

-Christmas is no Christmas without presents, Jo says.
-It's so dreadful to be poor, Meg declares.
-Some families have everything, while we have so little. It's not fair, Amy comments.
-But we do have each other, Beth puts in. And Mother, and Father.
-Not Father. He's far away, where the fighting is, Jo replies.

It's a December afternoon, some two centuries ago, and the four sisters in this story are trying to decide how to spend what little pocket money they have this Christmas.



Jo the bookworm would love to buy a book,

Amy, the artist, dreams of a set of drawing pencils.

But Meg, the eldest of the four, reminds them what Mother had said: there is a hard winter ahead, and they should be saving their money.

and Beth, who loves music, new sheet music, so she can learn new songs on the piano.

Mother is due home soon, and the girls put her slippers by the fire to make them warm for her. Looking at them, so old and worn, the four sisters have the same thought at the same time. A new pair of slippers for Mother! That's the best way to spend their money!