



Anne of Green Gables

L.M. Montgomery

Teacher's Guide
By A.L. Satterfield

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Synopsis

Chapter 1: Mrs. Rachel Lynde Is Surprised

We meet Mrs. Rachel Lynde, the biggest busybody in little Avonlea and a self-appointed guardian of decorum and pillar of the community, as she sits in her kitchen window and watches the town's activities. She is puzzled to see Matthew Cuthbert, who on this sunny June afternoon would normally be farming, leave town in his buggy, wearing his best suit. Consumed with curiosity, Rachel heads to Green Gables, the home Matthew shares with his sister, Marilla Cuthbert, and pumps her for information. She is quite surprised to learn that the aging and childless siblings are adopting an orphan boy from the local orphanage in order to provide Matthew with some help on the farm. Recovering her composure, Rachel opines that this is a "dangerous idea," and recounts cautionary tales about "bad seed" orphans. Marilla is unswayed. The opening chapter establishes the novel's gently satirical tone, and foreshadows health problems for Matthew and Marilla, and the possibility of a surprise from the orphanage.

Chapter 2: Matthew Cuthbert Is Surprised

Matthew Cuthbert drives through the beautiful, bucolic Prince Edward Island scenery on his way to the train station in a neighboring town, where he is supposed to collect the orphan. On the way, we learn that the sixty-year-old Matthew, though gentle and kind, is also painfully shy, especially around females. Therefore, he's especially distressed to find a girl waiting at the train platform, but resolves to take her home anyway and let Marilla decide her fate. On the return trip, Matthew is charmed by the

constant chatter of red-headed, freckle-faced Anne Shirley, whose native romanticism has helped her cope with her harsh and deprived upbringing. She longs for a home and a best friend, and remarks on the beauty of her surroundings, giving fanciful names to the local landmarks she passes ("the Avenue," a lane lined with apple trees, is renamed "the White Way of Delight," for instance).

Chapter 3: Marilla Cuthbert Is Surprised

Marilla is dismayed that the "orphan boy" is really a girl, and resolves to "exchange" Anne. This sends the dramatic and emotional Anne into "the depths of despair"—a state the stern and emotionally repressed Marilla says she can't even imagine. After a barely nibbled supper, Anne is sent to bed in the east gable room, whose coldness and lack of adornment mirror her mood. Meanwhile, in the kitchen, Marilla does the dishes while Matthew they keep the girl, as they "might be some good to her." Marilla appears to reject this idea, but she ponders it nevertheless.

Chapter 4: Morning at Green Gables

In the morning, the imaginative Anne revels in the beauty of her surroundings, retreating into fantasy to soften the blow as she recalls that she is to be returned. Anne declares Matthew a "kindred spirit" over breakfast, and helps Marilla with the dishes. Matthew announces that he will hire a local boy to help on the farm, clearing the way for Anne to stay with them. Marilla is befuddled by the girl and grudgingly acknowledges her charm, but is adamant nevertheless. Angered by the situation, she sets off, with Anne in tow, to visit Mrs. Spencer, who was to deliver the expected boy.



Chapter 5: Anne's History

On the trip back to town, Marilla hears Anne's sad story. The little girl, orphaned at three months old, has led a difficult life of drudgery and emotional neglect. At barely eleven, she has already spent many years working and caring for other people's children. She has also developed a love for books and stories, despite the woeful neglect of her education. It becomes clear to Marilla that Anne's been treated as a virtual slave by her guardians, Mrs. Thomas and Mrs. Hammond. Both women have died, and for the past four months, Anne has lived at the bleak Hopeton asylum, where Mrs. Spencer discovered her. Moved to pity, and touched by Anne's obvious struggle to see the good in everyone despite the evidence of her mistreatment, Marilla begins to consider keeping the girl.

Chapter 6: Marilla Makes Up Her Mind

At Mrs. Spencer's, we learn the source of the miscommunication that led to the Cuthberts getting a girl instead of a boy. Mrs. Spencer suggests a resolution to the problem: give Anne to Mrs. Peter Blewett, a local woman who is looking for an orphan girl to help care for her children. Marilla is made uneasy by this suggestion, since she is aware of Mrs. Blewett's reputation for harshness with servant girls, and her mind is made up when Mrs. Blewett drops by the Spencer home to borrow a recipe. As she witnesses Mrs. Blewett's unpleasantness and sees Anne turn pale and silent, Marilla finds she cannot bear to leave such a "sensitive, high-strung" girl in such insensitive hands. Marilla makes an excuse about discussing the issue with Matthew, and beats a hasty retreat with Anne in tow. Of course, Marilla knows already what the kindly Matthew's decision will be—as he puts it later, he wouldn't give a dog he likes to Mrs. Blewett. Anne will stay at Green Gables.

Chapter 7: Anne Says Her Prayers

The rigid and stoic Marilla, a model of moral rectitude, is shocked to learn that Anne is a virtual "heathen," having received little religious or moral instruction during her years of drudgery. Marilla tries to help Anne say her prayers, and Anne, unenthusiastic about prayer generally but eager to please Marilla, attempts to pray. Anne asks God to allow her to stay at Green Gables and to be good-looking when she grows up, closing the prayer with "yours respectfully" instead of "amen." Though she disapproves of Anne's praying, Marilla reasons

that it is a result of ignorance, rather than wickedness. Marilla grimly determines to set Anne on the right moral course by taking her to Sunday School to start her religious education—after first getting her suitable clothes, of course.

Chapter 8: Anne's Bringing-up Is Begun

Marilla waits until the following afternoon to tell Anne she will be allowed to stay at Green Gables. Anne is overcome with gratitude and joy. She tries to call Marilla "aunt," but the practical Marilla rebuffs her, insisting she prefers facts to imagination. Since fantasy has been her primary coping mechanism, Anne can't understand how Marilla can live in a world devoid of imagination. Nevertheless, Anne tries to fit in, obeying Marilla and memorizing the Lord's Prayer at her behest. Buoyed by the prospect of a "bosom friend" in Diana Barry, a neighbor girl who Marilla describes as "good and smart," Anne spins more happy fantasies in her room, and begins to think of herself as "Anne of Green Gables."

Chapter 9: Mrs. Rachel Lynde Is Properly Horrified

Two weeks after Anne's arrival, Rachel Lynde, the local busybody, makes a belated visit to Green Gables; she has been kept away by the grippe (the flu), from which she has only just recovered. As Rachel and Marilla chat, Anne runs in from outside, disheveled from playing. Rachel declares the girl "skinny and homely," and remarks on her bright red hair, prompting an angry outburst from Anne, who is sent to her room by Marilla. However, the incident sparks Marilla's painful memories of similar pronouncements from an unkind aunt, and she rebukes Rachel and rejects the latter's suggestion to swat Anne with a birch switch. Instead, Anne must stay in her room until she is ready to apologize to Rachel—a rather light punishment for that era, and one that indicates Marilla's unspoken sympathy for Anne's hurt and insecurity.

Chapter 10: Anne's Apology

The next evening, while Marilla is tending cows in the back pasture, Matthew sneaks up to Anne's room and persuades her to make amends with Rachel. Anne agrees out of love for the kind-hearted Matthew. Subsequently, Marilla accompanies Anne to Rachel Lynde's house, where Anne does such a thorough job of dramatic self-abasement that Rachel is mollified and Marilla is secretly amused. On the way home, Anne slips her hand

into Marilla's, sparking a wave of maternal feeling that Marilla promptly squelches.

Chapter 11: Anne's Impressions of Sunday School

Marilla makes Anne three plain, unfashionable dresses, refusing to "pamper vanity" by acceding to Anne's desire for a fashionable dress with puffed sleeves. The next morning, Anne sets out for Sunday School, having decorated her plain sailor hat with wildflowers. Afterward, she makes pithy observations to Marilla about the dullness, lack of imagination, and inability to answer questions displayed by her supposed spiritual advisers. Marilla, while outwardly rigid and unbending, secretly agrees with Anne's observations.

Chapter 12: A Solemn Vow and Promise

Marilla and Anne walk to Orchard Slope, Diana Barry's house, so the two girls can meet. Anne is beside herself with nervous excitement. At Orchard Slope, the girls hit it off, with the shy and bookish Diana the perfect complement to the exuberant Anne. They swear an oath of eternal friendship and make plans to build a playhouse in Mr. Bell's birch grove. Later, Matthew brings home chocolates for Anne, half of which she saves for Diana. Marilla remarks to Matthew about Anne's generosity (chocolates being a rare and extravagant treat that she gladly shares), and admits how fond she now is of the girl.

Chapter 13: The Delights of Anticipation

Diana and Anne are "kindred spirits" who play with each other constantly. Meanwhile, Anne is beside herself with excitement at the prospect of the upcoming Sunday School picnic, where ice cream will be served. She has never been to a picnic or tasted ice cream. Marilla, hoping to spare Anne a disappointment, warns the girl not to let herself get so excited about the event; but Anne responds that "looking forward to things is half the pleasure of them." On the way to church, Anne admires Marilla's amethyst brooch, a family heirloom.

Chapter 14: Anne's Confession

Marilla can't find her amethyst brooch; she is convinced that Anne has lost it, despite Anne's insistence that she merely tried it on and put it back on the bureau. Convinced that Anne is lying, Marilla sends the girl to her room and bans her from the picnic until she confesses. In a bid to go to the picnic, Anne makes up a confession, but Marilla is

angry and won't relent. Finally, Marilla finds the brooch when she is doing her mending; Anne's confession was false. Although she doesn't hold with lying, Marilla realizes she drove Anne to it, and she apologizes and sends her to the picnic with a basket full of food. When she returns, Anne declares that ice cream is "sublime."

Chapter 15: A Tempest in the School Teapot

Anne begins attending Avonlea at school. She enjoys it very much, despite the ineptitude of the schoolmaster, Mr. Phillips. All goes well for several weeks, until the day handsome Gilbert Blythe returns to school from a visit to his cousins. He teases Anne and pulls her hair, and she responds by hitting him in the head with her slate. Mr. Phillips singles Anne out for punishment, even though Gilbert takes responsibility for the teasing, and she vows never to forgive him, despite his apology. Later, when Mr. Phillips wrongly punishes Anne in a separate incident and singles her out for humiliation, she vows not to return to school. At home, Marilla and Rachel Lynde agree that Mr. Phillips was in the wrong, and Marilla takes Rachel's advice to home school Anne for the time being, until the girl is ready to return. Anne learns at home, but soon comes to miss her friends. One day, her melodramatic laments—about the day when Diana will marry and leave her forever—inspire a fit of hysterical laughter in Marilla. This is an emotional breakthrough for the woman, who had previously been so humorless and controlled; now she accepts Anne's dramatics with kindness and good humor.

Chapter 16: Diana Is Invited to Tea with Tragic Results

Marilla goes to an Aid Society meeting, allowing Anne to invite Diana for tea, where she may serve Diana raspberry cordial. Unfortunately, Marilla has left the currant wine where she said the cordial would be, and the unsuspecting Anne soon gets the equally unsuspecting Diana drunk—although the girls do not realize this until Diana goes home "sick" and Mrs. Barry makes a fuss. Mrs. Barry blames Anne, even though Marilla, realizing her mistake, takes the blame. Mrs. Barry forbids Diana to play with Anne, rebuffing both Marilla's attempts to set things right and Anne's abject apologies. Anne is heartbroken, but has found an ally in Marilla, who is incensed at Mrs. Barry's unkind and unreasonable behavior.

Chapter 17: A New Interest in Life

The day after the cordial incident, Anne is given ten minutes to say goodbye to Diana. The two pledge their devotion, and Diana gives Anne a lock of hair as a token of love. On Monday, Anne bravely returns to school, where she can at least see Diana. Her schoolmates welcome her with gifts, although she scorns the “strawberry apple” offered by Gilbert from his family orchard. Diana and Anne pass notes to each other, and Anne throws herself into an academic competition with Gilbert, who is her only true rival for head of the class. However, she detests geometry.

Chapter 18: Anne to the Rescue

When the Premier visits Charlottetown, most of the town’s adults, including Marilla and the Barrys, travel the thirty miles to hear him speak. Matthew is an exception; he and Anne are enjoying a quiet winter evening by the fire when they are interrupted by Diana, who is in a panic, since her parents are away and her baby sister is suddenly very sick with the croup. Anne, levelheaded and resourceful in a crisis, and much experienced in caring for the small children of her previous foster parents, hastens to the Barry home, while Matthew goes to fetch the doctor. He must travel far out of his way, since the local doctor is also in Charlottetown. When Matthew and the doctor finally arrive at 3 a.m., the danger has passed. The doctor subsequently informs Mrs. Barry that Anne has saved her daughter’s life. The next afternoon, a grateful and contrite Mrs. Barry apologizes for ever doubting Anne, and invites her to tea, which she serves on her very best china. Reunited with Diana, Anne’s joy is complete, and she has no trouble saying grateful prayers that night before bed.

Chapter 19: A Concert, a Catastrophe, and a Confession

Aided by Matthew, Anne obtains Marilla’s reluctant permission to attend a Debating Club concert with Diana, followed by a sleepover at the Barry home. The night of thrills for the girls includes the rare honor of sleeping in the spare room. However, that plan is thwarted when the high-spirited girls, returning home from the concert, race to the spare room and accidentally pounce on Mr. Barry’s elderly Aunt Josephine, who unbeknownst to them is sleeping in the bed. The wealthy Aunt Josephine is deeply offended, and threatens to return to town immediately and deny Diana the music lessons she’s promised to pay for, but Anne makes it right,

apologizing sincerely and explaining the situation. Aunt Josephine is charmed by the apology. She decides to stay the month, and invites Anne to visit her in town. Anne, for her part, has won another fan and found a possible “kindred spirit.”

Chapter 20: A Good Imagination Gone Wrong

Spring arrives, and it is beautiful. The girls celebrate by making wreaths of mayflowers, although Anne rejects mayflowers offered by Gilbert. It is also the anniversary of Anne’s arrival, and Marilla admits that she’s glad she kept Anne. Marilla suffers from headaches; they are getting worse. To cure her of excess imaginativeness, Marilla makes Anne run an errand at night in the so-called “Haunted Wood.” As a result, Anne vows to swear off being a romantic—but Matthew tells her not to give it up completely.

Chapter 21: A New Departure in Flavorings

Mr. Phillips the schoolmaster leaves Avonlea, and despite his past behavior, Anne is sorry to see him go. However, Anne is distracted by the arrival of a new minister, Mr. Allan, and his warm-hearted wife. So taken is she with Mrs. Allan, whom she regards as another kindred spirit, that Anne warms to the idea of religion—if she can be like her new hero. The Allans are invited to tea at Green Gables, and Anne carefully prepares a layer cake for the occasion, getting up early to make preparations and decorate. Unfortunately, however, Marilla has used an old vanilla bottle to store liniment but has not replaced the label. As a result, the carefully prepared cake is an inedible disaster, and Anne is humiliated. She runs to her room in shame. Footsteps approach, and she tells her visitor—whom she assumes to be Marilla—how ashamed she will always be in front of Mrs. Allan. However, the footsteps turn out to be those of Mrs. Allan herself, and she lovingly comforts Anne. Spirits restored, Anne takes Mrs. Allan to see the garden.

Chapter 22: Anne Is Invited Out to Tea

Anne is thrilled to be invited to afternoon tea at Mrs. Allan’s. Worried about Anne’s roller-coaster emotions, Marilla counsels her to calm down and think how to enhance Mrs. Allan’s enjoyment of the afternoon, rather than her own. Anne takes her advice. The entire event is a great success, and Anne adores Mrs. Allan. Anne is further thrilled by the impending arrival of Miss Muriel Stacy, the new teacher.

Chapter 23: Anne Comes to Grief in an Affair of Honor

At Diana's party for the girls in her class, a contest of "dares" ensues, culminating with Josie Pye daring Anne to walk the ridgepole of the Barry house's roof. Anne falls off, breaking her leg. Marilla has a stab of terror when she spots Mr. Barry from afar, carrying the motionless Anne in his arms; in that moment, she realizes how much she loves the girl. Anne, ever the optimist, points out that she might have broken her neck instead of her leg!

Convalescing at home, Anne is forced to postpone her introduction to the new schoolmistress, but Anne is thrilled by the volume of visitors and the evidence of how much people care about her.

Chapter 24: Miss Stacy and her Pupils Get Up a Concert

Returning to school in October, Anne develops a strong bond with her new teacher. Under Miss Stacy's regime, Anne comes into her own as a student. The students are excited at the prospect of an upcoming Christmas concert that Miss Stacy proposes. Marilla thinks the idea is foolish, but Matthew thinks the "appreciation" will do the young scholars good.

Chapter 25: Matthew Insists on Puffed Sleeves

Watching Anne and her friends, Matthew notices for the first time that Anne is dressed differently—her clothes are much plainer than the other girls'. He resolves to give Anne a party dress for Christmas, and makes a special trip to the store to purchase one. However, his shyness gets the better of him, and he leaves instead with a rake and twenty pounds of brown sugar. Ultimately, Matthew enlists Rachel Lynde to make Anne a new dress. Rachel is touched, and agrees. Anne receives the frilly dress on Christmas morning; her ensemble is completed by the fancy kid slippers she receives as a gift from Aunt Josephine. Anne revels in her new finery as she goes on to perform well in the Christmas concert—the first concert Matthew and Marilla have attended in twenty years. Both siblings are proud of Anne, although Marilla, fearing to encourage Anne's "vanity," doesn't tell her so. The Cuthberts begin to realize that they need to make plans for Anne's continuing education after she graduates from school in Avonlea.

Chapter 26: The Story Club Is Formed

Anne turns thirteen. She looks forward to the happy day when she will be truly grown up, and able to use big words. With Diana and her other

friends, she forms a club where the girls write and share romantic stories. Marilla thinks this is all nonsense, but Mrs. Allan is more accepting and encouraging of Anne's girlish pursuits. Although she loves and admires Marilla and strives to live up to her standards, she receives comfort and a much-needed alternative perspective from the warm Mrs. Allan, who admits that she was once a mischief-making little girl herself.

Chapter 27: Vanity and Vexation of Spirit

On a cold day, Marilla returns home from an Aid meeting to discover the hearth cold and the tea unmade, and Anne nowhere in sight. At first angry at Anne's perceived disobedience, Marilla is subsequently dismayed to find Anne hiding in her room in the "depth of despair." The source of Anne's misery is her hair: spurred by a combination of vanity and pity, she has purchased hair dye from a peddler trying to earn money to bring his wife and children from Germany. The dye, which was supposed to turn her hair black, actually made it green, and no amount of shampooing will change the color. Marilla is forced to cut off most of Anne's hair, and Anne, struggling to achieve Mrs. Allan's level of goodness, and seeing her hair fiasco as a penance for vanity, quickly comes to terms with her fate. However, the unexpectedly flattering short style creates a sensation at school. For her part, Marilla is glad to help, but is once again experiencing ominous headaches.

Chapter 28: An Unfortunate Lily Maid

Anne and her friends spend most of the summer playing near the pond. Anne gets stranded on a bridge piling one day after the girls decide to dramatize Alfred Tennyson's Arthurian poem, *Elaine*, with Anne in the title role: she is sent down the river in a skiff (a stand-in for a funeral barge) that springs a leak. Gilbert Blythe rescues her, and uses the opportunity to extend an offer of friendship, but Anne stubbornly refuses. Afterward, she decides she's sworn off romance—but Matthew suggests she keep a little of it.

Chapter 29: An Epoch in Anne's Life

Diana and Anne are invited to visit Aunt Josephine in town and attend the Exhibition. Aunt Josephine's splendid home dazzles the girls, and they have a wonderful and exciting time at the fair. Diana decides she was "born for city life," but Anne realizes she's a country girl at heart, despite her

enjoyment of the visit. At the end of four days, Anne happily returns to a relieved Matthew and Marilla, who missed her terribly.

Chapter 30: The Queen’s Class Is Organized

Miss Stacy visits Marilla to suggest Anne study for the entrance exam to the Queen’s Academy so she can become a teacher. Anne joins the class with Gilbert and several other good students, but Diana doesn’t attend—the first time since the currant wine incident that the girls have been parted. To make up for this, the two friends spend many hours in the Haunted Wood having solemn conversations about growing up. Anne continues her academic rivalry with Gilbert, but is no longer angry with him. Meanwhile, Matthew’s heart has been acting up, and a “bad spell” forces Marilla to think about Anne’s future, and how much she has come to love and rely on the girl.

Chapter 31: Where the Brook and River Meet

Anne spends a wonderful, golden summer at Green Gables, during which she grows two inches. She is now a poised—and quieter—young woman of fifteen. As fall approaches, she prepares to resume her entrance exam studies and worries about geometry. Marilla, who worries about missing Anne, has lovingly sewn her some pretty new dresses for the school year.

Chapter 32: The Pass List Is Out

At the end of the school year, Miss Stacy leaves Avonlea; Anne and Diana will miss her. The Queen’s Academy applicants go to Charlottetown to take the entrance exam, then must wait three weeks for the results to be published in the newspaper. Finally, the results come in: everyone has passed, and Anne and Gilbert are tied for first place! Matthew, Marilla, and Mrs. Lynde are all very proud of Anne, although Marilla does not express it. Later, Anne visits Mrs. Allan and has a serious talk with her, ending with a prayer of thanks and “reverent petition for the future.”

Chapter 33: The Hotel Concert

Anne and Diana are invited to recite for a charity event at the White Sands Hotel. Anne is lovely in white organdy and lace, with her hair pulled back and wearing a string of pearls bestowed by Matthew. He and Marilla are brimming with pride at “their girl.” At the concert, Anne momentarily feels like a “country bumpkin,” but regains her com-

posure and gives a wonderful performance that elicits calls for an encore. While Jane is envious of the rich people she sees at the event, Anne assures her that they are already rich in what matters. She has decided that she is happy to be Anne of Green Gables, and to enjoy the beautiful things in life that money can’t buy.

Chapter 34: A Queen’s Girl

Marilla and Matthew spoil Anne a bit as they prepare to send her off to Queen’s Academy. Marilla is finally able to express her feelings for Anne, and when Anne finally leaves, Marilla breaks down in tears. For her part, Anne is terribly homesick, and resolves to take extra classes so she can get her teaching license in one year instead of two; Gilbert Blythe does the same. Anne learns from her friends that an Avery scholarship, providing four-year tuition at Redmond College, will be awarded to a Queen’s Academy student. Anne decides to compete for the scholarship.

Chapter 35: The Winter at Queen’s

Anne sees her friends on weekend visits to Avonlea. Gilbert Blythe is keeping company with Ruby Gillis; Anne begins to wish for similar masculine companionship, and is puzzled by the relationship, since Ruby doesn’t seem to be Gilbert’s type. Finally, she prepares for the end of the school year, content that she has done her very best.

Chapter 36: The Glory and the Dream

Anne’s school year ends in triumph—although Gilbert is the class medalist, she has won the Avery scholarship! She plans to attend Redmond College and earn a degree in English Literature. Gilbert, for his part, will be the new schoolmaster at Avonlea, since he can’t afford to attend Redmond. Although Anne enjoys resting in Avonlea and visiting her friends, she is worried about Matthew and Marilla’s health—Matthew has had more bad spells with his heart, and Marilla has decided to see an oculist about her headaches. There are also worries about the stability of the bank where Matthew and Marilla have placed their life’s savings. When Anne laments that she is unable to help Matthew in the fields as a boy would have done, Matthew assures her that he is proud of her—“my girl”—and would rather have her than a dozen boys.

Chapter 37: The Reaper Whose Name Is Death

Tragedy strikes the household when the Cuthberts’

bank fails and Matthew, reading about it in the newspaper, has a heart attack from the shock. Although Anne and Marilla try to revive him, it is too late. The doctor, arriving later, assures them that his death was painless and quick. That night, Anne is finally able to cry, and she and Marilla comfort each other; their bond strengthens, since they are the only ones who can appreciate each other's loss. Marilla does not believe in weeping for her dearly loved brother, but she is finally able to tell Anne her true feelings: she loves her as if she were her own child. During the conversation, Marilla reveals a regret from her youth: she and Gilbert Blythe's father had had a romance, but they had quarreled and she had stubbornly refused to forgive him.

Chapter 38: The Bend in the Road

The oculist gives Marilla more bad news: she must give up reading, sewing, and crying, or go blind. With her savings gone and unable to run Green Gables by herself, Marilla considers selling the farm and moving in with Rachel Lynde. However, Anne decides to forego her scholarship so she can stay at Green Gables and help Marilla. Gilbert selflessly gives up the teaching position at Avonlea so Anne can have it; he plans to work his way through college by teaching at White Sands. Anne meets him in the road after she hears this news, and the two form a lasting friendship that seems likely to develop into romance. That night, despite the sad recent events, Anne is content. Her future, which once seemed to her like a "straight road" that she could see down for miles, is now altered; but she is confident that whatever lies around the new "bend in the road" will be for the best.

Author Sketch

Lucy Maud Montgomery was born Nov. 30, 1874, in what is now New London, Prince Edward Island, Canada, to Clara Woolner Macneil Montgomery and Hugh John Montgomery. When Lucy Montgomery was twenty-one months old, her mother died of tuberculosis. When she was seven, Lucys father moved to Saskatchewan, leaving his daughter with her maternal grandparents in Cavendish; they were reportedly quite strict and harsh, and her loneliness and feelings of



abandonment were later invested into the character of Anne Shirley. In 1890, at the age of fifteen, Lucy went to live with her father and stepmother in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, to help with their small children, but returned after a year.

In 1893, Lucy enrolled at Prince of Wales College in Charlottetown, subsequently completing a two-year teaching certificate program in one year. After studying literature at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in 1895 and 1896, Montgomery began teaching at various schools on the island; during this time she embarked on a writing career as well, publishing numerous short stories in magazines and newspapers beginning in 1897.

In 1898, Lucy returned to Cavendish to live with her widowed grandmother, and, apart from a brief stint in 1901-1902 working for newspapers in Halifax, lived at her childhood home until the grandmother's death in 1911. During this time, Lucy began writing novels, and her first book, the celebrated *Anne of Green Gables*, was published in 1908, becoming an immediate bestseller.

In 1911, Lucy married Ewan Macdonald, a Presbyterian minister, and moved to Ontario, where he had a church. During their lifetime together, Lucy continued to write prolifically, continuing the *Anne of Green Gables* series. The couple also had three sons, one of whom was stillborn (his death inspired the death of Anne Shirley's first child in *Anne's House of Dreams*). Lucy's husband retired in 1935, and the couple moved to Swansea, Ontario, a Toronto suburb, buying a house Lucy named "Journey's End." She continued to write until her death in Toronto in 1942.

Critic's Corner

One of the best-loved novels in North American history, *Anne of Green Gables* has sold more than 50 million copies worldwide and inspired numerous sequels and adaptations since its publication in 1908. The adventures of spunky orphan Anne Shirley, her various travails and accompanying emotional highs and lows, have often been seen as an altered, idealized depiction of L.M. Montgomery's own difficult childhood. The series has struck a chord with generations of readers and created a virtual industry of research and publication

relating to Anne and her creator, as well as perennially bolstering the economy of Prince Edward Island, where L.M. Montgomery grew up and where the Anne books are set. Although the bucolic settings and Edwardian society and morés depicted in *Anne of Green Gables* can make the book seem dated, Anne's struggles—for acceptance, achievement, identity, and love—are timeless: the universal challenges of growing up.

L.M. Montgomery Timeline

- November 30, 1874** Lucy Maud Montgomery is born in what is now New London, Prince Edward Island, Canada.
- 1876** Lucy's mother dies of tuberculosis when Lucy is 3.
- 1881** Lucy's father moves to Saskatchewan, where he subsequently remarries, leaving Lucy with her rigid maternal grandparents.
- 1893** Lucy begins college, and soon starts writing stories for local publication.
- 1898** Lucy moves in with her widowed grandmother; she writes fiction, and begins a novel based on her childhood experiences.
- 1908** *Anne of Green Gables* is published.
- 1911** Lucy's grandmother dies, and Lucy marries a Presbyterian minister, Ewan Macdonald.
- 1914** The first of Lucy's three children is born.
- 1935** Lucy and her husband retire to a suburb of Toronto.
- 1942** Lucy dies at her home in suburban Toronto.

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- Among the Shadows: Tales from the Darker Side*, 1990
- After Many Days: Tales of Time Passed*, 1991
- Against the Odds: Tales of Achievement*, 1993
- At the Altar: Matrimonial Tales*, 1994
- Across the Miles: Tales of Correspondence*, 1995
- Christmas with Anne and Other Holiday Stories*, 1995

Journals

- The Selected Journals of L.M. Montgomery, Volume I: 1889-1910*; 1985
- The Selected Journals of L.M. Montgomery, Volume II: 1910-1921*; 1987
- The Selected Journals of L.M. Montgomery, Volume III: 1921-1929*; 1992
- The Selected Journals of L.M. Montgomery, Volume IV: 1929-1935*; 1998
- The Selected Journals of L.M. Montgomery, Volume V: 1935-1942*; 2003

Letters

- The Green Gables Letters: from L.M. Montgomery to Ephraim Weber, 1905-1909*; 1960
- My Dear Mr. M: Letters to G.B. MacMillan from L.M. Montgomery*; 1990
- After Green Gables: L.M. Montgomery's Letters to Ephraim Weber, 1916-1941*; 2006

Essays

- Courageous Women*, 1934

Lyrics

- The Island Hymn*, 1907

Autobiography

- The Alpine Path: The Story of My Career*, 1917

General Objectives

1. To consider the ways in which bonds of friendship and love develop and provide strength to individuals
2. To recognize the ways that life in an isolated community can affect its residents
3. To talk about the important roles that parents

and parent figures play in a young person's life, and the effects on a young person of the absence of such people

4. To analyze the novel's title
5. To understand historical fiction
6. To assess the main character's personality
7. To recognize the significance of setting
8. To evaluate social conventions
9. To understand and identify the elements of the coming-of-age novel
10. To examine the importance of friendship, loyalty, family ties, and a knowledge of family history
11. To identify common elements of the classic fairy tale in the novel, and why these might appeal so strongly to young readers
12. To evaluate the ending

Specific Objectives

1. To identify the reasons why Anne is living with Marilla and Matthew in Avonlea, and the role they play in Anne's life
2. To understand the sources of Anne's fears and anxieties
3. To recognize the roles that the various inhabitants of Avonlea play in Anne's life
4. To identify the rewards and challenges of living in Avonlea
5. To trace the theme of withholding love and abandonment issues as they affect Anne in the novel
6. To analyze the effect that her orphan experience has had on Anne
7. To come to an understanding about Anne's use of imagination and ongoing quest for beauty
8. To understand the plight of the newcomer
To determine how the novel generates humor and emotion
9. To see how Anne grows and matures over the course of the novel
10. To identify and give examples of values and personal characteristics the novel promotes, and others that the novel depicts as undesirable
11. To interpret the novel in terms of its beliefs about the nature of life and death

Literary Terms and Applications

For a better understanding of Lucy Maude

Montgomery's *Anne of Green Gables*, present the following terms and applications to the novel:

• **Episodic plot:** a narrative that consists of a series of minor conflicts, most of which are quickly resolved. *Anne of Green Gables* features an episodic plot. Although the resolutions may at times depend too much on chance or coincidence, overall, Anne's varied adventures create suspense and keep the plot moving. The focus on Anne does mean, however, that secondary characters can lack development.

• **"Rags-to-riches" story:** *Anne of Green Gables* follows in the tradition of the wildly popular "rags-to-riches" stories written by Horatio Alger in the last third of the nineteenth century. In these stories, a penniless orphan rose to success by dint of hard work, intelligence, ambition, good nature, and good character; the protagonists of these novels reflect an idealized youth of that era. Although Anne Shirley never quite reaches the level of perfection represented by these tales, she nevertheless is written in that mode.

• **Bildungsroman:** A *bildungsroman* (German for "novel of self-cultivation"), also known as a coming-of-age story (of which the rags-to-riches story is a type), shows the spiritual, moral, psychological, and social development and growth of the protagonist, usually from childhood to adulthood. Anne's story is a form of *bildungsroman*, in which she develops from a fantasy-prone and impulsive child, into a responsible and level-headed young woman.

The Importance of Setting

Setting is extremely important in *Anne of Green Gables*. The bucolic, turn-of-the-century Prince Edward Island described so lovingly by Montgomery is essential to the development of both plot and characters, and is based on the farm in Cavendish, Prince Edward Island, where L.M. Montgomery lived as a child (this farm is now part of Prince Edward Island National Park). The beautiful land shapes experiences and personalities in the simple farming community; so important is the setting that it is initially the thing, even more than the prospect of a new family and friends, that draws Anne to her new home. Even the book's title reflects Anne's identity with place: she is "Anne of Green Gables," after the Cuthberts' home and land.

While the physical setting is clearly delineated, the temporal setting of *Anne of Green Gables* is a little

more vague. Historical events are rarely referred to, although the dress, technology, and society described (as well as the few historical references), mark Avonlea as an isolated farming community in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The result is a sense of Avonlea as timeless and magical, a vivid portrayal of a simple, innocent town in simple, innocent times, when even the best-informed citizens gave little thought to politics beyond the provincial level, and world events were too remote to be given much consideration.

Cross-Curricular Sources

Novels

Laurie Halse Anderson, *Prom*
Avi, *The Secret School*
Ann Brashares, *Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*
Meg Cabot, *Teen Idol*
Roald Dahl, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*
Julie Dannenberg, *First Day Jitters*
Lisl Harrison, *The Clique*
Kimberly Willis Holt, *When Zachary Beaver Came to Town*
Gordon Korman, *No More Dead Dogs*
Patricia Reilly Giff, *Pictures of Hollis Woods*
Carl Hiassen, *Hoot*
Harper Lee, *To Kill a Mockingbird*
Carson McCullers, *The Member of the Wedding*
Barbara Park, *Skinny Bones*
Stephanie Tolan, *Surviving the Applewhites*
Jerry Spinelli, *Looser and Stargirl*

Media Adaptations

Film

Anne of Green Gables, 1919—silent film adaptation (considered a lost film)
Anne of Green Gables (RKO Pictures), 1934
Anne of Windy Poplars (RKO Pictures), 1940

Television (partial list)

Anne of Green Gables (CBC), 1956
Anne of Green Gables (BBC), 1972
Anne of Avonlea (BBC), 1975
Akage no An ("Red-Haired Anne") (Nippon Animation Inc.), 1979
Anne of Green Gables (Wonderworks/CBC), 1985
Anne of Avonlea: The Continuing Story of Anne of Green Gables (Disney), 1985
Anne of Green Gables: The Sequel (Sullivan Entertainment/CBC/Disney), 1987
Road to Avonlea (Sullivan)

Entertainment/CBC/Disney), 1990-1996
Anne of Green Gables: The Animated Series (PBS Kids/Sullivan Entertainment), 2000
Anne: Journey to Green Gables (PBS Kids/Sullivan Entertainment), 2004
Anne of Green Gables: The Continuing Story (Sullivan Entertainment/CBC/PBS), 2000
Kon'nichiwa Anne—Before Green Gables (World Masterpiece Theater/Nippon Animation), 2009
Anne of Green Gables: A New Beginning (CTV/Sullivan Entertainment), 2008

Themes and Motifs

A study of the central issues and situations in L.M. Montgomery's *Anne of Green Gables* should include these aspects:

Themes

- small-town values and morés
- need for love, family, security, and belonging
- pride, vanity, and concern over personal appearance
- the importance of education
- the value of friendship
- loyalty to family and friends
- growing up
- life's ups and downs
- adapting to a new environment
- the power and limits of imagination

Motifs

- sacrificing personal goals for the sake of loved ones
- sharing important secrets with someone you trust
- relocating to a new place
- making new friends
- emotional ups and downs of growing up
- academic achievement and mastery
- overcoming a deprived childhood
- developing a sense of family
- learning to express love
- overcoming faults to become a responsible adult
- the limits of imagination
- the meaning of a name
- learning your true identity

Meaning Study

Below are significant words, phrases, or sentences from *Anne of Green Gables*. Explain each in context. Chapter and page numbers pinpoint each entry so

you can reread the relevant passage.

1. Matthew dreaded all women except Marilla and Mrs. Rachel; he had an uncomfortable feeling that the mysterious creatures were laughing at him. (Chapter 2, pp. 9-10)
(In the second chapter, titled "Matthew Cuthbert Is Surprised," we are introduced to the shy, gentle Matthew Cuthbert, a sixty-year-old lifelong bachelor who is afraid of women. The surprise is not only that Anne is a girl, but that he discovers he likes her a lot.)
2. Like most quiet folks (Matthew) liked talkative people when they were willing to do the talking themselves and did not expect him to keep up his end of it. (Chapter 2, p. 15)
(Anne is emotional, imaginative, and very talkative. Her dramatic, voluble nature is a foil to Matthew's natural shy quietness.)
3. "You don't want me!" she cried. "You don't want me because I'm not a boy! I might have expected it. Nobody ever did want me. I might have known it was all too beautiful to last." (Chapter 3, p. 23)
(Underlying Anne's melodramatic outburst is a very real despair when she discovers that Marilla is considering "returning" her for a boy orphan who can be more help on the farm. Anne has suffered neglect and abuse as an orphaned child without a family; she has grown up without love or friends, and has sometimes been used as a virtual indentured servant. One of her central challenges is the struggle to find acceptance, to fit in, and to be loved.)
4. The whitewashed walls were so painfully bare and staring that she thought they must ache over their own bareness. ... The whole apartment was of a rigidity not to be described in words, but which sent a shiver to the very marrow of Anne's bones." (Chapter 3, p. 26)
(Anne is observing the room where she spends her first night at Green Gables, and, as is typical for Anne, her surroundings mirror her inner state: she is lonely and despairing at Marilla's apparent rejection. The room reflects that sense of inner barrenness, as well as the rigidity Anne perceives in her would-be adoptive mother.)
5. Wasn't it a lovely place? Suppose she wasn't really

going to stay here! She would imagine she was. There was scope for imagination here. (Chapter 4, p. 29-30)

(Anne bounces back from her great disappointment, thanks to her sunny disposition and her chief refuge and coping mechanism: her vivid imagination. The beautiful surroundings stimulate her mind and provide inspiration for her happy fantasies.)

6. "But the worst of imagining things is that the time comes when you have to stop and that hurts." (Chapter 4, p. 39)
(Anne is discussing the chief drawback of her preferred coping mechanism: facing reality hurts. This illustrates the constant tension in Anne's life, and in the book, between the life of the mind and practical, everyday "reality.")
7. That was Matthew's way—take a whim into his head and cling to it with the most amazing silent persistency—a persistency ten times more potent and effectual in its very silence than if he had talked it out. (Chapter 4, p. 32)
(Marilla is facing resistance from Matthew in her quest to return Anne. She knows this mulishness will be harder for her to overcome than outright defiance. Matthew's support of Anne ultimately helps Marilla make a decision to keep the little girl against her better judgment.)
8. Her most serious shortcoming seemed to be a tendency to fall into day-dreams in the middle of a task and forget about it until such time as she was sharply recalled to earth by a reprimand or a catastrophe. (Chapter 8, p. 52)
(This observation is from Marilla, who is reflecting on Anne's character. She recognizes that Anne is kind, good-hearted, eager to please, and obedient, and will make a good addition to the farm. Marilla has reached her decision and is about to tell Anne she can stay.)
9. "I'll try to be so good. It will be uphill work, I expect, for Mrs. Thomas often told me I was desperately wicked." (Chapter 8, p. 53)
(Anne is thanking Marilla for deciding to let her stay. Her statement that being good will be "uphill work" reflects not only Anne's perceived difficulties in conforming to society's expectations, but also the unkindness and mistreatment she has experienced in her life up till now.)

10. "You're only Anne of Green Gables," she said earnestly, "and I see you ... whenever I try to imagine I'm the Lady Cordelia. However, it's a million times nicer to be Anne of Green Gables than Anne of nowhere in particular, isn't it?" (Chapter 8, p. 59)

(Anne has previously asked Marilla to call her Cordelia, which Marilla refuses to do. Anne recognizes on some level that being at Green Gables, with Marilla and Matthew, will provide a counterweight to her excessive emotionalism and penchant for escaping into fantasy. This grounding influence is very much needed and wanted by Anne—and provides her with a longed-for sense of belonging.)

11. Something warm and pleasant welled up in Marilla's heart at touch of that thin hand in her own—a throb of maternity she had missed, perhaps. Its very unaccustomedness and sweetness disturbed her. She hastened to restore her sensations to their normal calm by inculcating a moral. (Chapter 10, p. 74)
(Anne awakens long-suppressed emotions in Marilla, particularly maternal love. Although this awakening is good for Marilla, it is also an uncomfortable departure from the status quo, and Marilla attempts to restore her sense of equilibrium by distancing herself emotionally using a variety of techniques, including lecturing Anne and withholding praise.)
12. It was the first time in her whole life that childish lips had voluntarily touched Marilla's face. Again that sudden sensation of startling sweetness thrilled her. She was secretly vastly pleased at Anne's impulsive caress, which was probably the reason why she said brusquely: "There, there, never mind your kissing nonsense." (Chapter 13, p.89)
(Just as Marilla has difficulty expressing strong emotions herself, she also has trouble dealing with other people's, and she responds with brusqueness to Anne's show of affection.)
13. "Miss Barry was a kindred spirit, after all," Anne confided to Marilla. "You wouldn't think so to look at her, but she is. ... Kindred spirits are not so scarce as I used to think. It's splendid to find out there are so many of them in the world." (Chapter 19, p. 157)
(Anne makes this observation after winning

over her friend Diana's dragonish maiden aunt. After a lifetime of mistreatment, Anne is learning that there are kind, trustworthy people in the world, and that she herself is worthy of love and friendship.)

14. "Marilla, isn't it nice to think that tomorrow is a new day with no mistakes in it yet?" (Chapter 21, p. 174)
(Anne is dogged by the specter of her many "mistakes," an attitude Marilla at first encourages in a misguided attempt to "discipline" the girl and distance herself from unfamiliar and uncomfortable emotions. Anne's sunny disposition, however, prevents her from wallowing in self-reproach; tomorrow is always a clean slate!)
15. For Anne to take things calmly would have been to change her nature. All "spirit and fire and dew," as she was, the pleasures and pains of life came to her with trebled intensity." (Chapter 22, p. 176)
(Her emotionalism is one of Anne's hallmarks. It is the source of some of her troubles, but also of her unique, ultimately joyful, outlook on life.)
16. "Don't be very frightened, Marilla. I was walking the ridgepole and I fell off. I expect I have sprained my ankle. However, Marilla, I might have broken my neck. Let us look on the bright side of things." (Chapter 23, p.183)
(Anne has just fallen and broken her ankle after accepting a dare from Josie Pye to walk on the ridge of the Barrys' kitchen roof. The incident shocks Marilla into realizing how deeply she loves Anne.)
17. "Marilla is such a sensible woman. It must be a great deal better to be sensible, but still, I don't believe I'd really want to be a sensible person, because they are so unromantic." (Chapter 26, p. 202)
(Anne is having a discussion with her best friend, Diana Barry. She is expressing one of the central conflicts of her own life: the tension between her romantic, emotional inner nature and the harsh realities of the outside world, where it is much safer to be "sensible.")
18. "Do you suppose it's wrong for us to think so much about our clothes? Marilla says it is very sinful. But it is such an interesting subject, isn't it?" (Chapter 29, p. 227)

(Anne has been told—and true to her character and culture, she believes—that she is "vain," or excessively concerned with her appearance. Marilla's dour Protestant religion considers this a sin, and Marilla has lectured Anne about this issue on several occasions. Anne, who lacks Marilla's religious background and suffers from a sense of inferiority about her looks and unfashionable red hair, is torn: on one hand, she doesn't want to be bad, but on the other hand, she desperately wants to look good!)

19. "It was an elegant room, Marilla, but somehow sleeping in a spare room isn't what I used to think it was. That's the worst of growing up, and I'm beginning to realize it. The things you wanted so much when you were a child don't seem half so wonderful to you when you get them." (Chapter 29, p. 230-231)
(Anne is reflecting on her stay with Diana at the elegant city home of Miss Barry. Although the trip was exciting and fun, Anne has realized that she is a country girl at heart and that there's no place like home.)
20. She had an uneasy feeling that it was rather sinful to set one's heart so intensely on any human creature as she had set hers on Anne, and perhaps she performed a sort of unconscious penance for this by being stricter and more critical than if the girl had been less dear to her. Certainly Anne had no idea how Marilla loved her. (Chapter 30, p. 235)
(Marilla adores Anne, which creates a conflict in Marilla's mind between her strict religious upbringing and her newfound emotions. Marilla's overcompensation for her perceived "sin" has led Anne to doubt Marilla's love.)
21. She could see Matthew's face smiling at her as he had smiled when they parted at the gate that last evening—she could hear his voice saying, "My girl—my girl that I'm proud of." Then the tears came and Anne wept her heart out. (Chapter 37, p. 291)
(Anne is grieving for Matthew, who has died of a sudden heart attack after learning that the bank where all his money was saved has failed.)
22. The joys of sincere work and worthy aspiration and congenial friendship were to be hers; nothing could rob her of her birthright of fancy or her ideal world of dreams. And there

was always the bend in the road!" (Chapter 38, p. 304)
(At the book's end, Anne has resolved to forego her scholarship to Redmond College and remain at Green Gables, where she can help Marilla—whose sight is failing—and ensure that she doesn't lose the farm. Anne will study on her own while teaching school in Avonlea. Despite recent tragedies and hardships and the changes in her plans, Anne remains true to her optimistic nature.)

Comprehension Study

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right or wrong answer. Your judgment is important and you should be ready to defend your answers by referring to passages in the book.

1. Anne's concern about her appearance—particularly her sensitivity over her red hair—is a recurring theme in the book. Would this be a concern nowadays? Discuss how attitudes about physical appearance have changed since the book was written.
(Answers will vary. In general, the emphasis on a blonde, blue-eyed, "china doll" ideal of feminine beauty, as depicted in Anne of Green Gables, has given way to acceptance of variations in facial features and eye-, hair-, and skin-color that would never have occurred to the residents of Avonlea. On the other hand, nobody in Avonlea seems to be obsessed with their weight, except to the extent that excessive skinniness is seen as a mildly bad thing. The only person who really discusses it is Mrs. Lynde, who is matter-of-fact about being overweight, and doesn't seem too bothered by it. None of the other characters harass her for it, and she is in fact a respected member of the community.)
2. One of Anne's struggles is between acceptance in the community and the need to assert her individuality. How does Anne conform? How does she remain independent?
(Answers will vary. On one hand, Anne struggles mightily to win the love and approval of various figures in Avonlea: the minister's wife, Mrs. Lynde, her classmates, Diana's mother, even Marilla herself. She succeeds, frequently through gaining their sympathy over her failed

plans to impress. On the other hand, Anne never loses her interest in fashion, her sometimes daredevil nature and love for adventure, her extravagant generosity, and her romantic nature—most of which, at one point or another, some authority figure has bad-mouthed or tried to persuade her to change.)

3. Religion is very important in Anne's time and place. What sort of religion is the norm in Avonlea? What is Anne's initial attitude toward religion? Marilla's? How do Anne's and Marilla's attitudes change over time?
(Answers will vary. Mainline Protestant Christianity is the prevailing religion in Avonlea, in a day and age when everyone goes to church and all businesses are closed on Sundays, the Sabbath. To question or deny the reality or goodness of God is highly unusual and socially suspect, and great emphasis is placed on external formalities. Marilla criticizes Anne, who has been raised without much religious training, for not knowing the preferred formula for prayer. Anne, for her part, admits to being angry with God for her red hair and other problems. Over the course of the book, Anne becomes more involved in, and positive toward, religion through social events and a relationship with the beloved minister's wife. Marilla, for her part, undergoes a quiet change in her views: influenced by her love for Anne, she goes from seeing God as strict and punitive, to viewing God as more kind and loving.)
4. *Anne of Green Gables* has become an enduring part of world fiction, and was wildly popular in Japan after World War II, when that country had been economically, physically, and emotionally devastated by its participation in the war. Why do you think *Anne of Green Gables* was so popular in post-war Japan? What qualities make the book inspiring or comforting?
(Answers will vary. Anne of Green Gables might have been so popular because the main character shows strength and optimism in the face of adversity. Anne has suffered a painful childhood that might easily have damaged her spirit, and faces plenty of problems, large and small, even after she moves to Avonlea. She is also hard-working and self-sacrificing, striving for excellence while at the same time willing to give up her cherished dream of a university edu-

cation in order to care for Marilla and save Green Gables. She strives to be an accepted part of the community, and succeeds in winning over her critics, despite many setbacks. She also overcomes discouragement and grief, and remains optimistic and forward-looking despite her difficulties. All of these qualities were both admired in Japanese society and necessary for Japan to rebuild its own economy and its position in the world community after World War II. At the same time, Anne of Green Gables is set in an idealized small town, a place of beauty, tranquility, stability, peace, and innocence before the advent of world war—a welcome respite from harsh reality for Japanese readers.)

5. At the beginning of the book, Marilla is resolutely unemotional, almost cold, toward Anne. Does Marilla change during the course of the book, and if so, how?
(At the start of the book, Marilla has spent years denying her feelings; she is so lacking in empathy that she initially considers “returning” Anne because she isn’t a boy. Later, although she has been struck with pity after observing Anne with the noxious Mrs. Spencer, Marilla is still very matter-of-fact, and rejects Anne’s pitiful request to be allowed to call her “Aunt Marilla.” As the book progresses, however, Marilla begins to thaw; the incident when Anne falls off the roof forces Marilla to admit to herself how much she loves the girl. Still, Marilla struggles with her feelings, which are uncomfortably intense and even cause her to question if her love for Anne is somehow an affront to God. However, it is not until the end of the book—after Matthew dies and Marilla herself is stricken with blindness—that Marilla is able to accept her true feelings and tell Anne how much she truly loves her.)
6. How does Anne’s relationship with Gilbert evolve during the course of the story?
(What starts out as a feud after Gilbert teases Anne for her hair color evolves into a rivalry—friendly on Gilbert’s part, not-so-friendly on Anne’s—in which Anne and Gilbert spur each other on to greater academic achievement. The feud begins to thaw for Anne after Gilbert rescues her from the ill-fated boat launching, but the rivalry continues unabated, leading them to both win honors and awards that they might not otherwise have achieved. Finally, after

Matthew’s death and time spent away from home, the old enmity has died, and Anne and Gilbert become friends, with Gilbert giving up his first teaching post in Avonlea so Anne can teach there and remain close to Marilla.)

7. What is Mrs. Lynde’s opinion of adopted orphans? Does this seem like a typical attitude of her time? How does her opinion change during the book? Would a similar situation to the Cuthbert’s adoption of Anne be likely today?
(Answers will vary. In general, Mrs. Lynde thinks adopting orphans is “dangerous.” This may be a somewhat typical attitude, perhaps rooted in basic xenophobia—the fear of strangers and foreigners—exacerbated by her limited experience with “outsiders,” or perhaps because she subscribes to ideas about eugenics—belief in “superior” and “inferior” genetic inheritance—that are now discredited but which were fashionable in her day. At any rate, Mrs. Lynde is won over by Anne’s winning personality and sincere apology early in the book, and she becomes one of Anne’s supporters. The scenario where Anne was casually adopted by Matthew and Marilla would be unlikely in Canada or the United States today, and would no doubt require a great deal of involvement from state or provincial child-welfare authorities.)
8. One of the themes in *Anne of Green Gables* is the difference between appearance and reality, between the ideal (the world of “imagination” and “romance”) and the real (the ordinary, day-to-day life of Avonlea). How is this theme explored and developed in the book?
(Answers will vary. Students should notice and discuss the various manifestations of Anne’s imagination, such as her renaming of local landmarks, her fantasies about her ideal self, her emotionalism, and an idealism that sometimes gets her into trouble, such as when she takes Josie Pye’s dangerous dare to walk the ridgepole. Much of her growing-up is a process of learning to discern the real from the imaginary, and retaining that vivid inner life while keeping her feet on the ground.)
9. As a character, Anne has been both praised for her well-roundedness and criticized as a seemingly idealized personality. Gilbert

admires her “lack of sameness,” and Anne herself laments her frequent mistakes and changes of direction, but some critics have asserted that she seems too perfect to be real, since her faults are few, small, and easy to forgive. Does Anne seem like a real person or an idealised one?

(Answers will vary. On one hand, students can argue that Anne makes frequent mistakes with big consequences, such as breaking her ankle after the ridgepole dare in an incident that could just as easily have led to her being killed; they could also point to her temper, manifested, for instance, in her long refusal to speak Gilbert’s name. On the other hand, they could mention her extremely sweet, forgiving nature—she seems to have no real enemies—and her success at everything she puts her hand to, to bolster the argument that she isn’t like a real person.)

Across the Curriculum

History/Medicine

1. At one point in the story, Mrs. Lynde is suffering from the grippe—what we would recognize nowadays as influenza or “the flu,” a respiratory ailment involving high temperature, hacking cough, and congestion, along with cold-like symptoms and weakness. Find out what treatments were available for the flu in the early 1900s, and what treatments are used today. Are they the same? Trace the history of flu outbreaks in the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, including the worldwide pandemic of 1918-1919.

History/Home Economics

2. Anne says ice cream is “one of those things beyond imagination.” Find out how home-made ice cream was made in the days before electric ice cream makers were invented. Why would ice cream have been such a special treat in the early 1900s?

Geography/Social Studies

3. Canada is the United States’ closest and friendliest neighbor, yet many Americans know little about it. Do a report on Canada, including such information as its early history, capital, land area, population, form of government,

economy and main exports, languages, ethnicities, religions, and major cities. Learn the words and music to the country’s national anthem, and perform it for the class.

4. Prince Edward Island is the Canadian province that provides the setting for *Anne of Green Gables*. Find it on a map. What is the provincial capital? Name all the provinces of Canada and their capitals.

Geography/Art

5. Make a poster honoring Canada. Include a map of the country and a depiction of at least one unique aspect of Canadian history or culture.

Art

6. Based on descriptions in the book and your own research about Prince Edward Island, imagine what Avonlea would look like in the spring. Make a drawing or painting of what you think Avonlea would look like, using Green Gables or the school as a focal point.

Writing and Literature

7. Think about the kinds of stories that are popular with the members of the Story Club. Pretend you are one of the members and write a story to present to the club.
8. The local teacher, Miss Stacy, provides inspiration for Anne and the other students. Write a brief character sketch of a favorite teacher who has inspired or helped you.
9. After Anne and Gilbert became friends, they talked for a long time in front of the house. Using proper dialogue punctuation, write the conversation they might have had.

Science

10. Many kinds of plants are mentioned in the novel. Choose one and find out more about it. What does it look like? What are its properties? Does it grow in your area? Draw a picture of the plant and its seeds, and write down information on proper growing conditions and uses for the plant to be included with the picture.

Economics

11. Anne vies for the Avery scholarship, which pays

the entire cost of college for four years. In 1908, this amount is \$250 per year. Find out how much tuition costs at a public college or university in your state or province. How many times greater is the cost today than it was in Anne's day? If possible, find out what \$250 would be in today's dollars, using an interactive program on the internet.

Alternate Assessment

1. What if Marilla had given Anne to Mrs. Blewett, but had later changed her mind and returned for Anne? Write a few paragraphs describing the rest of Anne's day and her feelings, both when she was left and when Marilla returned.
2. Anne experiences feelings intensely, while Marilla keeps a tight reign over hers. Write a few paragraphs explaining why you would choose one way or the other. Which way do you think is better, and what are the benefits and drawbacks of both?
3. Anne and her schoolmates are educated under a different school system than the one used today. Write a few paragraphs comparing the educational system you know with the Avonlea school's approach.
4. Eleven-year-olds had different lives in the early 1900s than they do today. Think about how Anne and her friends are depicted in the book, then write a few paragraphs. How do they seem like typical eleven-year-olds of today? How do they seem different?
5. Writers sometimes contrast a secondary character with the main character as a way of revealing the main character's personality. What character or characters does L.M. Montgomery use to contrast with Anne? Pick one and write a few paragraphs about the similarities and differences between this character and Anne.

Vocabulary Test

Match each vocabulary word from Anne of Green Gables in the left-hand column with its definition in the column on the right. Place the letter of your answer in the space provided.

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| _____ 1. Abashed | a. Deep; deeply meaningful |
| _____ 2. Aesthetic | b. Very many |
| _____ 3. Beatification | c. Perceiving clearly |
| _____ 4. Benevolent | d. Daydream; musing |
| _____ 5. Beseechingly | e. Stormy, turbulent |
| _____ 6. Discerning | f. Letting go; surrendering |
| _____ 7. Enraptured | g. Important journey |
| _____ 8. Ethereal | h. Urge or impress; teach |
| _____ 9. Exhilarating | i. Kindly; friendly and helpful |
| _____ 10. Imploring | j. By divine help or foresight; very lucky |
| _____ 11. Impulsive | k. Begging |
| _____ 12. Inculcate | l. Embarrassed |
| _____ 13. Inveigled | m. Pleadingly |
| _____ 14. Laudable | n. Invigorating |
| _____ 15. Myriad | o. Thrilled; delighted |
| _____ 16. Pilgrimage | p. Blessing or declaring to be blessed |
| _____ 17. Profound | q. Exalted, grand, heavenly |
| _____ 18. Providential | r. Playfully mischievous |
| _____ 19. Relinquishing | s. Having to do with beauty or the appreciation of beauty |
| _____ 20. Reverie | t. Persistence; determination |
| _____ 21. Roguish | u. light, airy; heavenly, celestial |
| _____ 22. Seraph | v. without forethought; on the spur of the moment |
| _____ 23. Sublime | w. enticed; beguiled |
| _____ 24. Tempestuous | x. an angelic being |
| _____ 25. Tenacity | y. admirable; praiseworthy |

Comprehension Test A

Part I: Matching (20 points)

Complete the following descriptions with a name from the list that follows. Place the letter of your answer in the blanks provided.

- | | |
|-------|---|
| _____ | 1. Anne's guardians |
| _____ | 2. A teacher who makes Anne sit with the boys |
| _____ | 3. Anne's best friend |
| _____ | 4. An important college scholarship |
| _____ | 5. The island where Anne lives |
| _____ | 6. An unkind woman who wants to put Anne to work |
| _____ | 7. The event that triggers Matthew's heart attack |
| _____ | 8. A boy who calls Anne "Carrots" |
| _____ | 9. What Anne plans to do for a living |
| _____ | 10. Anne saves Diana's sister from this |
-
- | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| a. Prince Edward Island | b. Diana Barry | c. Gilbert | d. Mr. Phillips |
| e. bank failure | f. croup | g. Mrs. Blewett | h. teacher |
| i. Avery | j. Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert | | |

Part II: True/False (20 points)

Mark the following statements either **T** for true or **F** if any part is false.

- _____ 1. Marilla loves Anne.
- _____ 2. Matthew is afraid of most women.
- _____ 3. Anne loves being a redhead.
- _____ 4. Gilbert calls Anne "carrots."
- _____ 5. Mrs. Lynde welcomes Anne to Avonlea.
- _____ 6. The Avery Scholarship pays for college.
- _____ 7. Anne decides to become a nurse.
- _____ 8. Anne and Gilbert eventually become friends.
- _____ 9. Diana thinks she's cut out for city life.
- _____ 10. Anne dyes her hair green.

Part III: Quote Identification (30 points)

For the following quotes, identify the speaker and explain the meaning and importance of the quote.

1. "But have you ever noticed one encouraging thing about me ...? I never make the same mistake twice."

2. "I never would have thought she'd have turned out so well that first day I was here three years ago. ... I did make a mistake in judging Anne, but it weren't no wonder, for an odder, unexpecteder witch of a child there never was in this world, that's what."

3. "We are rich. ... Why, we have sixteen years to our credit, and we're happy as queens, and we've all got imaginations, more or less."

4. She had a genius for friendship; girl friends she had in plenty; but she had a vague consciousness that masculine friendship might also be a good thing to round out one's conceptions of companionship and furnish broader standpoints of judgment and comparison.

5. "It's never been easy for me to say things out of my heart, but at times like this it's easier. I love you as dear as if you were my own flesh and blood, and you've been my joy and comfort ever since you came to Green Gables."

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. Anne is changed by her contact with Marilla Cuthbert, Rachel Lynde, Muriel Stacy, and Mrs. Allan. How do the personalities of these women differ? How do they influence Anne?
2. Anne Shirley has sometimes been described as a "proto-feminist." Is this an accurate characterization? Based on your understanding and research about feminism, do you think Anne would have been in favor of women's rights? Why or why not?
3. Before the novel's end, Anne has silenced all her critics and won almost every honor for which she has competed. Is this believable? Why or why not.
4. One of Anne's chief qualities is her vivid imagination, which sometimes helps her improve her situation and sometimes causes trouble for herself and others. Using examples from the book, discuss the positive and negative effects of imagination in Anne's life.

Comprehension Test B

Part I: Sentence Completion (20 points)

Use a word from the list below to complete each sentence.

1. Anne lives in the Canadian province of _____ .
2. Matthew and Marilla are _____ .
3. Anne's stunt walking on the ridgepole results in a _____ .
4. _____ 's school is a one-room schoolhouse.
5. The Cuthberts' home is named _____ .
6. Anne saves Diana's sister from the _____ .
7. After visiting her aunt, Diana decides she's a _____ girl at heart.
8. Gilbert infuriates Anne by calling her " _____ " .
9. The _____ pays for the cost of college.
10. The cake tastes wrong because it contains _____ instead of vanilla.

broken ankle	carrots	Prince Edward Island	Avery Scholarship	city
liniment	croup	siblings	Avonlea	Green Gables

Part II: Matching (30 points)

Complete each of the following descriptions with a name from the list that follows. Place the letter of your answer in the blank provided.

- _____ 1. Finding tree sap to chew
- _____ 2. The kind of orphan the Cuthberts were expecting
- _____ 3. What Diana got drunk on
- _____ 4. What was in the cake
- _____ 5. Anne's hair color
- _____ 6. What Marilla had a hard time expressing
- _____ 7. What Matthew wanted to buy for Anne
- _____ 8. What Mrs. Lynde disapproved of
- _____ 9. Lane leading up to Green Gables
- _____ 10. What Anne will do for a living

a. liniment	b. adopting an orphan	c. teach
d. White Way of Delight	e. picking gum	f. a dress
g. currant wine	h. love	i. a boy j. red

Part III: Identification (20 points)

Identify the following characters, putting the corresponding letters in the blanks provided.

- _____ 1. Neighborhood busybody
- _____ 2. Losing eyesight
- _____ 3. Anne's best friend
- _____ 4. Mean-spirited schoolmaster
- _____ 5. Beloved minister's wife
- _____ 6. Dares Anne to walk the ridgepole
- _____ 7. Doesn't seem Gilbert's type
- _____ 8. Gives Anne a strawberry apple
- _____ 9. Changes her mind after Anne saves her baby's life
- _____ 10. Loves Anne despite fear of women

a. Mrs. Barry	b. Mrs. Lynde	c. Mr. Phillips	d. Ruby Gillis
e. Marilla	f. Josie Pye	g. Diana	
h. Gilbert Blythe	i. Mrs. Allan	j. Matthew	

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. One of the underlying themes of *Anne of Green Gables* is the importance of community. Discuss this theme and show how it is developed throughout the novel. What appears to be Montgomery's definition of "community"?
2. Even though Anne is relatively independent in her attitudes, conformity or the sense of belonging is important to her. In what ways does she want to be like others, and in what ways is she willing to be different? Would a girl today share her attitudes?
3. When people meet Anne, they react in different ways. How does Montgomery use such reactions to reveal the personalities of these other characters?
4. Discuss *Anne of Green Gables* as a coming-of-age novel. How do Anne's experiences and perceptions of the world and people around her change as she grows and develops?

Answer Key

VOCABULARY TEST

1. l
2. s
3. p
4. i
5. m
6. c
7. o
8. u
9. n
10. k
11. v
12. h
13. w
14. y
15. b
16. g
17. a
18. j
19. f
20. d
21. r
22. x
23. q
24. e
25. t

Comprehension Test A

Part I: Matching (20 points)

1. j
2. d
3. b
4. i
5. a
6. g
7. e
8. c
9. h
10. f

Part II: True/False (20 points)

1. T
2. T
3. F
4. T
5. F
6. T
7. F
8. T
9. T

10. T

Part III: Quote Identification (30 points)

For the following quotes, identify the speaker and explain the meaning and importance of the quote.

1. P. 174. This is Anne, speaking to Marilla after the incident in which she accidentally uses liniment instead of vanilla in the cake for Mrs. Allan. This plays into the ongoing theme of Anne being prone to “mistakes,” usually stemming from her desire to impress others. It’s worth noting that at least some of the responsibility for this particular humorous “mistake” goes to Marilla, who put liniment in a mislabeled bottle and then stored it in the kitchen with the baking supplies. Marilla doesn’t offer to share the blame, however.
2. Pp. 244-245. In a conversation with Marilla, Mrs. Rachel Lynde is admitting that she was mistaken in her harsh judgment of Anne and of Marilla’s decision to adopt her years before. Of course, this being Mrs. Lynde, the praise is too honest, and sounds a bit insulting.
3. P. 269. Anne is speaking to Jane and Diana after her success at the recital for an audience full of “rich Americans.” The other girls are excitedly remembering Anne’s triumph, and talking wistfully about how much fun it must be to be rich. Anne, who has become the voice of conventional piety, points out to the girls that their lives are already rich in the ways that really matter. They are slightly appeased, but not completely convinced.
4. P. 279. The now teen-aged Anne is beginning to notice boys and to think that friendships with them might be nice. She is also vaguely upset that Gilbert has taken up with the airheaded-but-pretty Ruby Gillis, and wishes he could be her friend as well.
5. P. 292. Matthew has just died, and Marilla is finally able to tell Anne how much she loves her. It is a big moment in both women’s lives.

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Sentence Completion (20 points)

1. Prince Edward Island
2. siblings

- 3. broken ankle
- 4. Avonlea
- 5. Green Gables
- 6. croup
- 7. city
- 8. carrots
- 9. Avery Scholarship
- 10. liniment

Part II: Matching (30 points)

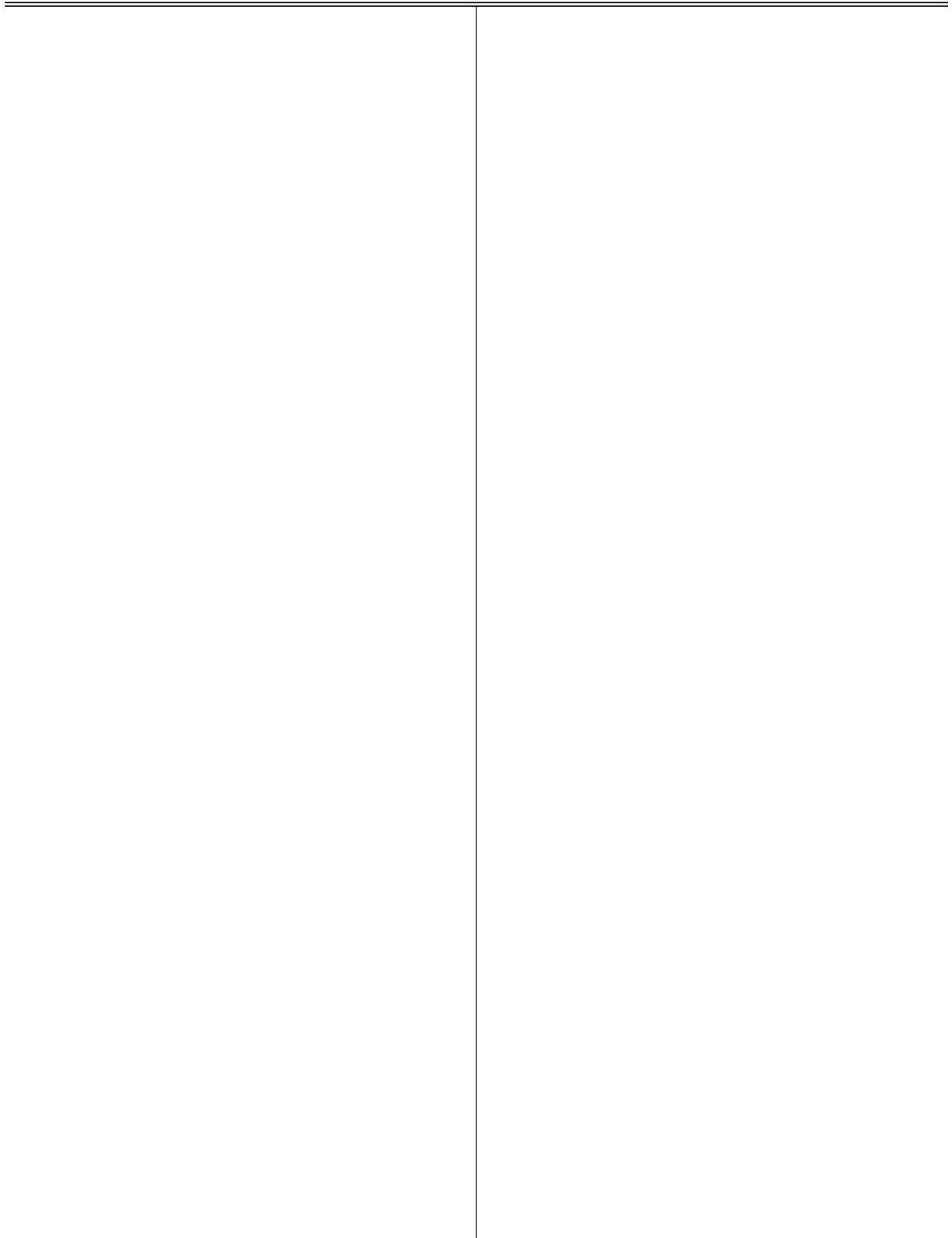
- 1. e
- 2. i
- 3. g
- 4. a
- 5. j
- 6. h
- 7. f
- 8. b
- 9. d
- 10. c

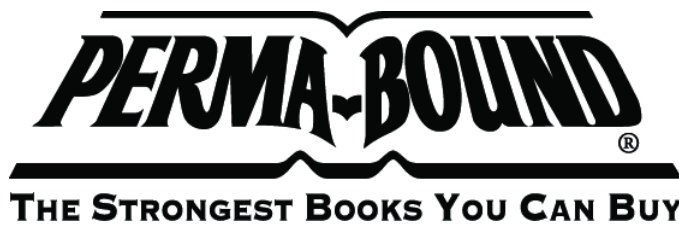
Part III: Identification (20 points)

- 1. b
- 2. e
- 3. g
- 4. c
- 5. i
- 6. f
- 7. d
- 8. h
- 9. a
- 10. j

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.





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