

# SILAS WARNER

## "Silas Warner" and Its Author as Enjoyed by High School Sophomores

"Silas Warner," a novel, was written by George Eliot while in Florence getting material for her historical novel, "Romola." The setting is in Central England in the early part of the nineteenth century and the chief characters are Silas Marner, Eppie, Godfrey and Nancy.

The author begins her story after Silas has been in Raveloe 15 years. In the first chapter she tells of his coming and life in Raveloe during his 15 years and then skillfully passes back and tells the incidents which lead up to his coming from Antern Yard, his old home. She then brings in Godfrey and lets us see his character by his conversation with his brother, Dunsey. In this chapter she also lets us know of Godfrey's secret marriage which puts him in Dunsey's power. She then has the gold stolen from Marner and Dunsey to disappear. The theft brings Marner closer to his neighbors and they think kinder of him. On New Year's Eve a dance is given at the Red House and Godfrey's neglected wife, knowing of it, sets out with her child to disclose his marriage to her and to disgrace him before the crowd. But the author skillfully has her fall to the snow a few yards from Marner's Cottage. Marner opened the door to look out and is about to close it when a fit comes over him and the child attracted by the light tumbles in and falls asleep by the fire. When Marner comes out of the fit he sees the door and walks toward the fire where he saw the child's golden curls, and thinking that it was his money he stooped to pick it up and found out what it was. He took the child to the door and upon seeing the tiny footprints, followed them until he found the woman. He then hastened to the Red House for the doctor but the woman was dead, and to the astonishment of Raveloe, Marner kept the child. The author then passes over many years and reopens the story when Eppie is 13 years old and is engaged to Aaron. The stone-pits are drained and Dunsey's body is found with Marner's gold. The money is returned to Marner and Godfrey confesses that Eppie is his daughter. Eppie married Aaron and Marner lives with them.

I like the story because it is made so interesting by the conversation, description and the portrayal of baby nature.

JACOB ABRAMORWITZ.

The Author of "Silas Marner." George Eliot, the name by which Marian Evans, a great English novelist, is known, was born in Warwickshire, England, November 22, 1819. After reading "Silas Marner" I consider George Eliot a very good novelist. She makes her characters real and makes them do what they naturally would do. Her words are simple and direct, she does not hold one's interest by suspense but by conversation and dialog. Although the book is a work of art the author gives moral lessons all the way through and from this we learn that George Eliot was a person of high ideals of honor and integrity. She seems to be very familiar with the working class of England. This enables her to write of this time very well. The only fault I find with her is that she sometimes puts her own ideas into her works, instead of letting a character in her book think it.

George Eliot had a very strong character, was well educated and was a wide reader. She was first married to G. W. Lewes and after his death in 1878 she married John W. Cross in 1880. She died December 22 of the same year.

KATHERINE KONIG, Sophomore III.

"Silas Marner": An Appreciation. I have just finished reading "Silas Marner," for the second time. I like it as well now as I did the first time I read it. The story is one that never grows old and each time you read it you find something new to interest you.

The dignity of the "gentry" and the wit and humor of the villagers are alike natural. You feel as if the characters are real flesh and blood people. Just watch Eppie as she drops her little courtesies. Is she not attractive? And who hasn't seen dozens of good motherly women like Dolly? I like "Silas Marner" for a good many reasons most important of which is its beauty, simplicity and unity. It is beautiful because it gives so much real pleasure. Not the kind of pleasure that makes you scream with mirth, but the kind that makes you feel at peace with all the world. It has simplicity because it has characters that are unnecessary. Nothing is superfluous yet there is nothing left out.

Then there is unity to the story for the same reasons that there is simplicity. "Silas Marner" has no confusing details; every incident and every character is absolutely necessary. The theme is not tucked on in the last chapter, as an afterthought, but is woven in word by word from the very beginning to the end of the story.

MARY LEE POWELL, Sophomore II.

Conversation in "Silas Marner." George Eliot has used conversation more than anything else in "Silas Marner" to describe and show us the natures of the characters we are reading about. When we read the conversation between Godfrey and his brother we know just how mean their dispositions are. We know how angry and weak the elder brother is and how reckless and tormenting the younger one is. Then the conversation of the crowd at the Rainbow is different altogether and we get the humor and wit of the villagers. Here only a few words of description are used, but we are made

to know the queer characters of the butcher, the farmer, the landlord and Mr. Macey, by the witty and humorous conversation. At the party at the Red House the blunt manner of Priscilla Lammetter is shown in her conversation and in her humorous remarks. One in particular, when she says to the proud Miss Gunns, "For I am ugly, there's no denying that. But, law, I don't mind, do you, Miss Gunns?"

Several other characters have used conversation, among them are Dolly Winthrop, Silas Marner and Eppie, who will always be remembered in her babyhood by the cunning expression, "Eppie in de toad hole."

MADGE CAVENAUGH.

Dolly. When Silas' money is stolen Dolly Winthrop is the first to prove herself a real friend to him. She visits him accompanied by her little boy, Aaron, but finds that he is not inclined to be sociable. When Eppie comes the world is changed for him and naturally the child needs a woman's care, so Dolly quickly offers her advice and service. She has a large influence on Eppie's religious life as she is the first one to suggest that the child be christened and brought up in the church. All during Eppie's life she is constantly under Dolly's supervision. Dolly largely influences Silas' life as she talks to him of his past life on many occasions, and of misfortune that has befallen him. When Silas is falsely accused of crime he loses his faith, not only in man, but in God, and it is due largely to Dolly that he at last trusts these words, "I think I shall trusten till I die."

I cannot say too much of her philosophy, only that it is simple and to the point. Morally, she couldn't be better, and in my opinion she is one of the most interesting characters in the story.

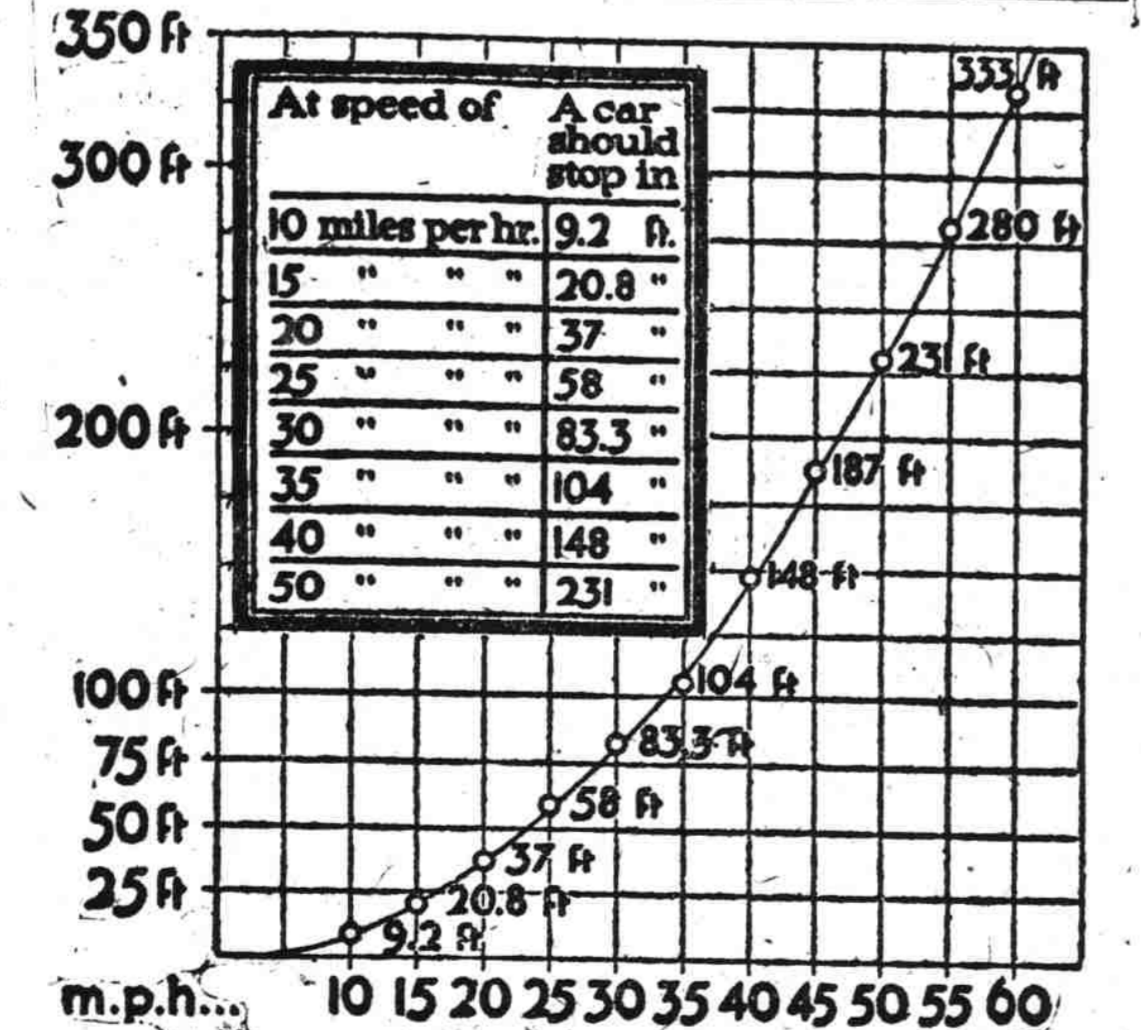
MILDRED HUTAFF.

The Humor of the Villagers. The humor of the villagers in "Silas Marner" is very keen, especially that of the group at the Rainbow Inn. At night, when this group of men were gathered over their drinks they would joke and laugh at each other with a different sense of humor than people now do. They made jokes on each other which in our day would be almost considered an insult. This group of men, however, did not mind any of the jokes, but all laughed together.

Mr. Macey, the parish clerk, is, I think, one of the most humorous of the characters in the story. Although he is a very old man and has been clerk for many years, he has a very keen sense of humor. He does not like the deputy clerk, Mr. Tookey, very much and always takes part in any jest against him. His remark about the two opinions a man can have, I think, is very humorous.

In chapter six especially we see the humor of these men. The scene is so realistic we can almost feel like we are in the Inn listening to the conversation. We can see the "puffing their pipes in silence with an air of severity" and "staring at each other as if a bet depended on the first man who winked." We also feel all their superstitions when they are afraid to go to the Warrens for fear of seeing ghosts. George Eliot, by her humor, does not make us laugh, but only smile. I think that I would like to have been at a few

### TRY THIS ON YOUR AUTOMOBILE



### THERMOID BRAKE INSPECTION CHART

The up-to-date motorist must know in what space he can stop his car. The average motorist, experts say, uses his brakes from 20,000 to 30,000 times a year. Two-thirds of the motor accidents, they say, occur when cars are traveling less than 12 miles an hour. Bad brakes are said to be the cause of most of the accidents with which the motoring world is charged. Out of these conditions has come a nation-wide movement to have motorists inspect their brakes at regular intervals, so as to be sure they are in perfect condition. In connection with this movement, a chart has just been completed by experts, who have been testing hydraulic compressed brake lining regarded as the best kind for general use under varied conditions on account of its moisture-resisting

of the Rainbow gatherings myself. GEORGE M. MURPHEY, March 1, 1918.

"Silas Marner," the Book. Babyhood, manliness, cowardice, mischief, avarice, simplicity (and ignorance are some of the pictures George Eliot in her book, "Silas Marner," gives to us in her characters. She describes to us so plainly and yet so unconsciously, babyhood—Eppie a baby with golden ringlets and dimples. She tells all of the childish pranks and the positions that baby is in so that you can but feel that you're in the same room with Eppie. Manliness and avarice she takes up in one man, the principal character in the book. He is first a miser, hoarding his gold in secret places. Then he loses his gold and instead of getting it back he gets Eppie. He puts his faith in God again, although he is poor he faces life bravely. In cowardice she has two brothers, Godfrey and Dunstan Cass—Godfrey, because he does not own his own child, and Dunstan because he would steal an old man's gold and away with it instead of being a real man. Simplicity and love are taken up in most all of the characters, but mostly in Dolly Winthrop, who cares for Eppie and loves her as her own child. Then there is the ignorance and narrow-mindedness of the uneducated people. Mr. Macey is a kind old fellow, but on account of his ignorance has no tact, and when he thinks he's comforting a soul he only makes it all the worse. Dolly Winthrop is ignorant and narrow-minded, but is not so tactless as Mr. Macey, and she really comforts people.

George Eliot's book, "Silas Marner," is very good on the whole, and the period in which it is written is what I like. She is wonderfully witty and knows so very much about human nature.

KATHERINE REHDER, Sophomore III.

A bough may be broken by good, sweet fruit, but a mortal is rarely affected that way.

## HAVE DARK HAIR AND LOOK YOUNG

Don't stay gray! Nobody can tell when you darken gray, faded hair with Sage Tea and Sulphur.

Grandmother kept her hair beautifully darkened, glossy and attractive with a brew of Sage Tea and Sulphur. Whenever her hair took on that dull, faded or streaked appearance, this simple mixture was applied with wonderful effect. By asking at any drug store for "Wyeth's Sage and Sulphur Compound," you will get a large bottle of this old-time recipe, improved by the addition of other ingredients, all ready for use, at very little cost. This simple mixture can be depended upon to restore natural color and beauty to the hair. A well-known downtown druggist says everybody uses Wyeth's Sage and Sulphur Compound now because it darkens so naturally and evenly that nobody can tell it has been applied—it's so easy to use, too. You simply dampen a comb or soft brush and draw it through your hair, taking one strand at a time. By morning the gray hair disappears; after another application or two, it is restored to its natural color and looks glossy, soft and beautiful. This preparation is a delightful toilet requisite. It is not intended for the cure, mitigation or prevention of disease.—Adv.

### REAL PATRIOTISM.

Negro Porter Buys \$240 Worth of Stamps. (Special to The Dispatch.) Warsaw, April 1.—If Duplin county does not purchase its quota of War Savings Stamps, it will not be the fault of children of the Warsaw school, nor of Rob Miller, colored mail porter here. Bob bought \$240 worth of the stamps at one time, the purchase money being his savings for several years, and he deserves special credit for his patriotic act, because of the fact that he recently lost his house by fire, but Bob says, "I'll help my country now and build my house after the war."

In the school here there was a prize offered for the room which purchased the largest number of stamps. The contest closed Friday and the fourth and fifth grade room, Miss Fannie Best, teacher, received the prize, the amount of stamps which were purchased by and through them being \$1,586. The total amount of the entire school is to date about \$4,600.

Jersey Tries Local Option. Trenton, N. J., April 1.—Local option in New Jersey, under the law passed by the recent Legislature, will have its first test in the State tomorrow, when an election is to be held in the village of Hampton in Hunterdon county. Numerous other towns and cities throughout the State have called elections to be held at an early date, and the anti-saloon workers are looking forward confidently to seeing the saloons abolished from many New Jersey communities before the end of the year.

## Strength and How to Gain It

INSTEAD OF EXERCISES, PATENT FOODS AND MEDICINES, TAKE PHOSPHATE WITH YOUR MEALS.

The demand today is for men and women who are strong in every sense of the word—possessing the physical strength necessary to endure hardships and fatigue; the mental strength to grapple with difficult problems; the nervous force which enlivens the body with vigor and vitality; the will power to triumph over adversity and turn defeat into victory. But such glorious strength is impossible so long as your nerves are weak and exhausted, and therefore if you would be really strong you must first care for your nerves. Weak, exhausted, nervous food, and for this purpose physicians strongly recommend, the use of the organic phosphate known and sold by Bellamy, Green, Jarman and Futrelle and all good druggists as bitro-phosphate and put up in 5 gr. compressed tablets. If you feel your strength is falling from any cause, get a supply of these bitro-phosphate tablets and take one with every meal. Practically all of the minor ailments afflicting mankind, as well as many of the more serious maladies, can be traced to nervous exhaustion and lowered vitality, and probably this explains why such a remarkable improvement in the general health is invariably noticeable when bitro-phosphate is taken as directed, as the nerves are thereby revitalized and made strong.—Adv.

The New Interest Quarter at the American Bank & Trust Co., begins on April 1st. Deposits made on or before April 2nd will bear 4 per cent. compound interest from April 1st.—Adv.

Yet the community guard at the old spring never poisoned anybody.

## Hardly a Drugstore in the Land That Does Not Sell This Remedy

On the Market Half a Century.

When you are in perfect health, and are enjoying a strong and vigorous vitality, it is then that your blood is free from all impurities. You should be very careful and give heed to the slightest indication of impure blood. A sluggish circulation is often indicated by an impaired

appetite, a feeling of lassitude and a general weakening of the system. It is then that you should promptly take a few bottles of S. S. S., the great blood purifier and strengthener. It will cleanse the blood thoroughly and build up and strengthen the whole system. S. S. S. is sold by all druggists. Valuable information about the blood supply can be had free by writing to the Swift Specific Co., 24 Swift Laboratory, Atlanta, Ga.

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## The FOWLER CULTIVATOR Makes More Bread for The Nation

Directions for Operating Fig. 1. In this form the Fowler is used after plowing and harrowing to prepare a seed bed. All the fine soil slips between the upper and lower blades, forming a seed bed which is a perfect mulch. All clods, trash or stones, unable to pass through the narrow space between the upper and lower blades, slide along to the ends of the blades and are left in the middle between the rows. In doing this the upper blades move just above the surface of the ground and act like fenders. No other cultivator will remove from the seed bed all clods, stones and trash and leave a perfectly level surface consisting only of fine soil, which is best to plant the seed. The Fowler is also used in this form, when run deep, to throw up a raised seed bed, completing the bed at one trip through.

Directions for Operating Fig. 2. With the Plow Foot in the center removed the Fowler is used for early cultivation astride the row; barring off and cultivating both sides of the row at one trip through. By the action of the upper blades only the pulverized soil is left on either side of the growing plant. All grass and weeds are cut off and left on the surface to die. The Fowler leaves a perfectly level surface behind it, entirely free from little furrows which would cause washing during heavy rains. In a dry season the fine dust mulch made by this Cultivator conserves the moisture and for receiving even the slightest rainfall. This work astride the row can be done with one horse by hitching to the side clevis.

Directions for Operating Fig. 3. When plants become too large for cultivating astride the row a short Blade is attached on the right to show the fine mulch prepared by previous cultivations to the roots of the growing plant. In this case the Plow Foot is replaced and the long Blade on the left destroys all weeds and further pulverizes the soil between the rows. Note that the upper blades are taken off for this work. As all trash and clods have been removed from the proximity of the plants by the previous cultivations astride the row nothing is now left within reach of the short Blade but a fine dust mulch which is thrown to the roots. The clods and trash previously thrown to the middles now slip over the Blade without leaving their place in the center between the rows.

Directions for Operating Fig. 4. For late cultivation, to keep down the final growth of weeds and vines and to break the hard crust forming after rains, only the long lower Blades are used. These Blades move parallel to and above the roots of the crop, which toward maturity come close to the surface. The Cultivator Blades do not injure these roots although completely destroying all grass, weeds and vines. Other cultivators run across the crop roots and deep enough to destroy many of them, making late cultivation with such tools impossible. When crop roots are damaged the energy of the plant is devoted to restoring such roots before further developing either stalk or fruit. It is late cultivation which gives that final complete maturity to the crop so necessary to a maximum yield.

A Strong Guaranty With Each Fowler—It Will Do More Work and Better Than Any Other

Unless otherwise specified the Fowler is shipped with 22-inch Blades which, by means of the expanding lever, can be made to cut various widths of from 30 to 40 inches. The extra Short Blade shown in Fig. 3 is also shipped with every Cultivator. Longer or shorter Blades covering any width from 15 inches to 45 inches will be furnished if preferred.

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