

## CLASS NOTES

Class: VIII

DATE : 29/06/2020

Subject: ENGLISH

3. PLANNING A SURPRISE  
BY – LOUISA MAY ALCOTT

### **D: ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS IN 80-100 WORDS EACH.**

1. Describe how the girls plan to give their mother a surprise on Christmas.

Ans. The girls planned to surprise their mother on Christmas by gifting her different things. Meg decided to present her a nice pair of gloves, Jo a pair of army shoes, Beth some handkerchiefs, all hemmed and Amy wanted to give Marmee a bottle of cologne. They had decided to put all their things on a table and bring her in and see her open the bundles. They would pretend as if they were getting things for themselves and then surprise her with the beautiful presents. They decided to go for shopping in the afternoon the next day to buy gifts. The girls' eagerness showed that they were unconditionally attached to her and were willing to forego what they would like to get for themselves.

2. Why do you think Mr March's letter made the girls take certain resolutions? What does it say about the family at large?

Ans. Soon after having the dinner, the four girls drew to the fire where their mother sat on a big chair. She opened and started reading Mr March's letter which not only showed his love and longing to be with his little girls but also his expectations, and what he wanted each of them to be like. He trusted them to remember all that he had told them and knew that they would be loving to their mother, faithful to their responsibilities and overcome all the temptations that may undermine their courage and resolution. The trust that the father had in his daughters, the belief that he had in their ability to emerge stronger and better after battling with hard times they had to go through made the girls resolve to be what he wanted them to be. Meg decided not to think of her looks, Jo determined to do her duty and be a little woman, Beth to be what he wanted her to be and Amy promised to be better.

This shows that the family was closely knit by the bond of love and affection and no hardship could dampen their spirit. The father was the

**force that guided the girls who were not willing to disappoint him in any way.**

**E. Read the sentences and answer the questions that follow.**

1. 'You're a regular Shakespeare.'

a) Who said these words and to whom?

Ans: The above compliment has been given to Jo by Beth.

b) What does 'regular Shakespeare' mean?

Ans: Shakespeare is one of the greatest dramatists of English literature. A 'regular Shakespeare' means one who is creative and talented like the dramatist to write original plays, stories or poems.

c) Do you think the speaker is paying a compliment to the listener?

Ans: Definitely, Beth is paying Jo a compliment by comparing her to one of the greatest dramatists of the world.

2. Everybody sniffed when they came to that part.

a) Where was 'everybody'?

Ans: 'Everybody' refers to the March sisters and their mother who were sitting near the fire. Marmee was sitting in the big chair with Beth at her feet, Meg and Amy perched on either arm of the arm of the chair and Jo was leaning on the back.

b) What were they doing?

Ans: They were listening attentively to the father's letter which was being read out by the mother.

c) Which 'part' is being spoken of?

Ans: The 'part' referred to here is the part of the letter where the father mentions how he hopes to be fonder and prouder than ever of his little women when he returns home.



**CONTENT PREPARED ABSOLUTELY AT HOME BY SBP**