**Name:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Class:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Dictation

1 [Track 12] Listen and write the sentences that you hear.

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Listening

2 [Track 13] Listen to three people talking about medical problems. Complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.

**Conversation 1**

**1** The speaker says that his dad’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ suggested a cure for his headaches.

**Conversation 2**

**2** The speakers are on a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**3** The girl has got some \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with her, to stop her feeling sick.

**Conversation 3**

**4** The girl has had a cough since last \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**5** The boy gives the girl some \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for her cough.

/10

Reading

3 Read the texts. For questions 1–5, choose the correct answer, A, B, C or D.

**1** At the start of *Dark Days,* Hannah and the doctor were the only people who

A knew that Beth was ill.

B helped Beth.

C were in the house with Beth.

D knew how serious Beth’s illness was.

**2** Meg

A didn’t come home because she was worried about being infected.

B wrote to the family where she worked to tell them about Beth’s illness.

C didn’t want to worry Mrs March with unimportant matters.

D kept Beth’s illness a secret from Mrs March.

**3** When Beth’s illness got worse,

A she wasn’t sure who each person was.

B she couldn’t speak at all.

C she was frightened about what would happen.

D Hannah allowed Meg to tell Mrs March.

**4** According to the text *Scarlet Fever,* people wrote about this illness because

A it affected mainly children.

B it was so deadly.

C the symptoms were interesting.

D it was very contagious.

**5** Overall, we can understand that

A the disease is less common nowadays.

B it is easy to cure the disease nowadays.

C you no longer have to see a doctor if you have the disease.

D novelists still write about the disease.

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/30

Dark Days

Beth had the fever, and was much sicker than anyone apart from Hannah and the doctor suspected. The girls knew nothing about illness, and Mr Laurence, their neighbour, was not allowed to see her, so Hannah did everything in her own way. Dr Bangs did his best but he left a lot of responsibilities to Hannah, who made an excellent nurse. Meg stayed at home so that she wouldn’t infect the family she worked for. She kept busy by doing the housework. She felt very anxious and a little guilty when she wrote letters in which no mention was made of Beth’s illness. She didn’t think it was right but she had promised to do as Hannah said, and Hannah wouldn’t hear of ‘Mrs March being told and worried just for such an unimportant matter.’

Jo looked after Beth day and night, not a hard task, for Beth was very patient, and never complained about her pain as long as she could control herself. But there came a time when she almost lost her voice and tried to sing with a throat so swollen that there was no music left, a time when she did not know the familiar faces around her but called them the wrong names, and called out for her mother. Then Jo grew frightened, Meg begged to be allowed to write the truth, and even Hannah said she ‘would think of it, though there was no danger yet’.

How dark the days seemed now, how sad and lonely the house, and how heavy were the hearts of the sisters as they worked and waited, while the shadow of death hovered over the once happy home.

*Adapted from: Louisa May Alcott,* Little Women*, Chapter 18: Dark Days*

Scarlet Fever

Scarlet fever is one of the most common illnesses described in classic 18th and 19th century literature. That is because, before the discovery of antibiotics, it was one of the major causes of death.

It is easy to catch the disease as it is very contagious. People who catch the disease get a sore, swollen throat and a fever. The name scarlet fever comes from the fact that the patient’s tongue goes a bright red colour, which gives the clearest indication of the illness. A day or two after the fever starts, the patient gets a rash which starts on the neck and face but soon spreads all over the body. Anyone can catch it but it is most common among children aged between two and eight years old.

In 1900, a cure for the disease was found and many more people were able to survive. It was still dangerous, though, and remained deadly until the invention of penicillin. Nowadays, it doesn’t usually cause any serious problems provided that sufferers are able to get medical treatment as soon as possible. Once this has been done, it means taking antibiotics for a few days and having a week off school. It’s a much better situation for people who catch the disease – even if not for dramatic novelists!