

Philippe Ariès, *L'Enfant et la vie familiale sous l'Ancien Régime*,  
1960 (*Padri e figli nell'Europa medievale e moderna / Centuries of  
Childhood: A Social History of Family Life*)

1865-1910: “the golden age of American children’s fiction”

(Steven Mintz, *Huck’s Raft:  
A History of American Childhood*, 2004)

Charles Darwin, “A Biographical Sketch of an Infant” (1877)

Granville Stanley Hall (1846-1924)

Behaviorism:

- Lemmett Holt
- John B. Watson

Turn of the century: masculine men and ladylike girls?

Woodcraft Indians / Boy Scouts

New Woman

G. Stanely Hall, *Adolescence: Its Psychology and Its Relations to Physiology, Anthropology, Sociology, Sex, Crime, Religion and Education* (1904)

## Women's education

Edward Klarke, *Sex in Education: Or, A Fair Chance for the Girls*  
(1873)

First PhD woman. Helen Magill White, 1877

## Literature

Thomas B. Aldrich, *The Story of a Bad Boy*, 1870

Mark Twain, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, 1876

Louisa May Alcott, *Little Women*, 1868

Susan Coolidge, *What Katy Did or What Katy did at Home*, 1872

*What Katy Did at School*, 1873

*What Katy Did Next*, 1886

## Children as protagonists of fiction

Transcendentalists

Ralph W. Emerson

Walt Whitman

Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter*, 1850

## Children and the Civil War

Vagrant children in 1865: 6,000 in Boston  
30,000 in New York

Role of charities

Transformations in family life

## Louisa May Alcott (1832-1888)

Family: Amos Bronson Alcott

Fruitlands (→ *Transcendental Wild Oats*, 1873)

Death of her sister (1858)

Nurse during the Civil War (1862-63)

*Little Women*, 1868

*Little Men*, 1871

*Jo's Boys*, 1886

# LITTLE WOMEN

OR,

MEG, JO, BETH AND AMY

BY LOUISA M. ALCOTT

ILLUSTRATED BY MAY ALCOTT

BOSTON  
ROBERTS BROTHERS  
1868

*LW* published on October 1, 1868 (2,000 copies)  
1,000 copies in December (250 sent to England)

*Little Women, part 2*

in UK *Good Wives, Nice Wives, Young Wives* or  
*Little Women Married*

in Italy first translation, 1908  
part 2: *Piccole donne crescono*

Thomas Niles, Robert Brothers Publishers

*Wide Wide World* by Susan Warner (1850)

Scholarly interest in LW after 1960s, but Nina Baym or Sandra Gilbert and Susan Gubar (*The Madwoman in the Attic: The Woman Writer and the Nineteenth-Century Literary Imagination*, 1979) paid no attention to the novel

John Bunyan, *The Pilgrim's Progress from This World, to That Which Is to Come* (1678 - 1684)

*Everyman* (early 16<sup>th</sup> century)

King James Bible (1611)