

CONCLUSION

Having read the novel, the present writer concludes that the author has been successful in presenting the theme. The theme is clearly revealed through the four major characters. The present writer comes to the opinion that the theme of Little Women is “if one has positive thinking, bad conditions and bitter experiences will not deprive one from becoming better and happier”.

In this story, the four major characters, namely Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy are described as young women who try to overcome their weaknesses in characteristics and in achieving their dreams while their father is away.

Meg, the eldest of the March sisters, is plump and beautiful. She is sweet-tempered and motherly, and loves pretty things. She likes to sew, and she does her best at running a household, though at times she has trouble. She battles with the situation of being poor because she wants so much to have luxurious things. With her bitter experience to be made a fool by her friends, she finally manages to overcome her inferior feeling and fear of poverty by keeping her positive thinking.

Jo is the second eldest sister and a tomboy. She adores writing of any kind, and plans to make her fortune with her pen when she is older. She is quick-tempered, but she tries hard to be good and pleasing to her parents. Her self-sacrificing to help her family's bad financial condition by selling her hair and her

bitter experience in overcoming her anger have changed her way of thinking. She is exceptionally dependable, and when their father is away, she acts as the man of the house. She manages to get better and happier because of her positive thinking, too.

Beth, the quiet sweet-tempered angel of the family, does everything she can to make the house a happy place. She cannot have new and beautiful dolls because her parents are poor, what she has only some old dolls from her elder sisters; yet, she never complains. Her dream is to have a piano lesson and have a fine piano; however, her parents are unable to fulfill her dreams. She has to go to Mrs. Lawrence's house when she wants to play a piano. Her kindness has touched the old Laurence's heart. In the end, Beth succeeds in achieving her dreams – to have a fine piano and music lessons. All of this happens because Beth always sees the positive side of her unfortunate life.

Amy, the youngest of the March sisters, is selfish and spoiled. Wishing to become a lady, Amy concentrates on improving herself. When Amy stays at her aunt's house, she has hard time; yet, her bitter experience change her to think positively toward her poor condition and herself. She also learns from her bitter experience. When being humiliated in school, she realizes that it is better to be herself than act if she was rich. At the end of the story, Amy changes into a girl with positive thinking and thus she becomes better and happier.

The present writer concludes that if one has positive thinking, bad conditions and bitter experiences will not deprive one from becoming better and happier. To be happy is not always about possessions or having a high position. The word happy has a deep and different meaning to each person. In Little

Women, the March girls get better and happier because of their positive thinking. Each of them has become a better person.

The present writer is of the opinion that this novel is an excellent work of Louisa M. Alcott as she is successful in portraying the four major characters, who have problems in facing poverty and who learn to be better young women. Sarah Newton (in Klein, 2000), argues that Little Women, one of the American conduct books, has influenced the readers to attempt to be better people and achieve happiness in life. Through the four major characters in the novel, Alcott wishes to share the same experiences that might really happen to women in the world.