

## Silas Marner

### Vocabulary (Part I: Chapters 8-14)

*Read this list and be familiar with these words before you read chapters 8-14. They will help you to understand the story **the way the author meant to tell it**, allowing you to enjoy the book and read it more smoothly and quickly. These words will appear on vocabulary quizzes and tests, so do not skip this step.*

Word	Example and definition	Chapter
<b>repudiate</b>	... <u>repudiated</u> it as a rather impious suggestion.... repudiated = strongly rejected	8
<b>impious</b>	... <u>repudiated</u> it as a rather <u>impious</u> suggestion.... impious = not pious; lacking reverence for God	8
<b>glazier</b>	...the <u>glazier's</u> wife, a well-intentioned woman, not given to lying, and whose house was among the cleanest in the village... glazier = someone who cuts glass and installs windows	8
<b>sacrament</b>	At the same time, it was understood to be requisite for all who were not household servants, or young men, to take the <u>sacrament</u> at one of the great festivals .... sacrament = the wine/juice or bread in a Christian Communion ceremony	8
<b>implacable</b>	The old Squire was an <u>implacable</u> man: he made resolutions in violent anger, and he was not to be moved from them after his anger had subsided—as fiery volcanic matters cool and harden into rock. implacable = not capable of being placated (appeased)	8
<b>slovenly</b>	His person showed marks of habitual neglect, his dress was <u>slovenly</u> .... slovenly = dirty and unkempt	9
<b>pauper</b>	What with mortgages and arrears, I'm as short o' cash as a roadside <u>pauper</u> . pauper = person who is very poor	9
<b>filial</b>	...what could have caused so strange an inversion of the paternal and <u>filial</u> relations .... filial = relating to the relationship of children to their parents	9
<b>embezzle</b>	And how long have you been so thick with Dunsey that you must <u>collogue</u> with him to embezzle my money? collogue = to conspire or talk secretly	9

<b>embezzle</b>	<p>And how long have you been so thick with Dunsey that you must colloque with him to <u>embezzle</u> my money?</p> <p>embezzle = to secretly steal money you help to manage</p>	9
<b>duplicity</b>	<p>... not being sufficiently aware that no sort of <u>duplicity</u> can long flourish without the help of vocal falsehoods, he was quite unprepared with invented motives.</p> <p>duplicity = being one way and then another way; deception; lying</p>	9
<b>prevaricate</b>	<p>...he had entangled himself still further in <u>prevarication</u> and deceit.</p> <p>prevarication = be deliberately ambiguous or unclear in order to mislead or withhold information; or make false statements</p>	9
<b>shirk</b>	<p>Let him live outside his income, or <u>shirk</u> the resolute honest work that brings wages.</p> <p>shirk = avoid, particularly to avoid a responsibility or duty</p>	9
<b>infallible</b>	<p>... his religion will <u>infallibly</u> be the worship of blessed Chance, which he will believe in as the mighty creator of success.</p> <p>infallibly = never wrong; or never failing</p>	9
<b>deprecate</b>	<p>The evil principle <u>deprecat</u>ed in that religion is the orderly sequence by which the seed brings forth a crop after its kind.</p> <p>deprecated = belittled or disapproved</p>	9
<b>capacious</b>	<p>Justice Malam was naturally regarded in Tarley and Raveloe as a man of <u>capacious</u> mind...</p> <p>capacious = large in capacity</p>	10
<b>cessation</b>	<p>... weeks passed away, and there was no other result concerning the robbery than a gradual <u>cessation</u> of the excitement it had caused in Raveloe.</p> <p>cessation = a stopping</p>	10
<b>congenial</b>	<p>... he saw him continually in some <u>congenial</u> haunt...</p> <p>congenial = agreeable or compatible</p>	10
<b>adherent</b>	<p>...the <u>adherents</u> of the inexplicable more than hinted that their antagonists were animals....</p> <p>adherents = people who holds to and spreads a belief or doctrine</p>	10
<b>antagonist</b>	<p>... the adherents of the inexplicable more than hinted that their <u>antagonists</u> were animals....</p> <p>antagonists = someone who offers opposition or is hostile</p>	10
<b>bereaved</b>	<p>Silas himself was feeling the withering desolation of that <u>bereavement</u> about which his neighbours were arguing at their ease.</p> <p>bereavement = a person who has suffered the death of someone they loved</p>	10

<b>adulterate</b>	I suppose one reason why we are seldom able to comfort our neighbours with our words is that our goodwill gets <u>adulterated</u> , in spite of ourselves, before it can pass our lips.  adulterated = corrupted or made less good by adding a foreign or inferior substance	10
<b>discursive</b>	During this <u>discursive</u> address Silas had continued motionless in his previous attitude....  discursive = digressing (departing from the main point), or arriving at a conclusion by reason rather than intuition, as in a <i>discursive</i> essay	10
<b>requisite</b>	At the same time, it was understood to be <u>requisite</u> for all who were not household servants, or young men, to take the sacrament at one of the great festivals....  requisite = anything necessary or required for a particular purpose	10
<b>exposition</b>	Poor Dolly's <u>exposition</u> of her simple Raveloe theology fell rather unmeaningly on Silas's ears....  exposition = a detailed explanation or background of a specific topic	10
<b>diffident</b>	And then the red faces made their way through the black biting frost to their own homes, feeling themselves free for the rest of the day to eat, drink, and be merry, and using that Christian freedom without <u>diffidence</u> .  diffidence = hesitancy and unassertiveness due to a lack of self-confidence	10
<b>omission</b>	The annual Christmas talk was carried through without any <u>omissions</u> ...  omissions = something left out that should have been included	10
<b>irascible</b>	Whereupon cards followed, with aunt Kimble's annual failure to follow suit, and uncle Kimble's <u>irascibility</u> concerning the odd trick which was rarely explicable to him....  irascibility = easily angered	10
<b>paltry</b>	...the feast was not to end with a single evening, like a <u>paltry</u> town entertainment, where the whole supply of eatables is put on the table at once, and bedding is scanty.  paltry = insignificant in amount or quality	10
<b>precedence</b>	Mrs. Ladbrook was ... curtsying and smiling blandly and saying, "After you, ma'am," to another lady in similar circumstances, who had politely offered the <u>precedence</u> at the looking-glass.  precedence = to be prior to something else in time, order or importance	11
<b>suave</b>	She approached Miss Nancy with much primness, and said, with a slow, treble <u>suavity</u> — "Niece, I hope I see you well in health."  suavity = having a sophisticated charm — often said of a man who is not sincere	11
<b>profane</b>	Miss Nancy, indeed, had never been to any school higher than Dame Tedman's: her acquaintance with <u>profane</u> literature hardly went beyond the rhymes she had worked in her large sampler under the lamb and the shepherdess...  profane = showing no respect for something thought of as sacred	11
<b>veracity</b>	... the clear <u>veracious</u> glance of the brown eyes ...  veracious = truthfulness	11

<b>baseless</b>	<p>...she was slightly proud and exacting, and as constant in her affection towards a <u>baseless</u> opinion as towards an erring lover.</p> <p>baseless = without a basis in reason or fact</p>	11
<b>disavow</b>	<p>...the modest calm of Nancy's speech and manners told clearly of a mind free from all <u>disavowed</u> devices.</p> <p>disavowed = to refuse to have knowledge of, responsibility for, or association with</p>	11
<b>adroit</b>	<p>... she was so instinctively neat and <u>adroit</u> in all her actions, and her pretty lips met each other with such quiet firmness, that it would have been difficult for her to appear agitated.</p> <p>adroit = skillful</p>	11
<b>canvass</b>	<p>...not one of those miserable apothecaries who <u>canvass</u> for practice in strange neighbourhoods, and spend all their income in starving their one horse, but a man of substance ...</p> <p>canvass = get the opinions (of people) by asking specific questions; or solicit votes</p>	11
<b>vivacious</b>	<p>Here the <u>vivacious</u> doctor made a pathetic grimace.</p> <p>vivacious = having an engaging liveliness — when said of a person, typically said of a female</p>	11
<b>patronage</b>	<p>"Here, Solomon," said the Squire, with loud <u>patronage</u>.</p> <p>patronage = support or favor given</p>	11
<b>variegated</b>	<p>... fathers in large <u>variegated</u> waistcoats...</p> <p>variegated = having a variety of colors</p>	11
<b>nether</b>	<p>...ruddy sons, for the most part shy and sheepish, in short <u>nether</u> garments and very long coat-tails.</p> <p>nether = located below or beneath something else</p>	11
<b>levity</b>	<p>It was not thought of as an unbecoming <u>levity</u> for the old and middle-aged people to dance a little before sitting down to cards, but rather as part of their social duties.</p> <p>levity = lightheartedness (feeling amusement or a lack of seriousness)</p>	11
<b>presto</b>	<p>Mr. Macey screwed up his mouth, leaned his head further on one side, and twirled his thumbs with a <u>presto</u> movement as his eyes followed Godfrey up the dance.</p> <p>presto = musical tempo that is very fast</p>	11
<b>carp</b>	<p>"Ah, Mr. Macey, you and me are two folks," said Ben, slightly indignant at this <u>carping</u>.</p> <p>carping = repeatedly complaining</p>	11
<b>premeditated</b>	<p>This journey on New Year's Eve was a <u>premeditated</u> act of vengeance ....</p> <p>premeditated = to plan or consider before doing — especially of a crime</p>	12

<b>reprove</b>	Just and self-reproving thoughts do not come to us too thickly, even in the purest air.... reproving = criticizing or critical	12
<b>indolent</b>	She had set out at an early hour, but had lingered on the road, inclined by her indolence to believe that if she waited under a warm shed the snow would cease to fall. indolence = laziness	12
<b>torpor</b>	But the complete torpor came at last: the fingers lost their tension, the arms unbenet; then the little head fell away from the bosom, and the blue eyes opened wide on the cold starlight. torpor = inactivity resulting from lethargy and lack of vigor or energy	12
<b>peevish</b>	At first there was a little peevish cry of "mammy", and an effort to regain the pillowing arm and bosom; but mammy's ear was deaf, and the pillow seemed to be slipping away backward. peevish = easily irritated or annoyed	12
<b>inarticulate</b>	It clung round his neck, and burst louder and louder into that mingling of inarticulate cries with "mammy" by which little children express the bewilderment of waking. inarticulate = unable to express oneself clearly; or not expressed clearly	12
<b>influx</b>	Silas sank into his chair powerless, under the double presence of an inexplicable surprise and a hurrying influx of memories. influx = arrival of many people or other things	12
<b>extricate</b>	... his imagination had not yet extricated itself from the sense of mystery in the child's sudden presence .... extricated = freed or removed from constraint or difficulty	12
<b>profligate</b>	...(he) turned up a mean trump-card with an air of inexpressible disgust, as if in a world where such things could happen one might as well enter on a course of reckless profligacy. profligacy = to spend money recklessly or wastefully; or a person who does so regularly	13
<b>matrimony</b>	He stood aloof, because he wished to avoid suggesting himself as a subject for the Squire's fatherly jokes in connection with matrimony and Miss Nancy Lammeter's beauty, which were likely to become more and more explicit. matrimony = marriage	13
<b>explicit</b>	He stood aloof, because he wished to avoid suggesting himself as a subject for the Squire's fatherly jokes in connection with matrimony and Miss Nancy Lammeter's beauty, which were likely to become more and more explicit. explicit = expressing sexual activity in a detailed manner	13
<b>vagrant</b>	Some vagrant—quite in rags. vagrant = someone who is poor and has no regular home or job	13
<b>subterfuge</b>	"And I'd got to dance with the other Miss Gunn," said Godfrey, glad of the subterfuge his uncle had suggested to him. subterfuge = something intended to misrepresent the true nature of an activity	13

<b>white lie</b>	<p>The prevarication and <u>white lies</u> which a mind that keeps itself ambitiously pure is as uneasy under as a great artist under the false touches that no eye detects but his own, are worn as lightly as mere trimmings when once the actions have become a lie.</p> <p>white lies = unimportant lies (especially when told to be polite or helpful)</p>	13
<b>meritorious</b>	<p>When we are treated well, we naturally begin to think that we are not altogether <u>unmeritorious</u>, and that it is only just we should treat ourselves well, and not mar our own good fortune.</p> <p>unmeritorious = undeserving</p>	13
<b>iterate</b>	<p>Silas Marner's determination to keep the "tramp's child" was matter of hardly less surprise and <u>iterated</u> talk in the village than the robbery of his money.</p> <p>iterated = to be done again</p>	14
<b>propensity</b>	<p>...the mischievous <u>propensities</u> of children...</p> <p>propensities = an inclination to behave in a certain way</p>	14
<b>observance</b>	<p>... Silas, making himself as clean and tidy as he could, appeared for the first time within the church, and shared in the <u>observances</u> held sacred by his neighbours.</p> <p>observances = conformity with law or custom or practice</p>	14
<b>incompatible</b>	<p>Sorely was poor Silas puzzled on such occasions by the <u>incompatible</u> demands of love.</p> <p>incompatible = not going well together</p>	14
<b>descry</b>	<p>But the grass was high in the meadow, and there was no <u>descrying</u> her, if she were there, except by a close search that would be a trespass on Mr. Osgood's crop.</p> <p>descrying = catch sight of</p>	14
<b>vicarious</b>	<p>So Eppie was reared without punishment, the burden of her misdeeds being borne <u>vicariously</u> by father Silas.</p> <p>vicariously = experienced secondhand</p>	14
<b>measles</b>	<p>Everywhere he must sit a little and talk about the child, and words of interest were always ready for him: "Ah, Master Marner, you'll be lucky if she takes the <u>measles</u> soon and easy!</p> <p>measles = an acute and highly contagious viral disease marked by distinct red spots followed by a fever and rash; occurs primarily in children and can have permanent debilitations.</p>	14