

APPENDICES

1. Biography of the author

Louisa May Alcott was born on November 29th, 1832 in Germantown. Her father is Amos Bronson Alcott, an educator and a philosopher; and her mother is Abigail (May) Alcott. Louisa was the second of four sisters. She received most of her education from her father and Henry David Thoreau. She was a normal, warm-hearted, affectionate woman, but had no social graces and no time to acquire them. After all, she was a tough woman. Although, her manuscripts were repeatedly rejected, she never gave up. She never expressed fully the great talents she possessed. She died on March 6th, 1888, in Boston, on the day her father was buried.

She did many jobs such as sewing, teaching at a country school, going into domestic service, and writing; but writing was her best. She started writing at the age of sixteen, but nothing she got for the next fifteen years. She mostly wrote melodramatic, unreal stories for newspapers, and fugitive magazines. There is evidence in much of her work of haste, of writing for money instead of from the urge to write. She wrote famous stories mostly from her experiences. Her book of *Hospital sketches* was made famous after she experienced a great job as a volunteer nurse in the military hospital at Georgetown in 1862. Then, the excellent work *Little women* was made based on her own life. In this case, many said that she began her career as the best-loved American author for the young when she was thirty-five. And the *Little men* was written based on her own nephews.

She was the greatest contribution to American literature. She has given many literature works. Many of her principal works are *Flower fables* (1854), *Hospital sketches* (1863), *Moods* (1864), *Little women* (1867), *An old-fashioned girl* (1869), *Little men* (1871), *Aunt Jo's scrap-bag* (1871-79), *Shawl straps* (1872), *Work* (1873), *Eight cousins* (1874), *Rose in bloom* (1876), *Silver pitchers and other stories* (1876), *A modern Mephistopheles* (1877), *Under the lilacs* (1878), *Jack and Jill* (1880), *Proverb stories* (1882), *Spinning wheel stories* (1884), *Lulu's library* (1885-89), and *Jo's boys* (1886).

2. Synopsis of the novel

The novel, *Little men* (1871), was written as the sequel of the previous Louisa May Alcott's (1832- 1888) phenomenal novel, *Little women* (1868) which was published when she was thirty-five. Jo, the main character in *Little women*, is married to Friedrich (Fritz) Bhaer and has two boys of her own. Jo and Fritz opened a school for boys in Plumfield, they take in all kinds of students, a few orphans and sons of busy fathers including runaways and other street kids, some of them with criminal records. In Plumfield, boys are everywhere, including the musical Nat, book worm Demi Brooke, indestructible Tommy, Dan, adorable Teddy, tedious Rob, Franz, Emile the Commodore, Dick the hunchback, sly Jack, poor Billy, and stuffy George Cole. Nevertheless, do not forget the three girls who arrive later: timid Daisy Brooke, Giddy-Gaddy Nan, and the loveable Bess.

Little men begins with Nat, a new boy, who is docile, serene and submissive, and has the habit of lying due to his feeling of inferiority as an abused child. The Bhaers handle this problem by telling Nat that if he lies again, he will be "punished" in a most unusual manner. Instead of being ferruled, a classic schoolchild punishment, he himself has to strike Mr. Bhaer's unfolded hand with a ruler. The Bhaers has a vision on education that students will learn best not from fear but from love. Love is the primary component for success in Plumfield School. At Plumfield Nat experiences the true happiness and receives much love from people around him; the Bhaers, Mr. Lawrence and friendly friends. Gradually he changes into a better person owing to the friendship, education, love, musical enjoyment and religion/moral lesson he gets at Plumfield.

Throughout the book, the reader can feel the happiness of the lads in studying, playing, working, even quarreling. They learn not only Latin, Greek or Mathematics but also self-knowledge, self-help, and self-control. By the end of the story, the boys' school has become a school for boys and girls and represents an ideal and happy condition of the world.