



WOODHOUSE GROVE SCHOOL

English Entrance Exam 11+

Reading section

Complete in pen on lined paper. Write your full name on each piece of lined paper used.

You should spend 20 minutes on this section.

Writing section

Complete in pen on a separate piece of paper.

You should spend 5 minutes planning and 20 minutes writing.

You should spend 5 minutes reading the extract below and then answer the questions, listed on the next page, on the lined paper provided.

Extract from *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott

"Christmas won't be Christmas without any presents," grumbled Jo, lying on the rug.

"It's so dreadful to be poor!" sighed Meg, looking down at her old dress.

"I don't think it's fair for some girls to have plenty of pretty things, and other girls nothing at all," added little Amy, with an injured sniff.

- 5 "We've got Father and Mother, and each other," said Beth contentedly from her corner.

The four young faces on which the firelight shone brightened at the cheerful words, but darkened again as Jo said sadly:

"We haven't got Father, and shall not have him for a long time." She didn't say "perhaps never," but each silently added it, thinking of Father far away, where the fighting was.

- 10 Nobody spoke for a minute; then Meg said in an altered tone:

"You know the reason Mother proposed not having any presents this Christmas was because it's going to be a hard winter for everyone; and she thinks we ought not to spend money for pleasure, when our men are suffering so in the army. We can't do much, but we can make our little sacrifices, and ought to do it gladly. But I am afraid I don't."

- 15 And Meg shook her head, as she thought regretfully of all the pretty things she wanted.

"But I don't think the little we should spend would do any good. We've each got a dollar, and the army wouldn't be much helped by our giving that. I agree not to expect anything from Mother or you, but I do want to buy *Undine and Sintram* for myself. I've wanted it so long," said Jo, who was a bookworm.

- 20 "I planned to spend mine on some new music," said Beth, with a little sigh, which no one heard but the hearth-brush and kettle-holder.

"I shall get a nice box of Faber's drawing pencils. I really need them," said Amy decidedly.

"Mother didn't say anything about our money, and she won't wish us to give up everything. Let's each buy what we want, and have a little fun. I'm sure we work hard enough to earn it,"

- 25 cried Jo.

Glossary (words you might not know):

“Undine and Sintram” – the name of a book by a French writer

“hearth-brush” - a brush used to clean the tiled area around an open fire/wood burner

Reading Questions

Write your answers in full sentences on the lined paper provided.

1. What does Jo say at the start about Christmas without presents? Use words from the extract in your answer. (1 mark)
2. How does Amy feel about other girls having “plenty of pretty things”? (line 3-4) (1 mark)
3. What is Beth’s reason for feeling content? Use your own words. (2 marks)
4. Why is their father not with them? (line 8-9) (1 mark)
5. What book does Jo want to buy with her dollar? (1 mark)
6. Why do you think Meg shakes her head when talking about making sacrifices? (Around line 15) (2 marks)
7. How does Jo’s suggestion at the end reflect her personality? Use evidence to support your answer. (2 marks)
8. Which sister do you most prefer? Use an example from the extract to justify your answer. (3 marks)
9. What do Beth and Amy’s choice of presents in lines 20-22 show about their interests? Include at least one example from the text in your answer. (4 marks)

Writing section

Spend 5 minutes planning and then 20 minutes writing.

Use a new piece of lined paper and write your full name at the top.

Choose **ONE** of the questions below to answer. You should write in full sentences and paragraphs and will be marked on the development of your ideas and your accuracy. You should write between half a side, and a side on the paper provided.

1. Write the beginning of a story with the opening line, "Christmas won't be Christmas without any presents...".

OR

2. Is it better to give presents or receive them? Explain your views.

OR

3. "Let's each buy what we want, and have a little fun." Describe your ideal present and the impact it would have on your life.