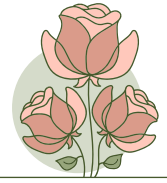




Anne of Green Gables: Post-Reading Response Prompts



After you finish reading *Anne of Green Gables*, choose **five** of the following prompts to respond to.

A.

When Marilla and Matthew are deciding whether or not they should keep Anne, Matthew says, “We might be some good to her.” Describe three ways that living with Matthew and Marilla ends up being good for Anne.

Matthew and Marilla provide Anne with an environment where she can flourish physically, mentally, and emotionally. They both support Anne in her academic ambitions, like going to Queen’s Academy or trying for the Avery Scholarship. Matthew goes out of his way to surprise Anne with a dress with puffed sleeves, and Marilla puts a lot of effort into “bringing up” Anne by teaching her household skills and making sure she gets an education. Matthew and Marilla both eventually express love and affection to Anne in ways that none of her previous guardians ever did.

B.

Think about the title, *Anne of Green Gables*. How does the author show the reader that being “of Green Gables” means so much to Anne? Explain your answer with evidence from the text.}

The details the author reveals about Anne’s history makes it clear that Anne has never known a real home before she came to Green Gables. At the beginning of the book, Anne is thrilled when Matthew takes her to Green Gables and devastated when she learns she might be sent away. When Marilla tells her she can stay, she cries with joy. As soon as she knows she will be staying, Anne gets “acquainted” and makes “friends” with the trees, plants, and water features around Green Gables, forming a special connection with them and sometimes giving them names. Anne refers to herself as “Anne of Green Gables” numerous times throughout the novel. The description of Anne’s bedroom at the beginning of Chapter 33 shows that Anne has made the bedroom her own and decorated it with a number of personal touches. When Anne arrives at Queen’s Academy, she is bitterly homesick and thinks about Green Gables in great detail. At the end of the book Anne chooses to stay at Green Gables to help Marilla instead of leaving to go to college.

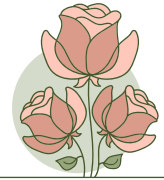
C.

One of the themes of the novel is that friendship is a lifelong bond that has the power to change people. Explain how this theme is developed in Anne’s friendship with Diana. What makes Anne and Diana such good friends? Explain your thinking with reasons and evidence from the text.

Anne and Diana remain close friends throughout the entire novel, even as the years go by and they grow from children into teenagers. Anne and Diana have common interests, like their mutual appreciation of good fashion and their shared enjoyment of their “Idlewild” playhouse and romantic stories. The girls are there for each other in times of need, such as when Diana’s little sister gets sick or when Matthew dies. Anne and Diana remain loyal to each other even when they are separated, such as when Diana’s mother forbids them from being friends or when Anne goes to Queen’s Academy.



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D.

Anne has a very special relationship with Matthew. Describe at least three examples of ways that Matthew supports Anne or shows her love throughout the novel. Why do you think he cares so deeply about Anne?

Matthew encourages Anne when she feels down on herself for struggling with geometry, and he is always willing to listen when Anne wants to talk about a topic or listen to her recite poetry. Matthew also shows he cares for Anne when he remembers that she loves chocolates and buys her some chocolate candy and when he offers to make Anne and Diana a table for their playhouse. He likely cares so deeply about Anne because he's never had any children of his own, so he loves Anne like a daughter. He also recognizes that Anne has lacked loving parental figures in her life and wants to fill that role for her.

E.

What role does Mrs. Rachel Lynde have in the village of Avonlea? Explain your answer with examples from the text. Would you like to have someone like her as a neighbor?

Mrs. Lynde is a prominent person in Avonlea. She is involved in numerous community organizations, including a Sewing Circle, the Sunday-school, the Church Aid Society, and the Foreign Missions Auxiliary. She is also the town gossip, often spreading news, like telling Marilla how Anne wore flowers on her hat to Sunday school or telling Anne how Gilbert gave up his spot at the Avonlea school for her. Mrs. Lynde is also very outspoken, and she frequently asserts her opinion and gives advice. For example, she tells Marilla that adopting an orphan is a bad idea. She also advises Matthew on the right type of dress for Anne.

F.

How does Marilla feel about Anne by the end of the book? How are her feelings different from what they were at the beginning of the book? What specific events show that Marilla's feelings are changing?

By the end of the book, Marilla learns to love Anne like a daughter. But at the beginning, Marilla is skeptical about the possibility of adopting a girl, and her main concern is whether Anne will be useful in their household. After the Cuthberts decide to keep Anne, Marilla is willing to take on a caregiver role, but she is more focused on training Anne to be a well-behaved girl who does household tasks correctly than showing affection. It's clear that Marilla's feelings are changing when she cries to herself when she notices that Anne is no longer a child but a tall, mature fifteen-year-old. She's also emotional when Anne is preparing to leave Green Gables to go to Queen's Academy.

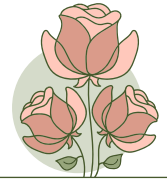
G.

One of Anne's defining characteristics is her vivid imagination. How does Anne's imagination help her and those around her live a more exciting life? In what ways does Anne's imagination sometimes cause problems for her?

Anne's imagination helps her live a more exciting life when she creates imaginative play spaces like her "Idlewild" playhouse. Anne starts the Story Club and entertains her friends with her romantic stories. Anne comes up with names and personalities for elements of the natural world, which helps other people notice and appreciate the natural beauty around them. However, Anne's imagination sometimes causes problems for her, like when she forgets to put flour in the cake because she's imagining a story about herself and Diana. Another example is when she puts herself in danger when she floats down the river while pretending to be Elaine from Tennyson's poem "Lancelot and Elaine."



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H.	<p>Before Anne goes to Queen’s Academy, she tells Marilla, “I’m not a bit changed—not really. I’m only just pruned down and branched out. The real me—back here—is just the same.” In what ways has Anne changed by the end of the book? In what ways is she still the same person?</p> <p>By the end of the book, Anne is less absent-minded, less prone to mistakes, quieter, and more willing to forgive others. However, Anne is still the same person who loves her family, Green Gables, nature, and nice clothing. She still uses her vivid imagination and has her friendship with Diana.</p>
I.	<p>Explain how Anne’s relationship with Gilbert changes over the course of the novel. What makes Anne change her mind about Gilbert by the end of the book? Do you think Anne is right that she and Gilbert are better as “good friends” rather than “good enemies”? Explain your thinking with reasons and evidence from the text.</p> <p>Early in the book, Anne hates Gilbert after he calls her “Carrots” in front of the class. For years, they are academic rivals in school. When Gilbert saves Anne after her boat sinks and asks again for her forgiveness, she almost wavers, but then she still stubbornly rejects his friendship. Finally, after Gilbert gives up his teaching job at the Avonlea school for Anne, Anne makes peace with Gilbert and the two of them decide to be friends.</p>
J.	<p><i>Anne of Green Gables</i> is told from a third-person omniscient point of view, which allows the reader to understand how many different characters feel about events. What impact does this have on the story? How might the story be different if it were told in the first person from only Anne’s point of view?</p> <p>The third-person omniscient point of view means that the reader gets to see Anne through other characters’ eyes. This sometimes builds a sense of mystery and suspense in the story. For instance, by opening the novel from the points of view of Mrs. Lynde, Matthew, and Marilla, the author creates a sense of curiosity and mystery around the new orphan that the Cuthberts are adopting. This wouldn’t be possible if the reader only saw Anne’s point of view. The author’s choice to show other characters’ perspectives also provides deeper insight into their relationships to Anne. For instance, Marilla’s speech and actions toward Anne often seem cold and abrupt, but because the reader also learns how Marilla’s feeling, the reader can understand Marilla’s growing love toward Anne.</p>