

Little Women

Louisa May Alcott

What does Jo's imagined future reveal about what she values before she has achieved any of it?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Jo names the life she wants
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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 XIII · Castles in the Air
START	Wouldn't I, though? I'd have a stable full of Arabian steeds, rooms piled with books
END	I've got the key to my castle in the air; but whether I can unlock the door remains to be seen
PASSAGE ID	sec-lw-04

THE MOVE

Infer character from imagined futures

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Jo's 'castle in the air' is revealing because she imagines work, books, travel, independence, and authorship before she possesses any of them. The fantasy functions like a values inventory: what she chooses to imagine tells us who she is trying to become.

MARK

Circle each thing Jo includes in her imagined future. Label each as MONEY, WORK, FREEDOM, FAMILY, TRAVEL, or RECOGNITION. Star the detail that seems least conventional for a young woman in her world.

NOTICE

- Which parts of Jo’s imagined future involve achievement rather than comfort?
- What does she want to control for herself?
- How does the fantasy reveal priorities that her present circumstances do not yet allow her to act on?

THINK

Answer provisionally: What does Jo's imagined future reveal about what she values before she has achieved any of it? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: What does Jo's imagined future reveal about what she values before she has achieved any of it? 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	Jo's imagined future shows that she values authorship, independence, travel, meaningful work, and recognition more than conventional comfort alone. The fantasy reveals priorities before circumstances allow her to act on them.
EVIDENCE	Choose several features of Jo's imagined future and classify what each represents—freedom, work, creativity, money, travel, or recognition.
WATCH FOR	Do not treat the fantasy as prediction. The lesson asks what the imagined future reveals about present values.
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.

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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 - Circle each thing Jo includes in her imagined future. Label each as MONEY, WORK, FREEDOM, FAMILY, TRAVEL, or RECOGNITION. Star the detail that seems least conventional for a young woman in her world.
2. NOTICE - Which parts of Jo's imagined future involve achievement rather than comfort? What does she want to control for herself? How does the fantasy reveal priorities that her present circumstances do not yet allow her to act on?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: What does Jo's imagined future reveal about what she values before she has achieved any of it?
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.