



Little Women



*Retold from the Louisa May Alcott
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STERLING CHILDREN'S BOOKS
New York

What Do *You* Think? Questions for Discussion



Have you ever been around a toddler who keeps asking the question “Why?” Does your teacher call on you in class with questions from your homework? Do your parents ask you questions at the dinner table about your day? We are always surrounded by questions that need a specific response. But is it possible to have a question with no right answer?

The following questions are about the book you just read. But this is not a quiz! They are

designed to help you look at the people, places, and events in the story from different angles. These questions so not have specific answers. Instead, they might make you think of the story in a completely new way.

Think carefully about each question and enjoy discovering more about this classic story.

1. When Mrs. March returns on Christmas, she says to the girls, “A very poor family lives nearby. They have no fire and are very hungry. Will you girls give them your breakfast as a Christmas present?” How does this action reflect the true spirit of Christmas? What would you have done?

2. Jo has a special place in the attic where she loves to eat apples and read. Why is it important for Jo to have a place of her own? If you had your own special room in the attic, what would it look like?

3. Meg and Jo develop a signal system in case Jo acts improperly at the dance. Have you ever

had a secret code in case you or a friend needed help? What was it?

4. The author says of the March sisters, “All in all, they were happy girls who found comfort in one another, when the outside world was so disappointing.” Do you feel that way about your brothers and sisters? If you are an only child, do you have this kind of relationship with any of your friends?

5. Mrs. March tells the girls, “When you feel unhappy, count your blessings and be grateful—for there are always those in the world with less.” Do you agree? What blessings are you grateful for?

6. In chapter 6, “Amy’s Valley of Humiliation,” the author says that Amy always used wrong words. Have you ever used a word in the wrong way or heard someone else do so? Did you correct that person?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

7. Do you think Amy acted properly in punishing Jo for not taking her to the show? How would you have reacted?

8. How does Jo's temper get her into trouble? Does Jo really have a bad temper or is she just impulsive?

9. Jo sells her hair to help pay for her mother's trip to Washington. What is the biggest sacrifice you have ever made for your family?

10. Jo is very concerned that Meg will grow up and get married. Why do you think she is so worried?