

YOUNG ILLUSTRATOR CLASSICS

Illustration Drawing Briefs

Little Women

by Louisa May Alcott

Chapter XXI · Laurie Makes Mischief, and Jo Makes Peace

1 Full-Page LW-CH21-FP-01	2 Half-Page LW-CH21-HP-02 · LW-CH21-HP-03
5 Corner Ornaments LW-CH21-CO-04 through LW-CH21-CO-08	8 Total Briefs Chapter XXI · Laurie Makes Mischief, and Jo Makes Peace

youngillustratorclassics.com

Technical Specifications — Required for All Submissions

Canvas sizes at 300 DPI (physical art: scan at 600 DPI)

Full page	2700 × 3450 px · 300 DPI	<i>Art must fill edge to edge · include 0.25" bleed on all sides</i>
Half page	2250 × 1425 px · 300 DPI	<i>No bleed needed · sits within text column</i>
Corner ornament	1200 × 1200 px · 300 DPI	<i>PNG with transparent background · no white fill</i>

Accepted file formats

TIFF, PNG, or high-quality JPG (quality 10+)
PSD (Photoshop) also accepted for digital work
Corner ornaments: PNG only (transparent background)

All media welcome

Pencil, ink, watercolor, acrylic, pastel
Digital (Procreate, Photoshop, Illustrator)
Mixed media and collage

Full-Page Illustration

Illustration ID: LW-CH21-FP-01 · Full Page · 2700 × 3450 px

Jo Stranded on the Library Steps

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

Jo has climbed to the top of the rolling library steps to search for a book — and also to avoid having to explain things. Then Mr. Laurence turns round sharply and demands the truth about Laurie. 'He stood at the foot, like a lion in the path, so she had to stay and brave it out.' Jo is perched up high, Rasselas tumbled on the floor below.

Setting The Laurence library — the rolling bookshelf steps, the tall shelves, Mr. Laurence below	Time of day Afternoon	Mood Comic predicament — Jo perched aloft, the lion below, having to talk her way through	Indoor / outdoor Indoors — the library
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CHARACTERS

Jo: at the top of the rolling steps — Rasselas tumbled to the floor. Nowhere to go. Nervous but capable.
Mr. Laurence: at the foot — 'a lion in the path.' Demanding and alarming.

MOOD & FEELING

Comic predicament — Jo literally stranded at the top with the old gentleman blocking her exit.

The library's rich afternoon light — tall shelves on all sides.	Dark book spines, Mr. Laurence's commanding figure below, Jo's tall thin figure perched above.
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MUST INCLUDE ✓ Jo at the top of the library steps — trapped, book just fallen ✓ Mr. Laurence at the foot — 'a lion in the path' ✓ The tall bookcases on either side ✓ The fallen Rasselas on the floor between them	MUST AVOID ✗ Do not make Mr. Laurence frightening — he is formidable but not cruel ✗ Do not make Jo look intimidated — she is nervous but capable
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YOUR CREATIVE FREEDOM

The physical comedy — Jo stranded aloft, the fallen book, the old man below — is the visual key.

Full page	2700 × 3450 px · 300 DPI · with 0.25" bleed	Art must reach all four edges
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Half-Page Illustration · 1 of 2

Illustration ID: LW-CH21-HP-02 · Half Page · 2250 × 1425 px

Jo on Her Knees in the Doorway

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

Jo has gone to make peace with Laurie. He threatens to open the door; she knocks again; the door flies open. Jo 'assumed a contrite expression, and going artistically down upon her knees, said meekly: Please forgive me for being so cross. I came to make it up, and can't go away till I have.' Laurie: 'It's all right. Get up, and don't be a goose, Jo.'

Setting	Focus
Laurie's study — the open doorway, Laurie in the room	Jo on her knees in the doorway — artistically contrite; Laurie trying not to be amused

CHARACTERS

Jo: artistically on her knees in the doorway. She knows this is a performance, and so does Laurie.
Laurie: above her — trying to look stern and failing. He is glad she came.

MOOD & LIGHTING

Pure warm comedy. The tall girl on her knees, the boy above trying to maintain his grievance.

MUST INCLUDE	MUST AVOID
✓ Jo on her knees in the doorway — the theatrical gesture ✓ Laurie above her — trying not to smile ✓ The open doorway — the threshold of the scene	✗ Do not make Jo look genuinely abject — she is 'artistically' contrite, not crushed ✗ Do not make Laurie look angry — he is already softening

YOUR CREATIVE FREEDOM

The tall girl on her knees in the doorway, the boy above trying to maintain his grievance — pure warm comedy.

Half page	2250 × 1425 px · 300 DPI	No bleed required · horizontal orientation
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Half-Page Illustration · 2 of 2

Illustration ID: LW-CH21-HP-03 · Half Page · 2250 × 1425 px

Jo Covers Her Ears

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

Laurie is trying to tempt Jo into running away to Washington with him. Jo looks as if she might agree — then shakes her head. When he persists, she covers both her ears and cries: 'Hold your tongue! Prunes and prisms are my doom, and I may as well make up my mind to it.'

Setting	Focus
Laurie's study — the window, Jo covering her ears	Jo with both hands pressed over her ears — fighting temptation

CHARACTERS

Jo: both hands pressed over her ears, face showing the comedy of someone who can't trust herself to listen.
Laurie: still trying to finish his argument, gesturing — the persuader who has almost won.

MOOD & LIGHTING

The image of someone refusing to listen to their own wishes.

MUST INCLUDE	MUST AVOID
✓ Jo with both hands covering her ears ✓ Her face — the comic expression of someone fighting temptation ✓ Laurie still talking — his persuasion not quite finished	✗ Do not make Jo look merely silly — she is being genuinely tempted ✗ Do not make Laurie look malicious — this is genuinely exciting to him

YOUR CREATIVE FREEDOM

The tall girl with her hands over her ears, the laughing persuader beside her — one of the book's most characteristic Jo-moments.

Half page	2250 × 1425 px · 300 DPI	No bleed required · horizontal orientation
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Corner Ornament Briefs · LW-CH21-CO-04 through LW-CH21-CO-08

Corner ornaments are square decorative illustrations that sit in the corners of chapter pages. Each is 1200 × 1200 px (4 inches), saved as a PNG with a transparent background. Keep it simple and clear — these are for artists of all ages, including young children. Draw one object or idea from the story. Make it bold and easy to see.

Illustration ID: LW-CH21-CO-04 · Corner Ornament · 1200 × 1200 px

A Sealed Note in a Florid Hand

WHAT TO DRAW

Draw a sealed letter with a wax seal — the address written in an overly fancy, romantic-looking handwriting on the front. This is the mischievous forged note Laurie wrote pretending to be Mr. Brooke!

INCLUDE

- ✓ A sealed letter — wax seal visible
- ✓ The address in a very florid, over-the-top hand
- ✓ Something theatrical and slightly wrong about it

FEEL

Mischief masquerading as romance — clearly overdone.

ARTIST TIP

Florid handwriting looks great as large looping letters with big flourishes and swirls — the more dramatic the better!

Illustration ID: LW-CH21-CO-05 · Corner Ornament · 1200 × 1200 px

A Scrap of Paper with a Name Practiced

WHAT TO DRAW

Draw a small scrap of paper with 'Mrs. John Brooke' written on it — written several times, as if being practiced. Jo found this in Meg's desk and was horrified!

INCLUDE

- ✓ A scrap of paper
- ✓ The name 'Mrs. John Brooke' written — clearly practiced
- ✓ The handwriting careful and slightly self-conscious

FEEL

A private hope written down — and discovered.

ARTIST TIP

Practiced handwriting looks great with the same name written two or three times, each slightly different as if trying to get it just right!

A Railroad Map

WHAT TO DRAW

Draw a folded railroad map spread open on a desk — with routes and lines visible across it. After the quarrel, Laurie sits brooding with this map — planning where he might go.

INCLUDE

- ✓ A folded railroad map spread open
- ✓ Routes and lines crossing the map
- ✓ The impression of restless planning

FEEL

Restless and dreaming — a map for someone who wants to be somewhere else.

ARTIST TIP

Railroad lines on a map look great as straight lines with tiny cross-hatches to show the tracks!

A Formal Apology Note

WHAT TO DRAW

Draw a short, stiff formal note — clearly written by someone who found it a little difficult to write. This is Mr. Laurence's written apology to Laurie — Jo's diplomatic triumph!

INCLUDE

- ✓ A short note — clearly formal and stiff
 - ✓ The writing dignified
- ✓ The impression of self-discipline in every line

FEEL

A proud person doing the right thing — even when it is not easy.

ARTIST TIP

A stiff formal note looks great with very even, careful writing — as if each word was chosen with great care!

Laurie Sliding Down the Banisters

WHAT TO DRAW

Draw a young man mid-slide on a staircase banister — hands behind him, face cheerful, the landing below. This is how Laurie shows that all is well again — sliding down the banisters just because he can!

INCLUDE

- ✓ A figure mid-slide on a banister
- ✓ Clearly enjoying it — face cheerful
- ✓ The staircase around them — the landing below

FEEL

Pure good humor — everything is all right again and here is the proof.

ARTIST TIP

A sliding figure looks great when tilted at a fun angle — leaning back with the feet pointing forward!

All corner ornaments

1200 × 1200 px · 300 DPI · transparent
PNG

*White background will show as a
box — must be PNG with
transparency*