

# *Silas Marner*

## Chapter Review Question

### Chapters 1-2

- 1. What do the first few chapters of *Silas Marner* tell us about Raveloe? Why do they look on Silas with suspicion?**

The novel opens in the English countryside “in the days when the spinning-wheels hummed busily in the farmhouses.” In this era one would occasionally encounter weavers—typically pale, thin men who looked like “the remnants of a disinherited race”—beside the hearty peasants who worked in the fields. Because they possessed a special skill and typically had emigrated from larger towns, weavers were invariably outsiders to the peasants among whom they lived. The peasants were superstitious people, often suspicious of both “cleverness” and the world beyond their immediate

experience. Thus, the weavers lived isolated lives and often developed the eccentric habits that result from loneliness.

**2. How is Lantern Yard different? The same? Why was Silas happier there?**

Silas was thought of as a man of ardent faith and exemplary life – and Lantern Yard was very much the same. The people did not fear him as much, nor did they judge him as quickly.

**3. Why were Silas and William Dane friends?**

Silas's best friend at the time, William Dane—a seemingly equally devout but arrogant young man—suggested that Silas's fit might have represented a visitation from the devil rather than from God. However, William and Silas understood each other and wanted the same things from life.

**4. Reconstruct the robbery:**

1. Senior deacon was sick
2. Dane never came to relieve Silas of watching over him
3. Silas thought he fell asleep/had a catatonic fit
4. Someone comes in and takes the money (William Dane)
5. Silas's pocket knife shows up in the dresser
6. Empty money bag found in Silas's cottage
  - a. William set it all up

**5. In what ways did Silas lose faith? Is Silas the type of person to be affected by betrayal?**

God, love, people

**6. How did he relive his neighbor's suffering? How did people react?**

Silas notices the cobbler's wife, Sally Oates, suffering the symptoms of heart disease and dropsy, a condition of abnormal swelling in the body. Sally awakens in Silas memories of his mother, who died of similar causes. He offers Sally an herbal preparation of foxglove that his mother had used to ease the pain of the disease. The concoction works, so the villagers conclude that Silas must have some dealings with the occult. Mothers start to bring their sick children to his house to be cured, and men with rheumatism offer Silas silver to cure them. Too honest to play along, Silas sends them all away with growing irritation. The townspeople's hope in Silas's healing power turns to dread, and they come

to blame him for accidents and misfortunes that befall them. Having wanted only to help Sally Oates, Silas now finds himself further isolated from his neighbors.

**7. How did Silas change physically as a result from his long years at the loom?**

**Emotionally?**

He is hunched over, nearsighted, and somewhat pallid. Silas gradually begins to make more money, working sixteen hours a day and obsessively counting his earnings. He enjoys the physical appearance of the gold coins and handles them joyfully. He keeps the coins in an iron pot hidden under the floor beneath his loom, and takes them out only at night, "to enjoy their companionship." When the pot is no longer large enough to hold his hoard, Silas begins keeping the money in two leather bags. He lives this way for fifteen years, until a sudden change alters his life one Christmas.

## Chapters 3-4

**1. What is the author's attitude toward the landowners of Raveloe? Why is wartime glorious?**

The author feels as if Squire Cass is the greatest man in all of Raveloe. Wartime was glorious because the small town earned more money and accrued more interest. Everything always seemed to be at abundance during wartime.

**2. How has Squire Cass raised his sons? What is Godfrey like? Dunsey?**

Squire Cass is acknowledged as the greatest man in Raveloe, the closest thing the village has to a lord. His sons, however, have "turned out rather ill." The Squire's younger son, Dunstan, more commonly called by the nickname Dunsey, is a sneering and unpleasant young man with a taste for gambling and drinking. The elder son, Godfrey, is handsome and good-natured, and everyone in town wants to see him married to the lovely Nancy Lammeter. Lately, however, Godfrey has been acting strange and looking unwell.

**3. Why does the brown spaniel retreat under a chair when Dunsey enters the room?**

Dunsey was intoxicated and had a sad/angry look on his face. The dog probably knew what to do whenever this happens from past experience.

**4. What is Godfrey's problem? What does Dunsey tell him he can do? Would you consider this blackmail?**

The two Cass brothers get into a heated argument over 100 pounds that Godfrey has lent Dunsey—money that was the rent from one of their father's tenants. The Squire is growing impatient, Godfrey says, and will soon find out that Godfrey has been lying to him about the rent if Dunsey does not repay the money. Dunsey, however, tells Godfrey to come up with the money himself, lest Dunsey tell their father about Godfrey's secret marriage to the drunken opium addict Molly Farren. Dunsey suggests that Godfrey borrow money or sell his prized horse, Wildfire, at the next day's hunt. Godfrey balks at this, since there is a dance that evening at which he plans to see Nancy. When Dunsey mockingly suggests that Godfrey simply kill Molly off, Godfrey angrily threatens to tell their father about the money and his marriage himself, thus getting Dunsey thrown out of the house along with him. Dunsey offers to sell Godfrey's horse for him. Godfrey agrees to this, and Dunsey leaves. The narrator then gives us a glimpse of Godfrey's future: the empty, monotonous prosperity of the aging country squire who spends his years drinking

and wallowing in regret. The narrator adds that Godfrey already has experienced this regret to some degree: we learn that Godfrey was talked into his secret marriage by none other than Dunsey, who used the idea as a trap to gain leverage with which to blackmail Godfrey. Godfrey does genuinely love Nancy Lammeter—as the narrator suggests, Nancy represents everything missing from the household in which Godfrey grew up after his mother’s death. The fact that Godfrey cannot act upon his emotions toward Nancy only increases his misery.

**5. Why does Godfrey go along with his brother’s scheme? What does he fear to lose? Why is he so afraid to stand on his own and admit what he has done?**

Godfrey, however, is unwilling to take this step, preferring his uncertain but currently comfortable existence to the certain embarrassment that would result from revealing his secret marriage.

**6. How does Dunsey come to think of Silas Marner? Why does Marner’s hoard suddenly become more important to him than he first thought?**

Passing by Silas Marner’s cottage, Dunsey remembers the rumors about Silas’s hoard of gold and wonders why he has never thought to persuade Godfrey to ask Silas for a loan. Despite the promise of this idea, Dunsey decides to ride on anyway, since he wants his brother to be upset about having had to sell Wildfire and he looks forward to the bargaining and swagger that will be involved in the sale of the horse.

**7. What are the causes of Dunsey’s accident with Wildfire? What connection is there between his confidence and his luck?**

Dunsey meets some acquaintances who are hunting. After some negotiation he arranges Wildfire’s sale, with payment to be handed over upon safe delivery of the horse to the stable. Dunsey decides not to deliver the horse right away, and instead takes part in the hunt, enjoying the prospect of jumping fences to show off the horse. However, Dunsey jumps one fence too many, and Wildfire gets impaled on a stake and dies.

**8. What is Dunsey’s reaction to the accident?**

No one witnesses the accident, and Dunsey is unhurt, so he makes his way to the road in order to walk home.

**9. Why is Dunsey able to find Marner’s gold so easily? Why is this ironic?**

When Dunsey passes Silas's cottage just after dusk and sees a light on through the window, he decides to introduce himself. To his surprise the door is unlocked and the cottage empty. Tempted by the blazing fire inside and the piece of pork roasting over it, Dunsey sits down at the hearth and wonders where Silas is. His thoughts quickly shift to Silas's money and, looking around the cottage, Dunsey notices a spot in the floor carefully covered over with sand. He sweeps away the sand, pries up the loose bricks, and finds the bags of gold. He steals the bags and flees into the darkness.

## Chapters 5-7

**1. Why had Silas left home? Why had he left his door unlocked? What gave him a false sense of security?**

Silas returns to his cottage, thinking nothing of the unlocked door because he has never been robbed before. He is looking forward to the roast pork, a gift from a customer, which he left cooking while he was running an errand.

**2. What was Silas's reaction to the discovery that his gold is missing? Why is he so slow to realize?**

Noticing nothing out of the ordinary, Silas sits down before his fire. He cannot wait to pull his money out, and decides to lay it on the table as he eats. Silas removes the bricks and finds the hole under the floorboards empty. He frantically searches the cottage for his gold, desperately hoping that he might have decided to store it someplace else for the night. He eventually realizes that the gold is gone, and he screams in anguish.

**3. What 2 explanations does Silas see? Why is he so eager to suspect Jem Rodney? What explanation does he fear most?**

Silas then tries to think of what could have happened. He initially fears that a greater power removed the money to ruin him a second time, but banishes that thought in favor of the simpler explanation of a robbery. He mentally runs through a list of his neighbors and decides that Jem Rodney, a well-known poacher, might have taken the gold.

**4. What is amusing about the gather at the Rainbow? About the individual characters?**

The more prominent citizens of Raveloe are all at the birthday dance we saw Godfrey anticipating earlier, so Silas finds only the "less lofty customers" at the tavern. The Rainbow has two rooms, separating patrons according to their social standing. The parlor, frequented by Squire Cass and others of "select society," is empty. The few hangers-on who are normally permitted into the parlor to enlarge "the opportunity of hectoring and condescension for their betters" are instead taking the better seats in the bar across the hall, to hector and condescend to their inferiors in turn.

**5. What other characters reveal their natures?**

It begins with an aimless argument about a cow, followed by a story from Mr. Macey about a time when he heard the parson bungle the words of a wedding vow, a story that everyone in the tavern has heard many times before. Macey says that the parson's lapse set him thinking about whether the wedding was therefore invalid and, if not, just what it

was that gave weddings meaning in the first place. Just before Silas appears, the conversation lapses back into an argument, this time about the existence of a ghost who allegedly haunts a local stable. The argumentative farrier, Mr. Dowlas, does not believe in the ghost, and offers to stand out in front of the stable all night, betting that he will not see the ghost. He gets no takers, as the Rainbow's landlord, Mr. Snell, argues that some people are just unable to see ghosts.

**6. How do the villagers react to Silas's news?**

Silas suddenly appears in the middle of the tavern, his agitation giving him a strange, unearthly appearance. For a moment, everyone present, regardless of his stance in the previous argument about the supernatural, believes he is looking at a ghost. Silas, short of breath after his hurried walk to the inn, finally declares that he has been robbed. The landlord tells Jem Rodney, who is sitting nearest Silas, to seize him, as he is delirious. Hearing the name, Silas turns to Rodney and pleads with him to give his money back, telling him that he will give him a guinea and will not press charges. Rodney reacts angrily, saying that he will not be accused.

**7. Why does Silas apologize to Jem?**

The landlord vouches for Jem Rodney, saying that he has been in the inn all evening. Silas apologizes to Rodney, and Mr. Dowlas, the farrier, asks how much money was lost.

**8. Why does the farrier volunteer to go? Why do the other object?**

Silas apologizes to Rodney, and Mr. Dowlas, the farrier, asks how much money was lost. Silas tells him the exact figure, which is more than 270 pounds. Dowlas suggests that 270 pounds could be carried out easily, and he offers to visit Silas's cottage to search for evidence, since Silas's eyesight is poor and he might have missed something. Dowlas also offers to ask the constable to appoint him deputy-constable, which sets off an argument. Mr. Macey objects that no doctor can also be a constable and that Dowlas—whose duties as a farrier including the treatment of livestock diseases—is a sort of doctor. A compromise is reached wherein Dowlas agrees to act only in an unofficial capacity. Silas then leaves with Dowlas and the landlord to go to the constable's office.



## Chapters 5-8

- 1. The villagers seem to enjoy their roles as detectives. What clues are uncovered? What suspicious are aroused? Who is a suspect?**

By morning, everyone is discussing the robbery, and Godfrey and other residents of the village visit Silas's cottage to gather evidence and gossip. A tinder-box is found on the scene and is suspected to be somehow connected to the crime. Though a few villagers suspect that Silas is simply mad or possessed and has lied about the theft, others defend him. Some townspeople suspect that occult forces took the money, and consider clues such as the tinder-box useless. The tinder-box reminds Mr. Snell, the tavern landlord, of a peddler who had visited Raveloe a month before and had mentioned that he was carrying a tinder-box. The talk among the townspeople turns to determining the peddler's appearance, recalling his "evil looks" and trying to determine whether or not he wore earrings. Everyone is disappointed, however, when Silas says he remembers the peddler's visit but never invited him inside his cottage.

- 2. Why doesn't anyone suspect Dunsey? What does Godfrey assume?**

Godfrey, remembering the peddler as a "merry grinning fellow," dismisses the stories about the peddler's suspicious character. Silas, however, wanting to identify a specific culprit, clings to the notion of the peddler's guilt.

- 3. How does Godfrey find out about Wildfire? Why does he dread telling Cass?**

Bryce tells him, he doesn't want to tell because he is afraid of the reaction.

- 4. What decision does Godfrey make? Why does he do?**

He wants to come clean to his father about everything, but only tells of Wildfire and the money?

- 5. What kind of person is the squire? What is his opinion of his sons?**

Godfrey tells his father about Wildfire and about how he gave the rent money to Dunsey. His father flies into one of his rages and asks why Godfrey stole from him and lied to him for Dunsey's sake. When Godfrey is evasive, the Squire comes close to guessing the truth. The Squire goes on and on, blaming his current financial troubles on the overindulgence of his sons. Godfrey insists that he has always been willing to help with the management of his father's estate.

**6. Who first mentions Nancy Lammeter? What does the Squire think? What is Godfrey afraid he will do?**

Squire changes the subject, complaining about Godfrey's waffling over whether to marry Nancy Lammeter. The Squire offers to propose for Godfrey, but Godfrey is again evasive and refuses the offer. Afterward, Godfrey is not sure whether to be grateful that nothing seems to have changed or uneasy that he has had to tell more half-truths. Though Godfrey worries that his father might push his hand and force him to refuse Nancy, as usual, he merely places his trust in "Favourable Chance," hoping that some unforeseen event will rescue him from his predicament.

## Chapters 9-10

- 1. What is ironic about GE's Justice Malam? What inquire does he set on foot? What are the villager's opinions about the robbery?**

He keeps the conversation about the robbery open. He asks about the peddler but nothing is revealed. Some villagers still suspect him while others think it may involve the occult.

- 2. What is "the blank" that Silas must fill? How do the neighbors help him?**

Weeks pass with no new evidence about the robbery and no sign of Dunsey. No one connects Dunsey's disappearance with the theft, however, and the peddler remains the primary suspect, though some still insist that an inexplicable otherworldly force is responsible. Silas is still inconsolable, and passes the days weaving joylessly. Without his money, his life feels empty and purposeless. He earns the pity of the villagers, who now think of him as helpless rather than dangerous. They bring Silas food, call on him to offer condolences, and try to help him get over his loss. These efforts are only mildly successful. Mr. Macey subjects Silas to a long and discursive speech about coming to church, among other things, but gets little reaction and leaves more perplexed by Silas than before.

- 3. Why is Dolly different from everyone else? Why is she drawn to him? What does she urge him to do?**

Another visitor is Dolly Winthrop, the wheelwright's wife, a selfless and patient woman. Dolly brings her son Aaron and some of her famed lard-cakes. She encourages Silas to attend church, particularly since it is Christmastime. When she asks if he has ever been to church, Silas responds that he has not; he has only been to chapel. Dolly does not understand the distinction Silas is making—nor, in any significant way, does Silas.

- 4. How does Silas react? Why does he keep giving Aaron cake?**

Wanting to show his gratitude for the visit, all Silas can think to do is offer Aaron a bit of lard-cake. Aaron is frightened of Silas, but Dolly coaxes him into singing a Christmas carol. Despite his gratitude, Silas is relieved after the two have left and he is alone to weave and mourn the loss of his money.

- 5. What is ironic about church and chapel?**

They are practically the same thing.

**6. Godfrey looks forward to new Year's Eve with mixed feelings. What does he long for? What does he fear?**

The Casses hold a family Christmas party that night, and invite the Kimbles, Godfrey's aunt and uncle. All evening Godfrey looks forward longingly to the Squire's famed New Year's dance and the chance to be with Nancy. The prospect of Dunsey's return looms over Godfrey, but he tries to ignore it.

# Chapter 11

- 1. First impressions of Nancy Lammeter? What's her attitude toward Godfrey? Why does she blush when she sees him try to lift her off her horse?**

Nancy Lammeter and her father arrive at the Red House for the Squire's New Year's dance. The trip over slushy roads has not been an easy one, and Nancy is annoyed that she has to let Godfrey help her out of her carriage. Nancy thinks she has made it clear that she does not wish to marry Godfrey. His unwelcome attention bothers her, though the way he often ignores her bothers her just as much.

- 2. What do the Gunn sisters think of Nancy?**

The Gunn sisters, who come from a larger town and regard Raveloe society with disdain. Mrs. Osgood, an aunt of whom Nancy is fond, is also among the women. As she puts on her dress for the dance, Nancy impresses the Gunn sisters as a "rustic beauty"—lovely and immaculate but, with her rough hands and slang, clearly ignorant of the higher social graces.

- 3. What kind of person is Priscilla? What impression does she make? What are her views on men and marriage?**

Priscilla arrives and complains about how Nancy always insists they wear matching gowns. Priscilla freely admits she is ugly and, in doing so, manages to imply that the Gunns are ugly as well. However, Priscilla insists that she has no desire to marry anyway. When Nancy says that she doesn't want to marry either, Priscilla pooh-poohs her.

- 4. Why does Nancy insist that she and Priscilla dress alike?**

Nancy knows she will look better in comparison.

- 5. Why does Nancy blush on entering the Cass's parlor? How does the Squire act towards her? How does Godfrey?**

When they go down to the parlor, Nancy accepts a seat between Godfrey and the rector, Mr. Crackenthorp. She cannot help but feel exhilarated by the prospect that she could be the mistress of the Red House herself. Nancy reminds herself, however, that she does not care for Godfrey's money or status because she finds him of unsound character. She blushes at these thoughts. The rector notices and points out her blush to Godfrey.

- 6. What more do you learn about the Squire in this chapter?**

Though Godfrey determinedly avoids looking at Nancy, the half-drunk Squire tries to help things along by complimenting Nancy's beauty. After a little more banter, the Squire pointedly asks Godfrey if he has asked Nancy for the first dance of the evening. Godfrey replies that he has not, but nonetheless embarrassedly asks Nancy, and she accepts.

## *Silas Marner* Review – Chapters 14-15

- 1. How do the villagers react to Silas's decision to keep the child? How does the child bring Silas closer to the villagers?**

They are surprised, but they are sympathetic toward his plight and want to help him if at all possible.

- 2. How does Dolly Winthrop help Silas with the child? Why does he not want her to help him too much?**

Dolly is particularly helpful, offering advice, giving him clothing outgrown by her own children, and helping to bathe and care for the girl. Silas is grateful but makes clear that he wishes to learn to do everything himself, so that the little girl will be attached to him from the start. Silas remains amazed by the girl's arrival and continues to think that in some way his gold has turned into the child.

- 3. For whom is Eppie named? What memories in Silas does she stir? How does she make him "grow" with her?**

Dolly tells him to come up with a name for her and he suggests Hephzibah, the name of his mother and sister. Dolly is skeptical, saying that it doesn't sound like a "christened name" and is a little long. Silas surprises her by responding that it is in fact a name from the Bible. He adds that his little sister was called Eppie for short.

- 4. How is Silas's life changed by Eppie? How does he feel when she disappears? Why is his attempt at punishment of Eppie amusing?**

Eppie and Silas are baptized together, and Silas finds that the child brings him closer to the other villagers. Unlike his gold, which exacerbated his isolation and did not respond to his attentions, young Eppie is endlessly curious and demanding. Her desires are infectious, and as she hungrily explores the world around her, so does Silas. Whereas his gold had driven him to stay indoors and work endlessly, Eppie tempts Silas away from his work to play outside. In the spring and summer, when it is sunny, Silas takes Eppie to the fields of flowers beyond the stone-pit and sits and watches her play. Silas's growth mirrors Eppie's, and he begins to explore memories and thoughts he has kept locked away for many years. Eppie escapes from the cottage and goes missing for a while, though she is soon found. Despite his relief at finding her, Silas decides that he must be

stern with Eppie. His use of the coal-hole is ineffective, however, as Eppie takes a liking to the place.

- 5. What effect does Dolly Winthrop have on Silas's thinking? Do you think she helps Silas more than she helps Eppie? What do you think of her advice and her warnings? Explain.**

Dolly works to make Silas more socialized. He has a better relationship with everyone in the town because they see he is doing such a great job with the young girl. Silas, in turn, takes an active interest in the town, wanting to give Eppie all that is good in the village. Moreover, Silas no longer hoards his money. Since his gold was stolen, he has lost the sense of pleasure he once felt at counting and touching his savings. Now, with Eppie, he realizes he has found something greater.

- 6. Godfrey remains in the background during all the excitement about the orphan child. Does he make any effort to help? How does he feel about the way things have turned out? Why?**

Godfrey makes very little effort, though he does give small gifts here and there. He is happy with the way things have turned out and he thinks he did a favor to everyone involved.



# Silas Marner Chapters 16-18

- 1. How many years have passed between Part I and Part II? What changes have taken place in Silas? In Godfrey? In Nancy?**

Sixteen years have passed between part I and part II. Godfrey has married Nancy, and though they have aged well, they no longer look young. Squire Cass has died, but his inheritance was divided after his death, and Godfrey did not inherit the title of Squire. Silas Marner is also in the departing congregation. His eyes have a more focused look than they did before, but otherwise he looks quite old for a man of fifty-five. Eppie, eighteen and quite pretty, walks beside Silas, while Aaron Winthrop follows them eagerly. We learn that the townspeople always note Godfrey's kindness toward Silas and Eppie with approval and that they now regard Silas as an "exceptional person." Mr. Macey even claims that Silas's good deed of adopting Eppie will bring back the stolen gold someday. Silas's adoption of Raveloe customs such as smoking, the narrator tells us, is matched by a growing acknowledgement of his own past. Silas has gradually been telling Dolly Winthrop the story of his previous life in Lantern Yard. Dolly is intrigued and puzzled by the customs he describes. They both try to make sense of the practice of drawing lots to mete out justice, and attempt to understand how Silas could have been falsely convicted by this method.

- 2. What is Eppie like as a young woman? What does she reveal about herself in what she says? In what she does? How has her life with Silas made her different from the village girls?**

Eppie tells Silas that she wants a garden, and Aaron offers to dig it for them. They decide that Aaron should come to their cottage to mark it out that afternoon, and that he should bring his mother, Dolly. Silas and Eppie return to the cottage, which has changed greatly since we last saw it. There are now pets: a dog, a cat, and a kitten. The cottage now has another room and is decorated with oak furniture, courtesy of Godfrey.

- 3. Where have we seen Aaron before in the novel? Why is he a good choice for Eppie? How does he feel about her? How does she feel about him? What kind of life do you foresee for them?**

Aaron is Dolly's son, and we have seen him be nice to Silas throughout the novel. He is a good choice for Eppie because he is somewhat wholesome and can stick up for her. Eppie adds that Aaron has offered Silas a place to live in their household if they are married. Eppie says she is reluctant, as she does not want her life to change at all, but Silas tells her that she will eventually need someone younger than he to take care of her. Silas suggests that they speak to Dolly, who is Eppie's godmother, about the matter.

**4. When Dolly Winthrop heard the story of Silas's past, what was her reaction to the lottery? To William Dane? What did she feel Silas should have done?**

She is outraged by it all and thinks that Silas should have rebelled.

**5. By suddenly shifting scenes, George Eliot points up the contrast between life at Silas's cottage and life at the Red House. What is the most striking difference? What does Godfrey want? How has he been disappointed? Why can Nancy bear the disappointment so much more calmly?**

Everything from the way they eat to the way they hold themselves is different. The discussions are more formalized and less gossipy.

**6. Why had Nancy opposed adopting a child? Do you think her reasons were good? Why does she now regret her firmness? Is she more sorry for her own sake or for Godfrey's?**

She has been adamant in her resistance, insisting that it is not right to seek something that Providence had withheld and predicting that an adopted child would inevitably turn out poorly. Nancy's unyielding opposition to adoption is not based on any particular reasoning, but simply because she feels it important to have "her unalterable little code." Godfrey's argument—that the adopted Eppie has turned out well—is of no use. Never considering that Silas might object, Godfrey has all along specified that if he and Nancy were to adopt, they should adopt Eppie. Considering his childless home a retribution for failing to claim Eppie, Godfrey sees adopting her as a way to make up for his earlier fault.

**7. How is Dunsey's body discovered? How did he die? Why is this discovery such a shock to Godfrey?**

Dunsey's body is discovered in the stone pit behind Silas's house, where he must have fallen into after he ran out. It is obviously clear that he stole Silas's money. Godfrey is greatly shaken by the discovery, and it convinces him that all hidden things eventually come to light.

**8. Why does Godfrey finally reveal his secret to Nancy? Did she react as expected? Why?**

Godfrey goes on to make his own confession, telling Nancy of his secret marriage to Molly and of Eppie's true lineage. Nancy responds not angrily but instead with regret, saying that had she known the truth about Eppie, she would have consented to adopt her six years before. Nancy and Godfrey resolve to do their duty now and make plans to visit Silas Marner's cottage that evening.

**9. What does Godfrey want to do for Eppie? Why does Nancy agree that this is the right thing to do?**

They want to adopt Eppie and take her in as their own.

**10. What do you think will happen when Godfrey and Nancy claim Eppie from Silas Marner?**

# Silas Marner Chapters 19-Conclusion

- 1. How does Silas feel about his money? What does he tell Eppie about how his feelings toward the money have changed?**

Silas muses about the return of his money and reconsiders the events that have passed since he lost it. He tells Eppie how he initially hoped she might somehow turn back into the gold, but later grew fearful of that that prospect because he loved her more than the money.

- 2. What does Silas say just before Godfrey and Nancy arrive? What effect do his words have on Eppie?**

Silas tells Eppie how much he loves her, and says the money has simply been “kept till it was wanted for you.” She responds that if not for Silas, she would have been sent to the workhouse. Eppie then knows how much she really does mean to Silas.

- 3. Why does Godfrey state his proposal awkwardly? What is Eppie’s reaction? What does it provoke Godfrey to real?**

Godfrey tells Silas that he wants to make up to Silas not only for what Dunsey did, but also for another debt he owes to the weaver. Godfrey tells Silas that the money is not enough for him to live on without continuing to work. Silas, however, argues that though it might seem like a very small sum to a gentleman, it is more money than many other working people have. Godfrey says that Eppie does not look like she was born for a working life and that she would do better living in a place like his home. Silas becomes uneasy.

- 4. How does Silas answer Godfrey? Do you think his answer is a statement of George Eliot’s own view? Who do you think has the right to Eppie? Why?**

Eppie sees that Silas is distressed, though Silas tells her to do as she chooses. Eppie tells Godfrey and Nancy that she does not want to leave her father, nor does she want to become a lady. Godfrey insists that he has a claim on Eppie and confesses that he is her father. Silas angrily retorts that, if this is the case, Godfrey should have claimed Eppie when she was a baby instead of waiting until Silas and Eppie had grown to love each other. Not expecting this resistance, Godfrey tells Silas that he is standing in the way of Eppie’s welfare.

- 5. Do you think Eppie makes the right decision? What effect does it have on everyone?**

I think Eppie does make the right decision because she was raised by Silas when it mattered most.

- 6. Why was Godfrey going to make public that Eppie was his child? Why does he change his mind? What has he learned from the incident?**

I think because he has no children of his own and wants to have someone in his life. He learns that sometimes he cannot worm his way out of his mistakes.

**7. Why does Silas return to Lantern Yard? What change does he find there? Why does this change suggest has happened?**

The next morning Silas tells Eppie that he wants to make a trip to his old home, Lantern Yard, to clear up his lingering questions about the theft and the drawing of the lots. After a few days' journey, they find the old manufacturing town much changed and walk through it looking for the old chapel. The town is frightening and alien to them, with high buildings and narrow, dirty alleys. They finally reach the spot where the chapel used to be, and it is gone, having been replaced by a large factory. No one in the area knows what happened to the former residents of Lantern Yard. Silas realizes that Raveloe is his only home now, and upon his return tells Dolly that he will never know the answers to his questions.

**8. How do Godfrey and Nancy contribute to Eppie's wedding? Why does Godfrey go away at the time of the wedding?**

Among other improvements, a large and impressive garden has been built at Godfrey's expense.

**9. Man critics consider Eppie's closing words too sentimental. Do you agree? Why?**