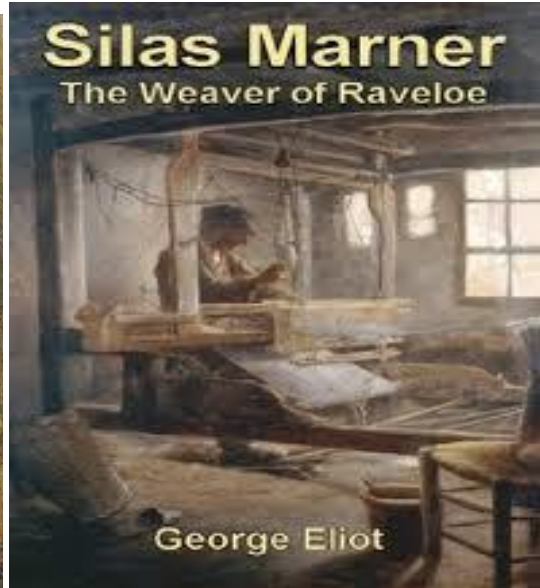


## SILAS MARNER – GEORGE ELIOT



Novelist - George Eliot – 1819 -1880 (Pen Name) Original Name (Mary Ann Evans)  
George Eliot chose to write her novels under a male pseudonym.



Eliot wrote several works of fiction under her pen name. Eliot's best-known works are *The Mill on the Floss* (1860), *Silas Marner* (1861), *Middlemarch* (1872), and *Daniel Deronda* (1876).


### *Silas Marner - The Weaver of Raveloe*

*Silas Marner: The Weaver of Raveloe* is the third novel by Mary Ann Evans, who is known by her pen name George Eliot. It was published in 1861.

## Overview of **Silas Marner**

- **Silas Marner.** : *The Weaver of Raveloe* is the third novel by George Eliot, published in 1861. An outwardly simple tale of a linen weaver, it is notable for its strong realism and its sophisticated treatment of a variety of issues ranging from religion to industrialization to community.

## Characters :

<b>SILAS MARNER</b>	
	<b>Physical Description:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tall, older than he looks, with brown hair and eyes.</li><li>• Described as a 'Spider'</li></ul>
	<b>Characteristics:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Not trusting</li><li>• Reclusive</li></ul>
	<b>Major Events:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Betrayed by Sarah and William</li></ul>

The title character, **Silas** is a solitary weaver who, at the time we meet him, is about thirty-nine years old and has been living in the English countryside village of Raveloe for fifteen years. Silas is reclusive and his neighbors in Raveloe regard him with a mixture of suspicion and curiosity. He spends all day working at his loom and has never made an effort to get to know any of the villagers. Silas's physical appearance is odd: he is bent from his work at the loom, has strange and frightening eyes, and generally looks much older than his years. Because Silas has knowledge of medicinal herbs and is subject to occasional cataleptic fits, many of his neighbors speculate that he has otherworldly powers. Silas is at heart a deeply kind and honest person.

**Godfrey Cass** is the **eldest son of Squire** Cass and the heir to the Cass estate. He is a good-natured young man, but weak-willed and usually unable to think of much beyond his immediate material comfort. As a young man he is secretly married to an opium addict, **Molly Farren**, with whom he had a daughter. This secret marriage and Godfrey's handling of it demonstrate the mixture of guilt and moral cowardice that keep him paralyzed for much of the novel. Godfrey consented to the marriage largely out of guilt and keeps the marriage secret because he knows his father will disown him if it ever comes to light.

**Dunstan Cass** : Godfrey's younger brother. Dunsey, as he is usually called, is cruel, lazy, and unscrupulous, and he loves gambling and drinking.

**Nancy Lammeter** : The object of Godfrey's affection and his eventual wife. Nancy is pretty, caring, and stubborn, and she lives her life by a code of rules that sometimes seems arbitrary and uncompromising.

**Squire Cass** : The wealthiest man in Raveloe. The Squire is lazy, self-satisfied, and short-tempered.

**Dolly Winthrop** : The wheelwright's wife who helps Silas with Eppie. Dolly later becomes Eppie's godmother and mother-in-law. She is kind, patient, and devout.

**Molly Farren** : Godfrey's secret wife and Eppie's mother. Once pretty, Molly has been destroyed by her addictions to opium and alcohol.

**Eppie** : A girl whom Silas Marner eventually adopts. Eppie is the biological child of Godfrey Cass and Molly Farren, Godfrey's secret wife. Eppie is pretty and spirited, and loves Silas unquestioningly.

**William Dane** : Silas's proud and priggish best friend from his childhood in Lantern Yard. William Dane frames Silas for theft in order to bring disgrace upon him, then marries Silas's fiancée, Sarah.

**Mr. Macey** : Raveloe's parish clerk. Mr. Macey is opinionated and smug but means well.

**Aaron Winthrop** : Dolly's son and Eppie's eventual husband.

**Priscilla Lammeter** : Nancy's homely and plainspoken sister. Priscilla talks endlessly but is extremely competent at everything she does.

**Sarah** : Silas's fiancée in Lantern Yard. Sarah is put off by Silas's strange fit and ends up marrying William Dane after Silas is disgraced.

**Mr. Lammeter** : Nancy's and Priscilla's father. Mr. Lammeter is a proud and morally uncompromising man.

**Mr. Kimble** : Godfrey's uncle and Raveloe's doctor.

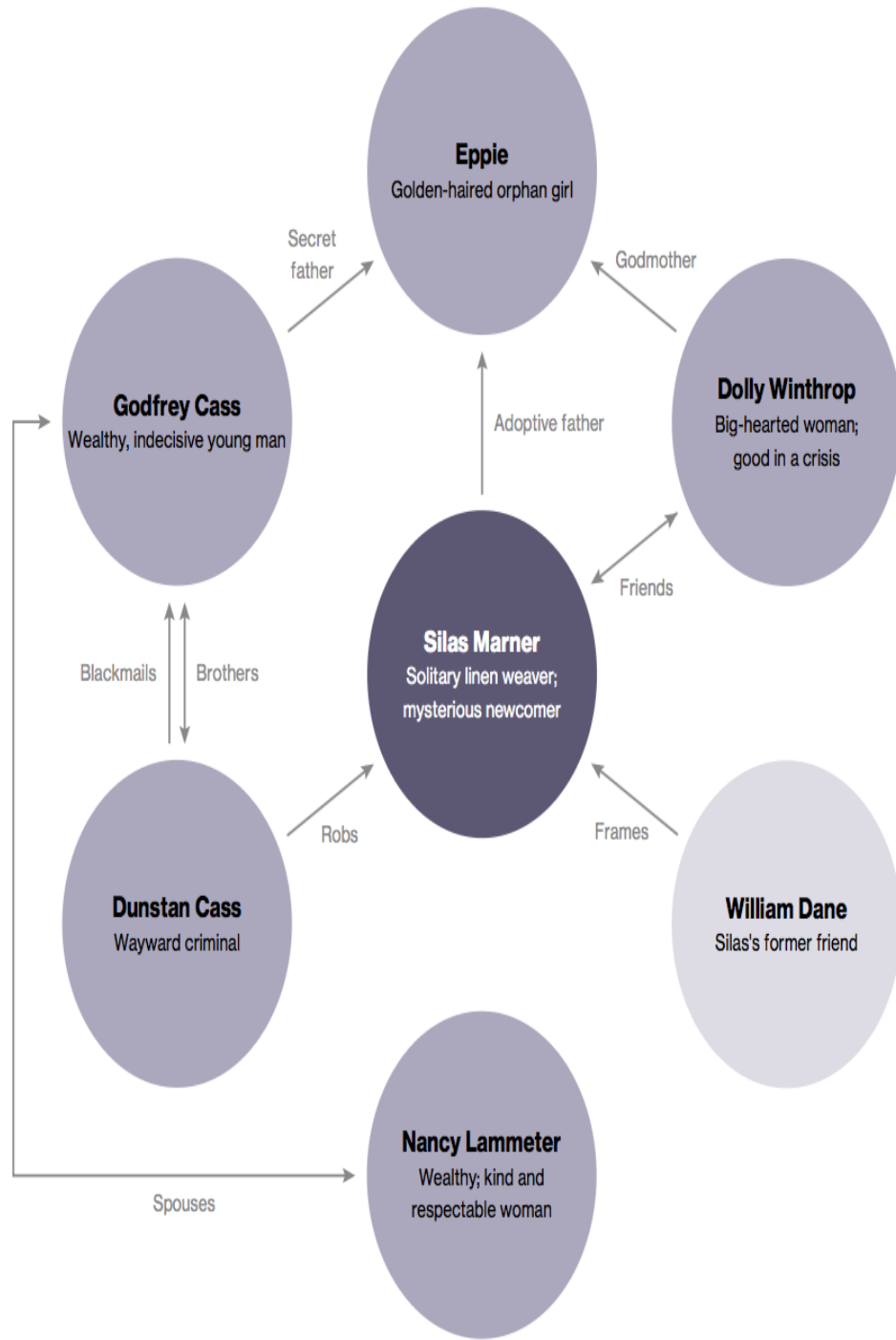
**Mr. Dowlas** : The town farrier, who shoes horses and tends to general livestock diseases. Mr. Dowlas is a fiercely contrarian person, much taken with his own opinions.

**Sally Oates** : Silas's neighbor and the wheelwright's wife. Silas eases the pain of Sally's heart disease and dropsy with a concoction he makes out of foxglove.

## Characters in *Silas Marner*

- *Silas Marner* – a weaver, miser **protagonist**
- *Godfrey Cass* – son of the local squire.
- *Dunstan Cass* – Godfrey's greedy brother with a penchant for alcohol and manipulation.
- *Molly Farren* – Godfrey's first wife who has a child by him. She dies leaving the child.
- *Eppie* – child of Molly and Godfrey who is cared for by Marner.
- *Nancy Lammeter* – Godfrey Cass's second wife.
- *William Dane* – William Dane is Silas's former best friend
- *Sarah* – fiancée to Silas while in Lantern Yard. Married William Dane.

**Setting:** Lantern Yard  
Raveloe



- Main character
- Other Major Character
- Minor Character