

SILAS MARNER

—T.S. Eliot

Silas Marner, published in 1861, is a dramatic novel following the life of Silas Marner and his path from an embittered outsider to a proud father and respected citizen.

Chapter 1

Introduction

Silas Marner, a respected resident of Lantern Yard, is wrongfully accused of theft.

Summary

Silas Marner, a weaver, had come to Raveloe fifteen years ago. He led an isolated and solitary life in his stone-cottage near a deserted stone-pit, away from the village.

He worked at his loom and sold linen to the rich ladies of Raveloe, who appreciated his work and paid him well. The gold coins he earned were his only solace. He did not mix with the people of Raveloe. Not very attractive in appearance, no girl entertained the thought of marrying him. He suffered from cataleptic fits and during such trances, was considered as good as dead. He was acquainted with medicinal herbs, the knowledge of which he had inherited from his mother. No one knew about his past life, that he had come from Lantern yard, where he was a respectable member of the church. He was known for his honesty and wisdom. His friend, William Dane, a little older than himself was equally revered. After some time, he felt he was getting closer to Sarah and got engaged to her to get married. At this point his cataleptic fit occurred during a prayer meeting. According to William, it was a visit from Satan, this naturally shocked and hurt Silas. Sarah did not know what to do, but did not break the engagement.

The senior deacon was taken dangerously ill and being a childless widower, he was looked after day and night by the younger members. Silas Marner and William also took their turns, one relieving the other. One night, Silas observed that the patient's breathing had stopped, the deacon was dead. He wondered why William had not come to relieve him. He came in the morning at six with a minister, who held a knife that belonged to Silas Marner. Someone had also removed the bag with the church money.

Silas was shocked and speechless, he only relied on God to clear his name.

His dear friend William had turned against him and in the search Dane found the empty bag in Silas' Chamber. This treachery hurts Silas deeply. He bore everything with a dignified

silence, after he was condemned guilty as a result of the loss. His church membership was suspended and he lost trust in humans as well as in God. Silently he kept to his loom, hoping to hear from Sarah. The message was brought to him by one of the deacons that Sarah had called off her engagement with him. Silas took it all silently and set to work at his loom. Within a month, Sarah was married to William Dane. After that the folks never saw Silas in town. He had left Lantern Yard forever.

Chapter 2

Introduction

Silas isolates himself from all companionship, focusing on his work instead.

Summary

Silas Marner was completely cut off from the outside world, no human relation whatsoever. In Lantern Yard, he did not earn much. Here in Raveloe he was paid in gold coins for the linen he wove. The gold coins were the only brightness he could experience in life. Otherwise his life was only filled with darkness and gloom. One day he treated Sally Oates by giving her a preparation of foxglove. The relief she had got became the talk of the neighbourhood. This was not liked by Doctor Kimble who thought it was all evil practice.

But Silas Marner's new reputation brought a number of men and women seeking relief for their ailments. All this caused irritation to Silas, even the silver they bought to him did not lure him. As a result, his isolation became even more complete. The gold coins increased into a heap. Silas Marner loved to see the gold he had earned with so much toil. He spent very little of it. In the night, he took out his gold and counted it. It was a favourite pastime and gave him much joy and relief. He concealed his gold in an iron pot which he buried in the brick floor, finally covering it with sand.

Marner had started looking old and withered and the children called him 'Old Master Marner', though he was not yet forty.

Fifteen years passed in Raveloe. Life went on quite monotonously without any change, but change was to come.

Chapter 3

Introduction

The reader is introduced to Squire Cass' two sons, Dunstan and Godfrey.

Summary

The greatest man in Raveloe was Squire Cass. He lived in a large red house. Red House was without a womanly touch, as the Squire had lost his wife and the sons were not yet married. The second son, Dunstan or Dunsey Cass was wayward whereas the eldest Godfrey was noble and kind. People in the neighbourhood did talk about his making a fine pair with the lovely Nancy Lammeter.

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Dunstan, a spoilt youngster had a secret to hide concerning Godfrey. Godfrey had married Molly Farren but could not put up with his drunken wife and was very unhappy. At times Dunsey would keep taking money from his elder brother with the reminder how his secret was well-guarded with him. This time he was asking to sell his prized horse, Wildfire.

Godfrey was most of the time nagged by the tainted past, that could ruin his prospects of inheriting his father's name and fortune. He could not feel normal in Nancy's presence though a joyous life was possible if he could go ahead with her. But the fear of Molly, who could come any time to spill the secret he had concealed so far, always came in the way. Dunstan could manipulate him, as and when he felt like and this time he had taken away Godfrey's horse, Wildfire.

Chapter 4

Introduction

Godfrey fears that his secret will be discovered by his father. After an accident at the hunt, Dunstan pays a visit to Silas' cottage.

Summary

Dunstan Cass sets off in the morning riding on Wildfire, Godfrey's horse. He passed by Stonepit. Here stood the cottage, where Silas Marner had been living for the past fifteen years. Dunstan thought about the money of the miserly weaver. It lay hidden somewhere. His mind dwelt on the money of the weaver for some time.

Dunstan lost Wildfire while fencing. The poor horse breathed his last. On his way back, Dunsey had the weaver's money on his mind. He held Godfrey's whip. The weather favoured Dunsey; it was the mist that screened him. A beam of light guided him to the weaver's cottage. The door was open and the owner was not inside. Dunstan could easily detect the spot, covered with sand. With his whip, he lifted the already loose bricks. There were two leather bags filled with guineas. He quickly replaced the bricks and covered them with sand. He closed the door behind him. Holding the two leather bags full of money and the whip, he disappeared in the darkness.

Chapter 5

Introduction

Silas finds things amiss after returning to the cottage and sets off to the village for help.

Summary

When Dunstan left the cottage, Silas Marner was just a hundred yards away from it. Silas could never dream of the unexpected, that is why he was so defenceless. He was thinking of his supper, feeling tired and hungry. The piece of pork was a present from Priscilla Lammeter, for whom he had carried a beautiful piece of linen.

When he entered his cottage, he did not suspect any untoward happening. His supper was ready and he wanted his gold guineas in front of him. This was the joy that acted like wine, he looked at his gold in front of him and ate his dinner. On removing the bricks, he found the hole empty. His heart felt heavy. He looked all over the place, frantically searching and thinking where else he could have kept his money. The truth that the money was gone was maddening for him. Someone had come and stolen his money. Who could have done so? So far he had never gone out to anyone on a personal basis, now he felt the urgency of going and reporting the matter, so that his money could be restored to him. He rushed out in the rain and headed for the Rainbow, the luxurious resort at Raveloe. The rich and the mighty gathered there.

Chapter 6

Introduction

Some of the villagers gather at the Rainbow, where the landlord is resolving a dispute.

Summary

At the Rainbow, a number of men had gathered and discussed the cow that belonged to the Lammeters, and now had become the butcher's business.

They all discussed. According to Mr Macey, the tailor and the parish clerk, who was suffering from rheumatism, there were two opinions of everything and everyone.

Everyone wanted to hear his viewpoint when any reference to the past was made. He was perhaps the oldest in that region, and had been a witness to almost all the happenings of any consequence. They discussed, how the Lammeters had held their fortune, when they came and settled at the Warrens. Warrens was known as the Charity Land.

They discussed ghosts and if there was any reality associated with them.

Chapter 7

Introduction

Silas Marner's appearance at the Rainbow surprises the farrier. Silas tells his story to the group.

Summary

At this point appeared Silas Marner, like an unearthly figure in the warm light. They wanted to know, what had brought him there. He was robbed was all that he had to say. Jem Rodney was the man he suspected. He requested him to return his money. He said that he would reward him with a guinea and would not press charges. They said it was not Rodney, as he had been in their company there. He could not have committed the theft. This experience, of sharing his personal experience with so many of them was new to Silas. He had always been aloof, to himself and with his loom always. Silas was honest. All suspicion melted away.

It was not Jem Rodney. Silas felt sorry for wrongly accusing him. Silas told them the amount. It was huge. Two hundred and seventy-two pounds. In that rain, accompanied by the landlord and Mr Dowlas, Silas left to see what the morning brought for him.

Introduction

With all the evidence of the crime destroyed, the villagers continue to search for a suspect. Godfrey discovers what has happened to his horse.

Summary

Next morning, the whole village was excited by the story of the robbery. Godfrey also was trying to gather the news about it. The circumstances of the robbery were mysterious. Suspicion fell on a peddler who was wearing earrings.

Godfrey came to know about his horse, Wildfire from Bryce. The horse had been dead. About Dunstan, they thought he must have gone to 'Three Crowns' to gamble.

Godfrey was tormented and had almost made up his mind to make the confession of his own guilt to his father. He wanted to confess before Dunstan revealed his secret. He feared that he would come and bring the whole thing out in an ugly way. He knew of his father's unrelenting nature. The dread of disgrace was coming in the way between himself and Nancy. So, he decided to soften his father's anger against Dunsey. He did not want everything to blow over.

Chapter 9

Introduction

The Squire confronts Godfrey, inquiring about the money he owed and Dunstan's whereabouts.

Summary

In the Red House, Godfrey had his breakfast and he waited for his brothers to finish their meal. The old Squire was yet to have his breakfast.

Godfrey wanted to break the news to his father. He began by telling about Wildfire, his horse.

When the Squire mentioned about his poor financial state, Godfrey did not know whether to proceed with his revelation or not. He told him everything about the incident related to the horse. This was enough to rouse the Squire's anger. He wanted to know where Dunsey was. Godfrey faced his father's anger. He, being the eldest of the four brothers was rather protective about his Dunsey.

The Squire wanted to know if Godfrey was interested in Lammeter's daughter. He also wanted Godfrey to make up his mind, otherwise he would go and ask on his behalf. Godfrey asked him to wait. He did not want to decline the offer, when it seemed within his reach. He left everything to chance and let things take their own course in deciding the direction of his life.

Chapter 10

Introduction

The robbery continues to bring kindness and sympathy to Silas' door. Godfrey looks forward to seeing Nancy once again, but still worries that Dunstan will return to Raveloe.

Summary

Though the robbery had become the talk of the town, the inquiry was very slow. Dunstan Cass's absence was hardly a subject of remark. No one could ever connect Dunsey's disappearance with the robbery occurring on the same day.

Silas so far had remained away from the people of Raveloe. Suddenly, with all the gold gone, he had become the object of everyone's sympathy. He had lost interest in weaving. Filled with grief, he waned to himself. The repulsion grew into kindlier feeling. Christmas close at hand, the cooking was on the wind. All sorts of savouries and sweets were being made.

Mr Macey, the wise old man of Raveloe came to meet Silas. He was full of sympathy for Silas. Another person, Mrs Winthrop, a simple kind lady was full of compassion for Silas. She came to comfort Silas with Aaron her son. She had baked some cakes which she brought along. She also reminded him that it was a Sunday and he must not work on a Sunday, but rather go to Church.

Silas had been to the Chapel at Lantern Yard, but was not inclined to go to the Church at all.

Dolly Winthrop praised her son Aaron's singing. He was a sweet boy, who sang for Silas, coaxed by his mother. Before she left, she asked Silas once again not to work on a Sunday. Silas was relaxed that he could be with himself once again.

His soul had become like a dry river and was full of confusion. Silas spent his Christmas in loneliness. Once upon a time, he was also full of love and trust.

At Squire Cass's family party lots of people had gathered to celebrate the coming New Year's Eve. The Red House prepared for the grand occasion. Young girls came in beautiful dresses to conquer and be conquered. Godfrey Cass was looking forward to this day when he would have Nancy's uninterrupted company. There was anxiety regarding Dunstan as well, who could ruin his happiness.

Chapter 11

Introduction

The reader is introduced to some additional members of the Lammeter family. Godfrey makes a request to Nancy at the Christmas dance.

Summary

Nancy's arrival caused quite a curiosity at the Red House as she was seen as Godfrey's prospective wife and the future mistress of the Red House. They both made a fine couple.

Even among the ladies who had already arrived, Nancy's beauty had aroused considerable curiosity.

Mrs Osgood was Nancy's aunt and Nancy's refusal of Gilvert Osgood had grieved her aunt immensely. Nancy got ready and what a flawless beauty she was! Except for her hands that bore traces of butter-making and Cheese crushing which spoke of their coarseness.

Yet Nancy was very refined, not in the literary sense but the way she treated others, with difference, in her neatness and refined personal habits.

However, her sister Priscilla, five years older could not be called a beauty from any angle. The Squire gave his attention and appreciation to Nancy, which filled her father with pride.

Everyone enjoyed the old songs played by Solomon Macey. Godfrey and Nancy danced together making a fine couple. Godfrey felt it was because of the secret in his heart that he could not speak freely to Nancy.

Chapter 12

Introduction

Molly and her child head for Raveloe, with the intention of revealing Godfrey's secret. Silas awakens to find an uninvited guest in his home.

Summary

The celebrations were going on and Molly, Godfrey's wife, holding her child was moving through the lanes of Raveloe. It was a deliberately planned act on her part. She wanted to present herself and the child and take her revenge. She knew that there would be a great party at the Red House on New Year's Eve. Molly's miserable state was not because of Godfrey's neglect, it was mainly due to her addiction to opium.

She needed comfort. The weather was rough. It was snowing. She fell unconscious, the grip holding the baby loosened. Following the gleam of light the baby came to Silas Marner's cottage and went off to sleep near the hearth. When Silas discovered her, he thought his heap of gold had come back to him. On coming closer, he found that it was infact the golden hair on the head of the child that gleamed near the hearth. After the sleep when the child got up, it was hungry. Silas did everything to make it comfortable. After eating porridge, it seems she directed Silas to the spot where her mother lay partially buried in the snow.

Chapter 13

Introduction

Silas inquires about the identity of the child at the Christmas dance. Silas makes a decision concerning the child, viewing her as a gift rather than a burden.

Summary

Silas holding the baby in his arms; came out of his cottage looking for a doctor. At this time, all had gathered at the Red House. He reached the place where all were gathered. Godfrey was visibly shocked to see his own child in the arms of Silas.

Silas informed them about the woman and told them a doctor was needed. All the ladies looked at the pretty child. Mrs Winthrop was the best in times of need. Godfrey got up to go with them. Fear in his heart, he wanted to make sure. His life, his happiness depended on the outcome of this episode. Dr Kimble declared the woman dead. Godfrey heaved a sigh of relief. Marner, now did not want to give away the child to any one as it was a blessing that had come to him of its own. Godfrey could now go ahead with Nancy in his life.

Chapter 14

Introduction

Molly is laid to rest. Silas' decision is cause for further sympathy from the villagers. Dolly Winthrop lends a hand.

Summary

The robbery at Silas Marner's cottage was forgotten, now the tramp's child was the talk of the town. Women saw Silas in a new light of sympathy. They knew what it was to bring up a child of two years. Dolly Winthrop was ever ready with helpful advice and rendered every possible help to alleviate the difficulties that came in the way of Silas. She brought Aaron's clothes for the child. Silas was quite possessive about the child, and wanted to do everything all by himself. He did not want anyone to come in between himself and the child.

The child was christened Eppie. She filled the life of Silas with colours, beauty, purpose and all that he had not known so far. She was full of life and connected herself with everything around her. Eppie spread happiness everywhere. In the neighbourhood, everyone wanted to cuddle and talk to the child. Silas had so far been cut off from every type of human interaction. Now he came out of his shell. It was as though Silas was growing up along with Eppie. He started looking at the world and the people around him, in a different light. It seemed as if an angel was guiding him from the darkness of loneliness into light and radiance. Life had a new meaning for Silas now.

Chapter 15

Introduction

Eppie continues to bring great joy to Silas. Godfrey continues his courtship of Nancy.

Summary

As Eppie was born, it was Godfrey's duty to give his daughter to his father's duty. The father's duty.

Introduction

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Summary

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Summary

As Eppie was growing under the weaver's care, there was one person who watched keenly. It was Godfrey Cass, Eppie's real father. He was careful not to reveal his strong interests. It was merely the kindness of the young Squire. He wanted to do something to further the welfare of his daughter without arousing any suspicion. Did his conscience prick him? He was not able to give his daughter her birthright. Godfrey Cass was happier now. Dunsey was not going to come back. The path of his happiness lay clear in front of him. He was free to get married to Nancy and in future have his own children. But he would not forget that other child. It was a father's duty.

Chapter 16

Introduction

Eppie, now eighteen, and Silas discuss many plans for the future.

Summary

Sixteen years had passed. It was a bright Sunday morning. Mr Cass and Mrs Cass are there at the church. Time has taken its toll.

Silas Marner is also there, with bent shoulders and white hair. He is fifty-five now. By his side is Eppie who has grown into a lovely looking young lady of eighteen. She is being followed by a good-looking young fellow.

Eppie now wants a little garden with flowers in it. Aaron who has joined them offers to make the garden. Silas learns later that Eppie and Aaron are fond of each other.

Inside the stone-cottage they had decent furniture sent by Godfrey Cass, with the intention that Silas was looking after the orphan girl so he should be helped by those who can afford to do so. Silas had lost his money too. Marner was not so young now. The opinion of the people of Raveloe had also changed. Mr Macey, who was old now, always felt that the lost money of Silas would come back to him.

Eppie was grown up enough to take good care of her father. Silas always thought the gold that he had lost had come back to him in the form of Eppie. She had filled his life with happiness. Gradually Silas had begun to open up about his past. He would narrate his story to Dolly Winthrop, the simple and considerate neighbour always ready to help him. They discussed their faith and their religion. She felt that one must trust and accept whatever comes. Whatever happens, happens for one's good. For Silas, coming of the child in his life had dispelled all the darkness. Silas had told Eppie the truth of her life. Eppie is lost in her thoughts about her mother.

She discusses the garden, how to fence it with stones and the plants they would plant in it. The fields around were being taken over by Mr Godfrey Cass, which belonged to Mr Osgood. Eppie talked about her mother's ring and expressed her desire to have it for her marriage. She also tells him that it was Aaron who wanted to marry her. So did she. Silas now wanted to discuss the matter with Mrs Winthrop, Aaron's mother and Eppie's god mother.

Chapter 17

Introduction

After a discussion with Priscilla, Nancy fears she is the cause of Godfrey's disappointment.

Summary

Nancy had brought a great change in the Red House. All the relics of the past that belonged to the old Squire were kept with reverence.

Priscilla, her sister was looking after their father and the farm.

They would frequently visit Nancy at Red Home to spend time together.

Godfrey had decided to exchange the land with cousin Osgood and start a dairy there.

Nancy and Godfrey were childless and Godfrey could not make peace with the fact.

Nancy looked after the home and other domestic duties. She was dutiful, noble and loved her husband and defended him now and then, for she understood how his mind tormented him for his childlessness. He could not reconcile himself to this fact.

For Nancy it was all painful. God did bless her but had taken away the object of blessing as soon as it was born.

She led a regulated life with dedication, devotion and dutifulness.

She had refused to adopt a child because God had not willed it that she should have a child of her own. Adoption of a child would be going against the divine plan.

Godfrey, though had nurtured the desire to adopt Eppie, without realising that Silas would rather part with his own life than part with Eppie. Godfrey Cass could never think of ever revealing the secret of his concealed marriage and the fact that Eppie was his child. Godfrey knew how much pain it would cause to Nancy. He also felt why he could not reconcile to the reality of his being childless. Between the two they had almost stopped discussing this matter.

That afternoon Jane brought tea before tea-time. She described some commotion in the village and that everyone was heading towards it.

Nancy could sense a calm that prevails before a storm.

Chapter 18

Introduction

A discovery is made at the stone pits. Godfrey divulges his secret to Nancy.

Summary

Nancy is thankful when Godfrey entered, but quite shocked to see the state in which he was. He was pale and not himself. He asked Nancy to be seated opposite him. Then he revealed about Dunstan—his brother—who was considered lost and gone, his body had been found, rather his skeleton. He had lain there, wedged between two great stones.

He also revealed that the man who had robbed Silas Marner. All the money had been retrieved. Godfrey had something else to tell her. He made his confession and told her the secret of his life. The woman Marner had found dead in the snow was Eppie's mother and she was his wife. Eppie was his child.

Godfrey expected Nancy to react and prepare to leave him and go to her father. All that she said was why he did not tell her sixteen years ago. Then they could have gone ahead to have the child in their care. Godfrey tells her that he was afraid she would not have married him then. Now, he was prepared to take Eppie and announce to all that she was his daughter. They decide to go to Silas Marner's that very night.

Chapter 19

Introduction

Godfrey and Nancy arrive at Silas' cottage attempting to make amends for the past.

Summary

Eppie and Silas were sitting in the cottage with the gold in front of them that they had once lost. Silas counted his blessings, when there was a knock, answered by Eppie. Mr and Mrs Godfrey Cass had come. They gradually revealed their intention of wanting to take Eppie as their own and take care of her in the years to come.

Silas was pained and did not know how to answer. He urged Eppie to speak. Eppie had sensed her father's suffering. She came forward to convey that she had no intention of leaving her father under any circumstance. Godfrey had not expected this refusal. He just wanted to make up for the mistake in the past. Then he came up with the truth that Eppie was his child and her mother was his wife; and so he had the strongest of all claims on her. Marner wanted to know why he had delayed in doing so. It was a blessing that Eppie had turned at his door, now she was Silas Marner's.

Godfrey felt he had to assert his authority. It was his duty to take care of her. Hearing all this, Eppie was filled with hatred for this new father of hers. Silas was unable to speak. He left all to be said to Eppie. Now Godfrey spoke directly to Eppie. Eppie came forward and in very strong words spurned the offer of a good life. She could not think of leaving her father, Silas. Eppie's mind was made. She was happy where she was. Godfrey and Nancy left after this.

Chapter 20

Introduction

Godfrey, although disappointed by her decision, resolves to help Eppie in any way he could.

Summary

Nancy and Godfrey came home dejected and defeated. At least the two had one another. They had to give up the hope of having Eppie as their daughter. Godfrey accepts Marner's saying that if a man turns away a blessing from his door; it falls to somebody else. It is also decided not to make the fact that she was his daughter, public. It would be of no good to anyone.

Godfrey is pained that the girl had not liked him after she came to know he was her father.

Godfrey reconciles to the fact that he had got Nancy after losing all.

Nancy wants Godfrey to accept his lot and be happy with what he had. Godfrey promises to comply.

Chapter 21

Introduction

Silas pays a visit to Lantern Yard, and is surprised by what he sees.

Summary

Now that Silas had got back the money. He decided to go to his old country along with Eppie. He wanted to find out if his innocence was proved. Eppie was very excited. For Silas it was a visit to his native place after thirty years. It was prison street where Silas felt some familiarity. Eppie though was not very happy to see the place. They arrived in front of a large factory from which men and women were streaming for their mid-day meal. Lantern Yard was not the same any more. It was gone. There was no trace of Mr Paston, the minister.

On his return, he told Dolly about his experience and his despair that he would never know if his name had been cleared or not. Dolly was a simple woman, she sat listening and wanted Marner to accept his fate as the will of God. Silas also agreed that since Eppie had come in his life, light had returned. He could once again trust human relations. As she would be there for him till the end, so will his trust be there till the end.

CONCLUSION

Introduction

With all the villagers in attendance except one (Mr Godfrey Cass who had to go to Lytherley for some urgent work), Eppie marries Aaron.

Summary

The best time in Raveloe for a wedding was when the great lilacs and laburnums were in full bloom. Eppie wore a light dress for her wedding, a white cotton one with tiny pink sprigs.

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It was a gift from Mrs Godfrey Cass. Eppie looked very pretty. As she walked across the churchyard and down the village, she had her husband's arm on one side, the other hand clasped the hand of her father, Silas.

The wedding feast had been arranged by Mr Cass. Priscilla and her father were there to witness the pretty scene. The small wedding procession went on this way. Mr Macey was set in his armchair outside his own door. He was very happy that his prediction had come true. Silas had got back his money. At the Rainbow, the feast was laid and all the guests had gathered. They discussed Marner's good luck, how he had fathered a beautiful motherless child. Ben Winthrop, Aaron's father, was happy and was congratulated by all.

Eppie now had a big garden with lots of flowers. Mr Cass himself looked after the expense. Silas had decided to stay on at the stone-pits. The garden was fenced with stones, and kept open in front for everyone to see the flowers that filled them with happiness. Eppie exclaimed in delight that it was a pretty home filled with happiness.

QUESTION-ANSWERS

1. Describe the ironical situation in which Silas Marner had to leave Lantern Yard.

Ans. Lantern Yard was a congregation of a dissenting protestant sect. It was the home town and birth place of Silas. He lived a happy and contented life there and was even engaged to a girl from the same community – Sarah. He is betrayed by his best friend William Dane who wanting to steal Sarah, Silas' fiancée, falsely accuses him of stealing church money and killing the Deacon. The irony is that Silas loses faith in the house of faith; it leads him to the rejection of humanity. Lantern Yard is a very ironic name because there is more spiritual darkness than illumination there. Here, his belief in God goes through a series of upheavals that he loses his trust in the Church and God. He leaves Lantern Yard for good. [CBSE Delhi 2015]

2. Describe Dolly Winthrop as the most lovable character in George Eliot's 'Silas Marner'.

Ans. Dolly Winthrop was a 'woman of scrupulous conscience'. She was a very warm, generous, spiritual soul. She represents the best of Raveloe, given to visiting folks during serious or sad times in order to cheer them up. When she first visits Silas, she brings him a plate of cakes and begs him to give up weaving at least on Sundays. She tried to be a comfort to Marner during his hard times and eventually becomes an irreplaceable help to him in the raising of Eppie. She also becomes Marner's conversation partner in his search into his own past. She was selfless with her time and energy and loved helping others. Her faith was steady and she was sympathetic towards others. She was instrumental in his transformation from a narrow, selfish, bitter recluse into a truly human, spiritually fulfilled man. [CBSE Delhi 2015]

3. Describe how Silas Marner is betrayed by his friend, William Dane. [CBSE (AI) 2015]

Ans. William Dane was Silas Marner's treacherous friend in Lantern Yard. In order to marry Silas's fiancée, Sarah, Dane decides to cheat on Silas and make him disreputable. While mouthing religious platitudes, he steals money from the church and implicates Marner, thus forcing the latter's exile from the village. By planting Silas' pocket knife at the