**Notes on *Silas Marner:***

**Chapter 1:**

* What is the setting of this story? What kind of place is Raveloe? What are the people like?
* What was Silas’s relationship with the rest of the village? What did the people think of him? Why? (He was a stranger, a weaver, his appearance, rumors about his trance, knowledge of herbs and medicines.)
* What did the people of Raveloe conclude about Silas’s “fit”?
* What do you call it when a story goes back in time to give the reader background? Where does this book start the flashback?
* Where had Silas come from? What kind of group had Silas been a part of there?
* How had the religious group understood the “fit” he had during a service? What was the one exception?
* What was the earthquake that completely dismantled Silas’s life in Lantern Yard?
* How did the betrayal and backstabbing of his friend and church affect Silas? Do you understand what the author says on page 16 about Silas’s inability to separate his beliefs from the actions of his church? What did Sarah do?
* What would you have done if you had been in Silas’s place? Did he have any other alternatives?

**Chapter 2:**

* Describe the difference in attitude toward God and religion between Raveloe and Lantern Yard.
* Moving to a new location can make the past seem unreal…How did moving to Raveloe affect Silas’s belief and thoughts toward God?
* All of Marner’s energy focused on what? (first weaving, then money) Why did money begin to grow more and more important for Silas? What did Silas intend to do with the money? What metaphor does the author use for the money? (unborn children) What are the connotations of this metaphor?
* The effect of his values and lifestyle showed its effects on his person—bentness and withering
* Notice that he retained his honesty
* Did healing Sally Oates improve Silas’s reputation in the community?
* Vocab: loom-p. 21, erudite-p. 24, squire-p. 28, prosaic-p. 39, compunction-p. 40

**Chapter 3**

* This chapter says that Squire Cass was the greatest man in Raveloe…would you have wanted to be a part of his family? Why or why not? What were some of the problems in his household?
* Do you expect most wealthy people to have their act together?
* What were some of Dunstan’s weaknesses? (lack of discipline, drinking, betting, self-centered)
* Why did local people expect more of Godfrey?
* Who can summarize the pieces of the plot that come to light in this chapter? What do we called a story that runs parallel to a novel’s main story? (the money, the blackmailing, the secret marriage, the desire for Nancy, selling Wildfire)
* What do we know of Molly Farron? Godfrey had long liked Nancy; why had he married Molly?
* What did Godfrey have to lose if his secret would be found out? (a disgraced family name, being disinherited, losing land and money, losing Nancy)