

# Let's Talk About ...

## NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY



“Books written for children are intrinsically humanizing to any reader and are no less affecting than books written exclusively for adults. Adults also enjoy reading again books they loved as children.” – Elizabeth R. Baer, for the American Library Association, 1984

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### Featured book:

**Little Women** by Louisa May Alcott (1968) is an enduring book that yields some startling insights into nineteenth century American life when one reads it as an adult. The novel has never been out of print since its initial publication in 1868, and it has been translated into no less than 27 languages. How to account for such longstanding appeal? Jo, in her feisty rebellion against the shackles of girlhood, is a character with whom all readers, especially girls, can identify. The novel raises still-valid questions about options and roles for women and also demonstrates the strides toward equality women have achieved in the past century. The novel was an instant success and became the precursor of the realistic family novel (*Source: Theme pamphlet by Elizabeth R. Baer, for American Library Association, 1984*).

### Discussion Questions:

 [compiled from Let's Talk About It program scholars]

- Which character do you most closely identify and why?
- Does this book have appeal to modern teens? What are the enduring qualities of the book?
- If you read this book as a child, how do you relate differently to it as an adult? Share a personal experience of reading the book as a child.
- What makes this book memorable to you? Would you recommend it to someone to read?



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