

*Bring the Classics to Life*

***Silas Marner***

**LEVEL 2**

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*About the Author*

George Eliot was the pen name of Mary Ann (later Marian) Evans. She was born on November 22, 1819, in Warwickshire, England. After the death of her father in 1849, she moved to London where she met George Henry Lewes and fell in love. Lewes was married, but his wife had left him. With little chance of George being granted a legal divorce, Mary Ann and George Lewes agreed to live together as man and wife. At first, this made them social outcasts but, later, their friends and society accepted their situation. Lewes died in 1878 and, in 1880, Mary Ann married an American banker, J.W. Cross. Soon after, on December 22, 1880, George Eliot died. Her most famous works are *Adam Bede*, *The Mill on the Floss*, and *Silas Marner*.

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## WORDS USED

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### KEY WORDS

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angry	fence	feel	brother	carry
believe	hunt	himself	care	everyone
Christmas	love	hole	push	mud
family	own	place	unhappy	sad
hurt	secret	policeman	wait	same
strange	sell	shout	wife	sister

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### NECESSARY WORDS

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church	brick	accuse	breakfast	chapel
cloth	courage	bar	chance	dance
gold	dead	been	decide	hem
scared	drinks	begins	pay	husband
thief	lie	doctor	peddler	really
thread	married	lock	problem	song
weaving	rich	rainbow	quiet	suit
well	squire	wrong	struggles	Sunday
			truth	ugly

## WORDS USED

Story 86

Story 87

Story 88

Story 89

Story 90

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### KEY WORDS

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bad  
between  
closes  
hair  
keep  
slowly

clothes  
coal  
safe  
ties  
together  
trouble

build  
different  
outside  
real  
ring  
still

ago  
change  
fell  
knock  
lady  
open

beautiful  
building  
dirty  
hope  
return  
should

---

### NECESSARY WORDS

---

child  
daughter  
drugs  
porridge  
sugar

bath  
curious  
loom  
punish  
scissors  
spank

adopt  
custom  
smoke

amazed  
awful  
creek  
duty  
felt  
forgive  
hate (ed)

accept  
mistake  
niece  
parents  
trust  
wedding

# *A Man Called Silas*

## **PREPARATION**

### **Key Words**

<b>angry</b>	(ang' grē)	to feel mad at someone or something <i>Betty got <u>angry</u> when Billy played a trick on her.</i>
<b>believe</b>	(bi lēv')	to think something is true or real <i>I <u>believe</u> the rabbit got into the garden again!</i>
<b>Christmas</b>	(kris' mðs)	the day the baby Jesus was born; December 25th; to many people this is a special day. <i>On <u>Christmas</u> morning, it began to snow.</i>
<b>family</b>	(fam' ə lē)	people who live together, like mothers, fathers, and their children <i>Our <u>family</u> is having a picnic in the park.</i>
<b>hurt</b>	(hért)	1. cause, or caused pain to; wound or wounded <i>When Ricky fell down, he <u>hurt</u> his head.</i> 2. to feel bad about something as in to hurt one's feelings <i>Jill's feelings were <u>hurt</u> when Doug left town without saying good-by.</i>
<b>strange</b>	(strānj)	not heard or seen before; odd; unusual <i>I saw a <u>strange</u> animal at the zoo today; it's called a snow bear.</i>

# *A Man Called Silas*

## *Necessary Words*

<b>church</b>	(chêrch)	a place where people meet to worship God <i>Our family goes to <u>church</u> every week.</i>
<b>cloth</b>	(klôth)	something made of many threads; material Mother made Nancy a dress out of some pretty <u>cloth</u> .
<b>gold</b>	(gôld)	a shiny, bright-yellow precious metal. Gold is used to make coins and jewelry. <i>Larry found a <u>gold</u> coin in his garden.</i>
<b>scared</b>	(skârd)	to make or become afraid <i>The animals were <u>scared</u> of the fire and ran off. The big bear at the circus <u>scared</u> some children.</i>
<b>thief</b>	(thêf)	someone who steals (takes what does not belong to him or her) <i>Robin Hood was a <u>thief</u>; he took money from people.</i>
<b>thread</b>	(thred)	a long, thin string you can make into cloth <i>Mother made me a dress with a needle, <u>thread</u>, and some fine cloth.</i>
<b>weaving</b>	(wêv'ing)	making threads into cloth, straw into hats, or reeds into baskets <i>The old woman liked <u>weaving</u>. She made a lovely basket for me.</i>
<b>well</b>	(wel)	not sick; in good health <i>Suzie does not feel <u>well</u> today.</i>

# *A Man Called Silas*



*Every night, Silas plays with his money.*

**Preview:**

1. Read the name of the story.
2. Look at the picture.
3. Read the sentence under the picture.
4. Read the first three paragraphs of the story.
5. Then answer the following question.

You learned from your preview that Silas is a

- a. family man.
- b. little man.
- c. strange man.
- d. good man.

*Turn to the Comprehension Check on page 10 for the right answer.*

**Now read the story.**

Read to find out why Silas went to Raveloe.

# A Man Called Silas

This is the story of a good man. His name is Silas Marner. He lives alone in a little house in the town of Raveloe. Silas has lived here for 15 years. He makes his living weaving thread into cloth. He has no friends, children, or family. But, he has much money.

People know very little about Silas, so they stay away from him. He knows things other people do not know. That is why people think he is strange. They think he may hurt them or play tricks on them. People want Silas to be just like them.

Silas works all day and plays with his money at night. The money is in gold. Silas works hard for it, but he does not buy much. He does not want much. He just works, eats, and sleeps. And he eats very little.

Before Silas came to Raveloe, he lived in Lantern Yard. He was a happy man. He went to church in town, and he talked to others. He liked a girl. Her name was Sarah. And he had a best friend, William Dane. They were like family to him. Silas and his friend did many fun things with each other.

One day his friend called him a thief. "He took money from another man," William told others. Now the people in town began to believe Silas was a thief. Silas was hurt and scared. He talked to people and told *his* side of the story. But, no one believed him.

"Look in my home," said Silas. "You will not find the money."

So they looked in his house. To the surprise of Silas, they found the money. Then all the people stopped being friends with Silas. And he lost his girl. She began to like his friend better.

Sometimes Silas would cry. He would get angry too. And he began to look old. Then he began thinking, *I must go away. It is time to walk away from this town. I will never be happy here again.*

So Silas said good-by to Lantern Yard and walked to Raveloe.

In Raveloe, Silas never laughs or has fun. He talks to people, but just about weaving and cloth.

People do not like Silas. They are scared of him and where he comes from. They think he has strange looks and ways. And they do not like that he has so much money.

Another thing people do not like about Silas? He *never* goes to church.

But, no one but Silas can weave thread into cloth. So when people want to buy cloth, they talk to him. Other than that, they do not come to see him.

Every night Silas gets the gold bags that he hides near his bed. He sits by the fire and holds his money. He looks at it and it makes him happy. He knows how much money he has---right down to the penny!

For a little time, people in Raveloe wanted to believe that

Silas made people well. Once, Silas gave a woman brown water and she got better. Soon, many people came to his home. They asked them to make their children well.

But, Silas did not know how. He said, "I can't make your children better."

The people got angry. They did not believe Silas. Many people said angry words. "Silas is no friend. He will not help our children!"

People stopped coming to Silas' house. Now, Silas is alone again. No one comes around to eat with him. No one comes around to talk with him. No one asks him to go to a party. No one asks him to take a walk.

But Silas got used to all that. Now he wants to be alone. He sees his money grow. It makes him happy. Every day he puts more money in his bag of gold. To him, money is like a fine, spring day. He likes it as much as a pretty flower garden or a parade.

But around Christmas time, Silas will get something much better than money. Around Christmas time, he will get a surprise. It will bring him many friends.

# A Man Called Silas

## COMPREHENSION CHECK

Choose the best answer.

1. Silas Marner lives  
 a. alone.  
 b. with his family.  
 c. with his girlfriend.  
 d. with his children.
2. Why do people stay away from Silas?  
 a. They think he works too much.  
 b. They think he eats too much.  
 c. They think he is strange.  
 d. He plays tricks on people.
3. Silas  
 a. has no money.  
 b. was once a happy man.  
 c. is a thief.  
 d. has never gone to church.
4. Silas was hurt and scared when  
 a. his girl left him.  
 b. he ran out of work.  
 c. he could not find his gold.  
 d. people called him a thief.
5. Silas believed he would be better off if he  
 a. had a family.  
 b. left town.  
 c. could get his girl back.  
 d. stopped working.

**Preview Answer:**

d. a good man.

6. How does Silas get his money?  
 a. He weaves thread into cloth.  
 b. He weaves baskets for a living.  
 c. He finds gold.  
 d. He's a thief; he takes from others.
7. People only come to see Silas when  
 a. they need a good laugh.  
 b. they need money.  
 c. they need cloth.  
 d. they want to have fun.
8. The people of Raveloe got angry with Silas. They believed  
 a. he turned their water brown.  
 b. he hurt their children.  
 c. he would not help their children get well.  
 d. he told too many stories.
9. Another name for this story could be  
 a. "The Man With No Friends."  
 b. "Mr. Money Bags."  
 c. "A Christmas Surprise."  
 d. "Angry Words."
10. This story is mainly about  
 a. a man who has no money.  
 b. a man who has no friends.  
 c. a man who does not like children.  
 d. the strange people of Raveloe.

Check your answers with the Key on page 67.

# *A Man Called Silas*

## **VOCABULARY CHECK**

angry	believe	Christmas	family	hurt	strange
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### ***I. Sentences to Finish***

***Fill in the blank in each sentence with the correct key word from the box above.***

1. Do you \_\_\_\_\_ in Santa Claus?
2. Has your \_\_\_\_\_ been to the circus?
3. Jamie found a little dog under the tree last \_\_\_\_\_.
4. It was very \_\_\_\_\_ to see the cat and squirrel getting along.
5. Mother was \_\_\_\_\_ with Luther for painting the cat.
6. “Don’t pull the puppy’s tail, you can \_\_\_\_\_ him,” said Mother.

### ***II. Words of the Same Meaning***

***From the box above, choose the word which means the same as the one(s) underlined in the sentence. Write the correct word on the line after the sentence.***

1. Billy looks odd; unusual in his mother’s dress. \_\_\_\_\_
2. I want to think something’s real that all people are good. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Tom was mad with Philip for going to the game without him. \_\_\_\_\_
4. We are going to help Aunt Lucy put up her December 25<sup>th</sup> tree. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Ricky caused pain to the kitten when he stepped on its tail. \_\_\_\_\_
6. There are twin girls in Heather’s people who live together. \_\_\_\_\_

*Check your answers with the Key on page 69.*