Before Reading

BEFORE READING ACTIVITIES (PAGE 76)

ACTIVITY 1  BEFORE READING
1 Beth
2 Jo
3 Meg
4 Amy
5 Meg
6 Jo
7 Amy
8 Beth

ACTIVITY 2  BEFORE READING
Encourage students to speculate and to make guesses, but do not tell them the answers. They will find out that the ‘true’ answers are 1, 4, 5 and 8.

While Reading

CHAPTERS 1 TO 3 WHILE READING
1 Where . . .? He was away at the war in the South.
2 How . . .? Their father had lost his money when the girls were little.
3 What . . .? They decided that each of them would buy a present for their mother, and they would not buy presents for themselves.
4 How . . .? They gave them their breakfast as a Christmas present.
5 What . . .? The paper and wood castle fell down just as Roderigo and Zara were escaping from it, and the visitors screamed with laughter.
6 What . . .? He sent flowers for the actors, and ice-cream, cake, fruit and French chocolate for the girls and their visitors to have for supper after the play. He did this because he was pleased with what the girls had done for the Hummel family.
7 What . . .? Meg’s hair was burnt, and she hurt her ankle. Jo dropped coffee on her dress.
8 How . . .? Meg couldn’t walk home because of her ankle, and Laurie took her, Jo, and Hannah home in his grandfather’s carriage.

CHAPTERS 4 TO 6 WHILE READING
1 Meg and Jo had jobs because they wanted to earn money for the family.
2 Jo visited Laurie because he had been ill and needed cheering up.
3 Mr Laurence was pleased by Laurie’s friendship with the Marches, and thought he could catch up with his studies later.
4 Mr Laurence gave Beth a piano because he liked the slippers that she made him.
5 Amy was so angry with Jo that she burnt Jo’s notebook of stories.
6 Although Amy begged for forgiveness, Jo wouldn’t forgive her.
7 Laurie warned Jo about the thin ice, but Amy didn’t hear.

CHAPTERS 7 TO 8 WHILE READING
1 Annie and Sallie (and perhaps Belle and Clara), to Meg, about the letter and flowers that arrived for Meg before the party, and which they thought came from Meg’s ‘young man’.
2 One of Mrs Moffat’s friends, to Mrs Moffat, about the chance of one of the March girls marrying Laurie.
3 Laurie, to Meg, about the way the Moffat girls have dressed her up for the party.
4 Meg, to Laurie, about the way she looked and behaved at the party.
5 Meg, to her sisters, reporting that their mother was staying in her room to have a rest that day, and so the girls had to look after themselves.
6 Mrs March, to her daughters, about their week of all play and no work.
7 Meg, to Mr Brooke, Laurie’s tutor, about what could happen if he went off to fight in the war.

BEFORE READING CHAPTER 9
Encourage speculation and discussion, but do not tell students the answers. They will find out as they read that:

Mr Brooke falls in love with Meg. Soon after, Laurie finds out and tells the secret to Jo, who is not very happy about it.

CHAPTERS 9 TO 12 WHILE READING
1 Jo’s secret was that she had left two stories with a newspaper man, but she didn’t know yet if they were going to be printed. Laurie’s secret was that he knew where Meg’s lost glove was. Mr Brooke had it, so Laurie knew that he was in love with Meg.
2 They were all happy and proud.
3 Laurie sent a telegram to the hospital and took a note to Aunt March, who lent Mrs March the money for the journey. Amy and Meg helped their mother get ready, and Beth went to ask Mr Laurence for some wine. Mr Laurence sent Mr Brooke to travel with Mrs March, and Jo had her hair cut off to get some money for her mother.
4 She caught scarlet fever from Mrs Hummel’s baby, who died of the disease.
5 Because she had not had the disease, and she could catch it from Beth.
6 Because Hannah said that the news would only worry Mrs March, who couldn’t leave her husband, and also that Beth’s illness would not last long, and Hannah knew what to do.
7 Meg realized that she was rich in the important things – love, peace, and good health. Jo realized how unselfish Beth always was. Amy realized that people loved Beth because she wasn’t selfish, and decided to try and be more like her.
8 She thought that John was an excellent young man, but that Meg was too young to marry yet.

BEFORE READING CHAPTER 13
Encourage students to speculate and to make guesses, but do not tell them the answers. They will find out as they read that the answers are numbers 2 and 4.

CHAPTERS 13 AND 14 WHILE READING
1 Meg thought that John Brooke had written the two letters, but in fact Laurie wrote them.
2 Mrs March made Laurie promise not to tell anyone what he had done, but then Mr Laurence tried to shake the truth out of Laurie.
3 Mr Laurence and Laurie had a big argument about this, but Jo came and made peace between them, by persuading Mr Laurence to apologize to Laurie.
4 John Brooke brought Mr March home on Christmas Day.
5 John Brooke, Laurie and Mr Laurence joined the March family for Christmas dinner.
6 When Aunt March told Meg not to marry John Brooke, Meg realized that she did in fact love him.
7 Beth and Amy were delighted about their sister and John Brooke, but Jo felt sad and Laurie tried to cheer her up.

After Reading

ACTIVITY 1 AFTER READING
Possible answers:
MRS MARCH: Now, Laurie, did you write these letters?
LAURIE: Yes, I did, Mrs March. But it wasn’t serious – it was just a game.
MRS MARCH: Well, it’s a game that’s hurt Meg, and made Jo angry. Who else knows about these letters? Mr Brooke?
LAURIE: Mr Brooke knows nothing about them. Nor does anybody else.
MRS MARCH: That’s one good thing, I suppose. But I’m very disappointed in you, Laurie. You’ve been very unkind.
LAURIE: I’m sorry, Mrs March, really sorry. I didn’t mean to be unkind – please believe me.

MRS MARCH: I accept that you didn’t mean to. But it’s not really me you should apologize to, is it, Laurie?
LAURIE: I’ll go and find Meg now and ask her to forgive me.
MRS MARCH: Good. I’ll call her in presently, but first, will you promise me never to talk about this to anyone?
LAURIE: Yes. I’ll never say anything, Mrs March, I promise.

ACTIVITY 2 AFTER READING
Possible answers:
Dear Father
We were all very happy to hear that you are getting better. We have had a very difficult time here, because Beth has been very ill with scarlet fever. I wanted to write to Mother about it, but Hannah said that Mother would only worry, and in any case Hannah knew what to do. Amy went to stay with Aunt March and Jo nursed Beth night and day. Yesterday the doctor told us that we should send for Mother, and we all felt terribly worried. But just before Mother arrived, the fever went away and Beth started to breathe more easily. Now we are all very tired, of course, but we are so happy that Beth is going to get better and that Mother is back home. We all send you our love, and hope that you will be able to come home soon, too.
Your loving Meg
P.S. Mother has asked me to add that she sends her love to John.

ACTIVITY 3 AFTER READING
• Words across: uncomfortable, mean, lazy, helpful, polite, rough, cross, warm-hearted
• Words down: happy, proud, calm, cruel, wild, shy, lonely, selfish, shocked, annoyed, grateful, brave, hurt, miserable, sad, wicked

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LITTLE WOMEN
Amy burnt Jo’s notebook of stories as a way of getting her revenge on Jo, because Jo had refused to take her to the theatre with Meg and Laurie.

Jo sold her hair and gave the money to her mother when Mrs March had to go to Washington suddenly to see her sick husband in hospital. Jo wanted to do something to help her father and make him more comfortable, and was unselfish enough to lose her lovely long thick hair for her father’s sake.

Amy was going to buy her mother a small bottle of perfume for Christmas and spend the rest of her money on herself, but she decided not to be selfish and changed the small bottle for a big one.

Meg was kind to John Brooke, who had no family and few friends. She spoke to him kindly when they went on a picnic together.

Laurie sent a telegram to ask Mrs March to come home when Beth seemed close to dying. Laurie and his grandfather had decided that the girls needed their mother, and that Mrs March should be told that her daughter was so ill.

Beth made a pair of slippers for Mr Laurence to thank him for letting her play his piano.

### ACTIVITY 6 AFTER READING

**Students may make whatever choices they like. They may like to know what the author chose for her characters in subsequent books. Briefly, what happens is:**

- Meg marries John Brooke; Jo marries a Professor Bhaer; Beth dies; Amy marries Laurie; Laurie proposes to Jo, who rejects him, and then he marries Amy.

### ACTIVITY 7 AFTER READING

**Open answers.**