

**Good Wives by Louisa M. Alcott**

- 1 Student's own answer. (If students have read the previous book about the March sisters, **Little Women**, ask them to base their guesses on what they know of each girl's character and behaviour.)
- 2 Student's own answers based on information available in A Note About the Author on pages 4 and 5.
- 3 Student's own answers. Possible answers:

Ch	Meg	Jo	Beth	Amy
1	– gets married.			
2		– wins a competition for writers.	– has a holiday by the sea.	
3	– has trouble with cooking and money. – has twins, Daisy and Demi.			
4		– visits Aunt March and Mrs Carrol. – is not invited to go to Europe.		– visits Aunt March and Mrs Carrol. – is invited to go to Europe. – goes to Europe.
5		– tells Laurie that she won't marry him. – goes to New York.		
6		– meets Professor Bhaer. – writes stories for <i>The Weekly Volcano</i> and then decides not to do this. – returns home.		
7			– is ill.	– meets Laurie in France. – agrees to marry Laurie.
8		– goes on holiday with Beth.	– goes on holiday with Jo. – tells Jo she is going to die. – goes home, dies.	
9		– makes friends with Laurie again.		– returns home with Laurie.
10		– agrees to marry Professor Bhaer.		
11		– inherits Aunt March's house. – starts a school. – has two children.		– has a daughter.
	– meets all the family for a holiday each October.	– meets all the family for a holiday each October.		– meets all the family for a holiday each October.

4 (a)



4 (b)

Picture number	Suggested sentences
1	Meg bought the dress./ 'I will buy that dress,' she thought.
2	'I'm in love with you, Jo. I've always loved you.'
3	'I love you Amy,' said Laurie quietly. 'I love you very much. Will you marry me?'
4	Then Beth saw a little brown bird walking on the sand./ 'You're the white bird, Jo,' said Beth. 'You're strong and beautiful and you're not afraid of anything.'
5	She (Jo) put her hands into Professor Bhaer's hands./ 'Your hands aren't empty now, my dear,' she said.

- 5 Student's own answers.
- 6 Student's own answers.
- 7 Student's own answers. 'Consumption' or tuberculosis (TB) is probably what Beth died from. In the nineteenth century this was a common, seriously infectious disease of the lungs. Nowadays it is a much rarer disease; it almost disappeared in the UK and USA in the latter part of the twentieth century, but it has reappeared particularly in the poor parts of the cities. (Beth was seriously ill in the first book, **Little Women**, when she had scarlet fever.)
- 8 Student's own answers. Answers to the questions (a), (b), (c) should reflect the differences in character and interests of the four sisters.