

Grades: 6-8

Little Women – Part 3

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.

A year has passed and there are new additions to the March family – but there is worry all around as Beth's health and spirits flag.

Amy is chosen over Jo to accompany Aunt Carroll's daughter on a tour of Europe. A distraught Jo flees to New York to pursue her career, where she meets the kind Professor Bhaer. But devastating news from home cuts her adventure short.

As their paths cross in Europe, Amy and Laurie's friendship develops into something more. The family reunites upon Amy's return, which is made more joyful by unexpected news and a surprise visitor.

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

Question Box 1

- A year past Meg's wedding, Jo finds it difficult to write, what do you think is contributing to her unhappiness?
- Why does Jo leave to become a governess in New York?
- What does a governess do?
- Who is Mr. Bhaer? and how does he help Jo to start writing again?
- Describe Jo's friendship with Mr. Bhaer.
- Aunt March and Amy visit Jo in New York, how does Jo's feel about Amy traveling to Europe with Aunt March?
- Why does Jo return home when things are going well in New York?
- Laurie declares his love for Jo once again. Mr. Lawrence convinces Laurie to travel to

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Europe to forget about Jo. While in Europe who does Laurie meet there?

- What happens with Laurie and Amy while in Europe?
- Why does Jo feel frustrated by her quiet and confined life?
- What changes Jo's life around when she returns home once again?
- At the end of this episode, Meg remarks that "things in life can never be perfect" to which Jo replies, "things can be just right", what does she mean by this?

Question Box 2

- People have many decisions that must be made in life. Think about a time when you had to make a difficult decision. How did it make you feel? Did you learn a lesson?
- Which Character in Little Women do you most relate to and why?

Question Box 3 (Tasks)

- Timeline of events in this episode, including facts and details to support each event's significance.
- Put the timelines you created after each episode together. Summarize the story in your own words and provide illustrations.
- Write an alternate ending to the story.

Question Box 4 (Enrichment)

- Write a movie review for this episode.
- Create a video of you providing the movie review for KVCR.
- Culminating Activity: Read the book. Compare and contrast the book to the three episodes you watched. Tell which you prefer the book or the movie and why.

Question Box 5 (Extend/Real-Life)

- Social-Emotional Connection: Think about a time when something didn't go the way you wanted it to. How did you feel? How did you react? Brainstorm some positive things you can do when dealing with disappointment. Write those ideas down in your journal.
- If the young women in the story were living today, how would their lives be different? How might they be the same?
- If you were that person living today, what would you be planning for your future? What steps would you have to take to make that future a reality?
- What modern medical advances might have helped Beth? What breakthroughs might develop in the future to help with some of the illnesses today?