Mom’s Guide: Chapter 1 – Playing Pilgrims

# 1. Comprehension Check

a) The girls are disappointed because they cannot have presents at Christmas due to lack of money.

b) Marmee reminds them that Christmas is about love and sacrifice, and encourages them to think of others who are less fortunate.

c) The sisters decide to act like 'pilgrims' and carry their burdens cheerfully, helping others on their journey.

# 2. Vocabulary & Expressions (Sample Answers)

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| Word | Meaning | Example Sentence |
| Pilgrims | Travelers on a journey, often with a spiritual purpose. | The sisters became pilgrims on their journey of sacrifice. |
| Sacrifice | Giving up something valuable for the sake of others. | They sacrificed their breakfast for the poor family. |
| Selfish | Thinking only of oneself without regard for others. | Amy can sometimes act selfish when she wants luxury. |
| Comfort | A state of ease and physical well-being. | Beth gave up comfort to help others feel warm. |
| Christmas | A holiday celebrating the birth of Jesus, often associated with giving. | They celebrated Christmas by sharing instead of receiving. |

# 3. Theme Discussion

The girls agreed to give up their breakfast because they realized others were in greater need. It shows their kindness, compassion, and willingness to sacrifice for others.

# 4. Character Focus (Examples)

Meg: Responsible, caring. She may grow into a wise caretaker of the family.

Jo: Energetic, outspoken. She may grow as a leader and writer.

Beth: Gentle, selfless. She may grow in quiet strength and humility.

Amy: Artistic, sometimes vain. She may grow in maturity and kindness.

# 5. Creative Response (Sample Ideas)

a) Drawing: Sisters carrying bundles symbolizing burdens and walking together.

b) Journal Entry (Jo): 'I wanted gifts and comfort, but today I felt the true joy of giving.'

# 6. Prediction Activity (Examples)

The sisters might continue their pilgrim journey by helping more people. They could face new challenges in keeping up their sacrifices while learning important lessons.