

Literature Guide

Little Women by Louisa Mae Alcott

Chapter 1: Playing Pilgrims

1. Describe the girls' personalities based on what we've read so far.
 - Meg - oldest, a little vain, tries to do the right thing but complains a little
 - Jo - a tomboy, "rough", likes to write, the most boisterous of the bunch
 - Beth - always good, extremely shy, hates housework, loves to play the piano, loved by all because she is so dear
 - Amy - youngest, a bit spoiled, hates school, envious of girls with money, preoccupied with her looks, tries to be older than she really is, likes to draw
2. What things do the girls do to entertain themselves? Act out plays, sing, draw, sew (pretend & talk while doing this, e.g. sheets with four continents)
3. Describe Marmee. Loving, caring mother, cheerful, tries to find the good in all situations, brave, willing to sacrifice
4. How did their Father's letter change the girls' mood that evening? It made them want to be his "Little Women" w/o complaining, w/ fortitude and being cheerful in their tasks
5. What did each girl see as her "burden" in Playing Pilgrims?
 - Beth (p. 10) - dishes & dusters, envying girls with nice pianos, being afraid of people
 - Meg (p. 9) - thinks too much of her looks, hates to work
 - Jo (p. 9) - too rough & wild, "do my duty here instead of wanting to be somewhere else", keeping her temper
 - Amy (p. 9) - selfishness
6. How is Playing Pilgrims like getting to heaven? We all must pick up our burdens or crosses and bear them cheerfully in order to get to heaven.

Chapter 2: A Merry Christmas

1. Give more details about the girls and mother.
 - Meg - pious, sweet nature, gentle
 - Marmee - always helping the poor
 - Beth - very thoughtful
 - Jo - very talented actor & play write
2. Describe the Hummel's house and situation. Very poor, broken window, no heat, 6 children and a baby, desperate, cold & frightened
3. How did the Marsh's make Christmas merry for them? Gave them their Christmas breakfast, started a fire, patched the window
4. How did this act of kindness affect the girls? They were proud of their selflessness. They felt happy.
5. Do you think they were "Playing Pilgrims?"
6. How were they rewarded for their generosity? Old Mr. Lawrence sent them a bountiful Christmas dinner.

Chapter 3: The Lawrence Boy

1. Being a lady is very important to Meg. Describe some of the pains she went to that turned out to be disastrous.

- Burnt hair (Wanted curls)
 - Sprained ankle (shoes that were too tight)
 - gloves (Stained by coffee)
 - gowns (Jo's burnt and had to only face a certain way so no one would see it)
2. Despite all of the mishaps, did the girl's enjoy the dance? Why or why not? Yes, Meg found some girls to socialize with and danced a few dances. Jo found Laurie whom she got along with famously.
 3. Who do you think had a better time Jo or Meg?
 4. Describe Laurie. Likes adventure, hates school, very gentlemanly, kind and helpful, amused by Jo, strong (thrashed the boys that called him Dora)

Chapter 4: Burdens

1. Describe Jo and Meg's jobs.
 - Jo is a companion to Aunt March. Jo takes advantage of her aunt's vast library when she is either sleeping or entertaining.
 - Meg is a nursery governess to 4 young, rich children.
2. Describe Aunt March. Old, lonely, cranky, determined, stubborn
3. How did Marmee use the girl's troubles of the day to teach them a lesson? She said it was more important to count one's blessings. Sometimes people who have much don't have what you have (e.g. shame/sorrow in rich person's house)

Chapter 5: Being Neighborly

1. List some of the things Jo did to brighten Laurie's spirit. Brought him Beth's kittens, told him stories, tidied the room, talked with him, brought him Meg's blanc-mange.
2. Why did Mr. Laurence not like to hear Laurie play the piano according to Mrs. March? His mother was a musician and displeased the old man. Once she married his son, Mr. Laurence never saw him again. He may be afraid that Laurie will become a musician.
3. Describe Mr. Laurence. Old, wealthy, a big gruff, kind, generous, but doesn't want to be thanked, prizes modesty, haunted by things of the past.

Chapter 6: Beth finds the Palace Beautiful

1. Why do you think Beth was so shy about meeting Mr. Laurence? He was gruff. Beth is terrified by people.
2. Why did Mr. Laurence want to get to know Beth? She reminded him of the granddaughter that died.
3. How did he begin to win over her shyness? He invited any of the girls to play his grand piano.
4. What things did Mr. Laurence do to ensure Beth would keep coming back? Made sure that the servants did not disturb her, put out new music for her to play, and talked with her about music
5. How did Beth repay Mr. Laurence? By making him a pair of slippers
6. How did he repay Beth? By giving her his granddaughter's piano
7. What surprising thing did Beth do upon receiving this piano? Went over to his house and hugged him. Why was this surprising? Because Beth was so shy that this took a great act of courage on her part.
8. Who do you think received the greater gift?

Chapter 7: Amy's Valley of Humiliation

1. What was Amy being punished for? Bringing limes to school
2. Do you think her punishment was just or unjust? Explain.
3. What were Marmee's reasons for pulling Amy out of school? Corporal punishment is not appropriate for girls, Mr. Davis's manner of teaching, the girls in the school were not a good influence
4. What were some things that made the girls in the school not appropriate for Amy to be around? They were trite in their relationships (being nice only when you had something to offer), some were mean (said horrible things and told the teacher about the limes just to be spiteful), and they were spoiled, wealthy, wasteful and indulgent.
5. What lesson did Amy learn about conceit? It is nice to have accomplishments and be elegant, but not to show off or get "perked up"

Chapter 8: Jo Meets Apollyon

1. Why was Amy so mad at Jo? Jo wouldn't let her go to the opera. Was Amy justified in her anger? No, Amy was acting like a spoiled brat. Laurie had not invited her, Marmee said she could not go out because of a cold. What could Jo have done differently? Not teased her so much about it.
2. How grievous was Amy's offense in burning Jo's book? Extremely. It represented years of work. Was Jo justified in not forgiving Amy? No, we must always forgive as Jesus forgives us.
3. What is Jo's horrible fault? Her temper
4. How did Marmee advise overcoming it? Watch & pray, never think it is impossible to conquer your fault
5. What surprising thing did Jo learn about Marmee? That she too struggles with her temper.
6. Do you think Amy's falling into the ice was a turning point for Jo? Why or Why not? Yes, she seemed resolved to master her fault less it do something she would regret later that she could not take back.
7. How do you think the incident changed Amy?

Chapter 9: Meg goes to Vanity Fair

1. Why was Marmee reluctant to let Meg go to the Moffats? They were so rich and fashionable; she feared Meg would come home discontented. Do you think that is what happened?
2. During the scene where Meg overhears gossip about her, what untruths were spread? The note did not come from her mother; Mrs. Marsh had plans regarding Laurie marrying one of her daughters.
3. On the night of the ball, did Meg have a good time? Why or why not? No. She knew she was being made a fool of because she was over dressed and over painted.
4. At the beginning of the party, Meg and Laurie had an argument. Then it seemed as though things got better, then worse. Why do you think this happened? Meg was drinking champagne which altered her senses and trying hard to fit in. Laurie disapproved of all of it.
5. After Meg confessed her sins to her mother and Jo, how did Marmee respond? She blamed herself for putting Meg in the position to go among those people. Do you agree that Marmee was to blame? Why or why not?

Chapter 10: The PC and PO

1. Describe the garden. Each girl has her own plot to tend and plant as they desire. The plots resemble the girls' personalities.
2. What is the PC Society? A secret club with literary dealings. The girls write various forms of prose and assembled it in a newsletter.
3. What trick did Jo and Laurie play on the other girls? Jo proposed Laurie as a member. Laurie hid in the closet while all of this was going on.

Chapter 11: Experiments

1. What experiment did the girls want to do? No work and all play for a week.
2. What were some of the things the girls realized about their experiment? The days went by slowly. They were bored and often cross. They quarreled more. They wished they had something to do. Overindulging in their "fun" produced other bothers: headaches, fretting, etc. Pip died.
3. How did their mother respond on the final day of the experiment? She gave Hannah the day off and spent the day in her room. The girls were left to fend for themselves.
4. What lesson was Mother trying to teach them? The comfort of all depends on each doing her share faithfully. Work keeps people from boredom and mischief. It is good for health and spirit.
5. What do you think of the experiment and results?

Chapter 12: Camp Lawrence

1. What do you think was Mother's thought regarding Meg and Mr. Brooks? That there might be some romantic interest there
2. What did Mother tell Jo about her temper? That it was getting much better. Why do you think she sent it in a letter? That way Jo could read it over again when she was having a hard time. She valued her mother's commendation.
3. Describe Mr. Brooke. Laurie's tutor, quiet, handsome, nice manners, very smart
4. Describe the situation where Jo kept her temper. They were playing croquet and Fred cheated.
5. What hints or foreshadowing is there of Meg and Mr. Brooke's romance? He talked with her a lot. He "tutored" her in German. They both share the same lot in life so they have much in common.
6. How did Beth overcome her burden? She talked with Frank and he thoroughly enjoyed her company.

Chapter 13: Castles in the air

1. What is the grandest castle in the air? Heaven
2. What did Laurie want for his castle? To live in Germany and make beautiful music
Meg? To have a grand house with lots of servants and money
Jo? Horses, books and be a famous writer, but first do something heroic or splendid
Beth? Stay at home with Mother and Father
Amy? To paint fine pictures
3. What observation did Laurie make about their castles? Everyone wanted to be rich and famous except Beth
4. What advice did the girls give to Laurie about his grandfather? That he must do whatever his grandfather wants and take care of him. Do you think Laurie will heed their advice?

Chapter 14: Secrets

1. What was Jo's secret? That she submitted 2 articles to be published
2. What was Laurie's secret? That Mr. Brooke had Meg's missing glove in his pocket
3. Why was Jo so unhappy about Laurie's secret? She felt that Meg would be going away and growing up.
4. What was the big news involving Jo's secret? That she got her article published and the editor wanted her to write more.

Chapter 15: A Telegram

1. What happened to their father? He was ill and Marmee had to leave at once
2. What service did Mr. Brooks provide? He would travel with Marmee
3. How do you know Marmee was angry with Aunt March's letter? She folded her lips tightly. Why? Aunt March scolded them for father going to the war.
4. How did Jo help? She cut her hair to earn money for Marmee's trip. Why was this such a big sacrifice? Jo loved her beautiful hair. She willingly sacrificed her vanity.
5. How did Jo really feel about the loss of her hair? Not sorry that she did it, but still a little sad over the loss of her beauty.
6. What indication was there that Meg likes Mr. Brookes? She said he was thinking about "Handsome faces - eye particularly" (this after her run in with Mr. Brookes in the parlor).

Chapter 16: Letters

1. At the beginning of the chapter, the girls vowed to say goodbye to their mother without tears or complaints. Why do you think this was so important for them to do? Their mother had enough to worry about. It would help cheer her.
2. What advice did Marmee give to the girls while she was gone? Not to be idle, but to go on with their work. For works is a blessed solace.
3. What motto did Jo propose? Hope and keep busy
4. What things did you notice about Amy's letter? Misspellings, incorrect punctuation, incorrect use of words, many complaints
5. Did you find it difficult to read Hannah's note? Why or why not? It was written phonetically.

Chapter 17: Little Faithful

1. How did Beth show her faithfulness and selflessness at the beginning of the chapter? She went to the Hummels even though she was not feeling well. She begged everyone else to go but no one would. The Hummels were sick and needed someone to help them.
2. How did Meg and Jo feel when they realized Beth's sacrifice? Selfish. Do you agree?
3. Why didn't the girls tell their Mother about Beth's illness? Hannah said not to. Mother and Father had enough to worry about. Do you agree with Hannah?

Chapter 18: Dark Days

1. What did Meg realize during the Dark Days? How richly she had been blessed in things more precious than any luxuries - in love, protection, peace and health
2. What did Jo realize? Beth's unselfish ambition to live for others; her ability to make their home happy by the exercise of those simple virtues; and all should love and value more than talent, wealth, or beauty. Which saint does Beth remind you of? Saint Therese of Lisieux.

3. What did Amy realize? That she should work for Beth instead of allowing Beth to do everything.
4. How did Laurie comfort Jo on the morning the doctor told them to send for Mother? By stroking her hair, holding her hand and saying nothing.
5. When did Laurie telegraph their mother? The day before Jo did. Do you think he made the right decision?
6. When Jo “flung herself” at Laurie she seemed embarrassed, but he enjoyed it. Why? It was improper for a girl to be so physical with a young man.
7. The girls both promised things to God if only he would spare Beth. What did they promise?
 - Meg - never complain again
 - Joe - love and serve Him all her life
 Do you think they will follow through?
8. What do you think the little white rose symbolized? Hope, healing, thanksgiving to God for sparing Beth

Chapter 19: Amy’s Will

1. What were some of the trials Amy had to endure at Aunt March’s? Polishing silver, painstaking dusting, cranky aunt, lessons, the parrot, the dog
2. What did Ester recommend for Amy regarding her prayers? If Amy was a Catholic, she would find the comfort in the prayers themselves. Amy should meditate and pray in a little chapel that Ester would arrange for her.
3. What motivated Amy to be good and obedient? The jewelry that Aunt March might give to her
4. Ester gave Amy a rosary but she did not use it. Why? Amy felt like it might not be appropriate for a Protestant. Do you think Amy would have found solace by using it?
5. In what ways did Laurie comfort Amy while she was at Aunt March’s? Visited her every day, brought her flowers, listened to her trials, signed her will, brought her news

Chapter 20: Confidential

1. Who is “I” in the first paragraph of this chapter? The author, the book is written in third person omniscient
2. What did Mrs. March think of Amy’s chapel? She thought it was a great idea to have a place where one can go to be quiet
3. What does Amy see as her biggest burden? Being selfish
4. How did she want to use the turquoise ring? To remind her not to be selfish
5. How does Mother feel about Mr. Brookes? She likes him. He is very gentlemanly, helped her a great deal and was very devoted to father.
6. Is it better to marry a rich man or a good man according to Mother? A good man for that is better than a fortune

Chapter 21: Laurie Makes Mischief and Jo Makes Peace

1. What did Laurie do to make mischief? He pretended to be Mr. Brookes and wrote 2 letters to Meg. Were you surprised that he would do such a terrible thing?
2. What did this prank bring out into the open? John’s feelings for Meg and how Mother viewed the situation
3. Do you think Laurie was sorry enough?

4. What happened between Laurie and Mr. Lawrence? They had a fight because Laurie refused to tell Old Mr. Lawrence what had happened.
5. How did Jo smooth things over? She talked with both separately and made them realize the truth. She helped Mr. Lawrence see how Laurie really felt about how Mr. L treated him.

Chapter 22: Pleasant Meadows

1. What Christmas surprise happened for everyone? Father came home
2. What did he notice about each girl? Meg was not so vain as one could see in her hands. They were blistered and burned showing hard work. Jo was not so rough, but more gentle and womanly. Beth was less shy, but everyone was still very worried about her. Amy thought more of others and less of herself.

Chapter 23: Aunt March settles the question

1. What did John profess to Meg? His love
2. How did Meg respond? At first, she was shy, and then began to give him hope. Then she remembered something Annie Moffat told her about power and grew cold and harsh.
3. Do you think Annie's advice was a good way for Meg to handle the situation?
4. When Aunt March came in and told Meg she would not see any of her money if she married John how did Meg respond? She defended John and told her she would marry whom she pleased.
5. Aunt March talks of making a right match to help her family. What does this mean? In those days it was important that the oldest daughter make a good match that involved position and money. This would ensure her younger sisters would also make good matches.
6. Why was Jo so upset about Meg and Mr. Brooke? She feared it would take Meg away from her and their relationship would be ruined as she would have to share Meg.

Chapter 24: Gossip

1. Describe where each character is at in life - 3 years later.
 - Mr. March - home from the war, a minister of a small parish
 - Mrs. March - trying to get Meg ready to be married amidst her regular duties; lacking as a missionary because of that.
 - Meg - preparing for marriage; learning house wifely arts, still pangs for wealth and pretty things
 - Jo - writing articles for "The Spread Eagle"; caring for Beth, no long working for Aunt March
 - Beth - still frail after her illness
 - Amy - now companion to Aunt March with drawing lessons
 - Laurie - in college, behaving some of the time
 - John - went to the war and was hurt and had to be sent home. Now a bookkeeper trying to provide for Meg
2. What advice did Mother give to Meg regarding servants and learning to do things on her own? A mistress of a house should know how work ought to be done
3. Do you think Jo and Laurie have romantic feelings for each other?

Chapter 25: The First Wedding

1. What was most important to Meg on her wedding day? To be loved and surrounded by the people who she loved the most

2. Why was there no alcohol at the wedding? Father disapproved saying it should only be used for illness
3. What did Meg make Laurie promise? Not to partake in alcoholic beverages
4. What did Old Mr. Lawrence ask Laurie to do? Marry one of the March sisters if he was planning to marry

Chapter 26: Artistic Attempts

1. What were some of the calamities Amy experienced as she created her art? Burnt fingers, sculptures tumbling onto people's heads, getting her foot stuck in a pan of plaster, catching cold.
2. What did Amy want to do for her art friends? Invite them to the house for lunch, a drive and some drawing
3. What were some of the disasters that happened on the day of the party? Beth was sick. Meg had a high number of callers and couldn't help. Everything cost more than expected. The food didn't turn out properly. Jo kept breaking things. The weather was bad and so no one came.
4. What was the end result of the party? Only one girl showed up. Amy was disappointed but learned a lesson. She was satisfied because she did what she undertook even though she failed.

Chapter 27: Literary Lessons

1. After Jo won the prize, what did her father tell her? She could do better. Aim at the highest and never mind the money.
2. What did Jo do with her prize money? Sent Marmee and Beth to the seaside
3. What did Jo take the most comfort in from her earnings? That she could supply her own wants and needs; ask no one for a penny
4. Regarding Jo's novel, what did Father suggest when it didn't get picked up right away? Hold on to it; don't cut it up to please the publishers. What was Marmee's advice? Make the trial. Get some feedback from her readers. She would learn more from trying than from waiting. Meg? Don't change a word. Amy? Do what the publisher tells you; he knows what sells. Beth? Publish it soon.
5. Whose advice did Jo take the most to heart? Beth's. Why do you think she did this? She was afraid something might happen to Beth.
6. What do you think she learned from this experience? When you try to please everyone, you please no one. Everyone has a different opinion and are often contradictory, so you need to remain true to yourself, your morals, and ideals

Chapter 28: Domestic Experience

1. In the first paragraph, Meg is compared to "Martha". Who is this? The Martha from the Bible. When Jesus visits Martha and Mary, she is the one that takes care of all the domestic responsibilities. Mary just entertains Jesus. Who are you more like Martha or Mary?
2. What was Meg and John's fight about? John brought home a friend to dinner because Meg had told him he could do that unannounced. Meg had been making jelly all day and was in despair because she could not get it to jell. She was a mess, the kitchen was a mess, and there was no dinner.
3. What joke did John make that put Meg over the edge? One about not asking for jelly.
4. Who do you think was at fault?

5. What does “a few other topics of general interest were introduced by Mr. Brooke and wet-blanketed by Mrs. Brooke mean? Mrs. Brooke put a stop to any conversation that John tried to create.
6. What did Meg remember that her mother told her? Be the first to say you are sorry. Did this work? Yes. What do you think of this advice? Is it easy to do?
7. What sin was Meg guilty of in her dealings with Sallie? Envy
8. What horrible thing did Meg say to John that caused a riff between them? That she was tired about being poor. How was this against what she promised in their wedding vows? For richer or poorer. What did Meg learn? That her husband was very hard working and he put aside many things he wanted/needed in order that she might have pretty things. Why is it important that both people sacrifice in a marriage?
9. What was the joyful news at the end of the chapter? Twins!

Chapter 29: Calls

1. Why did Amy insist about Jo changing her clothes? She wanted to show respect to the people they were about to call upon
2. What are some of the rules of calling? Proper dress, conversation, bowing and curtsying, returning calls when someone has come to visit you, leaving a card behind if the family is not at home
3. How did Jo behave at the first few calls? She did exactly as Amy told her to. She was very theatrical and not herself.
4. How did she behave at Aunt March’s? She said exactly what she thought. She was a bit rude and not at all accommodating.

Chapter 30: Consequences

1. Amy was slighted at the beginning of the chapter by having to move her things to a different table. Rather than leaving at once, she moved her things and made the best of it. What was she trying to do? She wanted to conquer her enemy with kindness. What do you think of her actions not to resent and retaliate?
2. What had Amy been trying to do with all of her sacrifices and kindness? Become like her mother
3. How did Jo’s impudent ways destroy her dreams? Her aunt offered to take Amy to Europe and not Joe. She even quoted Jo’s very words of “favors burden her” and “hates French” to make a point.
4. How did Jo behave towards Amy? She was as gracious as she could be, but she was very sad and ashamed of her own behavior.
5. Do you think Jo has learned a lesson and will change?

Chapter 31: Our Foreign Correspondent

1. Did Amy enjoy herself abroad? Yes. How can you tell? She described everything with so much enthusiasm. She said how she felt quite high society.
2. Who are Fred and Frank Vaughn? They are friends of Laurie’s who had come to Camp Lawrence.
3. What shortcoming did Amy notice of herself? She is not very well read.
4. Why was Amy willing to marry Fred had he asked, even though she wasn’t madly in love? Because he was rich and she was tired of being poor. Do you think this is a good reason to get married?

Chapter 32: Tender Troubles

1. What did Jo think was troubling Beth? That she loved Laurie. Do you agree with Jo?
2. Who did Laurie really care about? Jo. Why did he not tell her? He tried but she always managed to skirt around the issue.
3. What was Jo's solution to the problems? For her to go away
4. Why did mother think Jo and Laurie weren't a good match? They were too much alike.

Chapter 33: Jo's Journal

1. Describe Professor Bhaer. Kind, German, poor, very smart, almost 40
2. How did Jo taking German lessons from the Professor come about? She was mending his clothes and he wanted to repay her.
3. Does Jo seem to be enjoying herself? Yes. How do you know? She has made some friends. She is very fond of Bhaer. She enjoyed her joke at the masquerade ball.

Chapter 34: A Friend

1. What kind of stories did Jo write? Thrilling ones full of sin, folly, and misery. Why did she write these? It made her money.
2. What effect did writing these stories have on Jo? She was losing her innocence and delving into a darker side of life
- 3 Meg, Jo, and Amy have a desire to be rich. What do you think of this? Who is the only one that is content? Beth.
4. What was so special about the Professor that made everyone want to be around him? His benevolence. He was always happy and had genuine good will towards others.
5. What was the debate about that made Jo so uncomfortable? The existence of God and the need for religion. How were things set right? The Professor jumped into the debate and stood his ground.
6. How did Mr. Bhaer challenge Jo's story writing? He said it was not good to fill people's heads with such rubbish. Jo realized that she had been writing trash. Each story was worse than the rest.
7. How did Jo change after this? She tried writing moral stories but no one would buy them. So she gave up her writing, studied more and regained the morals she had been taught as a child.
8. The devil is very sly and cunning when trying to divert someone from God and their faith. Describe the various things that happened to Jo to prove this point. Desire to be rich, sensational stories, outings with people who were less than honorable, debate against religion. What saved Jo from this? Her moral upbringing and the Professor.

Chapter 35: Heartache

1. A marriage to Laurie would bring Jo what she thought she would desire most....a chance not to be poor, but she refused. Why? She did not love him in that way. What do you think? Should Jo have accepted his proposal?
2. How did Old Mr. Lawrence propose to mend Laurie's heart? By going abroad
3. Even at the end of this chapter, Laurie asked Jo to reconsider his proposal, and she refused. What do you think "she knew that the boy Laurie would never come again" means? By the time he returns from Europe, things will have changed. Laurie and Jo will no longer be able to have the same carefree friendship as before.

Chapter 36: Beth's Secret

1. How did Jo realize that Beth was dying? When she came home, Beth looked more frail and thin even though she seemed happier.
2. Did Beth's sadness have anything to do with Laurie as Jo suspected? No, it was because she realized she was dying.
3. Do you think Jo's answer to Laurie would have been different had she realized Beth's feelings?

Chapter 37: New Impressions

1. When Amy and Laurie were reunited, she noticed a difference in him. What was it? He seemed indifferent and moody, not merry and carefree
2. What does "Amy deliberately prinked that night" mean? She put on her best dress and accessories
3. At the ball, describe the tension between Amy and Laurie? Amy was trying to flirt with Laurie. Laurie wasn't sure what to make of Amy. First she tried to make him jealous and succeeded. Laurie realized that Amy had grown up and seemed to like it.

Chapter 38: On the shelf

1. What does "put on the shelf" mean? After a girl is married, no one takes any more notice of her.
2. What mistake did Meg make after the babies were born? She devoted herself completely to them and left no time for John
3. What advice did her mother give her? Involve John in the babies' lives, don't neglect him. Be the sunshine maker of the family, take part in John's world.
4. On the night Meg decided to try out her mother's advice, what was her biggest obstacle? Demi. How was it overcome? John took control of him. What did Meg realize? Her mother was right.
5. After this, Meg and John's house became a cheerful place where everyone liked to visit. What do you think is their secret? Mutual respect for each other, taking an interest in the other's hobbies, each person helping out (not one person doing everything), a break for Meg

Chapter 39: Lazy Lawrence

1. What was Amy's criticism of Laurie? Instead of being good useful and happy, he is faulty, lazy, selfish and miserable.
2. How did she figure out the cause of Laurie's insolence? She mentioned Jo and then realized all of the little hints over the last few weeks. She saw Jo's ring on his finger.
3. What effect did Amy's lecture have on him? He realized that he was not bearing the refusal silently. He resolved to mend his ways.

Chapter 40: The Valley of the Shadow

1. How did Beth spend the first months of her last year? By making gifts for the school children that passed by
2. What did Jo learn during Beth's last few months? Patience, charity for all, true forgiveness, sincere faith
3. What did Jo's poem do for Beth. It made Beth realize that she had a purpose on earth.

Chapter 41: Learning to Forget

1. How did Laurie work to overcome his despair and moodiness? He went to Vienna to write a requiem, then an opera
2. What continued to distract him from his work? Thoughts of Jo and Amy
3. What made Laurie finally stop pining away for Jo? A letter from her that said she would not change her mind
4. What happened when Fred Vaughn asked Amy to marry him? She declined. Why? She remembered Laurie's words to her and didn't want him to think she was a heartless, worldly creature
5. What do you think of Amy and Laurie? Are they a good match? Do you think Jo will be at all jealous?

Chapter 42: All Alone

1. How did Jo work through her grief? With the help of mother and father, household duties that Beth used to do, writing
2. How did Jo take Amy and Laurie's news? She was happy for them but a little jealous. She felt that Amy got everything she desired while Jo got nothing
3. What did Jo realize by their news? That she too has a place in her heart that longs to be loved.

Chapter 43: Surprises

1. What special day for Jo does this chapter happen on? Her birthday
2. What were the surprises of the day? Amy and Laurie's return home; the news that they had married; Professor Bhaer's visit
3. How did Laurie explain his feelings for Jo and his marriage to Amy? The two had switched places in his heart
4. How does Jo take comfort in Laurie's presence? She seems to be back to her old teasing self. He seems to take her cares away.
5. Why is Amy a better match for Laurie than Jo? Amy's disposition is more complimentary to Laurie. She also is willing to be a lady whereas Jo finds that kind of behavior beneath her.
6. What fable did Jo use to compare her and Amy? The sun and the wind
7. How did the family receive the Professor? They all liked him, even Laurie who was skeptical at first
8. What "business" did the Professor need to attend to? Proposing to Jo, or at least seeing if she cared for him as he did for her

Chapter 44: My Lord and Lady

1. Are Amy and Laurie happily married? Yes. How do you know? Everyone remarks on how well they get on
2. What do they plan to do with their wealth? Set up charities to help aspiring young women and the poor like Professor Bhaer

Chapter 45: Daisy and Demi

1. Describe Daisy and Demi. Very smart, cute, sweet with mischief in their souls; quick thinking, full of questions, somewhat precocious.
2. What did Demi ask the professor that gave Jo hope regarding a proposal? "Do great boys like great girls too Professor?"

Chapter 46: Under the Umbrella

1. Why was the professor so confused during the first half hour after meeting Jo? Because her emotions changed from surprise, joy, chilliness, despair and excitement
2. What gave him the hint that she was deeply saddened about his move to the west? She was very flustered in the store.
3. Do you think Jo would have accepted Mr. Bhaer's proposal before now? Why or why not?
4. What hint in Jo's poem made the professor come for her? The mention of her loneliness

Chapter 47: Harvest Time

1. What good fortune came upon Jo at the beginning of this chapter? Aunt March's passing and leaving her estate to Jo
2. What was Jo's plan for the house? To open a boarding school for boys
3. How did Mr. Lawrence help Jo's school? By finding destitute boys for it and paying their expenses
4. The girls reflect on how their castles are not so different than what they first hoped for. Each still has a burden. What are they?

Meg - poverty

Amy - her daughter's frail constitution

Jo - her boys' mischief

But each are quite content and happy with their lives. What is the secret to their happiness? Patient sowing and reaping, carrying their burdens joyfully, being content with what they have, staying close to their family