want to be beautiful? Which would be ugly? Which scenes would have the most exciting action and suspense?
5. Role-play the part of Justice Malam and make inquiries about evidence in the case of the stolen money bags. Call in witnesses with pertinent information. Make a summary statement about the crime.
6. Write a report on changes in styles of worship during the nineteenth century. Pay particular attention to the growth of Methodism.
7. Investigate the history of weaving. Outline the changes that were made in the production of cloth in the nineteenth century. Include information about the jacquard loom, the forerunner of the computer.
8. Make a list of the great inventions of the last century. Note the year and the name of the inventor for each entry.

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**VOCABULARY TEST**

Match each underlined word with its definition listed below. Write the letter of the definition in the space provided. You will have answers left over when you finish.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. And how long have you been so thick with Dunsey that you must collogue with him to embezzle my money?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Eppie was now aware that her behavior was under observation, but it was only the observation of a friendly donkey, browsing with a log fastened to his foot. . .
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The Rainbow, in Marner's view, was a place of luxurious resort for rich and stout husbands, whose wives had superfluous stores of linen. . .
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Godfrey himself, when he was asked jocosely if the day had been fixed, smiled with the pleasant consciousness of a lover who could say "yes," if he liked.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Nancy was silent: her spirit of rectitude would not let her try to soften the edge of what she felt to be just compunction.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Mr. Macey screwed up his mouth, leaned his head further on one side, and twirled his thumbs with a presto movement as his eyes followed Godfrey up the dance.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. I was tired to death of jiggng and gallanting and that bother about the hornpipes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Silas meditated a little while in some perplexity.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. After this feeble delusive thaw, silence set in as severely as before.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. The questionable sound of Silas's loom, so unlike the natural cheerful trotting of the winnowing . . . machine, or the simpler rhythm of the flail, had a half-fearful fascination on the Raveloe boys.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. "Oho!" said Dunsey, turning his head on one side, and trying to speak in a small mincing treble.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Partly, Miss Ladbrook felt that her own skirt must be regarded as unduly lax by the Miss Gunns, and partly, that it was a pity the Miss Gunns did not show that judgment which she herself would show if she were in their place, by stopping a little on this side of the fashion.

A. ambling  
B. bewilderment  
C. conspire  
D. dainty  
E. escorting

F. excessively  
G. force  
H. grazing  
I. imagine  
J. overabundant

K. penitence  
L. playfully  
M. rapid  
N. separating  
O. unreal

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### COMPREHENSION TEST A

#### Part I: Matching (30 points)

Match the actions of the characters to their names. Place the letter of the correct answer in the spaces provided at left. You will have names left over when you finish.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. buys Wildfire from Dunstan
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. is cured by Silas
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. give a medical opinion of Molly's death
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. watches beside the senior deacon's bed
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. is identified by a stolen riding whip
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. mother of the "tramp's child"
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Mrs. William Dane
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Nancy's unmarried sister
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. plans to include the furze bush in the garden
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. plays the fiddle for the dance
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. provides used baby clothes for Eppie
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Silas's mother's name
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. suffers a torn dress at the dance
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. "the greatest man in Raveloe"
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. the molecatcher and witness to Silas's fit

- A. Aaron Winthrop
- B. Bob Cass
- C. Mr. Bryce
- D. Dolly Winthrop
- E. Dunstan Cass
- F. Eppie

- G. Hepzibah
- H. Jem Rodney
- I. Molly Farren
- J. Mr. Kimble
- K. Nancy
- L. Priscilla

- M. Sally Oates
- N. Sarah
- O. Solomon
- P. Squire Cass
- Q. William Dane

#### Part II: Matching (20 points)

Match the name of the character with his speech. Place the letter of your answer in the space provided at left. Some names may be used twice and some will be left over when you finish.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. She is my own child—her mother was my wife.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. I wasn't brought up to be a lady, and I can't turn my mind to it.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. I'll turn the whole pack of you out of the house together, and marry again.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Come, Aaron, stan' up and sing the carril to Mister Marnar, come.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. It's come to me—I've got a right to keep it.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. You won't make it known, then, about Eppie's being your daughter?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. But I mean to stick to Wildfire: I shan't get a better at a fence in a hurry.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. . . . I leave our brethren to judge whether this is the voice of Satan or not.

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- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. No, no, there's no imposin, . . . there's never a garden in all the parish but what there's endless waste in it for want o' somebody as could use everything up.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. You'd like to see her taken care of by those who can leave her well off, and make a lady of her; she's more fit for it than a rough life, such as she might come to have in a few years' time.
- |                   |                 |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| A. Aaron Winthrop | E. Godfrey Cass | I. Silas Marnar |
| B. Dolly Winthrop | F. Mr. Lammeter | J. Squire Cass  |
| C. Dunstan Cass   | G. Nancy        | K. William Dane |
| D. Eppie          | H. Priscilla    |                 |

### Part III: Multiple Choice (20 points)

Complete each of the following sentences with the best response. Indicate your choice by writing the letter of the appropriate response in the space provided.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Silas first finds joy in Raveloe when he (a) meets Dolly Winthrop and establishes a lasting friendship (b) accumulates money in the hiding place near his loom (c) proposes to Sarah and sets a wedding date (d) builds a garden of herbs near the stone pit.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Nancy's life with Godfrey is marred by (a) her discovery of Godfrey's lies about Eppie (b) the death of their infant (c) concern for Priscilla's loneliness (d) Molly Farren's attempt at blackmail.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Silas reports his loss to (a) the guests at the New Year's Eve party (b) Squire Cass (c) the men at the Rainbow (d) Mr. Paston, the minister.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The linen strip tied to the loom (a) keeps Eppie close to Silas while he works (b) leads through the door key to Silas's piece of pork (c) reminds Silas of the location of his little pot of gold (d) is essential to Silas's job of weaving.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Silas has never heard of (a) chapel (b) Hepzibah (c) foxglove (d) christening.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Just before Silas announces the robbery (a) Jem Rodney sees a band of gypsies wearing gold earrings (b) Justice Malam locates a tinderbox (c) the men at the Rainbow are discussing ghosts (d) Godfrey rushes out into the snow in his dancing slippers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Eppie rejects her real father's offer because (a) she would worry about Silas's loneliness (b) Aaron disapproves of the Casses (c) he rejected her sixteen years earlier (d) Nancy has insulted Eppie's choice of a husband.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Godfrey is alarmed when he looks up and sees (a) Molly struggling through the snow (b) Silas carrying Godfrey's child (c) Dunstan with Cox's hundred pounds (d) Nancy Lammeter frowning in his direction.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. William Dane was the last person to see (a) the money bags behind the chest (b) Silas's cataleptic seizure during prayer meeting (c) the drawing of lots to establish guilt (d) Silas's knife before Silas lost it.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. The most promising clue the citizens of Raveloe find is (a) the gold earring (b) a set of tracks in the path near the stone pit (c) the broken kettle (d) the tinderbox.

### Part IV: Essay Questions (30 points)

1. Describe the changes in Silas's homelife when he adopts Eppie.
2. Analyze Nancy's relationship with Godfrey. Is she a good wife?

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**COMPREHENSION TEST B**

Part I: Matching (20 points)

Match the parts of the following ten quotations. You will have answers left over when you finish.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. All other signs of sporting and outdoor occupation Nancy has removed to another room
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. A plain man like Godfrey Cass, speaking under some embarrassment
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. As for the child, he would see that it was cared for
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. He reached his door in much satisfaction that his errand was done:
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. I suppose one reason why we are seldom able to comfort our neighbours with our words
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. It was the great dance on New Year's Eve that made the glory of
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. The expression of trusting simplicity in Marner's face
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The old Squire was an implacable man:
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. There was one person, as you will believe, who
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. This journey on New Year's Eve was a premeditated act of vengeance

- A. he would never forsake it; he would do everything but own it.
- B. as for security, he regarded it vaguely as the means of cheating a man, by making him believe he would be paid.
- C. watch with keener though more hidden interest than any other the prosperous growth of Eppie under the weaver's care.
- D. heightened by that absence of special observation, that defenseless, deer-like gaze which belongs to large prominent eyes, was strongly contrasted by the self-complacent suppression of inward triumph that lurked in the narrow slanting eyes and compressed lips of William Dane.
- E. which she had kept in her heart ever since Godfrey, in a fit of passion, had told her he would sooner die than acknowledge her as his wife.
- F. his history became blent in a singular manner with the life of his neighbours.
- G. was no heresy of Dolly's but only her way of avoiding a presumptuous familiarity.
- H. but she has brought into the Red House the habit of filial reverence, and preserves sacredly in a place of honour these relics of her husband's departed father.
- I. he opened it, and to his shortsighted eyes everything remained as he left it, except that the fire sent out a welcome increase of heat.
- J. he made resolutions in violent anger, but he was not to be moved from them after his anger had subsided—as fiery volcanic matters cool and harden into rock.
- K. has only lost the indefinable look of youth—a loss which is marked even when the eye is undulled and the wrinkles are not yet come.
- L. had not been enough to save him from a course which shut him out of it forever.
- M. is that our good will gets adulterated, in spite of ourselves, before it can pass our lips.
- N. Squire Cass's hospitality, as of his forefather's, time out of mind.
- O. necessarily blunders on words that are coarser than his intentions, and that are likely to fall gratingly on susceptible feelings.



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### Part II: True/False (30 points)

Mark the following statements **T** for true or **F** for false.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Eppie eagerly awaits the garden Godfrey promises to dig for her.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. When the stone pit is drained, Dunstan's body and the money are found between two large stones.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Godfrey accepts Eppie's rejection as part of his punishment.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Godfrey admits to his father that Fowler paid him the hundred pounds and he loaned it to Dunstan.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Godfrey leaves the Rainbow and accompanies Mr. Kimble so that he can once more look on the face of his dead wife.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. After Silas's trance at prayer meeting, his fiancée's attitude toward him is changed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Jem Rodney sees Silas outside the Red House and accuses him of theft.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Dunstan falls from Wildfire and tumbles to his death in the stone pit.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Squire Cass vows to banish Godfrey after Dunstan takes Cox's payment.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Priscilla thoughtlessly asks Miss Gunn if she minds being ugly.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Silas reaches for his gold coins but finds warm curls instead.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Molly's poverty is the result of her enslavement to opium.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Silas punishes Eppie by shutting her in the coal hole.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Carefully following Dolly's instructions, Silas learns herb cures.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Silas insists on a formal christening for Eppie despite Mr. Crackenthorp's objections.

### Part III: Fill-in (20 points)

1. The baby catches sight of Silas's \_\_\_\_\_ and toddles into his house.
2. Seeing the cobbler's wife suffering from heart disease, Silas feels pity because she reminds him of \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Dunstan locates the hiding place of the gold when he spies \_\_\_\_\_ in the sand.
4. Dolly begs Silas not to weave on \_\_\_\_\_ because of the harm it does to his soul.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ lies about being bored with the dance.
6. Godfrey gives up the title of \_\_\_\_\_ after the death of his father.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ frightens neighborhood children because of their parents' hints that he is in league with the devil.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ declares he has seen "calling and election sure" on the pages of the Bible.
9. Godfrey waits at the door of the Red House to lift \_\_\_\_\_ from the pillion.
10. Silas and Eppie find the town of \_\_\_\_\_ greatly changed from Silas's memories of it.

### Part IV: Easy Questions (30 points)

1. Discuss the relationship of Silas and the people of Raveloe.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Describe the neighborhood attempts to solve the crime of the stolen money. Why are the citizens of Raveloe unsuccessful?

**SILAS MARNER**

**VOCABULARY TEST ANSWER KEY**

- |      |      |       |
|------|------|-------|
| 1. C | 5. K | 9. O  |
| 2. H | 6. M | 10. N |
| 3. J | 7. E | 11. D |
| 4. L | 8. B | 12. F |

**COMPREHENSION TEST A ANSWER KEY**

Part I: Matching (30 points)

- |      |       |       |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. C | 6. I  | 11. D |
| 2. M | 7. N  | 12. G |
| 3. J | 8. L  | 13. K |
| 4. Q | 9. F  | 14. P |
| 5. E | 10. O | 15. H |

Part II: Matching (20 points)

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. E | 6. G  |
| 2. D | 7. C  |
| 3. J | 8. K  |
| 4. B | 9. A  |
| 5. I | 10. E |

Part III: Multiple Choice (20 points)

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. B | 6. C  |
| 2. B | 7. A  |
| 3. C | 8. B  |
| 4. A | 9. D  |
| 5. D | 10. D |

**COMPREHENSION TEST B ANSWER KEY**

Part I: Matching (20 points)

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. H | 6. N  |
| 2. O | 7. D  |
| 3. A | 8. J  |
| 4. I | 9. C  |
| 5. M | 10. E |

Part II: True/False (30 points)

- |      |       |       |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. F | 6. T  | 11. T |
| 2. T | 7. F  | 12. T |
| 3. T | 8. F  | 13. T |
| 4. T | 9. F  | 14. F |
| 5. F | 10. T | 15. F |

Part III: Fill-in (20 points)

- |                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. fire         | 6. squire        |
| 2. his mother   | 7. Silas         |
| 3. finger marks | 8. William Dane  |
| 4. Sunday       | 9. Nancy         |
| 5. Godfrey      | 10. Lantern Yard |

**SILAS MARNER**

**TEACHING NOTES**



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