

WEEK 1, DAY 1: BOOK DISCUSSION

Reading Comprehension Answers Ch. 1-2

1. What are the names of the four girls in age order?
Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy
2. What are they complaining about when the book begins?
They don't get any Christmas presents this year because of the war.
3. What does Marmee bring home that makes them all excited?
She brings home a letter from Father, who is away with the army.
4. What do they eat for Christmas breakfast? Why?
They eat bread and milk because they gave their delicious breakfast away to a poor family.
5. What disaster happens during their performance?
A tall tower they build tumbles down on top of Rodrigo and Zara.
6. Where does their splendid Christmas dinner come from?
It comes from the neighbor Mr. Laurence.

WEEK 1, DAY 2: TEXT ANALYSIS

Read the text and find:

1. 3 *who/which* adjective clauses (w/w)
2. 5 strong verbs (v)
3. Bonus: simile (sim)

Then underline your favorite sentence.

“I used to be so frightened when it was my turn to sit in the big chair with the crown on, and see you all come **marching (v)** round to give the presents, with a kiss. I liked the things and the kisses, but it was dreadful to have you sit looking at me while I opened the bundles,” said Beth, **who was toasting her face and the bread for tea (w/w)**, at the same time.

“Let Marmee think we are getting things for ourselves, and then surprise her. We must go shopping to-morrow afternoon, Meg; there is so much to do about the play for Christmas night,” said Jo, marching up and down, with her hands behind her back and her nose in the air.

“I don’t mean to act any more after this time; I’m getting too old for such things,” observed Meg, **who was as much a child as ever about “dressing-up” frolics (w/w)**.

“You won’t stop, I know, as long as you can **trail (v)** round in a white gown with your hair down, and wear gold-paper jewelry. You are the best actress we’ve got, and there’ll be an end of everything if you quit the boards,” said Jo. “We ought to rehearse to-night. Come here, Amy, and do the fainting scene, for you are **as stiff as a poker in that (sim)**.”

“I can’t help it; I never saw any one faint, and I don’t choose to make myself all black and blue, **tumbling (v)** flat as you do. If I can go down easily, I’ll drop; if I can’t, I shall fall into a chair and be graceful; I don’t care if Hugo does come at me with a pistol,” **returned (v)** Amy, **who was not gifted with dramatic power, but was chosen because she was small enough to be borne out shrieking (v) by the villain of the piece (w/w)**.

WEEK 2, DAY 1: BOOK DISCUSSION

Reading Comprehension Answers Ch. 3-5

1. What does Jo do to Meg's hair while they are getting ready for the party?

She accidentally burns it so that several locks fall out.

2. Describe Laurie's personality.

Laurie is shy and quiet but very gentlemanly and well-mannered. Although he is rich, he does not act haughty. He is also very eager to make friends since he is so lonely.

3. What are two reasons that Meg has a difficult time being poor?

Meg remembers when the family was rich, and since she works for a wealthy family, she sees the life-style she could have led as a rich young lady if her family had not fallen into poverty and finds it difficult not to be bitter.

4. What is Laurie's Grandfather like?

Laurie's Grandfather appears gruff and stern, but inside he is very generous and kind, and wants to see others happy.

5. What makes him realize that Laurie is lonely?

He realizes Laurie is lonely when Jo is there for tea and Laurie is suddenly full of life and glowing with happiness.

WEEK 2, DAY 2: TEXT ANALYSIS

Read the text and find:

1. 4 subordinate clauses (SC)
2. 2 alliterations (allit)
3. 3 adjectives (adj)
4. 2 dual adjectives (2adj)

Then underline your favorite sentence.

The old gentleman did not say much as he drank his four cups of tea, but he watched the young people, who soon chatted away like old friends, and the change in his grandson did not escape him. There was color, light, and life in the boy's face now, vivacity in his manner, and **genuine (adj)** merriment in his laugh.

“She's right; the **lad is lonely (allit)**. I'll see what these little girls can do for him,” thought Mr. Laurence, **as he looked and listened (SC)**. He liked Jo, for her odd, blunt ways suited him; and she seemed to understand the boy almost as well as if she had been one herself.

If the Laurences had been what Jo called “prim and poky,” (allit) (SC) she would not have got on at all, for such people always made her **shy and awkward (2adj)**; but finding them free and easy, she was so herself, and made a good impression. **When they rose she proposed to go, (SC)** but Laurie said he had something more to show her, and took her away to the conservatory, which had been lighted for her benefit. It seemed quite fairylike to Jo, **as she went up and down the walks, (SC)** enjoying the **blooming (adj)** walls on either side, the soft light, the **damp sweet (2adj)** air, and the wonderful vines and trees that hung above her,—while her new **friend cut the finest flowers (allit)** till his hands were full; then he tied them up, saying, with the happy look Jo liked to see, “Please give these to your mother, and tell her I like the medicine she sent me very much.”

WEEK 3, DAY 1: BOOK DISCUSSION

Reading Comprehension Answers Ch. 6-8

1. How does Mr. Laurence slyly get Beth to play the piano at his house?

He tells Marmee in front of Beth about the musicians that he has heard sing and then adds that the piano in his house could use some playing, and if any of her daughters played it, no one would be nearby to hear her because the house was so big.

2. What change comes over Beth right after she receives the piano?

She goes right to Mr. Laurence's house into his study and gives him a hug and a kiss, even though she is naturally so shy and timid.

3. Why is Amy so upset over being punished by Mr. Davis?

She is used to only receiving love and has never been struck in her life.

4. What lesson does she learn from it?

She learns not to show off so much and to be more humble.

5. What lesson does Jo learn after Amy falls through the ice?

She learns the importance of mastering her temper and forgiving.

6. What does Marmee tell Jo about herself that is so surprising?

She tells Jo that she used to have a terrible temper also but taught herself to master it.

WEEK 3, DAY 2: TEXT ANALYSIS

Read the text and find:

1. 5 verbs (v)
2. 1 Show-don't-tell emotion (sdt)
3. 2 sensory words (sens)
4. 1 who/which clause (w/w)

Then underline your favorite sentence.

Jo heard, but Amy **was** just **struggling (v)** to her feet, and did not catch a word. Jo **glanced (v)** over her shoulder, and the little demon she **was harboring (v)** said in her ear, –

“No matter whether she heard or not, let her take care of herself.”

Laurie **had vanished (v)** round the bend; Jo was just at the turn, and Amy, far behind, striking out toward the smoother ice in the middle of the river. For a minute Jo stood still, with a strange feeling at her heart; then she resolved to go on, but something held and turned her round, just in time to see Amy throw up her hands and go down, with the sudden crash of rotten ice, the **splash of water (sens)**, and a cry that made Jo's heart stand still with fear. **She tried to call Laurie, but her voice was gone; she tried to rush forward, but her feet seemed to have no strength in them; and, for a second, she could only stand motionless, staring, with a terror-stricken face, (sdt) at the little blue hood above the black water (sens).** Something **rushed (v)** swiftly by her, and Laurie's voice cried out, –

“Bring a rail; quick, quick!”

How she did it, she never knew; but for the next few minutes she worked as if possessed, blindly obeying Laurie, **who was quite self-possessed (w/w)**, and, lying flat, held Amy up by his arm and hockey till Jo dragged a rail from the fence, and together they got the child out, more frightened than hurt.

WEEK 4, DAY 1: BOOK DISCUSSION

Reading Comprehension Answers Ch. 9-10

1. What cheers up Meg the night they're getting ready for the small party?
Laurie sends her a beautiful bouquet of roses as he promised.
2. What does Meg overhear that night that makes her so upset?
She hears her friends saying that Mrs. March "has her plans" with her daughters and Laurie, that she'll take advantage of the Laurences' wealth, and that Meg would be a perfect beauty if she were dressed up in style and didn't have to wear such an awful dress.
3. How does Laurie react when he sees her?
He stares in shock and disapproval.
4. Why is he disappointed in her?
Her dress is immodest and she is behaving inappropriately, untrue to her mother's values.
5. What does Meg learn from visiting the Moffats?
She learns that it is much more becoming to a lady to dress modestly and behave well than to flirt and try to attract attention. She realizes that poverty has nothing to do with happiness and that people are not better by being rich.

WEEK 4, DAY 2: TEXT ANALYSIS

Read the text and find:

1. 4 adjectives (*adj*)
2. 1 simile (*sim*)
3. 3 subordinate clauses (*SC*)
4. 2 alliterations (*allit*)

Then underline your favorite sentence.

When the evening for the ‘small party’ came she found that the poplin wouldn’t do at all, (SC) for the other girls were putting on thin dresses, and making themselves very fine indeed; so out came the tarlatan, looking older, **limper (adj)**, and **shabbier (adj)** than ever beside Sallie’s **crisp (adj)** new one. Meg saw the girls glance at it and then at one another, and her cheeks began to burn, for, with all her gentleness, she was very proud. No one said a word about it, but Sallie offered to dress her hair, and Annie to tie her sash, and Belle, the engaged sister, praised her white arms; but in their kindness Meg saw only **pity for her poverty (allit)** , and **her heart felt very heavy (allit)** as she stood by herself, while the others laughed, chattered, and flew about **like gauzy butterflies (sim)**. The hard, bitter feeling was getting pretty bad, **when the maid brought in a box of flowers (SC)**. Before she could speak, Annie had the cover off, and all were exclaiming at the lovely roses, heath, and fern within.

“They are for Miss March, the man said. And here’s a note,” put in the maid, holding it to Meg.

“What fun! Who are they from? Didn’t know you had a lover,” cried the girls, fluttering about Meg in a high state of curiosity and surprise.

“The note is from mother, and the flowers from Laurie,” said Meg simply, yet much gratified that he had not forgotten her.

“Oh, indeed!” said Annie, with a funny look, **as Meg slipped the note in her pocket, as a sort of talisman against envy, vanity, and false pride (SC)**; for the few loving words had done her good, and the flowers cheered her up by their beauty.

WEEK 5, DAY 1: BOOK DISCUSSION

Reading Comprehension Answers Ch. 11-13

1. How do the March girls begin their holiday experiment of all play and no work?

They begin excited to do nothing for a whole week.

2. How do they end it?

They end frustrated, out of sorts, and relieved to have work again.

3. How does Jo control her temper in the game with Fred?

She is furious because he cheated, but she goes behind the trees to hide until she is calm enough to return without bursting out at him.

4. How does Beth surprise the others during the outing?

She has a long conversation with Frank, although she's terrified of boys.

5. In Ch. 13, what gets Laurie out of his bad mood?

Seeing the March girls hard at work gets him out of his bad mood.

6. What are the girls' and Laurie's 'castles?' Who has the best? Why is hers best?

Laurie wants to travel the world and be a famous musician, Meg wants to be rich and elegant, Jo wants to write books all day and become a famous author, Beth wants to stay at home with Mother and Father and see everyone happy, and Amy wants to go to Rome and become the best artist in the world. Beth has the best castle because she wants everyone else's true happiness instead of her own superficial happiness.

WEEK 5, DAY 2: TEXT ANALYSIS

Read the text and find:

1. 2 personifications (*pers*)
2. 2 sensory words/phrases (*sens*)
3. 1 simile (*sim*)
4. 1 -ing/-ed participle opener (*part op*)
5. 2 -ly adverbs (*adv*)

Then underline your favorite sentence.

Taking the shortest way to the boat-house, (part op) he waited for them to appear: but no one came, and he went up the hill to take an observation. A grove of pines covered one part of it, and from the heart of this green spot came a clearer sound than the **soft sigh of the pines or the drowsy chirp of the crickets (sens)**.

“Here’s a landscape!” thought Laurie, peeping through the bushes, and looking wide-awake and good-natured already.

It *was* rather a pretty picture; for the sisters sat together in the shady nook, with **sun and shadow flickering over them (sens)**, **the aromatic wind lifting their hair and cooling their hot cheeks, (pers)** and all the little wood-people going on with their affairs as if these were no strangers, but old friends. Meg sat upon her cushion, sewing **daintily (adv)** with her white hands, and looking as fresh and sweet **as a rose (sim)**, in her pink dress, among the green. Beth was sorting the cones that lay thick under the hemlock near by, for she made pretty things of them. Amy was sketching a group of ferns, and Jo was knitting as she read aloud. A shadow passed over the boy’s face as he watched them, feeling that he ought to go away, because uninvited; yet lingering, because home seemed very lonely, and this quiet party in the woods most attractive to his restless spirit. He stood so still that **a squirrel, busy with its harvesting, ran down a pine close beside him, saw him suddenly and skipped back, scolding so shrilly (adv) (pers)** that Beth looked up, espied the wistful face behind the birches, and beckoned with a reassuring smile.

WEEK 6, DAY 1: BOOK DISCUSSION

Reading Comprehension Answers Ch. 14-16

1. What was Jo doing when she snuck into town?
She was bringing her stories to be published in the newspaper.
2. How does Laurie show his respect and love for Mrs. March in Ch. 15?
He is tremendously anxious to help when the telegram comes in, and rushes off to do whatever Mrs. March asks him.
3. Why does Jo cut her hair?
She cuts it to earn money to pay for medical expenses for Father.
4. What book do the girls read every morning? (Hint: They received it in Ch. 2.)
They read the Bible, which Marmee gave to each of them.
5. What thoughtful little thing does Beth do for Meg and Jo in place of Marmee, when they go off to work for the day?
She sits in the window to smile and wave as they turn back while walking to work.

WEEK 6, DAY 2: TEXT ANALYSIS

Read the text and find:

1. 5 descriptive verbs (*v*)
2. 3 -ly adverbs (*adv*)
3. 1 sensory phrase of sound (*sens*)
4. 2 prepositional openers (*prep OP*)

Then underline your favorite sentence.

For a week or two (prep OP), Jo **behaved (v)** so queerly that her sisters were quite bewildered. She **rushed (v)** to the door when the postman rang; was rude to Mr. Brooke whenever they met; would sit looking at Meg with a woe-begone face, **occasionally (adv) jumping (v)** up to shake, and then to kiss her, in a very mysterious manner; Laurie and she were always making signs to one another, and talking about “Spread Eagles,” till the girls declared they had both lost their wits. On the second Saturday after Jo got out of the window, Meg, as she sat sewing at her window, was scandalized by the sight of Laurie **chasing (v)** Jo all over the garden, and finally **capturing (v)** her in Amy’s bower. What went on there, Meg could not see; **but shrieks of laughter were heard, followed by the murmur of voices (sens)** and a great flapping of newspapers.

“What shall we do with that girl? She never *will* behave like a young lady,” sighed Meg, as she watched the race with a disapproving face.

“I hope she won’t; she is so funny and dear as she is,” said Beth, who had never betrayed that she was a little hurt at Jo’s having secrets with any one but her.

“It’s very trying, but we never can make her *commy la fo*,” added Amy, who sat making some new frills for herself, with her curls tied up in a becoming way – two agreeable things, which made her feel **unusually (adv)** elegant and lady-like.

In a few minutes (prep OP) Jo bounced in, laid herself on the sofa, and affected to read.

“Have you anything interesting there?” asked Meg, with condescension.

“Nothing but a story; won’t amount to much, I guess,” returned Jo, **carefully (adv)** keeping the name of the paper out of sight.

WEEK 7, DAY 1: BOOK DISCUSSION

Reading Comprehension Answers Ch. 17-18

1. How does Beth get scarlet fever?

She gets it from nursing the Hummel baby.

2. Why does Jo think it's her fault that Beth is sick?

She was too lazy to go nurse the Hummel baby, and so Beth went even though she was already feeling sick, and that was when she came back with scarlet fever.

3. How does Laurie convince Amy to go to Aunt March's?

He promises that he'll visit her every day and take her for rides and movies so that she doesn't get bored.

4. Why won't Hannah let the girls telegram their mother?

She is afraid of taking Mrs. March away from her ill husband if Beth's condition isn't that serious, and she doesn't want Mrs. March to worry.

5. Who does telegram her?

Laurie telegrams her.

WEEK 7, DAY 2: TEXT ANALYSIS

Read the text and find:

1. 3 show-don't-tell emotions (sdt)
2. 5 verbs (v)
3. 2 alliterations (allit)
4. 1 compound sentence (COMD)

Then underline your favorite sentence.

Meg had a quiet rapture, and then **brooded (v)** over the letter, while Jo set the sick-room in order, and Hannah “knocked up a couple of pies in case of company unexpected.” **A breath of fresh air seemed to blow through the house, and something better than sunshine brightened the quiet rooms. (COMP)** Everything appeared to feel the hopeful change; Beth’s bird began to **chirp (v)** again, and a half-blown rose was discovered on Amy’s bush in the window; the fires seemed to burn with unusual cheeriness; and every time the girls met, **their pale faces broke into smiles (sdt)** as they hugged one another, whispering encouragingly, “Mother’s coming, dear! mother’s coming!” Every one **rejoiced (v)** but Beth; she lay in that heavy stupor, alike unconscious of hope and joy, doubt and danger. It was a piteous sight,—the once rosy face so changed and vacant, the once busy hands so **weak and wasted (allit)**, the once smiling lips quite dumb, and the once pretty, well-kept hair **scattered (v)** rough and tangled on the pillow. All day she lay so, only **rousing (v)** now and then to mutter, “Water!” with lips so parched they could hardly shape the word; all day Jo and Meg **hovered over her (sdt)**, watching, waiting, hoping, and trusting in God and mother; and all day the snow fell, the bitter wind raged, and the hours dragged slowly by. But night came at last; and every time the clock struck, the **sisters, still sitting on either side (allit)** the bed, **looked at each other with brightening eyes, (sdt)** for each hour brought help nearer. The doctor had been in to say that some change, for better or worse, would probably take place about midnight, at which time he would return.

WEEK 8, DAY 1: BOOK DISCUSSION

Reading Comprehension Answers Ch. 19-21

1. What are Amy's great trials at Aunt March's house?

Aunt March sets her to many chores almost all day long and ensures that she does them perfectly, and she gives long lectures and has many strict rules. Amy is lonely and bored, and the dog and the parrot irritate her.

2. Why does she write a will?

"Life is uncertain" and she doesn't want "any ill feeling over her tomb."

3. Why doesn't Jo want Meg to marry Mr. Brooke?

She is afraid of Meg leaving and the family being broken apart.

4. How does Laurie apologize for his prank?

He apologizes so sincerely and irresistibly that they can't help but forgive him, and he promises to "atone for his sins by all sorts of penances, and abase himself like a worm before the injured damsel."

5. Why is Mr. Laurence angry at Laurie?

He finds out that Laurie has done some mischief to the Marches and is furious that after all their kindness to him he should repay it with such ingratitude.

WEEK 8, DAY 2: TEXT ANALYSIS

Read the text and find:

1. 1 simile (sim)
2. 1 dual verb (2v)
3. 1 dual adjective (2adj)
4. 1 complex sentence (COMX)
5. 1 participle sentence opener (part OP)

Then underline your favorite sentence.

While these things were happening at home, Amy was having hard times at Aunt March's. (COMX) She felt her exile deeply, and, for the first time in her life, realized how much she was **beloved and petted (2v)** at home. Aunt March never petted any one; she did not approve of it; but she meant to be kind, for the **well-behaved little (2adj)** girl pleased her very much, and Aunt March had a soft place in her old heart for her nephew's children, though she didn't think proper to confess it. She really did her best to make Amy happy, but, dear me, what mistakes she made! Some old people keep young at heart in spite of wrinkles and gray hairs, can sympathize with children's little cares and joys, make them feel at home, and can hide wise lessons under pleasant plays, giving and receiving friendship in the sweetest way. But Aunt March had not this gift, and she worried Amy very much with her rules and orders, her prim ways, and long, prosy talks. **Finding the child more docile and amiable than her sister, (part OP)** the old lady felt it her duty to try and counteract, as far as possible, the bad effects of home freedom and indulgence. So she took Amy in hand, and taught her as she herself had been taught sixty years ago,—a process which carried dismay to Amy's soul, and made her feel **like a fly in the web of a very strict spider. (sim)**

APPENDIX: ANSWER KEY

Reading Comprehension Answers Ch. 22-23

1. What is the last drop of happiness during the Marches' Christmas?
Father comes home unexpectedly.
2. What does Meg tell Jo she'll say to Mr. Brooke if he proposes?
She says she'll thank Mr. Brooke but tell him firmly that she is still too young and her father wants her to wait a few years before getting engaged.
3. What does Jo think she'll say?
Jo thinks she'll be so in love that she'll give in to Mr. Brooke when he persists and say yes.
4. What does Meg say to Mr. Brooke at first and why?
She remembers what Annie Moffat said about a lover's power and tries it: she tells Mr. Brooke to go away because she has a sudden desire to test this power.
5. Why does she change her mind?
Aunt March bursts in and horrified at what she sees, tells Meg not to marry that poor man. Angry at her, Meg does the opposite of what she wants and defends Mr. Brooke.

APPENDIX: ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Test

Going by memory, write down the definitions to all the words. If you cannot remember the answer, put down your best guess. Then go through your cards and write the correct answers to the words you got wrong.

1. dishevelled: messy and strewn out of place
2. voraciously: with a huge appetite; eagerly
3. crotchety: grouchy and short-tempered
4. blighted: injured
5. tiff: a petty quarrel
6. stamina: hardiness of mind or body
7. dyspeptic: having indigestion and thus being irritable
8. complacent: coolly proud of one's success
9. imperious: commanding, wielding too much power
10. gesticulate: to make dramatic hand motions
11. impertinent: rude, usually to elders
12. maternal: motherly
13. melodramatic: overly exaggerated
14. jubilee: great rejoicing and celebration
15. indolent: lazy, self-gratifying

WEEK 9, DAY 1: BOOK DISCUSSION

Review

Read the text. Then, using the list on the previous page, underline and label one of as many of the literary devices and structures as you can find.

“I remember a time when this hand was white and smooth (2adj), and your first care was to keep it so. (COMD) It was very pretty then, but to me it is much prettier now,—for in these seeming blemishes I read a little history. A burnt-offering has been made of vanity; this hardened palm has earned something **better than blisters (allit)**; and I’m sure the sewing done by these pricked fingers will last a long time, so much good-will went into the stitches. Meg, my dear, I value the womanly skill which keeps home happy more than white hands or fashionable accomplishments. I’m proud to shake this good, industrious little hand, and hope I shall not soon be asked to give it away...

“In spite of the curly crop (prep OP), I don’t see the ‘son Jo’ whom I left a year ago... I see a young lady **who pins her collar straight, laces her boots neatly (adv), and neither whistles, talks slang, nor lies on the rug as she used to do (w/w).** Her face is rather thin and pale, just now, with watching and anxiety; but I like to look at it, for it has grown gentler, and her voice is lower; she doesn’t bounce, but moves quietly, and takes care of a certain little person in a motherly way which delights me. I rather miss my wild girl; but if I get a strong, helpful, tender-hearted woman in her place, I shall feel quite satisfied. I don’t know whether the shearing sobered our black sheep, but I do know that in all Washington I couldn’t find anything beautiful enough to be bought with the five-and-twenty dollars which my good girl sent me....

“There’s so little of Beth, I’m afraid to say much, for fear she will slip away altogether, **though she is not so shy as she used to be (sub cl)**,” began their father cheerfully; but recollecting how nearly he *had* lost her, **he held her close, saying tenderly, with her cheek against his own (sdt)**, “I’ve got you safe, my Beth, and I’ll keep you so, please God...”

“I observed that Amy took drumsticks at dinner, ran errands for her mother all the afternoon, gave Meg her place to-night, and has waited on every one with patience and good-humor. I also **observe (v)** that she does not fret much nor look in the glass, and has not even mentioned a very pretty ring which she wears; so I conclude that she has learned to think of other people more and of herself less, and has decided to try and mould her character **as carefully as she moulds her little clay figures (sim)**. I am glad of this; for though I should be very proud of a graceful statue made by her, I shall be **infinitely (adv)** prouder of a **lovable (adj)** daughter, with a talent for making life beautiful to herself and others.”