

Read the following letter and answer the questions below.

My Dear Miss Churchill,

I can only say to you as I do to the many young writers who ask for advice—There is no *easy* road to successful authorship; it has to be earned by long & patient labor, many disappointments, uncertainties & trials. Success is often a lucky accident, coming to those who may not deserve it, while others who do have to wait & hope till they have *earned* it. This is the best sort & the most enduring.

I worked for twenty years poorly paid, little known, & quite without any ambition but to eke out a living, as I chose to support myself & began to do it at sixteen. This long drill was of use, & when I wrote Hospital Sketches by the beds of my soldier boys in the shape of letters home I had no idea that I was taking the first step toward what is called fame. It nearly cost my life but I discovered the secret of winning the ear & touching the heart of the public by simply telling the comic & pathetic incidents of life.

Little Women was written when I was ill, & to prove that I could *not* write books for girls. The publisher thought it *flat*, so did I, & neither hoped much for or from it. We found out our mistake, & since then, though I do not enjoy writing “moral tales” for the young, I do it because it pays well. But the success I value most was making my dear mother happy in her last years & taking care of my family. The rest soon grows wearisome & seems very poor beside the comfort of being an earthly Providence to those we love.

I hope you will win this joy at least, & think you *will*, for you seem to have got on well so far, & the stories are better than many sent me. I like the short one best. Lively tales of home-life or children go well, & the Youth’s Companion is a good paying paper. I do not like Loring as he is neither honest nor polite. I have had dealings with him & know. Try Roberts Brothers 299 Washington St. They are very kind & just & if the book suits will give it a fair chance. With best wishes for a prosperous & happy New Year I am your friend

L.M.A.

1. Who is the recipient of this letter?

a. Miss Churchill.

- b. (Louisa May Alcott) L.M.A.
 - c. None of the above.
- 2. What is the topic of the letter?
 - a. New Year's wishes.
 - b. Providing writing advice.
 - c. Catching up with a friend.
- 3. The road to success in writing is...
 - a. Hard and bitter.
 - b. Completely dependent on chance.
 - c. Hard sometimes, but rewarding.
- 4. How old was Louisa May Alcott when she began writing?
 - a. The letter doesn't say.
 - b. 20.
 - c. 16.
- 5. How did she find fame?
 - a. By telling lively tales of home-life or children.
 - b. By telling stories about the comic & pathetic incidents of life.
 - c. By writing "moral tales" for the young.
- 6. What does Louisa May Alcott think of her own work?
 - a. She enjoys it, and is very successful.
 - b. She enjoys it, but is not yet successful.
 - c. She doesn't enjoy it, but is very successful.

7. Why does Louisa May Alcott keep on writing “moral tales” for the young?
- a. To make a living.
 - b. Because it brings her fame.
 - c. Because she enjoys it.
8. According to her, what is her biggest success in life?
- a. Achieving fame.
 - b. The publishing of *Little Women*.
 - c. Making her mother happy and taking care of her family.
9. What does she think of Miss Churchill’s writing?
- a. It’s quite good.
 - b. It’s excellent.
 - c. It’s very poor.
10. Youth’s Companion, Loring and Roberts Brothers are likely?
- a. Book titles.
 - b. Book publishers.
 - c. Famous authors.