

Discussion Guide

If your book club is interested in having me join you via speakerphone or Skype, drop me an email. I love talking about all things *Little Women*!

1. Did you grow up with *Little Women* or read it when you were young? If so, what is your “Little Women story?”

2. How do the characters in *Little Women* correspond to or remind you of the people you know in your life?

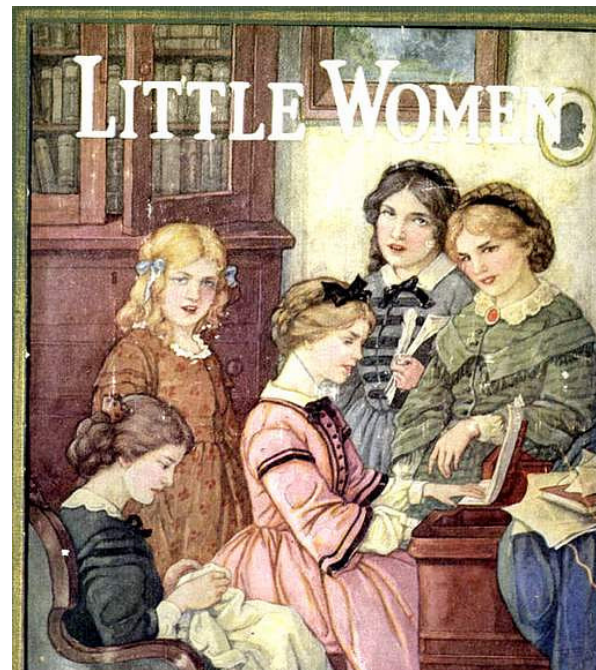
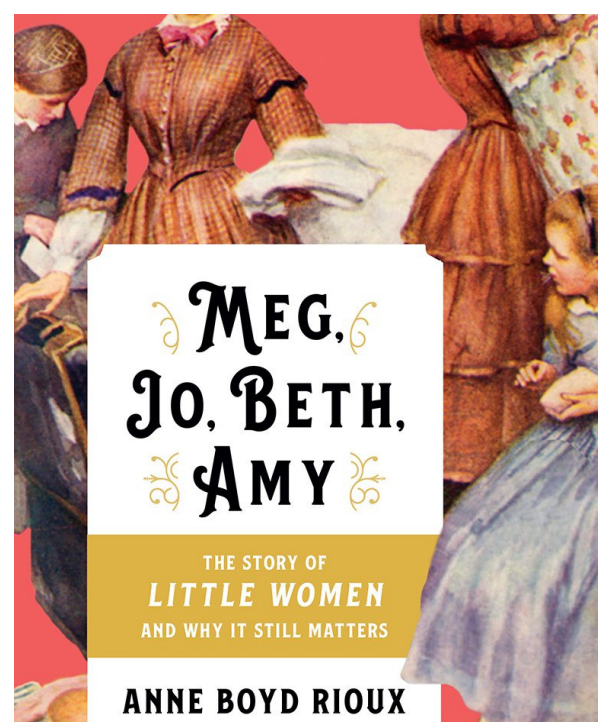
3. Are you a Meg, Jo, Beth, or Amy? Or are you a mixture of two or more of them?

4. Have you read *Little Women* again as an adult? How did the experience compare to the first time you read it?

5. *Little Women* is often considered an enduring model for women’s stories. What are some aspects of the story that help inspire young girls?

6. Reflecting on how the story of *Little Women* was inspired by the life of Louisa May Alcott, what surprised you about the "real" story?

7. *Little Women* is often considered to be ahead of its time in its portrayal of women's roles. How significant do you think the upcoming movie will be for girls of today’s generation?



8. *Little Women* was a progressive novel for its time. Do you think the story may seem archaic for the modern era? Or are the characters still relatable?
9. *Little Women* meant something different when it was first published compared to a reading of it during World War II or the feminist movement of the 1970s and 1980s. What messages do you think readers find in it today?
10. Much of the debate surrounding *Little Women* concerns whether it is a realistic or sentimental portrayal of life. Which do you think it is?
11. To what extent is it a story for boys just as much as a story for girls? Do you think it's important for boys to read *Little Women* too, or other girl-focused books?
12. Though *Little Women* was written 150 years ago, it was very much ahead of its time and influenced many TV shows with groups of four women—*Sex and the City*, HBO's *Girls*, and *The Golden Girls*. Comment on the similarities and differences between *Little Women* and these shows.
13. Jo, in particular, has influenced many women to become writers and to create strong female characters. Discuss some of the Jo-type characters you've read about or watched on the screen, like Hermione Granger and Katniss Everdeen. Can you think of others?
14. Many have commented on the star-studded cast that director Greta Gerwig and producer Amy Pascal have assembled for the 2019 *Little Women* movie. What do you think of the movie's "Dream Team"?
15. Have you seen any of the earlier films or stage adaptations of *Little Women*? Which was your favorite? Why do you think there have been so many versions made?