YOUNG ILLUSTRATOR CLASSICS

Illustration Drawing Briefs

Little Women

by Louisa May Alcott

Chapter XXIII · Aunt March Settles the Question

1 Full-Page LW-CH23-FP-01	**2 Half-Page** LW-CH23-HP-02 · LW-CH23-HP-03
5 Corner Ornaments LW-CH23-CO-04 through LW-CH23-CO-08	**8 Total Briefs** Chapter XXIII · Aunt March Settles the Question

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Please Note: Illustrations with strikethrough text have already been filled. For an overview of illustrations still available, please download the Cheat Sheet at 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	*Art must fill edge to edge · include 0.25" bleed on all sides*
Half page	2250 × 1425 px · 300 DPI	*No bleed needed · sits within text column*
Corner ornament	1200 × 1200 px · 300 DPI	*PNG with transparent background · no white fill*

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-CH23-FP-01 · Full Page · 2700 × 3450 px

Jo's Face at the Parlor Door

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

Jo has been confident that Meg has sent Mr. Brooke away. She opens the parlor door — and finds 'the aforesaid enemy serenely sitting on the sofa, with the strong-minded sister enthroned upon his knee.' Jo gives 'a sort of gasp, as if a cold shower-bath had suddenly fallen upon her' and stands with 'her mouth nearly as wide open as her eyes.'

Setting	Time of day	Mood	Indoor / outdoor
The March parlor doorway — Jo at the threshold, the scene inside revealed	Afternoon — the same day as Aunt March's visit	Jo's shock — the most comically horrified face in the book	Indoors — the parlor doorway

CHARACTERS

Jo: in the doorway — mouth and eyes equally wide. Her confident prediction spectacularly wrong.
Meg: on the sofa — looking happy and a little proud.
Mr. Brooke: actually laughing, saying: 'Sister Jo, congratulate us!'

MOOD & FEELING

Jo's face at the doorway — the exact expression of someone whose confident prediction has been magnificently wrong.

Afternoon parlor — the ordinary warm room, the sofa scene revealed.	Meg's happy face, Mr. Brooke's calm satisfaction, Jo's absolute astonishment.

MUST INCLUDE

- ✓ Jo in the doorway — mouth open, eyes wide
- ✓ Meg on the sofa — happy and slightly proud
- ✓ Mr. Brooke beside her — calm and amused
- ✓ The parlor's ordinary afternoon setting

MUST AVOID

- ✗ Do not make Jo's expression angry — it is pure astonished shock
- ✗ Do not make Meg look guilty — she is proud and shy
- ✗ Do not make Mr. Brooke look triumphant — he laughs coolly

YOUR CREATIVE FREEDOM

Jo's face at the doorway — the exact expression of someone magnificently wrong — is the chapter's great visual moment.

Full page	2700 × 3450 px · 300 DPI · with 0.25" bleed	*Art must reach all four edges*

Half-Page Illustration · 1 of 2

Illustration ID: LW-CH23-HP-02 · Half Page · 2250 × 1425 px

Mr. Brooke Holds Meg's Hand

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

Meg has put out her hand to thank Mr. Brooke for his kindness. 'Shall I tell you how?' he asks — holding her small hand fast in both his own, looking down at her with so much love in his brown eyes that her heart begins to flutter. She longs to run away and to stop and listen at the same time.

Setting	Focus
The March parlor — Meg and Mr. Brooke, the hand held in both of his	Mr. Brooke's two hands holding Meg's one small hand — looking down at her with love in his brown eyes

CHARACTERS

Mr. Brooke: holding her small hand in both of his, bending slightly toward her. 'Shall I tell you how?'
Meg: face showing the flutter — she both wants to run and wants to stay.

MOOD & LIGHTING

The two hands holding one small one — the gesture of the whole love story.

MUST INCLUDE	MUST AVOID
✓ Mr. Brooke's two hands holding Meg's one small hand ✓ His eyes looking down at her — 'so much love in the brown eyes' ✓ Meg's face — the flutter between fleeing and staying	✗ Do not make Meg look decided — she is 'longing to run away and to stop and listen' at once ✗ Do not make Mr. Brooke look pressing — he is looking, not pursuing

YOUR CREATIVE FREEDOM

The two hands holding one small one — the gesture of the whole love story.

Half page	2250 × 1425 px · 300 DPI	*No bleed required · horizontal orientation*

Half-Page Illustration · 2 of 2

Illustration ID: LW-CH23-HP-03 · Half Page · 2250 × 1425 px

Aunt March Arrives with Her Cane

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

At the most critical moment — Meg just beginning to relent — Aunt March 'came hobbling in at this interesting minute.' She finds a pale young gentleman (vanished into the study) and a scarlet young lady (Meg, crimson). 'Bless me, what's all this?' Then she proceeds to lecture Meg so firmly against Mr. Brooke that she accidentally inspires Meg to defend him with sudden passion.

Setting	Focus
The March parlor doorway — Aunt March arriving with her cane, Meg scarlet	Aunt March hobbling in — her rap of the cane, her sharp eyes, the scene before her

CHARACTERS

Aunt March: 'with a rap of her cane.' Sharp eyes, imperious air, clearly seeing everything.
Meg: 'scarlet' — embarrassed and suddenly becoming defiant.

MOOD & LIGHTING

The comic fulcrum of the book — the old lady who accidentally does the opposite of what she intends.

MUST INCLUDE	MUST AVOID
✓ Aunt March hobbling in with her cane — imperious ✓ Her sharp glance taking in the scene ✓ Meg scarlet — embarrassment becoming defiance ✓ The parlor with its signs of the interrupted moment	✗ Do not make Aunt March look unkind — she is formidable and wrong but not malicious ✗ Do not make Meg look crushed — she is about to stand up for herself ✗ Do not omit the cane — 'a rap of her cane' is Aunt March's signature

YOUR CREATIVE FREEDOM

The old lady with her cane, about to do the opposite of what she intends — the comic fulcrum of the whole book.

Half page	2250 × 1425 px · 300 DPI	*No bleed required · horizontal orientation*

Corner Ornament Briefs · LW-CH23-CO-04 through LW-CH23-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-CH23-CO-04 · Corner Ornament · 1200 × 1200 px

Laurie's Dramatic Performance in the Snow

WHAT TO DRAW

Draw Laurie kneeling in the snow with both hands clasped dramatically — wringing an imaginary handkerchief, his face a picture of theatrical anguish. When Meg told him the news, he put on a complete melodrama in the snow!

INCLUDE	✓ Laurie kneeling dramatically in the snow ✓ Hands clasped or wringing an imaginary handkerchief ✓ His face: theatrical anguish — completely over-the-top
FEEL	*Pure theatrical excess — performed entirely for comedy.*
ARTIST TIP	Theatrical anguish looks great with the head thrown back slightly and the hands clasped at the heart!

~~Illustration ID: LW-CH23-CO-05 · Corner Ornament · 1200 × 1200 px~~

~~A Plain Umbrella in a Hallway~~

~~WHAT TO DRAW~~

~~Draw a plain gentleman's umbrella leaning or standing in a hallway — slightly damp from the weather. This is Mr. Brooke's umbrella, left behind when he came to see the Marches!~~

~~INCLUDE~~	~~✓ A plain gentleman's umbrella — in a hallway ✓ Slightly damp — recently brought in from outside ✓ Leaning against a wall or in a stand~~
~~FEEL~~	~~*A quiet promise to return — something left behind on purpose.*~~
~~ARTIST TIP~~	~~An umbrella looks elegant from a slight angle — you can see both the curved handle and the tapering tip!~~

Illustration ID: LW-CH23-CO-06 · Corner Ornament · 1200 × 1200 px

A Large Bridal-Looking Bouquet

WHAT TO DRAW

Draw a large, exuberant, very fancy bouquet of white flowers — clearly over-the-top for the occasion! Laurie arrives with this 'great bridal-looking bouquet for Mrs. John Brooke' — quite convinced he arranged the whole engagement himself.

INCLUDE	✓ A very large white bouquet — clearly bridal-looking ✓ Elaborate and over-the-top for the occasion ✓ The impression of someone very pleased with themselves
FEEL	*Joyful and slightly self-important — presented by someone who is sure he deserves the credit.*
ARTIST TIP	A large bouquet looks most impressive when it is wide and full — draw lots of flowers overlapping in a big round shape!

Illustration ID: LW-CH23-CO-07 · Corner Ornament · 1200 × 1200 px

Jo and Laurie in the Long Mirror

WHAT TO DRAW

Draw a mirror reflection: Jo sits in a low chair, and Laurie leans over the back of her chair — his chin at the level of her curly head — both reflected in a tall mirror. This is the last image of the whole first part of Little Women.

INCLUDE	✓ Jo in a low chair ✓ Laurie leaning over the chair back — chin at her curly head level ✓ Both reflected in a tall mirror — the reflection is the image
FEEL	*True friendship — two people comfortable enough to just be side by side.*
ARTIST TIP	Mirror reflections look wonderful when you draw both the real figures and their mirror images — slightly lighter in the mirror!

Illustration ID: LW-CH23-CO-08 · Corner Ornament · 1200 × 1200 px

A Face Hidden in a Waistcoat

WHAT TO DRAW

Draw the side of a head with soft brown hair pressed against a gentleman's waistcoat — a face hidden in the fabric. This is Meg whispering 'Yes, John' and hiding her face against Mr. Brooke's coat. The most private moment of the chapter.

INCLUDE	✓ A face hidden against a gentleman's waistcoat — the hair visible ✓ Just the side of the head showing — pressed into the fabric ✓ The impression of something decided and tender
FEEL	*Everything settled — the quietest and most private kind of yes.*
ARTIST TIP	A face pressed into cloth looks most real when you show the fabric slightly pressed down where the head leans — fabric responds to weight!

All corner ornaments	1200 × 1200 px · 300 DPI · transparent PNG	*White background will show as a box — must be PNG with transparency*