

Blizzard Bag

8th grade Literature

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING EXCERPT FROM THE CLASSIC NOVEL, *LITTLE WOMEN*.
ANSWER THE QUESTIONS FOUND BELOW.

Little Women

by Louisa May Alcott

Beth, Meg, and Jo March are the daughters of Mrs. March. Their next-door neighbor is an elderly, rich man named Mr. Laurence, who is raising his grandson, Laurie. Beth is very shy and perceives Mr. Laurence to be a grumpy man.

Beth Finds the Palace Beautiful

But Beth, though yearning for the grand piano, could not **pluck up** courage to go to the 'Mansion of Bliss,' as Meg called it. She went once with Jo, but the old gentleman, not being aware of her infirmity, stared at her so hard from under his heavy eyebrows, and said "Hey!" so loud, that he frightened her so much her 'feet chattered on the floor,' she never told her mother, and she ran away, declaring she would never go there any more, not even for the dear piano.

No persuasions or enticements could overcome her fear, till, the fact coming to Mr. Laurence's ear in some mysterious way, he set about mending matters. During one of the brief calls he made, he artfully led the conversation to music, and talked away about great singers whom he had seen, fine organs he had heard, and told such charming anecdotes that Beth found it impossible to stay in her distant corner, but crept nearer and nearer, as if fascinated. At the back of his chair she stopped and stood listening, with her great eyes wide open and her cheeks red with excitement of this unusual performance. Taking no more notice of her than if she had been a fly, Mr. Laurence talked on about Laurie's lessons and teachers. And presently, as if the idea had just occurred to him, he said to Mrs. March:

"The boy neglects his music now, and I'm glad of it, for he was getting too fond of it. But the piano suffers for want of use. Wouldn't some of your girls like to run over, and practice on it now and then, just to keep it in tune, you know, ma'am?"

Beth took a step forward, and pressed her hands tightly together to keep from clapping them, for this was an irresistible temptation, and the thought of practicing on that splendid instrument quite took her breath away. Before Mrs. March could reply, Mr. Laurence went on with an odd little nod and smile. "They needn't see or speak to anyone, but run in at any time. For I'm shut up in my study at the other end of the house, Laurie is out a great deal, and the servants are never near the drawing room after nine o'clock."

Here he rose, as if going, and Beth made up her mind to speak, for that last arrangement left nothing to be desired. "Please, tell the young ladies what I say, and if they don't care to come, why, never mind." Here a little hand slipped into his, and Beth looked up at him with a face full of gratitude, as she said, in her earnest yet timid way.

"Oh sir, they do care, very very much!"

"Are you the musical girl?" he asked, without any startling "Hey!" as he looked down at her very kindly.

"I'm Beth. I love it dearly, and I'll come, if you are quite sure nobody will hear me, and be disturbed," she added, fearing to be rude, and trembling at her own boldness as she spoke.

"Not a soul, my dear. The house is empty half the day, so come and drum away as much as you like, and I shall be obliged to you."

"How kind you are, sir!"

1. Which statement **best** summarizes the central idea of the passage?

- A. Beth is not able to learn the piano without assistance.
- B. Beth wants to practice her music in front of her neighbors.
- C. Beth wants to try new things to please her family.
- D. Beth is able to overcome her fear to pursue something she loves.

2. Closely reread this sentence from lines 1–2 of the passage:

In this sentence, "yearning" most clearly means

- A. reaching
- B. desiring
- C. pushing
- D. worrying

3. Go back to the passage and closely reread this sentence from lines 7–8:
"No persuasions or enticements ..."

What effect does this sentence provide the reader as the story develops?

- A. The reader believes that what is happening at the house is mysterious.
- B. The reader remains unaware that Mr. Laurence typically helps his neighbors.
- C. The reader thinks that Mr. Laurence will not succeed even though he tries.
- D. The reader understands Mr. Laurence's intentions even though Beth does not.

4. In paragraph #4, find the passage that illustrates how Beth feels about Mr. Laurence's generous offer. Quote the passage in your answer and describe in your own words how Beth is feeling at this moment in the story. Your response should be at least 4-6 sentences in length.

5. How do you know that Mr. Laurence is a wealthy man? Site at least 2 examples from the text and explain each one. Your response should be at least 4-6 sentences in length.

Bizzard Bag Alliteration

Mrs. Mason- Literature 7th/8th

1. Select one alliteration tongue twister from the list below and illustrate it on a sheet of 8 1/2 X 11 paper (printer paper is fine). Remember to write your chosen alliteration tongue twister at the top of your illustration.
 2. Complete two twisters of your own by choosing one of these ideas:
 - Create alliteration twisters about famous people with whom you are familiar.
 - Create alliteration twisters about popular products you use.
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- **Angela Abigail Applewhite ate anchovies and artichokes.**
 - **Bertha Bartholomew blew big, blue bubbles.**
 - **Clever Clifford Cutter clumsily closed the closet clasps.**
 - **Dwayne Diddle drew a drawing of dreaded Dracula.**
 - **Elmer Elwood eluded elven elderly elephants.**
 - **Floyd Flingle flipped flat flapjacks.**
 - **Greta Gruber grabbed a group of green grapes.**
 - **Hattie Henderson hated happy healthy hippos.**
 - **Ida Ivy identified the ivory iris.**
 - **Julie Jackson juggled the juicy, jiggly jello.**
 - **Karl Kessler kept the ketchup in the kitchen.**
 - **Lila Ledbetter lugged a lot of little lemons.**
 - **Milton Mallard mailed a mangled mango.**
 - **Norris Newton never needed new noodles.**
 - **Patsy planter plucked plump, purple, plastic plums.**
 - **Quinella Quist quite quickly quelled the quarreling quartet.**
 - **Randy Rathbone wrapped a rather rare red rabbit.**
 - **Shelly Sherman shivered in a sheer, short, shirt.**
 - **Trina Tweety tripped two twittering twins under a twiggy tree.**
 - **Uri Udall usually used his unique, unusual unicycle.**
 - **Vicky Vinc viewed a very valuable vase.**
 - **Walter Whipple warily warned the weary warrior.**
 - **Xerxes Xenon expected to xerox extra x-rays.**
 - **Yolana Yvonne Yarger yodeled up yonder yesterday.**
 - **Zigmund Zane zig-zagged through the zany zoo zone.**

Blizzard Bag- Mason

7th /8th grade- Day 3

Please write a two- three paragraph essay using the following prompt:

Since you have received an unexpected snow day, I would love to know how you spent your day. Please describe all the events of the day from morning until bedtime. Instead of using "I" and "me", make it a 3rd person narrative. For example, my essay would begin:

"When Mrs. Mason awoke to the sound of an incoming text from WKYC, she knew Baxter would have a constant companion for the day".

Have fun writing!