

Silas Marner

George Eliot

What does the image of thoughts moving in a circle reveal about Silas's relationship with gold?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Gold narrows Silas's future
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION	Part I, Chapter XIV
START	Unlike the gold which needed nothing, and must be worshipped in close-locked solitude
END	The gold had kept his thoughts in an ever-repeated circle, leading to nothing beyond itself;
PASSAGE ID	sec-sm-01

THE MOVE

Read repeated motion as a model of a closed life

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Silas's gold gives him something to count and possess, but his thoughts move in an 'ever-repeated circle' that leads nowhere beyond the hoard. The motion image makes wealth look closed rather than expansive.

MARK

Circle words of repetition, circling, counting, or return. Underline what the gold gives Silas emotionally. Star the phrase that shows the relationship producing no future beyond itself.

NOTICE

- What activity does the gold repeatedly give Silas to do?
- Why is circular motion a useful image for a life that appears materially secure?
- What kind of future is missing from the relationship with the gold?

THINK

Answer provisionally: What does the image of thoughts moving in a circle reveal about Silas's relationship with gold? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: What does the image of thoughts moving in a circle reveal about Silas's relationship with gold? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	The circular image shows gold giving Silas repetition without development. His attention returns to counting and possession, producing no future beyond the hoard itself.
EVIDENCE	Use language of repeated circling, locked solitude, counting, or thoughts 'leading to nothing beyond itself.'
WATCH FOR	Do not say gold is bad merely because it is money. Explain how the motion image defines the closed structure of Silas's life.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

STUDENT PAGE · SAME PASSAGE, SAME THINKING

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START ANCHOR	Unlike the gold which needed nothing, and must be worshipped in close-locked solitude
END ANCHOR	The gold had kept his thoughts in an ever-repeated circle, leading to nothing beyond itself;

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OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. **MARK** - Circle words of repetition, circling, counting, or return. Underline what the gold gives Silas emotionally. Star the phrase that shows the relationship producing no future beyond itself.
2. **NOTICE** - What activity does the gold repeatedly give Silas to do? Why is circular motion a useful image for a life that appears materially secure? What kind of future is missing from the relationship with the gold?
3. **THINK** - Answer provisionally: What does the image of thoughts moving in a circle reveal about Silas's relationship with gold?
4. **WRITE** - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.