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EA300A - Little Women

Question: Social and family pressures affect Laurie's dreams. Discuss.

Laurie, Theodore Laurence, is a male character in Louisa May Alcott's novel *Little Women*. Alcott uses the character of Laurie to show how women and men alike face challenges in society. Unlike the perspective that men are stronger, Laurie is incapable of redeeming himself, so he depends on the influence of their family and friends.

The story shows that families can impose restrictions that affect their children's decision-making. From a young age, Laurie wished to become a musician. Although he was talented and capable, his grandfather disagreed with this dream. He had other plans for Laurie: Belonging to a wealthy, his grandfather wants Laurie to continue with business studies at Harvard and take on the family's business. His dream was interrupted by his grandfather's obligations.

Socially, the people around Laurie also impacted his personality. In the story, the March sisters had positive impacts on Laurie: Meg's romantic character, Jo's tomboy nature, Beth's timidness, and Amy's melodramatic personality had a redeeming factor that instilled different moral values in Laurie's character. Although from a wealthy family, Laurie was often moody and bored before meeting the March girls. Jo made him fall in love. When he went to France, both Amy and Flo nicknamed him 'Lazy Laurence' due to his inability to follow his ambitions. Also, when Jo rejected his proposal, he became heartbroken and later travelled to Europe and wandered, wasting his money and time and money. It continued until he met Amy there, and that is when he came to live again. Amy's sternness made him realize what he needed to change.

To sum up, the story shows that both social and family conventions affect people's behaviour. Laurie did not seem to have a social life while growing up, which would have affected his capacity to prove himself as a notable young man.



Alcott's Little Women: Themes of sacrifice and poverty

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott includes a variety of characteristics that related to the general way of living in the 19th century. Therefore, the novel focuses on presenting the difficulties of the social constrains through the suffering of the characters in the novel.

The idea of the **struggling artists** is portrayed through shedding light upon two important themes in the novels. These themes are the theme of sacrifice and the theme of poverty. It is noticeable that these two themes are related to the social circumstances of the 19th century society. as mentioned before, the idea of the struggling artists, like many other ideas, is represented through the suffering of the characters in the novel. Three characters are very significant in this instance. The characters are the characters of Jo, Beth, and Laurie. These three characters share the same interest to become artists. However, they suffer a lot in the novel to achieve their quests.

The importance of the **themes of sacrifice and poverty** is represented through preventing the mentioned characters from fulfilling their wishes. The themes of sacrifice and poverty are central in Little Women, as they classify the priorities of the individuals living in the society of the 19th century. The three characters sacrifice their artistic dreams in order to ensure other important matters. For Jo and Beth, these two characters sacrifice their dreams in order to help their family financially. As for Laurie, although he was raised in a wealthy family, he sacrifices his artistic dreams to go to college, because college was considered something sophisticated at that time.

In conclusion, the themes of sacrifice and poverty, as representing the general view of the society of the 19th century, describe the struggling artists in the novel.



Northern Lights as children's book

Northern Lights is one of the works that caused much controversy about its nature. It was defined as **children's book** by the author, but many **critics refused the classification**. It has many characteristics that make it suits children.

The use of children was important, and the main character **Lyra** was a child, which is a basic element. Lyra is the leading character that has the imagination, intelligence, and bravery to live an adventure to save her friend and the world. Pullman has used talking animals to attract children and that makes it work like a fairy tale. Furthermore, the use of witches and gypsies enhanced the sense of fantasy in the work. Lyra was an orphan and living in a school, which made her do as all children and run from classes and enjoyed discovering secrets.

The story is centered on **Lyra's adventure** to save her friend, which made her **show her agency**. The used agency is evoking the feelings of children that are not able to practice it in real life, which makes Lyra a perfect **heroine** in a book for children. Panteleimon the magical creature that takes any form of animals is another important part that makes children enjoy the story. Lyra was able to save her father Asriel from the Magisterium, which is responsible for kidnaping the kids and prevented their development. Lyra was defending all children as she wants them to become experienced, which she seeks in her adventure.

To conclude, regardless of the opposing views for the story, it is one of the successful works for children. Pullman has joined any elements to attract his readers and his world was more than fantastic and connected to the real too.

Alcott's Little Women focusing on Meg's relationship with her husband?

One's character can have a distinctive attribute, but certain facets of his or her personality can be seen as weaknesses. Among her siblings, Margarete "Meg" March, the oldest sister, is an amiable lady with a courteous attitude in Louisa May Alcott's novel "Little Women." She is the eldest sister of the March family. Despite Meg's humble demeanor, her passive behaviors make her influenced by others even though her demeanor creates different relationships in the story. Because Meg is a down-to-earth person, she can easily gain influence from others through varied relationships. A flawed courteous attitude can be seen in Meg's relationship with John Brookes in the novel. Meg is still influenced by John's new relationship, so she changes her mind about marrying a rich man. In the moment Meg has met John, she starts dreaming of living in luxury with a wealthy husband and having a happy family. Meg



removes money from her life as much as she did before following her first encounter with him. It can be seen clearly in her carefree manner. It also demonstrates her flaws regarding her humble nature, since Meg has a long-term relationship with her family, especially her mother. Meg does not receive any presents at all on the day of her first Christmas breakfast, although she is extremely excited about the event. A poor family's food is often too expensive for her sister's, so she convinces them to share. By the end, Meg sometimes dressed up as a rich girl when other girls tried to appeal to her. This is a trait that sometimes shows through when she turns to pretend, she was a rich girl. Rather than sacrifice luxury for her husband's poverty, Meg becomes an agreeable housewife, pretending to like politics. In a relationship, Meg seems to follow to be subservient in the relationship. It seems that to keep this relationship healthy, Meg has somehow denounced the idea of Alcott to bring the money with the living reality.