



# Point of View and Perspective in *Little Women*



Answer the following questions about point of view and perspective in the adapted excerpt from *Little Women*.

## Sample Answers

1A. Who is narrating the story?

- A. Jo March      B. Louisa May Alcott      C. Jo's family      **D. a narrator outside the story**

1B. What clues in the passage tell you who is narrating the story?

**The author uses names and third-person pronouns like “she” and “her” to describe the thoughts and feelings of multiple characters and to tag the dialogue. The pronoun “I” is not used outside of dialogue. The first and last paragraphs reflect on the story’s characters and events from a more objective viewpoint.**

2. Describe how the author reveals the different characters’ perspectives. Include at least **two** ways.

**The author uses the characters’ dialogue to show what they are thinking and feeling. She also reveals their perspectives by describing what Jo did with her novel in order to please each person.**

3. In the table below, read the various perspectives about Jo’s book as described in the excerpt on page 1. Then write the name of the character who holds that perspective.

Perspective	Character	Perspective	Character
Jo should resist the publishers’ calls to change her novel.	<b>Father (or Meg)</b>	The descriptions are necessary and enjoyable.	<b>Meg</b>
The sad, tragic parts are meaningful and appealing.	<b>Meg</b>	The book has too much description.	<b>Mother</b>
Jo could learn from objective observers’ feelings about the book.	<b>Mother (or Amy)</b>	Jo should change whatever it takes to make as much money as possible.	<b>Amy</b>
The story would be better without the lighthearted parts.	<b>Amy</b>	Whatever edits Jo makes, she should finish them quickly.	<b>Beth</b>

4. Reread the first and last paragraphs of the passage, and describe the narrator’s perspective on either the topic of poverty or the topic of criticism. Cite evidence from the text to support your answer.

**The narrator expresses the perspective that poverty can lead to positive things, such as “the genuine satisfaction that comes from hearty work of head or hand.” At the end of the passage, the narrator expresses the perspective that criticism from trusted sources is valuable, saying, “for those whose opinion had real value gave her the criticism which is an author’s best education.”**