



TeachersFirst READING TREKS

So Many Beginnings: A Little Women Remix

Teacher Guide

Access Reading
Trek Map

Grade Level & Content Areas

Ages: 13–18

Grades: 9–12

Reading Level: 7th grade

Lexile Measure: 1010L

ATOS Level: 6.9

Developmental Reading

Assessment (DRA): N/A

Content Areas: English/language arts, reading, literature, and social studies (including individual development, identity, history, and geography, and social justice).

Synopsis of Book

Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy live in a community of newly emancipated people on Roanoke Island, just outside the Union camp at Fort Raleigh, during the Civil War. As the four sisters mature and blossom, developing their own unique talents that touch the lives of others, a colony emerges—its vibrant culture largely unrecognized by much of society. Love and loss, sickness and healing, and new adventures bring these sisters even closer as they follow their dreams in a world they never dreamed was possible before the war.

Standards

Common Core State Standards for 6–12

Reading: Literature

- Key Ideas and Details
- Craft and Structure
- Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

Writing

- Text Types and Purposes
- Research to Build and Present Knowledge

National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies

- Theme 1: CULTURE
- Theme 2: TIME, CONTINUITY, AND CHANGE
- Theme 5: INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND INSTITUTIONS
- Theme 6: POWER, AUTHORITY, AND

National Core Arts Standards for Visual Arts

- CREATING

National Core Music Standards

- RESPONDING
- CONNECTING

Social Justice Standards

- Identity
- Diversity
- Justice

Using a TeachersFirst® Reading Trek to Explore This Book

TeachersFirst Reading Treks create a virtual field trip of resources about a piece of literature or a text using the My Maps feature of Google Maps. To motivate and enrich student reading, teachers and students can reference this visual collection of web resources and images as they relate to the contents of a book.

TeachersFirst has done the hard work for you! Use the activities in this teacher guide and the accompanying [Reading Trek map](#) as you and your students explore this book. And, if you feel inspired, you (or your students) can create your own Reading Trek about this or another book!

Using This Reading Trek in Class

Below is a list of ideas for how to use this Reading Trek in your educational setting.

Working with the Map:

1. Introduce the book to the whole class on an interactive whiteboard by highlighting the various layers of the [Reading Trek map](#).
2. As a character study, use the Identity Iceberg ([TeachersFirst review](#)) mini lesson to create an iceberg graphic for one of the sisters and one of the lesser characters.
3. People need to understand their culture and history to reach their full potential. In storytelling, a soliloquy or monologue is one avenue for sharing this information with others.

Have students draft two soliloquies: one from a character in the story's perspective and one about themselves. Students can record themselves reading their character's soliloquy on their devices using FlexClip ([TeachersFirst review](#)), then share it with the class. The second soliloquy should only be shared with the teacher, as it likely includes personal, private feelings. It can be submitted using your school's LMS.

- Using Google Drawings ([TeachersFirst review](#)) and context clues from the story, have students draw the floor plan of the March family home, including the furniture. Alternatively, they can draw floor plans for the Big House on the mainland.
- The National Park Service created a [map](#) that compares the locations of contraband camps and government farms during the Civil War to the population of enslaved people by county in 1860, before the war began. Have students write a “day in the life” story of an emancipated person from one of these areas, touching on the excitement and fears they experienced. Using this writing as a base, students can create a six or nine-panel storyboard using Canva Comic Strip Templates ([TeachersFirst review](#)).
- There is great debate about the relationship between perception and reality. In the novel, there are several groups whose perceptions of Freedpeople’s needs drove actions that created more obstacles and alienated others rather than bringing them together. The Union Army, American Missionary Association, and American Colonization Society all helped and impeded emancipated people as they explored their freedom. Working collaboratively, students can identify such situations in the text and use Stickies.io ([TeachersFirst review](#)) to suggest alternative actions that would have truly helped.

Extension Activities:

- Compare life in the Freedpeople’s Colony of Roanoke Island with contraband camps, including how and where freedpeople lived, their living conditions, and their wage-earning opportunities. Students can use FigJam, the online collaborative whiteboard in Figma ([TeachersFirst review](#)), to add information and vote on others’ ideas.
- Using [The Citizen Project’s Freedmen’s School resources](#), students can complete background reading and watch a video regarding these schools’ impact on individual lives and destinies. Students can answer the discussion question in the Q&A anonymously using Vevox ([TeachersFirst review](#)).
- Even before the Union army officially laid out the colony on Roanoke Island, the freedpeople living in the area established a church and a school—an act of hope in fruition. After listening to “[Children We Shall All Be Free](#),” ask students to write a response to the sense of hope in the song.
- Hope and aspirations are motivators. In this activity, students choose one of the primary characters, identify that individual’s hopes, and create a Dream Board—a list of long-term goals. They can create it digitally using DesignCap’s Free Infographic Maker ([TeachersFirst review](#)) or draw it on paper using the medium of their choice.
- Theaters use playbills to promote current and upcoming shows. Have students create a playbill or poster for Amy’s dance recitals using one of the Canva ([TeachersFirst review](#)) marketing poster templates.
- In the story, Beth designs and creates several items for her sisters to wear. Ask students to use Scribble Diffusion ([TeachersFirst review](#)) to draw their interpretation of one of these creations.

Helpful Resources

From TeachersFirst:

- [TeachersFirst CurriConnects Book List - Maps](#)
- [TeachersFirst Review of Google My Maps](#)
- [OK2Ask: Google My Maps Basics](#)
- [OK2Ask: Engage & Inspire with Reading Treks](#)

Other Resources:

- [Bethany Morrow's Website](#)
- [Discussion Guide](#)
- [The Roanoke Island Freedmen's Colony](#)
- ["The Freedmen's Colony of Roanoke Island" video](#)
- ["The Freedmen's Colony" video](#)
- [The Freedmen's Colony on Roanoke Island](#)
- [Corinth Contraband Camp](#)
- ["The Corinth Contraband Camp" video](#)
- ["Music of Enslavement and Emancipation" video](#)
- ["Families of US Colored Troops" video](#)
- [Black Men in Navy Blue During the Civil War](#)
- [The Foundations of Liberia](#)