



Ted Alejandre, County Superintendent

San Bernardino County

Superintendent of Schools

Transforming lives through education



RIVERSIDE COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

JUDY D. WHITE, Ed.D. County Superintendent of Schools

## Thursday, April 23

1:00pm

### Little Women – Part 2 - 4<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade

Based on the classic novel by Louisa May Alcott and loved by generations of women worldwide, "Little Women" is a universal coming-of-age story. Set against the backdrop of the Civil War, the story follows sisters Jo, Meg, Beth and Amy March on their journey from childhood to adulthood. With the help of their mother, Marmee -- and while their father is away at war -- the girls navigate what it means to be a young woman: from sibling rivalry and first love to loss and marriage. This adaptation is from the award-winning creator of "Call the Midwife," Heidi Thomas, who also wrote "Cranford" and the latter-day "Upstairs Downstairs" for Masterpiece.

As Marmee waits by her husband's sickbed, the March sisters must fend for themselves at home. Together they face unrequited love, hurtful rumors and trouble at school. But when Beth falls dangerously ill, Laurie sends for Marmee to return home.

Relief sweeps over the family when Beth recovers and Mr. March returns home for Christmas. Jo hears promising news about her writing, while Meg and John Brooke's relationship develops.

The family holds a joyous wedding ceremony, but Jo grows anxious: the future for her and her loved ones seems fraught with challenges.

**After watching this episode, choose from the following questions and/or tasks to extend your learning**

#### Question Box 1

- The girls muddle forward in Marmee's absence, what happens to each of the girls in this episode? Amy? Meg? Jo? and Beth?
- Why is Meg troubled to find her friends believe that she and her mother have designs on Laurie?
- Despite the girls' stubbornness not to ask Marmee to come home, how does she discover her girls need her help?
- How do the girls react to Laurie's actions?
- Even after Jo kisses Laurie in gratitude for his help, she wishes to remain friends with him, describe his conflicting emotions over this decision.
- Describe the many things that the March family has to celebrate during the Christmas holidays in this episode.
- At first Jo is distressed that Brooke is interested in Meg, now she hopes that Meg will

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return his love. How and why has Jo's opinion changed over time?

- Why does Meg turn down Brooke before he goes into the army?
- What changes her mind about Meg's feelings for Brooke, and why does she have a reversal of opinion after discovering how Aunt March feels about Brooke?
- After returning home from war, Brooke and Meg marry, why does Aunt March reconcile with Meg?
- At the wedding, Laurie suggests he is interested in Jo. Do you think she is interested in Laurie? Why do you think she turns him down once again?
- Good things happen for Jo too. She is offered \$300 to publish her book. Why does her father encourage her to turn it down? Do you agree with him? Why or why not?

### **Question Box 2**

- Think about a time when you were left alone. How did you feel? What did you discover about yourself? What were some challenges and "ahas" you experienced?
- What stood out for you the most in this episode?
- What do you think will happen next in the story? Why?

### **Question Box 3 (Tasks)**

- Analyze the underlying problem in this episode? Support with evidence from the video.
- Joe was offered \$300 to publish her book. If inflation has risen an average of 3% per year, what would that be worth in 2020's economy? Be able to justify your answer.
- Timeline of events in this episode, including facts and details to support each event's significance.

### **Question Box 4 (Enrichment)**

- Write a movie review for this episode.
- Create a graphic representation of this episode (like a comic book, poster or postcard).

### **Question Box 4 (Enrichment)**

- Social Emotional Connection: In this show, Jo was very anxious about the future and her family. Sometimes we worry about things that we cannot control which can be bad for our mind and body. One strategy you can use when you worry is to do belly breathing. Put your hand on your stomach and pretend it is a balloon. Take a deep breath so that you can feel your stomach push out like it is a balloon being filled with air. Release your breath and feel your stomach go back down. Do this 3 to 5 times. Write down in your journal how you feel after doing your belly breathing.
- Successful authors, playwrights, and screenwriters often pattern the characters in their books, plays, and movies after people in their own lives. If you were to create fictional characters based on some people you know, how would you describe them so the

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reader/ viewer would quickly get to “know” them individually?

- What would they do/ say early in your story to demonstrate their personalities?
- In Jo’s time, writers could only use a pen and ink to write.
- What options would she have today?
- How have those options changed the way authors create and distribute their works?
- How might they change in the future?
- What careers exist now because of the advancements in communication technologies that didn’t exist in Jo’s time?