

# Little Women

by Louisa May Alcott

## Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

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### Contents & Printing Notes

Unlike our most popular resources, this one's auto-selected.  
Review before use, or edit the DOCX from the Resources menu.

#### PRE-READING ACTIVITY

|                            |   |                               |
|----------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Answer Key — Preview ..... | 2 | teacher use / self-check only |
| Vocabulary Preview .....   | 3 |                               |

#### OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

|                               |   |                  |
|-------------------------------|---|------------------|
| Vocabulary in Context .....   | 5 |                  |
| Answer Key — In Context ..... | 7 | teacher use only |

Pages are ordered for double-sided printing.

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#### About the Pre-Reading Activity

Open-dictionary; ungraded or completion grade. Students preview 20 words from the upcoming reading, each in a sentence that supports understanding. They choose the best meaning from 3 choices.

#### About the Optional Post-Reading Quiz

Use after reading, or skip. The same words appear in excerpts from the text.

**Practice words:** affectation, afflict, cordial, countenance (2), despair (2), dismal, droll, impetuous, lament, penitent, reproach, reprove, resolve (2), serene, trifle, trifle with, wistful



#### More Vocabulary Printables

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# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary Preview

### Little Women

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| #  | KEY |
|----|-----|
| 1  | B   |
| 2  | C   |
| 3  | B   |
| 4  | A   |
| 5  | B   |
| 6  | C   |
| 7  | A   |
| 8  | C   |
| 9  | C   |
| 10 | A   |
| 11 | C   |
| 12 | C   |
| 13 | B   |
| 14 | A   |
| 15 | C   |
| 16 | A   |
| 17 | B   |
| 18 | C   |
| 19 | A   |
| 20 | A   |

# Vocabulary Preview

## Little Women

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

*Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.*

1. His British accent turned out to be an **affectation** he picked up in college.
  - A. honest trait
  - B. fake mannerism
  - C. old hobby
2. She has been **afflicted** with migraines since childhood.
  - A. worried about
  - B. surprised by
  - C. made to suffer
3. The professor greeted each student **cordially** as they entered.
  - A. in a hurried manner
  - B. in a friendly manner
  - C. in a clumsy manner
4. Her **countenance** grew stern.
  - A. facial expression
  - B. a method of counting
  - C. voice
5. They **countenance** terrorism.
  - A. provide funds for
  - B. show favor for
  - C. discourage
6. She rescued me from **despair**.
  - A. fear
  - B. poverty
  - C. hopelessness
7. Don't **despair**--help is on the way!
  - A. lose hope
  - B. be impatient
  - C. cry
8. When she graduated from college the job market was **dismal**.
  - A. especially good
  - B. promising but unusual
  - C. terrible or depressing
9. The comedian had a **droll** way of describing everyday life.
  - A. harsh and bitter
  - B. dull and serious
  - C. quirky and funny
10. She made an **impetuous** purchase, buying the car without test-driving it first.
  - A. impulsive
  - B. cautious
  - C. wealthy
11. We **lamented** our sad circumstances.
  - A. made worse
  - B. improved
  - C. expressed grief about
12. After breaking the window, the **penitent** boy apologized to his neighbor.
  - A. proud of one's actions
  - B. confused about the rules
  - C. feeling regret for wrongdoing

13. Don't reproach yourself for things beyond your control.
- A. congratulate
  - B. criticize
  - C. accept honor for
14. I don't want to spoil her, but I don't have the heart to reprove her.
- A. criticize
  - B. compliment
  - C. instruct
15. I resolved to never drink again.
- A. was forced
  - B. was encouraged
  - C. firmly decided
16. She is testing my resolve to keep a good attitude.
- A. determination
  - B. ability
  - C. optimism
17. She remained serene even when he was yelling at her.
- A. unmoved
  - B. calm
  - C. aggressive
18. Don't waste my time with trifling matters.
- A. other's
  - B. future
  - C. unimportant
19. The European Parliament refuses to be trifled with.
- A. treated without respect
  - B. argued with
  - C. negotiated with
20. She had a wistful, dreamy look as she thought about how life would change if she could get a good job.
- A. showing longing
  - B. showing determination
  - C. showing optimism

## Vocabulary in Context

### Little Women

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_ Score \_\_\_\_\_ / 20

*Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.*

- 1 "Jo does use such slang words!" observed Amy, with a **reproving** look at the long figure stretched on the rug.
  - A. criticizing or critical
  - B. attractive or desirable
  - C. predicting or revealing
- 2 Act fourth displayed the **despairing** Roderigo on the point of stabbing himself because he has been told that Zara has deserted him.
  - A. without hope
  - B. disagreeing
  - C. translating
- 3 A strange sense of helplessness fell upon the girls as the gray bonnet vanished round the corner, and **despair** seized them when a few minutes later Miss Crocker appeared, and said she'd come to dinner.
  - A. adjusts a lens to make an image clear
  - B. not creating disagreement or struggle
  - C. a feeling of hopelessness
- 4 He looked so **wistful** as he went away, hearing the frolic and evidently having none of his own.
  - A. showing longing or unfulfilled desire
  - B. not bouncing back light/heat/sound...
  - C. able to be restored to good condition
- 5 Lucky for you I am, for if I put on crushed airs and tried to be **dismal**, as you do, we should be in a nice state.
  - A. irrelevant or unimportant
  - B. important or significant
  - C. depressing or gloomy
- 6 When she went home, he walked with her to her own gate, shook hands **cordially**, and touched his hat as he marched back again, looking very stately and erect, like a handsome, soldierly old gentleman, as he was.
  - A. in a pleasing way
  - B. in a friendly way
  - C. in a skillful way
- 7 And Meg tried to keep her **countenance**,
  - A. composure (or face or facial expression)
  - B. the best or most important
  - C. a secret agreement or plot
- 8 So we are to **countenance** things and people which we detest, merely because we are not belles and millionaires, are we?
  - A. return to an undesirable previous condition
  - B. tolerate or approve
  - C. cancel or annul a formal ruling or contract
- 9 Here lies Pip March,  
Who died the 7th of June;  
Loved and **lamented** sore,  
And not forgotten soon.
  - A. was abundant or plentiful
  - B. thought -- possibly aloud
  - C. expressed grief or regret
- 10 Poor Hannah was the first to recover, and with unconscious wisdom she set all the rest a good example, for with her, work was **panacea** for most afflictions.
  - A. reasons for doing something
  - B. social events or ceremonies
  - C. things that cause suffering

- 11 I ... **resolved** not to let the sun set on my anger, and ran over to tell Laurie I was sorry.
- changed
  - adapted
  - decided
- 12 And Amy tried on the blue ring with a delighted face and a firm **resolve** to earn it.
- determination (firmness of purpose)
  - wrongly translating
  - difficult situation
- 13 He was very kind, forgave her readily, and did not utter one **reproach**, but Meg knew that she had done and said a thing which would not be forgotten soon,
- move into position to work; or start
  - a criticism; or to express criticism
  - to spread to other parts of the body
- 14 For the old lady was in the middle of her story, and long before it was done, Jo was off again, making more **droll** revelations and committing still more fearful blunders.
- able to be disagreed with
  - not tending to find fault
  - comical in an unusual way
- 15 ...for as Father says, **trifles** show character.
- struggles or disagreements
  - is attractive or desirable
  - small unimportant things
- 16 ...she was not to be **trifled with**.
- treated thoughtlessly or without respect
  - injury to muscles or tendons of the knee
  - limit light vibrations to a single plane
- 17 Your **indifference** is half **affectation**, and a good stirring up would prove it.
- a particular way of seeing or thinking about things
  - behaving in an artificial way to make an impression
  - collection of star systems held together by gravity
- 18 "No, you didn't, you knew perfectly well I never cared for anyone but Jo," Laurie said that in his old, **impetuous** tone, and turned his face away as he spoke.
- impulsive (acting suddenly without much thought)
  - most important; or person that is most important
  - tending to have exceedingly unfavorable opinions
- 19 "Yes, please, but I never will again," and he went down upon his knees, with a **penitent** clasping of hands, and a face full of mischief, mirth, and triumph.
- having the characteristic of or relating to bouncing back light/heat/sound...
  - suffering from too few red blood cells
- or (less commonly): lacking vitality
- expressing sorrow for having done wrong
- 20 Beth's face, **serene** and smiling, as in the early days, looked down upon them, seeming to say, "Be happy."
- not straightforward
  - calm and untroubled
  - not done on purpose

# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary in Context

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| #  | KEY | WORD   | NOTE  |
|----|-----|--|---|
| 1  | A   | reprove  | Used 7 times in this book.                              |
| 2  | A   | despair ( <i>as in: do not despair</i> )                 | High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.    |
| 3  | C   | despair ( <i>as in: she felt despair</i> )               | High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.    |
| 4  | A   | wistful  | Used 19 times in this book.                             |
| 5  | C   | dismal   | Used 16 times in this book.                             |
| 6  | B   | cordial ( <i>as in: a cordial reception</i> )            | Used 14 times in this book.                             |
| 7  | A   | countenance ( <i>as in: a pleasant countenance</i> )     | Used 15 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.    |
| 8  | B   | countenance ( <i>as in: giving countenance</i> )         | 2 meanings in this book.                                |
| 9  | C   | lament   | High-utility academic word; used 12 times in this book. |
| 10 | C   | afflict  | Used 18 times in this book.                             |
| 11 | C   | resolve ( <i>as in: I resolved to stop drinking.</i> )   | High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.    |
| 12 | A   | resolve ( <i>as in: Her resolve weakened.</i> )          | High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.    |
| 13 | B   | reproach   | Used 22 times in this book.                             |
| 14 | C   | droll  | Used 11 times in this book.                             |
| 15 | C   | trifle ( <i>as in: a trifling matter</i> )               | Used 40 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.    |
| 16 | A   | trifle with ( <i>as in: trifle with her affections</i> ) | 2 meanings in this book.                                |
| 17 | B   | affectation  | Used 6 times in this book.                              |
| 18 | A   | impetuous ( <i>as in: an impetuous decision</i> )        | High-utility academic word; used 7 times in this book.  |
| 19 | C   | penitent   | Used 10 times in this book.                             |
| 20 | B   | serene   | Used 14 times in this book.                             |