

Louisa M. Alcott

# Little Men

Retold for easy reading

Для учнів середнього  
та старшого шкільного віку

Тернопіль



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Луїза Мей Олькотт (1832–1888) — відома американська письменниця, автор популярних, проникнутих ідеєю добра і довір'я до дитини книг “Little Women” та “Little Men”. У них розповідається про виховання дітей у звичайній американській родині та про часто непрості стосунки між ними та вихователями у приватній школі.

Дана книга є адаптованим варіантом роману “Little Men” і рекомендується для школярів середнього і старшого віку, студентів, учителів, вихователів.

Робота з цією книгою дасть учителеві змогу розвивати в учнів навички читання та усного мовлення, зробить цікавішим вивчення та закріплення граматичного матеріалу, значною мірою поповнить словниковий запас учнів.

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Надруковано в Україні

# Little Men

## Chapter 1. Nat

“Please, sir, is this Plumfield?” asked a ragged boy of the man, who opened the great gate at which the omnibus left him.

“Yes, who sent you?”

“Mr. Laurence. I have got a letter for the lady”.

“All right, give it to her”.

The man spoke pleasantly and the boy went on, feeling much cheered by the words. Through the soft spring rain Nat saw a large square house before him, with an old porch, wide steps and lights shining in many windows. Nat saw many little shadows dancing on the walls, heard the hum of young voices.

A rosy-faced servant opened the door and smiled. She seemed used to receiving strange boys. She took the letter, pointed to a seat in the hall and said: “Sit there while I take this in to Missis.”

The house seemed swarming with boys. There were boys everywhere, up-stairs and downstairs. An open fire burned and several lads lay on their backs before it, discussing a new cricket ground. A tall youth was practicing on the flute in the corner. Two or three others were jumping over the desks. In the room on the left a long supper-table was seen, set forth with pitchers of new milk, piles of bread and ginger-bread.

The stairs were occupied by a boy reading, a girl singing a lullaby, to her doll, two puppies, a kitten and small boys sliding down the banisters.

One of the boys fell off the banisters and Nat ran up to the fallen rider. “The boy looked up and said: “Hallo!”. “Hallo!” returned Nat.

“Are you a new boy?” asked the youth.

“Don’t know yet.”

“What’s your name?”

“Nat Blake.”

“Mine’s Tommy Bangs.”

Another boy, Demi by name, came up “Have you seen, Aunt Jo?” he asked. “No, I haven’t. I am waiting”, answered Nat. Then a little girl came up

knew nothing about it and looked suspiciously at Nat. "I know you think it's me", broke out Nat, red and excited. "You are the only one who knew where it was" said Franz. "I didn't take it!" cried Nat. Mr. Bhaer walked in. Tommy repeated the story and Mr. Bhaer's face grew graver and graver. His eyes went from face to face. He wanted an honest answer. He said: "I can't forgive deceit. Don't add a lie to the theft, but confess frankly, and we will try to make you forget and forgive". He said that evidences were against Nat and asked him to come to him at any hour of the day or night and confess it. He will forgive and help him to amend. "I didn't! I didn't!", sobbed Nat. He could not bear the distrust and dislike which he read in the many eyes fixed on him.

Mr. Bhaer shook his head and added: "There is nothing more to be done. Now go to your lessons." Nat suffered a week of slow torture, Father Bhaer's eyes cut him to the heart, for he loved him dearly and knew that he had disappointed his hopes by this double sin. Only one person believed in him. This was Daisy. She trusted him "Maybe the hens ate it; they are greedy old things". Neither aunt nor uncle tried to shake the child's faith in her friend. Most of the boys left him alone, but Dan, though he said he despised him for being a coward.

One day Nat said to Dan: "I think you know who did it. If you do, beg him to tell, Dan. I don't think I can bear it much longer. If I had any place to go to, I'd run away, though I love Plumfield; but I am not brave and big like you". Dan answered "You won't wait long", and walked away. So Dan sold his book to another boy for a dollar and put the money into Tommy's box. When Tommy discovered it and told the boys they were surprised and talked the matter over with regret and pity and wonder.

One day Dan came upon several of the boys who were climbing up the trees in the birch grove. Dan paused to watch them. As he stood there Jack climbed the tree but when he swung off, it only bent a little way and left him hanging at a dangerous height. "Catch me, help me, I must drop," cried Jack. "Hold on!" shouted Dan and up the tree he went. His added weight bent the tree nearer the earth. Jack dropped safely but the birch flew up so suddenly that Dan lost his hold and fell heavily. The boys gathered round him, full of admiration and alarm. "You're a trump, Dan, and I'm ever so much obliged to you" cried Jack, gratefully.

## Chapter 21

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1. Where is your **posy**?
  - a) branch
  - b) bunch of flowers
2. What a **gorgeous** coat!
  - a) splendid
  - b) cheap
3. He **contributed** to the development of the state.
  - a) assisted
  - b) refused
4. What did he **remark**?
  - a) miss
  - b) note
5. What was his **conclusion**?
  - a) collection
  - b) inference
6. They covered themselves with **glory**.
  - a) fame
  - b) shame
7. Everything was very **neat**.
  - a) messy
  - b) tidy
8. Do it in a **decent** way.
  - a) careless
  - b) proper
9. They **neglected** his orders.
  - a) respected
  - b) disregarded
10. He had a **chubby** face.
  - a) round-faced
  - b) pale
11. His **misery** shocked them.
  - a) happiness
  - b) wretchedness

*Навчальне видання*

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