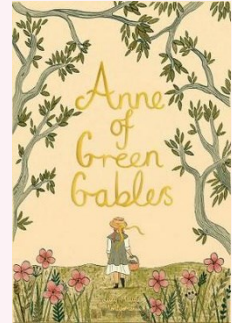




TEEN'S BOOK CLUB GUIDE

ANNE OF GREEN GABLES

By L. M. Montgomery



“I've just been imagining that it was really me you wanted after all and that I was to stay here for ever and ever. It was a great comfort while it lasted. But the worst of imagining things is that the time comes when you have to stop and that hurts.”

GENRE

Fiction

Juvenile Literature

THEMES

Coming-of-Age

Belonging

Imagination and Reality

Friendship

CHARACTERS

Anne Shirley

Anne is a young orphaned girl adopted by Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert. She is a whimsical dreamer who tries her utmost to fit in with the social norms of those around her while making innocent blunders socially, religiously and morally. Anne strives to follow the rules, but her tender beauty-loving heart is also stubborn, passionate, fiercely loyal and romantic, and occasionally hinders her progress.

Marilla Cuthbert

Marilla is an unmarried older woman who lives with her brother Matthew at Green Gables. Marilla is emotionally severe, but underneath, she has a sense of humour and a soft spot for Anne.

Matthew Cuthbert

Matthew is Marilla's brother and a sixty-year-old bachelor who manages the Green Gables farm. He is painfully shy and slightly odd but immediately likes Anne, whose natural chattiness and imagination interest him and put him at ease.

Gilbert Blythe

Gilbert is a handsome and intelligent young man who becomes Anne's nemesis at school after teasing her about her red hair. Anne swears she'll never talk to him again, but eventually, Anne and Gilbert become friends.

Diana Barry

Diana is Anne's kindred spirit and best friend. Diana lives next door to Anne and comes from a wealthy family, and although she is intelligent, she lacks Anne's creativity and imagination. The two become 'bosom friends', romanticising life, creating stories and enjoying the beauty around them.

STORYLINE

In the old-fashioned town of Avonlea, Marilla and Matthew Cuthbert seek an orphaned boy's help to keep Green Gables running. When dreamer Anne is sent instead of the desired boy, Marilla and Matthew must decide whether they will keep Anne at Green Gables with them or send her back to the orphanage. Anne's love of beauty and imagination blossoms at the thought of a forever home, but if she is to stay at Green Gables, she must learn to restrain her romanticism and become a well-mannered young lady.

This is a magical coming-of-age story about a whimsical young girl who deeply desires a place to belong, a life full of imagination and beauty, and a deep friendship with a kindred spirit.

1 QUESTION ONE

Anne says, "Isn't it splendid to think of all the things there are to find out about? It just makes me feel glad to be alive—it's such an interesting world." Is Anne's imagination central to her existence? Why might this be?

2 QUESTION TWO

What motivated Marilla and Matthew to seek an orphaned child to live at Green Gables? How are their hearts altered after meeting Anne and watching her grow up?

3 QUESTION THREE

Anne says, "I think my prospects of being sensible are brighter now than ever... I've learnt a new and valuable lesson today. Ever since I came to Green Gables, I've been making mistakes, and each mistake has helped to cure me from some great shortcoming." What lessons has Anne learned since arriving at Green Gables?

4 QUESTION FOUR

Anne says, "I do hope that some day I shall have a white dress. That is my highest ideal of earthly bliss." Anne often struggles with vanity and the want of worldly things. Why might this be? Can you relate to her feelings?

5 QUESTION FIVE

"It's been my experience that you can nearly always enjoy things if you make up your mind firmly that you will." How does Anne live up to this motto? How can we try to?

6 QUESTION SIX

All her life Anne has dreamt of "A bosom friend." What does a bosom friend mean? Do you have a 'Bosom friend' in your your life?

7

QUESTION SEVEN

When Gilbert saves Anne from drowning, she still refuses to forgive him. Why do you think this is?

How do Anne's feelings for Gilbert change by the end of the story?

8

QUESTION EIGHT

When Marilla's health declines after Matthew's death, Anne says, "I'm heart glad over the very thought of staying at dear Green Gables." Why does Anne truly desire to stay in Avonlea? Do you think Anne's decision is sacrificial? Why, or why not?

9

QUESTION NINE

"Dear old world. You are very lovely, and I'm glad to be alive in you." Can you relate to Anne's love of nature? Where is your favourite place to go in nature?
