

CHAPTER 1

Just outside the village of Raveloe, in an old stone house, there lived a **weaver**. He was a strange, lonely man, with wild brown eyes. He didn't mix with the villagers, and they didn't trust him because he had fits. When this happened, he stood, with his eyes open, but he seemed to be asleep. He knew how to use plants as medicine, and the villagers thought he might be **evil** because he didn't go to their church. The weaver's name was Silas Marner. The men of the village met in the village pub, *The Rainbow*, and they discussed the weaver.

'What do you think of Silas Marner?' asked Mr Snell, the pub owner.

'He's a strange one,' said Mr Lammeter. 'He's a skilled weaver, but he doesn't want to make friends with us.'

'Where did he come from?' asked an old man.

'Nobody knows,' said Mr Snell. 'Far away, and he speaks with a strange accent. He's not from here.'

'He seems to do magic with those plants, and I don't trust a man who doesn't come to church,' said Dr Kimble.

weave (verb) to make cloth

weaver (noun) a person whose job is weaving

evil (adjective) bad or unpleasant



*The men of the village met in the village pub, The Rainbow,
and they discussed the weaver.*

Silas Marner was born in a big city in the north of England. He grew up with his best friend, William Dane, and he was **engaged** to his first love, Sarah. All three attended a local **chapel**. The **chapel-goers** knew about Silas Marner's fits and they thought God sent them because he was a good man.

Once, an elderly neighbour became very ill and Silas and William stayed with him at night time; Silas first and William later. One night, William did not arrive for his time with the old man. Silas fell asleep and, when he woke up, the man was dead.

The next day, the chapel leader came to see Silas. 'You must be **honest** with me, Silas,' he said. 'Our neighbour died last night while you were with him. Today, we found that his money has gone. Did you **steal** it?'

Silas was shocked. 'No, sir, I have never stolen anything in my life!' he said. 'You can ask my good friend, William.'

'We have asked William,' said the chapel leader. 'He believes you stole the money.'

Silas couldn't believe his ears. Did William think he was a thief? How could he trust his friend again?

engaged (adjective) having formally agreed to marry

chapel (noun) a small church

chapel-goer (noun) someone who often goes to church or chapel

honest (adjective) good and always telling the truth

steal (verb) to take something from a person or a place without permission



*The next day, the chapel leader came to see Silas.
'Did you steal the money?' he asked Silas.*

The chapel leader searched Silas's room, and he found the dead man's empty money bag. 'How did the bag get here?' thought Silas. 'Maybe I had a fit. I'm sure I didn't steal it. How can I face Sarah? The bag was in my room, and William won't help me. Will Sarah believe me?'

Silas was confused and **frightened** to speak to Sarah. He didn't want to lose her. He didn't speak to anyone. He stopped going to chapel and stayed at home. One month later, he heard the news that Sarah was married to William. Silas Marnier was **heartbroken**. He left his home city and travelled south to the village of Raveloe.

Raveloe was the opposite of the big northern city. There were no factories or traffic. It was green and **peaceful**. Fruit grew on the trees and animals fed in the fields. Silas moved into an old stone house and started to weave for the villagers. It was the only skill he had and he wanted to do it well. He didn't think about the money he earned. Even in his new home, Silas couldn't trust anyone. He stayed in his house weaving and didn't mix with the villagers. He worked hard, so he earned good money.

frightened (adjective) afraid; scared

heartbroken (adjective) very sad

peaceful (adjective) quiet and calm; pleasant

Silas didn't need much money, so he made a leather bag and began to save his gold in it. He hid it in a hole under the floor. When there was too much money, he made another bag. He loved to look at his gold and count his money, so he developed the habit of taking it out every night.



He loved to look at his gold and count his money.

He put it on the table, touched it and looked at it. He didn't want to buy things with his money. He just wanted to keep it.

Fifteen years passed, and nothing much changed for Silas Marner in Raveloe. But his love of money grew and grew. Around Christmas, in the fifteenth year of Silas Marner's stay in Raveloe, something happened that changed his life **forever**.

forever (adverb) for all time; always

VOCABULARY QUIZZES

Quiz-1

Choose the correct adjectives to fill in the gaps.

pale	miserable	unreliable	curious	shy
peaceful	engaged	married	honest	race
heartbroken	frightened	guilty	silent	

1. The couple were on Christmas Eve. Then, they married at Easter.
2. The girl was of spiders and insects.
3. I always tell the truth and am very with everyone.
4. The judge told the thief that he was and sent him to prison.
5. The old man was always and always complaining.
6. The clock was It was always slow.
7. I hid and watched him. I was to see where he went.
8. The man listened. No sound at all. The city was
9. He hid behind his mother when I spoke to him.
He is such a boy.
10. Scotland is always and quiet and it helps me to relax.
11. They were in a small church at the end of the lane.
12. He turned when he saw the ghost at the window.
13. She lost the by just one second.
14. "If I lost my cat, I would be absolutely,," she said.