

 OSWAAL

Silas Marner

GEORGE ELIOT



**Unabridged Edition
Long Reading Text**

**Prescribed for Class-12
As per latest CBSE Syllabus**

GEORGE ELIOT

Long Reading Text

Silas Marner

**(Unabridged Edition)
Prescribed by the CBSE**

CLASS 12

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PREFACE

Going by the old adage by renowned thinker Francis Bacon, “Reading maketh a full man....,” and to inculcate good reading habits among the children, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has introduced novels for classes IX to XII from the 2012-13 academic session.

In a recent circular issued by the Board, emphasis has been laid on reading novels as this could help children in acquiring important skills of imagination, expression and appreciation of literature. It further states that though all the skills of gaining proficiency in a language are equally important, nevertheless, reading habit helps tremendously in improving comprehension, accuracy, fluency, and in increasing vocabulary.

For class XII, the recommended books are **Silas Marner** by **George Eliot** and **The Invisible Man** by **Herbert George Wells**.

This book on 'Silas Marner' has been designed with utmost care considering the student's need to comprehend the text better. It contains the Original Text from the Novel as well as a Question Bank at the end of every chapter. About the Author, About the Novel and Chapter review for every Chapter is given to facilitate better understanding of the novel. At the end of every chapter, Summative & formative Assessment questions are incorporated which will assist the student in systematic revision of the chapter.

A few Highlights of this book are:

- ▶▶ Original & Unabridged Text along with Chapter Summary for every chapter
- ▶▶ Chapterwise Questions based on understanding.
- ▶▶ Questions based on Character, Plot, Theme, involving interpretation and influence are given in the end.
- ▶▶ The language used in the book is simple and accurate in order to enhance comprehension of the novel
- ▶▶ The book will enable the amalgamation of reading & writing skills of the students

We sincerely hope this book will assist every student in better comprehension of the prescribed novel thereby facilitating examination oriented learning.

We are always open to suggestions for improvement from teachers and students alike!

Wishing you luck for the forthcoming Academic Year.

Publisher

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- Text
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- Glossary
- Analysis
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Silas Marner

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Silas Marner

—George Eliot

(22 November 1819-22 December 1880)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Early Life

Mary Anne was the third child of Robert Evans (1773-1849) and Christiana Evans (nee Pearson) (1788-1836), the daughter of a local farmer.

She was one of the most broadly cultivated women of the century and the foremost English intellectual to practice the craft of fiction. She was born in surroundings that gave no hint of her future brilliance. Mary Ann Evans (George Eliot) was born at South Farm, Arbury, in Warwickshire, in England, on November 22, 1819.

Her mother, Christiana Evans was of yeoman stock and was exceedingly aware of her social superiority over her husband. The birth of Mary Ann had seriously impaired her mother's health, and the child was never her favourite. So Mary Ann modeled herself after her father. As a small child she enjoyed travelling with him in his gig and listening to his conversations with people of business. As readers of the novels of George Eliot are well aware, Mary Ann listened well and remembered nearly all that she heard.

She deliberately chose a male name as her pseudonym given the fact that, in the Victorian period, women authors were expected to write romantic novels and stories. A man's name gave her the assurance that her writing would be taken seriously.

Education

The young Evans was obviously intelligent and a insatiable reader because she was not considered physically beautiful and thus not thought to have much chance of marriage and because of her intelligence her father invested in an education not often offered to women.

After age sixteen, Eliot had little formal education. Thanks to her father's important role on the estate, she was allowed access to the library of Arbury hall, which greatly aided her self-education and breadth of learning. Her classical education left its mark; Christopher Stray has observed that "George Eliot's novels draw heavily on Greek literature

(only one of her books was printed correctly without the use of a Greek typeface), and her themes are often influenced by Greek tragedy". Her frequent visits to the estate also allowed her to contrast the life of the wealthy local landowners with the lives of the often much poorer people on the estate, and different lives lived parallelly would reappear in many of her works. The other important early influence in her life was religion. She was brought up within a low church Anglican family, but at that time the Midlands was an area with a growing number of religious dissenters.

Her Maturity

Soon after her father's death, Marian, then thirty-two years old, met John Chapman, the editor of the *Westminster Review*, a noted intellectual. He invited her to become an assistant editor of the periodical. She accepted the offer and took up residence in London.

In London she soon gained the friendship of some of the leading intellectual personages and writers of the time, such as Herbert Spencer, Tennyson, Dickens, Harriet Martineau, Thackeray, Darwin. Among them was one George Henry Lewes. He was a versatile magazine writer. He was noteworthy even in this eminent group for his personal charm and brilliance of conversation. The friendship between this intellectually daring and wordly man and the intellectually gifted but demure Mary Ann Evans (Marian) grew into love. In fact, their relationship was the primary factor in their lives thereafter.

Major Literary Works

The most significant literary achievement of George Eliot is her series of novels, beginning in 1858 with the publication of *Scenes of Clerical Life* and ending with *Daniel Deronda* (1876). The novels may be considered in three periods :

The novels of the first period, *Scenes from Clerical Life* (1858), *Adam Bede* (1859), *The Mill on the Floss* (1860) and *Silas Marner* (1861), are set in that midland region of England which was her own home during her childhood and youth. The novels deal with aspects of life and the types of characters whose proto-types she had, in some known instances at least, directly encountered in her own life.

The novel of the second period, *Romola* (1863), marks a departure in scene. It is set in Florence during the Italian Renaissance. Here, as in the earlier novels (though less successfully than before), there is the serious and painstaking analysis of human character. A second novel of this period, *Felix Holt* (1866) returns to the Warwickshire scenes which had been so rich a source in her earlier period. However, this novel is uneven and awkward. Like *Romola*, it is less successful than the works of the first period.

Of her novels of the third period, *Middlemarch* (1872) is by some considered to be her best novel. It is certainly the most complex and ambitious in terms of theme and characterisation. The last, *Daniel Deronda* (1876), a tract or thesis novel, concerned with the sympathetic presentation of an English Jew, is generally considered unsuccessful because of its unreal characters and artificial situations.

George Eliot published also some narrative verses, *The Spanish Gypsy* (1868) and *The Legend of Jubal* (1874). Both are considerably less memorable than her novels. She also published a collection of essays, *Impressions of Theophrastus Such* (1879). It was her last published work.



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