

Literature Guide

Jo's Boys by Louisa Mae Alcott

Chapter 1: Ten Years Later

1. How did everyone end up at Plumfield? The rapid growth of the city shut in the old house, Meg's house, and Mr. Lawrence's house
2. How had died over the last 10 years? Mr. Lawrence, Marmee, Dick and Billy
3. What did Mr. Lawrence leave as his legacy? A college at Plumfield
4. Who did Nan and Tom remind you of? Jo and Laurie
5. What news did Demi have of Franz? That he was to be married

Chapter 2: Parnassus

1. As the boys have grown up, what were the new problems they brought to Jo? Love issues
2. What was Emil's big news? That he was going to be second mate
3. Why did Meg not want Daisy and Nat to get married? Because she didn't think Nat was good enough for Daisy

Chapter 3: Jo's Last Scrape

1. How did Jo fare when she sent her first book to the publisher? Exceptionally well
2. What metaphor does the author use to describe this? A ship
3. What things did Jo find tiresome about her fame? The letters, attention from strangers, lack of liberty and privacy
4. Describe some of the visitors Jo received. A woman and her daughter, reports, a woman who wanted a grasshopper, a men's club
5. Why did Jo not wish to see anyone? They always interrupted her work and came calling all the time

Chapter 4: Dan

1. What two things was Dan deciding between to do next? 1) Farming out West or 2) Helping an Indian tribe
2. What good fortune came upon Dan? He had some money. What did he do with it? Gave it to Laurie to invest

Chapter 5: Vacation

1. What were some of the positive effects of that vacation? Bess stopped with her clay and frolicked more. Dan became more gentle in his ways. Teddy started to fill out with his work on Octoo. Demi improved his photography skills.
2. How did Daisy feel about Nat? She loved him. Why couldn't they be together? Because Meg disapproved of the match

3. Do you think the author is foreshadowing any connection between Amy and Dan? How do you know? Answers will vary
4. What were the young men and women arguing about? Women's suffrage

Chapter 6: Last Words

1. What advice did Jo give to Nat? Work hard, be virtuous, and win over Meg with his determination and faithfulness
2. What advice did she give to Emil? Always keep your honor, honesty, and courage. Be a good superior and not just a good sailor
3. What analogy did Jo use to explain what she meant? Rope with a red strand
4. What sin did Dan confess to Jo? Gambling
5. What advice did Jo give Dan? Pray, read the Bible a little every day, stay away from people who rile him up
6. What book did Jo compare Dan's life to? *Sintram*
7. Who did Jo use to appeal to Dan's wild nature? His mother

Chapter 7: The Lion and the Lamb

1. Who was the lion and the lamb? Teddy
2. How did the lion become the lamb? By witnessing a heroic act of love from his brother Rob
3. How did Nan help? By taking care of the wound and devising a plan for the doctors
4. Do you think this incident was enough to change Ted? Answers will vary
5. What did Jo compare it to from her own childhood? When Amy fell into the ice

Chapter 8: Josie plays Mermaid

1. Which of the 4 sisters does Bess remind you of? Which of the 4 sisters does Josie remind you of? Answers will vary
2. How was Josie able to impress the coveted Miss Cameron? By finding her bracelet in the water
3. What advice did Miss Cameron give to Josie? First finish her education, then at 18 or 20 go into training
4. How did Josie change by Miss Cameron's words? She became studious; took care with her dress, manners, and habits; practiced her piano willingly

Chapter 9: The Worm Turns

1. What did Tom plan to use Dora for? To make Nan jealous
2. What happened instead? He fell in love with her and became engaged
3. How did Tom change after his engagement? It gave him more confidence. He dropped out of medicine and went into business with his father where he was better suited.
4. What lesson is there for us in this? Answers will vary.

Chapter 10: Demi settles

1. What job did Demi secure? Working for Jo's publisher
2. What revelation did Demi proclaim about working? We must each be what God and nature make up. We can't change it much, only help to develop the good and control the bad.
3. How did Demi win Josie as an ally? By telling Meg she should be allowed to act as much as she would like

Chapter 11: Emil's Thanksgiving

1. What peril did Emil meet at sea? Fire in the hold
2. What things did Emil do to show that he was a born leader? Kept up his courage and spoke cheerily of their good chances for survival, gave up his share of food
3. What day were they rescued on? Thanksgiving Day

Chapter 12: Dan's Christmas

1. Why was Dan in jail? He killed a man accidentally while trying to protect Blair from being fleeced at the card table
2. What kept Dan in prison instead of trying to escape? The woman's story about the soldiers. Mason's dying words.
3. How was Dan changed? He realized he had to bear his punishment manfully.

Chapter 13: Nat's New Year

1. What was Nat's sin in Leipsic? He misrepresented who he was; enjoyed too many of life's pleasures
2. What three things happened to end this folly? 1) Minna's mother cornered him and asked him his intentions; thus breaking Minna's heart 2) A friend told him he was going to America and would look up the Blair's 3) He received a pile of bills that would wipe out his savings
3. What brought about a change? A letter from Plumfield
4. What did Nat do to amend his ways? 1) Moved back to cheaper rooms, 2) gave up his wealthy friends, 3) started a job, 4) resolved to do better
5. Do you think he'll hold to his promises? Answers will vary

Chapter 14: Plays at Plumfield

1. Who was the coveted guest at the plays? Mrs. Cameron
2. What were the end results of the plays? Great success for Jo and Laurie. Acting lessons for Josie. Jo treating Fritz with more love and patience. Demi finding out Alice loved him.

Chapter 15: Waiting

1. What news did the family receive about Emil? That his ship went down and he was likely dead
2. How did they find out the reality of the situation? More letters arrived

3. How did Franz and Emil find Nat? Working hard, living a simple life
4. What honor was bestowed upon Nat? He was to play with a group in London
5. How was Dan getting on? He was nearing his release, had found Jesus, and was repentant

Chapter 16: In the Tennis court

1. What metaphor does Josie compare Dolly to? A cat troubled about dirt
2. Josie is a bit of an antagonist? Give examples from this or other chapters. Teasing Demi about Alice and his poem; teasing Dolly about his obsession with clothes; being a sore winner
3. What sins did Jo lecture Stuffy about? Overeating and drinking
4. Dolly? Hanging out with unfit women; Neglecting his studies
5. What advice did she give them? Think of someone you admire and imitate them; resist temptations; be to others what Demi is to you

Chapter 17: Among the Maids

1. What skill did Meg, Jo, and Amy teach the college girls? Sewing
2. Along with this came other lessons. What were they? Domestic affairs, Art, health, religion, politics
3. What advice did Meg give them? Always go about your tasks with cheerfulness
4. What did they learn from Mrs. Abercrombie's visit? Wealth doesn't mean great manners or esteem

Chapter 18: Class Day

1. What was Class Day? When the young ladies exhibited by reciting poetry
2. What was Emil's surprise? His marriage to Mary
3. What success came to Nat in this chapter? Meg agreeing that Daisy could marry him

Chapter 19: White Roses

1. What advice did Josie give Demi? Propose to Alice
2. How? With three roses: a bud, half-bloom, and full-bloom
3. What concerned Alice about accepting? Having to care for her parents
4. What changed her mind? A conversation she heard between Meg and Daisy
5. What things did she hear? Both wanted her to marry Demi, how virtuous he was, story about giving away all of his money

Chapter 20: Life for Life

1. What heroic deed did Dan do? He saved the lives of 20 miners
2. What naughty deed did Ted do? Stow away on the train with Laurie
3. How did Jo take Dan's news? She was saddened by all of his trials, but hopeful about the change in him

Chapter 21: Aslauga's Knight

1. How did everyone try to hasten Dan's recovery? Reading to him, amusing him, feeding him
2. What revelation did Jo discover? That he loved Bess
3. What hope did Jo give him that the love would ever be returned? None

Chapter 22: Positively Last Appearance

1. Were you disappointed in the ending? Why or why not? Answers will vary
2. Not everyone ended up "Happily Ever After". Who did not? Dan, Stuffy
3. Who was Jo's greatest success? Greatest failure? Answers will vary
4. Why did Jo cling to Dan? He was the lost sheep

Paper Ideas

1. How did Jo, Mr. Bhaer and Laurie all work together for the success of the boys?
2. Pick a character and complete a character sketch.
3. Describe the good morals the boys had been brought up with and how they fell back on them when temptations arose.