

Little Women

Louisa May Alcott

Why is the destroyed manuscript more than simply a possession Jo has lost?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Amy burns Jo's manuscript
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION	Chapter VIII · Jo Meets Apollyon
START	What! my little book I was so fond of, and worked over, and meant to finish before father got home? Have you really burnt it?
END	I never shall forgive you
PASSAGE ID	sec-lw-02

THE MOVE

Track how an object becomes evidence of emotional stakes

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Jo's manuscript represents years of private labor, ambition, and identity as a writer. Amy's destruction hurts because the object stores time and future possibility, not because it is expensive or irreplaceable in a simple material sense.

MARK

Underline Jo's words about how long she worked on the manuscript and what she planned to do with it. Circle the reactions that show the loss is tied to identity or future hopes, not just ownership.

NOTICE

- What has Jo invested in the manuscript besides paper and ink?
- Why would rewriting it not make the loss emotionally equivalent?
- How does the manuscript reveal what writing means to Jo before she ever becomes a professional writer?

THINK

Answer provisionally: Why is the destroyed manuscript more than simply a possession Jo has lost? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: Why is the destroyed manuscript more than simply a possession Jo has lost? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	The manuscript matters because it contains Jo's time, labor, ambition, and imagined future as a writer. Burning it destroys something she cannot replace simply by buying another object.
EVIDENCE	Use references to how long Jo worked on it, what she hoped the manuscript might become, and the intensity of her reaction to the loss.
WATCH FOR	Do not answer only that the manuscript had sentimental value. Explain how it represents identity and future possibility.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

STUDENT PAGE · SAME PASSAGE, SAME THINKING

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START ANCHOR	What! my little book I was so fond of, and worked over, and meant to finish before father got home? Have you really burnt it?
END ANCHOR	I never shall forgive you

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OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK - Underline Jo's words about how long she worked on the manuscript and what she planned to do with it. Circle the reactions that show the loss is tied to identity or future hopes, not just ownership.
2. NOTICE - What has Jo invested in the manuscript besides paper and ink? Why would rewriting it not make the loss emotionally equivalent? How does the manuscript reveal what writing means to Jo before she ever becomes a professional writer?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: Why is the destroyed manuscript more than simply a possession Jo has lost?
4. WRITE - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.