

Did you know that Louisa May Alcott...

***Wrote pulp fiction anonymously and under pseudonyms – a secret kept for a half-century after her death? (Some 30 have been found.... So far... others are still missing.)**

***Invented characters who were transvestites, spies, murderers, revolutionaries, drug addicts, and/or incestuous?**

***Smoked hashish and took opium?**

***Ran every day?**

***Was raised a vegetarian and grew up on a commune?**

***Had a schoolteacher father who invented recess and had an integrated classroom a quarter-century before the abolition of slavery?**

***Grew up on a stop of the Underground Railroad, harboring fugitive slaves?**

***Was home-schooled in literature by Ralph Waldo Emerson?**

***Accompanied Henry David Thoreau on his famous nature walks?**

***Lived next door to Nathaniel Hawthorne? Knew Henry, William, Alice and the rest of the famed James family from childhood?**

***Knew Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, William Lloyd Garrison, and every leader of the antislavery movement? Her family hosted John Brown's widow and boarded his daughter after his execution.**

***Had teenage crushes on Emerson and Thoreau, and in her favorite book (*Moods*), her heroine is married to a character based on one and in love with the other?**

***Was a nurse in the Civil War assisting in assembly-line amputations with no medical training? (She wanted to be a soldier but couldn't.)**

***Was a descendant of Samuel Sewall, the only judge of the Salem Witch Trials who repented, and then wrote the earliest known anti-slavery tract?**

*** That her great-aunt was married to John Hancock?**

- *Wrote and published groundbreaking stories about interracial marriage, slave revolt, and race relations?**
- *Grew up in grueling poverty and worked as a seamstress, a laundress, a governess, and a teacher and a domestic servant?**
- *As a child of eleven saw her parents' marriage nearly break up over her father's tie to another man – and wrote about it at the time?**
- *Was a professional-level actress-comedienne and may have worked as one under a different name?**
- *Wrote more than 200 works – stories, poems, fiction, non-fiction, plays, articles, not to mention journals and letters. None of her books sold fewer than 10,000 copies.**
- *Didn't like writing for children – called it “moral pap for the young” and did it for the money?**
- *Wrote *Little Women* in ten weeks? Wrote the sequel a few months later just as quickly?**
- *Supported equal rights for women, and organized women to vote forty years before the 19th amendment was passed – and was the first to cast her ballot in an official election?**
- *Wrote her way from rags to riches and died a multi-millionaire? (the 19th century equivalent)**
- *Was probably manic-depressive and seriously considered suicide?**
 - *Lived in thirty different places before she was 25 years old?**
 - *Never married and is believed by many to have been gay?**
 - *Preferred younger or much older men ?**
 - *Her writing has been translated into over 50 languages?**
- *None of her 8 books for young adults has ever been out of print?**
 - *Is the only woman in the card game “authors”?**