

COURSE PLAN METHODOLOGY: *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott is represented by the abbreviation **LW**. Each weekly assignment is summarized in the first line of the week’s daily course plan. The specific daily assignments are outlined in the following lines indicated by the **MON, TUES, WED, THUR** and **FRI** abbreviations. The Friday assignments are to be done over the weekend. We suggest assigning the weekly written assignment at the beginning of the week to be completed by the following Monday. This will allow the student to think about the assignment while he is reading.

◆◆◆ **LITTLE WOMEN** ◆◆◆

WEEK 1	
<p><i>Little Women</i> is a third person novel about the coming of age of four sisters growing up in poverty during the Civil War. The book is based on some of the author’s own experiences while living an impoverished girlhood in Concord, Massachusetts, with her own three sisters during the Civil War. The novel contains several moral lessons, of which the author has cleverly allowed the readers to understand through the situational reality of the fictional characters and conversations among the characters, and she hopes that every reader will be able to identify with one of the four sisters.</p>	
LW	<p>Read the Preface and Chapters 1 – 11. This week, it is important to make connections between the ‘burdens’ that each of the characters carry, and their own plight to reach Christian goodness (holiness). Written assignment: Describe the burden that each of the four sisters carry. How does the game ‘Playing Pilgrims’ represent each girl’s Christian journey to reach heaven? Who motivates each girl most to “play pilgrim” in their own lives?</p>
MON	<p>Preface, Chapter 1 – 2. <i>Playing Pilgrims.</i> The four sisters, Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy, are introduced in this chapter as they all lament the lack of the money that their family has during the Christmas season. They decide, at Beth’s suggestion, that buying presents for their Mother would be the best way to spend their own hard earned money. The girls practice their traditional Christmas play. Marmee brings home a letter from the father, who is away at war. They listen intently and all resolve to become better girls to earn the grace of their father. The chapter concludes with the family lullaby. <i>Merry Christmas.</i> The girls wake up Christmas morning to find guidebooks underneath their pillows which they promise to read obediently every day. Marmee is not in the house when they awoke, so they all wait anxiously for her arrival in order to present her with their thoughtful gifts. When Marmee arrives, she asks the four girls to generously give up their wonderful Christmas breakfast for a poor, starving family, the Hummels. The girls, in their Christmas spirit, do so willingly, and feel the grace of Christian charity upon returning from their endeavor. They continue their Christmas spirit by acting out a play. That night, they are rewarded for their morning’s good deed by their neighbor Mr. Laurence with a large Christmas feast. Jo is instantly convinced that Mr. Laurence’s grandson put him up to it, and is intrigued to know more about the grandson that they call the Laurence boy.</p>
TUES	<p>Chapters 3-4: <i>The Laurence Boy.</i> Meg and Jo get ready to attend a New Years eve party. Meg, even with her family’s destitution is determined to dress properly for the event. She instructs Jo that she is to act like a lady. Jo tries her best to obey, but become bored with obedience and escapes behind a curtain to avoid being asked to dance by a boy. She is discovered by the Laurence boy, known simply as Laurie, and Jo listens intently as he tells her about his ventures abroad. They dance out the sight of the rest of the party because Jo is embarrassed at her dancing skills and of her burned dress. The night is cut short when Meg sprang her ankle. Jo helps escort the injured Meg back home after Laurie volunteers his carriage ride for all of them. <i>Burdens.</i> The girls lament the holidays being over as they get back to their every day activities. Jo tends to her Aunt March during</p>