



Anne of Green Gables: Discussion Guide #3

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 19 – 22

CHAPTER XIX. A Concert a Catastrophe and a Confession
CHAPTER XX. A Good Imagination Gone Wrong
CHAPTER XXI. A New Departure in Flavorings
CHAPTER XXII. Anne is Invited Out to Tea

Comprehension:

- What makes Marilla change her mind about letting Anne go to the concert?
Matthew persistently tells Marilla that he thinks Anne ought to go.
- What does Anne think about the concert? Which part of the concert doesn't she enjoy?
Anne is utterly thrilled by the concert. She enjoys getting dressed up with Diana and traveling to the concert hall. She has a wonderful time at the concert itself and is wholly engrossed in all of the performances. The only exception is Gilbert's performance, which she does not enjoy. Anne spends the entirety of his performance reading a library book to show how little interest she has in Gilbert.
- What do Anne and Diana do to Miss Barry, and how does she react?
Thinking the room is empty, Anne and Diana race each other to the spare bedroom and jump onto the bed, only to find that it is already occupied by Miss Barry. Miss Barry is very startled, and the following day, she refuses to speak to Diana and angrily declares that she will cut her visit to the Barry house short.
- Why didn't Diana's mother tell Anne and Diana that Diana's aunt, Miss Barry, would be staying in the spare room?
Diana's mother falls asleep before she can tell Anne and Diana that Diana's aunt, Miss Josephine Barry, unexpectedly arrived early for her visit and is staying in the spare bedroom.
- What happens when Anne goes to Miss Barry to "confess"?
At first Miss Barry is still angry at Anne and Diana for startling her in the night. But her anger starts to disappear the more she listens to Anne's earnest apology and explanation of her side of the story. She is amused by Anne's unusual personality and way of speaking, and by the end of the conversation, she tells Anne that she wants to get to know her better. Anne decides that Miss Barry is a "kindred spirit" after all.
- Why is Anne afraid to go through the woods at night? Where do her fears come from?
Anne is convinced the woods are haunted by ghosts. The ghosts that Anne fears are ghosts that she has invented with her own imagination, with the help of Diana.
- What goes wrong when Anne bakes a cake for the Allans? What causes Anne to make this mistake?
Anne accidentally flavors her cake with anodyne liniment (a pain-relieving drug). The week prior, Marilla broke the liniment bottle and poured what was left into an old vanilla bottle. Anne assumes this bottle contains vanilla flavoring and uses it in her cake. Anne does not notice the strong smell of the liniment because she has a cold and her nose is stuffed up.



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- Why is Anne so excited to be invited to tea?

Anne is thrilled to get an invitation in the mail where she is addressed as “Miss” and because going to tea at a minister’s house is a special occasion that she has never experienced before. She is also excited because she greatly admires the host, Mrs. Allan.

Analysis:

- Why does Marilla make Anne go through the “Haunted Wood” to Diana’s house at night, even though she knows Anne is scared? What does this reveal about what Marilla thinks of Anne’s imagination and feelings?

Marilla makes Anne go through the Haunted Wood at night because she intends to both teach Anne a lesson about making up ghost stories and “cure” Anne of imagining ghosts. Marilla’s dialogue reveals that she’s had her “doubts” about Anne’s imagination all along, and she won’t put up with Anne using her own imagination to terrify herself for no reason. This scene shows that Marilla can often be unsympathetic to Anne’s feelings and fears. It also shows that she has no interest in being empathetic or putting herself in Anne’s shoes in this situation.

- What does Anne think of the new minister’s wife, Mrs. Allan? Why do you think she feels such pressure to impress Mrs. Allan with her cake?

Anne adores Mrs. Allan. Anne considers Mrs. Allan to be a “kindred spirit” and admires her clothing, her personality, and her teaching style. The way all of Avonlea buzzes with excitement over the arrival of the new minister and his wife shows what an important role these people have in a small town like Avonlea. Answers to the second question will vary, but will likely reference one of those points.

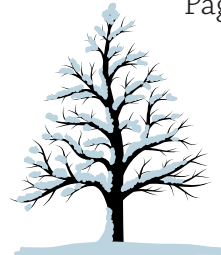
Personal Connection:

- Anne talks to Diana about how she feels like a different person when she is walking in the woods with Diana compared to who she is when she’s with her classmates in school. She says, “There’s such a lot of different Annes in me.” Think about how you feel and act around different groups of people or in different places. Do you feel like you have different versions of yourself? Explain your answer.

Student answers will vary.



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CHAPTERS 23 – 25

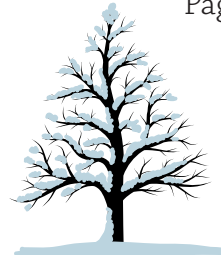
CHAPTER XXIII. Anne Comes to Grief in an Affair of Honor
CHAPTER XXIV. Miss Stacy and Her Pupils Get Up a Concert
CHAPTER XXV. Matthew Insists on Puffed Sleeves

Comprehension:

- Why does Anne decide to walk along the ridgepole of a roof, and what happens to her?
Josie Pye dares Anne to do so, and Anne's pride won't allow her to say no. Anne falls and injures herself, breaking her ankle.
- What does Anne think of her new teacher, Miss Stacy?
Anne adores Miss Stacy and thrives under her teaching. Anne appreciates the positive feedback Miss Stacy gives her about her writing skills. Anne admires Miss Stacy—just as she admires Mrs. Allan—and she looks up to her as another positive female role model.
- What does Matthew notice about Anne when he is watching her with her friends? What does Matthew decide to do?
Matthew notices that Anne is dressed much less fashionably than her friends, so he decides to buy Anne a pretty new dress.
- What happens when Matthew goes shopping? Why does he have so much trouble?
Matthew is very shy around women, so when he goes into a store and is unexpectedly greeted by a female clerk, he panics. Matthew is unable to work up the courage to ask for a girls' dress, so he stammers and orders other items instead. He ends up going home without ever getting a dress.
- How does Mrs. Lynde help Matthew?
Mrs. Lynde agrees to both pick out a dress for Anne and sew it up for her, so Matthew can give it to Anne as a surprise Christmas gift.
- What does Anne think of Matthew's gift?
Anne is thrilled by the dress, and she cries with joy.
- Describe Anne's experience participating in a concert.
Anne is nervous at first, but then she ends up giving a great performance.
- What do Matthew and Marilla talk about after the concert?
Matthew and Marilla talk about what a great job Anne did performing at the concert. They also talk about how she's getting older and that they'll eventually have to start planning for her future.



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Analysis:

- What does Marilla realize about her feelings for Anne when she sees Mr. Barry carrying Anne home? What probably makes Marilla feel this way?

Marilla realizes at that moment that Anne is “dearer to her than anything on earth.” It’s likely that seeing Anne injured made Marilla realize how devastated she would be if Anne were ever seriously hurt.

- Describe the kind of teacher Miss Stacy is. How is she different from Mr. Phillips? Use evidence from the book to support your answer.

According to the book, Miss Stacy has a “happy gift of winning and holding the affections of her pupils and bringing out the best that was in them mentally and morally.” Miss Stacy is a much more dedicated teacher than Mr. Phillips is, and she seems to truly care about her students. The fact that Anne believes that Miss Stacy is pronouncing her name “with an e” contrasts with how Mr. Phillips carelessly misspelled Anne’s name. It also suggests that Miss Stacy has a gift for making her students feel understood. Miss Stacy often lets her students pick their own subjects for the compositions they write about, which implies that she wants her students to pursue their individual interests. She seems to be interested in helping her students be well-rounded individuals beyond academics, based on how she takes them out of the classroom to learn about nature, how she incorporates physical education exercises into her teaching, and how she plans special events like the concert.

- Describe the relationship between Anne and Matthew. Why do you think they get along so well with one another?

Anne and Matthew have a strong bond. Matthew likes Anne exactly how she is and enjoys her company, and he likes to find opportunities to do nice things for her. They probably get along so well because Anne loves to talk and Matthew loves to listen, so they’re a good pair. In the past, Anne has been dismissed for her imaginative chatter and Matthew for his shyness and quietness, so they’re both grateful to have found someone who appreciates them how they are. Anne has not experienced unconditional love before she met Matthew, so she cherishes her relationship with Matthew.

Personal Connection:

- What teacher, mentor, or leader has influenced you the most in your life? Describe that person and what you learned from them.

Student answers will vary.