



Anne of Green Gables: Discussion Guide #2

Encourage critical thinking and support your students' literacy development by asking questions during reading. Here are some questions you can ask your readers to engage them in a discussion. **Sample answers**



CHAPTERS 9 – 14

CHAPTER IX. Mrs. Rachel Lynde Is Properly Horrified

CHAPTER X. Anne's Apology

CHAPTER XI. Anne's Impressions of Sunday-School

CHAPTER XII. A Solemn Vow and Promise

CHAPTER XIII. The Delights of Anticipation

CHAPTER XIV. Anne's Confession

Comprehension:

- Why does Anne lose her temper when Mrs. Lynde comes over?
Anne loses her temper when Mrs. Lynde criticizes Anne's appearance, calling her "skinny and homely" and pointing out her freckles and her "red as carrots" hair. Although Anne has labeled herself as such, she says "there's such a difference between saying a thing yourself and hearing other people say it."
- Why is Marilla alarmed by Anne's style of apologizing?
Marilla is alarmed at the way Anne seems to take pleasure in giving an elaborate apology.
- Why is Anne unhappy with the new dresses Marilla makes for her?
Anne hoped Marilla would make her fashionable dresses with puffed sleeves, instead of plain dresses with tight sleeves.
- When Anne goes to Sunday school for the first time, what two things about her appearance make her stand out from the other girls?
Anne stands out because she is wearing a flower garland on her hat and because she is not wearing fashionable dresses with puffed sleeves like the other girls are.
- Why is Anne so nervous about meeting Diana Barry? What do Anne and Diana think of each other when they meet?
Anne hopes that Diana will become her "bosom friend" (i.e., best friend) but is worried that Diana or Diana's mother will not like her. Anne immediately adores Diana and begs her to be friends "forever and ever." Diana thinks Anne is a bit strange, but she likes Anne and is happy to have her as a new friend.
- What event is Anne looking forward to attending, and why is she so excited about it?
Anne can't wait to attend the Sunday school picnic because she has never been to a picnic before and because she has heard they will be serving ice cream.
- Why is the amethyst brooch so important to Marilla?
It is a family heirloom full of precious amethysts. It also contains a lock of Marilla's mother's hair.



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- How does Marilla handle the missing brooch, and what is the outcome?

When Marilla cannot find the brooch anywhere, she confronts Anne and Anne admits that she was the last one to touch the brooch but explains that she put it back where it belongs. Marilla tells Anne that she must stay in her bedroom—and miss the picnic—until she confesses to taking the brooch. Anne takes this to mean that she can leave her room and attend the picnic if she confesses. Because she hasn't really taken the brooch, she invents a story about taking it so she has something to confess. When Marilla finds the brooch attached to her scarf, she apologizes to Anne for driving her to confess to something she didn't do. She eventually lets Anne go to the picnic.

Analysis:

- When Marilla is scolding Anne for her outburst with Mrs. Lynde, she has “an old remembrance” about something that happened when she was a child. What happened to Marilla, and how does the memory affect how she feels about Anne's behavior?

Marilla remembers being a little girl and overhearing her aunt refer to her as “a dark, homely little thing.” That memory still stung Marilla well into her adult years. After she thinks about her own experience of being called ugly by an adult, Marilla is kinder toward Anne. This suggests that Marilla feels empathy toward Anne because of her similar experience.

- Why does Marilla have trouble addressing Anne's negative comments about church and Sunday school?

Marilla realizes that many of the opinions Anne expresses, like Anne's views on the minister's sermons and Mr. Bell's prayers, are what she herself has always secretly felt. She has trouble correcting Anne for simply voicing things she agrees with.

- How does Marilla acknowledge her mistake about the amethyst brooch? How do you think she'd likely react to similar situations in the future?

Marilla owns up to her mistake and apologizes to Anne. She uses this as an opportunity to teach Anne that she must not confess to a thing she didn't do. If a similar situation arises in the future, Marilla will likely give Anne the benefit of the doubt rather than insisting she's to blame.

Personal Connection:

- Do you think you would like being best friends with someone like Anne Shirley? Why or why not?

Student answers will vary.



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CHAPTERS 15 – 18

CHAPTER XV. A Tempest in the School Teapot

CHAPTER XVI. Diana Is Invited to Tea with Tragic Results

CHAPTER XVII. A New Interest in Life

CHAPTER XVIII. Anne to the Rescue

Comprehension:

- What is Anne's first impression of her school?
Anne likes her school at first. She doesn't like her teacher very much, but she likes going to school with Diana and the other girls. She feels far behind the other students in some subject areas, but she is pleased that she has a better imagination than most of her peers.
- What does Gilbert Blythe do to Anne? Why does this offend her, and how does she react?
Gilbert tugs Anne's braid and says, "Carrots, carrots!" This offends Anne because she is very sensitive about the fact that she has red hair. Anne smashes her slate across Gilbert's head.
- What makes Anne decide to quit school?
Anne decides she can't take it anymore after Mr. Phillips punishes her for reacting to Gilbert Blythe's teasing. Mr. Phillips singles her out for a punishment and makes her sit next to Gilbert for the whole afternoon.
- What is Mrs. Lynde's advice to Marilla about Anne's unwillingness to go to school?
Mrs. Lynde advises Marilla to let Anne stay home for the time being and not force her to return to school until she is ready.
- What happens when Anne invites Diana over for tea? How does Mrs. Barry react?
Anne accidentally serves Diana currant wine, mistaking it for the raspberry cordial that Marilla said she could serve. This leads to Diana getting drunk. When Mrs. Barry finds out what happened, she forbids Anne and Diana to be friends.
- How do the other students react when Anne returns to school?
The girls and boys alike welcome her back with enthusiasm, and many of them give her gifts.
- Why does Diana come to Anne's house at night to ask for help?
Diana's little sister, Minnie May, is sick with croup, and Diana's parents are out in town for the evening. Neither Diana nor the babysitter know how to help Minnie May.
- Why does Mrs. Barry change her mind to allow Diana and Anne to spend time together again?
Mrs. Barry changes her mind about Anne after Anne helps treat Minnie May's croup, and the doctor praises Anne for saving Minnie May's life. After that incident, Mrs. Barry allows Diana to be friends with Anne again.



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Analysis:

- What is Mr. Phillips like? Does he seem like a good teacher or not? Explain your answer with evidence from these chapters.
Answers will vary but may include details about how Mr. Phillips belittles his students, such as when he calls Anne's spelling disgraceful and calls her the "worst dunce" he ever saw at geometry. He doles out punishments unfairly, like when he punishes Anne alone even though twelve other students were also late coming back to class. His punishments can be cruel and humiliating, like when he writes "Ann Shirley has a very bad temper" on the blackboard, reads it out loud to the class, and makes Anne stand beneath it for an entire afternoon.
- What is the relationship between Anne and Gilbert like after Anne returns to school? Do Anne and Gilbert feel the same way about each other? Explain your answer.
Anne and Gilbert become academic rivals after Anne returns to school. Anne and Gilbert compete with each other for the status of being top of the class. Gilbert is competitive, but he seems fond of Anne overall. He tries to give her an apple, and their rivalry is described as "good-natured" on his end. Anne, however, still holds a grudge from the time Gilbert humiliated her in front of the class. She ignores Gilbert as much as she can, and their competition is very personal to her.
- Describe what Anne does to help Minnie May and how she knows what actions to take.
When Minnie May comes down with croup, Anne is level-headed and quick to act. She knows how to treat croup, and she has the forethought to bring a bottle of ipecac with her in case the Barrys do not have any. She resourcefully uses materials that are on hand at the Barrys to treat Minnie May. Anne shows she can be a good leader by taking charge of the situation and giving instructions to Diana and the babysitter, Mary Joe. Anne knows what to do in this situation because she cared for so many children when she lived at the Hammonds' house.

Personal Connection:

- Describe a time when you've been the "new kid" in a situation, whether it was being new to a school, to a neighborhood, to a team, or to any other group or organization. How did you feel? Did you have someone like Diana who made you feel welcome, or were you on your own?
Student answers will vary.