

ABOUT THE PLAY



BIG IDEAS IN *ANNE OF GREEN GABLES*

- Family
- Imagination
- Friendship
- Adoption
- Determination
- Forgiveness

GREEN GABLES

Rachel Lynde and Marilla Cuthbert sit at the dining room table at Green Gables. Marilla and her brother, Matthew Cuthbert, live there alone, both having never married. They need extra help around the house and farm. Marilla tells her friend and neighbor that they are going to adopt a boy. Rachel, always one to give her opinion, warns Marilla that adopting a child could be dangerous. Marilla shares that once Matthew has his mind made up about something, it sticks.

THE TRAIN STATION

At the station, Anne sits alone waiting for her new family to pick her up. The Stationmaster approaches and tells her she should move to the Ladies Waiting Room, but Anne prefers the outdoors where she can let her imagination run wild. Matthew arrives looking for an orphaned boy, but there was a miscommunication. Mrs. Blewett, the woman coordinating the adoption, thought the Cuthberts wanted a girl. Matthew takes an immediate liking to Anne and invites her home anyway.

GREEN GABLES

When Matthew and Anne arrive home, Marilla is not pleased with the mix up. Anne asks to be called Cordelia and when Marilla refuses, she asks to be called Anne with an e as it is much more elegant. Marilla tells Anne she can stay for dinner, but that she will need to go back in the morning. Anne is distraught and is unable to eat. She falls asleep in tears. The next morning, Anne is determined to be cheerful. Marilla and Matthew learn about Anne's past. She moved from house to house after her young parents both passed away. She lived with two families and helped the women with their babies. Marilla asks if they were good to her, to which Anne shares they were as good as they could be. She desperately wants to stay with the Cuthberts, but Marilla is not sold. She wants to check in with Mrs. Blewett to see what happened. Matthew is warming to Anne and would like her to stay.

THE BARRY HOUSE

Anne and Marilla pay a visit to the Barry house and both are in poor spirits. Diana Barry, a girl Anne's age, sits on the front porch with her baby sister, Minnie May. Anne is immediately taken with her. Marilla and Anne head inside to visit with Mrs. Barry and Mrs. Blewett. They learn that Mrs. Blewett heard that the Cuthberts wanted a girl, hence how Anne came to Green Gables. In order to fix things, Mrs. Blewett says she will take Anne on. She requires help herself, having four boys and a little girl at home. Upon hearing about Anne's potential new housing situation, and seeing Mrs. Blewett's behavior toward Anne, Marilla says she will think on it one more night.

ABOUT THE PLAY

GREEN GABLES

After dinner that night, Anne does the dishes and continues to ask whether or not she can stay. She heads to bed and Marilla has her say her prayers. She prays to be able to stay and to become a beauty when she grows up. Anne is not a fan of her very red hair. Before Marilla leaves, Anne begs to know her fate. Marilla finally breaks down and shares the Cuthberts will be keeping her. Anne bursts into tears, which Marilla says is her only flaw, she is far too emotional and imaginative. The next day, Rachel Lynde is back to hear the news. Anne enters with great excitement. Diana Barry invited her over for a play date! Rachel sees her and immediately calls her homely and is rude about her red hair and freckles. Anne bursts out that she hates Rachel. She is deeply hurt. Marilla sends her to her room for being rude to Mrs. Lynde. Mrs. Lynde leaves saying that it will be a while before she returns to the Cuthbert's house. Upstairs, Marilla reasons with Anne. She understands why she is hurt, but asks for Anne to apologize as Mrs. Lynde is her elder. Marilla is unable to convince her, but in a later conversation with Matthew, he asks her to and Anne agrees.

MRS. LYNDE'S HOUSE

Anne apologizes effusively. Mrs. Lynde accepts and even shares that she once knew a girl that had hair the color of carrots and when she got older, it turned a dark auburn. Anne is encouraged and feels hopeful. Mrs. Lynde offers to let her pick flowers in the garden and Anne is thrilled. Marilla worries she has taken on too much with Anne and wonders if she is a truthful girl.

GREEN GABLES

The day of the play date arrives and Anne wants it to be perfect. She asks Matthew if he knows anything about hair, thinking hers looks like limp red licorice. Marilla enters looking for her amethyst broach. Anne tells the truth that she tried it on, but replaced it. Marilla does not believe her and sends her to her room. Until Anne tells Marilla what she wants to hear, she will not be able to go on her play date. Anne comes down later and says she did in fact take the broach and it fell into the river when she was playing. Marilla is very upset and says she will never be able to play with Diana. Matthew enters with Marilla's shawl and they discover the broach stuck to it. Marilla realizes Anne was telling the truth initially. They both apologize and Marilla sends her off to her play date.

IN THE WOODS

Diana and Anne get off to a slow start. Anne is incredibly imaginative and Diana feels insecure about her own ability to imagine. Anne warms her up and they end up bosom buddies.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Anne and Diana arrive late to school. They are chatting about Gilbert Blythe, the apparent genius and someone who teases all the girls. Mr. Phillips is not pleased with them and immediately blames Anne as a bad influence. He is very hard on her and tells her that if she does not work hard, she will wish she never left her orphanage.



ABOUT THE PLAY

GREEN GABLES

At home that night, Anne shares with Matthew how things started off badly at school, but by the end of the day, she was “dazzling” everyone. Her goal is to be the best in school, even beating Gilbert Blythe as top scholar. She wants to be the one reading a poem or speech at the end of year concert. She can picture it now, a white dress and everyone being glad that she is here.

BACK AT SCHOOL

Gilbert Blythe has returned and he is back at his old antics of teasing the girls. Mr. Phillips asks to speak with him, pulling him aside so all the “silly creatures,” or the girls, can “vent their immature energy.” He makes sure Gilbert is okay since he has been away helping his Uncle in New Brunswick. Gilbert’s family is fine, but now he has a challenger to make top of class, Anne. Back in class, Anne is not distracted by Gilbert, even though he winked at her and is very cute. She is determined to make the top of the class. Gilbert ends up teasing her about her hair and she gets so upset, she breaks her slate over his head in frustration. Mr. Phillips punishes Anne and no one else for the incident. She is required to write: “Anne Shirley has a very bad temper” one hundred times. As an additional punishment, Mr. Phillips requires Anne to sit next to Gilbert in order to learn from him.

GREEN GABLES

Anne is determined to never return to school again. She storms up to her room. Matthew, Rachel, and Marilla discuss Anne’s stubbornness. Apparently, it reminds Rachel of Marilla as a young girl. The only solution back then was to leave her alone. Marilla decides to humor her and let her work from home.

ANNE’S ROOM

Anne is working away at her studies. When Marilla checks on her, it is clear she has been crying. She misses Diana terribly. Once you have a real friend, it is hard to forget them. Marilla shares that she has lined up a tea date for her and Diana at the house. Anne is overjoyed.

THE TEA PARTY

Anne and Diana are over the moon at their special tea party. Anne offers Diana cake, tea, and special raspberry cordial that Marilla said they can drink. They discuss Gilbert Blythe and Diana shares that he is terribly sorry. Anne dismisses him again and instead serves Diana the cordial. Unfortunately, she did not realize she is serving Diana currant wine. Diana starts to get sick from the wine. Marilla and Mrs. Barry return and she is furious that her daughter is drunk and vows to never let the girls play again. Marilla tries to stand up for Anne, sharing that it was mistake. Anne is devastated and calls herself ugly and stupid. Marilla tries to reassure her that she is none of those things.

THE SCHOOL YARD

Anne goes to school early to gain Mr. Phillips’ permission to return. He predicts she is far too behind. She argues that he let Gilbert Blythe return and then shows him how far ahead she has worked across all her subjects. She begs to return in order to be with her classmates. Respecting her determination, he allows it. Anne sees Diana and they both lament about not being able to see each other. Diana leaves before she starts to cry. Gilbert sees Anne has returned and tells her he is glad. He tries to apologize, but she only warns him that she plans on winning the top scholar prize.



ABOUT THE PLAY

GREEN GABLES

Marilla leaves for her Church Aid Society meeting. Anne works on her studies and Matthew reads a catalogue. Suddenly, Diana bursts in with her baby sister, Minnie May who is terribly ill. Anne leaps into action knowing just what to do. By the time the Doctor and Mrs. Barry arrive Minnie May is better. The Doctor informs Mrs. Barry that Anne saved her baby's life. Mrs. Barry is eternally grateful and apologizes to Anne for misjudging her. She grants the girls permission to see each other again.

MRS. LYNDE'S HOUSE

Matthew pays a visit to Mrs. Lynde with a request. He really wants Anne to have a new dress, just like the other girls have. He even shows Mrs. Lynde a picture from a catalogue with puffed sleeves. She agrees and promises to keep it a secret between the two of them.

ON THE BANK OF THE RIVER

Anne and Diana sit in a boat by the bank of the river. They are playing when Mrs. Lynde approaches and tries to hide something in her arms. She excuses herself and Anne suspects the bundle she is holding has something to do with her. Anne decides she wants to brave the water, even though she does not know how to swim. She has Diana push her out in the river and begins to recite to give herself courage. The boat begins to sink and she jumps out on a piling. Gilbert comes along and saves her. He tries to apologize, but she refuses to accept it and he leaves upset. Even Diana is frustrated by Anne's stubbornness. She wonders how anyone can be her friend.

GREEN GABLES

Back at Green Gables, Marilla tells Anne a story of her own regret. Gilbert Blythe's father was once her beau, but after a disagreement, she never forgave him and they never mended the relationship. Just then, Diana and Gilbert arrive to set things straight. All three friends make up and Anne tells Diana that she will never forget them. When her friends leave, she informs Marilla and Matthew that she must go. She is only a burden to everyone. Marilla and Matthew share that they would rather have Anne than a dozen boys. They hug and Matthew presents Anne with her present, a beautiful dress with puffed sleeves. She is overjoyed and vows to make them both proud.