

Little Women

Louisa May Alcott

What does the failed Saturday teach the March sisters that Marmee's warning alone did not?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	A week with no work
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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 XI · Experiments
START	When they got up on Saturday morning, there was no fire in the kitchen, no breakfast in the dining-room, and no mother anywhere to be seen.
END	"We'll remember, mother!" and they did.
PASSAGE ID	sec-lw-03

THE MOVE

Test an appealing idea by watching the experiment fail

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Marmee allows the girls to test the fantasy that freedom means doing no work. The lesson emerges from consequences they experience themselves—disorder, hunger, frustration, dependence—so the failed experiment teaches something a warning could only state.

MARK

Number the problems that appear as the no-work experiment unfolds. Beside each one, note which ordinary task would have prevented it. Star the moment the girls themselves recognize the pattern.

NOTICE

- What did the girls expect leisure without work to feel like?
- Which consequence first makes the experiment less pleasurable than they imagined?
- Why is their conclusion stronger because Marmee lets the experiment fail instead of simply ordering them back to work?

THINK

Answer provisionally: What does the failed Saturday teach the March sisters that Marmee's warning alone did not? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: What does the failed Saturday teach the March sisters that Marmee's warning alone did not? 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 failed Saturday teaches through consequences that freedom from all work produces disorder, hunger, frustration, and dependence rather than pure pleasure. The girls experience the cost of the idea instead of merely hearing Marmee predict it.
EVIDENCE	Use two concrete failures during the no-work experiment and connect each to the ordinary task that would have prevented it.
WATCH FOR	Do not say Marmee 'proves she was right' without showing why lived consequences teach more powerfully than the original warning.
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	When they got up on Saturday morning, there was no fire in the kitchen, no breakfast in the dining-room, and no mother anywhere to be seen.
END ANCHOR	"We'll remember, mother!" and they did.

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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 - Number the problems that appear as the no-work experiment unfolds. Beside each one, note which ordinary task would have prevented it. Star the moment the girls themselves recognize the pattern.
2. NOTICE - What did the girls expect leisure without work to feel like? Which consequence first makes the experiment less pleasurable than they imagined? Why is their conclusion stronger because Marmee lets the experiment fail instead of simply ordering them back to work?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: What does the failed Saturday teach the March sisters that Marmee's warning alone did not?
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.