**Notes on *Silas Marner:***

**Chapter 4:**

* How is dealing in horses like dealing in used cars? How did Dunstan do as a salesman?
* What happened to Wildfire?
* Commentary on Dunstan’s character—being more concerned about the immediate than about the long term, p. 46. What actions show Dunstan to be a dunce? (note the parallels between these two words)
* When Dunstan finds Silas’s cottage empty, what does he conclude about Silas?
* What we see happening to Dunstan is a classic example of how the devil leads people into temptation and sin. What is the progression of Dunstan’s thoughts? Does he start out with the intent of stealing the money?

**Chapter 5:**

* Do you agree that our sense of security often comes from the fact that our routines become familiar to us? Where does true security come from?
* Where had Silas gone and why?
* Why was supper Silas’s favorite meal?
* Did you feel sorry for Silas when he discovered the loss? Did you also feel sorry for Dunsey when he lost the horse? Why do you feel sympathy for Silas? (Knowing his history, his sense of weakness, his so-pathetic response to the theft)
* What possibility besides theft occurred to Silas as an explanation for his missing money? Why did theft seem like the most desirable explanation?
* Where did Silas go for help?
* Do you think that this might be a good thing for Silas?

**Chapter 6:**

* What were the two categories of men sitting together at the Rainbow?
* Men at the Rainbow:
	+ Mr. Snell—landlord and the keeper of the peace
	+ Ben Winthrop—wheelwright, big, joker
	+ Mr. Macey—old white-haired man, tailor and parish clerk
	+ Mr. Tookey—young, somewhat insecure deputy clerk
	+ Mr. Dowlas—the farrier, combative, fierce, and ill-tempered
	+ Bob--The butcher

**Chapter 7**

* What caused the people at the Rainbow to believe Silas’s story?
* This is a new kind of interaction between Silas and the Raveloe community—what are some of the ways in which it is new? Read bottom of page 75 (notice the metaphors)
* Whom did some of the Rainbow crowd suspect of the theft?
* Why did the constable (Kench) need a deputy? Who was chosen?