

Anne of the Island Study Guide

Anne of the Island by Lucy Maud Montgomery

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Plot Summary

ANNE OF THE ISLAND by L.M. Montgomery is the third in the Anne of Green Gables series. This book tells the story of Anne Shirley's and her friends' college years. As the security of home and childhood comforts fade, each must face the trials of being on their own.

Anne travels to Kingsport to go to college despite the mixed feelings among the family at home. Most of her family would like her to marry Gilbert Blythe, a close childhood friend. Gilbert is also going to Kingsport for college and would like nothing more than to have Anne reveal that she feels more than friendship for him. Anne is determined to get an education and not simply search for a husband as the busybodies at home expect. Anne is excited that one of her girlfriends, Priscilla, is also attending Redmond College.

At home, Anne's best friend Diana is engaged to Fred and living the home life. Despite being separated by interests and distance, each visit home reaffirms that a long distance friendship can survive. Every visit home teaches Anne to appreciate her past, and her future and gives her a sense of balance in her life.

While at college, Anne makes a new friend, Philippa, who is unlike any friend that she has ever had. Philippa is a flighty, indecisive, loyal, and smart friend whose beauty and popularity thrust Anne and Priscilla into the limelight at school. Philippa is determined to marry a rich man but is unable to determine who that may be as she has many beaux including two boys at home that have proposed.

The three girls move in together into a comfortable home called Patty's Place and learn how to work and live together. Despite Philippa's family's monetary connections, she learns how to do chores and live in a less than perfect situation and even relishes the changes to her life. Anne is a good influence on all her friends by making them realize that what they have and what they expect is only important if they first have the love and loyalty of family and friends.

When Gilbert proposes to Anne in their second year of college, she turns him down telling him that she does not love him. She wants to stay friends but their friendship is not the same afterward, and Anne feels the loss keenly. She starts dating a charming, rich guy, Roy Gardner who gives her the "thrilling" life she wants. Anne becomes close friends with Roy's sister Dorothy and both relationships flourish.

After four years of college, Philippa finds love with a poor preacher whom she adores despite his poverty. She has learned the value of love over monetary considerations from Anne.

When Roy proposes, Anne realizes that he excites her but she is not in love with him. When Gilbert almost dies from typhoid fever, Anne realizes she loves him and wants a life with her childhood friend. He will always be the light and love of her life.



Chapter 1, 2, 3

Chapter 1, 2, 3 Summary

Autumn is upon Green Gables in chapter 1. Anne Shirley and Diana have just finished picking apples in the Green Gables orchard and are resting. The two girls discuss weddings, their future and how much they will miss each other. Anne is heading to Redmond to go to college for her BA while Diana is staying in Green Gables. The two girls leave the orchard and go their separate directions when Anne encounters Gilbert.

Anne nervously talks to him and tells him that Priscilla is going to Redmond, too. Gilbert tells her that they will all love Kingsport because it is a lovely place with a good natural park. Anne tells him she must go home and muses about the changes in her relationship to certain boys.

At the house, she finds Davy crying because he missed seeing his twin sister Dora skin her nose. Davy also tells Anne that Milty Boulter's mom said she was going to college to catch a man. She protests and sends him off to bed and then walks to think and dream on Victoria Island.

In chapter 2, the final week before Anne, Gilbert, and Charlie head to college is packed with last minute preparations. The A.V.I.S also throws Anne and Gilbert a party at the home of Josie Pye. During the party Gilbert is sentimental with Anne which causes her to walk home with Charlie Sloane, despite her lack of attraction for a goggle-eyed "Sloane."

Gilbert walks Ruby home and then walks back through the Haunted Wood, where Anne sees him from her bedroom window. They talk briefly about her nervousness about going off to college, which is partially caused by the older women's negative comments about her desire to leave. As they talk and walk, Marilla and Mrs. Rachel Lynde watch from the window and say Gilbert and Anne are a perfect match. In the orchard, they eat apples and talk about the next four years. Anne feels better after eating and knows that the next few years will be wonderful.

Chapter 3: The next morning, Davy says his weepy goodbye, while Marilla and Dora say a reserved but loving goodbye to Anne. Despite the pouring rain, sweet, dependable Diana picks Anne up in the buggy to drive her to the train station in Bright River.

They are almost late for the train and Anne says a quick goodbye to Diana and meets Gilbert and Charlie who are going to college at the same time. Fortunately, it finally stops raining when they are on the boat leaving the island. After another train ride, they arrive in Kingsport where Anne is met by her friend Priscilla.

Priscilla is thrilled to see Anne and tells her all about the boardinghouse where they are staying. Priscilla also describes the wonderful old graveyard that Anne can see from her



bedroom window. Anne is negative at first about leaving home but then cheers up somewhat after talking to Priscilla awhile.

Chapter 1, 2, 3 Analysis

The reader needs a brief background to understand Anne of the Island's characters and plot a little better. In book one in this series, Marilla and Matthew Cuthbert, a brother and sister, adopted Anne Shirley as an eleven old girl from an orphanage in Nova Scotia. She turns out to be a girl instead of the boy they wanted to help on the farm, but Anne so endeared herself to their hearts, they decided to still adopt her.

Gilbert Blythe is introduced in book one as boy classmate who teased Anne about her carrot hair, and she vowed to hate him forever. This is part of the reason she is at odds with him for so long. Even though they do eventually become friends, Anne is very sensitive about her red hair and always ready to dislike anyone saying anything about it even though she criticizes it herself. Her dislike for him does inspire her to do much better in school so she can be better than Gilbert, and this desire to best him continues into book three.

In book two in this series, Marilla has a cousin who dies leaving twins, Dora and Davy. Even though she is getting up in years, Marilla decides to adopt the twins whom Anne now loves them like a sister and brother and they feel the same. Now Anne has many friends as well as family in Avonlea that she hates to go to college, but things do change as one gets older and she knows she must leave the nest.

In chapter 1, the change in season foreshadows the changes in Anne and Diana's life and friendship. Anne is heading off to college, and Diana is staying at home and getting married, which is indicated by the twisting of the new ring.

Typically, when two people take different paths, they grow apart because they don't see each other and have different, unshared experiences. Diana is worried about what is going to happen, but Anne brushes it off and is hopeful for the future. Anne seems to be a little naive about life and Diana a little more grounded.

When Anne runs into Gilbert, she is nervous and upset that he has changed the tone of their friendship by declaring his feelings. She does not know how to act around him now, but when he places his hand on hers, and she snatches it away, her actions and thoughts do not mesh. Anne tells herself she is mad at him, but she likes the touch of his hand over her hand which leaves a warm feeling in her heart. This indicates she may have feelings for him that she is not ready to face or is not mature enough to recognize.

At home when Davy tells her about Mrs. Boulter's comment, she is hurt and angry that someone thinks she is only going to college to find a man, not to learn. Evidently, learning is extremely important to Anne. Her musing on Victoria Island also shows her imaginative nature and desire to escape reality. Anne is not quite ready to be an adult.



In chapter 2, Anne feels appreciated and generous to even the most spiteful person in her life at the party thrown in her honor. Despite Josie Pye's nasty comments, Anne is learning to laugh things off and understand that other people are just jealous of the changes in her life.

When Gilbert expresses feelings beyond friendship at the party, Anne is angry he wants more than friendship. She shows her remaining childishness by walking off with Charlie Sloan to upset Gilbert. At the same time, Gilbert uses Ruby to make Anne jealous. Anne thinks Ruby is a beautiful, fun person so this is especially hurtful to think Gilbert prefers Ruby. Both are playing games with each other's emotions. Gilbert does not spend the entire evening with Ruby, and Anne's heart jumps for joy when she sees him walking alone. This foreshadows feelings beyond friendship that Anne has yet to admit and accept.

Anne is upset because the older women of the community do not understand why she is going to college and getting her B.A. They believe Anne is just going to flirt with men. She is hurt and wants to prove that she wants to learn and get an education. Gilbert listens to Anne's comments as they walk together while Marilla and Mrs. Rachel Lynde talk about the two teens. Mrs. Lynde predicts their future marriage, but Marilla feels uncomfortable with the gossipy woman planning Anne's life. Marilla believes Gilbert and Anne should be together but her understanding of Anne shows in her thoughts. Marilla realizes Anne needs to learn more about herself and recognize she loves Gilbert on her own, not because others insist they belong together.

It is time for Anne to say goodbye to Avonlea in chapter 3. The deep connection between Anne and Davy is seen in his inconsolable crying at breakfast. Dora is much more like the practical Marilla and both show their reserved nature by simply hugging Anne goodbye.

Diana shows her dependable and quiet love for her best friend Anne by braving the rain to drive her to the train station. Saying goodbye to Diana causes Anne to have doubts about her decision to go away to college. They have already talked about how their friendship will change, but Anne feels it will survive the separation. Anne knows they have a strong bond because each understands what the other needs and hopes for the best for the other.

When Charlie gets seasick on the boat, Anne is glad to have the time alone with Gilbert and to say her farewells to Avonlea without a "Sloane." Despite her irritation about his "feelings," she continues to want to spend time with Gilbert. This foreshadows her true love for Gilbert. Charlie also expresses feelings for her, but she wants very little to do with him.

In Kingsport, Anne is overwhelmed with homesickness. When Priscilla is chattering away, Anne is unlike her previous cheery, optimistic self and is very negative about everything Priscilla says. The reader is disappointed by her attitude but it is very typical of someone's first time away from home. Eventually the cheery, sensible Anne returns

after she settles into her new room. She knows the next few years will be full of new experiences and adventure.



Chapter 4, 5, 6

Chapter 4, 5, 6 Summary

Chapter 4: After registering at Redmond, Anne and Priscilla discuss their nerves at being freshman and look forward to the moment that they will be confident, sophisticated sophomores. Priscilla asks Anne if she noticed a pretty, brown-eyed girl and they wonder if they should have talked to her. The people of Kingsport are very proud of their historic town and after lunch the girls walk to Old St. Johns graveyard, of which the town is particularly proud. At the graveyard they see the brown-eyed girl from earlier.

Philippa Gordon is thrilled to meet the girls and proceeds to tell them her life story. She says her father told her to go to college because while she is smart but too indecisive to make any decisions on her own. Her mother wants her to get married, but Philippa wants to have fun before settling down. Philippa has two serious boyfriends at home, Alec and Alonzo and knows that she will have tons more at college and is excited to meet all these new beaux. When Philippa leaves, Anne and Priscilla talk about their sweet new friend and how they are glad to have met someone in Kingsport.

Chapter 5: The freshman class unites and thanks to Gilbert, they win Art Rush, which gives the class a sense of belonging. Anne and Priscilla also find themselves fitting in, thanks to their new friend Philippa Gordon. While Philippa is rich, she is also sweet and loyal and includes her new friends in every event to which she is invited. The girls still find time to study and all do well academically.

Letters from home keep Anne up-to-date on all the happenings in Avonlea. Each letter shows her a different view of home life depending on the writer's perspective. After a brief moment of anger when learning that Gilbert and Ruby are writing each other, a letter from young Davy warms her heart.

Chapter 6: Anne, Priscilla, Philippa, Charlie and Gilbert take a walk through the park and Kingsport. At the end of the day Gilbert suggests they head to Spofford Avenue to see the millionaire's houses. Phil quickly agrees because she wants to show Anne a wonderful little house that was not built by a millionaire. Instantly Anne falls in love with the little house named Patty's Place.

Chapter 4, 5, 6 Analysis

The girls register at Redmond and still feel very out of place in the college setting in chapter 4. When they meet Philippa at the graveyard, she almost leaps forward in enthusiasm. She is obviously not a shy girl and is just dying to meet Anne and Priscilla. She did not come over to meet them at Redmond due to indecision, which she claims is a failing of hers. She proceeds to spill her life story showing her enthusiasm for life and her desire to make friends. At the end of their conversation, Anne and Priscilla say how



much they like her but consider her a sweet baby. Philippa appears flighty at first to the girls but later the reader learns she is sweet, as well as being extremely smart.

In chapter 5, the girls finally feel a sense of belonging thanks to two people. Gilbert helps the freshman class win the Art Rush, is voted class president and asked to join a fraternity. This shows Gilbert's ability to succeed in most areas of life and his motivation to do well. His determination in all he tries shows that he has probably not given up on Anne and is only biding his time.

Philippa adores Anne and likes Priscilla as well and includes the girls in all her social events. She does not seem to be a typical rich girl and feels what is hers should be shared. Philippa's flighty nature is seen because of her many trailing beaux, but her intelligence shines in her schoolwork. Philippa is one of the best in her class and only Anne beats her out in one subject, English. This is one of the first indications that English is going to be important in Anne's future and foreshadows her winning a scholarship in English.

Letters from home give Anne a reminder of all the wonderful family and friends she has at home. When she learns that Ruby and Gilbert are writing each other Anne is angry but knows Gilbert can write whomever he wants. Once again Anne's reaction and thoughts do not match her supposed uncertain feelings toward Gilbert and the reader knows she is jealous of Ruby.

The boys and girls decide to head to the park in Kingsport and enjoy a day together. The bond between Charlie, Priscilla, Philippa, Anne, and Gilbert seems to be strengthening each day. Gilbert wants to show Anne houses created by millionaires on Spofford Ave, which seems to be his attempt to get some time alone and impress her with local knowledge. Philippa's knowledge of what Anne really likes shows when she takes her to see Patty's Place, a house on the same street. Anne's instant love of the Patty's Place foreshadows the fact that the girls may have a future with or in the house.



Chapter 7, 8, 9

Chapter 7, 8, 9 Summary

Chapter 7: The group prepares to leave college for Christmas break. Phil is going home to Bolingbroke to see Alex and Alfonzo and is disappointed Anne is not going with her. Anne is going to Avonlea and is excited to see her family and friends. At home, Diana meets Anne and updates her on current events. Davy greets her with enthusiasm and even Dora is happy to see her. Philippa writes Anne about all her trials at home including the men she is torn between. After reading her letter, Anne and Diana walk over to air out Echo Lodge, which reminds Anne about her love of the past.

Chapter 8: Anne and Jane Andrews are snuggled under blankets in the New Year, exchanging confidences. Anne is drifting to sleep when Jane tells her that she needs to tell her something. Jane asks Anne if she will marry her brother Billy. Shocked, Anne says no despite the fact that Jane emphasizes he inherited the upper farm. Jane knew Anne would refuse but is still angry and goes to sleep quickly after the refusal. Anne has trouble sleeping after the strange proposal.

Chapter 9: The group is back at Redmond. They are in their second term which is flying by with studies and social events. Gilbert and Anne both study hard to attain scholarships but also attend many events together. Anne does not have as many boyfriends as Phil, but a few are fascinated with her and are frequent visitors at the boardinghouse. Gilbert knows not to reveal his true feelings, which makes Anne keep him around because he is more fun than any other boy. Charlie unexpectedly proposes one day, and Anne's refusal causes a year's strain in their relationship. Only after he finds a new girl are the two civil to each other again.

Stella, girlfriend of Anne and Priscilla's from Queens writes the girls in their second year and tells them she is coming to Redmond. Stella is tired of teaching and boarding and asks them if they can find a house in which they can all live. She even suggests Aunt Jimsie as their chaperone/housekeeper. Anne and Priscilla think that is a great idea and go on a house hunt. Frustrated, they decide to give up and head home by walking along Spofford Avenue. As they pass Patty's Place, they notice there is a sign that says it is for rent and they know they must find out more.

Chapter 7, 8, 9 Analysis

After taking their exams, Philippa, Anne, and Gilbert are at the top of their class with Priscilla close behind. Despite their active social lives, each shows their determination and intelligence with their good grades.

Despite Philippa begging Anne to go home with her, Anne explains that the love of her family is something she cannot miss out on whenever she has the time to go home. The importance of her family is clear in Anne's loyalty; even the promise of fun at Philippa's



home is not enough for Anne to change her plans. At home, Davy has been practicing his war whoop for weeks and the bonfire he prepares for Anne's return shows that her family is just as loyal and loving to her. Anne inspires the best in other people, even in wild kids like Davy. When Davy is worried about saying a bad word, Anne tells him to say it, knowing how bad he'll feel and that he will never do it again. Anne will also make a good mother, as she seems to have a natural understanding of child psychology.

Philippa's letter to Anne shows she is still torn as to which boy she wants to marry. Phil needs someone to tell her what to do and says she wishes Anne had come home with her to help her make up her mind. The reader wonders if Philippa is ever going to find her own way without someone else to guide her.

Diana and Anne spend all night catching up. Their friendship remains strong, despite the distance. The next day when they go to Echo Lodge, Anne feels as if she can hear ghosts, and the reader sees that despite how much love she still has, she knows that her life has changed. She respects the past but seems to be ready to live in the present and push aside her imagination. Anne is starting to grow up.

In chapter 8, Anne receives her first marriage proposal by way of the boy's sister. Jane Andrews tells Anne that her brother Billy has cared for Anne for a while but is very shy and asks his sister to propose. Anne is horrified and says no, which Jane says is fine because their Mom would prefer he marry another girl whom he is also interested in, as she will manage their money well. Jane does not really think it is fine and shows her anger in her tone of voice. Jane feels her brother is a good catch, and Anne will regret turning him down. Anne does not know how Jane would even begin to imagine that she would marry someone who couldn't ask her himself and with whom she has not had any past relationship.

Meanwhile, Anne is upset that her first proposal does not match her romantic dreams. Anne always thought that her first proposal would be in the most romantic of settings by a very handsome and charming man. Even more naive is the fact that she assumes that if she turned the guy down, he would still be devoted to her for life. Anne has a great deal to learn about love and life.

Anne shows her determination to do well in school and her thoughtfulness towards her family in chapter 9. She is studying very hard to get a scholarship in English to help pay for her college tuition so that Marilla does not have to contribute much from her small income and savings.

Another proposal shocks Anne again and she reacts poorly. Charlie asks her to marry him and their friendship suffers as a result of Anne's negative response. They both act childish and say nasty things to each other because he had no idea Anne would reject his suit. Meanwhile, Anne feels she never encouraged him, so they both are angry.

When a friend from Priscilla and Anne's old school writes about the horrors of teaching and tells them she is coming to Redmond, they are excited. Stella shows the downside of teaching with her comments about the unrealistic expectations of parents. College

will be a welcome change. After much searching, Anne notices Patty's Place is for rent and as foreshadowed in previous chapters, this home feels like their destiny for next year.



Chapter 10, 11, 12

Chapter 10, 11, 12 Summary

Chapter 10: The girls walk over to Patty's Place and the owner of the house is an old lady named Patty Spofford. She and her niece are heading to Europe and would like to rent the house. Anne's love of the house gets Patty to let it to the two girls for a sum that they can afford. A tour of the house confirms that this is the perfect house for Anne, Stella, and Priscilla. Back at their boardinghouse, Philippa begs to move in with the girls when they tell her the news. Phil promises to help with the chores and not have beaux over except on Friday, so they tell her they'll confirm with Stella.

Chapter 11: Anne is back in Avonlea and finds that Billy is now married to Nettie. She is also shocked to learn that Ruby Gillis is dying. Diana and Anne go to Diana's Aunt Atossa's house to give her some jelly and discuss the town gossip along the way. After visiting Aunt Atossa, they decide to visit Ruby. Anne tells Diana that she is writing a short story that hopefully will be good enough to be published. Arriving at Ruby's house, they found her chatting gaily and refusing to acknowledge any illness.

Chapter 12: Diana and Anne are enjoying the day and discuss Anne's short story. Anne has been searching for a plot that fits the names of her characters. Diana asks to name a character and eventually she and Anne agree on a name for a lesser character.

Finally, after much agonizing, Anne finishes the story. After critiques from Diana and Mr. Harrison, she decides to cut out the flowery phrases but does not appreciate the other comments. Anne also refuses to tell most people, including Marilla, about her literary pursuits. She sends it to several magazines, and after all reject her, Anne decides to never attempt to write anything that could be published again.

Chapter 10, 11, 12 Analysis

Anne's passion for Patty's Place and a true love for everything about the place means she will get to live in her dream home in chapter 10. The owner has decided not to rent her home while in Europe for two years because no one who has looked at it has showed what she feels is the proper love, respect, and enthusiasm for the house. Anne's continual compliments and interest in Patty's china dogs eases Patty's mind that the home and possessions will be taken care of during Patty and her niece's time in Europe. Once again, the reader sees how Anne's love of life and sweet nature is influential in a major decision for the group's future.

Philippa learns they have secured the home and tells them her comfort is not as important as being with her friends. Phil is changing and is willing to work and give up some of her luxuries as she realizes friends are more important than anything else. She pleads to live with Anne and promises to be helpful and even entertain boys only on Fridays, which is a big concession for her. Anne decides to let her try living with them



but says she may leave at any time with no hard feelings. Priscilla expresses doubts about this arrangement but Anne says they must try to work it out.

Chapter 11: Billy apparently does not care about Anne's proposal rejection. He is glowing after his marriage to Nettie, who was Billy's mom's first choice and Billy's second. Anne feels a little hurt that she was forgotten so quickly even though she did not want to marry Billy and was upset that her first proposal was so shabbily done.

Mrs. Lynde shows her gossipy nature by blurting out to Anne that Ruby is dying of consumption. Anne takes the news hard that someone their age who she knows well, is dying. Anne's reaction is typical of the young because most consider themselves invincible. Ruby is in denial as is her family, so nobody can discuss the issue, and when Anne asks Ruby how she is doing Ruby says great and changes the subject.

Anne shares her short story with Diana and Mr. Harrison in chapter 12. She is afraid to tell anyone about the story in case they don't like it or in case she is rejected by editors. Anne is afraid of failure but more typically, she is afraid of what others will think of her and her writing if she fails to get published. The opinion of others currently defines her opinion about herself and her writing. When she is rejected by the magazines, Anne's vow to never write again shows her shortsightedness. Most people are rejected many times before being published and many good writers never succeed, so if she really wants published she must keep trying and needs to learn from her critics. Anne does not take Mr. Harrison or Diana's advice about her story's love interest seriously and it might have improved the story enough to get it accepted. Until she learns to take the opinions of others and rejection in stride, it will be difficult for Anne to move forward in the literary world.



Chapter 13, 14, 15

Chapter 13, 14, 15 Summary

Chapter 13: Davy and Dora are getting ready to go to church by themselves because Anne is away; Marilla has a headache, and Mrs. Lynde twisted her ankle. On the way to church, Davy has a fit of temper because of Mrs. Lynde's constant badgering about his behavior. Dora tries to get him to behave but he refuses and decides to walk to the woods with the Cotton kids. Both end up skipping Sunday school and then lie to Mrs. Lynde about church. That night, Davy confesses to Anne and promises to be better.

Chapter 14: Anne makes frequent nighttime visits to Ruby as she slowly fades from life. Mrs. Lynde and Marilla express concern that she might catch consumption from Ruby but Anne brushes off their worries. Towards the end of summer, Ruby passes and Diana, Davy, and Anne walk home hoping Ruby is laughing in heaven.

Chapter 15: Mr. Harrison asks Anne if she is writing again because Mrs. Sloane at the post office saw an envelope addressed to a baking soda writing competition. Anne learns that Diana altered her story to mention the baking soda and sent her story in as a contender. Anne wins the prize and is less than overjoyed that her story was altered but Gilbert's assurances sooth her outrage.

Chapter 13, 14, 15 Analysis

In chapter 13, Davy is furious at Mrs. Lynde and storms off down the lane towards church. He starts swearing and Dora is horrified. The difference in their personalities is stark; while Davy is the sweet rebel, his sister Dora is the refined, perfectionist that insists on following the rules. Davy blackmails Dora into skipping church, which she adores and she wishes she were listening to her favorite Sunday school teacher.

At the end of their adventure, Davy's conscience bothers him. Despite all of Mrs. Lynde's nagging, she hides some of Davy's indiscretions and always has a cookie or two, which shows her soft side. As much as Davy wants to be a rebel, he is honest enough with himself to realize that she probably is doing what is in his best interest. It seems Davy does want to be good like Dora but just is unable to resist temptation; after all, he is all little boy. At the end of the day, he confesses his guilt to Anne who again shows how in touch she is with children, and Davy agrees to not be bad in that way again and to ask God's forgiveness.

Ruby is growing weaker and showing her severe illness physically in chapter 14; however, she chatters away to Anne as if she is not ill and refuses to acknowledge anything is wrong. When Ruby eventually confesses her sickness to Anne, she is saddened by all the things that have occurred and will never occur in her life. She tells Anne that all the little fights in her past seem petty and apologizes to old friends. Ruby



also regrets that she will never be able to have a family and kids. Anne seems to understand that Ruby is telling her to live her own life to the fullest.

Anne has not quite learned the lesson of living life to the fullest in chapter 15. When Anne learns that Diana submitted her story to a banking soda ad company, she is furious. She feels this demeans her writing and makes her a joke to the world. Somehow the reader doubts the world cares, and Anne should appreciate any way of getting published the first time and should be grateful to Diana. Luckily, Anne sees through her outrage long enough to realize that Diana had her best interests at heart so Anne does not show her true feelings to Diana. Gilbert tells Anne she should be glad to have the money as it will help with expenses. Once again, his approval seems to be very important to her, which implies she respects him and his opinion perhaps more than as just a friend.



Chapter 16, 17, 18

Chapter 16, 17, 18 Summary

Chapter 16: Anne, Stella, Priscilla, and Philippa move into Patty's Place and begin decorating. Anne is adopted by a cat they name Rusty who the girls attempt to "kill." Luckily, they do not succeed and Rusty is adopted into the household. After being in the house for several weeks, Aunt Jamesina moves in with her cats, Sarah and Joseph. After some adjustments, the girls, cats, and Aunt Jimsie settle in to their new home.

Chapter 17: Winter has come to Kingsport and the snow outside has the girls looking for inside entertainment. Anne reads a letter from Davy to help pass the time and to give everyone a picture of life at home and a good laugh.

Chapter 18: Anne is back in Avonlea for winter break. She is extremely bored because Diana is sick with bronchitis. Davy and Gilbert keep her spirits up as well as letters from her school chums. A letter from the lawyer of Miss Josephine Barry, a relative of Diana's, gives Anne good and bad news. Anne is sorry Miss Barry has died but she leaves Anne a thousand dollars that enables Anne to continue her schooling.

Chapter 16, 17, 18 Analysis

The girls are learning to be on their own in chapter 16. They are thrilled to be in their own place and Phil comments on how much fun it is to do housekeeping without a husband to answer to. You see the independent nature of the girls and know they plan to be equal partners to any man in their life.

When Anne adopts and is adopted by a cat, the practical nature of the girls is also displayed. The rag-tag cat is sentenced to a chloroform death. Philippa says it is the only thing she is good at, which shows her lack of self-confidence in her own abilities despite her excellent grades. The cat survives and nobody has the heart to try killing Rusty again. Ultimately their compassion is evidenced by their behavior despite the issues caused by another cat in the household. When Aunt Jamesina moves in, she is thrilled there is another cat. She believes everything has a right to a life. Aunt Jimsie is a great guide and compass for the girls as they continue into adulthood.

In chapter 17, Anne comments on what a wonderful writer Davy is becoming. His spelling has improved and he has such an honest, funny view on life that nobody can resist his charms. He may follow the path of Anne if his writing of the letter is any indication. Once again, Davy asks for Anne's advice in the letter, and the reader sees the bond and trust between the two.

During Christmas break at home in Avonlea, in chapter 18, the reader notices that Anne is starting to relish her freedom and to pull away from her childhood roots and feel comfortable in her own home. She misses Patty's Place and the comforts of the place



she worked hard to make "her" home. Gilbert's attention is also making her nervous. Anne notices that he seems to be starting to look and act more like a boyfriend than just a friend. This attention makes her happy and nervous, which once again shows that she is not sure or ready to accept her feelings.

Anne is also concerned she will be unable to continue school because of her limited funds. She knows teaching may be the only option open to her; the reader realizes Anne will do what she must to spare Marilla from using her money, but Anne really wants to go back to college. Anne's sense of honor and concern for her family, placing their well-being over her own, is shown by her decision.



Chapter 19, 20, 21

Chapter 19, 20, 21 Summary

Chapter 19: Anne is back at Patty's Place talking to Aunt Jamesina about her birthday. Anne is out of her teens and Jamesina tells her that her teens are just a state of mind. Jimsie feels she has never and will never lose her teens. Meanwhile, Philippa is upstairs getting ready for a party. She comes down ready for her date and party looking beautiful in a yellow dress.

Chapter 20: Philippa and Anne are lounging around the house having a lazy girl's day. Anne heads over to the orchard where Gilbert meets up with her. Afraid to be alone with Gilbert, Anne wishes Philippa would come outside and interrupt.

Gilbert talks to Anne about break and what her plans are for the time. Anne is heading to Bolingbroke with Philippa for a few weeks and then to Avonlea. Gilbert tells Anne that he is taking a summer internship and will not be spending the summer in Avonlea. He tells her that he wants to marry her and hopes she will promise him to try to have feelings for him. Anne panics and tells him no but they must stay good friends; however, Gilbert walks away angry at her denial of his proposal.

Chapter 21: Anne is in Bolingbroke. She is having a great time with Philippa and visits the place of her birth in Bolingbroke. The woman who opened the door to Anne's parent's old house who lives in the house remembers Anne's parents and is amazed that Anne is still alive, only remembering her as a sickly baby. The lady of the house gives Anne some letters she found from Anne's mom and dad. After receiving the letters, she says hi and bye to them at the graveyard and heads back to Phil's house to read the letters.

Chapter 19, 20, 21 Analysis

In chapter 19, Anne is afraid of being 20. She worries she will have to act mature and lose out on some of the fun in life. Anne also worries about her personality and her character flaws being set in stone. Miss Stacy told Anne when Anne was a child that at 20 you are set on a course that is difficult to change. Anne feels she still makes too many errors Aunt Jamesina explains that everyone makes mistakes and it continues to be your choice to live in an honorable manner.

Philippa needs the reassurance of Anne and Aunt Jamesina about her appearance. While she doesn't lack confidence thanks to boys and the mirror, she worries that something on her body might be askew making her not look her best. Philippa acts flighty and unintelligent, which makes Aunt Jamesina worry that she is crazy or not "all there." Anne assures her that Philippa just acts young and her attitude hides her intelligence and gets her out of making decisions.



Anne partially destroys her and Gilbert's friendship in chapter 20. Knowing that Gilbert's feelings have been coming closer to the surface, she has avoided seeing him in private. It seems Anne feels that if she doesn't directly hear Gilbert's feelings again, she does not have to deal with them. Her denial is short-lived when Gilbert proposes to her. When she denies him, Gilbert tells her that he thought her feelings were starting to change to more than just friendship. Gilbert feels this way because Anne has yet to figure out her feelings. She has her own inner struggle in relation to him and hasn't accepted her feelings. Anne begs him to stay best friends, but he tells her that he is unable to be "just" friends with her. Understandably, his feelings are hurt and he feels misled by Anne's actions. She is devastated at the loss of his friendship and Philippa makes a good point by saying Anne wouldn't know love if it bit her. Everyone knows she loves Gilbert except Anne herself. Hopefully she will realize it before she destroys their relationship entirely.

Chapter 21: Philippa asks Anne to decide who she (Philippa) should marry, after Anne meets Phil's two men in Bolingbroke. Anne gets snippy with Phil by saying that apparently Anne can decide who everyone can marry but Anne for herself. The strain of Gilbert's proposal and rejection of their friendship is showing in Anne's other relationships.

Anne does get some good news when she visits her childhood home. The lady of the house gives Anne letters that allow Anne to see the deep love her mom and dad had for each other and her. This gives Anne closure and assurance that she was loved and wanted by her parents. The letters also make her parents come alive for her and confirm that her parents had a wonderful, rich life even though their lives were short. She does notice that her mother was a good writer and perhaps some of her natural talent comes from her.



Chapter 22, 23, 24

Chapter 22, 23, 24 Summary

Chapter 22: Anne is at home in Green Gables. She arrives a day early and both Marilla and Davy greet her with great joy. Davy rambles about all the changes in his life, including how he has grown a whole two inches. Davy also tells Anne that he has already picked out his future bride and plans to be married when he is older. He asks Anne to watch over the girl, Stella Fletcher, if anything should happen to him as Stella only has an old grandmother to raise her. Davy has a very practical side and a kind heart even though he has a great deal of mischief in him.

Chapter 23: Anne is thinking about how nice her summer at home has been. She briefly thinks about how much she misses Gilbert but attempts to push those thoughts out of her head. She encounters a previous student of hers named Paul who has grown a great deal since she last saw him. Anne is happy to see him and impressed with his maturity at only thirteen. She talks to his mom, Miss Lavender, who tells her that she and Gilbert are made for each other.

Chapter 24: Phil writes Anne about her summer and tells Anne all about her neighbors and the people she is meeting at Prospect Point, her father's cousin's boardinghouse. She meets an ugly minister named Jonas Blake who Philippa becomes good friends with over the month. Phil realizes she is in love with Blake and asks Anne if she thinks she could make a good preacher's wife.

Chapter 22, 23, 24 Analysis

Marilla is reflecting on her life in chapter 22. She realizes her life was very dull until Anne with her colorful personality and great imagination entered her life. Marilla misses Anne and looks forward to her visits from college. When Anne arrives early, she cannot contain her enthusiasm and gives her a crushing hug. For the first time, the reader sees the softer side of Marilla and you realize the depth of her love for Anne and the changes that have occurred in her life since Anne's arrival.

In chapter 23, Anne misses Gilbert and feels like some of the joy of the summer is gone because of his absence. She sees the many couples around her and reflects on their companionship. Anne still refuses to admit she wants to be with Gilbert and still thinks her feelings for Gilbert are only those of a friend. Every time someone asks about Gilbert, she answers curtly and tries to change the subject. Anne has a serious case of denial.

Philippa is filled with self-doubt in chapter 24. Phil has finally fallen in love and he meets none of her former criteria, which makes her insecure. He is poor, a student, and not attractive, yet his voice and spending time with him is the most important thing in the world to her. Phil is starting to grow up and is now worried that she isn't good enough for

this nice man. Before, everyone liked her because she is fun and flighty; but Philippa worries she is too frivolous for her preacher. It is ironic that the very things that attract everyone else is something that she thinks will push away the man she loves.



Chapter 25, 26, 27

Chapter 25, 26, 27 Summary

Chapter 25: After talking to Aunt Jimsie about the plan for the day, Anne decides to get some fresh air at the park. Jimsie tells her to take an umbrella, but Anne is sure that the lovely weather will hold. Meanwhile, Phil is also getting a brief lecture about her "preacher" and everyone worries she is going to break Jonas's heart.

While Anne is out, the lovely weather turns rainy and Anne's umbrella is destroyed. Luckily, she is rescued by a handsome man named Royal (Roy) Gardner. Both are immediately smitten with each other and Anne learns he is a junior at Redmond like she. After a brief talk, Roy walks Anne to Patty's Place.

Chapter 26: The girls go to a party that the juniors at Redmond throw for the seniors. Anne looks beautiful and is feeling confident about her appearance. She feels it is the dress that makes her look so nice as she has very little conceit except about her "exceptional" nose. Roy is well liked by Anne's friends and even Aunt Jamesina feels he is very nice.

Phil is sad that Jonas could not come up to accompany them but turns the topic to Gilbert's new companion. Gilbert has been seen escorting a new girl named Christine, who is quite lovely and has the type of looks Anne has always wanted.

Chapter 27: All the girls at Patty's Place are studying for exams. Phil is going to study mathematics and attempt to get a scholarship to impress Jonas with her knowledge. Aunt Jimsie's daughter has an M.A. in math and can cook, so Jimsie tells Philippa that she needs to learn to cook before learning math to take care of a house, which will be important as she will not be able to afford servants.

In March, the girls learn that the Spofford women are going to Egypt to see the pyramids before they die, so they will have Patty's Place for another year. Everyone is thrilled that their quaint rental will be theirs for the final year at Redmond.

After getting the good news, Philippa and Anne go for a walk in the park. Jonas has finally asked Phil to marry him, and she said yes in an instant. Philippa told Alec and Alfonzo the previous Christmas that she could not marry them, so she is free to have a long, happy life with Jonas.

Chapter 25, 26, 27 Analysis

Anne is still missing Gilbert in chapter 25. He sometimes visits but does not pay exclusive attention to her but simply talks to everyone. Anne feels he has adjusted to her rejection too quickly. She keeps her thoughts internal and is just glad tht Gilbert is able to be around her.



Phil has a new frequent visitor, Jonas, whom everyone in the house adores. Aunt Jimsie is angry at Philippa and tells her that she is able to break his heart and Jonas is not disposable like Alec and Alfonzo. Jimsie's mothering side is in evidence as she worries about all the kids, including the visitors. Phil is excited to think that she could break Jonas's heart, sure that he doesn't like her as much as she loves him, so maybe there is hope.

A party turns flat for Anne in chapter 26. Phil tells her that Gilbert is seeing a new girl which bothers Anne immensely. Even though she has Roy as an escort, which normally makes her feel good, seeing Gilbert with Christine dampens any joy she feels with Roy. Despite the fact Roy is supposedly the exciting man of her dreams, Anne seems to only feel true emotion in relation to Gilbert.

Phil also doubts her relationship with Jonas because he is unable to come to the party. She worries he is not going to ask her to marry him and that he will never see her as anything more than a flighty girl. She decides she will propose to him if she has to, which is a typical Phil statement.

In chapter 27, Philippa is trying to impress Jonas with her intelligence. Jimsie points out that in her days all a girl needed to do was be able to take care of her man. She explains that now if she wants to impress Jonas she needs to be able to do both. Anne points out that he would not be interested in her if he didn't already like her. The reader knows it is love when it continues to throw off Philippa's normal confidence.

Later that month when Jonas asks Phil to marry her, she says yes before he can finish asking, still afraid he might change his mind. Hopefully his love will make her feel sure of herself and help her grow as a person. That she is comfortable marrying a poor preacher who plans to live in the slums already shows the depth of Phil's character and changes in her personality and values.



Chapter 28, 29, 30

Chapter 28, 29, 30 Summary

Chapter 28: June has arrived in Avonlea and Anne is back at home for the summer. At the house, Davy, Dora, Marilla, Miss Lynde, and Anne sit on the porch and discuss June. Davy does not want to live a minute longer because he has a new teacher who he hates. His teacher, Miss Carson, is a no-nonsense, sensible teacher. She assigns Davy sums to do, which he hates. Anne reminds him tomorrow is another day and if he gets his work done he can have fun.

They all discuss Diana's wedding in four days to Fred Wright. Marilla is glad Diana has found a wonderful person and is upset that Anne refused Gilbert. Now the entire town seems to know about Anne's refusal of Gilbert and are disappointed in her. Gilbert is coming to town to be Fred's best man and Anne is going to be a bridesmaid, which was planned when she and Diana were kids.

Chapter 29: Diana and Anne prep Diana for her walk down the aisle. Diana is standing in her lovely wedding gown and veil with pink roses as her flowers. Anne tells her she is a beautiful bride and exactly how she pictures every bride should look on their wedding day. They talk about the strength of their friendship and Diana is upset that she will not be able to be a bridesmaid for Anne. Anne tells her that she is going to be a bridesmaid for Philippa and that is it, since three times a bridesmaid is bad luck.

As the wedding is about to start, Diana has a moment of panic and Anne assures her she looks wonderful. Gilbert escorts Anne down the aisle and Fred, with a red face, waits for Diana at the alter. The wedding goes off without a hitch and there is much partying after the wedding. Afterward the happy couple drives to their new home while Gilbert walks Anne home. Gilbert asks Anne if she is staying in Avonlea for the summer, and Anne tells Gilbert she is substitute teaching for the rest of the summer. She reflects on how strange it is to see the changes in her friends from years ago and feels quite old.

Chapter 30: Anne is heading to Valley Road and is greeted at the Valley Road train station by an older woman named Amelia Skinner. She guesses Anne is the new school teacher because she is so attractive. Apparently, Valley Road is known for its pretty teachers. Amelia Skinner tells Anne all about herself on the drive. She is picking up Anne because her new husband, Thomas, wanted to hoe the turnips. Amelia says she and Thomas had a long but romantic courtship.

Anne learns that Amelia had two beaux, one was William, who was rich and would have taken good care of her, and then there was Thomas. She didn't marry William, though, because he didn't love her and just wanted a housekeeper. At the end of the trip, Anne tells Amelia she enjoyed the drive. Anne hops out and Amelia gives her directions to the school.



Chapter 28, 29, 30 Analysis

Davy is being dramatic in chapter 28, just like a typical little boy. He wants to die because he is being forced to work; however, a promise of a help with his sums immediately brightens his day. The highs and lows of youth and quick recovery time is something that everyone envies.

Marilla is disappointed that Anne refused Gilbert but hopes Anne will wise up sometime soon. Mrs. Lynde cannot resist being outwardly bitter at Anne's choice, jabbing at her at any opportunity. Mrs. Lynde does not realize how much this could alienate Anne. Marilla is wise enough to realize pushing Anne to do what Marilla thinks is right will not make Anne change her mind and could damage their relationship. Anne reflects on the changes in her and Gilbert's and Diana's relationship. She is worried that things will not change for the better and is afraid to lose the closeness of Diana's friendship like she did Gilbert's.

In chapter 29, Anne is trying to be happy for Diana on her wedding day but is being a bit selfish worrying about Diana going down a different path. Diana is making a new life with Fred and will be unable to be as close to Anne as when she was a single girl. Anne is feeling left out and is glad when Gilbert walks her home. She is happy that he seems to have partially forgiven her and they have a nice talk. The reader can't help wondering if Gilbert still has hopes Anne will change her mind.

Anne is nervous to start teaching again in chapter 30. Anne is shocked that Mrs. Skinner chooses love over a rich, dashing man. Mrs. Skinner explains that it doesn't matter what conditions she lives in as long as she loves her man and has a man who loves her. Anne needs to learn from this situation since it runs parallel to her own. Hopefully, she will learn from other's experience and realize that love and things in common are more important than dreams of a dashing man.



Chapter 31, 32, 33

Chapter 31, 32, 33 Summary

Chapter 31: Anne writes Philippa about her stay in Valley Road. She is staying with a woman named Miss Janet Sweet who adores Anne. Janet used to have a sister named Anne who died at a young age and Janet treats Anne like a little sister. Anne thinks the little house is wonderful and cute. Everything in the house is tiny but neat; the only thing that bothers Anne are the coffin plates depicting all the people who have died in the house. Janet compares Anne to the previous boarders and is thrilled to find out Anne does not mind feather beds and loves to eat. Anne is also allowed to have gentleman visitors; however, only the neighbor has visited so far.

Chapter 32: Anne goes to a prayer meeting with Janet. Janet decks herself out for the meeting looking lovely in a blue dress. The meeting is comprised of mostly woman, 2 boys, and one adult male. The one male at the meeting approaches Janet at the end of the evening and asks her if he can walk her home. Anne is introduced to Mr. John Douglas, who compliments her and walks them home. The next day Janet and Anne are invited to the Douglas' house to have tea. Mrs. Douglas is a tiny, cheerful, talkative woman and the food is excellent, but Mrs. Douglas is worried that Anne has not eaten enough. Mrs. Douglas says Janet is such a wonderful cook that she worries that she cannot compare. Anne assures her she ate more than enough and everything was wonderful. While Janet walks in the garden with John, Mrs. Douglas and Anne also discuss what a wonderful woman Janet is and what a great wife she will eventually make John.

Chapter 33: Janet is crying on her 40th birthday. Anne learns Janet has been waiting for John to marry her for 20 years. Janet has no idea why he won't marry her and assumed he'd marry her when her mother died but he didn't. Anne tells her to take a stand and at the next prayer meeting Janet refuses to be walked home by John. Anne sees how bad this makes him feel and runs after him and explains it was Anne's fault Janet refused. Janet and John walked arm in arm the rest of the way home.

Chapter 31, 32, 33 Analysis

Anne is a good representation of her generation. Janet is used to finicky girls teaching at the school who complain about her tiny boardinghouse, food, and the feather beds. The reader sees the great respect and charm Anne shows in every situation.

In chapter 32, Anne is confused about Janet and John's relationship. She doesn't understand why everyone seems to think they are perfect for each other but nothing is progressing. Mrs. Douglas's comment about John having a good wife when she dies is a foreshadowing of the reason they are not together.



Janet has decided John is never going to marry her. Anne interferes and gives Janet advice to ignore John to spur a change in his attitude. When this goes horribly, Anne feels terrible which shows that Anne is not ready to give advice on a relationship when she isn't sure how to run her own love life.



Chapter 34, 35, 36

Chapter 34, 35, 36 Summary

Chapter 34: Douglas and Janet are still courting and Anne is sure they will continue to court with no result. Over the summer in Valley Road, Anne explores the area, walks through the swamp, and teaches school. One day, Sam Tolliver, the tall tow-head hired boy from next door who has spoken to Anne one other time, sits down next to Anne on Janet's porch. He continues to chew a straw and after much silence asks Anne to marry him. Anne finds the entire proposal crazy and funny and turns him down. Later that evening, Anne and Janet have a laugh over the entire situation.

Later that summer, Mrs. Douglas is ill and Janet is summoned to her bedside. She dies that same day after saying to Janet that she'll marry John. After the funeral, Janet is still upset over the death when John rushes over and asks Janet to marry him. She agrees after learning that Mrs. Douglas made John promise not to marry anyone until after she died.

Chapter 35: The girls and guys are back for their last year in Redmond, and Phil and Anne are thrilled to be back at Patty's Place. They find not much has changed, except Rusty losing another piece of ear while everyone was away. Phil tells everyone that she told her parents about Jonas over the break. She tells them her mom was angry but her father, while not thrilled, approves of men in cloth in general since his own father was a minister. Apparently, once Jonas came up to visit, both warmed to him and are more accepting of her marriage plans. Anne shares her interesting summer with them. She tells them about Janet's and John's strange courtship and about her unique proposal. Everyone has a good laugh about Anne's out-of-the-blue proposal.

Aunt Jamesina disapproves of their laughing at beaux, which leads them to ask about her many past romantic interests. Aunt Jimsie laughs and tells them that she has several beaux now and the girls should not assume that only the young can feel romance. She has three widowers falling all over themselves to call on her now.

During the next few weeks, Phil, Priscilla, Stella, Anne study intently, knowing this is graduation year. One rainy afternoon, Anne is up in the attic when Stella joins her because both feel depressed over the weather. They discuss the weather, life, and the purpose of their studying; in the end Anne reads funny old stories she wrote when she was in a story club in Avonlea to cheer them up.

Chapter 36: The girls get their mail at Patty's Place. Anne only receives one letter, but it contains news from a circular that published a small sketch she wrote and sent them. She is also paid ten dollars and asked to continue writing for the paper. Phil suggests they go for a night on the town and Anne says that she would like to be frivolous for once. That night when she goes to a walking party with Roy, nothing can diminish Anne's enjoyment of her new success. Roy asks her if she is going to be home



Saturday and lets her know that his sisters and mom would like to call on her. Anne tells him that she will be glad to meet his family and mentally goes over preparations to make a good impression.

Friday afternoon, Anne gets unexpected visitors in the form of Roy's family. Phil immediately puts the family at ease and the visit starts fairly smoothly. Anne warms to Roy's sister Dorothy and is doing well until Mrs. Gardner makes a comment about not liking cats. Aline, Roy's other sister, is fascinated with the china dogs and the rest of the visit is spent talking about china dogs. At the end of the visit, Dorothy tells Anne she knows they are going to be great friends.

Chapter 34, 35, 36 Analysis

In chapter 34, Anne is showing signs of maturing when it comes to proposals. She no longer reacts quite as poorly to someone's declaration of love. Anne finally sees the humor in her multiple silly proposals. Anne's immaturity shows when she is mad at Janet for accepting John's proposal. She feels slighted for Janet that John has strung her along for 20 years. Janet tells Anne that with age, you learn to forgive more easily, a lesson Anne has yet to learn.

The girls are making fun of their beaux in chapter 35, and Jimsie tells them they should not make fun of boys, though, she did so when she was young. Evidently that is another thing they will learn with age because they continue to tease each other about boys, asking Jimsie to spill her stories. A rainy night depresses Anne and Stella and sends them to the attic. Anne is reading her old stories, and the reader gets the impression Anne plans to try her hand at getting published again. Seems her dramatic declaration about never writing again and attempting to get published has faded.

In chapter 36, Anne gets published and paid, which has Phil suggesting they all go out on the town. Surprisingly, Anne agrees she should have fun with the money instead of spending it on necessities as she did the money from the last baking soda story, about which she is still unhappy. We can see that there is a frivolous side to Anne, and everything is not about studying to beat Gilbert. Students of her time had fun in school and nights out like any modern college student.

When Roy's family visits a day earlier than expected, Anne compares Mrs. Gardner dislike of cats to Gilbert's mom who loves cats. Once again, Anne's thoughts are always drawn to Gilbert, and she thinks of his family in a more favorable light than Roy's.



Chapter 37, 38, 39

Chapter 37, 38, 39 Summary

Chapter 37: The girls are studying for their final exams. They start discussing how they've changed, and Aunt Jimsie chimes in with her opinions about their growth. Jimsie asks them what they have learned besides academics, and each girl reflects on her personal growth. Exams finally end and the girls each take honors in a subject, except Stella who does well in all of her subjects. Finally graduation is here and Anne is surprised the day has finally dawned. Flowers arrive from both Gilbert and Roy and Anne reflects on her relationship with both young men. Anne expects Roy to propose soon and is thrilled that Dorothy will be her sister. The two girls have become quite close over the last few months.

After graduation, everyone goes to a final dance at Redmond. Anne acts as if she is having a wonderful time but tells Gilbert her dance card is full after hearing his proposal to Christine is imminent. While they were gone from Patty's Place, Moody stops by and Aunt Jimsie tells them he is going to be a minister.

Chapter 38: The time has finally arrived for the girls to leave Patty's Place. As they pack, they reflect on all the wonderful memories they've made in the house. A letter from Miss Patty says they are coming home, and she worries that they will find the house small after touring the world. Aunt Jimsie is packing her things and the cats. She is taking Rusty because she can't bear to part the cats. Anne knows it is the best choice for Rusty despite the fact she will miss him.

Anne has been offered a principalship at a high school and is wondering if she should take it. She is waiting to see if Roy proposes before deciding on the offer. Later, Roy does ask her to marry him in the pavilion where they first met. The romantic setting and proposal is all Anne ever dreamed a wonderful proposal should be, and it is not a shock like her other proposals because she is expecting Roy's. Anne pauses, trembles, and says no. She is as shocked as Roy, who asks if there is any hope. She says no as she realizes finally that she does not care enough for him and never will. Back at home, Phil asks Anne what happened with Roy and is angry at Anne for leading on such a nice, rich, smart boy for two years. Anne is devastated by everyone's anger and starts sobbing.

Chapter 39: Anne is back in Avonlea after a sad goodbye with Dorothy in Kingsport. Dorothy insists on them remaining friends and explains that Roy has been turned down before and will survive. Anne feels much more upbeat after her talk with Dorothy. On the porch of Green Gables, Mrs. Lynde and Marilla fill Anne in about all the Avonlea news. They tell her Jane is going to marry a millionaire but that Anne should be prouder of her B.A. The next week, Anne travels to Bolingbroke to be Phil's bridesmaid. Joe looks almost handsome because of his happiness and Anne is glad to see so many of her



friends having their dreams come true. She is sad that her dreams do not seem to be going as well.

Diana's son is born when Anne comes back from Phil's wedding. Diana has a brief moment of sadness that she did not have a girl to name Anne; however, she and Fred are delighted by their new child. After exchanging childhood stories with the old minister's wife, Anne walks home.

Chapter 37, 38, 39 Analysis

Anne is happy they are graduating in chapter 37, but she and Gilbert have always planned on enjoying their graduation walk together. Gilbert and Roy send her flowers and it is quite telling that she wears Gilbert's flowers on her walk. Roy seems momentarily surprised but Anne does not reflect deeply on her choice.

Later that evening, she wears jewelry given to her by Gilbert to their last dance. On the way, Phil mentions that Gilbert is probably going to propose to Christine, which causes Anne to break the necklace and put it away. It seems she is finally starting to realize she is jealous and may care for Gilbert more than she ever knew.

Roy finally proposes in chapter 38, and shocking herself, Anne says no. She realizes everything he did is perfect, the proposal, the location, the sincerity, and even his family likes her. Sadly she doesn't feel a connection with him and realizes she does not love him enough. Her actions at graduation and the subsequent party must have had her analyzing the differences between Roy and Gilbert, and Roy comes up short.

In chapter 39, all her friends are moving on with their own families. Phil is getting married; Diana is having a baby, and Anne is realizing that she wants to find her own happiness. She misses Gilbert, which foreshadows her finally admitting her true feelings about him.



Chapter 40, 41

Chapter 40, 41 Summary

Chapter 40: Davy tells Anne that Gilbert is dying. Shocked at the news, she asks Marilla and Mrs. Lynde if it is true. They tell her he has typhoid and is quite ill but they insist she not worry because he is a Blythe who are known for their hardy constitutions.

Devastated, Anne realizes she loves him and always has loved him. Luckily, Anne sees a man who works for Gilbert's aunt walking by her yard and asks if Gilbert is doing any better and receives the news he is expected to live.

Chapter 41: Gilbert visits Anne quite often but gives her no indication of feeling anything other than friendship. She is sad he seems to have recovered from his love and knows it is her own fault. One day after Jane's wedding, Anne is wearing a dress he likes and Gilbert knows he has to try one more time to ask her to marry him. He asks her to go for a walk in Hester Gray's garden. He talks of unfulfilled dreams and tells Anne he has one. His dreams of his future home with Anne. Anne says yes with her eyes and knows she will always love the garden where he proposed. Gilbert does ask her to wait three years while he is in medical school, and Anne says it does not matter because they are in love.

Chapter 40, 41 Analysis

In chapter 40, the reader finally sees Anne realize what we knew all along—Gilbert is the love of her life. When Anne learns he is dying she realizes that the possibility of never seeing him again is too much to handle and would be like losing a limb. Now Anne must tell Gilbert before it is too late, if her foolishness hasn't already cost her his love.

Anne knows she is an idiot in chapter 41. Gilbert is apparently an equal idiot and still loves her. It turns out that a letter from Phil is what helps his recovery because Phil tells him that Anne refused Roy. Now, Gilbert hopes his love is finally returned. Their dreams are both coming true, and at last is the "happily-ever-after" ending to a charming story full of strife and misunderstandings.



Characters

Anne Shirley

Anne Shirley is the main character of the book and has red hair, freckles, bright gray eyes, and a slight body. At 18, she is leaving home to attend college in Kingsport. Anne is excited and sad to be leaving Avonlea for Redmond. The older women of Avonlea think the only reason she is leaving is to find a husband. The women also feel that she should not try to be so "fancy" and just marry her old friend Gilbert Blythe, but Anne is determined to learn about herself and her purpose in the greater scheme of things while continuing to enrich her mind.

Anne proves she is an extremely loving and loyal friend. Her best friend, Diana Berry, stays at home to be with her fiancée while Anne heads to college. During her breaks from college, Anne makes sure she comes home to visit her family and Diana. Anne refuses to let her relationships weaken or die despite the differences in lifestyle and distance. Typically people are unwilling to work on relationships that may be difficult, but Anne is faithful to the end.

In college, she makes a new friend, Philippa Gordon, who while different from anyone else but is welcomed into Anne's circle of friends. Anne's positive influence on her friends is seen when Philippa begs to move in with Anne, Priscilla, and Stella. Not only is Phil decisive, but she is willing to do chores, only have her beaux over on Friday, and live in reduced circumstances just to be with her friends. Before Anne, Philippa would have done none of those things.

Anne's view on romance is immature when we first meet her. She is sure love is thrilling, romantic, and almost perfect. Her first proposal from the sister of the boy shatters her dreams of an amazing proposal. She'd always imagined that even if denied the person, the person would be her smitten follower for life. Anne's multiple proposals sour her on the idea of a magical proposal, but she is still holding out for the thrilling romance. She meets a charming, rich man who provides her with a thrill but leaves her missing the companionship of Gilbert. In the end she turns down the charmer and agrees to marry Gilbert. When Gilbert almost dies of typhoid, she realizes that love comes in many packages and that someone who has always been there for you, who you are comfortable with, and who you miss, is more thrilling than the romantic, idealistic thrill that will fade.

Anne's charming, sweet-natured, intelligent approach to life combined with her imaginative nature make her fun to be around and a positive influence. In the end, she changes for the better, as do her friends.



Philippa Gordon

Philippa Gordon is a beautiful girl, which is one of the first things that Anne notices about her before they even meet. She is described as having glossy brown hair, red, round cheeks, and gorgeous brown, velvet eyes. Philippa is also a loyal, sweet, smart, indecisive friend. She comes from a wealthy background that enables her to have all the material advantages in life.

Philippa approaches Anne and Priscilla in the graveyard across from Priscilla and Anne's boarding house. Her open and talkative nature both puts off and draws in the girls. Philippa is unable to keep a secret and spills her life's story to Anne and Priscilla at their first meeting. Philippa may be wealthy but finds her friends more important to her and moves in with them, giving up her fancy boardinghouse for a small room. Her friends also require her to chip in on the household chores.

Her indecisive nature leaves behind a string of beaux as well as attracting many new men. Philippa's charm also attracts many female friends giving her a wonderful and rich social life. She believes in keeping her friends close and includes Anne and Priscilla in her social life, enriching all of the girls' lives.

The many men in her life give her the attention she craves; however, Philippa assumes she must marry a rich man to keep her in the lifestyle to which she is accustomed. The effect of college and her down-to-earth friends is felt in her ultimate decision to marry for love. The growth of her character is shown when Philippa gives up money and status to be with a man who catches her heart.

Marilla Cuthbert

Marilla Cuthbert is an older, angular woman who wears her graying hair twisted in a knot. She is living in Avonlea at Green Gables when she adopts Anne from an orphanage in Bolingbroke. Anne's parents had died of a fever when she was young and she had been in several homes, such as Mrs. Thomas' mentioned in chapter 21, before being sent back to the orphanage. Before Anne comes to live with her, Marilla's life was dull and monotonous. Her life greatly improves with the advent of Anne's gay, colorful and positive viewpoint, which makes life more interesting to Marilla because something new happens every day. She sorely misses Anne when Anne goes to Redmond and is very happy to see her when she comes home on vacations. Although on the whole she would never admit how much she misses Anne, her reserve slips in chapter 22 when Anne surprises her by arriving home a day early.

Even though Marilla acts like a cold, brusque person, she really has a good heart as may be seen when she adopts a cousin's orphaned twins late in her life. This is even more surprising considering Marilla does not have a lot of money and has to work hard to make ends meet, which is one reason Anne does not like taking money from her for her schooling.



Davy complains to Anne in a letter in chapter 5 that Marilla ties him to the rail of the bridge when he goes fishing with the boys, which of course is very embarrassing to him. This shows Marilla does care about him and understands his personality and inclination to get into trouble as he probably would fall in the water.

Marilla does not gossip, but one of her friends, Mrs. Lynde, is quite the gossip, and Marilla seems to secretly enjoy hearing the latest "news." Marilla tends to get sarcastic if she accidentally shows emotion or if she does not like something but tends to repress her more positive emotions as much as possible.

Gilbert Blythe

Gilbert Blythe is a nice, smart, popular boy. He is in love with Anne and after expressing his feelings and being rejected, he keeps his feelings to himself to hold onto her friendship. In college, Gilbert shows his ability to lead by helping the freshman class win Art Rush. This makes him the hero of the freshman class, a known face, and an opportunity to join a popular fraternity. Gilbert throws himself whole-heartedly into every pursuit and wants to do well. Gilbert also does well academically and is usually at the top of their class every year.

In college and at home, he is the voice of reason for Anne. When Anne is turned down by all the magazines for her first writing project, her friend Diana secretly turns in her work to a baking advertisement contest. They love the story and publish it; however, Anne is furious and embarrassed that her beloved work is used to promote a commercial product. Gilbert sensibly points out that the money will help her in college, and everyone is proud that a local girl is published. Gilbert helps Anne see a more realistic point of view.

After two years of college, Gilbert asks Anne to marry him again after being her companion all this time, and she turns him down again. This drives a wedge in their friendship, and he uses a friend of his to cause Anne to be jealous. Only when he almost dies does Anne tell him she loves him. At this point, Gilbert asks her to wait while he completes three years of medical school as money will be very tight.

Priscilla Grant

Priscilla greets Anne at the station when she arrives in Redmond and already has a boarding house set up for them and tells her all about Kingsport. She is a friend from Avonlea with whom Anne is comfortable. Priscilla lives with Anne all through college. Priscilla has a serious bent to her nature as does Anne, so it is good that they both meet the lighthearted Phil. Phil has a sense of humor and plays an active part in Anne's and Priscilla's life.

Priscilla was at Queen's Academy with Anne and Stella where they all three became closer friends. She is a good student and takes honors in the Classics but is not as bright as Anne, Gilbert, and Philippa. Through most of the book, Priscilla is a participant



in Anne's life at Redmond as a loyal friend, but she is not described physically in any detail. Some of her personality is shown in her conversations with Anne and others.

Diana Barry

Diana Barry is Anne's friend who picks apples with her in the Green Gables orchard. She is described as a rosy, dimpled girl of 18. Diana is engaged to Fred and is upset Anne is leaving Green Gables. She seems to be very practical and knows sometimes friendships suffer over long distances and different interests.

Diana seems to be an extremely dependable, sensible friend. She is there to take and pick up Anne when she comes and goes from college. Also, when Anne is reading her short story, Diana makes some suggestions to improve upon the story. Anne's impulsive nature and Diana's calming influence balance well and they keep each other in check. After four years at college, their friendship has survived intact, thanks to Anne's visits home and Diana's ability to make time for Anne despite her deep involvement with Fred.

Stella Maynard

Stella Maynard is a friend of Anne's and Priscilla's from Queen's, their old school. After two years of teaching, she is frustrated with the parent's attitudes and wants to go to college at Redmond. Stella feels unappreciated by the parents at her school and also thinks that the parents are expecting her to be totally responsible for her students' behavior. She has decided college is easier than dealing with parents. Stella asks Anne and Priscilla to find a place for them to rent since she wants to be in charge of her own living situation and not in a boardinghouse. She does get along well with everyone at Patty's Place but does not add a big interest to the book.

Ruby Gillis

Ruby Gillis is described as blond and handsome with a sparkling personality that draws in the boys. Two years into college, on Anne's break, she sees Ruby and notices she seems paler and her eyes are glittering. Anne learns Ruby is dying of consumption (probably tuberculosis). Ruby and her family are in denial about her illness and only after multiple assurances that she is fine does she finally tell Anne she is dying. She is afraid to die and feels she has more life to live. Ruby is also upset that after all her flirting with boys she never found "the one" and settled down and had children. Ruby's death and regrets about life help Anne grow up and realize that even those in the bloom of youth are not indestructible and she needs to live life to the fullest.

Royal Gardner (Roy)

Royal Gardner (Roy) rescues Anne from the rain one afternoon and Anne is immediately smitten. He is a well-dressed, handsome man with dark eyes and a



wonderful voice. After completing his first two years at Redmond, Roy went to Europe for two years and is now continuing his education as a junior at Redmond. Phil hears about Anne and Roy's encounter and describes him as a rich blue-blood who is also quite smart and good-looking. He is also charmed by Anne and shows his interest and thoughtfulness by sending her roses after their first meeting.

Roy's father has passed away and his mother is in ill-health. He is devoted to his family and was in Europe to take care of his mother. Roy also has two sisters, Aline and Dorothy, though he is most fond of Dorothy.

As Anne gets to know Roy she perceives him as a romantic figure that writes poetry to her and gives her flowers, but he lacks a goofy sense of humor that matches Anne's. He is grounded and sensible, romantic, and dashing but lacks knowledge of Anne's inner thoughts and core personality, which ultimately spells his downfall with Anne.

Davy Keith

Davy Keith is the eight-year-old twin son of Marilla by adoption. His twin is Dora. He is a sweet boy, but tends to be spirited and gets into a lot of mischief. He is one of the main fun characters in the book from which the reader gets many laughs over his antics, which are seen both in person as well as in his letters to Anne. He questions everything in a humorous manner and brings joy as well as exasperation to Anne's life.

Dora Keith

Dora Keith is the meek, eight-year-old twin daughter of Marilla by adoption. Her twin is Davy. She acts pious and is constantly shocked at Davy's behavior. She is much like Marilla in her stoicism and does not seem to find the joy in life that Davy does. She is afraid of simple things such as cows and worries about doing anything that she perceives as wrong, so she does not seem like a normal child.

Dorothy Gardner

Dorothy Gardner is a slim, good-natured girl with dreamy, dark eyes and is Roy's favorite sister. She and Anne become friends, and even when Anne turns down Roy's proposal they vow to stay friends. Dorothy says if she can not have Anne as a sister she at least wants her as a friend.

Moody Spurgeon MacPherson

Moody Spurgeon MacPherson is an old classmate of Anne, Stella, and Priscilla who has been teaching since leaving Queen's. His mother decides he should not be teaching and should become a minister. Moody is tortured by the others at college and is not sure his calling is the ministry.



Charlie Sloane

Charlie Sloane is interested in Anne but she finds his advances uncomfortable. He has "goggly" eyes and according to Anne never has anything of consequence to say and is extremely boring. Charlie, Gilbert, and the girls attend the same college and hang out in the some of the same social circles. Charlie remains a good friend in college and Anne continues to put off and discourage his advances. He is one of Anne's several refused proposals, which does create a rift in their friendship until he finds a new girl to date.

Mrs. Rachel Lynde

Mrs. Rachel Lynde moves in with Marilla, Davy, and Dora after Anne leaves for college. She is a highly critical woman who tries to raise all the kids, including Anne as she sees fit. Rachel has an opinion on everything and gets great joy from knowing and telling all the latest gossip. Mrs. Lynde's personality and Davy's impulsive nature clash frequently since he is not the model child she expects. Davy does like her as she does have a soft heart and does not tattle on him to Marilla all the time and even helps hide things such as his ripped pants. She is very wrapped up in her religion and does tend to preach to others, never thinking her love of gossip and her critical nature may be a vice as well.

Fred Wright

Fred Wright is Diana's Berry fiancée and eventually becomes her husband. He is described as a faithful, supportive shadow. At the end of the book he and Diana get married and have a son.

Billy Andrews

Billy Andrews is a quiet, freckled boy who watches Anne with marked attention at her A.V.I.S party. Years later he has his sister ask Anne to marry him, and when she turns Billy down, he has another girl lined up to ask. Billy marries the other girl, whose name is Nettie.

Patty Spofford

Patty Spofford is the owner of Patty's place. When she rents out her home, she is looking for someone who will love the place as much as she does. Anne is just the person Patty is looking for to watch over her home while she and her niece tour Europe.

Josie Pye

Josie Pye is a well-to-do girl in Avonlea and though she seems to be popular, she has a slightly malicious bent. She attempts to be friendly to Anne at the going away party to



college that her family hosts at their home. Josie cannot resist a veiled, condescending compliment and feels insecure next to Anne's appearance of serenity and laughter.

Ms. Hanna Harvey

Ms. Hanna Harvey is one of the owners of the boardinghouse in which Anne and Priscilla originally live in Kingsport. Hannah is the one who insists on having boarders because she is very economical. Her sister, Ada, is the other owner of the boardinghouse.

Ms. Ada Harvey

Ms. Ada Harvey is one of the owners of the boarding house in which Anne and Priscilla originally live. Ada is the one who makes and litters the home with cushions of all sizes and types. The cushions drive the girls crazy as they are constantly tripping over them in the dark and having to worry about damaging them as well.

Aunt Jamesina

Aunt Jamesina is the girl's chaperone/housekeeper at Patty's Place. Stella calls her Aunt Jimsie and suggests her as their housekeeper because she is lonely and her only child is off at school. She is described as a small, blue-eyed woman whose eyes show sparks of youth despite her age and old-fashioned appearance. Jimsie is accompanied by two cats, Sarah and Joseph, who she loves as though they are her own kids.

Miss Josephine Barry

Miss Josephine Barry is an older woman that Diana and Anne scared when they were young. Miss Barry was very kind to Anne even upon her death. When she dies during the Christmas break, she leaves Anne one thousand dollars that allows her to continue with her schooling without having to use Marilla's money.

Cotton children

There are 3 boys Pete, Tommy and Adolphus Cotton that are friends of Davy, as well as Mirabel, who is described by Dora as being almost as wild as the boys. The boys go fishing with them in chapter 13 when Davy decides to skip church to "show" the bossy Mrs. Lynde.



Jonas Blake (Jo)

Jonas Blake (Jo) is the man Phil falls for on vacation. He is a Theological student from St Columbia that Phil meets when she goes to Point Prospect for the summer. She describes him as an ugly, tall, long-legged man with tow hair, green eyes, and big mouth and ears. But he does have a nice voice with a beautiful soul and becomes Phil's friend from the start. He is poor, so is at first afraid to ask her to marry him but they do finally marry.

Christine Stuart

Christine Stuart is a dark-haired, violent-eyed girl with a lovely figure. She is the girl that Gilbert has on his arm at all Redmond events after Anne turns down his proposal. Phil comments on Christine's beauty, which makes Anne extremely jealous. Later the reader learns Christine is engaged to a friend of Gilbert's, and Gilbert was just keeping Christine company while making Anne jealous.

Miss Janet Sweet

Miss Janet Sweet is the woman Anne is boarding with in Valley Road for 2 months in the summer. Janet is a tall woman with brown hair and large, blue, kind eyes. She is also a fantastic cook and a good host. She has been in love with the same man for 20 years.

Miss Amelia Skinner

Miss Amelia Skinner is an older, overweight, round lady who greets Anne at the train station in Valley Road. Amelia is a chatty lady who seems to feel comfortable with Anne immediately. She tells Anne that she is in love with a man named Thomas whom she just married. Amelia tells Anne how important it is to marry for love, not for financial considerations.

Mr. John Douglas

Mr. John Douglas is a kind, gentle man with long legs and facial hair that needs a trim. He and Miss Janet Sweet are in love and have been for years; however, they never married because of his mother. John is a mama's boy, and he promised his mom he wouldn't marry Janet until she passed. He finally breaks down and asks her to marry him after 20 years when his mother dies.



Mrs. Douglas

Mrs. Douglas is John Douglas's mom and is a tiny, well-dressed, blue-eyed older woman. She is typically bed-ridden and depends on John for everything. John does not marry Janet because Mrs. Douglas asked him to wait till she died so that she could stay the "head" woman of the household.

Sam Tolliver

Sam Tolliver is the neighbor boy next to Miss Janet Sweet. Sam meets Anne when she is in Valley Road to teach for the summer. Sam asks Anne to marry him and is turned down.

Maria Spofford

Maria Spofford is the niece of Miss Patty Spofford and is going to Europe with her aunt.

Mrs. Boulter

Mrs. Boulter is a rude, vulgar person who says things that hurt Anne. She thinks Anne is going to college to find a man.

Herb Blewett

Herb Blewett falls off a hayloft and is unhurt, making him Davy's idol.

Milty Boulter

Milty Boulter tells Davy that his mom said Anne is going to college to find a man.

Oliver Kimball

Oliver Kimball is a boy that Carrie Sloane is interested in but is unable to see her because of her father's rules.

Carrie Sloane

Carrie Sloane is Charlie Sloane's sister and is described as pale and sad.



Objects/Places

Avonlea

Avonlea is the location or town of Anne's home, Green Gables.

Haunted Wood

The Haunted Wood is close to Green Gables. It is apparently full of trees and wonderful smelling ferns. Gilbert walks out of the Haunted Wood towards Anne house after the A.V.I.S party.

Green Gables

Green Gables is the location of Anne and Marilla's home. The house, some of the surrounding land, and the orchard all have the name Green Gables.

Green Gables Orchard

The Green Gables Orchard is full of apple trees and thistledown and close enough to the sea to hear it in the distance.

Brook Valley

Brook Valley is below the Green Gables Orchard and contains numerous flowers and the Lake of Shining Waters.

Lake of Shining Waters

The Lake of Shining Waters is located in the Brook Valley below the Green Gables. The lake is a beautiful, clean blue color.

Green Gables Spare Room

The Green Gables Spare Room was an awe-inspiring room to Anne as a child. She used to tip toe through it as if it were a church past the pictures of George Whitefield and the Duke of Wellington.



Redmond

Redmond is the college in Kingsport that Anne Shirley and Priscilla Grant attend.

Bridge Over Shining Waters

Anne meets Gilbert here on the way to the post office and they discuss their heading off to college.

Kingsport

Kingsport is location of the boys and girls college. The area is known to have an excellent natural park.

Garden of Echo Lodge

The Garden of Echo Lodge is where Gilbert tells Anne that he cares more for her than friendship alone.

Victoria Island

Victoria Island is a beautiful, peaceful area where Anne goes to be alone with her thoughts. The island is within walking distance of Green Gables.

Patty's Place

Patty's Place is the home that the three girls, Priscilla, Philippa, and Anne live in for the last two years of their college life. When Anne first sees the home she feels like she belongs and believes she is meant see the inside and have some future contact with the house. All of the other houses on the street are built by millionaires and are much more pretentious.

Spofford Avenue

Spofford Avenue is where Gilbert takes Anne and Philippa to see all the millionaire's homes. Patty's place is also located on this street.



Old St. John's Graveyard

Old St. John's Graveyard is an extremely old landmark in Kingsport. The graveyard is a historic landmark and is no longer used as a graveyard. The graveyard is full of trees and history; Anne visits the graveyard often to find peace.

Anne/Priscilla's Boardinghouse

Anne and Priscilla's boardinghouse is a big old-fashioned gray stone house owned by the Harvey sisters and located on St. John's Street, close to Redmond. Hannah Harvey wants to make spare money by renting two extra rooms. Anne's room has a view of St. John's Graveyard from her window.

Philippa's Boardinghouse

Philippa's boardinghouse is on Wallace Street, and Anne and Priscilla think it is a much nicer place than their own. They remind her that her accommodations at Patty's Place will not be as nice as those at her boardinghouse.

Thorburn Scholarship

The Thorburn Scholarship is an academic scholarship in the academic field of English that Anne wins to help her continue at college without using Marilla's savings.

Diana's Engagement Ring

Diana's engagement ring is from Fred Wright. When Anne and Diana talk about the future, she twists the ring nervously knowing it is a symbol of the changes to come.

China Dogs at Patty's House

The China Dogs at Patty's Place are extremely important to the owner of the home. Anne admires the china dogs which is another bonding moment for Patty and Anne, and which sways Patty to rent to the college girls.

Cushions at the Boardinghouse

There are cushions on everything in Anne and Priscilla's boardinghouse. Anne notes there is even a fancy Battenburg cushion on top of the piano. The girls are afraid to sit anywhere as the cushions cover almost all surfaces, and they even trip on the latest new cushions that sit on the edge of the stairs.

Hester Gray's Garden

Hester Gray's Garden is a special garden near a brook originally found by Diana, Jane, Priscilla, and Anne when they had a Golden Picnic. This is where Gilbert proposes to Anne and they resolve past misunderstandings.



Themes

Views of Love and Romance

The ideas of love and romance and how it affects one's life are a main theme in *Anne of the Island*. Anne Shirley has two male friends, Charles Sloane and Gilbert Blythe, who have recently expressed interest in Anne beyond friendship.

At the age of 18, Anne is annoyed and frustrated at their attentions, preferring to keep them as friends. She is heading off to college where she wants to discover her own theories on love and life and not settle for the boys at home. The older women of Avonlea think Anne should marry Gilbert and settle down and that she is just going to college to flirt with boys. Anne is determined to get a good education and puts off thought of boys second in her mind.

Anne is also sure that when love happens in her life it will be full of sparks, romance, and thrills, which is a typical view of a young, small-town girl embarking on a new adventure in both a big city and at college.

At college, Anne meets Philippa who has a more practical view of marriage. She is surrounded by a number of beaux and assumes she will eventually settle for a rich one because one of her main criterion is that a man is well to do. Philippa simply wants a nice, handsome man who can keep her in the style to which she is accustomed.

Philippa has men following her around for the remainder of her college years but realizes three years into college that a young, poor preacher she meets has stolen her heart. She isn't sure she is good enough for him, knowing she is indecisive, flighty, and prone to spending money but knows this kind man is the one for her.

Meanwhile, Anne meets what she feels is her ideal man, a wealthy, charming man named Roy Gardner. She feels an instant spark and is thrilled that a man from such an elevated background finds her attractive. The only problem is that Roy's attention drives a wedge between Gilbert and Anne's friendship, and she feels upset and hurt by the loss. Anne receives several proposals through the years, including one from Roy, all of which she turns down. When Gilbert is struck with typhoid fever, Anne realizes that he is the one she loves and that is the reason she missed him when he was not the central part of her life.

Both girls have their own ideal of love that they seek out while in college. Each discovers that sometimes what you think you want is not what suits you best. A steady, loving person that you are friends with and have things in common with may be better than the thrilling flame that burns out fast.



Coming of Age and Choosing Own Path

Coming of age and choosing one's path is a main theme in *Anne of the Island*. The first strike of independence is Anne planning to leave her home on Avonlea to go to college in Kingsport. At home, the "gossips," family, and friends would like to see her married to a neighbor boy named Gilbert. Anne wants to find her own path and grow as a person and get an education.

Her best friend, Diana Barry, is staying home and planning her marriage to a local farmer named Fred Wright. Anne respects her decision despite the fact that it is different than Anne's own path. Anne respecting Diana's choice shows the first sign of maturity. Anne understands people make their own choices that may differ from her own viewpoint.

In college, Anne meets a girl named Philippa, who is completely different than any friend Anne has ever made. Anne welcomes those differences into her life with enthusiasm. Two years into college, Anne and her friends stop boarding with other people and rent a home called Patty's Place. Each of the girls, Philippa, Anne, Priscilla, and Stella must learn to live in harmony and respect the others' boundaries. They must also follow the rules of the house, pay rent, and learn to maintain a home of their own.

During their breaks from school, Anne goes home to maintain ties with friends and family. She is mature enough to realize that relationships in any form, require work. On one such break, the reader notices Anne's growing independence when she misses her "home" at college.

Anne also finds herself mature enough to turn down a marriage proposal when she realizes she does not love him enough. Roy is rich, handsome and her former ideal but without love, money and other things she formerly thought necessary seem less important, something her friend Phil also discovers. It takes strength to break away from the expected path and disappoint another person who has been nothing but kind.

Finally, after four years, Anne has worked hard, maintained a home for two years, become a published writer, gotten her B.A., and watched her friends grow, mature, and marry. In the end, Anne tells the boy of her dreams she loves him and plans her own marriage, taking the final path to the beginning of her adulthood.

Importance of Family and Friends

Anne has a fantastic family, consisting of Marilla, her adopted mom, and Davy and Dora, twins who are also adopted by Marilla. Davy and Dora are young, only 9, when Anne is planning to go to college. Davy is visibly upset that Anne is striking out on her own and sobs when she leaves for college.



During college, Davy sends her letters and always plans a surprise when she comes home on breaks to visits. His charming stories, desire for advice, and grand gestures keep Anne exasperated, laughing, and appreciated. Anne knows she is always loved.

Marilla and Dora are more reserved in their emotions. The first time Anne goes away to college, they give her quick hugs and send her off with only a slight watering of the eye. But Marilla is always there to help Anne pay for college despite her meager savings, which shows, in her own way, her dedication to Anne's dreams and happiness. Anne shows her love for Marilla by trying to find every way she can to earn money and win a scholarship to help pay for her own college.

One summer, the reader sees how much family and Anne mean to Marilla, when she reflects on how her life has changed for the better since Anne arrived. That same day, Anne arrives home early from break and Marilla shows unexpected emotion and hugs Anne happily. Anne is thrilled and feels that walking those extra miles to get home sooner was worth the extra effort.

Anne's relationships with her friends are also extremely valuable. The first two years away at college would have been unbearable without Priscilla, Gilbert, and her new friend Philippa. Priscilla and Gilbert are friends from home and they all have to adjust to a new town and college together. Philippa helps the girls break into a new social circle and find their place in the college social life.

Despite the changes in her life, Anne never lets her relationships with friends who stay at home die. She goes home on every break to rekindle her friendships and commune with her family. Diana and she still share everything and help each other work through any issues. While at home, Anne is turned down by several publishers for a story she writes, so Diana alters her story and submits it to a contest that Anne wins. It is a testament to their friendship that despite the distance and their different choices in life they still help each other out at every opportunity.

Ultimately, Anne's willingness to work at relationships and talent to make friends helps her with every aspect of her life. Her family's ability to accept her choices even when they don't like them shows their respect for Anne. Anne knows that no matter what she decides to do with her life, she is loved, which is what allows her to mature in such a lovely way.

Style

Point of View

Anne of the Island is written in the third person. The third person style enables the reader to see the perspectives of multiple characters; however, most of the book is from Anne's point of view. There is a great deal of dialogue in the novel that helps us understand more about the characters. For instance, Philippa talks on and on when she first meets Anne and from this, readers can gather that Philippa is a very gushy, outgoing type of person. Just a description alone would not have been as effective as the lengthy chat on her part. Anne and the other characters in the book talking and interacting with each other give readers a good knowledge of events and personalities.

This novel would not be quite as effective if it were written solely in first person. A lot of it is already from Anne's point of view but the readers are also given insight into how Anne is maturing and growing from other characters' descriptions and views of Anne. We would not know what others, such as Marilla and Gilbert, really think if we did not have third person knowledge because Anne does not know their thoughts.

The third person descriptions of places are helpful to the reader as well. An example of this is in the beginning of chapter four where Kingsport and Old St. John's Cemetery are described. These descriptions help readers better understand what Anne is seeing and thus the readers know that it really is a unique place. It also shows Anne growing love for the town and it is not just her romanticizing the place. If it had just been her views readers would have had to question if this were not just her imagination running wild as usual.

Setting

ANNE OF THE ISLAND takes place in two main locations, a town called Avonlea that is located on Prince Edward Island and Kingsport, Nova Scotia. Most of the main characters, Priscilla, Gilbert, Anne, and Charlie grew up in Avonlea and have spent most of their lives isolated on the island. Anne's home on the island is called Green Gables, which is a lovely farmhouse with an orchard in which Anne frequently roams.

The town is full of charming locations such as the Haunted Wood, Echo Lodge, and the Bridge of Shining Waters, all of which are locations named and romanticized in Anne's head. Every inch of the town seems to hold a special memory for Anne who loves visiting Avonlea when on break from Redmond College in Kingsport.

Half of the book also takes place in Kingsport where Priscilla, Gilbert, Anne, and Charlie attend college. Kingsport is a big city to these small town kids and at first they are overwhelmed. They each have established their unique identities and friendships at home and are comfortable in Avonlea, but in Kingsport they are little fish in a big pond and have to start over again to find their place. Thanks to a new friend, Philippa and her



connections, they soon meet a great many new people. Anne also explores the town and just like at home, she finds some wonderful new places to admire and love, such as Old St. John's Graveyard and Patty's Place.

Language and Meaning

The language of this novel tends to be light and airy. Some of the words used are not that common today, such as enraptured, empurpling, cockles, and verandah. The meaning of the words is assumed from the context. Anne tends to use words in her descriptions and speech that are different from the average person and is even called on this by a few characters in the novel. She just likes the rhythm of words and tends to use unusual ones for her personal enjoyment, not because she is trying to show off. This enthusiasm is one of the things that make her such a delightful and well-loved character, even to this day.

Descriptive passages are also a fair portion of the novel. Anne has views on just about everything and renames people and places to suit her vivid imagination. She names areas around Green Gables such as The Lake of Shining Waters or Bridge Over Shining Waters, which describe how she thinks of the lake and bridge, as she has a very romantic view of things and dreams a lot. These names and descriptions can be a little confusing to a reader, especially if this third book is the first Anne novel that the reader is tackling.

Many of these places, as well as people, are described more in book one and two. In many cases, it does not really matter if we have knowledge of the place. The words and phrases are used to help the reader understand Anne's imaginative nature, and it is not as important to have accurate knowledge of the actual place.

Dialogue is equally important in the novel and most of the people give a great deal of information about their personality in the dialogue. The dialogue flows well and is delightfully written, such as that by Philippa. She is a fun character as well as a good friend and the language in her dialogue, as well as descriptions of her, adds greatly to the novel. Other characters are also described well, but many readers will find her particularly fun. This novel is charming and one does not have to wonder why it still has appeal in today's world.

Structure

This novel is forty-one chapters long and has 243 pages. The chapters are of varying length but most are between five and nine pages. The chapters have numbers as well as names that foreshadow a main event in the chapter. The book spans a period of four years and covers the college years of the main character, Anne Shirley, and her friends and proceeds in a logical, linear fashion. It does not have a lot of confusing flashbacks so this makes it a quick read.



The plot of the novel is about young people's life after high school, the shedding of their youth and comforts of home for the big city and college life. One main plot is learning about romantic love and how it differs from their original notion of romance. Each of the characters has her/his own ideal of love that changes as s/he mature and strike out on their own. Many of these characters are greatly influenced by Anne and her views.

Anne sees love as a romantic, exciting, thrilling ideal that sweeps one off one's feet. She is waiting for the spark with someone new that does not already know her and have any idea of person she used to be. Anne finds this thrilling love and discovers that she misses the close companionship of someone who finds all of her quirks cute and funny. Anne's best male friend, Gilbert Blythe, almost dies of typhoid fever and she realizes that she will not be happy without his presence in her life.

Anne's girlfriend Philippa also has an image of a steady, rich man who can keep her in the comfortable lifestyle to which she is accustomed. In the end, she finds love and someone who accepts all her quirks in a poor, but loving preacher. Both women's vision of love does not match up with the true, steadying influence of those that accept them.

The subplot in the book revolves around friends and family. At home in Avonlea, Anne has a loving and supportive family, despite their gossiping ways and opinions on how Anne should be living her life. They do look forward to her visits and are thrilled to hear of her college adventures even though they originally thought Anne should stay at home and marry Gilbert.

The book is an easy read; each chapter is short and moves along at a quick pace. The only concern for readers is that they might not understand everything and everyone without reading the first two books. The character development is not done through a great deal of self-reflection but over the passage of time, using interactions with their friends and families, which change the character's view on life. An assumption is also made that readers have seen the characters develop in the first two books. Readers do know these people have importance in Anne's life or they probably would not have been mentioned. There is a great deal of dialogue that is very important to understanding the characters as well. Anne always has interesting and informative descriptions of people and places. Overall, the book is cute, charming, and endearing just like the characters.



Quotes

"Everything is changing — or going to change," said Diana sadly." Chap. 1, Anne of the Island, p. 2.

"I wonder if I can ever make her care for me," he thought with a pang of self-distrust." Chap. 2, Anne of the Island, p. 16

"What a comfort one familiar face is in a howling wilderness of strangers!" Chap. 3, Anne of the Island, p. 20

"I like her. There is something very lovable about her, in spite of all her nonsense." Chap. 4, Anne of the Island, p. 34

"So Gilbert was writing to Ruby! Very well. He had a perfect right to, of course." Chap 5, Anne of the Island, p. 38

"Why, I feel as if I belonged to it. I wonder if, by any chance, we'll ever see the inside of it." Chap. 6, Anne of the Island, p. 49

"The love that Anne had told Phil was waiting for her surrounded her and enfolded her with its blessing and its sweetness." Chap 7, Anne of the Island, p. 52

"I've always felt that my fortunes were linked with Patty's Place, ever since I saw it first." Chap. 9, Anne of the Island, p. 69

"If you love it, you can have it," said Miss Patty." Chap. 10, Anne of the Island, p. 71

"It was impossible to associate the thought of her with anything like death." Chap. 11, Anne of the Island, p. 79

"No it was foolish of me to attempt it. When I'm through Redmond I'll stick to teaching. I can teach. I can't write stories." Chap. 12, Anne of the Island, p. 92

"No, but—" added Davy cautiously, "I might be bad some other way." Chap. 13, Anne of the Island, p. 101

"Most of the trouble in life comes from misunderstanding, I think," said Anne. Chap. 14, Anne of the Island, p. 107

"I loved my poor little story, and I wrote it out of the best that was in me. And it is sacrilege to have it degraded to the level of a baking powder advertisement." Chap. 15, Anne of the Island, p. 114.

"Patty's Place for all its many virtues, had its faults also." Chap. 16, Anne of the Island, p. 118



"It was very disconcerting to look up in the midst of a sudden silence and find Gilbert's hazel eyes fixed upon her with a quite unmistakable expression in their grave depths; and it was still more disconcerting to find herself blushing hotly and uncomfortably under his gaze, just as if—just as if—well, it was very embarrassing." Chap. 18, Anne of the Island, p. 130

"We don't like that idea a little bit, although we don't want Gilbert ourselves, oh, no," mocked Phil." Chap. 19, Anne of the Island, p. 137

"There have been times when I thought you did care. I've deceived myself, that's all. Good-bye, Anne." Chap. 20, Anne of the Island, p. 142

"Those letters have made them real to me. I'm not an orphan any longer. I feel as if I had opened a book and found roses of yesterday, sweet and beloved, between its leaves." Chap. 21, Anne of the Island, p.147

"She would not admit, even in her most inmost reflections, that this was caused by Gilbert's absence." Chap. 23, Anne of the Island, p. 151

"Could I care for a lank, poor, ugly theologian—named Jonas?" Chap. 24, Anne of the Island, p. 159

"Anne did not blush, as she usually did when the girls assumed that her eventual marriage to Roy Gardner was a settled thing. All at once she felt rather dull." Chap. 26, Anne of the Island, p. 168

"But I said "yes" almost before he finished—I was so afraid he might change his mind and stop." Chap. 27, Anne of the Island, p. 171

"Oh, she thought, how horrible it is that people have to group up—and marry—and change!" Chap. 28, Anne of the Island, p. 179

"So I argued it out with myself. 'Sarah Crow,' say I—my first was a Crowe—you can marry your rich man if you like but you won't be happy." Chap. 30, Anne of the Island, p. 185

"In the present affair I'm only a passive spectator. I've tried once to help things along and made an awful mess of it. So I shall not meddle again." Chap. 31, Anne of the Island, p. 189

"It is a great comfort to me that John will have such a good wife to look after him when his mother is gone — a great comfort, Miss Shirley." Chap. 32, Anne of the Island, p. 193

"That's one of the things we learn as we grow older—how to forgive." Chap. 34, Anne of the Island, p. 203



"Oh, why must a minister's wife be supposed to utter prunes and prisms?" Chap. 35, Anne of the Island, p. 204

"But she was the gayest of all the gay revellers that night, and told Gilbert, unregretfully that her card was full when he came to ask her for a dance." Chap. 37, Anne of the Island, p. 230

"If you don't take care, Anne, all your beaux will slip through your fingers." Chap. 39, Anne of the Island, p. 230

"Then they walked home together in the dusk, crowned king and queen in the bridal realm of love, along winding paths fringed with the sweetest flowers that ever bloomed, and over haunted meadows where winds of hope and memory blew." Chap. 41, Anne of the Island, p. 243



Topics for Discussion

What makes Anne and Diana's friendship so strong and able to survive the distance and separate lifestyles? Do you think it will continue to last? Why or why not?

Do you think that Anne's tendency to sink into her fantasy world affects her view on life positively or negatively? Why or why not?

Do you think Anne would have realized she loved Gilbert sooner or not gone to college if not for the comments from people at home? Why or why not?

What made Roy attractive to Anne? What makes Gilbert a good match for Anne over Roy?

Philippa falls in love with someone that does not match her preconceived idea of what she needs. Do you think the relationship will last? Why or why not?

Do you think Philippa is a character to whom the reader can relate? Why or why not? Do you think her personality made her a good friend or annoying?

Is money more important than love? Do you think a relationship can last if there a big difference in social and economical status?

Anne is very attached to her family. How do we know Marilla loves Anne when she usually presents such a stoic front? How does Mrs. Lynde feel about Anne and how do we know how she really feels when she gossips so much and seems to think everyone is bad?