LITTLE WOMEN

Summer 2020

**Third Class: July 23**

**Theme: “Money, Power, Autonomy, Imagination, Aesthetic”**

**Agenda:**

* 1. Assignment for next week: (“Reaching their Potential While Accepting Limitations”)
  2. Brief Presentations: a) Language; b) Film vs Text; c) script/direction
  3. Break-Out Group Discussions: characters in film & book
  4. Break-Out Group Discussions: issues in film & book
  5. General Discussion: Greta Gerwig’s intentions
  6. General Discussion: Contributions film makes to development and advancement of Alcott’s Ideas
  7. Discussion: Overall critique of film / impact
  8. Film Buffs’ Special Forum: Share what you prefer in earlier versions of Little Women.

1. **Assignment for July 30: “Reaching their Potential, Accepting their Limitations.”**

Read: Part II, Chapters 22-33, pp 233-35.

1. **Presentations: Language:** Dialogue & Side Conversations, Figurative Language

**The Power of Book vs Power of Film: Filters**

**Observations on Script / Direction**

1. **Discussions: Film and Book: Characters** 
   1. **Group One:** Marmee and Father and Laurie and Hannah
   2. **Group Two:** Meg and Amy and Aunt March
   3. **Group Three:** Jo, and Beth, and Mr. Laurence
      * Prior questions: What’s your “take” on characters?
      * What do you want to be sure everyone in seminar understands about them?
      * What questions do you have about them?
      * ADD: In what ways does the film match/vary from your earlier “takes”?
2. **Discussion: Film and Book: Issues**
   1. **Groups One, Two and Three:**
      * How does the film address the dilemmas they face and the choices they have?
      * How does the film address their growing individuation?
      * Are there ways in which the film introduces choices you had not noticed/cared about?
3. **Discussion: MODERNITY: Gerwig wanted the film to be “modern.”**
   1. In what ways does the film proceed in ways that are different from earlier versions?
   2. In what ways does the film adapt the book to the present moment?
4. **Discussion: Overall Critique**
   1. What did you admire?
   2. What did you wish were different?
   3. What scene would you have added: (e.g. My favorite scenes) Jo and Laurie and Mr. L. re getting along together after Laurie’s mischief (sending bogus “love letter” from Mr. Brook). Too long for the film, but it tells a lot about Laurie and Jo and Mr. L.—and men and women and pride. (pp. 206-12)