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Little Women

12 Chapters

Day 1-12

Q4 W29-W32

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 1: Four Different Dreams

VOCABULARY Meg, Jo, Beth, Amy

The March family had four daughters who were all very different from each other in every way. Meg was the eldest and she wanted a comfortable home and a loving family of her own someday. Jo was wild and independent and wanted more than anything in the world to be a famous writer. Beth was gentle and quiet and found her greatest happiness sitting at the piano playing music. Amy was the youngest and she dreamed of becoming a great artist who would be celebrated everywhere. Each girl had her own dream and each dream was completely different from all the others. ★ **Each sister found her own path.**

THINK Who wanted to be a famous writer?

Chapter 2: Quiet, Difficult Choices

VOCABULARY choices, Laurie, Meg, Amy

Each of the March sisters faced difficult choices during the years that the story covers and watches. Meg chose to marry John Brooke even though he was not wealthy and her family needed more money. Jo chose to reject Laurie's proposal because she knew she did not love him in the way he needed. Beth chose to continue living quietly at home even when others urged her to seek more for herself. Amy chose to work seriously at her art even when people told her she had no great natural talent. Every one of these choices showed something true and important about who each sister really was. ★ **Each sister proved her worth through her own choices.**

THINK Whom did Meg choose to marry?

Chapter 3: Character, Not Convention

VOCABULARY character, convention, Meg, Jo

Society in Louisa May Alcott's time had very specific ideas about what women should do and be. Women were expected to marry well and run a home and not ask for more than that from their lives. The March sisters did not all follow these expectations and the book says that this was completely fine. Meg married for love rather than money and built a happy home without wealth or social standing. Jo refused to marry at all until she found the right person and wrote stories that she truly believed in. Beth lived quietly and fully and Amy pursued her art seriously even when others doubted her talent. ★ **Each sister chose her own path — proving that a woman's worth lies in her character, not convention.**

THINK Who married for love, not money?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 4: The Unusual One

VOCABULARY Jo, publisher, stories, rejected

Jo March was the most unusual of the four sisters in almost every way that mattered most to her. She hated sewing and dancing and all the things that young ladies in her time were supposed to love. She loved running and writing and having adventures and arguing about interesting ideas with people. When Laurie asked her to marry him she said no even though everyone around her expected her to say yes. When a publisher rejected her stories she rewrote them and sent them out again without self-pity. Jo refused to become the person that society said a young woman should be at that time. ★ **Jo refused society's expectations.**

THINK What did Jo hate?

Chapter 5: The Price of Being Herself

VOCABULARY Jo, society, world, define

The world around Jo March had very clear ideas about what a young woman should want and be. She should want a husband and a home and should find satisfaction in managing both very well. Jo looked at this plan and felt something inside her that she could only describe as absolute refusal. She did not want to be unkind about it — she simply knew with great certainty it was not her life. She wanted to write and to travel and to think seriously and to be taken seriously by the world. Nothing society offered her matched what she actually needed and she would not pretend that it did. ★ **Jo refused to let society define who she was.**

THINK What did society want a young woman to want?

Chapter 6: Her Hair for the Family

VOCABULARY Jo, writing, expectations, purpose

Jo March loved writing more than almost anything else in the whole world around her. She wrote stories late at night in the attic when everyone else in the house was fast asleep. She sent her stories to publishers and waited anxiously for their responses each time. Sometimes they were accepted and those days felt like the best days of her entire life. Sometimes they were rejected and those days were hard but they did not make her stop writing. Writing was not something Jo chose to do — it was simply who Jo most deeply and essentially was. ★ **Jo refused to be defined by society's expectations — writing was her true identity and purpose.**

THINK Where did Jo write at night?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 7: The Professor

VOCABULARY Jo, Bhaer, love, conventional

Professor Bhaer was not the romantic hero that readers might have expected for Jo March at all. He was older and German and not handsome and not wealthy and not particularly exciting to look at. But he talked to Jo about books and ideas with the kind of seriousness that she had always needed. He did not try to change her or soften her or make her more conventionally acceptable to society. He respected her mind and challenged her thinking and encouraged her to write what she truly believed. With him Jo felt that she was growing into a better and more complete version of herself every day. ★ **True love means growing together.**

THINK Who was Professor Bhaer?

Chapter 8: A Humble Home

VOCABULARY Meg, John, love, together

Meg and John Brooke did not have an easy life after they got married and settled into their home. They had very little money and two young children and many disagreements about small and large things. There were days when the house was cold and the children were sick and they were both exhausted. But they talked through their problems honestly and helped each other and did not give up on each other. They became better people because of the difficulties they faced together rather than despite them. Their love was not perfect but it was real and it was strong enough to carry them through everything. ★ **True love means growing better together through hardship.**

THINK Whom did Meg marry?

Chapter 9: Love Takes Work

VOCABULARY Meg, Amy, Laurie, difficulties

None of the marriages in Little Women were perfect or without problems of any kind at all. Meg and John struggled with money and disagreed about how to raise their children sometimes. Jo and Professor Bhaer had very different backgrounds and had to learn each other carefully. Amy and Laurie had to overcome their early dislike of each other and find genuine respect. But all of these couples became better people by going through difficulties together over time. Love in this book is not a feeling that stays the same — it is something that grows through effort. ★ **True love is not about perfection but about growing wiser and kinder together through every difficulty.**

THINK Who struggled with money?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 10: Rich in Other Ways

VOCABULARY March, money, character, wealth

The March family did not have much money and this was a real difficulty in their everyday lives. They could not buy the things that their wealthier neighbors had or attend all the same social events. But the March girls were taught by their mother that this was not the most important thing in life. She told them that what mattered most was the kind of people they chose to be every single day. A person with good character and little money was worth more than a person with great wealth and none. The March girls proved this by the way they treated everyone around them with kindness and honesty. ★ **Character matters more than wealth.**

THINK What did the family lack?

Chapter 11: What Cannot Be Bought

VOCABULARY family, integrity, wealth, Beth

The March family faced many years of not having enough money for the things they needed and wanted. But they always had each other and they always treated each other with honesty and genuine kindness. When their father came home from the war they felt richer than any wealthy family they had ever known. When Beth died they grieved together and held each other and did not pretend the pain was not real. When Jo finally found her way as a writer they all celebrated as if her success belonged to all of them. The things that mattered most in their family could not be bought with any amount of money at all. ★ **Family and integrity matter more than wealth or status.**

THINK What did the family always have?

Chapter 12: The Quiet Gathering

VOCABULARY family, integrity, purpose, wealth

The story of the March family covers many years and includes great happiness and real sadness too. Beth dies and that loss stays with the family for the rest of the story and beyond it too. Jo struggles and fails and tries again and eventually finds her way as a writer she is proud of. Meg builds a modest but genuinely loving home without the wealth she had once hoped she might have. Amy becomes a serious artist who is respected and who is loved by someone who respects her completely. Through all of this the family's love and honesty are the things that carry them through everything. ★ **Little Women shows that family, integrity, and purpose matter far more than wealth or social status.**

THINK What happens to Beth in the story?