



Anne of Green Gables: Discussion Guide #4

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 26 – 29

CHAPTER XXVI. The Story Club Is Formed
CHAPTER XXVII. Vanity and Vexation of Spirit
CHAPTER XXVIII. An Unfortunate Lily Maid
CHAPTER XXIX. An Epoch in Anne's Life

Comprehension:

- Why does Anne form the story club, and how does it work?
Anne forms the story club to help Diana "cultivate her imagination" and get better at inventing original stories. Anne, Diana, Ruby, and Jane each write one story a week. They take turns reading them out loud, and then they discuss each story.
- How does Marilla feel about the story club? How does Anne defend the stories?
Marilla thinks that the stories are foolish and the story club is a waste of time that could be better spent on schoolwork. Anne argues that the story club is beneficial to them all because they always put morals in their stories.
- What does Anne do to her hair?
Anne accidentally dyes her hair a bronzy green color after a peddler selling dye came to the house. The dye was supposed to dye Anne's hair black.
- What scene are Anne and her friends trying to create from the Tennyson poem that they studied in school?
Anne and her friends are trying to recreate the scene when the dead Elaine floats down the river in a funeral barge.
- What is the girls' original vision for acting out this scene? What goes wrong while they're acting out the scene?
Anne will lie down in a flat-bottomed boat and pretend to be the dead Elaine. Her friends will pretend to be her family mourning her death, and they will push the flat off into the water, letting the current carry the flat under the bridge and to the other end of the pond. Anne's friends will meet her on the other side, pretending to be King Arthur, Guinevere, and Lancelot. But when Anne's friends push the flat out into the water, the bottom of the boat scrapes on a sharp stake under the water. This rips a hole in the boat, and water starts to leak into the flat, causing it to sink.
- How does Anne end up trapped, and how does she get out of her predicament?
Anne makes it to the piles of tree trunks under the bridge right before the flat sinks. Anne grabs hold of one of the tree trunks, but she has no way of climbing up or getting down. Her friends see the boat sink and think Anne sank with it, so they run away to get help, stranding Anne alone. She's rescued when Gilbert Blythe happens to be rowing under the bridge and he sees her. He rows her back to the shore.
- What exciting news does Diana share with Anne?
Diana tells Anne that her Aunt Josephine wants Diana and Anne to attend the Exhibition (a big fair) in town with her.



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- Describe three of Anne's memorable experiences during her trip.

Anne shares with Marilla that she'll remember watching a horse race, seeing a man go up in a hot air balloon, and eating ice cream at a restaurant at eleven o'clock at night.

Analysis:

- After Anne sends Miss Josephine Barry some of the story club stories, she is surprised by Miss Barry's response. What does Miss Barry say about the stories, and why does this puzzle Anne? Why do you think Miss Barry responds this way?

Miss Barry tells Anne that "she had never read anything so amusing in her life." This puzzles Anne because she considers the stories to be very serious and tragic. It's likely that Miss Barry is amused by the over-the-top melodrama of these stories, especially because the romantic and dramatic events are so far removed from what the girls have experienced in their actual lives.

- Anne has conflicted feelings about Gilbert Blythe. Describe Anne's inner conflict and the decision she comes to about Gilbert. Do you think she's making the right choice to treat Gilbert the way she does? Explain your answer.

Anne starts to feel herself softening toward Gilbert after he rescues her from under the bridge, apologizes to her again, and encourages her to be friends with him. But on the other hand, Anne still feels bitter and resentful about how Gilbert humiliated her in front of the whole school years ago. Anne decides to reject Gilbert's offer of friendship, and she declares that she will never be friends with him.

- Explain how Miss Josephine Barry's impressions of Anne have changed throughout the novel.

When Miss Barry first encounters Anne, she is furious that Anne jumped on her while she was sleeping. After Anne apologizes and talks to her, Miss Barry finds her amusing and wants to get to know her better. She finds Anne's story club stories to be very funny. When Anne and Diana visit for the Exhibition, Miss Barry goes from finding Anne entertaining to appreciating her as a person, and she admits to herself that she would be a better person if she had someone like Anne in her life.

Personal Connection:

- Anne places great importance on turning thirteen. What birthday ages feel the most significant to you? Explain your answer.

Student answers will vary.



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CHAPTERS 30 – 33

CHAPTER XXX. The Queens Class Is Organized
CHAPTER XXXI. Where the Brook and River Meet
CHAPTER XXXII. The Pass List Is Out
CHAPTER XXXIII. The Hotel Concert

Comprehension:

- Why did Miss Stacy come to Green Gables to talk to Marilla?
She wants to talk to Marilla about the possibility of Anne joining a group of advanced students to study for the entrance examination for Queen's.
- What profession will Anne be trained in if she gets accepted into Queen's?
Anne will be certified as a schoolteacher.
- How does Gilbert's attitude toward Anne change after the incident at the pond?
Gilbert now treats Anne as coldly as she treats him. He ignores her in public and competes with her fiercely in school.
- What worries Anne the most as she prepares for the Queen's entrance exam?
Anne fears that Gilbert Blythe will pass the entrance exam but she will fail.
- Describe Anne's emotions as she takes the Queen's exam. How do her friends react to the experience?
Anne feels intensely nervous and blanks out for a moment during her first exam, but she recovers enough to do her best on her exams. By the end of the examination process, she's exhausted and her nerves are strained. Moody is so stressed before the exams that he needs to recite multiplication tables to calm himself down, and he's convinced he has failed the history exam and that his career is ruined. Jane is very calm throughout all of the tests. Ruby gets hysterical when she realizes a mistake she made on her English paper. Josie brags about how easy the geometry test is.
- Why does Anne feel so much pressure to succeed on the exam? Describe two reasons.
Anne feels pressure to succeed because she doesn't want Gilbert Blythe to beat her and because Matthew believes in her so much that she doesn't want to let him down.
- What news does Diana share with Anne when the pass list is out?
Anne and Gilbert have tied for first place.



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- What performance does Anne give at the White Sands Hotel concert? What shakes her confidence before her performance, and how does she get over it?

Anne recites a poem called “The Maiden’s Vow.” Anne feels shabby compared to the beautifully dressed people around her, and she overhears a snobby girl in white lace make fun of “country bumpkins” and “rustic belles” and anticipate how much fun it will be to mock the local talent. When Anne is called on stage, she gets stage fright and freezes up. Then she sees Gilbert smiling at her, and she misinterprets his expression for triumph and taunting, which makes her power through her anxiety and deliver her performance.

Analysis:

- As Anne prepares for the Queen’s entrance exam, Marilla realizes that Anne has grown and changed. In what ways has Anne changed? How does Marilla feel about these changes?

Anne has grown up physically and looks more like an adult than a child. Her personality has changed too—she is more serious, she chatters less, and she doesn’t use big, fancy words as much anymore. She’s also outgrown some of her pastimes, like writing melodramatic stories for the story club. Marilla feels very mixed about these changes—she’s proud of how Anne has matured and loves her a great deal, but she’s also distressed at how fast Anne is growing up. Marilla is sad to lose the child she has loved.

- On the drive back from the White Sands Hotel Concert, Anne and Jane discuss whether they would like to be rich. Explain how their viewpoints are different.

Jane voices her desire to be a rich American and do things like spend the summer at a hotel, wear jewels, and eat fancy food every day. She believes it would be more fun to be a rich socialite than a schoolteacher. Anne believes that she and her friends are already “rich” in life experiences and in the natural beauty that surrounds them, and she doesn’t believe that having money makes the rich women they met at the hotel actually happy in life.

Personal Connection:

- Anne and her peers feel a lot of anxiety and pressure as they prepare for the Queen’s exam. Describe a time when you felt a lot of pressure to succeed at something. Why was success so important to you? Did you feel any stress, and if so, how did you manage it?

Student answers will vary.