

LITTLE WOMEN
Part 2: Good Wives

Comprehension Guide
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Designed by Ned Bustard

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LITTLE WOMEN PART 2 (GOOD WIVES)

How to Use this Guide

This guide is intended to help you study, understand, and enjoy the second part of *Little Women*. You might ask if a guide is really necessary to read a book. Is the student not just working to improve reading skills while being taught to enjoy reading a book? Certainly, it is the case that the more a child reads, the more he should improve his skills, but quantity is not the only issue. Once a child has received adequate phonetic training, he should learn how to read a book. Most educators using this guide will be teaching children in the grammar stage, generally understood to be during the elementary years in a classical education. (For a thorough understanding of classical Christian education we recommend reading *Recovering the Lost Tools of Learning* or *The Case for Classical Christian Education*, both by Douglas Wilson.) The basic goals of reading in the grammar stage are as follows: The student should be able to:

1. Fluently read a given selection orally.
2. Show an increased desire for reading.
3. Show comprehension on a literal and inferential level.
4. Demonstrate an increased vocabulary.
5. Identify basic Biblical values in the literature being read.
6. Identify various styles (myths, poems, fantasy, fiction, nonfiction, etc.)

Answers to the questions are found in the back of the guide. The students' answers should be in complete sentences, and they should restate the question in their answer.

Example:

Question: What did Hannah give to the girls as a treat?

Answer: Hannah gave the girls coffee as a treat.

Such writing practice trains the student to answer thoroughly, completely, and with proper grammar. Another reason is to encourage integration. We want students to understand that how they write something is as important as what they write. After the grammar stage, students enter the dialectic stage, where they develop an interest in logic, analysis and critical thinking. *Little Women* is a good book to start transitioning students into this stage. Please note that the projects in this guide are only suggestions to help add to the enjoyment of reading this book. Take time before beginning this guide to identify which projects and even what portions of the worksheets you intend for them to complete. For example, inspired by Amy March's horrible vocabulary, there are vocabulary lists throughout the guide. You may decide you do not want to require your students to look up all of these words. Or if a group of children are working through *Little Women* in a book group, you may choose to skip or combine worksheets to keep the group moving at a good pace.

You may wonder how to grade the student's work in this guide. Keep it simple. Unless otherwise indicated you should assume that each question is worth ten points.

LITTLE WOMEN PART 2 (GOOD WIVES)

Chapter Twenty-Four

1. How much time has passed since the last chapter, and what major event is over?

2. Describe the pastoral ministry of Reverend March.

3. Who was *really* the head of the March house?



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Chapter Twenty-Four, Page 2

4. In spite of Mr. Laurence's generous offer, what job did John take after his recovery?

5. How did Aunt March bribe Amy?

6. What was the "Dovecote," and who named it?

7. What was the real name of that patron of Yankee ingenuity, "Mr. Toodles?"

8. Although she *technically* only gave Meg a string of pearls as a wedding present, how did Aunt March get around her vow to never give Meg a cent of her money if she married "that Brooke"?

LITTLE WOMEN PART 2 (GOOD WIVES)

Chapter Twenty-Five

Use a dictionary to define the following words:

toilette

cravat

Grecian

moiré

chasséed

impromptu

1. Meg didn't want a fashionable wedding but instead desired what?

2. According to Meg, what were the favorite flowers of "her John"?

3. Who was the "flower of the family"?

LITTLE WOMEN PART 2 (GOOD WIVES)

Chapter Twenty-Five

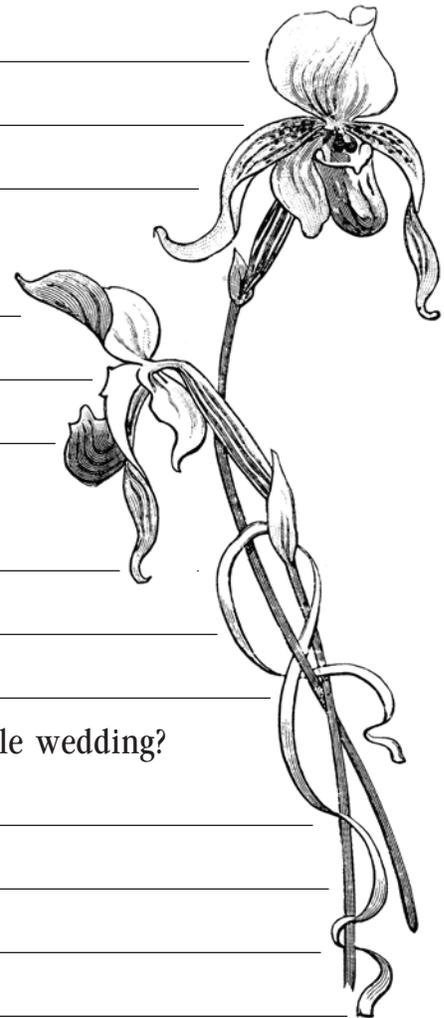
4. What happened when Aunt March arrived which so scandalized the old woman?

5. What kept Jo from crying at the wedding?

6. Why was wine not a temptation to Laurie?

7. What “finishing touch” did Laurie add to the unfashionable wedding?

8. What indulgence did Mr. Lawrence encourage Laurie to make, that would make him “perfectly satisfied”?



LITTLE WOMEN

Project—Spice Cake

Ingredients

2 cups all-purpose flour,
plus more for the pan

2 tsp baking soda

1/8 tsp salt

1 stick unsalted butter,
plus more for the pan

1 cup sugar

1 2/3 cups applesauce

2 tsp ground cinnamon

1 tsp ground ginger

1 pinch ground nutmeg

1 tsp vanilla extract

2 large eggs

1 cup dark or golden raisins

1/2 cup chopped walnuts

confectioners' sugar for dusting

Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Butter and flour a 9-inch springform or round cake pan. In a small bowl, combine the flour, baking soda, and salt. In a large saucepan, over medium heat, melt the butter. Remove from heat and stir in the granulated sugar, applesauce, cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg, vanilla, and eggs. Add the flour mixture and stir just until combined. Stir in the raisins and walnuts. Pour into the prepared pan. Bake the cake until a tester inserted in the center comes out clean, 35 to 40 minutes.

Transfer pan to a wire rack to cool for 10 minutes. Invert it onto the rack. Turn it over again onto a serving plate. Sprinkle the cake with the confectioners' sugar, slice into wedges, and serve.

LITTLE WOMEN PART 2 (GOOD WIVES)

Chapter Twenty-Six

Use a dictionary to define the following words:

audacity

conflagration

monstrosities

perilous

buxom

dropsical

whetted

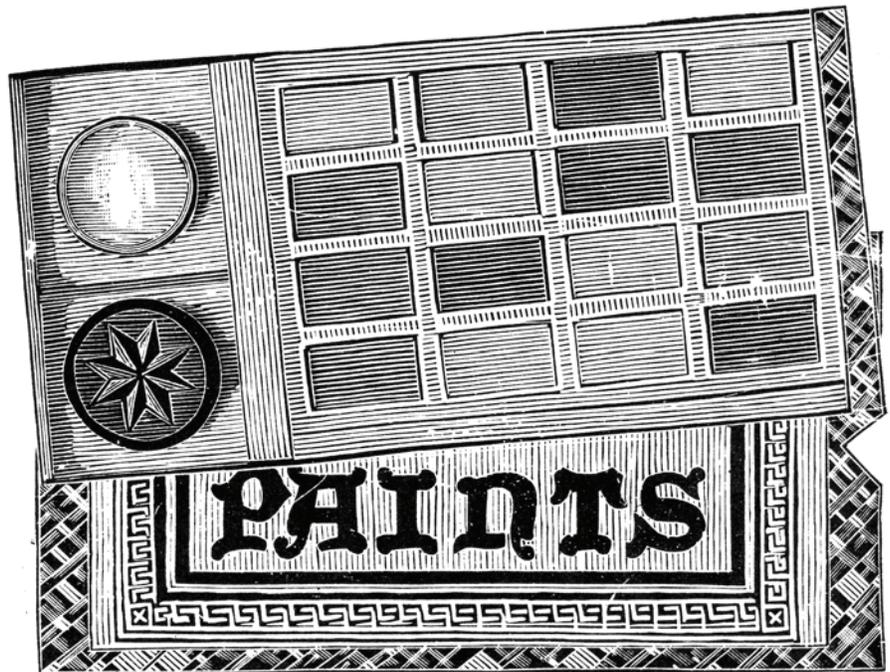
allude

1. List 5 artistic skills Amy tried.

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Chapter Twenty-Six, Page 2

2. What did Amy want to do once the drawing class was finished?



3. What was the conflict between Amy and Marmee? How was it settled?

4. How many girls came to Amy's gathering?

5. What was Laurie's birthday present to Amy? What did this gift refer to?

LITTLE WOMEN PART 2 (GOOD WIVES)

Project—Art Masters



To understand the author's references to famous paintings, look up the following artists and find examples of their work:

MUVILLO

REMBRANDT

RUBENS

TURNER

Do an art project like the one Amy did.

LITTLE WOMEN PART 2 (GOOD WIVES)

Chapter Twenty-Seven

Use a dictionary to define the following words:

vortex

pinafore

tatting

denouement

metaphysical

commendation

1. Describe Jo's "scribbling suit."

2. To whom did the lad at Professor Sands's lecture "introduce" Jo?

3. After reading Jo's award-winning story, what advice did her father give to Jo?

LITTLE WOMEN PART 2 (GOOD WIVES)

Chapter Twenty-Eight

Use a dictionary to define the following words:

sumptuously

dyspeptic

petulantly

nervy

proxy

1. "Like most other young matrons," what did Meg want to do?

2. What did Meg say that John could do without permission?

3. How did Meg react to John's friend?

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Chapter Twenty-Eight, Page 2

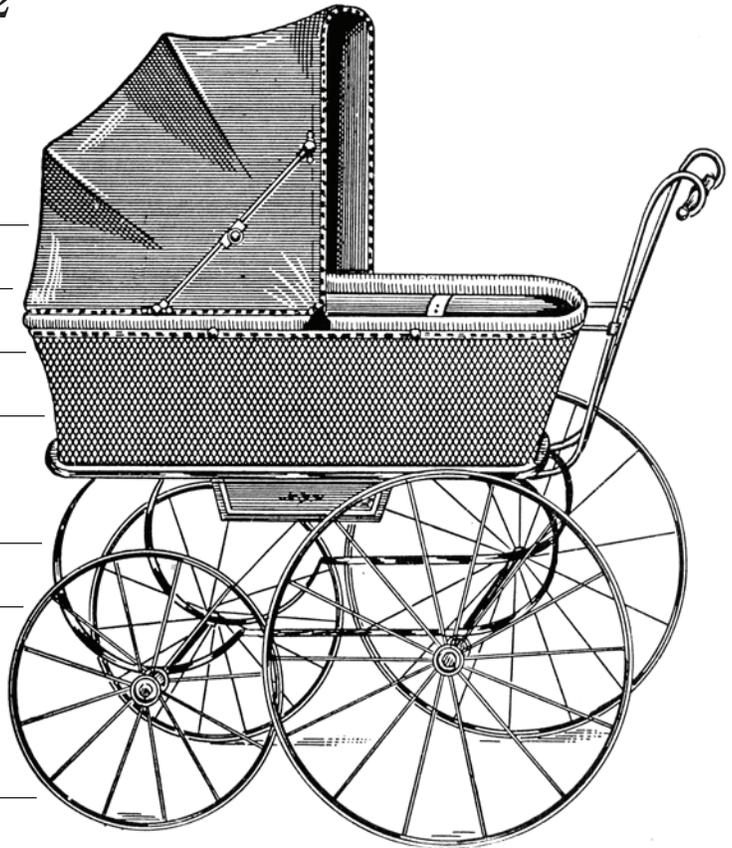
4. What did both decide to be?

5. What did Meg buy that was \$50.00?

6. What was Meg's new experience?

7. What were the "new experiences" called?

8. In the context of the story, explain this sentence: "the Serpent got into Meg's paradise, and tempted her, like many a modern Eve, not with apples, but with dress."



LITTLE WOMEN PART 2 (GOOD WIVES)

Project—Bread Pudding

Ingredients

1/2 loaf (3/4 lb.) white bread

3 large eggs

1 cup milk

1 cup half-and-half

1/4 cup white sugar

1/4 cup brown sugar

1 1/2 tea almond extract

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1/3 cup raisins

Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Cut bread crosswise into 1-inch-thick slices; trim off and discard crusts (or save for other uses) and cut slices into 1-inch cubes.

In a bowl, whisk eggs, milk, half-and-half, sugars, almond extract, and vanilla until well combined. Gently stir in raisins and bread cubes just until evenly moistened; pour mixture into a 7 x 11-inch baking pan. Cover loosely and let stand at room temperature for 30 minutes.

Bake pudding until center is set (cut to test), about 1 hour. Scoop out portions or cut and lift out with a wide spatula. Serve plain or with ice cream.

LITTLE WOMEN PART 2 (GOOD WIVES)

Chapter Twenty-Nine

Use a dictionary to define the following words:

shirk

mantuamaker

wheedle

plucky

brusque

parasol

brickbat

deportment

1. What did Jo do at the Chesters that disgusted Amy?

2. What “original idea” did Jo reveal to Miss Lamb which made Amy go red?

LITTLE WOMEN PART 2 (GOOD WIVES)

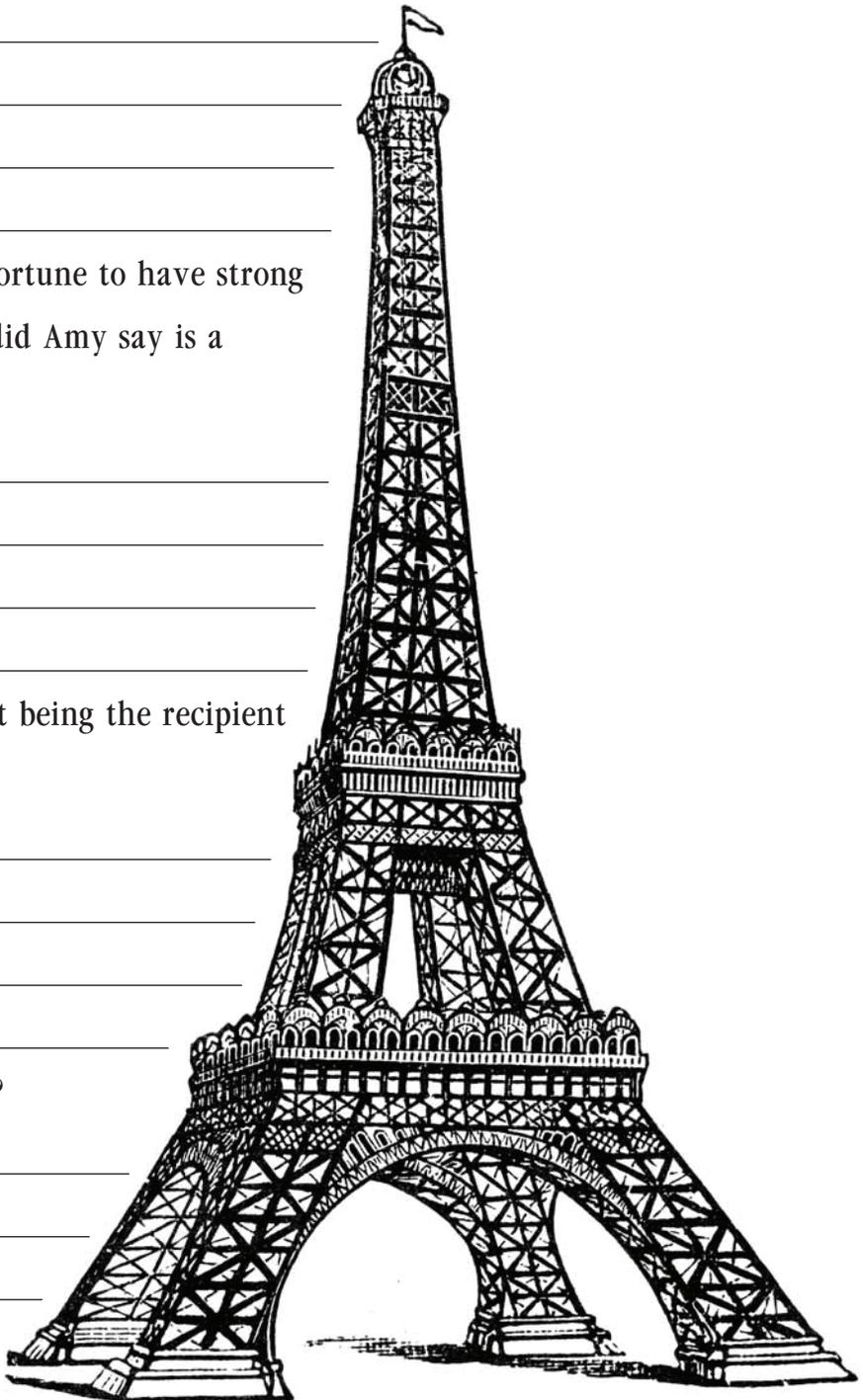
Chapter Twenty-Nine, Page 2

3. At their next call Jo gave a nod to Mr. Tudor and bowed and smiled to Tommy Chamberlain. What did Amy find fault with in this behavior?

4. Jo said that it is a great misfortune to have strong likes and dislikes, but what did Amy say is a greater misfortune?

5. What were Jo's feelings about being the recipient of favors?

6. Why couldn't Jo bear French?



LITTLE WOMEN PART 2 (GOOD WIVES)

Chapter Thirty

Use a dictionary to define the following words:

akimbo

trifle

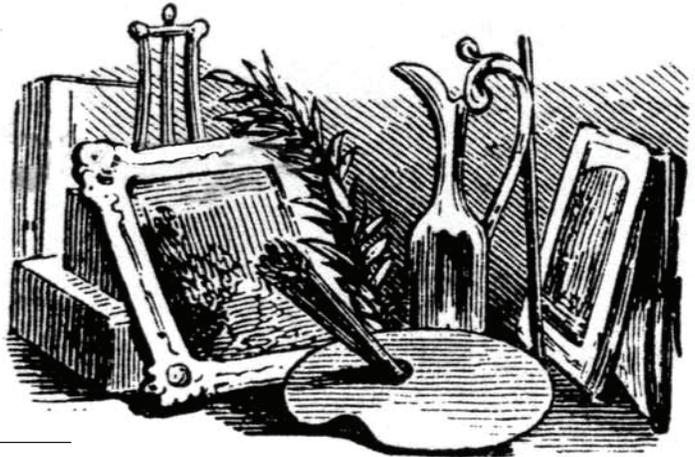
exonerate

magnanimity

1. Why was May Chester jealous of Amy?

2. What table was she made to work?
Why was she made to work this table?

3. Why should May and Mrs. Chester have felt guilty?



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Chapter Thirty, Page 2

4. Discuss how Amy chose to do the right thing with May Chester and whether she was acting biblically.

5. How did family and friends make her feel better?

6. What was Amy's gift? What was Jo's reaction to this gift? Discuss with someone how Amy had been a good example to Jo.

7. Where and why did Amy cling to Laurie?

8. Predict what is being foreshadowed in the last paragraphs when Laurie is speaking to Amy: “. . . if anything happens, I'll come and comfort you,” whispered Laurie, little dreaming that he would be called upon to keep his word.”

9. Explain the phrase, “. . . and the little girls were only hindrances, for the dears fussed and chattered like so many magpies.”

LITTLE WOMEN

Project—Fashion Page

*Color in this example
of a dress from 1865.*



LITTLE WOMEN PART 2 (GOOD WIVES)

Chapter Thirty-One

Use a dictionary to define the following words:

colliery

droll

helter-skelter

gallant

mercenary

rake (*the adjective "rakish" is used in this chapter*)

prudent

1. Why did Amy say it is a mercy to make officers useful by waiting on her and holding her up?

2. What did Flo mistakenly think a man going up a gallows was?

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Chapter Thirty-One, Page 2

3. Who sent Jo his “respectful compliments to the big hat” through Amy’s midnight letter?

4. How did Amy spend rainy days in Paris?

5. What did “prudent” Amy decide to do while she was in Heidelberg?



LITTLE WOMEN PART 2 (GOOD WIVES)

Chapter Thirty-Two

Use a dictionary to define the following words:

philandering

impending

assiduity

aversion

acquiesced

audacious

1. What was Mrs. March worried about?

2. Why was Beth so happy so suddenly?

3. What did Laurie want to say back to Jo? Why couldn't he?

LITTLE WOMEN PART 2 (GOOD WIVES)

Chapter Thirty-Two, Page 2

4. What was Jo's plan?

5. What did she give Beth to take care of?

6. What did Laurie say after goodbye?

7. Explain these sentences concerning Jo, "But having given the rein to her lively fancy, it galloped away with her at a great pace; and common sense, being rather weakened by a long course of romance writing, did not come to the rescue."

LITTLE WOMEN PART 2 (GOOD WIVES)

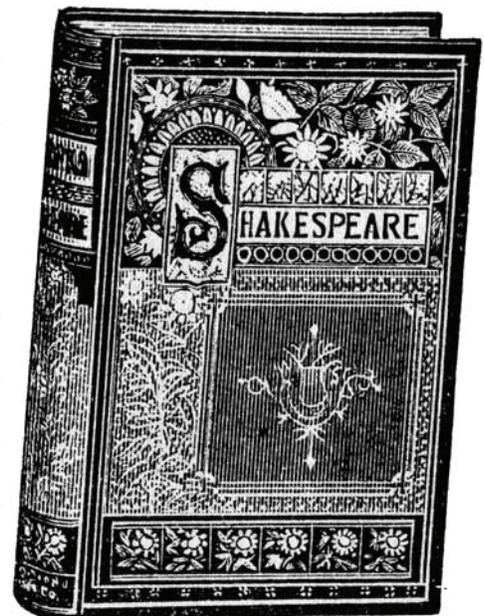
Chapter Thirty-Three

1. What happened that caused Jo to quote her father that “trifles show character”?

2. Describe the professor.

3. Jo overheard a conversation between two young men that made her angry and caused her to declare, “I hate ordinary people!” What was it that the two men said that vexed her?

4. In Jo’s postscript to her first letter in the chapter, she reflects that her correspondence is rather what?



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Chapter Thirty-Three

5. How does the professor pay Jo for her “good fairy works?”

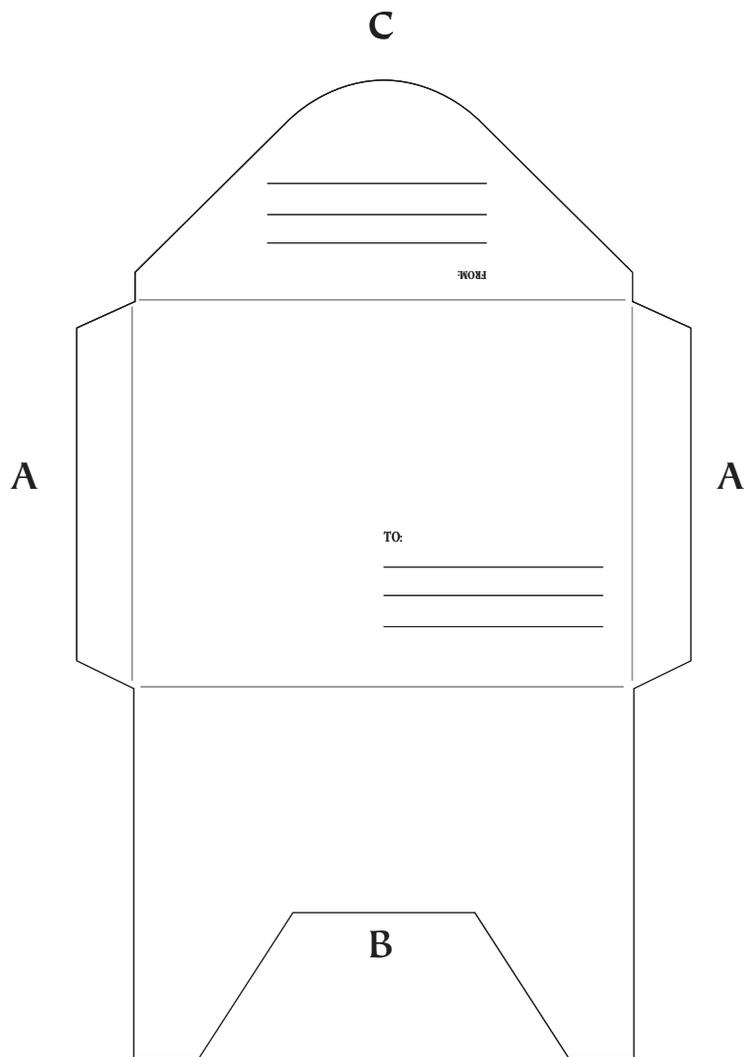
6. What does the professor “tuck into tales and poetry as one gives pills in jelly?”

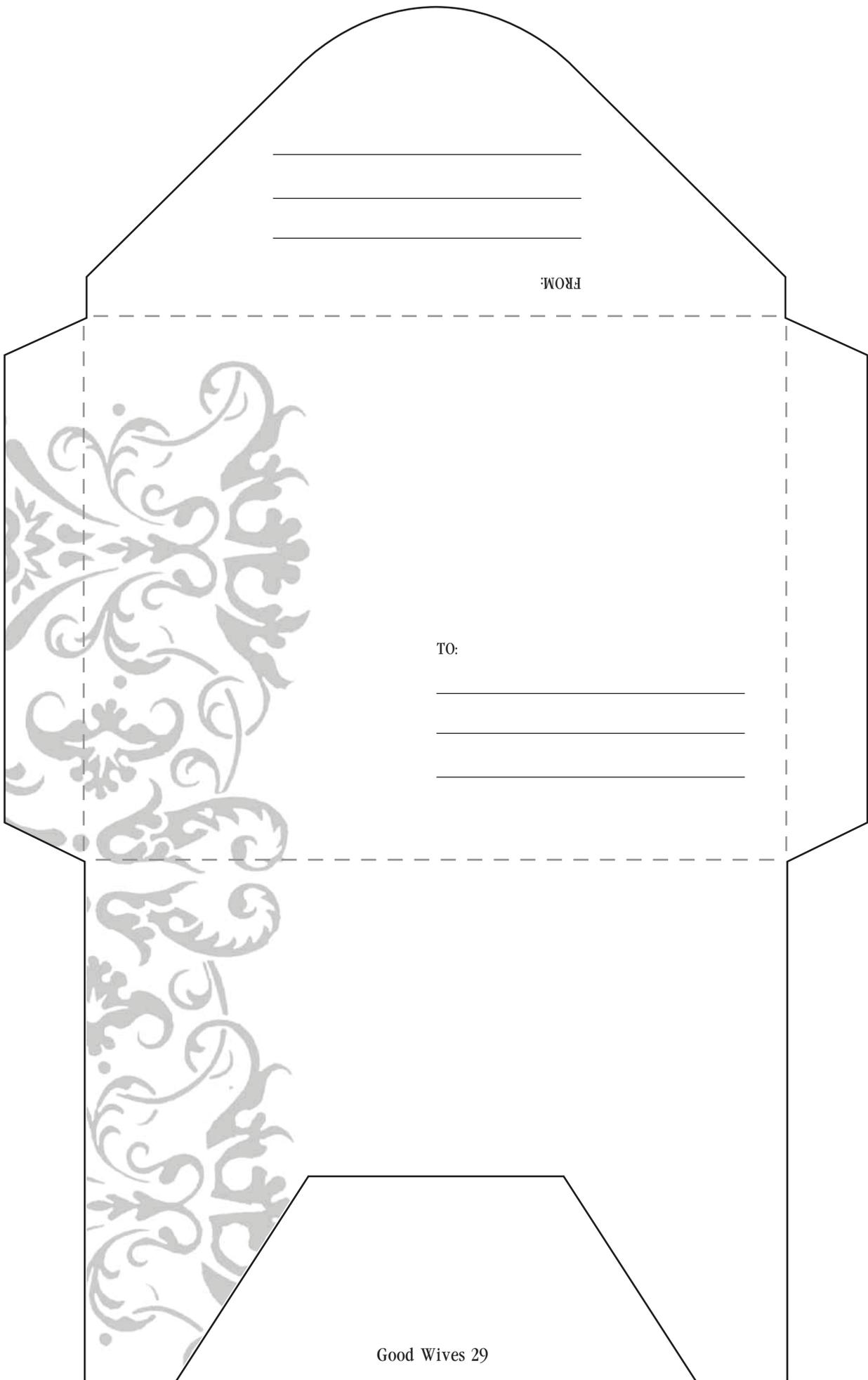
7. What did Bhaer give to Jo for Christmas?

LITTLE WOMEN PART 2 (GOOD WIVES)

Project—Self-Mailer Letter

Jo kept Beth and Marmee informed about her life in the city through letters. Cut out the envelopes on the next pages, fold sides in (A), the bottom flap up (B) and then fold in the top flap (C). Then write a newsy letter to send to a friend or relative.





FROM:

TO:



LITTLE WOMEN PART 2 (GOOD WIVES)

Chapter Thirty-Four

Use a dictionary to define the following words:

compensation

discomfiture

daunted

emaciated

1. The opening paragraphs remind the reader of “castles in air.” What are “castles in the air?” What was Jo’s castle in the air?

2. Where did Jo take her sensational story?

3. What did it mean that she had an emaciated purse that went stout?

LITTLE WOMEN PART 2 (GOOD WIVES)

Chapter Thirty-Four

4. Mr. Bhaer “was as attractive as a genial fire, and people seemed to gather about him as naturally as a warm hearth.” Explain what is being said of him.



5. What did Jo learn of Mr. Bhaer's past in Berlin?

6. What did Mr. Bhaer think of Jo's stories?

LITTLE WOMEN PART 2 (GOOD WIVES)

Chapter Thirty-Five

Use a dictionary to define the following words:

eloquence

tête-à-tête

impetuosity

indignation

superannuated

marplot

1. What did it mean that Laurie wanted to “have it out” with Jo?

2. Who did Laurie think Jo loved, or would love, after a while?

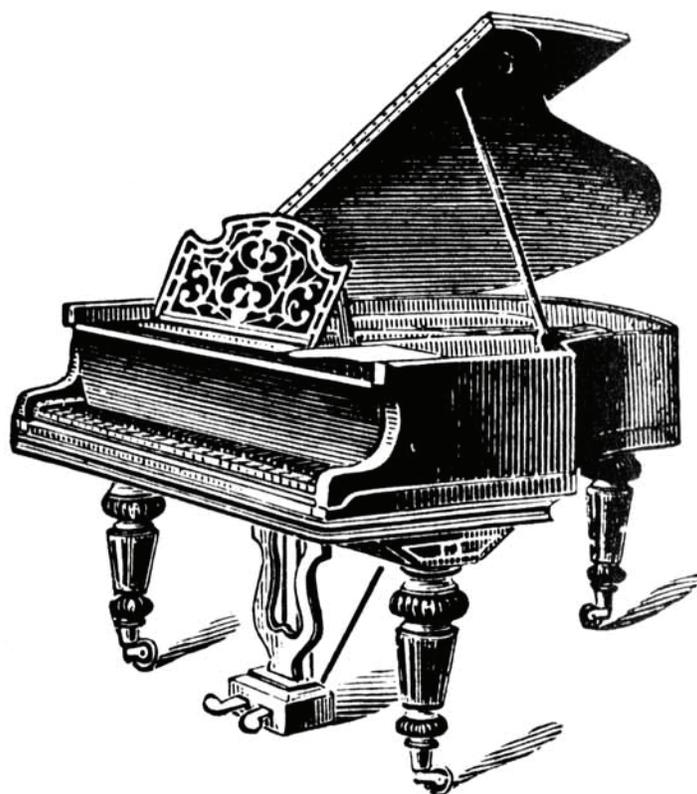
3. What did Jo go do after Laurie rowed off?

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Chapter Thirty-Five, Page 2

4. Laurie's grandfather urged the boy to "take it like a man" then suggested that they both do what?

5. What words did Laurie's grandfather introduce into his treaty to Laurie that spoke to the boy's broken heart through "a howling wilderness"?



LITTLE WOMEN PART 2 (GOOD WIVES)

Chapter Thirty-Six

1. Where did Beth want to go again?

2. What was the secret Beth shared with Jo?

3. What was Jo's reaction?

4. What other secrets did Jo and Beth share with each other in regards to Laurie?

5. Beth called each girl a bird. What were they?

6. Explain what Beth meant when she said to Jo, “. . . every day I lose a little, and feel more sure that I shall never gain it back again. It's like the tide . . . when it turns,—it goes out slowly, but it can't be stopped.”

LITTLE WOMEN PART 2 (GOOD WIVES)

Chapter Thirty-Seven

Use a dictionary to define the following words:

saunter

diminutive

prinked

sundry

propitious

piquant

1. What did Laurie say was the reason for putting the “Genius Burns” illustration in his pocket?

2. What changes wrought by “time and absence” did Laurie see in Amy?

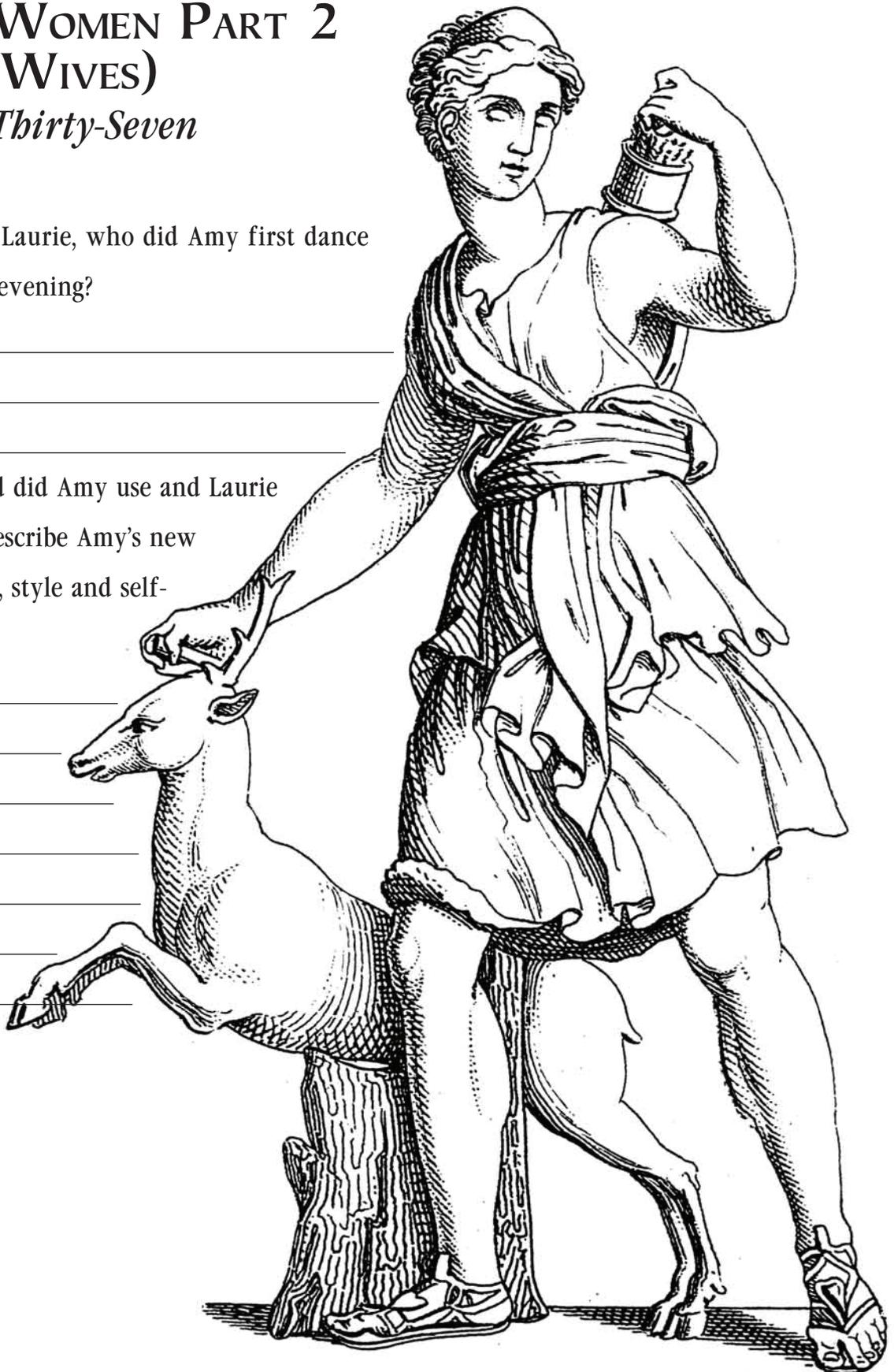
3. What gift did Apollo give to Diana before the Christmas ball?

LITTLE WOMEN PART 2 (GOOD WIVES)

Chapter Thirty-Seven

4. Instead of Laurie, who did Amy first dance with that evening?
with that evening?

5. What word did Amy use and Laurie adopt to describe Amy's new general air, style and self-possession?



LITTLE WOMEN PART 2 (GOOD WIVES)

Chapter Thirty-Eight

Use a dictionary to define the following words:

docile

forlorn

caprice

propitious

dowdy

1. After the birth of the babies, what did John miss?

2. What did Meg miss after a while?

3. What was the secret to Marmee and father's home happiness.

LITTLE WOMEN PART 2 (GOOD WIVES)

Chapter Thirty-Eight, Page 2

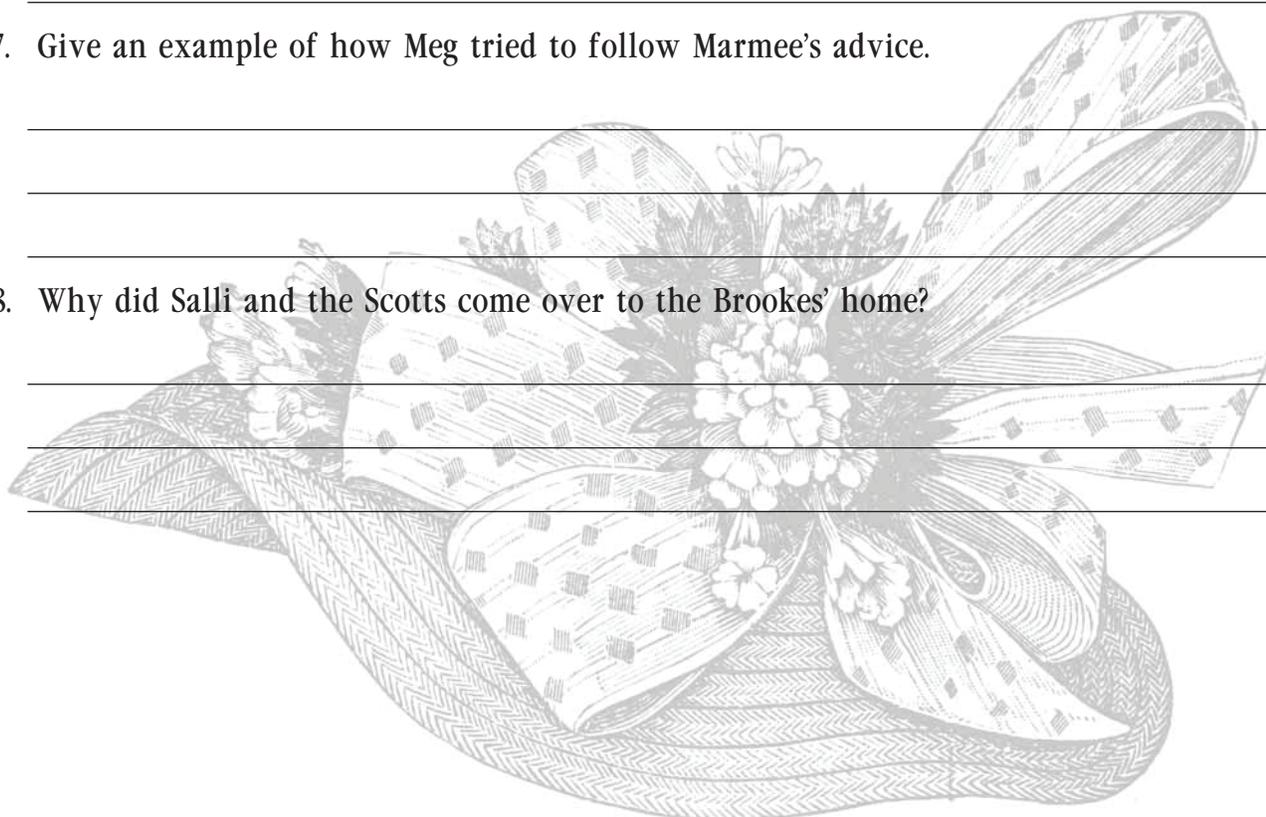
4. Explain the phrase Marmee said to Meg, “You are the sunshine maker of the family, and if you get dismal there is no fair-weather.”

5. What would Demi not do?

6. What did John have to say about Demi’s behavior?

7. Give an example of how Meg tried to follow Marmee’s advice.

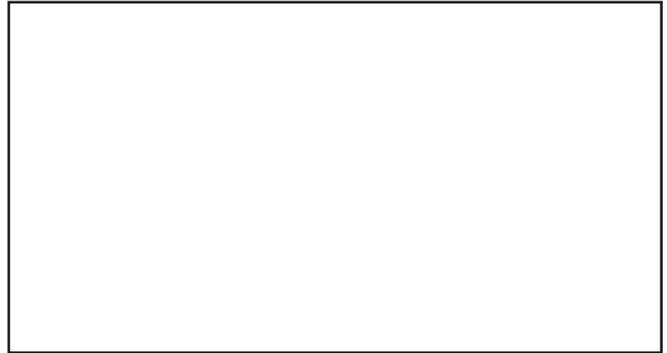
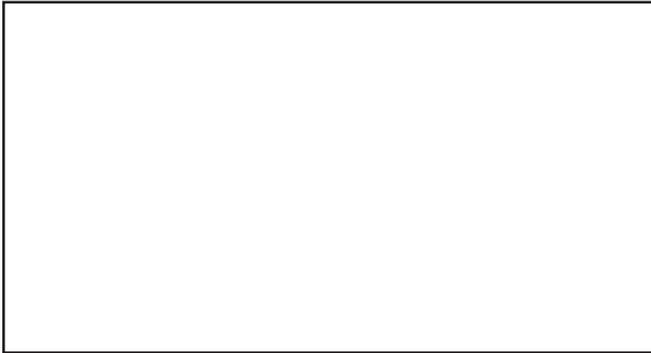
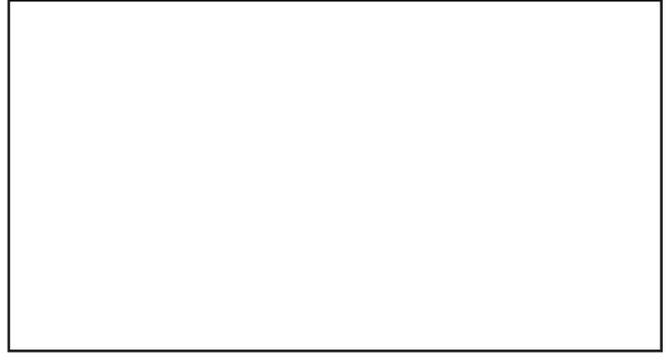
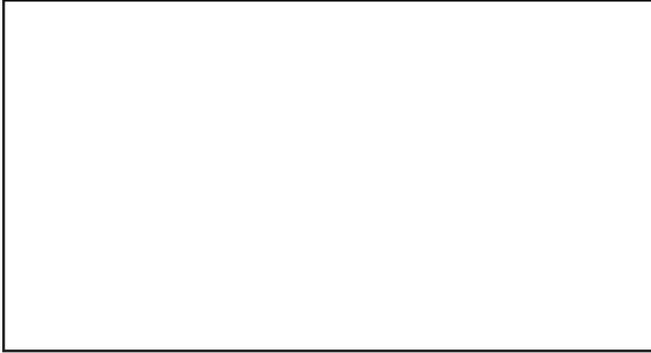
8. Why did Salli and the Scotts come over to the Brookes’ home?



LITTLE WOMEN PART 2 (GOOD WIVES)

Chapter Thirty-Nine

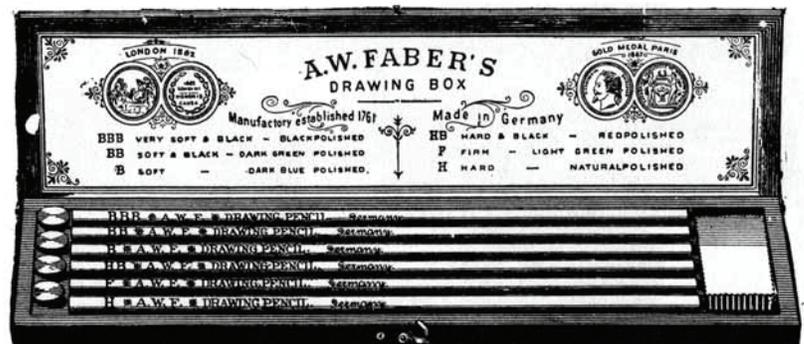
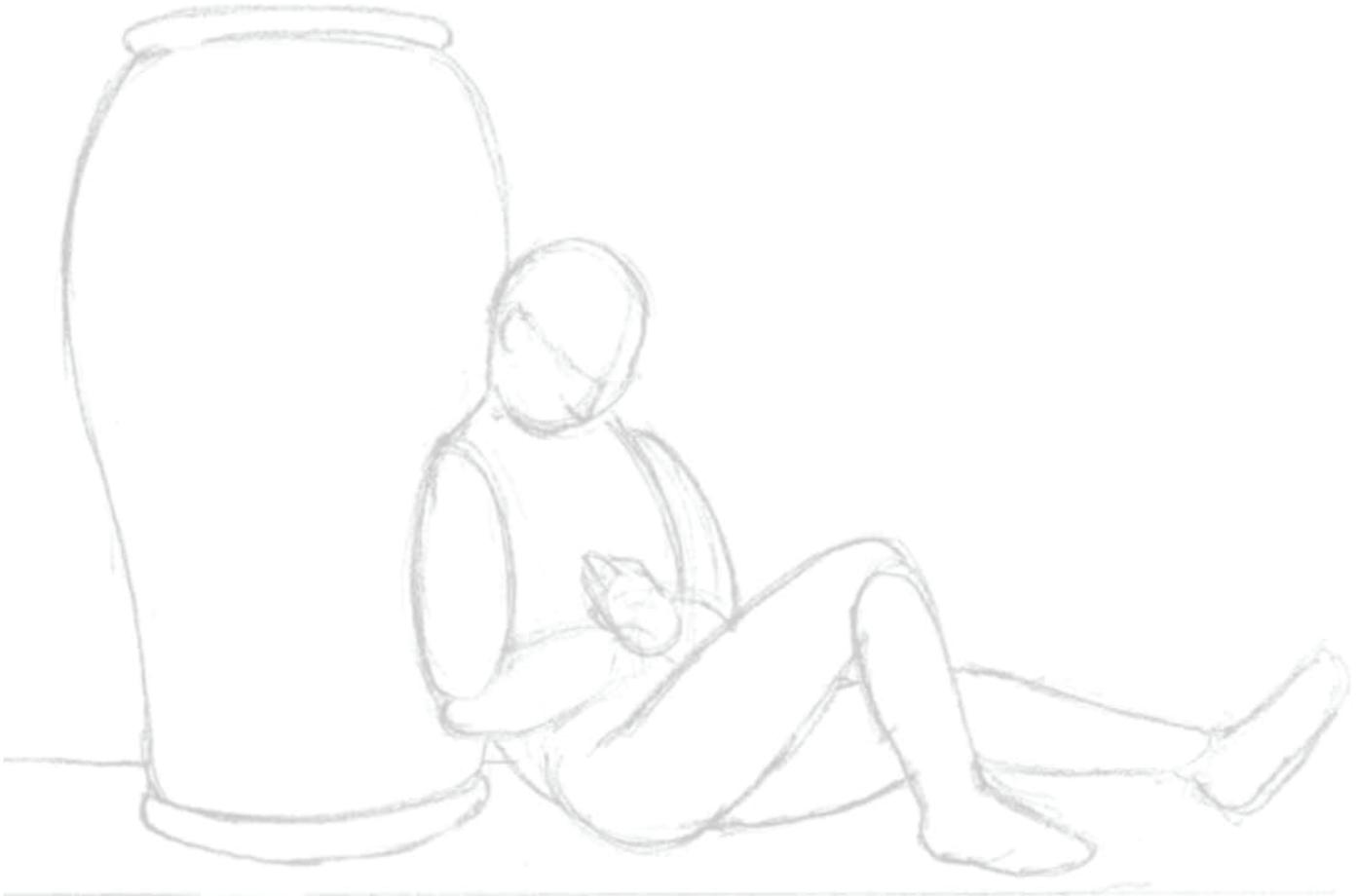
Draw a cartoon of a portion of the events in this chapter, including dialogue.



LITTLE WOMEN PART 2 (GOOD WIVES)

Chapter Thirty-Nine, Project—Finish Amy's Drawing

Amy has sketched out the basic posture of Laurie—you finish the drawing according to the description of the finished picture.



LITTLE WOMEN PART 2 (GOOD WIVES)

Chapter Forty

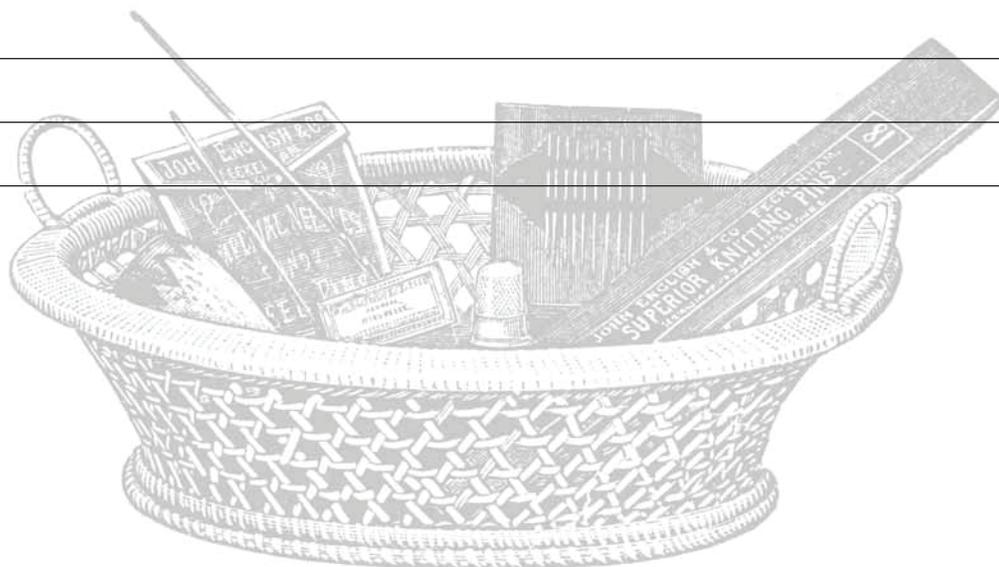
1. How did Beth feel when Jo was near?

2. What did Beth find in *Pilgrim's Progress*?

3. What was Beth's hope for Jo? How does this finding give her comfort?

4. What "tide went out easily"? At what time?

5. Name some things that were different that morning:



LITTLE WOMEN PART 2 (GOOD WIVES)

Chapter Forty-One

Use a dictionary to define the following words:

blighted

interred

embalm

complacent

wraith

sundry

pedestrian

1. What did Laurie do?

2. What did Laurie decide to do to make Jo respect him?

LITTLE WOMEN PART 2 (GOOD WIVES)

Chapter Forty-One, Page 2

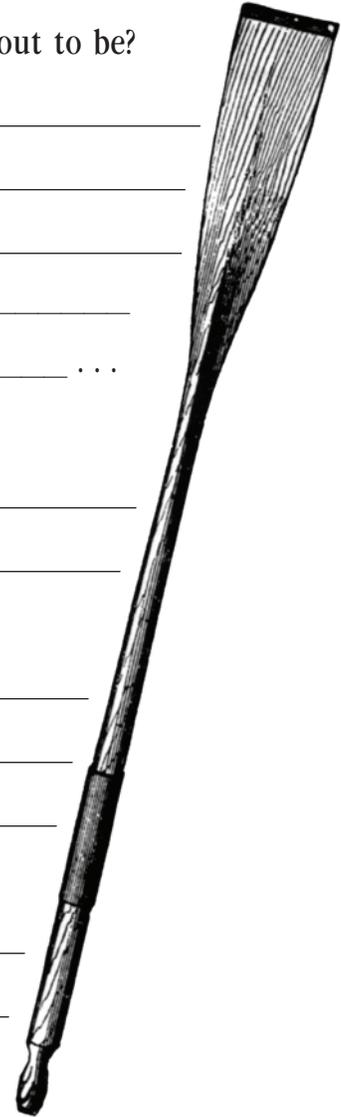
3. Who did he want as the heroine for his opera? Who did it turn out to be?

4. *Fill in the blanks:* He carefully stirred up the embers of this _____
_____, but they refused to _____ into a _____ ...

5. What was Amy's answer to Fred Vaughn?

6. How many letters did she send Laurie a week?

7. What did Laurie ask Amy to do?



LITTLE WOMEN PART 2 (GOOD WIVES)

Chapter Forty-Two

1. List three reasons why Jo was forlorn at the beginning of the chapter.

2. What was “the church with one member”?

3. What used to make Jo happy? What did Marmee tell her to do in regard to this?

4. What was the secret to make people like her story?

5. Who are the best lovers in the world?

6. What did Jo find and look at that rainy day?

7. Who said: “Wait for me, my friend. I may be a little late, but I shall surely come”?

What do you think this quote is foreshadowing?

LITTLE WOMEN PART 2 (GOOD WIVES)

Project—Little “Wooden” Chests

“Up in the garret, where Jo’s unquiet wanderings ended stood four little wooden chests in a row, each marked with its owners name, and each filled with relics of the childhood and girlhood ended now for all.”

Create your own special box by decorating a shoe box. Put your name on the lid. Then fill it with special mementos and pictures from your life. The box should have objects that help you remember important highlights of your childhood.

LITTLE WOMEN PART 2 (GOOD WIVES)

Chapter Forty-Three

Use a dictionary to define the following words:

spinster

prim

talisman

scapegrace

audacity

1. What had Jo decided was to be her fate in life, before the “ghost” of Laurie kissed her?

2. What news did Laurie share which Jo greeted as a “dreadful thing?”

3. As Jo asked Laurie, “When, where, how?”

LITTLE WOMEN PART 2 (GOOD WIVES)

Chapter Forty-Three, Page 2

4. Jo told Laurie that they could never go back to the happy old times when they were playmates but said that instead they would be what?

5. What “birthday present” arrived for Jo as the family was eating and talking together?

6. Why did a set of gold sleeve buttons make Jo blush?

7. How did they end their evening together?

8. What was the last thing the professor did before going to sleep?

LITTLE WOMEN PART 2 (GOOD WIVES)

Chapter Forty-Four

Use a dictionary to define the following words:

salubrious

bootjack

trump

blarney

philanthropic

1. What were Marmee and father's reactions to seeing Amy and Laurie together as a married couple?

2. Amy confessed that she was prouder of her handsome husband's looks than in his money, and what about Laurie was "*such* a comfort" to Amy?

LITTLE WOMEN PART 2 (GOOD WIVES)

Chapter Forty-Four

3. What was the fatal flaw in Laurie's plan to invent a rich relative in Germany who could die and leave Bhaer a tidy little fortune?

4. On what course of action did little Dorcas and St. Martin shake hands in agreement?

LITTLE WOMEN PART 2 (GOOD WIVES)

Chapter Forty-Five

Use a dictionary to define the following words:

philoprogenitiveness

sonorous

1. Using the information in the chapter, write a paragraph describing Demi.

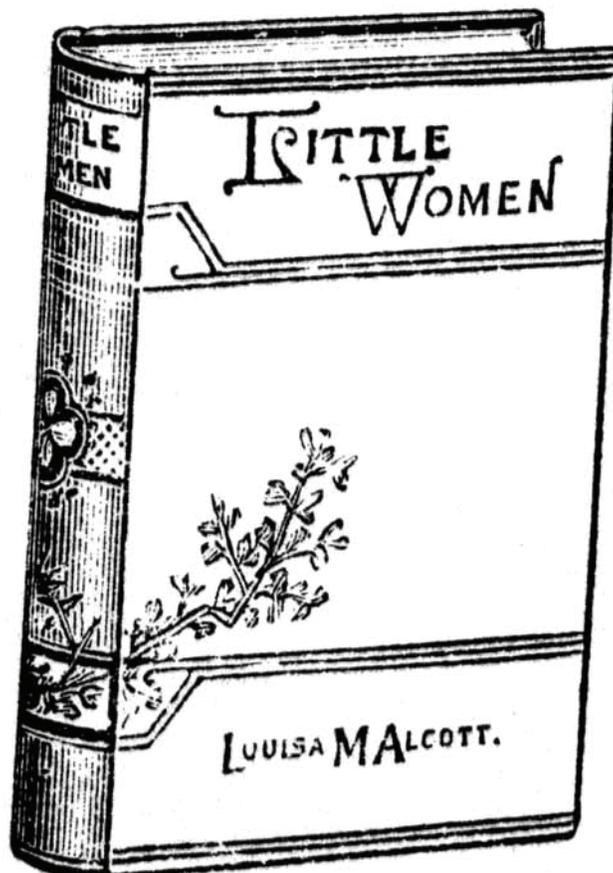
2. Using the information in the chapter, write a paragraph describing Daisy.

LITTLE WOMEN PART 2 (GOOD WIVES)

Chapter Forty-Five

4. Who were the three aunts? What were they like?

5. What were Demi and “Dranpa” doing when Mr. Bhaer arrived?



LITTLE WOMEN PART 2 (GOOD WIVES)

Chapter Forty-Six

1. When did Jo meet Mr. Bhaer?

2. How did Jo feel when she didn't see Mr. Bhaer much for a awhile?

3. On her errands where did she go that was out of the way?

4. Where did she finally meet Mr. Bhaer?

5. What were the names of the little boys Mr. Bhaer took care of?

LITTLE WOMEN PART 2 (GOOD WIVES)

Chapter Forty-Seven

1. What did Aunt March leave for Jo?

2. What profitable “crop” did Jo intend to raise?

3. Who was to be the “model” for Jo’s flock?

4. What were the names of Jo’s own children?

5. At the end of the book, what did Amy report that she was modeling?

LITTLE WOMEN PART 2 (GOOD WIVES)

Project—Timeline

Below is a timeline of events and dates in the March family, based on clues from the book like the date found in Amy's will in chapter 19, at the New Year's Eve party Laurie is almost sixteen, and that in the last chapter Jo says she is thirty and Marmee is sixty. Research the actual events in history listed at the bottom of the page and complete the timeline. This way you can see what was actually happening in America during the time of the book.

_____	1860	Story begins at Christmas.
_____	1861	Marches and Laurences become friends, Beth gets a new piano, Pickwick Papers and post office are begun, Mr. March is wounded, Marmee travels, Beth is ill with scarlet fever, Mr. March comes home on Christmas day, Meg and John Brooke get engaged.

_____	1863	John Brooke joins the Union army and is wounded.
_____	1864	Meg and John prepare for the wedding.
_____	1865	Meg and John Brooke marry, Jo wins a \$100 prize in a short story contest.

_____	1866	Meg and John's twins are born, Amy goes to Europe, Jo goes to New York and she meets Professor Bhaer.

_____	1867	Jo returns home, Laurie graduates from college, he proposes to Jo, she refuses, Jo realizes Beth's health is failing.

_____	1868	Beth dies, Amy and Laurie become engaged, Jo begins to write again, her first novel is published.

_____	1869	Amy and Laurie are married and return home in November, Professor Bhaer proposes to Jo.

_____	1870	Aunt March dies and leaves her home to Jo, Jo and the Professor are married and settle Plumfield, where they start a school for boys.



The Civil War ends
The U.S. purchases Alaska
The Civil War begins
Sherman's "March to the Sea"
Lincoln is assassinated

The 13th Amendment
Ulysses S. Grant is elected president of the U.S.
Transcontinental Railroad is completed

The 14th Amendment
The Pony Express begins
Lincoln delivers the Gettysburg Address
Battle of Bull Run

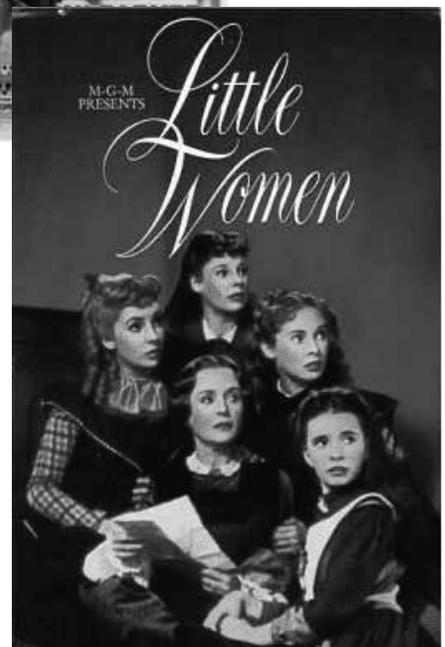
LITTLE WOMEN PART 2 (GOOD WIVES)

Project—Movies

Compare the theatrical adaptations of *Little Women* (1994—starring Winona Ryder as Jo; 1949—starring June Allyson as Jo; 1933—starring Katharine Hepburn as Jo) with the novel and discuss the differences using the questions below.

1. Which movie does the best at capturing the story and spirit of *Little Women*?
2. Do the actors and actresses portray the novel's characters well?
3. If you watch more than one of the movies, who does the best job bringing to life Jo, Meg, Beth, Amy, Marmee, Laurie, Mr. Brooke, the Professor, and Aunt March?
4. Compare and contrast the following important scenes. Which film is most faithful to the book? What changes do the films make to the book, and how do those changes affect the meaning of the scene?

- *Their first Christmas: the morning with the Hummels and the play*
- *The first time Jo spends time with Laurie (at the New Year's Eve party)*
- *Meg's trip and parties*
- *Jo's haircut*
- *Beth's sickness and death*
- *Laurie's statement of love for Jo*
- *Amy's time in Europe*
- *Jo's time in New York*
- *Laurie and Amy's courting and marriage*
- *Professor and Jo coming together*



LITTLE WOMEN PART 2 (GOOD WIVES)

Project—Further Reading

In 1868 when Little Women was first published it became an overnight success, immediately selling more than 2,000 copies. Alcott was soon deluged with letters requesting a sequel and in 1869 published the second part of the story (titled Good Wives in England). Now that you have read that part of the story, continue in Little Women-esque literary delights by trying some of the ideas below.

READ BOOKS BY LOUISA MAY ALCOTT:

Flower Fables

Little Men

Jo's Boys

An Old-Fashioned Girl

Eight Cousins

Rose in Bloom (a sequel to *Eight Cousins*)

READ BOOKS ABOUT LOUISA MAY ALCOTT:

Invincible Louise by Cornelia Meigs, 1934 Newberry Award winning biography. The fascinating life of Louisa May Alcott, from her happy childhood to her successful career as a writer. Children

who loved *Little Women* will be glad to learn about the real life and times of Louisa and how her family inspired her characters in her famous novel. For grades 5–7

Fruitlands by Gloria Whelan

A fictional journal of a young Louisa May Alcott. Readers will meet 10-year-old Louisa May Alcott as she leaves Concord, Mass., with her family to live at Fruitlands, a utopian community started by her father. The story is set in 1843 and is told through two different journal entries. In one, Louise writes what her parents would want to read, just in case they do read her entries. The second is a secret diary, “and this one shall be my honest thoughts.” For grades 4–7

RESEARCH OTHER FAMOUS WRITERS FROM LOUISA MAY ALCOTT'S TIME:

Research the writers Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau. For each writer find out the following information: *When did he live? Where did he live? What made him famous? What was his connection to Louisa May Alcott? What were titles of his published works? How was he influential in America?*



LITTLE WOMEN PART 2 (GOOD WIVES)

Answers

CHAPTER 24

1. three; the war was over
2. Mr. March as a pastor was quiet and studious, he disciplined young men, comforted troubled women, “rebuked and saved” sinners, was a friend and inspiration to many as well as being admired by the world.
3. Mr. March
4. bookkeeper
5. drawing lessons
6. the house of John and Meg; Laurie
7. Laurie
8. She ordered Mrs. Carrol to buy house and table linens and pretend that they were from her instead of from Aunt March.

CHAPTER 25

toilette: the act or process of dressing or grooming oneself

cravat: a necktie, often made of or trimmed with lace, worn about the neck by men

Grecian: Greek, with reference to ancient Greece

moiré: silks and other fabrics which present a watery or wavelike appearance

chasséed: a gliding step in which one foot is kept in advance of the other

impromptu: made or done without previous preparation; suddenly or hastily prepared, made, etc; improvised;

1. to have the people around her that she loved and to look familiar to them and be herself
2. lilies of the valley
3. Amy
4. Amy met her and led her in—and even kissed John before the wedding!
5. Laurie staring at her
6. Growing up in a home where wine was as common and harmless as water, Laurie ended up not caring for it.
7. He urged everyone to dance around the new couple like the Germans do.
8. marrying a March girl

CHAPTER 26

audacity: boldness or daring, esp. with confident or arrogant disregard for personal safety, conventional thought, or other restrictions

conflagration: a destructive fire, usually an extensive one

monstrosities: the state or character of being monstrous

perilous: full of grave risk or peril; hazardous; dangerous

buxom: healthily plump and ample of figure; full bosomed

dropsical: of, like, or affected with dropsy (swelling from accumulation of watery fluid in the cells)

whetted: sharpened, made keen or eager; stimulated

allude: to refer casually or indirectly

1. a. pen-and-ink drawing, b. poker-sketching, c. oil painting, d. charcoal portraits, e. sketching from nature
2. throw a party for her friends
3. the types of food to be served at her gathering; Marmee said Amy was attempting a style not keeping with their circumstances; Amy knew she could do it with a little help. Marmee agreed knowing experience was a good teacher.
3. one
4. a lobster charm; the lobster that fell out of her basket

CHAPTER 27

vortex: a whirling mass of water, air or flame in which a force of suction operates, as a whirlpool

pinafore: a woman’s sleeveless garment, low-necked, tying or buttoning in the back, and worn as an apron or as a dress, usually over a blouse, a sweater, or another dress

tatting: the act or process of making a kind of knotted lace of cotton or linen thread with a shuttle

denouement: the final resolution of the intricacies of a plot, as of a drama or novel

metaphysical: concerned with abstract thought or subjects, as existence, causality, or truth

commendation: the act of commending; recommendation; praise

1. a black woolen pinafore, a cap of the same that sported a cheerful red bow
2. Mrs. S.L.A.N.G. Northbury
3. “Aim at the highest, and never mind the money.”
4. She sent Marmee and Beth to the seaside.
5. the butcher’s bill, a new carpet, groceries and a gown
6. Her romance, cut and changed based on her family’s council. She earned \$300 and received praise and scorn from the critics.

LITTLE WOMEN PART 2 (GOOD WIVES)

Answers

CHAPTER 28

sumptuously: entailing great expense, as from choice materials, fine work, etc.; costly

dyspeptic: pertaining to, subject to, or suffering from dyspepsia

petulantly: moved to or showing sudden, impatient irritation, esp. over some trifling annoyance

nervy: brashly presumptuous or insolent; pushy

proxy: a person authorized to act as the deputy or substitute for another

1. make jam
2. bring friends over any time
3. She said that he should go away.
4. calm and firm
5. a silk dress
6. twins!
7. John Laurence, also known as Demi, and Margaret, also known as Daisy
8. It is a biblical reference to Eve's temptation—Meg was tempted to buy something she should not.

CHAPTER 29

shirk: to evade (work, duty, responsibility)

mantuamaker: one who makes dresses, cloaks, etc., for women; a dressmaker

wheedle: to endeavor to influence a person by smooth, flattering, or beguiling words or acts

plucky: having or showing pluck or courage; brave; spunky or spirited

brusque: abrupt in manner; blunt; rough

parasol: a lightweight umbrella used by women as a sunshade

brickbat: an unkind or unfavorable remark; caustic criticism

deportment: demeanor; conduct; behavior

1. Jo was cold and did not talk.
2. She painted their clothes.
3. Amy said it would have been right if Jo had reversed the actions, in favor of Mr. Tudor and snubbing the grocery store boy.
4. not to be able to hide them
5. They oppressed her and made her feel like a slave.
6. It is a slippery, silly language.

CHAPTER 30

akimbo: with hand on hip and elbow bent outward

trifle: an article or thing of very little value or significance

exonerate: to clear, as of an accusation; free from guilt or blame

magnanimity: liberality in bestowing gifts; extremely liberal and generous of spirit

1. because she was a better artist and more popular
2. The flower table; she was told that it was May's place to have the table; Mrs. Chester resented the supposed ridicule of her daughter.
3. because they both knew Amy was moved for unhonorable reasons
4. She read about loving her neighbor and knew that she should, but didn't. She decided to act in a way that showed love to May and to the others.
5. Laurie and his friends bought the nicest flowers and hung out with her.
6. going abroad; she was sad
7. when she was about to leave on the steamer; she realized her family and friends would be a sea away
8. Answers will vary.
9. The little girls helping Amy were not really helping her, but they did talk a lot, like the magpie bird.

CHAPTER 31

colliery: a coal mine, including all buildings and equipment

droll: amusing in an odd way; whimsically humorous; waggish

belter-skelter: carelessly hurried; confused; tumultuous disorder

gallant: brave, noble-minded, or chivalrous; exceptionally polite and attentive to women; courtly

mercenary: working or acting merely for money or other reward; venal

rake: a dissolute or profligate man who is licentious

prudent: wise or judicious in practical affairs; sagacious; discreet or circumspect; sober

1. Otherwise, they'd smoke themselves to death.
2. the colliery
3. Laurie's English friend Fred Vaughn
4. visiting the Louvre
5. She decided to marry Fred if he asked her.

CHAPTER 32

philandering: to engage in many love affairs, especially with a frivolous or casual attitude

impending: about to happen; imminent

assiduity: constant or close application or effort;

LITTLE WOMEN PART 2 (GOOD WIVES)

Answers

diligence; industry

aversion: a fixed, intense dislike; repugnance

acquiesced: to consent or comply passively or without protest

audacious: fearlessly, often recklessly daring; bold

1. Beth's spirits
2. because she saw Laurie
3. "You flirt, too." But he couldn't because she didn't flirt.
4. to go to New York to work as a governess
5. Laurie
6. "It won't do a bit of good, Jo. My eye is on you; so mind what you do, or I'll come and bring you home."
7. Her imagination and her creativity were like a horse, and her romantic side really made her want to see Beth and Laurie together. Common sense or right thinging would not stop her thinking about this idea.

CHAPTER 33

1. The professor brought up coal for the servant girl.
2. stout, with brown hair, bushy beard, good nose, kind eyes, large hands and beautiful teeth
3. They said of Jo that she had a "handsome head, but no style."
4. It is rather "Bhaery."
5. German lessons
6. grammar lesson
7. a fine Shakespeare

CHAPTER 34

compensation: something given or received as an equivalent for services, debt, loss, injury, suffering, lack, etc.

discomfiture: confusion; embarrassment

daunted: overcome with fear; intimidated

emaciated: wasted away

1. dreams; Jo's was a home filled with comforts, giving Beth everything she wants, going abroad, always having more than enough, being able to indulge in charity.
2. the "Weekly Volcano"
3. Emaciated means being skinny for lack of food, and stout means fattened up. Jo's purse had been thin because it had no money, but now it was fattened up with her earnings.
4. His personality and manner with people drew people to him. They wanted to be with him.
5. He had been honored and esteemed for his learning

and integrity. He was an honored professor.

6. He did not like them.

CHAPTER 35

eloquence: the practice or art of using language with fluency and aptness

tête-à-tête: a private conversation or interview, usually between two people

impetuosity: the quality or condition of being inclined to sudden or rash action, emotion

indignation: strong displeasure at something considered unjust, offensive, insulting, or base; righteous anger

superannuated: to allow to retire from service or office on a pension because of age or infirmity

marplot: a person who mars or defeats a plot, design, or project by meddling

1. propose marriage
2. the "old" professor
3. went to visit Mr. Laurence and told him what happened
4. travel abroad
5. pictures, music, scenery, adventures

CHAPTER 36

1. the beach
2. that she was going to die
3. She was very upset.
4. that each girl did not romantically love Laurie
5. Beth- peeper
Jo- gull
Meg- turtledove
Amy- lark
6. Her life was leaving her a little at a time. Since they were at the seashore, she gave a picture of the tide.

CHAPTER 37

saunter: to walk with a leisurely gait; stroll

diminutive: small; little; tiny

prinked: to adorn, dress or groom oneself with elaborate care

sundry: various or diverse

propitious: presenting favorable conditions; favorable; auspicious

piquant: agreeably stimulating, interesting, or attractive

1. to keep it from blowing away
2. nothing to perplex or disappoint and much to

LITTLE WOMEN PART 2 (GOOD WIVES)

Answers

- admire and approve
- 3. flowers in a silver bracelet Amy had coveted in one of Cardiglia's shops
- 4. a Polish count
- 5. illusion

CHAPTER 38

- docile*: easily managed or handled
- forlorn*: desolate or dreary; unhappy or miserable, as in feeling, condition, or appearance
- caprice*: a sudden, unpredictable change, as of one's mind or the weather
- propitious*: presenting favorable conditions; favorable
- dowdy: not stylish; drab; old-fashioned

1. Meg's attention
2. John
3. He did not let business keep him from the little cares and duties of the home. Marmee tried not to let domestic worries destroy her interests in his pursuits.
4. Marmee is giving Meg a picture of how she sets the attitude of the home.
5. go to bed when he was told to by Meg
6. that he was to go to bed without crying
7. Answers will vary.
6. because the little home was so welcoming

CHAPTER 39

Answers will vary. Cartoon strip should include some part of Laurie in Valrosa with Amy: As Amy sketched Laurie she told him that he had changed from the boy that she used to know and that she despised him because he was lazy and that he did nothing but waste time, money, and disappoint his friends. Laurie explained about Jo, and Amy told him to take it like a man. She showed him the sketch she had done of him and another sketch she made of him years ago. Later, Laurie sent a note that he had gone to be with his grandfather in Paris.

CHAPTER 40

1. stronger
2. a poem by Jo called "My Beth"
3. that she would take care of Marmee and Father
4. Beth's life, in the early morning
5. The fire was out, Jo's place was empty, the room was still.

CHAPTER 41

- blighted*: to have a deleterious effect on; ruin
- interred*: placed in a grave or tomb; buried; put into the earth
- embalm*: to treat with preservatives in order to prevent decay; to protect from change or oblivion
- complacent*: contented to a fault; self-satisfied and unconcerned
- wraith*: an apparition of a living person that appears as a portent just before that person's death; the ghost of a dead person
- sundry*: various or diverse
- pedestrian*: a person who goes or travels on foot; walker

1. He went back to his grandfather.
2. compose some music
3. Jo; Amy
4. He carefully stirred up the embers of this *lost love*, but they refused to *burst* into a *blaze* . . .
5. No, thank you.
6. two
7. row with him always; marry him

CHAPTER 42

1. Answers will vary. After Beth's death, only loneliness and grief were left; her heart ached; she was trying to do her duty, but it was hard; She felt despair at the idea of spending the rest of her life in the house.
2. Jo being with her father in the study and their talking together
3. writing; write something for her family
4. truth and heart
5. mothers
6. the four chests
7. Fritz Bhaer; that he will come for her at some time

CHAPTER 43

- spinster*: a woman still unmarried beyond the usual age of marrying
- prim*: formally precise or proper, as persons or behavior; stiffly neat
- talisman*: an amulet, charm, or anything whose presence exercises a remarkable or powerful influence on human feelings or actions
- scapegrace*: a complete rogue or rascal; a habitually unscrupulous person; scamp
- audacity*: boldness or daring, esp. with confident or arrogant disregard for personal safety, convention-

LITTLE WOMEN PART 2 (GOOD WIVES)

Answers

- al thought, or other restrictions
1. to be an old maid—a literary spinster
 2. He was married.
 3. Six weeks earlier, at the American consul in Paris, and very quietly
 4. brother and sister, to love and help one another
 5. Mr. Bhaer arrived.
 6. Jo thought Mr. Bhaer “couldn’t have got himself up with more care if he’d been going a-wooing,” and the thought made her blush.
 7. Amy sang, then Jo and the professor sang.
 8. He kissed Jo’s photograph.

CHAPTER 44

salubrious: favorable to or promoting health; healthful
bootjack: a yokelike device for catching the heel of a boot, as a riding boot, to aid in removing it
trump: a fine person; brick
blarney: misleading talk; nonsense
philanthropic: the activity of altruistic concern for human welfare and advancement, usually manifested by donations of money, property, or work to needy persons, by endowment of institutions of learning and hospitals, and by generosity to other socially useful purposes

1. Father was glad to see them happy. Marmee said “I think it will last.”
2. his nose
3. Jo would find out and spoil it all
4. smooth out rough ways for others, help those who were in more difficult financial situations

CHAPTER 45

philoprogenitiveness: producing many offspring; loving one’s offspring or children in general
sonorous: loud, deep, or resonant, as a sound

1. Answers will vary.
2. Answers will vary.
3. Aunt Dodo—playmate; Aunt Amy—name; Aunt Beth—nice memory
4. a lesson on the floor

CHAPTER 46

1. on her walks
2. hurt and sad
3. down near the counting-houses, banks, and wholesale ware rooms

4. in the rain
5. Franz and Emil
6. his heart and his hands
7. “In the Garret”
8. Answers will vary.

CHAPTER 47

1. Plumfield
2. boys
3. Laurie
4. Rob and Teddy
5. a figure of a baby

Timeline Project

- 1860 The Pony Express begins mail delivery from St. Louis, Missouri, and Sacramento, California
- 1861 Abraham Lincoln is elected 16th president of the United States
- 1861 The Civil War begins when Southern soldiers fire on Fort Sumter
- 1861 Union troops are defeated at the Battle of Bull Run
- 1863 Lincoln delivers the Gettysburg Address
- 1864 General Sherman leads the Union troops on their “March to the Sea”
- 1865 The Civil War ends
- 1865 President Lincoln is assassinated at Ford’s Theater
- 1865 The 13th Amendment, abolishing slavery is approved by Congress (Although it was ratified by the necessary three-quarters of the states within a year of its proposal, its most recent ratification occurred in 1995 in Mississippi, which was the last of the thirty-six states in existence in 1865 to ratify it.)
- 1867 The US purchases Alaska from Russia
- 1867 Laura Ingalls Wilder, author of the *Little House* books, is born
- 1868 The 14th Amendment, granting citizenship to African-Americans is approved by Congress
- 1868 *Little Women*, Part One is published
- 1869 Ulysses S. Grant is elected president of the U.S.
- May 10, 1869 The transcontinental railroad is completed
- 1869 *Little Women*, Part Two (*Good Wives*) is published
- 1880 *Little Women* and *Good Wives* combined into one volume