

Silas Marner Vocabulary (Part I: Chapters 15-21)

*Read this list and be familiar with these words before you read chapters 15-21. 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.*

keener	... who watched with keener though more hidden interest ... keener = more interesting	15
jocosely	Godfrey himself, when asked <u>jocosely</u> if the day had been fixed, smiled ... jocosely = in a joking or teasing way	15
desist	...Snap occasionally <u>desisting</u> in order to remonstrate with the cat by a cogent worrying growl on the greediness and futility of her conduct.... desisting = stopping	16
remonstrate	...Snap occasionally desisting in order to <u>remonstrate</u> with the cat by a cogent worrying growl on the greediness and futility of her conduct.... remonstrate = argue	16
cogent	...Snap occasionally desisting in order to remonstrate with the cat by a <u>cogent</u> worrying growl on the greediness and futility of her conduct cogent = powerfully persuasive	16
cleave	... there was nobody as cared for me or <u>clave</u> to me above nor below. clave = past tense of <i>cleave</i> , which means "to hold firmly"	16
vitiate	...she was not quite a common village maiden, but had a touch of refinement and fervour which came from no other teaching than that of tenderly-nurtured <u>unvitiating</u> feeling. unvitiating = unweakened	16
ingenuous	"Only this last week, father," said Eppie, <u>ingenuously</u> , "since Aaron talked to me about it." ingenuously = in an innocent manner — as when lacking sophistication or worldliness — especially when being direct and not masking feelings	16
ruinous	The old gentleman had been talking with Godfrey about the increasing poor-rate and the <u>ruinous</u> times, and had not heard the dialogue between his daughters. ruinous = catastrophic or extremely harmful; causing ruin or decay	17
injunction	"Mind you bring Nancy to the Warrens before the week's out, Mr. Cass," was Priscilla's parting <u>injunction</u> injunction = a command from the court — usually to prohibit someone from doing or continuing to do something	17
rectitude	Nancy was silent: her spirit of <u>rectitude</u> would not let her try to soften the edge of what she felt to be a just compunction. rectitude = moral integrity	17
forbearance	... a deeper insight into the relations and trials of life, or which had called on her for some little effort of <u>forbearance</u> , or of painful adherence to an imagined or real duty... forbearance = patience, tolerance, or self-control	17

soliloquy	"I can do so little—have I done it all well?" is the perpetually recurring thought; and there are no voices calling her away from that <u>soliloquy</u> ... soliloquy = a speech you make to yourself or as a long uninterrupted part of a conversation	17
peremptory	"I can do so little—have I done it all well?" is the perpetually recurring thought; and there are no voices calling her away from that soliloquy, no <u>peremptory</u> demands to divert energy from vain regret or superfluous scruple. peremptory = not allowing contradiction or refusal	17
scruples	... no peremptory demands to divert energy from vain regret or superfluous <u>scruple</u> . scruple = an ethical or moral principle that discourages certain kinds of action	17
privation	<i>Had</i> she done everything in her power to lighten Godfrey's <u>privation</u> ? privation = lack of basic things needed to live in a satisfactory manner	17
fallacy	It seemed an eminently appropriate thing to Godfrey, for reasons that were known only to himself; and by a common <u>fallacy</u> , he imagined the measure would be easy because he had private motives for desiring it. fallacy = a form of incorrect reasoning	17
averse	... his own more wavering nature, too <u>averse</u> to facing difficulty to be unvaryingly simple and truthful, was kept in a certain awe of this gentle wife averse = strongly opposed or disliking	17
augur	"Do you think he drowned himself?" said Nancy, almost wondering that her husband should be so deeply shaken by what had happened all those years ago to an unloved brother, of whom worse things had been <u>augured</u> . augure = indicate or predict the future	18
susceptibility	The excitement had not passed away: it had only reached that stage when the keenness of the <u>susceptibility</u> makes external stimulus intolerable susceptibility = the trait of being easily influenced or harmed	19
florid	Silas, always ill at ease when he was being spoken to by "betters", such as Mr. Cass—tall, powerful, <u>florid</u> men, seen chiefly on horseback—answered with some constraint florid = elaborate; with much decorative detail; or a person's reddish complexion	19
penitent	He had been full of his own <u>penitence</u> and resolution to... penitence = feeling sorrow for having done wrong	19
plenitude	Besides, Nancy, used all her life to <u>plenteous</u> circumstances and the privileges of "respectability" plenteous = a full supply	19
decisive	"No," said Godfrey, with a keen <u>decisiveness</u> of tone, in contrast with his usually careless and unemphatic speech... decisiveness = making quick decisions and sticking by them	20
resignation	"My only trouble would be gone if you <u>resigned</u> yourself to the lot that's been given us." resigned = acceptance of something undesired as unavoidable or the lesser of evils	20
certitude	With some difficulty, after many turnings and new inquiries, they reached Prison Street; and the grim walls of the jail, the first object that answered to any image in Silas's memory, cheered him with the <u>certitude</u> , which no assurance of the town's name had hitherto given him, that he was in his native place. certitude = certainty	21