***Silas Marner* Notes:**

**Chapter 12**

* What else do we learn about Molly’s background in this chapter? What was her plan here in this chapter?
* Point out the struggle between her addiction and her mother’s instinct
* What was your response to the scene of Molly’s death and the child’s abandonment?
* Why was Silas’s door standing open to the freezing weather?
* What all did the child stir up and bring to life in Silas’s mind?
* The child still showed attachment and affection for Molly in spite of her awful life—isn’t the love of a child amazing? How old was this child?

**Chapter 13**

* When Silas showed up at the Cass party, who recognized the child he was carrying? How long had it been since he had seen the child?
* Describe Godfrey’s reaction
* Remember the saying, “sin will take your farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay”?
* In what ways does Godfrey try to justify his decision to keep his secret hidden?
* Why does Silas want to keep the child?

**Chapter 14**

* What does Dolly want to make sure that Silas does for Eppie? What is christening? How is it different from the baptism that Silas had known about?
* In what ways did Eppie expand Silas’s life? (Eppie is to Silas what water and sunlight are to plants)
* Is Silas’s approach to discipline realistic? Is it possible to go through life without running into trouble and experiencing painful things? Discipline is causing a little pain at the right times in order to help a person avoid much more painful experiences later in life.
* The transformation of Silas’s interaction with the community—children do give people an excuse to talk to you.
* Read last part of chapter-p. 182
* What allusion is used in the last paragraph of the chapter?

**Chapter 15**

* Do you agree with the author’s comment that people with humble stations in life are often happier that the wealthy and prestigious?
* What is this thing about a ring? p. 183
* A hint of what is to come—paragraph on the bottom of p. 183.
* So Godfrey got his life straightened out and was making something of his life, right?

**Chapter 16**

* Have the sixteen year that have passed been good to Silas and Eppie?
* Notice the personification of time, p. 185
* How old would Eppie be now? Who is sweet on her?
* Reconciliation with the past—middle of p. 194; how do we make reconciliation with the past? Discuss the danger of living with unresolved conflict, hurt, or unforgiveness.
* Discuss Dolly’s understanding of how to make sense of the suffering and evil in the world; why does God allow injustice?
* Did Eppie know about her own past?

**Chapter 17**

* Was Nancy a happy woman? A woman at peace? What about Godfrey?
* Did Godfrey and Nancy have a good marriage?
* What were Nancy’s and Godfrey’s perspective on their childlessness? What were their views on adopting Eppie?

**Chapter 18**

* Godfrey’s quote on p. 219. This is a huge moment.
* Godfrey actually humbles himself and asks forgiveness—he is finally going to find freedom.
* Godfrey finds freedom and openness but his regret is so bitter and heartwrenching. Would he have been better off to have cleared himself earlier? Little problems become big problems.