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**Didactical and Feminist Thoughts of Louisa May Alcott
Presented in Little Women**

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Dedications

I dedicate this Academic Project to my Beloved Family, especially my Parents

F. Zohra Daddi & Mohammed Benaicha,

in hope to bring them pride and fulfilment

To my dear Grandfather who always supported me till the end of his days

To myself for being able to carry on despite the hard times

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Abstract

Little Women is one of the many timeless novels dedicated to children and young adults by the American novelist **Louisa May Alcott** who had displayed didactical and feminist thoughts of her own.

This cross-generational masterpiece thrived in combining delight and insight, inspiring movie makers and script writers to reproduce movies under the same name over decades.

This paper work will be focusing on **Alcott**'s feminist thoughts as well as her didactical once, while examining how the movie adaptation helped portraying different characters and themes. The novel is mainly analysed in the light of Feminist Literary Theory thought of as the intellectual fallout of the Feminist movement and which reflects on the representations of women in literary work.

Keywords: Didacticism, Feminism, civil war, women, movie adaptation, American Literature

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General Introduction

General Introduction

The word woman connotes several beautiful senses: strength, humanity, motherhood, love and life. However, for centuries, in the name of religion or race women had constantly been criticised and mistreated by their opposite gender “men”. Western Women have been abused and deprived of their basic rights like voting, making money or at least going to schools.

Enlightenment came and influenced every aspect of life including people’s attitude towards the importance of education and the feminine existence in society. As a result, many females started manifesting and asking for their basic rights using a new powerful weapon.... the pen.

“Women... they have minds, and they have souls, as well as just hearts. And they’ve got ambitions, and they’ve got talent, as well as just beauty. I’m so sick of people saying that love is all a women is fit for”

-Greta Grewing (Little Women 2019)-

Little Women is one of the greatest literary depictions of women’s challenges in early American society. It was engraved by the American author Louisa May Alcott (1832-1888), written and assembled in 1868-69 by Robert Brother’s edition, to afterward gain popularity among young adults namely girls.

The novel was translated into many languages like Arabic, French, and Spanish. It was considered as an educative and influential book that expressed the importance of female presence in life in an effortless and straightforward manner. Though the novel was printed in the nineteenth century, it still attracts the attention of numerous readers and movies’ producers, because of its powerful feminine and didactical perspectives, and its morals and ideas which can be relevant in to present day.

Rationale

If the book is still relevant to modern times, it is probably due to some circumstances; attitudes or beliefs that still persist today but only in a more complex way. It is still called a challenge for women to strive beyond domestic boundaries. Inner and outer conflicts have to be faced and overcome in order to justify female ambition.

Motivation

I re-met with the March sisters during the pandemic; locked down I only had my laptop and a list of movies. When I suddenly remembered the movie from 1994 that I used to watch with my family during winter, I still remember seeing my mother crying as she watched it, she used to see me as the little Amy; jealous, ambitious, and gets what she wants even if it takes time. Watching the movie as an adult made me appreciate it more. Besides; the March sisters reflect my needs and desires to have female siblings, since I am the only girl my mother had.

Since Alcott is one of the classic writers; her work deserves to be constantly revived among English Language students, representing one of her famous books in this dissertation, is a chance to revisit her feminist and didactical perceptions.

Aim of the Study

This study is conducted to analyse the educational instructive themes, known as didacticism. In addition to an exploration of Alcott's feminine thoughts that are illustrated in different characters, and symbols in her novel *Little Women*. Illustrations from **Gillian Armstrong** movie version of the book released in 1994 are also going to be considered.

Research Questions

What virtues are mostly recurrent in Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*?

What are the most significant feminist and didactical views in *Little Women*?

What made the movie adaptation of 1999 so attractive?

Research Hypotheses

It has been hypothesised that Alcott's literary work focuses on portraying women as independent and strong individuals, beyond being sensitive fragile creatures.

It was theorised that the importance of feminine education is highly regarded in Alcott's novels especially *little women*.

The movie *Little Women* gained popularity among young and adults; it has been observed that the movie production came as a lively interpretation of a central theme: women ambition.

Research Objectives

The foundation of this research is to focus on:

- Having a look on literal feminist movement during civil war.
- Exploring the feminist thoughts of Alcott in the novel under study.
- Analysing the educational instructive known as didacticism in the light of *Little Women*.
- Criticizing and analysing the mimetic and expressive theories in the movie produced in 1994 by Gillian Armstrong under the same name as the novel.

Literature Review

While piloting our research we came across numerous studies that dealt with the presented theories in Alcott work *Little Women*; they include feminism, didacticism, and mimetic and expressive theories. The Didactic theory, recognised as one of the three main theories of literature besides Mimetic and Expressive theory.

The novel is initially analysed in the light of the Feminist Literary Theory which reflects on the representations of women in literary work.

Methodology of the Research

This research is based on a qualitative method using the original version of the novel published in 1868 within an inductive study. This literary study will be using a Qualitative mechanism as we will be using the original novel *Little Women* (1868) as a primary source. A variety of articles and books will be a good source of help while studying this work, as a secondary source the movie produced under **Gillian Armstrong** directing, will be under a lence of analysis, as well as related works of different theories like feminism, didacticism, and in mimetic and expression.

The major feature that makes Louisa May Alcott's novels unique is her combination of didactical ideas, and socio-political issues especially about female movement that had begun at the period when she had wrote her book Little Women. As a result it had opened a window on how female thought shaped literature and culture.

Chapter I

Introduction

The Romantic Era was a period of creativity, it influenced numerous fields especially literature. The era paved the way towards the beginning of a new covenant in literature called Realism, and the latter illuminated the reality that women of all colours were facing. It approached women representations in literary works as well as in real life.

1.1. Romanticism

Like many literary genres, Romanticism was developed in Europe and was expanded to the new world. It has started as a reaction to Neoclassical Literature¹. The latter has started in America around 1820 and vanished by the end of the Civil War, announcing the beginning of a new movement called Realism.

The Romantic Era is an idealism that characterized many works of literature such as; poetry, painting, novels and essays. It was featured by intuition, imagination and individualism in literature.

1.2. American Women during Romanticism

During the Romantic period, the American society was dominated by men, especially in politics and literature, compared to women, who were seen inferior to them. In addition to their social state, they were uncared for in education and work. Soon after the Civil War, ladies started to question their existence in society, and as humans.

Since the majority of women were lacking their basic rights; like learning in schools, owning properties, or at least being treated as human beings. Few started to express their desire for change and for equality.

After the civil war had started, most men had to go and serve in the war as soldiers, leaving their properties and businesses behind, in the care of their wives, daughters and sisters. The war came as an opportunity for change. Womenfolk proved their power of responsibility, and showed that they deserve more than just being housewives.

Using literature as a weapon, ladies started to use poems, novels and essays to give power to their movement such as **Mary Darcy Robinson**, **Mary Wollstonecraft** and **Maria Edgeworth**.

Mary Wollstonecraft published in the dedication of a *Vindication of the Rights of Women*, in order to express more of her ideas,

“Not inconsistent and unjust to subjugate women, even though you firmly believe that you are acting in the manner best calculated to

promote their happiness? Who made man the exclusive judge, if women partake with him the gift of reason “

-Wollstonecraft, “Vindication” 212-

Claiming for more rights, women were split into two parties, those who were with the change, and those who were against the change.

Quickly by the end of the war, a new movement emerged as a trending undertaking the literary genre, to change most parties’ thoughts and works. Changing them to think more realistically, few writers like **Louisa May Alcott** for example relied on both romantic and realistic themes to express her reflection about females’ rights.

1.3. Transcendentalism

A movement of writers and philosophers in New Englandⁱⁱ, in the nineteenth century whose members were loosely bound together by devoting to an idealistic system of thoughts, based on the belief in the essential supremacy of insight over logic and experience for the revelation of the deepest truths. (Lumenlearning.com, n.m)

Many writers were drawn to transcendentalism, and they started to express its ideas through new stories, poems, essays, and articles. The ideas of transcendentalism were able to permeate American thought and culture through a prolific print culture, which allowed the wide dissemination of magazines and journals. **Ralph Waldo Emerson** emerged as the leading figure of this movement. In 1836, he published “Nature,” an essay arguing that humans can find their true spirituality in nature, not in the everyday bustling working world of Jacksonian democracy and industrial transformation. In 1841, **Emerson** published his essay “Self-Reliance,” which urges readers to think for themselves and reject the mass conformity and mediocrity taking root in American life. (Lumenlearning.com, n.m)

1.4. Women of Transcendentalism

Margaret Fuller and **Elizabeth Palmer Peabody** were the only two women who were original members of the Transcendental Club. Other women were part of the inner circle of the group who called themselves Transcendentalists, like **Louisa May Alcott**; who grew in a transcendental circle, which appeared in one of her novels "Transcendental Wild Oats".(though.c. n,m)

1.5. Realism

American Realism began as a reaction and a rejection of Romanticism, began as early as the 1830's; it highlights emotion, imagination, and the individual. The movement reached prominence and ruled from the end of the Civil War to around the end of the nineteenth century. (longwood.edu)

The latter was centered in fiction, particularly the novel. It attempted fidelity to real life, or "actuality," in its representation. The realist concerns himself with the present, centering his work in his own time, dealing with common-place every day events and people, and with the socio-political climate of his day. (longwood.edu)

1.6. Women During the Civil War

From being sweethearts, housewives, sisters, or even daughters, women have left their traditional role only for the sake of the nation; during the civil war, by showing their importance and worth to the society. As an occasion many ladies started their movement in the early feminism, encouraged by other movement, and organization like the abolitionist. Starting in a very remarkable way, women manifested through, literature, by being combatants, even when they were separated by north, and south, they shared the same ambition.

1.7. Women of Color

The civil war didn't have been only revolutionary for the civilian between north, and south, but was also for slaves; abolitionism came as a savior for both men and women slaves at that time.

By the year the war has arrived in 1830s many black American gained their freedom, especially after the ban of the slave trade in 1831 in the northern states. "**William Lloyd Garrison** announced a new era in the abolitionist movement with the publication of the liberator: **Garrison's** call for the immediate abolition of slavery was influenced by the religious revivals of the 1820s and early 1830s" (L.T Frank 2008). The war created a crises for black women, it included the danger of envision, living as implosive refugees.

While the reconstruction that followed that time eradicated some of the sufferance, but it was not enough to erase the post slavery in the American society.

As a useful weapon, literature took place between black women activists like **Harriet Ann Jacobs**, and **Sojourner Truth**.

Harriet Ann Jacobs (1813, 1897) presenting her previous life as a slave in her autobiography titles incidence in the life of a slave girl where she narrate her sufferings from sexual harassment that she had to bear to survive from her white master,

“Reader, it is not to awaken sympathy for myself that I am telling you truthfully what I suffered in slavery. I do it to kindle a flame in compassion in your hearts for my sisters who are still in bondage, suffering as I once suffered”

- Jacobs, n.d-

Jacobs had the courage to speak of what was under tables, incidents in a life of a slave girl portrayed sexual harassment in addition of the struggles she was going through to survive hardship, that not only women of color had to bear. **Jacobs** also have undertook motherhood, and the importance of family, thus she had to be separated from her grandmother, and children to escape her dominant owner.

Another author that had raised her voice to the humanity as an abolitionist and feminist is **Sojourner Truth**. Born in another name truth first name was **Isabella Baumfree** (1797, 1883) being the first black women to ever sew a white man and win; after her old “owner” sold her five years old son illegally when the anti-slavery law was made.

After few years of freedom **Isabella** devoted herself and her spirituality to Christianity, following god’s path she changed her name to Sojourner Truth, she swore to devote her life for rights and equality between humans.

Truth’s path started when she have joined organization like abolitionist and the feminism, and other equal rights. In a feminine gathering in 1851 truth powerfully to encourage women to stand and to make their voices heardable it’s when she said her famous quote,

“Ain’t a woman”

- Truth, 1851-

1.8. Silver Women

Not like the African American women, white women on the other hand didn’t have any problem in blending within the society, although there was no huge difference in the hard work during the war, the only difference is that women of color had to struggle with racism and feminism.

While white women took advantage of the situation to show their existence, and worth; since all men went to fight in the Civil War; most women took roles in society as they replaced their husbands in business, in farms, as well as in housekeeping, and taking care of their children.

Female had contributed in the development of the political outlook, while others helped indirectly by making and sharing food, clothes with the soldiers, and the poor families. Some worked directly, in hospitals as nurses, the rest joined the battlefield, but importantly those who used literature.

Whether it was novels, articles or even newspaper, Some famous novelist like **Lydia Maria Child** (1802, 1880) made the female voice strong in her book “Letters from New York”; published in (1841) edited by **Bruce Mills**, where she tackled more than one subject, such racism, slavery, and feminism. **Child** was the first ever to earn money from her writings, she also become the first women in the “Republic” (University of Georgia press)

Not only a writer **Child** was part of many movement at that time; defending the Amerindians, slaves, black and white women’s rights she had believed in equality between all human as she had quoted,

“It is my mission to help in the breaking down classes, and make all men feel as if they were brethren from the same family, sharing the same rights, the capability, and the same responsibility. While my hand can hold a pen I will use it to this end; and while my brain can earn a dollar, I will devote it to this end”

- Child n.m -

She had influenced many writers after publishing her phenomenal book “Americans called Africans” in 1838, which tackled the slavery problem in very clear manner, influencing writer such as Sojourner truth.

The more **Child** had wrote her articles the more she would be criticized, and she was very aware of the situation; therefore she had always mentioned a quote related to the hate critics that rejected her thoughts not only as a women who defends others rights but also as an abolitionist,

“The expectation of displeasing all classes had not been unaccompanied with pain. But it has been strongly impressed upon my mind that it was a duty to fulfill this task; and earthly considerations should never stifle the voice of conscience”

- Child n.m -

Influenced by **Child**’s writings, **Louisa May Alcott** consecrated her youth as a nurse during the civil war, but that last never stopped her from following her true desire is to write and to defend women’s rights.

It had appeared early in her life that she was manifesting, and aiming for change; through her early writings when she used to publish her writings under a nickname **A.M.Barnard** most of the stories under that name had a unique fictional stories where women were independent and strong.

It was later that she had decided to use her own name after she left the nursing job she had published *Hospital Sketches*; letters in a form of book published in 1863. Later on she gained more fame when she had wrote her autobiography under the name of “*Little Women*” it was then when she had manifested her feminist thoughts and showed her motivation for change,

“There are many Beths in the world, shy and quiet, sitting in corners till needed and living for others so cheerfully that no one sees the sacrifices till the little cricket on the hearth stops chirping, and the sweet, sunshiny presence vanishes, leaving silence and shadow behind”.

- Alcott, *Little Women* 50-

Through the book **Alcott** shows the importance of a women, as a mother, and as a person that her presence is way important than the men’s, when she had illustrated a family that her father is gone was a total normal because Marmee was there since she took care of her daughters, and had time for herself and for work, and even her girls were able to work and help her in the house expenses, not only that but in chap two “A Marry Christmas” the marches took their small Christmas feast to a German family in need; this last had showed that they are stronger than men,

“Let us be elegant or die!”

- Alcott, *little women* 32-

Alcott had always showed her thoughts in a very elegant and a positive way, she had supported women by showing their sacrifices and their hard work that needs to be respected and appreciated.

1.9. Feminizing Women in Realism

In **William Dean Howells**, book “*Literature and Life*” where he made a statement about both sexes,

“The man of letters must make up his mind that in the United States the fate of a book is in the hands of the women. It is the women with us who have most leisure and they read the most books. They are far better educated, for the most part, than our man and their tastes, if not their minds, are more calculated. Our men newspapers, but our women read books”

- (1902)-

In the early nineteenth century, the True Woman ideal dictated gender norms of middle-class propriety, but because of the efforts of women's rights activists, they gained more access to education, work, and the political ground via the suffrage movement. (Keith Newlin, 2019)

Widely read white novelists did not necessarily illustrate more politically engaged, professional women because of these changes, but they did explore the dehumanization and tragedy that attended conventional marriages. African American writers explored the role of women of color within the racial uplift movement as well as the women's rights movement, revising the New Woman ideal to account for their black identity. (Keith Newlin, 2019)

The female movement continued and got more powerful; as the time flew they become more recognized as, human than only creatures. Being accepted as equal to men in all field, took few waves to be settled.

1.10. First Wave of Feminist 1848

The first feminist meeting was organized by **Elizabeth Cady Stanston**, and **Lucretia Mott** in the church (1848), 200 women had joined under the name of "women's suffrage", and coming up with a list of twelve problems that need equality and one of them was vote (Grandy, 2018).

One of the female abolitionists and equal right activist are **Sojourner Truth**, **Louisa May Alcott**, **Harriet Ann Jacobs**, and **Lydia Mariah Child** (Grandy, 2018).

1.11. Second Wave of Feminism 1963

This wave was highlighted by the phenomenal of **Betty Friedan's** the feminine mystique published in 1963. This book talked about females' rights and that they are not the problem if they had unsuccessful marriage, or even they had been abused, the fault relies on the masculinity society that they live in (Grandy,2018).

The Feminine Mystique rails against "the problem that has no name": the systemic sexism that taught women, that their place was in the home and that if they were unhappy as housewives, it was only because they were broken and perverse (Grandy, 2018).

"I thought there was something wrong with me because I didn't have an orgasm waxing the kitchen floor"

- Friedan march4, 1973-

With the movement that she had made many married and unmarried women gain their rights to use birth control, they were giving the right to the equal education and other rights, like holding a credit cards with their names, the second wave gave women more rights than first one (Grandy,2018).

1.12. Third Wave of Feminism: 1991

In 1991 **Anita Hill** had testify before the court against a powerful man named **Clarence Thomas** for sexual abuse at work, soon the court let the abuser go, and millions of women came to support the victim, that didn't only stop there other women had the courage to tell on their abusers, and to let go of their pain. The third wave was highly influenced by the pop group **GRRRL**ⁱⁱⁱ, (Grandy, 2018).

“BECAUSE doing/reading/seeing/hearing cool things that validate and challenge us can help us gain the strength and sense of community that we need in order to figure out how bullshit like racism, able bodies, ageism, specialism, classism, thinkism, sexism, anti-Semitism and heterosexism figures in our own lives,”

- Singer Kathleen Hanna in the Riot GRRRL 1991 -

1.13. The Fourth Wave present day

The fourth wave came with success that most women in the previous waves had dreamed of to achieve. But the question is it enough. The time may change in addition to the abused in secret Women of all ages are facing cruelties from different categories, especially with the technology cyber bullying, body shaming, comparison between models and actress as **Dave Chappelle** once said “modern problems requires moderns solutions” each time the problem grow different than the old one, it is not known when the next wave can start anytime but it is not an inevitable (Grandy, 2018).

As the present day have been fruitful for women empowerment, the past was not much hopeful for the ladies especially those of races.

Conclusion

Female were discriminated, and dehumanized by males; leaving them without their simple rights such having an education, or voting.

The period of Romanticism to Realism was marked with multiple writings about women's right and different manifestation for equality. It had deferred from abolition, to feminism, leading to the same direction, “Human Privileges”.

Women during Romanticism came to set the equality between genders, by using literature, and going to battle field women had proved their existence and the balance they provide in the society as they have took responsibility in their husbands, brothers, fathers places in working in different areas as the same time as housekeepers.

Chapter II

Introduction

This chapter will be presenting didacticism, and its appearance as teaching device, and as a literary genre.

In addition to the American Feminine movement, before, during and after the civil war, by presenting the different waves of the feminism and different weapons such as literature to express their taught and believes about their existence.

The combination between the didactical feminism presented in **Louisa May Alcott** work, made it worldwide known as, an empowering book that every generation can rely on.

2.1. Didacticism

The art of instruction had existed since dawn of drawing on rocks, which makes it a heritage that had been going for ages. “As long as there has been something to instruct, there have been stories to import the lesson” (n.m); this latter highlights the importance of didacticism in human existence, whether it was in the past or in the future.

Existing under different forms; like in theatre, television and books specifically in children volumes; using morals which are resulted from experiences presented in the genre. Many had used this literary device for movements such as feminism, because of its important influence on all generation.

Didacticism is the study of teaching and education, the word itself refers to literature, which is used to explain morals. Although the meaning of the word didactic is referred to heavy-handed and addressed, this is not a condition for something to be instructive. However, the instructional device has the ability of preaching as well as mentoring.

The word Didactics came from the Greek verb “Didasko”; that is translated to teach, as its adjective “Didaktós” means teachable, and transmitted (Erdmann, n.d). This latter is associated with the instructional poetry, which was a popular style of literature in earlier civilizations^{iv}.

A Greek philosopher named **Hesiod**, wrote an ancient Greek poetry around the eighteenth century BC titled “Works and Days”, is a good example of two types of Didactical poems, it deals with how to cope with practical life through real life experience (Mavrommatis, 2004).

As those narrations were passed from one generation to the other, aiming for inspiration and directing people on how to live and practise different believes.

2.2. Didacticism in History

Didacticism has existed, as an instructive tool, and a teaching device, even before the written word had existed. Story telling was a popular way to share culture, knowledge and pleasure, in its various manners like Fables, Parables, and Myths they were told musically using lyre^v. Inherited by successors, they had made modest adjustments in the stories to suit social changes and attitudes.

Can be detected in fairy tales and proses, with the diversity between the different civilisation, each had added their own changes to the stories, to ensure that they truly reflected the norms of their respective community. Chronologically speaking the order of the appearance of the folkloric literature are Legends, Myths then Fairy Tales lastly the appearance of books and its different subgenres^{vi}, especially novels.

Novels as a Didactical genre did not appear until the Eleventh century, in “HayyIbnYakdan”, by a Muslim scholar **Ibn Tufail**; it tells the story of a little youngster who lived on isle, were he learnt about the nature of the world through personal experience, as he grow older, he met for the first time another person that shared wisdom with him as well as the rest of the world. As a didactical book it had influenced European writers to contribute in didacticism (L.E Goodman, 2003).

2.3. Types of Didacticism

Like any other literal genre, didacticism has varieties of types and sub-genres. Mythology, Poetry and Verses, Moral Plays, Religious Books, Youngster’s Literature, Movies and Series, are all different faces of Didacticism.

2.3.1. Mythology

Drives from the combined Greek words “Mythos”; that refers to story of the people, and the word “Logos”; that means word, The latter means Sacred Tale or Fable of a culture known as myths, which deals with Various Human Conditions^{vii} (Joshua j. mark, 2018).

Mythology has played an integral part in every civilization throughout the world. Pre-historic cave paintings, etchings in stone, tombs, and monuments all suggest that, long before human beings set down their myths in words, they had already developed a belief structure corresponding to the definition of “myth” provided by Leach and Fried. According to twentieth century psychiatrist **Carl Jung**, “myth is a necessary aspect of the human psyche which needs to find meaning and order in a world which often presents itself as chaotic and meaningless” (1998), (Joshua J. Mark, 2018).

One of the uses of myths is instruction. Consequently human started to practice different traditions, and believe like in the Greek mythology. The infinite love of Hades the cold-hearted God of the underworld and Persephone Goddess of spring and nature. Hades kidnapped Persephone to the underworld and made her his wife, core^{viii} was unhappy; therefore with time going she fell in love with him. When the Goddess of the Agriculture Demeter found out that her beloved daughter was gone she converted to sadness, transforming the earth to desert and could not bless the earth with her powers; trees lost their leaves, and the weather changed to cloudy and thundery. As a result the Earth Realm was not having any goods nor did blessings, Zeus^{ix} ordered his brother the God of the Underworld to let core visit her mother once a year, so that she can bless the earth, and cure her broken heart.

The story above explains the weather changes of seasons; when Persephone is in the Earth Realm, Demeter blesses the grounds with abundant production, which means spring, summer, and when she leaves among her husband the weather goes to fall and winter, and Demeter goes into sadness.

The moral of the story is to teach the landowners to work hard during hot seasons to receive, and to be feed their needs during cold seasons. The story is similar in moral with “The Hard Working Ant and lazy Cockroach”; hard works always repays by the end.

2.3.2. Poetry and Verses

Poem, drama, lyrics, Epic, in dramatic poetry were among the first literary forms. An epic poem tells the story of a hero's journey over a long period of time; it is full of thrilling adventures and incredible achievements.

As for the Lyric poetry is a brief representation of the poet's feelings and thoughts, it was initially created as a song to be performed with a lyre , an ancient musical instrument, and closely touched the audiences hearts.

Dramatic poetry is written in the voices of several characters, making it ideal for being performed by a variety of persons newly called musical plays.

Poetry has evolved into numerous forms over the centuries, inspiring to everyone from the most innocent, wide-eyed child to the most mature, world-weary adult. The world now has access to an enormous, colorful, and diverse corpus of poetry works, as well as the history of each form's roots and creators, such **William Shakespeare** (1564-1616), **Maya Angelou** (1928-2014), and **Sylvia Plath** (1932-1963).

Poems and verses are faces of didacticism, because they work as entertaining and instructing. Dramas are a way to enjoy them as well as to better understand them.

2.3.3. Moral Plays

The Shakespearean play “Hamlet” (1903), tells the story of a young prince who has received tragedies all at once; lost his father, his mother remarried his uncle, and lost his one and only lover, “it wasn’t made for ears but for minds, that is why they do not work on stage” (Lamb, n.m) as wisdom is one of the ingredients of this moral play as well as intelligence, revenge all combined in one style.

From classical to modern forms of Didacticism Drama is “Animal Farm” created by **George Orwell** (1945), Animal Farm is a moral and didactic tale that uses animals in a stable of a farm to illustrate the rebellion of the last Russian Emperor, Nicholas II, and to expose some of the horrors of Russian Communist Revolution prior to the second world war. The Animals acts were clearly meant to demonstrate the revolution's greed and corruption, in addition of showing how influential individuals can change a society's personalities.

Last but not least “Madrassat El Mosharibine” by **Ali Salem** (1973), is an Egyptian comedy piece, that illustrates the story of five blokes who kept on repeating high school, not only because they were lousy students, however because they were bad behaved students, causing their previous teachers to suffer from breakdown, and leading them to quit, until the new teacher came, and changed many thing, as well as their attitudes.

Over all the story shows the importance of tolerance the teacher believed in her students, and their change. The story wasn't only about the teacher but also about the students; as they were lost and no one had stopped them, nor told them they were misbehaving.

As the morals are in plays that possibly can be watched once, books are on the shelves, and can be returned and reread as much as the readers wish to.

2.3.4. Balance Sheet

Before plays and animation ever existed, Books were everyone accessory. Till our days books are cherished with many genres have appeared, reading has stayed one's favourite hobby, learning is no different from before as well as the present shows.

“Little men” by **Louisa May Alcott** (1871) came as a succession of “Little Women”; Alcott tells what happened after Jo marries Bhear, and opens a boarding school for boys, to receive both Academic and Life skills which will last. Jo decides to adopt two homeless Boston boys along with her biological sons after their arrival at Plumfield.

In Little Women **Alcott** gave an autobiography about her childhood memories, and morals that she had gained from her experiences in life, and from Marmee's advice, in this sequel **Alcott** focuses on how Jo teaches and be a good mother.

Another subgenre of books, called in their home language “Manga” in Japanese, and “Manhua” in Korean; they firstly appeared in the Asian continent especially in the Japanese culture.

“the American comics” had been released a century later in the nineteenth century, after the appearance of “Manga” in the Asian world in form of “Comic Strips”, especially after Japan was occupied by the American army, both have exchanged thoughts and technics .as the Japanese had many subgenres, the American is known for Superhero comics. Other branches have existed in the early fifty’s but were stopped by the Comic Code ^x(1954).

Books have developed into new and various types and qualities, genres as well as readers. And among those types there are religious ones. To help its believers choose the rightful path by using stories to guide them from others experiences, and mistakes.

2.3.5. Religious Books

In the Muslim world, Quran is the spiritual representation of Didacticism, it has one copy translated, and did not change since the day it was collected. It guides using stories, instructions, and assurance. Mistakes come before the lesson, which one will learn after understanding. Many Lessons were taught like patience, and avoiding judgment. In the chapter eighteen titled “Surat ElKahf” verses from 18:60 to 18:82;tell the story of the prophet knowledgeable one and the Prophet Moses-Peace are upon them-, in their didactical and curious path.

The story begins when Moses being asked if he's the most well-known person in the world, so he answers: yes, indeed I am. So Allah said to Moses: no you're not, there is someone who knows better than you, and he’s in the junction of two seas. The Prophet Moses found him and asked him" May I follow you on the condition of what you have been taught of sound judgement.Al khidr replied: indeed, with me you will never be able to have patience, and how could you, then Moses said: you will, if Allah wills, patient, and I will not disobey, Al khidr said then don't you ask me about anything until I make it clear.

As they walk, they embarked the ship, he(Al. Khidr) tore it open, Moses said :why did you do that so he replied with :did I not said that with me, you would never have patience?, Moses said do not blame me for what I forget.

So, they set out, they met a boy, so he killed him, Moses said again: have you killed a pure soul? You certainly a deplorable thing, Al khidr said: did I not said that with me, you would never have patience?, Moses said: if I should ask you about anything after this, then do not keep me a companion, you have obtained from me an excuse.

So they set out again, when they came to the people of the town, they asked for some food, but they refuse to offer them hospitality, so they found there in a wall about to collapse, so he restored it, Moses said: you could have done it with payment, Al khidr said: this is parting

between you and me, I will inform you of the interpretation of that about what which you could not have patience.

Here the wisdom of God is manifested in ways we might never understand. Our understanding of good and evil as human beings is deficient, because we do not see the whole image. Evil that we consider evil, and in fact it is good, but God will not reveal it to us throughout our life, so we live considering it evil.

Like killing a little boy

Did the boy's mother really know what happened?

Did the Khider tell her?

Answer: No.

Surely her heart broke, and she spent the long nights mourning for this boy whom she had raised for years in her lap, so that a strange man came to kill him and go, and surely she could never know that the second child was a compensation for the first, and that the first would have turned bad!

The biblical texts is built with stories that teach and guide using didactical morals like in the Old Testament; Book Of Genesis, Chapter 11 “The Tower of Babel” (Marunal, 2019) .

Years after the flood, when Noah and his family settled down and had more children, they began to move from place to place. When they reached the land of Babylon, they decided to settle there and build a tower so high, that it would reach the sky. The hearts of the people were proud, and they thought that they could reach the same level as God, the Highest (Marunal, 2019).

This pride was their downfall. When God came down to the city and saw what the people were doing, He became very angry. He decided to put a stop to their construction, by making sure that nobody could understand the other. God made sure that all the people there began to speak a different language, so that neighbours could no longer understand each other (Marunal, 2019).

When people tried to communicate, it turned into a whole babble of confused voices. Soon, everyone who spoke the same language left the city together, and in this way, they spread out across the world, taking their different languages with them. This is why the tower is called the tower of “Babel”; Perhaps the origin of the word “Babbles” (Marunal, 2019). The moral is simple as the pride and the desire for more power can destroy people, as it can lead into downfall easily.

2.3.6. Youngster's Literature

Youngster's literature has many types; it can be represented as animated cartoons. Children Books as a subgenre, for night times, help boosting the children's imaginations during sleeping time.

Young adults is a subgenre in didacticism, it repeatedly talks about going to adulthood subjects like first love, authors experiences, and advises.

2.3.7. Animation

Multicultural animation has influenced generations and continues to do so; didactically, it is one of the effective ways of telling an ethical moral to young people, particularly children. The Asian subtype, notably Japan, is well-known for this matter, after the creation of anime they have used colours in form of pictures that portray joy and life were shown on television to reduce the suffering of many children in conflict zones, allowing them to overcome their anxieties and inspire them to strive for a better life. As the animations were presented on television it had taken two forms.

As movies like in "Spirited Away" by **Hayao Miyazaki** (1999), Oscar winning award of Best Animation in 2003; tells the story of a family that moved from their old habitation to a new city, leaving their past life behind and starting fresh, on the way to their new house the father suggests to go on a short cut by the woods, but unfortunately end up in a Spiritual Bridge; the story is inspired from a Greek myth according to **Miyazaki** the bridge between the gods and the human. The story follows the daughter of the family who kept her human form, compared to her parents, which were turned into animals, and her only way to return them, is by working under the supervision of an evil Witch who can break the curse. **Miyazaki** tails different didactical approaches as the main character grow to a wise and a mature strong little girl. **Ghibli**^{xii} films are known for empowering women by making them strong independent, and reliable.

"Naruto" by **Masashi Kishimoto** (1999-2017) a combination of Series and Movies during eighteen years of illustrating. The anime illustrated the sufferance of an orphan child, whose parents died while protecting their village, growing alone he was slandered by the kids of his village, he had experienced hunger, fear, the latter did was not exciting for children but made them sympathise, with the main character named after the title itself. As the anime demonstrates the growing stages of the main character to a better version of him each season, **Kishimoto** had taught his audience that persistence, and dreams can lead to a fruitful future. Those morals that are presented in the Anime^{xii} and in the Manga^{xiii} have been an example of didacticism.

2.3.8. Movies and Series

“Mama Nadjoua” (1976) an old Algerian television show hosted by **Nadjoua**, helped many children to learn and cope with their post-independence worries, mama Nadjoua become the mother of many children across Algeria. She taught them how to say Salem^{xiv}.

As an example “Disney” impacting on generation in both good and bad influence. One of Disney’s classics is “The Beauty and The Beast” produced by **Gary Trousdale& Kink Wise** in (1991) by as it follows.

The fairytale of the beauty and the beast starts with a young girl who lived with her father and two sisters. They lived a good life in a big house but due to some unfortunate turn of events her father lost all his money. They were forced to move into a smaller house. The two sisters kept on grieving for their former life and Beauty maintained her sadness for herself and tried her best to help her family. One day the father found out there is a slight chance he could get back a part of his fortune when one of the ships got back. The two sisters started to demand all sorts of thing and beauty just wanted her father to come back safe. He persuaded her to tell him what she wanted and in the end she asked him for a single rose.

On his way home, the father got lost and wandered into a castle. He was getting ready to leave when he saw beautiful roses and he picked one. In that moment the beast caught him and the father, begging for his life, said the rose was for his daughter. The beast let him go under the condition of him sending one of his daughters to the castle but the daughter had to want to come.

On his way home he didn't want to tell Beauty what happened but she found out and accepted to go to the castle. When they came to the castle the beast asked whether the girl came by her own will and both of them be affirmed she did. The beast banished the father and told him never to come back again.

Beauty's life was pleasant. She had her room and she was served. The beast never appeared. Beauty only heard his voice. As time passed by they started enjoying each other's company.

The beast showed himself in the garden one night and he scared her a bit. He wanted to hide again but Beauty couldn't listen to the sadness in his voice so she told him that she wanted to see him again. After a while, Beauty started missing her father and Beast granted her one visit to her father after they found out he was ill.

While she was taking care of her father the time flew by and she had a dream about Beast dying. Before she left his palace he gave her a ring and told her she only needed to put it on her finger when she wanted to come back and that she would awake in the palace. When she came back to the palace she found the beast ill in his bed. She didn't want him to die and she told him she'll marry him.

Beast disappeared all of the sudden and its place was taken by a beautiful prince. He told her all about a fairy enchanting him and how the spell could have only been broken by a girl

falling in love with him. After her father got better they threw a wedding and then they all lived happily ever after.

"The Beauty and the Beast" is a heartfelt story about the birth of love and the capability of love to transform the way you look at people you love. The moral of this fairy-tale is that person's beauty comes from a heart in love and when the beauty realizes the inner beauty of the beast and the feelings it has the outer appearance means nothing to her anymore. This story is about true love which transforms the beast into a prince. In real life, not only fairy tales, every person we consider to be a soul mate is a beautiful prince or princess. The fairy-tale has a happy ending because the great love between the beauty and the beast was real and when the beauty declared the love for the beast he transformed into a beautiful prince. (BOOKSUMMARY.NET)

The story has both good and bad sides as the audience have taken were that beauty does not rely on appearances but on hearts, that love needs time and patience. But the dark side of it is had influenced young girls as growing that they need to find a beast so they can change and love. Known as domination syndrome; it is a sexual syndrome that can affect both genders which make them think that being dominated, rebuked is a sign of love. (Dr. Jordan, B, Peterson).

2.4. Introduction to the Novel

The novel Little Women is considered as a classical children novel of the American novelist **Louisa May Alcott**, published originally in two parts. Little Women still influence and attract readers, and is a source of inspiration for movie makers. **Alcott's** style of writing is identified with socio-political movements such Women Empowerments, Abolitionism and Independency, showing her thoughts through literary works such novels, short stories. Made her on top of the transcendentalists^{xv} of her time

Frequently portrays her thoughts in form of characters, and symbols. The novel is measured as a children literature at same time as an autobiography of the author herself.

2.5. Louisa May Alcott

Louisa May Alcott was born in Pennsylvania in 1832, the second child of four daughters of the philosopher **Bronson Alcott**. **Louisa** relocated to Concord with her family when she was eight years old. Even though she was constantly threatened by poverty, she spent the happiest years of her young life there. Home schooled, she achieved her dream of being a teacher in a school in Boston, where she had witness the publication of her first book "flowers fables" at her twenty-one years old under her name .

At first, **Alcott** wrote thrillers, and many of her stories; particularly those signed **A.M. Barnard** were gory and vicious. The portrayals of women as powerful, self-reliant character have always attracted her, and imaginative in the latter works were unique.

Interrupting her writer career, **Louisa** became a nurse at a Washington hospital during the civil war.

At her return to writing **Alcott** published her most enduring books “Little women” (1868), and part two (1869); to be joined in one cover the same year the second book was released to succeed it two of her well known book “Little men” (1871), and “Jo’s boys” (1886). Alcott passed away in 1888 at the age of 56, leaving behind a long history of didactical and feminist thoughts.

2.6. Little Women

Although the book was written during the civil war, it represented the quite colorful side of it.

The story of the March family that had to give their father to the war fighting for the country, where Ms March also known as Marmee; was left with her four daughters “Meg, Jo, Beth, and the little Amy”, that were going through their adulthood, where each had a different talent from one another; Meg as shortcut to Margret, loved plays and acting, Josephine, but everyone called her, Jo was fascinated by novels and books adored writing, for Beth coming from Elizabeth had a talent with music, and was the quite one of them all, as father called her “*little miss tranquility*”, the last but not least the little Amy the youngest yet the most beautiful of them all she wasn’t only beautiful but had also very beautiful hands that drew beautiful portraits. Although they had suffered from poverty, they grow as being kind and very intelligent; they loved to learn and to discover new things. (P.5-6).

Within the book **Louisa May Alcott** had shared some of her real life that’s why most critics consider “Little women” as an open window to her personal life, and to her thoughts.

As a children book **Alcott** made sure to include some didactical morals and references that can help the reader going through teenage in charm, and courage, as well as her feminist thoughts that can help the new generation especially women to manifest their rights in a world dominated by men.

2.7. Characters

In this novel there is no protagonist, nor a usual story of good and bad, the only bad thing in it is the time that flew quickly as the days and the months goes, and the leaves of the trees changes with seasons.

2.7.1. Dr. March

The father and the head of the March family, He thought most of his daughters at home and supported them to learn and to develop their talents, came from a rich family but gave it to his friend who was in need. Dr, March called papa by his daughters had a very big heart and always put others before him, went to fight war because he didn't have any sons to represent him.

2.7.2. Marmee

Mother, of the March girls always had treated them as her sisters more than daughters; they had shared life expenses, responsibility joy, sad and happy moments. Marmee was always the centre of confidence of her daughters as well a centre of morals, a very welcoming and loving character, as her husband, she had always shared the last piece of bread with the one in need.

2.7.3. Josephine March – Jo

The second sister between the March sisters had a fiery temper, and the boyish one between her sisters. Talented in writing and a passionate of reading fantasy books. Jo's biggest dream was to be a famous novelist, and to be able to fight in the war with her papa. A feminist, mostly seen through her writings she had represented women in the most independent and strong form, wasn't fascinated with marriage, Jo always wanted to be rich and able to take care of her parent and her sisters.

2.7.4. Margret March- Meg

The oldest sister between the March sisters was the gentle responsible, sister, liked theatres and acting, she was the 2nd mother for her sisters protective and very loving, sweet as candy. Meg had a weakness for luxuries, and for a bourgeoisie style of life, but she was never a selfish person thought sometimes that she is too young and beautiful to be poor.

2.7.5. Elizabeth March- Beth

Miss tranquillity as her father calls her, is the third sister, she was very talented with music especially with piano, also very quiet in her own, she was close and like to make people

around her happy, but was the most sensitive one of them all, she always had admired Jo, because she represented her opposite.

2.7.6. Amy March

The youngest and the most beautiful of the sisters, had real ambitions, was talented in drawing, she gets what she had always wanted by the end she married Laurie, went to Europe and become a very lady like, most of the critics considers her as the good version of Jo, sometimes compares them.

2.7.7. Hannah

The very loyal servant, and considered as part of the Marches, helped in rising all the four girls as she was a good friend of Marmee, she had stayed with them even when they had nothing to offer but a house roof.

2.7.8. Laurie Laurence- Teddy

The boy next door, a lonely boy who lived next to the Marches, first love was Jo as they played and enjoyed many days together, shared dreams, pain, and joy. Laurie loved music for so he went to Europe where he had met old Amy and married her there. The only grandson of Mr Laurence, get along with all of the March girls but mostly with Jo.

2.7.9. Mr. Laurence

Laurie's grandfather, and old friend with Marmee's father, loves music as well he was very friends with the quiet Beth, he respected and loved her, to the point he offered her a piano for Christmas, and was very sad after her death saying he lost a very dear friend. Helped the marches with what he could do.

2.7.10. Fredrick Bhear

A teacher originated from Germany, teach language in America, met Jo in the school in New York where she worked as a teacher and witnessed her book being published. Fredrick supported and criticised Jo's writings. Later on married her and opened a boy school from the Manson that aunt march left for her.

2.7.11. Mr. Brook

A very intellectual man, he was Laurie's institutor, but came from a very poor family, he was responsible he took care of his mother, and travelled with Marmee when Dr March was shot,

and hospitalized in Washington. Later on marry Margret and they were blessed with Daisy and Demi.

2.8. Symbols

Like any literary work, symbols are hidden in every chapter, which have a specific interpretation. There are only two but have quite a strong meaning.

2.8.1. The Fire

Had always gathered the girls around their mother as well as created good memories; it symbolizes the love and the warmth they had with each other although their father was absent they made sure to stay close and warm.

2.8.2. Burning

Jo was always described as a genuine burning not only that, many burnings happened with her; she burned her sisters hair while curling it while she was preparing herself for the party, she even herself burned her dress by the fire place, the most remarkable burning would definitely when Amy burned Jo's manuscripts while she was angry at her, Jo burned her writings after hearing Mr. Bhaer criticism about her work; it may symbolize anger as it may symbolize the fiery youth she had, she was ambitious, happy, and very energetic, as it may symbolize as well her last maturity phase she burned her young-self trying to find her style and releasing her dreams.

2.8.3. Umbrella

the umbrellas had always symbolized protection as well as in the novel, it shows the protection and the care that man gives for a woman; in the book Jo gets angry at Mr Brook's umbrella when he had proposed for Meg, she was angry at his protection and care, and thought he will take her beloved sister away, at the end of the book Mr Bhaer offers his protection to Jo while kissing her under the rain; offering his love and protection to her. Proving that even Jo who was against marriage and love needed to be protected and cared about.

2.9. The Book Summary

"Little Women" begins on Christmas Eve. The four daughters of the March family are gathered in the living room of their simple home. Each girl has one dollar to her name but their mother feels that it is wasteful to spend money on Christmas presents during war time. The girls lament that they are not able to buy anything for each other until they light upon the idea of using their dollar to each buy something for their mother, Marmee.

The eldest girl, Meg is sixteen and very pretty, the second girl Jo is fifteen and a bit of a tomboy who is quick to anger. Third is Beth, who is a quiet girl and thirteen. And last is Amy who is twelve and a musician. The girl's father, Mr. March was deemed too old to be a soldier in the Union Army. He signed up to be a chaplain instead and is away. The March family misses him very much and the girls gather around their mother to read his newest letter that evening by the fire. Their father urges them to be good so that when he returns he may be fonder and prouder than ever of my little women. The girls all decide to play a game where they try to improve one thing about themselves. Meg decided to be less vain, Jo to be more feminine, Beth to be less shy and Amy to be less selfish. Their mother promises to help them on this journey as she can and to give them all etiquette guidebooks.

The next morning, the girls awake to find the guidebooks under their pillows. The girls surprise their mother with the gifts that they have bought for her and she is very pleased and touched. Friends of the family gather to watch a play that Jo has written and the girls are acting in. The play goes well despite a few prop mishaps and the family as well as their friends enjoy a nice Christmas feast afterward. The feast is a gift from Mr. Laurence, the kindly rich man who lives next door to them.

Meg and Jo attend a New Year's Eve party nearby. Jo worried about being perceived as ladylike especially as her best dress has a burn mark on it and her gloves are stained with Lemonade. During the party, Jo meets Theodore Laurence, the nephew of her neighbour. He tells her to call him Laurie and the two get along because of their matching interest in boyish games.

After New Year's the girls must return to work. Meg resents this as she remembers a time when Mr. March had more money before he lost his property. Meg is the governess for a wealthy family named King. Jo works as a helper for their stuffy Great Aunt March. Beth stays at home and helps the March maid, Hannah. Amy attends school and is popular among her classmates.

One day, Jo decides she wants to get to know Laurie. She throws a snowball at his window in order to get his attention and finds out that he has a head cold and is bored of staying in his bed. He invites her in and the other sisters all send gifts over for him. Beth lends her cats to Laurie and he plays with them and forgets his shyness. Laurie shows Jo his grandfather's large library and Jo agrees to wait there while Laurie sees the doctor. Mr. Laurence stumbles across Jo in the library and the two decide to have tea together. Jo brings up that she feels that Laurie needs more company and that he is lonely. Mr. Laurence agrees that he does and decides that

Laurie should spend more time with the March family. Laurie comes back and plays the piano for Jo and his grandfather. This visibly upsets Mr. Laurence and when Jo goes home later she learns that Mr. Laurence's son married an Italian musician even though he protested the arrangement. The couple died and Mr. Laurence took in Laurie to raise. However, Laurie's talent as a musician reminds him of his son and makes him solemn.

The March's begin to visit the Laurence house regularly and everyone enjoys the opulence except Beth who is afraid of the stoic Mr. Laurence. Mr. Laurence overhears her saying this, however, and asks if she wouldn't mind playing his piano for him so that it will stay in tune. Beth agrees and begins to play the piano daily. It is a dream comes true for her to play on such an expensive piano. To show her gratitude, Beth makes Mr. Laurence a pair of slippers and Mr. Laurence decides to give her the old piano that his granddaughter used to play.

Beth and Mr. Laurence become friends after this. Amy buys her classmates at school a jar of pickled limes to share and breaks the school rules in the process. Her teacher punishes her by swatting her palm and making her stand in front of the class until lunchtime. This experience is humiliating for Amy as she has never been punished like this before. She leaves school and goes home of her own volition. Marmee scolds Amy for her conduct but withdraws her from school nonetheless. In retribution for not being allowed to go to the theatre with Laurie, Meg and Jo, Amy burns up a manuscript book that Jo had been writing in. Jo is furious and boxes Amy's ears. Amy realizes that she was wrong but Jo is not willing to forgive. The next day, Laurie and Jo go ice skating and Amy follows. Jo refuses to tell Amy which ice is safe to skate on and she falls through. Laurie and Jo manage to save her.

Once they get back home, Jo admits to her mother that she was so angry at Amy that she made a mistake and nearly killed her. Marmee confesses to Jo that she, too had a bad temper at her age but she later learned to control it. Jo takes comfort in this and vows to never let her anger get the better of her again.

That spring, Meg goes to spend two weeks with her friend, Annie Moffat, a wealthy girl. Meg is upset that she does not have nicer things to bring but reminds herself to be grateful for the opportunity. While attending a party at the Moffat's, Meg overhears some gossip saying that her mother wants her to marry Laurie for his money. Meg is upset more by the fact that her friends are gossiping about her than the idea that her mother would want her to marry Laurie. She cries that night and the next morning her friends are kinder to her. Although Meg realizes that it is only because they now think that she may end up being Laurie's wife. This amuses Meg. Another girl, Belle offers to lend Meg a dress for the next party. Meg agrees and finds that the high society people are nicer to her and pay her more attention when she is better dressed. Laurie, who is also at the party, tells Meg that he doesn't like the way she is acting. Meg agrees that she feels uncomfortable with the attention and how she is expected to act.

When she gets home, Meg tells her family of the odd happenings at the Moffat's. Marmee regrets sending her but Meg insists that she is thankful for the experience as she feels it taught her a lesson. Marmee explains to her daughters that she does not wish for them to marry rich so much as she wants them to grow to be good women and find loving husbands. She trusts that truly good men will not be put off by their poverty.

The following summer, Meg, and Jo receive three months off from work as their employers are busy elsewhere. They decide to spend the summer resting and having fun. Marmee agrees to give them one week with nothing to do but warns that they will miss having some work to balance the fun. Soon, the girls discover that she is right and that they are bored. Beth soon realizes that she forgot to feed her bird, Pip all week and that he has died. The girls have a small funeral for him. Marmee asks them if they enjoyed the experience. They confirm that the idleness grew annoying and there was much work to catch up on when they started again. Marmee explains that work helps them feel independent and useful. She tells them that it's important to balance work and fun.

One day that summer, Meg receives a poem and a glove from a man named Mr. Brooke, who is Laurie's tutor. Marmee begins to wonder what his intentions toward Meg are. However, another boy, Ned Moffat is also interested in Meg. He makes his intentions clearer but Meg does not flirt with him as she does not want to stir more gossip.

The girls and Laurie have a picnic. The girls describe what they want for their future. Meg wants a nice home filled with kind people that she loves and nice things, Jo wants to be an author, Amy wants to go to Rome and be an artist and Beth only wishes to stay at home. Laurie confesses that he is worried his grandfather will make him go into the family business which he does not want to do. Meg tells him to be dutiful to his grandfather but Jo encourages him to go his own way.

That evening, Laurie decides to stay with his grandfather and give up on the idea of being a musician. Laurie and Jo bump into each other in town and Jo reveals that she has been to the newspaper and left two stories there. She is waiting to see if they will be printed. Laurie reveals that Mr. Brooke kept one of Meg's gloves. He feels that the romance is sweet but Jo worries that Meg is growing up faster than she is. Soon, Jo's story does get published in the newspaper and she reads it to the family.

That fall, Mr. March falls ill and Marmee must go to Washington to be with him. Mr. Brooke agrees to go with her as an escort. Meg is very grateful for this. Jo goes to town and returns with twenty-five dollars. She reveals that she sold her hair to the barber to help her father. Marmee leaves the girls with Hannah and Mr. Laurence to watch over them. Mr. Brooke writes from Washington that their father is doing better and then begins to write daily reporting on the news of his health. The girls are happy with this and throw themselves into their work to keep from worrying.

Beth goes to help a family whose baby is sick. The baby soon dies of Scarlet Fever. The doctor warns Beth to take belladonna so as not to get sick. Meg and Jo have already had Scarlet Fever and, thus, are immune, but Amy is sent to live with Aunt March for a short while so that she will not catch it. Jo begins to nurse Beth as the girl falls ill. Hannah worries that telling their mother and father of Beth's illness will only worry them and warns the girls not to write them.

Soon, however, Beth grows worse and Mrs. March is sent for. Laurie reveals to Jo that he had disobeyed Hannah's order and sent for Mrs. March the day before. Jo is so relieved that she

kisses Laurie. She quickly gets embarrassed and thanks him again before leaving. Beth begins to recover shortly before Mrs. March arrives home.

After Marmee returns home, she tells Jo in secret that Mr. Brooke told her he plans to secure a comfortable living and then ask for Meg's hand in marriage. Marmee intends to gauge what Meg's feelings are for Mr. Brooke. She soon decides that her daughter does not love John yet, but she will learn to. Laurie figures out that Jo is keeping some secret related to Meg and Mr. Brooke and comes up with a plan to find out what it is. He sends a letter to Meg professing great love for her and signs it "John Brooke". Meg tells Mr. Brooke that she is too young to marry and that she must speak to her parents. However, John is surprised to hear about the letter and he claims to have no knowledge of it.

Jo realizes that it must have been Laurie that wrote the letter and makes him apologize to Meg. Meanwhile, Mrs. March tells Meg of Mr. Brooke's true feelings for her. Meg still feels that she is too young to marry and is uneasy at being a lover. She claims that she only wishes to be friends with Mr. Brooke. Mr. March arrives home on Christmas Day to the delight of his daughters. Mr. March notices that his daughters have changed much since he last saw them. Meg's once beautiful, smooth hands are now rough and hardened from work, Jo has become more of a lady, Beth has gotten less shy and Amy has become more patient and less vain. Despite the happiness of having her father home, Meg still has a problem to deal with in the form of Mr. Brooke's proposal.

One day, Mr. Brooke stops by to see Mr. March and, when he and Meg are alone he takes her hand and asks her if she cares about him. Meg answers that she doesn't know. Aunt March walks into the room and notices the scene playing out between the two. Mr. Brooke steps out of the room and Aunt March tells Meg that if she agrees to marry Mr. Brooke, she will never give them a penny. This angers Meg, and she contrarily states that she will marry whom she likes. She defends John, saying that he is kind and courageous and works very hard. Aunt March leaves in a huff and John re-enters the room, having overheard Meg's defence of him. He asks once again if she cares for him and Meg, passing on the opportunity to make the speech she had practiced refusing him, agrees. Jo returns and is upset to see Meg and John sitting together. Jo tells her parents and sends them to deal with the situation so that she can stay in her room and cry.

Jo returns and is upset to see Meg and John sitting together. Jo tells her parents and sends them to deal with the situation so that she can stay in her room and cry. Mr. Brooke convinces the March's that Meg is old enough to be engaged and agrees to wait for three years with the hope that by then he will have a home and a steady income. Part two begins three years later. The war has ended and Mr. March is home full time now. He works as a minister in the town.

Part two begins three years later. The war has ended and Mr. March is home full time now. He works as a minister in the town. John Brooke was fought in the war, was wounded and honourably discharged and now works as a bookkeeper. Meg has fallen in love with him and is preparing to marry him. The two will live in a house named Dovecote, which is modest but well outfitted with help from their family and friends.

Jo devotes much of her time to writing and Beth, who remains weak from the bout of Scarlet Fever, still struggles to recover. Amy now works as a companion for Aunt March. Laurie is at college paid for by his grandfather. Meg and John marry in a simple ceremony with their families in attendance. Mr. Laurence tells Laurie that if his grandson chooses to marry he hopes that he will marry a March girl. Laurie agrees to do his best.

Jo continues to submit stories to the newspaper and eventually starts earning money as a writer. Meg soon becomes pregnant and gives birth to twins named Margaret and John but which she nicknames Daisy and Demi. Amy soon receives an invitation from the girl's aunt Carrol to go to Europe. Jo is hurt and upset that she was not asked instead but supports her sister and helps her pack. Amy asks Laurie to watch over the family while she is gone and he agrees.

While in Europe, she meets up with a college friend of Laurie's named Fred Vaughn. She begins spending time with him and decides that if he asks to marry her she will accept. Back at home, Jo notices that Beth has been feeling a bit sad and begins to think that her sister might be in love with Laurie. She decides to make Laurie love Beth although Laurie actually loves Jo, herself. Laurie has been trying to bring up the idea of courting to Beth for years but she always ignores or denies him. She speaks to Laurie about Beth but does not mention her name. Laurie assumes that she is talking about herself and takes it as a sign that Jo will be ready to marry him after he finishes college.

Jo decides to go away for the winter to teach at a boarding house in New York in order to make Laurie forget about her and possibly start noticing Beth. Jo works with an older man named Mr. Bhaer who begins to tutor her in German. The two become friends. Jo continues to write stories and submits them to New York papers. However, in order to please the rougher, city editors she must write stories with more lurid details and less moral characters. She publishes them anonymously and does not tell anyone back home that they are hers. Mr. Bhaer realizes that she is writing the stories and becomes disappointed with her. Jo agrees that she is ashamed of writing such stories and stops writing for the rest of her time in New York.

Mr. Bhaer realizes that she is writing the stories and becomes disappointed with her. Jo agrees that she is ashamed of writing such stories and stops writing for the rest of her time in New York. When Jo returns home, Laurie has graduated from college. The day she comes back he proposes to her. Jo admits that she has tried to love him as he does her but that she cannot and apologizes. Laurie is hurt and tries to convince her that their match would still be good. Jo feels that they are both too quick-tempered to be married to each other. Laurie becomes angry and storms out of the room.

Jo begins to worry about him and goes to Mr. Laurence to tell him what has happened. Mr. Laurence decides to take Laurie with him to Europe for a few months so that he can forget about Jo. Laurie agrees to go. Jo worries that she has betrayed her best friend and that he will return differently. Jo begins to spend more time with Beth and realizes that her secret earlier that year was not that she was in love with Laurie but that she is dying. Beth admits that she has known she was weakening for a while and has made her peace with it. She only wishes to enjoy the time that she has left, peacefully.

Laurie and Amy meet up in France and begin to spend time together. They each realize that they have grown up a lot and that they may have feelings for one another. Meg begins to feel that she and her husband are spending less time together since the twins were born. Marmee encourages her to include John more in raising the children and to take more of an interest in world affairs as they affect her just as much as they affect men.

Back in France, Amy and Laurie have a conversation about Fred Vaughn. Laurie is disappointed to hear that Amy is considering marrying Fred as he is not the type of man that Laurie had pictured Amy with. The two argue over this and Amy mentions that she wishes Jo were there. Seeing Laurie's reaction to hearing her sister's name, Amy realizes that Jo must have refused him and that is why he has been acting differently. Amy apologizes and tells him that he needs to do something to make Jo love him. She says that he needs to leave France and go back to be with his grandfather, which he does.

Jo begins to nurse Beth again through her final months. Beth promises that she will always be with Jo and makes her promise to take care of their mother and father. Jo agrees and Beth dies peacefully the following spring. Laurie goes to Vienna to try to be a musician. However, he soon realizes that it is more difficult than he thought. He realizes that his talent does not make him a genius and decides to give up on being a musician.

During this time, he begins to let go of his romantic feelings for Jo and is left with only a brotherly affection for her. Fred Vaughn soon returns to France and Amy realizes that her conversation with Laurie made her want to turn down Fred after all. He asks her to marry him and she declines. Amy soon learns that Beth has died. Laurie arrives soon after and the two realize that they have fallen in love although they do not say it. Soon, Laurie proposes to her and Amy accepts.

Jo begins writing again and receives acclaim from newspapers. She finally feels that she is writing what she wants to and that people are responding to it. A letter comes to tell of Laurie and Amy's engagement and Jo feels genuinely happy for them. However, she wishes that she could find love. Laurie and Amy soon return from Europe and reveal that they have already gotten married. Laurie asks Jo if they can go back to being best friends and she happily accepts.

Jo is surprised one day when Mr. Bhaer comes for a visit. She introduces him to the family and they all befriend him immediately. Jo and Mr. Bhaer realize their feelings for one another soon after and he tells her that he is going to go west to find work so that he can provide a home for her. Jo is delighted by the idea of marrying him.

In the last chapter of the story, Aunt March dies and leaves her estate to Jo. Jo and Mr. Bhaer marry and move into the estate and decide to turn it into a school for orphan boys. Jo is happy to be surrounded by little boys and soon she and Mr. Bhaer have two sons of their own. Five years later, the family gathers at the estate to celebrate Mrs. March's 60th birthday. The sisters sit together in the evening and remember how they wanted their lives to go as teenagers and

how differently they all turned out. Meg does not have the luxurious things that she wanted but she is happy, Jo still intends to be an author, and Amy is happy to have her own daughter which she has named Beth. All three agree that they are happy and thankful. (BOOKSUMMARY.NET)

2.10. Close to The Heart

Positive critics came along as it was nominated up to three Oscar awards according the RottenTomatoes^{xvi}; of Best Actress in a Leading Role 1995, Best Music 1995, and Best Costume Design 1995.

The majority of the critics were positive for the Four March Sisters as they had gathered up to ninety-three per cent of Tomatometer^{xvii} .

From a personal point of view the movie highlighted the main events in the book, the director had made a good job in choosing the actors to mirror each character in a natural way, although some scenes were removed but wished they were add to the movie, like when meg wished to buy a piece of fabric knowing her husband needed the money to buy a new coat for the cold winter, through her situation meg thinks selfishly of her own image between her wealthy friend and buys it.

After her husband had found out about her spending the money saved for his coat they get in a fight, where both had sad bad things to each other. Marmee hears the story from her daughter and tell her a piece of moral that she should give in order to receive, sometimes we don't get what we wish but at the very last we get what we deserve the most, and that looks are not everything being poor never was a problem if it was for a happy life. Quickly she runs and sells the piece that she had brought; instead she had ordered a new coat for her beloved husband as an apology.

Thus the previous scene shower love and harmony between the married couple it also illustrated the beauty of giving.

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In an interview with **Armstrong**, **Handler** asked on what are the projects that Armstrong preferred working on, as well as her interest in Movie Adaptation related to women empowerment whither they are originally biographies, historical, novels, or documentaries.

Armstrong fell in love with the scripted book, after it has been sent to her from **Denise Di Novi** who contacted her via her agent, and because she did not have any time, due to her commitments, she simply ignored the proposition. But after a long persistence from her agent, she finally agreed to read the novel and quickly felt that it is a timeless “story worth retelling” said **Armstrong**.

When **Handler** asked the movie director about the script, and if she wanted to add any changes, she replied that, she had a new view of the book, from when she was young, and as she is an adult; **Armstrong** could see the sadness and the contemporary in **Louisa's** observation, in Addition of the difference between the actual children books new days, and of the time when the novel was written in.

Alcott had portrayed the reality of sisterhood and memorable events, by way of showing jealousy, love and confusion as well as mad and sadness. The script written by **Robin Swicord** was long, because they did not want to shift, or erase any of the important scenes and events in the story.

Conclusion

The book held in his pages many instructions that helped and still help youth to grow. There are lessons that needed to be highlighted, some of the readers would not understand it, at a certain age but with time after re-reading or re watching **Alcott's** novel some points becomes clearer and better understood.

Thus **Louisa** was transcendentalist, she focused more in her book about reality, avoiding fiction, because she was aware that fiction and what romantic era brought came to hidden the truth, that can be painful as well as joyful .

Chapter III

Introduction

In the 19th century, women were treated as second-class citizens; it was an interesting time for women in America as women began to question their place in the economy, the institution of marriage, and the restriction of their gender under male dominance.

Louisa May Alcott was raised in a home that provided her with the love and support that most women at the time lacked.

In this novel, **Alcott** expressed her feminist thoughts and feelings, thus book humanizes women by focusing on their lives, their thoughts, and giving them a voice.

3.1. Education in Women Empowerment

Women Empowerment can be define as giving the women the opportunity to take their own decision for their individual and social development.

Throughout history, women have struggled a lot to be where they are now; they fought for their rights, for everything basically. When the women empowerment movement began, there were only few women who were educated, for them to gather more and more, they needed to fight for women's education, which was a crucial and necessary tool to change their place and their traditional role in the society.

Although women lacked for other rights, but education was the most important right to get, in order to build a strong, smart and diverse society, you must educate everyone without any stereotyping of what is there to be taught, they were only taught stuff like: sewing, painting, music. There were no female doctors or female teachers, of course the movement got bigger, the first school for girls was opened in France by Madame Maintenon ,and later on in 1764, in Russia an institute for noble girls. The movement gain more power when **Elena Cornaro Piscopia** became the first woman to get a Ph.D, she was brilliant, and she spoke seven languages fluently including Spanish, Hebrew, French and Arabic. Through the years all classes of women were able to get educated, not just the nobles, but also the commoners, and the movement grow so powerful that women got the chance to become doctors, engineers, lawyers, and many other occupations.

3.2. Movie Adaptation

Drama, Theatres, Tragedies after few centuries of their invention Movies, become the final version of the scripted literature also known as pictures. Many books and stories that were told, and read began to have new form from letters into dialogues, performed in front of the camera and directed by movie producers, the latter had more feeling, and emotions help the

audiences to feel, to live, and to spread their imagination while witnessing different characters as well as sound effects.

Collecting various types of films, in each single one portrays different genres that attract a number of audiences. This variety created different types of producers as well as different scripts used in those movies.

One of these genres is Movie Adaptation; as the name insinuates “Adaptation” which means taken from, is realized out of an original text that is generally a novel, or a book, it can be a documentary, or a scripted biography in letters to be transformed later on, into a vivid practice called “Acting” performed by Actors, same as “The Theatre” the difference relies on the audience and the acting, as well as the script.

“The first serious theoretical work on adaptation appeared in 1957. **George Bluestone** defended the possibility of the metamorphosis of novels into other means, each with their narrative resources. Studies such as those of **Geoffrey Wagner** (1975) and **Dudley Andrew** (1984) followed, both adopting the criterion of faithfulness”.

-Thais Diniz (2008)-

3.3. Drama V.S Movie Adaptation

Drama is performed in front of the audience directly, as for the actors are not allowed to make mistakes, but in case It happens the actors should stay professional and hide the mistake since the audience are not aware of the content of the play itself, as it can affect the script and the story, concerning the screenplay is more likely written to be performed and not to be read.

Movie adaptation on the other hand is the opposite, as the actors perform in front of the camera, they can repeat as many as the director wishes for a better result, the environment changes with scenes compared to the theatre it’s only preformed in one place and has to have breaks between chapters to change the decoration, for the script has to be an existing text as mentioned before a novel, a short story, that can be transformed into a film.

The book held in his pages many instructions that helped and still help youth to grow. There are lessons that needed to be highlighted, some of the readers would not understand it, at a certain age but with time after re-reading or re watching Alcott’s novel some points becomes clearer and better understood.

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3.4. How Alcott Touched Hearts

Alcott's novel *Little Women* was primarily dedicated to children, as she made a masterpiece that can help young adults to put with life situations, and be ready to concur adulthood. Mimetic and Expressive Theories in addition of the Didactical Theory, are most likely found in **Louisa May Alcott's** novels especially *Little Women*.

To begin with is the Mimetic Theory as it is the representation of nature using art, or literature; this theory is the physical image of the theories as it shows the similarities with the nature and surrounding of the creator, author and the art piece in other words "which defines and support the imitation of art that is found with antiquity" (Leich 4).

In *Little Women*, **Alcott** demonstrated a simple family, who had four girls in teenager, which lived during the civil war, and had to grow in a world dominated by men. They would be naughty, giggly, and can act rush madly, but always learn a lesson for their future from their mistakes.

The Expressive Theories as it is mentioned it is associated with feelings and emotions reflected in the creator, author's piece of art "the inner soul rather than the external world of the writer"; emotions released from experiencing nature (Leich 4).

Subsequently, the novelist had shown many emotions that usually are not presented in this kind of book genre, like anger, jealousy, and portrayed that as normal expressions that any human can feel, and have a cop a feeling from an action or a word. E.g. Jo went furious because Amy burned her manuscript, and refused to forgive her or to address her.

The Didactical Theory is the lesson that we gain from both the Expressive and the Mimetic theories; as it represents the wisdom and the knowledge that comes as a result of the actions that affects the emotions.

Similarly to what was most obvious about the novel as it was seen as the character of Marmee and Mr. Laurence, they would enlighten their youngsters with piece of wisdom whenever they be in a trouble or face confusion.

Many novels including *Little Women* (1994) had a chance to be produced by **Gillian Armstrong** as motion pictures, which led it to win numerous movie awards and popularity among audiences of all ages.

3.5. Let's Make the Four March Sisters Alive

Christmas of 1994 was marked with the release of the American novelist Alcott famous book adaptation *Little Women*, under the supervision of the Australian director **Gillian Armstrong**, starting **Winona Ryder** as the fiery Jo, **Susan Sarandon** as the beloved

Marmee, **Kirston Dunst** as little Amy, in addition to Teddy was **Christian Bale**, the shy Beth was **Claire Danes**, and the oldest Meg presented by **Trini Alvarado**.

Although multiple productions, under the same title came out previous years ago, but something about this version that broke the ground of classical movies of events “gaining and melting multi-generation’s hearts” (Handler, 2019), **Handler** continues that although the movie had a low budget of Eighteen Million Dollars, but the sudden success made it worth Ninety-Five Million Dollars.

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3.6. No House is a Home without Women

Marmee had to leave after receiving a Telegram from the military forces informing that Dr. March, is badly injured to his family, and needed to be nursed by his wife during his recovery.

Marmee quickly packs and leaves the girls alone with their neighbour James Laurence. As soon the mother had left she would exchange Letters with her daughters comforting them about their father’s health.

Weeks later Beth caught the Scarlet fever from the Hammels baby; who died in her arms, as a result Jo had to take care of her, and to separate the Little Amy away with Aunt March to avoid the infection. (Chapters 15, 16, 17).

Alcott had proved the importance of a women in the house, at the beginning of the book it was mentioned that the father was no longer with his family, and had to serve the military

force during the Civil war, but the family did not face nor had a problem with him away, because Marmee was the warmth of the house as it was symbolized by the fireplace where they would gather and talk about their day.

But as soon as the heart of the home was left, the harmony of the house had gone, Beth got terribly sick and Jo could not light the fever nor control it. Swiftly after Marmee's return the situation entered under control, and everything went to how it was before.

3.7. Home Sweet Home

The novel is mostly set in the domestic sphere of the March family, it is the main setting in which we follow the lives of the March sisters, some feminist critics dismiss the novel as an idealistic and simplistic work on the surface, however in the nineteenth century, the domestic sphere was often where women spent their entire lives if they did not marry a man and seek to build a family or a home, they would often work as a governess or in domestic service.

The home sphere as a place where a woman was told to stay instead of one where she chose to stay, is highlighted towards the end of the book when Laurie asks Joe to run away with him, Joe expresses to Laurie that she would do that if she were a boy, the book reads:” for a moment Joe looked as though she would agree for wild as the plan was it just suited her, she was tired of care and confinement, longed for change, and thoughts of her father blended temptingly with the novel charms of camps and hospitals liberty and fun. Her eyes kindled as they turned wistfully towards the window, but they fell on the old house opposite, and she shook her head with sorrowful decision.

“If I was a boy, we'd run away together and have a capital time, but as I'm a miserable girl, I must be proper, and stop at home. Don't tempt me, teddy, it's a crazy plan”

-chp 21. 240-

This section from the book represents the restraints of both Joe's gender and domestic sphere for women, as this passage indicates the family home is somewhere Joe is held back by rather than a place she chooses to be.

3.8. Let's Dream shall we!

The March sisters and Laurie were discussing their dreams, when Jo shared her hopes and dreams for the future, which were astonishingly big and confidently stated in comparison to her sister's regular visualization.

Jo's desire for untamed freedom that is symbolized by the Arabian horses, and for books and ink that she wants, but does not include a husband or children in her dreams,

"I'd have a stable full of Arabian steeds, rooms piled with books, and I'd write out of a magic inkstand, so that my works should be as famous as Laurie's music. I want to do something splendid before I go into my castle something heroic, or wonderful that won't be forgotten after I'm dead. I don't know what, but I'm on the watch for it, and mean to astonish you all, some day. I think I shall write books, and get rich and famous, that would suit me, so that is my favourite dream".

-chp 13. 161-

This powerful statement demands enduring recognition and independence in a man's world, well beyond the boundaries of a woman's modest home room, Jo's sentences are direct to the point, beginning with the word "I."

Jo also expresses a wish for her work to be on the same level with Laurie's, the pursuit of an art is shown as an idyllic field where both men and women's effort is valued equally, Jo also associates living in a castle, getting married, and owning a home with dying, because she wants to do something significant before each of these events occurs.

3.9. His Little Woman

Jo is known to have a gender crisis as she had always regretted to be born a girl, wishing to be a boy that can be independent and can finish studying, she would always dream of fighting in the war with her beloved father.

The character is shown to be different from her time, she liked reading books of adventures, and acted like a young man most of the time thinking men are more valuable than women.

As it was seen in her behaviour with Teddy, they would play games for boys, and the Pickwick Club; where the girls enjoy publishing their own interests, and act like gentlemen.

“ I'll try and be what he loves to call me, 'a little woman,' and not be rough and wild, but do my duty here instead of wanting to be somewhere else," said Jo, thinking that keeping her temper at home was a much harder task than facing a rebel or two down South.”

-Chp 1. 11, 12-

After Jo hears her father's letter for Christmas, she had slowly changed her mind to be what he wanted, to be the best version of their selves, to make him proud of her by the time he will be back.

3.10. Hiding Feelings

Women were obliged to suppress their strong emotions like sadness, anger, and envy, although they have the right to feel and express the like in chapter eight; after Amy burns Jo's manuscript, the latter when furious on her little sister and let the anger wear her heart. After few days Amy falls in the frozen lake while she was trying to follow her sister and teddy while playing, Jo feels guilty that she ignored her sister; which it could have led her to death. In a sweet scene Marmee have a heart to heart with Jo,

"...I am angry nearly every day of my life, Jo, but, I have learned not to show it, and I still hope to learn not to feel it, through it may take me another forty years to do so."

-Chp 8. 90-

Marmee tells Jo that she, too has a quick temper, however Marmee appears calm and confident, implying that the appearance of a passive woman may conceal inner agony, years, and possibly Jo will be as well, this statement has been interpreted by several feminist critics, as an indication of dissatisfaction with the 19th century society's expectation that women should be domestic.

3.11. Act Like a Lady

Jo was mostly criticised for being a tomboy, and would act unusually not like her sisters. She was different, she liked boy games and mostly liked to be independent in a way she would help her poor family without being married, for her family was everything, and a husband would destroy her bound with her sisters as well as kill her dreams.

Meg on the other hand was different, her only dream was to be able to be a good wife, and to marry an aristocratic husband, even if she did not show it she had always missed being rich.

Doing her rule as an old sister, Meg would advise Jo from time to time to act like a lady but hear what won't satisfy her.

"You are old enough to leave off boyish tricks, and to behave better, Josephine. It didn't matter so much when you were a little girl; but now you are so tall, and turn up your hair, you should remember that you are a young lady." criticized Meg.

"I'm not! And if turning up my hair makes me one, I'll wear it in two tails till I'm twenty," cried Jo, pulling off her net, and shaking down a chestnut mane. "I hate to think I've got to grow up, and be Miss March, and wear long gowns, and look as prim as a China aster! It's bad enough to be a girl, anyway, when I like boys' games and work

and manners! I can't get over my disappointment in not being a boy; and it's worse than ever now, for I'm dying to go and fight with Papa, and I can only stay at home and knit, like a poky old woman!" responded Jo.

-Chp1. 3, 4-

Alcott had manifested her thoughts about; women choice of being whatever makes them comfortable, no matter the age or the situation.

3.12. Men Who Support Women

In Alcott literature men are very supportive to their opposite gender, Dr. March supported his daughters and their talents, he insured they receive a good education and to make their own way in the world.

In addition to Mr. Brook who never saw women inferior to men, or not important in contrast he saw them equal.

"Mr. Brooke looked up and said quickly, "Young ladies in America love independence as much as their ancestors did, and are admired and respected for supporting themselves."

-Chp12.171-

In this panel Mr. Brook was defending Meg from Laurie's British friends; who judged her for working to live, instead he highlighted that working and feminism are inseparable and what makes a Women what she is.

3.13. The Art of Giving

Sacrifice is very important; as it teach not to value what can be replaced by love and gratefulness. Marmee had showed the girls that if one Christmas is not full with presences, or does not have any morning breakfast, can make them feel satisfied and feel better about them is much joyful, and always good deed will return.

"Not far away from here lies a poor woman with a little newborn baby. Six children are huddled into one bed to keep from freezing, for they have no fire. There is nothing to eat over there, and the oldest boy came to tell me they were suffering hunger and cold. My girls, will you give them your breakfast as a Christmas present?"

-chp2.18-

Alcott had portrayed sacrifices with different faces; and thought us that it does not have to be material; it can be emotional like when Marmee had to suppress her anger in order to maintain control,

“I’ve been trying to cure it for forty years, and have only succeeded in controlling it. I am angry nearly every day of my life, Jo, but I have learned not to show it, and I still hope to learn not to feel it, thought may take me another forty years to do so” -chp8. 101 -

Physical; when Jo had to sell her one beauty, her hair to give her mother money for her trip to meet their father.

3.14. Love and Marriage

Love surrounded the story as it portrays different types of affection, family, friendship, couples’ respect,

"He was perfectly open and honorable about Meg; for he told us he loved her, but would earn a comfortable home before he asked her to marry him. He only wanted our leave to love her and work for her, and the right to make her love him if he could. He is a truly excellent young man, and we could not refuse to listen to him, but I will not consent to Meg's engaging herself so young."

-chp 20. 261 -

Mr. Brooke like Meg As soon as he led eyes on her, he was supportive and a good husband, he even took care of her parents when they were away in the hospital. The type of love he gave Meg was not material as he was poor and could only give her his love, but it was strong enough to offer them two beautiful children.

The friendship between Teddy and Jo, was not ordinary as they loved, respected each other; the Marches brought joy into Laurie’s life after his parents past away, as he would enjoy looking at them from far just to see them laugh from their small window, it was enough for him to feel his parents warmth.

Age does not matter when hearts speaks, Beth was a piano talented, as for Mr Laurence he had lost his musician daughter, and would miss her music, both started to be friends through music.

Conclusion

Little Women is about the conflict between two focuses in a young woman's life: the emphasis she places on herself and the emphasis she places on her family, the story depicts how a focus on household tasks and family life detracts from individual women's ability to focus on their own personal development, the difficulty of being a professional artist and a dutiful lady produces conflict for Jo and, in certain circumstances, Amy, and strains the bounds set by nineteenth-century American society.

General Conclusion

Little Women expresses doubt on the validity of both male and female gender roles, Jo doesn't always want to be a usual woman but rather special and unique.

Alcott defies gender stereotypes in the different characters of her novel, highlighting both her desires and her actions towards women empowerment, She showed the importance of work for women as not as an oppression but as a self-development, which is traditionally a male-dominated task. Louisa portrays that appearances don't form the character but it's the inner that forms it. While the latter shows Jo's personality as a carefree, free and independent woman, demonstrating that she lacks the social grace that nineteenth-century American cultivated women were, as well as Laurie, who has moments where he doesn't want to be a typical male. He wants to pursue music, which was a culturally feminine goal at the time, rather than business, which was a usual masculine endeavour at the time, usually called Teddy by the March sisters, which he preferred to nickname by; since his given name is much more masculine., than his personality.

The Romantic Era was marked by a surge in fiction, which helped to highlight different human rights like feminism. The era wasn't finished there, another literary genre emerged from the time in between many events have occurred announcing the beginning of a new covenant in literature called Realism, and the latter has shown a light on the reality that women of all colours are facing. Female were discriminated against and dehumanized by males, which deprived them of their basic rights, such as having an education or voting.

During the period from romanticism to realism, there have been several writings on feminism, from the abolitionism to feminism, different manifestations of equality, leading to the same direction, "the privilege of man" During Romanticism, women fought to establish equality between the sexes by using literature and going to battle fields. Women had already proven their existence and importance in society through taking responsibility for their husbands, brothers, and fathers.

Didacticism is a teaching technique that can be seen as both a means of instruction and a literary genre. Before, during, and after the Civil War, there were different waves of feminism, each using different methods to communicate their beliefs to others.

The feminism presented in **Louisa May Alcott's** books has made it well-known and respected around the world. Generations of readers can rely on it for strength and guidance. The book is full of useful advice that can help young people grow. There are lessons that need to be emphasized, some of the readers would not understand at a certain age, but with time after re-reading or re-watching **Alcott's** novel some points become clearer and better understood. Hence, **Louisa** was a transcendentalist, she focused more on religious reality in her book and avoided fiction because she was aware that fiction and what romantic era hid the truth.

In the 19th century, women were treated as second-class citizens; it was an interesting time for women in America, when women began to question their place in the economy, the institution of marriage, and the restriction of their gender under the state under the rule of men.

In this novel, **Alcott** expressed her views on feminism and humanized her characters by focusing on their lives, their thoughts, and giving them a voice.

"Little Women" is about the conflict between two centres in a young woman's life: the emphasis she places on herself and the emphasis she places on her family.

Alcott challenges gender stereotypes in the various roles of her novel, highlighting her desire and action for women's empowerment, she shows the importance of work to women, it is not an oppression, but a self development, a traditionally male-dominated task Louisa believes that appearances are not the true measure of a person's character. It is the inner self that determines who someone truly is. While the latter shows Jo's character as an indifferent, free, and independent woman, which indicates that she lacks the social grace that was the cultured woman of nineteenth-century America, as well as Laurie, who has moments when he doesn't want to be...a typical man.

Notes

ⁱ Neoclassical Literature: a literary movement also known as New Classic, it was marked by the imitation of the Greek and the Latin in the style, it was marked by logic and reason.

ⁱⁱ New England: America.

ⁱⁱⁱ GRRRL MANIFESTO: The Riot Grrrl Movement began in the early 1990s by Washington State band Bikini Kill and lead singer Kathleen Hanna. The riot grrrl manifesto.

^{iv} Early civilization: Egyptian, Greek, Viking, and Sumerians.

^v Lyre: a music instrument used in European countries back in the mid ages comes from the guitar family, produce a soft music.

^{vi} Book subgenre: they are other branches of book like Fiction, Romance, Horror, Action & Adventure, Children Books, and Young Adults.

^{vii} Various Human conditions: strong emotions that leads the human's life; love & hate, life & death, good & bad, society.

^{viii} Core: is the previous name of Persephone goddess of spring and nature.

^{ix} Zeus: god of thunder and the ruler of the earth.

^x The comic code: created in 1954 by the American government, to select what should be illustrated, and the content, with its existence many topics have been erased; like sexuality, abuse, murder, and changed to fit the different audiences.

^{xi} Ghibli movies: is the company that produce all Miyazaki's illustrations and movies.

^{xii} Anime: illustration that are originally from manga, have colors and are the animated version of the manga.

^{xiii} Manga: is the book illustrated version of comics generally doesn't have colors and is presented in books.

^{xiv} Salam: salutation expression in the Muslim communities which means peace.

^{xv} transcendentalists: a movement that took place while romanticism was shifting to realism; the latter was more creative and more personal in matter of expression.

^{xvi} Rottentomato: a platform where all movie critics gather and vote for or against a movie.

^{xvii} Tomatometer: Rottentomato way of voting

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