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 **Prestwick House**
Activity Pack
Literature Made Fun!



Silas Marner
BY GEORGE ELIOT



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ISBN 978-1-60389-295-7
Item No. 202155

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Name: _____

Date: _____

Silas Marner

Activity Pack Teacher's Edition

All references come from the Prestwick House Literary Touchstone Classics edition of *Silas Marner*, copyright 2006.

Pre-Reading

Anticipation Guide

Objectives: Analyzing personal values
Anticipating events in a novel

Activity

Answer the following questions. Don't worry. There are no right or wrong answers. These are all concepts that you will encounter when reading *Silas Marner*. You will find it helpful to know where you stand on these issues.

1. Describe how to have a happy life.

2. What are your thoughts about rumors and gossip?

3. Why do people lie when it usually has negative consequences?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapters 1-4**Character Log**

Objectives: Identifying characters in a novel
Recording characters' actions and character traits

Activity

Silas Marner includes many characters. To help you remember each character's part in the novel, keep a CHARACTER LOG where you list important facts about each character. Here are examples of information you may wish to include:

- the character's relationship to Silas or another character
- the character's place in society and occupation
- important quotes by the character
- description of the character
- actions and thoughts of the character
- important character traits

The characters that have been introduced in chapters 1-4 are included on your log. Fill in facts for each character. A few facts about Silas have been provided for you.

As you continue reading the novel, add additional characters and facts to your log. Since there are many minor characters in *Silas Marner*, this log will be valuable when completing writing assignments or studying for tests.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapters 1-4

An Illustrated Summary

Objectives: Understanding the events in a novel
Illustrating scenes from a novel
Analyzing the setting in a novel
Summarizing an event or chapter in a novel

Activity

Working in small groups, write a summary of the events in Chapters 1-4. Then choose a different scene for each group member to illustrate and assign parts of your summary to each drawing.

Here is an example from Chapter One. Important illustrated scenes could include a simple portrait of Silas or Raveloe from Eliot's description, Silas' cataleptic fit in the church, Silas' night-watch with the deacon, the confrontation between Silas and William Dane about the knife, or Silas' visit from the minister and a deacon about his engagement.

Each group member will turn in a drawing and a portion of the summary.

Be creative! Try to complete your illustrations in different ways, such as paintings, sketches, collages, or even multimedia presentations with computer graphics. Share your illustrated summaries with the class.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapters 5-9**Writing Dialogue**

Objectives: Writing dialogue based on facts from a novel
Writing in appropriate dialect
Punctuating dialogue and dialect
Creating character traits for created characters

Activity

Write a dialogue between two or more residents of Raveloe who are not portrayed in the novel. The dialogue should focus on the events that have occurred in either Lantern Yard or Raveloe. Write in the appropriate dialect to make the dialogue seem realistic. Follow George Eliot's style: Use dialect for people in the lower class, and use more formal English for members of the upper class. Begin by listing the incidents you wish to discuss from chapters 1-9, such as Silas' cataleptic fits, his conviction by drawing lots in Lantern Yard, the loss of his fiancée Sarah, his curing of Sally Oates, Dunstan's killing of Wildfire, or Silas' robbery. These are only a few of the incidents that you can refer to in your dialogue.

Then, identify the character traits that you want your characters to possess. Consider their gender, age, job, and family when choosing traits. Your created character may be a relative of the Lammeter's, for example. Finally, write your dialogue, but make sure that each character's traits are revealed through his or her words.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapters 10-11**Setting**

Objectives: Generating a drawing or sketch from physical description and details
Recognizing the importance of setting in a novel

Activity

Choose a scene from *Silas Marner* to illustrate. Create a sketch or drawing from the details and description provided in the setting. Pay careful attention to the background of your drawing. Include typical furniture and decoration of the Victorian time period.

Include all characters in your drawing that are in your scene. Think carefully about their positions and gestures to make the drawing look realistic. A character might throw his or her arms up in panic, for example, or kneel beside another character. In addition, draw appropriate facial expressions on the characters, and consider their ages and dress.

When you are finished with your drawing, share it with your class. Have your classmates try to guess which scene you have described.