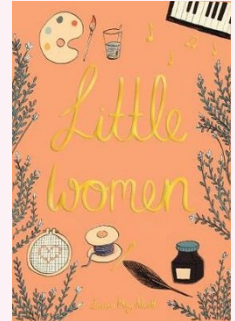




## TEEN'S BOOK CLUB GUIDE

# LITTLE WOMEN

By Louisa May Alcott



"I could never love anyone as I love my sisters." - Jo

### GENRE

Children's Fiction

Family Saga

Biographical

### THEMES

Family and Friendship

Coming-of-Age

Morality

Poverty

Duty

Ambition and Womens Rights

### CHARACTERS

#### Jo March

Jo March is unimpressed that she was born a girl in a 'man's world'. Yet, out of a strong adoration for her mother and father - and a sometimes reluctant acceptance of her femininity - she creatively and fiercely breaks down the unhelpful boundaries oppressing her while striving to embrace the truth that she is a 'little woman'. Following her dreams to be a writer, this bookworm is delightfully stubborn, showing us all just what a dedicated girl can do when she's got the love of her sisters and a heart full of hope!

## *Meg March*

Meg is the oldest March sister. She is painfully aware of her covetousness of lovely things, and tends toward jealousy and discontentment. Despite her flaws, Meg is also a responsible peacekeeper who values tradition and home.

## *Elizabeth (Beth) March*

Beth, who is often lovingly referred to as the best of the sisters, is also a classic introvert. She is shy, timid, comfortable at home and happy with her pensive thoughts. Beth role models contentment and care to all her sisters. She is a gifted pianist who overcomes her fear of her neighbours when Mr Laurence offers her the temptation of a grand piano.

## *Amy March*

Amy is the youngest of the March sisters, but what she lacks in age, she makes up for in ambition, determination and competitiveness. She strives to please others at school, and dislikes being excluded very much. She has a strong sense of justice, often used for the good of those around her, but can frequently warp into selfishness.

## *Marmee*

Marmee is the March girl's mother. She is a whimsical, wise and tender mother whose love for her daughters spurs her constant desire for sanctification. All adore her, and she is often found meeting the needs of others and providing practical and loving advice for her girls, counselling them through all of their problems. Her husband, Mr March, is away at war.

## *Theodore (Laurie) Laurence*

Laurie is both charming and clever while oftentimes lazy and disinterested. Having everything money can buy, Laurie desperately desires the love and fellowship of a family. The March's welcome him into their lives as a brother and son, and the goodness in his heart is exposed through the encounter.

## *Aunt March*

Aunt March is Jo's employer and aunt. She is a wealthy widow, and although very grumpy at times, she does desire the best for her nieces.

## Hannah

The March's loyal servant. She is more of a friend than an employee.

## Mr Lawrence

Mr Lawrence is Laurie's grandfather and the March's next-door neighbour. Mr Lawrence is friends with Marmee, and while he initially seems gruff, underneath, he is loving and kind. He forms a dear attachment to Beth, who reminds him of his late granddaughter.

## STORYLINE

In a little cottage home, four sisters dwell. All united by their deep affection for their mother and hopes to please their father, the little pilgrims set off on an everyday adventure to become the best possible versions of themselves.

In this extraordinary ordinary tale of feminine home life, Meg falls in love, Jo finds her confidence as a writer, Beth grows in humble contentment and Amy, the baby of the family, relishes the beauty in the world around her while trying her best to overcome her selfishness.

This is a wholesome coming-of-age story about four little women growing up, the mother who raised them, and the friendships and struggles they faced along the way.

## 1 QUESTION ONE

Which March sister would you say you relate to the most? Discuss the four sisters' vices and virtues.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## 2

### QUESTION TWO

Jo's declaration that she will try to be a 'little woman' and do her duty is tested when Amy maliciously destroys her manuscript. Discuss the following events. How does Amy's skating accident help Jo forgive her?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## 3

### QUESTION THREE

"I care too much of my looks, and hate to work, but won't anymore," says Meg. Do Meg's changing circumstances help her to work hard and focus less on her appearance? Can you think of a time she failed? When did she succeed?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## 4

### QUESTION FOUR

Marmee is one of literature's most beloved mother figures. Could you relate to the March girl's adoration for their mother? Which piece of advice from Marmee would you always like to remember?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## 5 QUESTION FIVE

In the chapter 'A Merry Christmas', the March sisters sacrifice their Christmas breakfast for the poor Hummel family. Discuss the joys and sadness in this chapter. Are we always rewarded for doing good to others?

---

---

---

---

---

---

## 6 QUESTION SIX

Laurie is wealthy and has all the material things a person could desire, yet he declares, "A fellow can't live on books alone". The March sisters offer him something money cannot buy; fellowship and love. Why are these more important than wealth?

---

---

---

---

---

---

## 7 QUESTION SEVEN

"Work is wholesome, and there is plenty of it for everyone." Discuss how work "is good for health and spirits and gives us a sense of power and independence better than money or fashion."

---

---

---

---

---

---

## 8 QUESTION EIGHT

Upon receiving her father's letter at Christmas, Beth makes no declaration of goodness as her sisters do but resolves in her quiet soul to do her duty. Do you think Beth is admirable? Why do actions often speak louder than words?

---

---

---

---

---

## 9 QUESTION NINE

“Jo’s eyes sparkled, for it is always pleasant to be believed in, and a friend's praise is usually sweeter than a dozen newspaper puffs.” Why is it so important to encourage one another? How do the characters in the story helpfully praise and spur one another on?

---

---

---

---

---

## 10 QUESTION TEN

We are all pilgrims on a journey to the celestial city, and the March girls, in all earnestness, are striving towards this happy goal. How can we both rest in the assurance we have in Christ and desire to see transformation and fruit in our lives?

---

---

---

---

---