

Little Women

Louisa May Alcott



Contents

	Activities 1	iv
Chapter 1	A Letter from Father	1
	Activities 2	4
Chapter 2	Christmas Day	6
Chapter 3	The Party	9
	Activities 3	12
Chapter 4	The Laurences	14
Chapter 5	Problems for Amy	17
	Activities 4	20
Chapter 6	Amy is Angry Again	22
Chapter 7	Meg's Glove	25
	Activities 5	28
Chapter 8	Jo's Hair	30
Chapter 9	Beth is Sick	32
	Activities 6	34
Chapter 10	What is <i>Happiness</i> ?	36
	Talk about it	40
	Write about it	41
	Project: About People	42

What's the book about?

Read about this story on the back of this book. Then answer the questions.

1 How many girls are there in the March family?

.....

2 Is their father at home with them?

.....

3 Does the family have a lot of money?

.....

4 Are the girls sometimes happy?

.....

5 Is this a good year for them?

.....

1.2 What happens first?

Look at the pictures on pages 1 and 2. What are the right answers? What do you think? Write them in the sentences.

1 The girls are

at work at school at home

2 The time of year is

Christmas summer fall

3 The girls are talking about

jobs presents friends

4 They are thinking about their, too.

friends brother father

A Letter from Father

"It's Christmas and we aren't going to have any presents!" Jo said.

It was two days before Christmas.

Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy March were sisters. Meg was sixteen and she was very beautiful. She had big eyes and beautiful long brown hair. Jo was fifteen. She was tall and thin. She had dark eyes and long brown hair. Beth was thirteen. She was very quiet. Little Amy had blue eyes and yellow hair.

It was six in the evening and the girls were at home. They talked about Christmas.

Jo wasn't happy.

"It's Christmas and we aren't going to have any **presents!**" she said.

Meg looked at her old dress.

"I know, Jo," she said. "But we don't have much money."

Amy said, "My friends are going to have presents. I want some presents, too."

Beth smiled.

"We don't have any money," she said. "But we have Mother and Father, and we're happy."

Jo didn't smile.

She said, "We don't have Father. He's away in the **war** and he isn't coming back for Christmas."

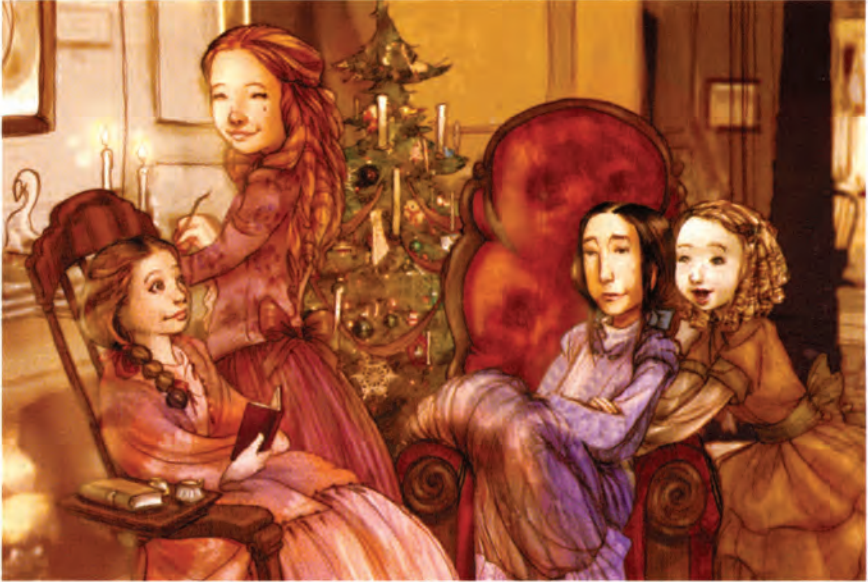
"Maybe he isn't going to come back," the girls **thought**. But they didn't say it.



present /'prezənt/ (n) Is that a *present* for me? Thank you!

war /wɔː/ (n) People in the two countries are angry. There is going to be a *war*.

thought /θɔːt/ (v, past) I *thought* about my family but I did not visit them.



“We have a little money,” Meg said. “What can we buy?”

“I want a new book,” Jo said. She loved reading.

“And I’d like some pens,” Amy said.

“I don’t want any presents,” Beth said. “Let’s buy presents for Mother. We can put them on the table for her on Christmas Day.”

“Yes,” said Jo. “Let’s do that. We can buy them tomorrow. What can we get for her?”

Then Mrs. March arrived in her dark coat and old hat.

She called, “Children, I’m home!”

“Hello, Mother!” the girls answered.

“Come and **kiss** me, girls!” Mrs. March said. They went to her, and she smiled at them. “I have a letter from Father,” she said. “Let’s eat, and then we can read it.”

Later in the evening, Mrs. March said, “Sit down now, girls. I’m going to read Father’s letter to you.”

kiss /kɪs/ (v/n) Kiss your mother and then go to bed.



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Little Women

Louisa May Alcott

American English

Classic

The four March sisters — Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy — have problems. Their father is away in the war and they don't have much money. But the girls have happy times, too! Read this story of family love in a difficult year for the Marches.

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