

Anne of Green Gables

a Kenai Performers Study Guide



Anne of Green Gables

Anne of Green Gables written by Lucy Maud Montgomery, and published in 1908, is the story of a feisty and imaginative orphan girl who, under the care of an elderly sister and brother, finds acceptance, love, and a home. The story of Anne has captured the hearts of readers, making it a beloved family classic that appeals to all ages. Our play is an adaption by Michelle R. Davis, produced by special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service, Inc., Denver, Colorado.

The Author - Lucy Maud Montgomery

Lucy Maud Montgomery was born November 30, 1874 on Prince Edward Island (PEI), Canada. She was just under two years old when her mother died. Lucy was then raised by her strict, elderly grandparents in Cavendish, Prince Edward Island. Much of her childhood was spent in loneliness, and she filled her time creating imaginary friends, reading, writing, and enjoying nature.

At age 13, Lucy wrote in her diary that she wanted to be an author. She spent one year in Prince Albert with her father and stepmother, where she published her first poem titled, *On Cape LaForce* (1890). After moving back to Cavendish, she completed the tenth grade and furthered her education by studying for her teaching certificate. Lucy completed the two-year teaching program in one year. In 1895 and 1896, she studied literature at Dolhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

One day while leafing through one of her notebooks in search of an idea for a story, Lucy came across an item she had jotted down about a neighbor who had adopted a little girl. "Elderly couple apply to orphan asylum for a boy. By mistake a girl is sent to them." Thus, the idea for *Anne of Green Gables* was born. During her lifetime, Lucy Maud published 20 novels, 530 short stories, 500 poems, and 30 essays. But, it was the *Anne of Green Gables* books that made her a favorite author for many.

Books in the Anne Series

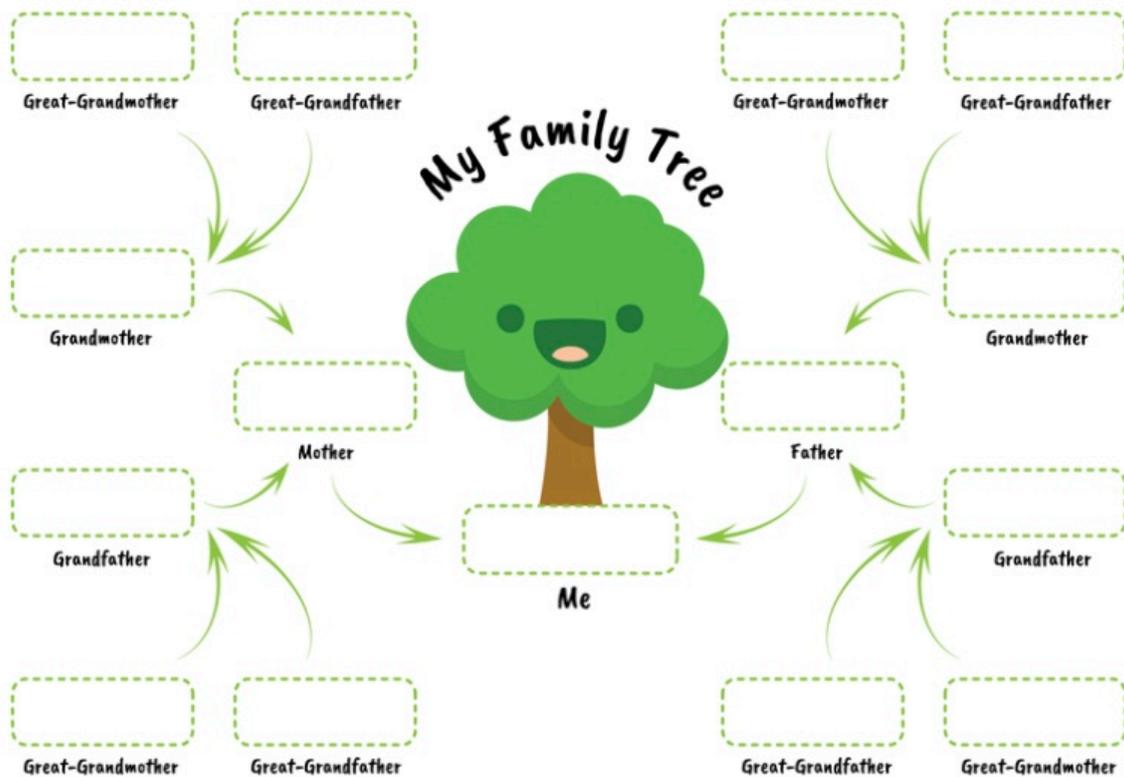
Anne of Green Gables (1908)
Anne of Avonlea (1909)
Chronicles of Avonlea, short stories (1912)
Anne of the Island (1915)
Anne's House of Dreams (1917)
Rainbow Valley (1919)
Further Chronicles of Avonlea, short stories (1920)
Rilla of Ingleside (1921)
Anne of Windy Poplars (1936)
Anne of Ingleside (1939)

Family & Home

Anne's parents died when she was quite young, making her an orphan. She lived a short time with some families who treated her poorly. With no one to care for her, she was put in an orphanage.

- Discuss how Green Gables becomes a home for Anne.
- List some of the ways that Marilla and Matthew were "good" examples for Anne to follow.
- How did Matthew, Marilla and Anne show that they cared for one another?

How well do you know your family? Fill in the Family Tree below.



www.FreeFamilyTreeTemplates.com

List the names of your brothers and sisters here:

Appearances & Beauty

Appearances meant a lot to L.M Montgomery, and to her character, Anne. Lucy wrote descriptively about Anne’s tight, plain dress, pale complexion, and thinness when she first arrives at Green Gables. Anne hates her red hair and freckles, and longs to own a pretty dress with puffed sleeves.

- Have you ever wished you could change something about yourself? What would it be?
- Do you have a favorite piece of clothing? What is it, and why do you like it?
- Read 1 Peter 3: 3-4 in the Bible. Contrast “inner” beauty with “outer.”

Solve the following puzzle [a quote from *Act I, Scene 2* of the play].

Code: 1=A, 2=B, 3=C, 4=D, and so on.

“ 25 / 5 / 19 9 / 20 / 19 18 / 5 / 4. 14 / 15 / 23 25 / 15 / 21
 _ _ _ . _ _ , _ _ _ . _ _ _ _ _ _
 3 / 1 / 14 19 / 5 / 5 23 / 8 / 25 9 3 / 1 / 14 / 20 2 / 5
 _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ , _ _ _
 16 / 5 / 18 / 6 / 5 / 3 / 20 / 12 / 25 8 / 1 / 16 / 16 / 25.”
 _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ .

Answer is on last page of this guide.

Friendship

Anne Shirley makes friends with Diana Barry, swearing to be bosom friends as long as the sun and moon endure. Unfortunately, mishaps seem to plague Anne, no matter how well her intentions are. After inviting Diana to tea, Anne accidentally gets her drunk when she serves Marilla's currant wine thinking it is raspberry cordial. Mrs. Berry is not amused and forbids Anne's association with Diana.

- Write a paragraph about one of your friends, and tell what you like about them.
- What are the qualities of a good friend?
- Make a list of activities you enjoy doing with your friends.

You can make your own raspberry cordial using the following recipe. (Don't worry, this one is non-alcoholic!)

Diana Berry's Raspberry Cordial

(Makes 4-6 servings)

Ingredients:

- 2 packages (10 ounces) frozen, unsweetened raspberries
- 1-1/2 cups sugar
- 3 lemons
- 4 cups water

Put unfrozen raspberries into a large saucepan and add in the sugar. Cook over medium heat, stirring occasionally, for 20-25 minutes, until sugar has dissolved. Remove from heat and using a potato masher, mash raspberries and syrup thoroughly. Pour mixture through a strainer, making sure you extract all the juice. Discard pulp. Squeeze the juice from 2 lemons, straining it into a small bowl. Add the lemon juice to the raspberry liquid. Boil the water in a second pan, and then add it to the raspberry liquid. Let cordial cool, then chill in the refrigerator. To serve, thinly slice the last lemon and add to glasses of cordial.

Life Lesson - Part of Growing up is about making mistakes.

Community

Anne Shirley comes to the farming community of Avonlea and meets a number of new people. From the stationmaster at the train depot, to Diana's Aunt Josephine, Anne interacts with them in one way, or another. Some of them even become dear friends over time.

- How well do you know the people in your community? Make a list of people you see regularly during the week.
- Have you lived in other towns? Discuss the longest journey you have ever been on.
- Matthew is a farmer. Do you grow your own food? Research what type of crops are grown on Prince Edward Island.

Match these character names from the play.

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| 1. Rachel | a. Sloan |
| 2. Marilla | b. Pye |
| 3. Gillis | c. Blythe |
| 4. Diana | d. Matthew |
| 5. Charlie | e. Harris |
| 6. Montgomery | f. Anne |
| 7. Josie | g. Jane |
| 8. Andrews | h. Ruby |
| 9. Gilbert | i. Lynde |
| 10. Cuthbert | j. Barry |
| 11. Lucilla | k. Cuthbert |
| 12. Shirley | l. Lucy Maud |

Answers are on the last page of this guide.

Education

Mr. Philips is the teacher when Anne starts school in Avonlea. She meets Gilbert Blythe, who likes to tease her, causing Anne to lose her temper. The stern teacher makes Anne stand in front of the class while he writes on the chalkboard, that Anne has a very bad temper and must learn to control it. Later, Anne gets a new teacher, Miss Stacey, who encourages Anne to further her education.

- Anne dreams of becoming a teacher. Discuss a profession you would like to do, and why.
- History, mathematics, reading and spelling are subjects mentioned in the play. What is your favorite school subject? Least favorite? Why?
- Discuss the differences between a vocational school and college.

Vocabulary Words - do you know the definitions to the following words in our play?
Use them in a sentence.

boarding house	kindred
bosom	oblige
brook	orphanage
commencement	peddler
commune	providential
cordial	recite
despair	serviceable
disposition	slate
excruciating	spectacle
gable	telegram
intoxicate	tempest

In 1908, L.M. Montgomery wrote the words to the *Island Hymn*, which is the patriotic anthem for Prince Edward Island. It is sung to the tune of *God Save the King* [Great Britain] and *My Country 'Tis of Thee* [United States].

Fair Island of the sea, we raise our song to thee.
The bright and blest; Loyally now we stand,
As brothers, hand in hand.
And sing God save the land,
We love the best.

The Play & You

About the Playwright Michelle R. Davis

Michelle Davis grew up on the Canadian prairies before settling on the west coast to pursue a teaching degree at the University of British Columbia. An educator since 1993, Michelle has enjoyed teaching in both elementary and secondary schools. She has a Master of Education degree in English Education, specializing in written composition, a B Ed and a BA in English and French.



Michelle lives in Port Coquitlam, BC with her husband and two young sons. These days she writes plays and other creative works in a home office littered with Legos, plastic dinosaurs and Matchbox cars.

Remember this ...

Proper theatre etiquette requires the audience to play an important role during a performance. They listen carefully to the dialogue, and watch the action on stage closely. Laughter and applause show that they are enjoying the play. Talking, whispering, or making other noises during a performance distracts not only the actors, but also the other audience members.

Answer these questions after you have attended a performance of the play.

1. What was your favorite scene in the play?
2. Who was your favorite character?
3. What was another thing you remember from the play?
4. What one thing would you change in the play? Why?
5. What adjective would you use to describe *Anne of Green Gables*?

Learn more

For more information about Green Gables on Prince Edward Island, visit the website:
<http://www.tourismpei.com/anne-of-green-gables>

Also, the Lucy Maud Montgomery Institute [University of Prince Edward Island], at
<http://www.lmmontgomery.ca>

Books about L.M. Montgomery:

L.M. Montgomery
Marylou Morano Kjelle
Chelsea House, c2005

Lucy Maud Montgomery; a Writer's Life
Elizabeth MacLeod
Kids Can Press, c2001

ANSWER KEY to page 5.

Anne Shirley: "Yes, its red. Now you can see why I can't be perfectly happy."

ANSWER KEY to page 7.

1.= I, 2.= K, 3.= H, 4.= J, 5.= A, 6.= L, 7.= B, 8.= G, 9.= C, 10.=D, 11.= E, 12.= F