

3. JOSEPHINE MARCH'S CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

In this chapter I analyze the process of Josephine March's character development. The analysis is divided into two sub - chapters. The first sub – chapter is the analysis of Josephine March's character development as seen through her relationship with her family; whereas the second sub – chapter is the analysis on Josephine March's character development as seen through her relationship with the others.

3.1 Josephine March's relationship with her family

In the beginning of the story Josephine March is shown as an independent girl. She always takes care of her family, especially since her father was sent to join the war. Since that time Jo tries to replace her father's position in the family because she thinks that it is her responsibility to take care of the family since she considers herself as the man of the family. Jo herself sees how much her family needs her and it encourages Jo to take care and protect them more and more.

“It is a great comfort, Jo; I always feel strong when you are at home, now Meg is gone. Beth is too feeble and Amy is too young to depend upon; but when the tug comes, you are always ready.”

“Why, you know I don't mind hard jobs much, and there must always be one scrub in a family. Amy is splendid in fine works and I'm not, but I feel in my element when all the carpets are to be taken up, or half the family fall sick at once. Amy is distinguishing herself abroad, but if anything is amiss at home, I'm your man.” (p.341).

As the man of the family Jo feels that it is her responsibility to protect her family. It makes her willing to do anything for her family, including not thinking about her own happiness. Being able to help her family and make them happy is Jo's only wish. She wants to devote her life for her family and career. Therefore she does not want to care about anything else except her family and writing. This condition makes her reject marriage. Jo knows that by getting married she would be tied to her husband and has to leave her family. She would

have her own family and it makes her unable to take care of her family anymore. This can be seen from her speech, “Can’t be helped, Marmee, so you must resign yourself to all sort of worries, and let your birds hop out of the nest, one by one. I promise never to hop very far, if that is any comfort to you” (p.341). This feeling proves that Jo has no heart to leave her home and family.

Moreover, Jo herself thinks that she can live alone without a man. She thinks that she would be happy although she does not marry. She likes her freedom of being single. Therefore, she does not want to lose her freedom by getting married. “I don’t believe I shall ever marry. I’m as happy as I am, and love my liberty too well to be in any hurry to give it up for any mortal man” (p.385).

Jo thinks that not all women should marry and depend on their husbands. She thinks that without getting married women can still live happily. “I needn’t be a sour saint nor a selfish sinner; and, I dare say, old maids are very comfortable when they get used to it” (p.459).

This phenomenon is really different from the condition that happens at that time. In the society, all girls are expected to marry and become a mother; however, Jo herself rejects marriage. She prefers her career as a writer rather than becoming a housewife and mother. “I never enjoyed housekeeping, and I’m going to take a vacation today, and read, write, go visiting, and amuse myself” (p.128). Jo feels that housekeeping is boring. She is a kind of a person who cannot stay at home just to take care of a husband and children. She likes to be free and doing many things rather than to be isolated at home. She wants to give a contribution to the society through her writing.

Jo also thinks that her sisters would also be happy if they do not marry. Jo thinks that she can take care of her sisters by herself. Jo disagrees that it is a man’s role to take care of a woman. Jo wishes that the four of them would always be together forever. She does not think that it is impossible because everyone has his/her own life, including her sisters. Jo always thinks that she knows what is best for her sisters. Therefore, she always tries to make her sisters obey her commands. When her sister Meg has a boy friend, Jo does not want to accept him. This condition makes her to have conflict with Meg. “At the idea of anybody coming to take Meg away? No, thank you” (p.169).

Meg herself finally decides to get married although Jo disagrees with her decision. Jo herself really cannot accept Meg's decision to get married. She really wants to take care Meg by herself. She is sure that she can protect Meg as her husband does. "I just wish I could marry Meg myself, and keep her safe in the family" (p.218).

Actually Jo rejects Meg's marriage because she is scared that Meg will be busy with her own family and then forget her. She is afraid of losing Meg whether as her sister or her best friend. This can be seen from Jo's conversation with Laurie after Meg gets married:

"You can't know how hard it is for me to give up Meg," she continued, with a little quiver in her voice."

"You don't give her up. You only go halves," said Laurie consolingly.

"It never can be the same again. I've lost my dearest friend," sighted Jo (pp.250 – 251).

From this dialog it can be seen that Jo does not want to let Meg go because she wants Meg to be always with her. Jo wants to keep Meg in the family. She is not thinking of Meg's happiness. Jo thinks that she can take care of Meg and that Meg will be happier staying with her rather than getting married. She also thinks that it is her responsibility to take care of her sister. She does not realize that her perception is wrong because not everyone enjoys being single. She does not want to understand Meg's wish to get married.

Jo who prefers her career in writing rather than in marriage is obsessed with writing. Considering that writing is everything for her, Jo does not want to think about anything else except writing. "An old maid, that's what I'm to be. A literary spinster, with a pen for a spouse, a family of stories for children, and twenty years hence a morsel of fame..." (p.459).

Jo's obsession about writing can also be seen when her sisters ask her about her dream. Jo definitely answers her sisters' question:

"I'd have a stable full of Arabian steeds, rooms piled high with books, and I'd write out of a magic inkstand, so that my works should be as famous as Laurie's music. I want to do something splendid before I go into my castle-- something heroic or wonderful that won't be forgotten after I'm dead. I don't

know what, but I'm on the watch for it, and mean to astonish you all some day. I think I shall write books, and get rich and famous: that would suit me, so that is my favourite dream" (p.159).

For Jo March, her works are everything because she considers them as great works. This condition makes her imagine herself as a great writer. Actually fantasy is part of human's life and needed especially for writers, since from fantasy, they will get inspiration for their works. However Jo considers herself as a great writer which actually she is not. She exaggerates her fantasy so that it becomes a serious problem. Her fantasy that she is a great writer makes her unwilling to forgive her sister, Amy, who has unintentionally burnt her work. Jo, who could not control her emotion, reprimands Amy directly without asking for her explanation first.

"What! My little book I was so fond of, and worked over, and meant to finish before father got home? Have you really burnt it?"

"You wicked, wicked girl! I never can write again, and I'll never forgive you as long as I live" (p.90).

Considering her work as a great art, Jo could not forgive her sister, even though her sister has asked several times for forgiveness. Jo considers that Amy is not worth forgiving because Amy has burnt her great work. Jo's unwillingness to forgive Amy makes her have a conflict with Amy. "Please forgive me, Jo; I'm very, very sorry." "I never shall forgive you" was Jo's stern answer; and, from that moment, she ignored Amy entirely" (p.91).

Although everyone in the family has already tried to persuade Jo to forgive Amy, none and not even her mother can make Jo forgive Amy. Jo chooses not to talk to Amy at all rather than to forgive Amy. "My dear, don't let the sun go down upon your anger; forgive each other, help each other, and begin again tomorrow." "It was an abominable thing, and she doesn't deserve to be forgiven" (p.91).

This condition still continues until Jo, Laurie and Amy go skating. Jo who knows that Amy is not really good in skating does not want to pay attention to Amy. Her anger forbids her to do anything with Amy.

Jo heard Amy panting after her run, stamping her feet and blowing on her fingers as she tried to put her skates on, but Jo never turned and went slowly zigzagging down the river, taking a bitter, unhappy sort of satisfaction in her sister's troubles. She had cherished her anger till it grew strong and took possession of her, as evil thoughts and feelings always do unless cast out at once. As Laurie turned the bend, he shouted back...

"Keep near the shore. It isn't safe in the middle." Jo heard, but Amy was struggling to her feet and did not catch a word. Jo glanced over her shoulder, and the little demon she was harboring said in her ear...

"No matter whether she heard or not, let her take care of herself" (pp.92-93).

Jo's unwillingness to forgive Amy finally brings a serious problem. Amy who follows Jo and Laurie while skating unconsciously falls into the river because she skates toward the thinner ice in the middle of the river. Jo who is shocked does not do anything to help Amy. Laurie is the one who saves Amy. Jo who feels guilty starts to blame herself and regrets that she has been very cruel towards Amy:

"Laurie did it all: I only let her go. Mother, if she should die, it would be my fault"; and Jo dropped down beside the bed, in a passion of penitent tears, telling all that had happened, bitterly condemning her hardness of heart, and sobbing out her gratitude for being spared the heavy punishment which might have come upon her (p.94).

The accident that happens to Amy makes Jo realize that she should control her emotion well. She knows that Amy almost dies because she ignores her. Jo is afraid she can hurt anyone else if she still could not control her emotion well.

"It's my dreadful temper! I try to cure it; I think I have, and then it breaks out worse than ever. Oh mother, what shall I do? What shall I do?" cried poor Jo in despair.

"You don't know, you can't guess how bad it is! It seems as if I could do anything when I'm in passion; I get so savage, I could hurt anyone, and enjoy it. I'm afraid I shall do something dreadful someday, and spoil my life, and make everybody hate me. Oh mother, help me, do help me!" (p.94).

From the quotation above it can be seen how Jo really regrets about what she has done to Amy. She feels very sorry when she knows the possibility that Amy may die because of her fault. She knows that her anger toward Amy makes her neglect Amy which results in the accident on Amy. She realizes and feels afraid that one day she will hurt someone else if she still keeps her bad temper. Hence, she wants to change her bad temper into passion.

From this tragedy Jo just realizes how much she loves Amy and she does not want to lose her. She realizes that her sister is more important than her works. She forgets all of her hatred towards Amy and promises to change her bad temper. She just hopes that Amy will recover soon. Jo's realization about her fault shows that Jo's character starts to develop. This can be seen from her conversation with her mother:

"I let the sun go down on my anger; I wouldn't forgive her, and today, if it hadn't been for Laurie, it might have been too late! How could I be so wicked?" said Jo, half aloud, as she leaned over her sister softly stroking the wet hair scattered on the pillow (p.97).

Jo feels that she will never forgive herself if something happens to Amy. She prays for the recovery of Amy and accompanies her everyday. At last, God grants her prayer. Amy recovers from her illness. Their relationship becomes good again.

As if she heard, Amy opened her eyes, and held out her arms, with a smile that went straight to Jo's heart. Neither said a word, but they hugged one another close, in spite of the blankets, and everything was forgiven and forgotten in one hearty kiss (p.97).

Since that time, Jo totally changes in her behaviour. She never considers herself as a great writer anymore. Although she finally becomes a famous writer, she always gives priority to her family rather than her work because she does not want to repeat her fault again. She realizes that she has the responsibility to take care of her family, and that she should not think only about her obsession in writing. She realizes that her success is not worthy if she cannot share it with her family.

It can be seen clearly that Jo's character is developed. She can control her emotion and anger which formerly she is unable to do. Besides, she also becomes realistic. She never again considers herself as a great writer and her work as a great art. She also can accept other peoples' comment about her works. In addition, she is willing to forgive Amy whom firstly she cannot and will not forgive. It can clearly be seen that Jo succeeds in overcoming her conflict with her sister, Amy.

Jo's love towards her sister Beth is also clearly seen in the daily life. Jo never left her for an hour since Beth has said, "I feel stronger when you are here" (p.435). Jo realizes her sister needs her very much. Jo feels that she has the responsibility to take care of her and she does not want to disappoint Beth. Therefore, she will do anything in order to make Beth happy.

When Marmee discovers that there is something wrong with Beth, she asks Jo to find out what is bothering Beth's mind. Jo finds out that Beth loves Laurie. Jo, who is afraid that Laurie does not love Beth as she does, does not want to accept this reality. She thinks that she can force Laurie to fall in love with Beth.

"Mercy on me, Beth loves Laurie!" she said, sitting down in her own room, pale with the shock of the discovery which she believed she had just made. "I never dreamed of such a thing. What will Mother say? I wonder if her..." there Jo stopped and turned scarlet with a sudden thought. "If he shouldn't love back again, how dreadful it would be. He must. I'll make him!" (p.342).

Jo is glad when she knows the truth that Beth actually never falls in love with Laurie. She just considers Laurie as her brother and not more than that. "I do love him dearly; he is so good to me, how can I help it? But he never could be anything to me but my brother. I hope he truly will be, sometime" (p.393).

Although Jo loves Beth very much, she cannot stop Beth from dying. Losing her beloved sister is too much for Jo. She feels lonely and deeply grieved. It is not easy for her to overcome this problem. She needs time and support from others. Nevertheless, she should not live in loneliness and grief forever; she should handle it and accept the reality. This is Jo's condition when her beloved sister, Beth dies.

Jo considers herself as the only one who loves Beth most without considering her parents, sisters and friends who also love Beth. She thinks that none loves Beth as much as she does. “Oh, yes; she tries to, but she can’t love Beth as I do; and she won’t miss her as I shall. Beth is my conscience, and I can’t give her up, I can’t! I can’t!” (p.201). Actually, this is wrong because not only Jo, but also her parents, sisters and Beth’s friends love Beth and do not want to lose her. Everyone who loves her suffers when Beth dies.

Because she knows she cannot accompany Jo anymore, before she dies, Beth makes Jo promise to let her go and continue her life. However, Jo finds her promise very hard to keep. No matter how hard Jo tries to fulfil her promise toward Beth, it seems impossible for her to do so. She could not comfort her family as Jo herself feels lonely and cannot accept Beth’s death.

All this time what Jo has done for her family is especially for her sister, Beth. After Beth dies, it seems that Jo does not want to do anything. She misses her sister so much. Often she wakes up at night, thinking Beth calls her; and the sight of the little empty bed makes her cry with the bitter cry of a great sorrow, “Oh, Beth, come back, come back!” (p.452).

Beth’s death brings a great change to Jo’s life. Jo who feels lonely slowly becomes frustrated and feels meaningless to continue her life. It seems that her soul follows Beth’s death. Jo who usually is very enthusiastic in writing does not want to write anymore. She thinks that none will care about her writing except Beth. Thus, she does not want to write anymore.

“I have no heart to write, and if I had, nobody cares for my things.”

“We do; write something for us, and never mind the rest of the world. Try it dear; I’m sure it would do you good, and please us very much.”

“Don’t believe I can,” (p.455).

Although her family and friends always accompany and comfort her, Jo still sometimes feels lonely. It seems that their love is not enough to help Jo to overcome her loneliness.

“.... There are plenty to love you, so try to be satisfied with Father and Mother, sisters and brothers, friends and babies, till the best lover of all comes to give you your reward.”

“Mothers are the best lovers in the world, but I don't mind whispering to Marmee that I'd like to try all kinds. It's very curious, but the more I try to satisfy myself with all sorts of natural affections, the more I seem to want. I'd no idea hearts could take in so many. Mine is so elastic, it never seems full now, and I used to be quite contented with my family. I don't understand it” (p.457).

Jo's loneliness although her family always company her since Beth dies can also be seen clearly from her conversation with Laurie while he asks her about her life after Beth's death:

“No, I had father and mother to help me, the dear babies to comfort me, and the thought that you and Amy were safe and happy, to make the troubles here easier to bear. I am lonely, sometimes, but I dare say it's good for me, and -----“ (p.465).

Jo who feels lonely starts to have an inner conflict. She thinks again about her manner in facing Beth's death. She starts to argue with herself about it. However, Jo starts to realize that she cannot be sad and mourn over Beth her life long. She realizes that she has to continue her life like what Beth has asked her to do. Besides, she also realizes that her family and friends need her more than before.

“I can't do it. I wasn't meant for a life like this, and I know I shall break away and do something desperate if somebody don't come and help me”, she said to herself when her first efforts failed, and she fell into the moody, miserable state of mind which often comes when strong wills have to yield to the inevitable (p.451).

Jo realizes that she needs someone else to help her to overcome her loneliness, especially after she sees her sister Meg's happy marriage. Jo feels happy when she knows her sister, Meg is happy with her marriage. She notices that her sister develops into a better person after she gets married. Meg becomes mature and wants to take care of her family which she does not want to do at the first time. Jo discovers her sister Meg is much improved in her talk, thoughts, and feelings. “how happy she was in husband and children, and how much they were all doing for search each other” (p.453).

Jo also feels very happy when she sees her other sister Amy has a happy marriage, too. She sees Amy develops because of her marriage with Laurie. Amy changes after she gets married. She is not spoiled anymore and she becomes independent. "It is so beautiful to be loved as Laurie loves me; he isn't sentimental, doesn't say much about it, but I see and feel it in all he says and does, and it makes me so happy and humble that I don't seem to be the same girl I was..." (p.457).

Jo who sees her sisters' happy marriages starts to have an inner conflict. She argues with herself about her previous manner in accepting Meg's marriage. She realizes that her previous manner to keep her sisters beside her forever is wrong. Jo finally realizes that everyone has the right to determine his/her own life; therefore she does not have any right to be against Meg's marriage. Meg has the right to manage her own life. Jo realizes that Meg will not be happy if she keeps Meg by her side forever. It proves that Jo has developed. She does not force her sister to obey her command anymore. She finally can respect Meg's wish to get married. Besides, she finally can accept Meg's marriage which she could not do before. Jo finally succeeds in handling her conflict with Meg.

After seeing her sisters' happy marriages, Jo herself starts to think about her own happiness which she neglects to do before. Now she does not have the responsibility to take care Meg and Amy anymore because they are already married. Besides, she does not have to take care of Beth anymore because she is already dead. Jo realizes that she has to forget about Beth's death and start to find her own happiness.

3.2 Josephine March's relationship with others

Jo is confused when Laurie, her best friend has fallen in love with her. Having no feeling of love, and only considering Laurie as her brother, Jo prefers to avoid Laurie. Jo decides not to tell the truth about her real feeling towards him. Therefore, Jo chooses to go to New York in order to avoid him. At that time Jo thinks that it is the best manner to solve her love problem with Laurie because she does not want to hurt his feeling. Besides, she also does not want to lose Laurie whether as a brother or best friend.

“It may be vain and wrong to say it, but---I’m afraid---Laurie is getting too fond of me.”

“Then you don’t care for him in the way it is evident he begins to care for you?” and Mrs. March looked anxious as she put the question.”

“Mercy, no! I love the dear boy, as I always have, and am immensely proud of him; but as for anything more, it’s out of the question.”

“You are sure of his feeling to you?”

“I’m afraid it is so mother; he hasn’t said anything, but he looks a great deal, I think I had better go away before it comes to anything” (pp.349 - 350).

Jo who feels lonely and needs someone to help her to overcome her sadness about Beth’s death, starts to think about Laurie again. At that time she argues with herself about her decision not to accept Laurie’s love. She starts to regret it. When her mother asks her about the possibility of her and Laurie to be united, Jo answers: “I am lonely, and perhaps if Teddy [Laurie] had tried again I might have said “Yes,” not because I love him anymore, but because I care more to be loved than when he went away” (pp.456 – 457).

It can be seen clearly from Jo’s inner conflict that Jo wants to accept Laurie’s love to help her in her loneliness to overcome her sadness. This proves that Jo is wrong since Jo wants to accept Laurie’s love not because she loves him, but to use Laurie to help her forget Beth.

Avoiding Laurie by going to New York actually is not a good solution since it is only delaying the problem. Laurie still loves Jo and waits for her until she returns from New York. “When Laurie said “Good-by,” he whispered significantly, “It won’t do a bit of good, Jo. My eye is on you; so mind what you do, or I’ll come and bring you home” (p.351).

In New York Jo meets Prof. Bhaer who teaches many things to her, especially love. Unconsciously both of them fall in love with each other. Jo finally realizes the true meaning of love after she falls in love with him. She realizes that love cannot be forced. At that time she starts to have an inner conflict. She argues with herself about her previous manner in handling her love problem with Laurie. She realizes that her decision not to accept Laurie’s love because she does not love Laurie is right. However, she finds the manner to handle her love problem

with Laurie is wrong. She thinks that telling the truth to Laurie rather than avoiding him is a better way to solve the love problem. She realizes that Laurie has the right to know the truth. Jo does not want Laurie to wait for her and throw away his happiness. Therefore, when she returns to her hometown and Laurie starts to ask about the status of their relationship, she explains about her real feeling to him. She explains to him that she considers him just as her brother and best friend, not more than that.

“You, you are, you're a great deal too good for me, and I'm so grateful to you, and so proud and fond of you, I don't know why I can't love you as you want me to. I've tried, but I can't change the feeling, and it would be a lie to say I do when I don't” (p.381).

From the quotation it can clearly be seen how Jo finally succeeds in solving her conflicts with Laurie about her manner in handling her love problem. Jo's finally finds a better solution in handling her love problem with Laurie. It means that Jo's character has developed. She does not take a decision in a rush like at the first time, but she can think wisely and then makes a better solution to handle her problem.

However, Laurie is very disappointed when he knows the reality that Jo does not love him. He cannot accept this reality because he really loves Jo and he does not want to lose her. Therefore, he tries to persuade Jo to accept his love. He asks Jo to accept his love and be his girl friend. He is sure that one day Jo will open her heart for him and loves him as he loves her. Jo who loves Prof. Bhaer rejects Laurie's proposal directly, “No, I can't. I've tried and failed, and I won't risk our happiness by such a serious experiment. We don't agree and we never shall, so we'll be good friends all our lives, but we won't go and do anything rash” (pp.383 – 384).

Jo feels very sorry when she knows that Laurie is very shocked hearing that she just wants to be his best friend and not more than that. She knows that she has broken his heart, but she realizes that it is the best way to tell him the truth of her feeling for him.

“Oh, Teddy [Laurie], I'm sorry, so desperately sorry, I could kill myself if it would do any good! I wish you wouldn't take it so hard, I can't help it. You

know it's impossible for people to make themselves love other people if they don't," cried Jo inelegantly but remorsefully, as she softly patted his shoulder, remembering the time when he had comforted her so long ago (pp.380 – 381).

Jo tells Laurie not to wait for her anymore because she does not love him. Therefore, she asks him to find his true love. She tries to make him realize that she is not the right girl for him, and one day he will find another girl who is better than her. She is sure that one day he will forget her and fall in love with another girl. When Laurie does not want to accept Jo's suggestion because he feels that he will never fall in love with another girl, she tries to make him to accept the reality that both of them are not suitable for each other to become a pair. Besides, she does not have any feeling of love for him except as a friend and brother. Therefore, they can only be best friends and not more than that.

"You'll love someone else too, like a sensible boy, and forget all this trouble."

"I can't love anyone else, and I'll never forget you, Jo, never! never!" with a stamp to emphasize his passionate words.

"Yes, you will!" persisted Jo. "You'll get over this after a while, and find some lovely accomplished girl, who will adore you, and make a fine mistress for your fine house. I shouldn't. I'm homely and awkward and odd and old, and you'd be ashamed of me, and we should quarrel--we can't help it even now, you see--and I shouldn't like elegant society and you would, and you'd hate my scribbling, and I couldn't get on without it, and we should be unhappy, and wish we hadn't done it, and everything would be horrid!" (pp.383 – 384).

Jo who firstly rejects marriage finally changes her opinion about it after she falls in love with Prof. Bhaer. She realizes that if she ever marries, then she will marry with someone whom she really loves because it only happens once in life. It can be seen clearly from her conversation with Laurie:

"Yes, I will live and die for him, if he ever comes and makes me love him in spite of myself, and you must do the best you can!" cried Jo, losing patience with poor Teddy [Laurie]. "I've done my best, but you won't be reasonable,

and it's selfish of you to keep teasing for what I can't give. I shall always be fond of you, very fond indeed, as a friend, but I'll never marry you, and the sooner you believe it the better for both of us--so now!" (p.385).

Jo realizes that she should not accept Laurie's love only because she feels sorry for her. Jo knows that it is not fair for both of them because she loves Prof. Bhaer, not Laurie. Therefore, Jo finally decides to keep her previous decision not to accept Laurie's love. She knows that it is the best manner to handle her love problem with Laurie. Jo herself feels very glad when she knows that Laurie finally marries her sister, Amy and that they are happy with their marriage. Jo knows that she and Laurie will not be that happy if they are married to each other for she does not love him. Then Jo finally realizes that she really misses Prof. Bhaer and none can replace his position in her heart.

Oh, if he only would! So kind, so good, so patient with me always, my dear old Fritz, I didn't value him half enough when I had him, but now how I should love to see him, for everyone seems going away from me, and I'm all alone (p.458).

Jo feels very sad when she knows the possibility that Prof. Bhaer will leave her. She does not want to lose her happiness anymore. She realizes that she loves and needs him very much. Therefore, when Prof. Bhaer offers his love to her, she does not refuse.

"Heart's dearest, why do you cry?"

"Because you are going away."

"Ach, mein Gott, that is so good!" cried Mr. Bhaer, managing to clasp his hands in spite of the umbrella and the bundles, "Jo, I haf nothing but much love to gif you. I came to see if you could care for it, and I waited to be sure that I was something more than a friend. Am I? Can you make a little place in your heart for old Fritz?" he added, all in one breath.

"Oh, yes!" said Jo (p.494).

Jo changes her opinion about marriage after she finds her true love in Prof. Bhaer. Jo who rejects marriage and prefers her career in writing at the beginning finally changes her opinion about marriage. Jo who does not reject marriage anymore finally decides to marry Prof. Bhaer. She finally changes her

opinion about marriage because she realizes that she needs Prof. Bhaer's love in her life besides her family's love. Moreover, she also hopes that she can be happy like her sisters, Meg and Amy with their marriages. Together they open a school for children. She also starts to write again which she does not do since Beth's death.

Jo is very happy with her marriage. This can be seen from her later opinion about marriage: "Marriage is an excellent thing, after all. I wonder if I should blossom out half as well as you have, if I tried it?" said Jo. (p.453). Jo's opinion about family also develops, as Jo is really happy with her marriage. She never feels happy like that before. "I do think that families are the most beautiful things in all the world!" burst Jo out" (p.504).

Jo's happy marriage and her busy activities in her school can finally help her forget Beth's death and continue her life. It can be seen clearly that Jo succeeds in handling her inner conflict in accepting Beth's death. Jo who firstly cannot accept her sister's death finally realizes that she has to let her go. She realizes that everyone must die one day. None can avoid God's will. It is part of human life. However, Jo herself still has her own life. Therefore, she realizes that what she has to do is to continue her life again and accept Beth's death.

Jo at last realizes that the power of love is very great after she falls in love herself. Love can make someone change drastically. It can make someone feel happy and forget about his/her loneliness like what happens to Jo. Besides, it can make someone develop into a better person. Jo herself realizes that it is very great to be loved by someone like Prof. Bhaer. "Truly, love does work miracles. How very, very happy they must be!" (p.457).

At the end of the story it can be seen clearly that finally Jo's character develops into a better person. She feels that her life is so beautiful. She never feels like that before. She finally can solve all of her problems and conflicts in her life. Besides, she can throw away her loneliness and find her own happiness.

As a summary of my discussion in chapter 3, I can say that Josephine March undergoes some experiences in her life that results in outer and inner conflicts. While trying to solve her conflicts, especially her inner conflicts, she gets insights and realizes her mistakes so that she can improve herself. In her

relationship with her family, especially her sisters, from a person that does not want to forgive she becomes loving and forgiving. From a person that disregards marriage she becomes one that worships marriage. In her relationship with others, especially Laurie, from a person that wants to avoid her love problem, she becomes one that solves the problem so that everyone becomes happy at the end. This proves that Josephine March finally develops into a better person.