



Image courtesy of
Sony Pictures

Watch and Respond

Little Women

Directed by Greta Gerwig



Please note:

- The questions and activities below are a small sample of ways that texts could be incorporated into lessons.
- The following activities might be completed over a series of lessons or as part of a unit of learning.
- Consider how these activities might be adapted to suit your context. How might you do this?
- Students may wish to complete some activities individually or in pairs/groups.
- Activities might be completed orally and/or in written format.

Background to the Film:

Based on the classic novel from Louisa May Alcott, *Little Women* tells the story of the four March girls, Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy as they make the transition to womanhood and struggle to conform to society’s strict ideals of femininity in the midst of poverty. The story is set in 1860s Massachusetts, USA, during the American Civil War. It is loosely based on Alcott’s own childhood. This film is directed by Greta Gerwig.

Aspects of Learning Outcomes in Focus:

Oral Language 2	Engage actively and responsively within class groups in order to listen to or recount experiences and to express feelings and ideas. ○
Reading 6	Read their texts for understanding and appreciation of character, setting, story and action: to explore how and why characters develop, and to recognise the importance of setting and plot structure. ○★
Writing 8	Write about the effectiveness of key moments from their texts commenting on characters, key scenes, favourite images from a film... ★

Links to L2LP

Communication and Literacy	1.15 Find key information from different forms of writing, e.g. locate factual information in forms/bills, times and dates of appointments, menus, timetables, newspapers.
Communication and Literacy	1.16 Use a range of reading strategies, e.g. clues, context, sound, prediction and decoding





Step 2. Create a variety of assessments

“Knowledge about a variety of assessment types allows teachers to select the most appropriate and effective instruments to meet their learning objectives.”

(Preparing for the Plunge: Preservice Teachers' Assessment Literacy Author(s): M. A. Siegel and C. Wissehr).

Possible activities:

Before you watch, look at the poster for this film.

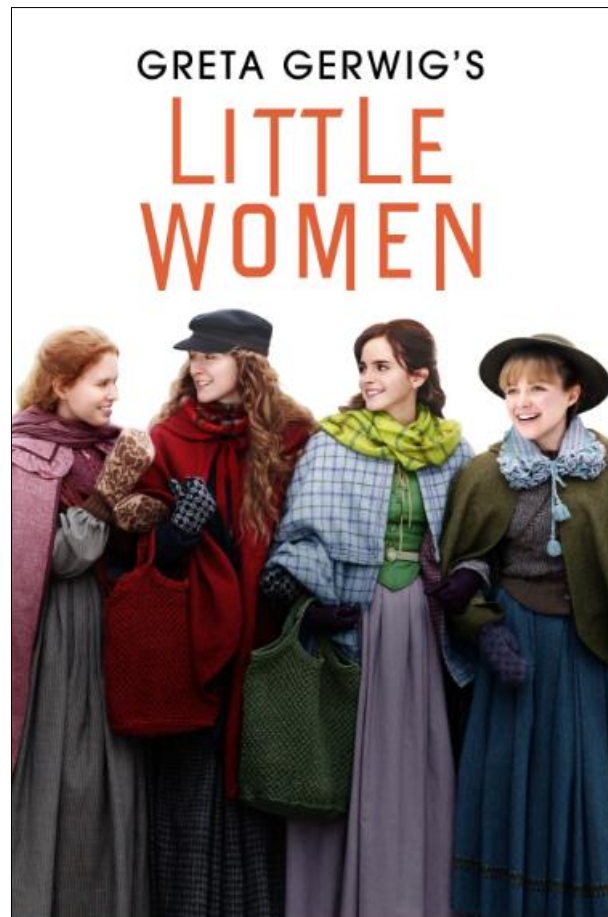


Image courtesy of Sony Pictures Ireland

Pair/Group Discussion:

- What impression of the film do you get from the poster? Give reasons for your answer.
- Consider the title of the film. What do you think it might represent?
- What do you notice about the costumes evident in the film poster?

The following clip from the film is available to watch on YouTube courtesy of Sony Pictures



- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=32T5QHgfi30>

Watch the clip from the film. The following activities might be completed in oral and/or written format.

1. Would you like to be in this house on Christmas morning? Give reasons for your answer.
2. In this clip, the girls mention that “Christmas won’t be Christmas without any presents”. What does Christmas mean to you?
3. Describe the personalities of the sisters. Use any of the adjectives below or your thesaurus to support your description of Jo, Meg, Amy and Beth in this clip.

Impatient	Kind	Responsible	Moral
Sensitive	Vain	Spirited	Dramatic

4. In your opinion, what relationship do the girls have with their father? Give reasons for your answer.
5. “Merry Christmas World!”
Describe the scene that Jo views through her window when she wakes up on Christmas morning. How is she feeling? Add this to your description.

Possible Extended Tasks:

1. The film is set in the 19th Century during the American Civil War. Research the role of women at this time. Write down 5 pieces of information you uncover.
2. What do you think Amy means when she says, “You must not limit yourself”?
3. Imagine you are looking out a window in a location of your choice on Christmas morning. Describe the scene. You might like to consider some of the following prompts when creating your descriptive passage:
 - Adjectives and adverbs
 - Description of movement
 - Mood / tension / atmosphere.