

Chunk 1:

The novel opens with a description of the neighborhood where Matthew Cuthbert and his sister Marilla live. It's called Lynde's Hollow because it's surrounded by alders, ladies' eardrops, and brooks that run past her door. She is a busy housewife who knits cotton warp quilts for charity. One afternoon in June, she sees Matthew driving away from Green Gables on his way to pick up some turnip seed. She wonders why he's leaving Avonlea when he doesn't usually go anywhere. After tea, she sets out to investigate. She walks into the house and finds Marilla sitting at the table knitting. They are both very different people: Marilla looks like a rigid conscience person but has a little something going for her mouth; Matthew looks like an odd man living off his own two legs. Mrs Rachel asks Marilla if they're all well after hearing about Matthew's trip to meet "a kangaroo from Australia." Marilla tells her that they've decided to adopt a boy since Matthew isn't as spry or healthy as he used to be. He's sixty years old and needs help finding work. So they decide to adopt an orphan boy named Alexander Spencer from an orphanage in Canada. Mr. Rachel thinks this is a foolish idea and warns Marilla not to bring such a strange kid into their home. But Marilla points out that there are lots of risks associated with having kids of one's own--you never know what they'll turn out to be like once they get them. And even though they don't have any children yet, they will probably grow up to be better adults than they ever were before. When Matthew gets to the train station in Bright River, he runs into an orphan girl waiting for him. This girl is eleven years old. She wears yellow wincey and brown sailor hats. She explains that she was adopted from an asylum four months ago. She loves pretty clothes and imagines herself wearing a bridal dress someday. On the boat ride back to Charlottetown, she talks about how happy she is to finally be alive.

Chunk 2:

The chapter opens with a description of Anne's conversation with Matthew. She tells him that she loves the trees around her new home, Green Gables, and is glad to be able to talk about them without being thought of as an outcast. She says that she can't be happy because it's so red--her hair is pure gold like Rosalia's from Beauty and the Beast. When they stop for lunch, Anne asks Matthew if he would rather be beautiful or divinely clever. He doesn't know which one he prefers, but he does know that he will never be "angelically good". As they continue on their way home, Anne talks about the place they came through: "It was wonderful --wonderful." And then she starts talking about how she always imagines people who don't have any meaning in the world when she sees something beautiful. They arrive at Barry's pond, where there is a little house looking out onto a white orchard. At the bridge, Anne stops to shut her eyes, but she keeps pinching herself to make sure she isn't dreaming. Finally, after driving over a hill, they come upon Green Gables itself. It turns out that Marilla didn't send word to Mr. Spencer asking for a boy; instead, she sent word saying that they needed a girl between eleven and thirteen years old named Anne. Anne wants to be known as Cordelia, but Marilla won't let her call herself that. Instead, she calls herself Anne Shirley. After supper, Anne tries to eat, but can only swallow a small amount of crabapple preserve. In fact, she has been having nightmares about eating caramels all this time. But even though everything is very nice, she still cannot eat - she's in the "deepest of despair." Marilla puts Anne to bed while Matthew goes out putting the horse in the stable. Anne looks around her room before going to sleep, wondering what kind of person she is. Her clothes are scattered haphazardly over the bare floor, and the walls are painfully bare. On the bedroom floor, Anne pulls up her nightgown and covers her head against the pillow. While Marilla washes the dishes, Anne reproaches herself for calling it a "good night." Then she dives down into invisibility again until she finally gets up enough to put on her raggedy nightgown. This time, however, she makes no effort to hide her face behind her pillow. Before she leaves, she takes off her veil and begins to cry.

Chunk 3:

Anne imagines that she is going to have to leave Green Gables, but Marilla tells her not to worry. She gets dressed and goes downstairs for breakfast. Anne talks too much at breakfast, which makes Marilla nervous. After the meal, Anne offers to take care of the dishes while Marilla goes over to visit a woman named Mrs. Betsey Spencer in order to find out if there's anything they can do about sending Anne back to Canada. Anne refuses to go outside because she doesn't want Matthew

to be angry with her anymore. When Marilla returns from dinner, she tells Matthew that she plans to take Anne on a horse-drawn carriage ride through the countryside. He says he'll hire a man named Jerry "Buote" Buote to help him get some milk cows. The buggy heads off toward White Sands, where Anne has been living since she was an orphan three years ago. Anne tells Marilla all about her life up until this point. Her parents were schoolteachers who got into trouble when their husbands died. They took her in as an orphan after her father passed away four days after giving birth to her. At first, everyone thought she was beautiful, but then her mother died of a fever when Anne was three weeks old. Finally, someone came along and agreed to take her in, even though it was very poor and she had a husband who was drunk. Anne went to stay with these people for two years before moving to the United States. Once again, Anne feels sorry for herself for having to go back to England. As they drive down the coast road, Anne fantasizes about being a seagull and flying back to her own nest every night during the day. It's hard to tell what kind of person she really is, but we know that she's pretty ladylike by nature. Back at the cottage, however... Marilla comes across Mrs. Bettsey Spencer, who wants to adopt a girl named Flora Jane. We don't know why, but Mr. Cuthbert sent word to Mrs. Peggotty asking them to bring in a boy instead of a girl like Anne. But Mrs. Steerforth isn't so sure; she just knows that Mrs. Bede wasn't telling the right thing.

Chunk 4:

Anne is brought back to Green Gables, and Marilla tells Matthew that she will keep her if they decide not to let her stay at the Cuthberts. The next morning, Anne tries to tell Marilla that she would rather return to an asylum than live with a woman who looks like a "gimlet". When Marilla scolds Anne for speaking so disrespectfully about a stranger, Anne promises to do whatever she can to please Marilla--if only she'll only love her

Chunk 5:

Anne has been at the Cuthberts' for two weeks, and she is enjoying every moment of her time there. One day, when Marilla receives a call from Mrs. Rachael, she decides to visit Anne in order to find out more about her new friend. When Anne arrives, she is greeted with an outburst of anger against Rachel, who called her "skinny and red-headed." Marilla tells Anne that she will have to spend the night in her room until she apologizes or else she will be thrown into a dark damp dungeon. The next morning, however, Anne refuses to eat breakfast, lunch, or supper. Matthew sneaks up on Anne while Marilla is out milking cows and asks her if she would like to apologize directly to Mrs

Chunk 6:

Marilla gives Anne a new set of dresses for Sunday school, but Anne doesn't like them. She wishes she could wear puffed sleeves on one of the dresses, which are plain and simple. The next day, when Anne returns from church, she tells Marilla that she didn't enjoy Sunday school at all - it was "horrid". After church, Anne goes to her class with other girls who have puffed sleeves in their clothes. They ask her lots of questions and read aloud passages from the Bible. Anne recites a poem called "The Dog At His Master's Grave," which is about Midian's evil reign over Jerusalem. Marilla can't help but think that Anne has said some really important things about God and religion that she hasn't been able to express herself before. That Friday, after hearing about Anne's flower-covered hat at church, Mara calls Anne to tell her what happened. Anne admits that she thought flowers would look nice on her hat, but people were talking about how ridiculous it was. When they arrive at Mrs. Barry's house, Diana comes home and invites Anne to join her in showing her the Barry garden. Anne asks Diana if she thinks she can like her enough to be her bosom friend. Diana says no, saying that there are only two kinds of swears: ones that mean you promise never to see each other again, and ones that say you vow to be friends forever or ever. Anne promises to do everything Diana will ask of her. Matthew Cuthbert brings Anne chocolate treats because he heard Anne say she liked sweets. He also gives her a picture made by a sewing machine agent as a gift. On the way home, Anne confesses that she finds Diana kindred spirit; she wants to spend more time playing with her. In Chapter XIII, while Anne is working on her sewing, she suddenly bursts into the house and announces that there will be a picnic the next week. Marada scolds Anne for not obeying her, telling her that she must resist the "fascination of

Idlewild." Anne kisses Marada's cheek and explains that she came up with the name "Idlewild" out of a book she read.

Chunk 7:

Marilla tells Anne that the picnic will be a wonderful event, and Anne is excited. The next day, however, Anne confesses that she has stolen Marilla's amethyst brooch. She says that she put it on her breast to see if it would shine, but when she looked at it again, it slipped through her fingers and sank into the lake of shining waters. When Anne tries to explain why she stole the brooch instead of putting it back in its original place, Matthew insists that she must confess before they can punish her severely. On Wednesday morning, Anne refuses to eat or go out until she does confess. That night, while mending a black shawl, sunlight accidentally catches the brooch hanging from the shawl thread. Anne explains that she was planning to confess so that she wouldn't forget what had happened, but because Marilla refused to allow her to attend the picnic anyway, all her troubles were wasted. At two o'clock that afternoon, Anne flies off to get ready for an ice cream party with other Avonlea students. Back home, Anne declares that she likes school better than Mrs. Cuthbert ever did.

Chunk 8:

Three weeks later, Diana and Anne are walking down the birch path. They talk about Gilbert Blythe who is in class today. He's a handsome young boy with curly hair and hazel eyes. It's obvious that he doesn't get along well with the other girls at school. One day, when Anne is studying Latin, Gilbert comes up to her and whispers "Carrots" into her ear. She flips out and yells at him for being mean to her like that. The whole school is shocked by this incident. Mr Phillips tells Anne she has a bad temper and sends her to sit on the front row of the classroom for the remainder of the day. When it's over, Gilbert tries to apologize to Anne but she won't forgive him. That afternoon, all the students go to pick gum from an old spruce grove across the road from the schoolhouse. On their way there, they run into Mr. Philips, who announces that everyone will be punished if they don't come back in time. This means that anyone who arrives before the appointed time will be sent home without having to show up. Everyone goes to the grove anyway, except for Anne who sneaks past them and gets caught between the two sets of guards. After lunch, Mrs. Phillips asks Anne what she's taking with her things back home. Anne says she'll stay home because she loves Diana so much. But then she tells Marilla not to say anything more until she decides whether or not she'd like to return to school again. In October, Anne declares that she hates Gilbert even more than she hates Diana. She plans to decorate her room with maple boughs as a mark of respect for autumn. At Green Gables one Saturday, Anne invites Diana over for tea instead of putting the tea set down yet again.

Chunk 9:

Anne and Diana go to the Rosses for tea, and Anne gives Diana raspberry cordial instead of her usual raspberry sauce. She tells Diana that Marilla has been terribly mortified by the mistake she made in preparing the sauce with currant wine. When Mrs. Ross comes home from picking apples, Diana says she is ill and needs to go back home. Anne tries to comfort her, but Diana insists on going home alone. On Sunday, Anne goes to visit Mrs. Beryl Barry, who blames Anne for causing Diana to drink so much raspberry cordial that she ended up getting sick. After a long conversation with Marilla about what happened, Anne admits that she did not intend to cause Diana to get sick; rather, she was just trying to make her feel better after drinking three glasses of currant wine without realizing that it was actually raspberry cordial--and thus making her feel worse. The Barrys are very angry at Anne's behavior, and they refuse to allow Diana to play or even talk with her again. That night, when Marilla tells Matthew the story to him, she does laugh over it, but later finds out that Anne cried herself into sleep during the night. In Chapter XVII, Anne returns to school and receives many gifts from other students, including a strawberry apple given to her by one of their classmates, Timothy Andrews. Both Gilbert and Anne begin to struggle with geometry, which makes them both nervous

Chunk 10:

Marilla goes to town with her husband, Thomas, and Marilla's daughter, Diana Cuthbert. While they are there, Matthew and Anne have a lively conversation about politics. Matthew is a Conservative, while Anne is a Liberal. They discuss the political situation in Canada and how women should vote. When Matthew asks if he ever went courting, Anne tells him that he has never done so. Just then, Diana rushes into the house saying that three-year-old Minnie May has become very sick with croup. She begs Anne to come immediately but Anne says she will wait until she can get the medicine from the pharmacy. The doctor arrives at three o'clock and finds Minnie May much better. He praises Anne for saving Minnie May's life. Later, Mr. Barry expresses his admiration for Anne's abilities as a young girl. After dinner, Marilla comes home and tells Anne what happened between Diana and Gilbert on the night of the wine party. Mrs. Rachel wants to apologize to Anne for causing Diana to drink too much, and hopes that Anne will be good friend to Diana again after this incident. That evening, Anne invites Marilla over to meet Diana just before dark because she knows that Diana has some important message for her. Anne tries to convince Marilla to let her go to Diana's birthday concert, but Marilla won't allow it. In the morning, Matthew makes an impassioned argument against letting Anne go

Chunk 11:

The next morning, the girls are asked to read aloud from a book by Gilbert Blythe. When they arrive at home, they find that it is Aunt Josephine Barry who has come to stay with her father's family in Charlottetown, Canada. Anne apologizes for jumping into Diana's bed last night, but Miss Josephine will not forgive them and refuses to let Diana continue taking music lessons because of their behavior. After this incident, Miss Josephine comes to visit Green Gables every few weeks. One day, she invites Anne to spend the night in her spare room so as to get to know her better. In Chapter XX, Anne tells Marilla how much she loves the blooming flowers of the Canadian spring. On June 12, one year later, Anne asks Marilla if she can go through "the Haunted Wood," which she and Diana have been making up stories about. She wants to make an apron pattern out of Mrs. Rachel Barry's sewing needles. Marilla says that she won't allow Anne to do anything like this after all since she doesn't want anyone to hear such nonsense again. But Anne insists on going anyway. That night, Anne goes over to Mr. Bell's house to ask for another handkerchief

Chunk 12:

Marilla goes to visit the new minister's wife at her mother's house. The narrator tells us that Avonlea has had a number of candidates for the position of minister in the past eighteen years, many of whom have failed miserably. One candidate who stands out is Mr. John Allan, an attractive young man married to a quiet woman named Mrs. Rachel Lynde. Anne immediately falls in love with this woman and asks Marilla if they can have tea with them one day. They decide to do so next Wednesday. Preparations begin on the day of the tea. Anne decides to make a "layer cake", which she decorates with roses and wild flowers. When the cake rises, it turns out to be made with vanilla instead of baking powder as Marilla suggests. She apologizes profusely but cannot bring herself to say how the cake came out. A light step comes on the staircase and someone enters the room; Anne runs up to see what happened. It turns out that Anne accidentally flavored the cake with something called "annodyne-liment," which is supposed to be used internally when you are pregnant. After the guests leave, Anne realizes that she enjoyed the party more than she could have expected. In Chapter XXII, Anne receives an invitation to tea from Mrs. Alan. She feels very excited about the occasion and says that she would like to become a church minister someday

Chunk 13:

Anne dares Josie to climb the Barry house's roof and walk it. Diana urges her not to do so, but Anne insists on doing it anyway. She climbs a ladder onto the roof and begins to walk until she sways, falls, and crashes off the side of the roof. Fortunately, she lands on the opposite side from where she fell. The other girls rush to find Anne lying unconscious in the yard. Mrs. Barry rushes to fetch her father, who carries Anne back home. When Marilla hears that Anne has fainted, she realizes that she loves Anne more than any other person alive. During the next seven weeks, Anne is visited by many people, including teachers, family members, and friends. One day, Miss Stacy announces that the school will put on a concert

for the purpose of paying for a new schoolhouse flag

Chunk 14:

Marilla dresses Anne in a dress that she has made for her. She tells Matthew to pamper Anne's vanity by wearing the puffed sleeves, but he does not seem to mind. On Christmas morning, Anne looks out Green Gables' window and sees snow on the ground. She is delighted at the white color of the day. The next morning, Diana Lynde presents Anne with a gift from Aunt Josephine: a set of kid-friendly slippers. After the concert, all the scholars are excited about how well Anne performed. They also discuss Gilbert Blythe, who they both admire greatly. When Anne goes to bed that night, Mrs. Cuthbert and Matthew sit by the fire talking over the results of their daughter's performance. That evening, Mr Allan sends an account into the local papers detailing the success of the concert. In the following weeks, the school begins to settle back into normal routine. However, when Anne turns thirteen, life seems more interesting to her than ever before. Her birthday party is attended by many other people, including Ruby Gillis; Emma White; Julia Bell; Charlie Sloane; and Mary Moody Sprison Macpherson. During this conversation, Anne reveals that she wrote a short story called "The Jealous Rival," which was rejected by Marilla because it did not have enough moral content. Later, she decides to form a group of girls to write stories together. Each girl must read her own story aloud and talk about it over the course of one week.

Chunk 15:

Marilla scolds Anne for disobeying her order to stay at home. When supper is ready, Anne still does not come over hurriedly. She tells Marilla that she has dyed her hair green and that she repented when she saw how ugly it was. The color turned her hair so badly that she now regrets being "wicked." Marilla tries to get Anne to cut off her hair in a few days, but Anne says she will never see herself again until her hair grows. In the meantime, Anne's classmates tease her about her red hair because they think she must be an Elaine in Tennyson's poem. They decide to dramatize this idea by pushing the flat of their barge down into a nearby pond. Anne volunteers to act as Elaine. However, something goes wrong: the flat begins to leak from its moorings. Suddenly, Gilbert comes out of his boat and rescues Anne. He apologizes for making fun of her hair two years ago and asks if they can become friends. Anne refuses, saying she hates him. Gilbert pulls away with anger on his face. Anne explains that everything she has done since arriving at Green Gables has made her or her friends fall into a bad financial situation. Matthew advises her not to give up romance

Chunk 16:

Diana tells Anne that Aunt Josephine has invited the two girls to visit her in Charlottetown for a few days. Anne is disappointed because Marilla told her she would be better off at home with her lessons, but Diana assures her that if Marilla will let them go, they will have time of their lives. On the way to Charlottetown, Anne meets Miss Betsey Barry, an old woman who owns a large estate called Beechwood. At Beechwood, Anne discovers that she is taller than she was when she was younger and that there are many luxurious things in the mansion. The Exhibition grounds are crowded with people from all over Avonlea, including Mrs. Rachel Lynde, Clara Louise McPherson, Mr. Arthur Bell, and Gilbert Blythe. They also see horse races and hear fortunes being traded. When they return home, Anne tells Marilla how much she enjoyed her stay at Beechwood--especially since it seemed lonely without fresh young people like her. After supper, Anne gives Marilla a full report of her trip. In Chapter XXX, we learn that Miss Stacy came to Green Gables one day to talk to the girls about what they should do once they reach their early twenties. She warned them not to get too attached to their ideals or habits while they are young, lest they fall into bad habits as they grow older

Chunk 17:

Diana does not go to Queen's because her parents do not want her there, but Anne is sad that she will not have the chance to see Gilbert or Josie cry when they are out walking alone. The entrance exam is coming up and all of the girls in the

class are going to try to pass it. Anne has a rivalry with Gilbert who wants to be the first one through the door. She decides to hide her feelings from him so that he cannot hurt her anymore. Spring comes and everyone at school goes on vacation for a few days. When the term is over, teachers and students talk about how much work they have done this year. They feel sorry for Anne since she did such a good job during the winter. But then Miss Stacy tells them that she plans to return next year after having grown so attached to their students that she couldn't leave Avonlea without them. Everyone is very excited by this news. After Marilla doesn't attend the Thursday Aid meeting due to Matthew's bad heart, Mrs Rachel Lynde visits Green Gables to tell Marilla that she thinks Anne has improved greatly these past three years. It's hard to say if she's more beautiful or less beautiful, but Marilla likes Anne's looks better than Ruby's. In Chapter XXX I, where the brook and river meet, Anne spends the summer romping around outside with Diana. A doctor sends Marilla a message telling her never to let Anne read books again until she "gets more spring" into her stride. This makes Marilla nervous, but once September arrives, Anne feels like she can study any way she pleases. One Sunday, Anne asks Marilla what she thinks about women being ministers. Marilla laughs and says that no one would ever make a great minister unless there was a social gathering to raise enough money to pay for the preacher. Anne admits that she sometimes feels wicked when she is with Rachel as she tries to convince people to follow God's will. That night, while Anne is talking to Diana about passing the entrance exam, Mr. Briggs catches her crying and comforts her. At the beginning of June, the last day before the entrance exams, Anne worries that she won't pass

Chunk 18:

Anne's English exam is over and she returns home to Green Gables, exhausted but triumphant. She tells Diana that she has passed the exam and hopes to beat Gilbert in the next round. Three weeks after the exam, the list of students who have passed is finally announced. Anne rushes out to tell Marilla and Matthew about her accomplishment. That night, Anne kneels by her window and prays for a better future

Chunk 19:

A Queen's Girl The next few weeks are busy ones for Anne as she prepares to leave Green Gables for Queen University. Matthew buys her a dress, which she puts on one night and recites "The Maiden's Vow" for them. When Marilla sees the happy face of Anne, she is overcome with grief at losing her little girl. She cries herself to sleep that night thinking about how wicked it is to let such a sinful creature live in their house. That September day comes when Anne has to go back to school. On the first day, all the students learn to organize themselves into classes so that they will be able to get their teacher's license quickly. Anne feels lonely because she does not know any of the other students well enough to call them her friends. However, she enjoys Gilbert's presence since he is determined to win his medal. One night, Anne finds herself crying in her room alone. Her roommate Miss Josephine tells her that there is a boarding house near the school where Anne can stay. At this point, Josie Pyes shows up and comforts Anne by telling her that she would like to see her cry if she had been crying. Ruby asks if Anne wants to try again for the Gold Medal. Josie tells Anne that Frank told her that Queens would be getting an Avery Scholarship. This means that Anne will be awarded two hundred dollars per year for college. Anne resolves to take the scholarship if she can keep working hard. During the winter, Anne visits Avonlea more often than before. She begins to develop a friendship with Ruby, who is very beautiful and cheerful. In class, Anne develops a close relationship with another student, Priscilla Grant. They begin to talk about books together. After Christmas, the students stop going home during the week and start studying harder. It is decided that three students--Anne Shirley, Lewis Wilson, and Gilbert Blythe--will advance to the medal competition. There is also a scholarship available for mathematics. Everyone except Anne seems to have some sort of personal ambition. Spring arrives and the examinations come around. Jane Andrews says that she won't worry whether she passes or doesn't pass. Anne wonders what difference it might make if she wins the medal or loses the scholarship. As soon as the results are announced, everyone rushes to congratulate Gilbert on being named the Medalist. But then someone calls out: Three cheers for 'Miss Shirley' .

Chunk 20:

Anne tells Diana that she will go to Redmond College in September to earn her degree. The next day, however, she learns that Matthew has had a heart attack and is not feeling well. She also learns that Marilla's eyes are badly affected by the Oculist who is coming to see her at the end of June. That evening, Anne takes a walk with Matthew through the woods. They talk about how much they wish they were boys so they could help each other out more. On the way home, Matthew says he would rather have Anne than any number of boys because it wasn't a girl who took the scholarship Avery gave him. Then he smiles shyly at her and goes into the house. One night, as Anne waits outside for Matthew to wake up, she hears Marilla calling from downstairs. Suddenly, Matthew faints. He is taken to the barn where he dies instantly. The shock comes from the news that Abbey Bank has run out of money. Many people come to Green gables to pay their last respects to Matthew. When his body lies in the parlor, there are flowers around his grave. Anne gathers them and brings them back to him but cannot bring herself to tear them up. Later, when Marilla asks Anne to sleep with her, Anne admits that she doesn't want to cry; she just wants to be quiet and let God take its course. Two days later, after Matthew's funeral, Avonlea settles back to normal routine. Anne feels guilty over finding pleasure in life without Matthew since she can't bear to miss him anymore. However, she finds comfort in the fact that nature seems to offer all sorts of healing influences on our souls. In Chapter XXXVI, we learn that Gilbert Blythe is planning to teach at another school near Queen's University. We meet Marilla again, who reveals that she once had a romantic relationship with Gilbert's father, John Blythe. Now, though, she has lost her sight due to an oculistic eye condition. Her doctor believes that if she gives up reading and doing anything else that strains her eyes, she won't lose her sight altogether. If she wears the glasses, her headaches will probably be cured within six months

Chunk 21:

Anne tells Marilla that she has given up her plans to go to college, and will instead study arts at the Green Gables school. She is surprised to learn that Gilbert has accepted a teaching position at another school nearby, White Sands Academy. Anne runs over to Diana's house in order to see if she can signal for her to come back home. The next day, Anne goes to the Avonlea cemetery to put flowers on some Matthew Pyes's grave. On the way there, she meets Gilbert, who thanks her for giving him up his dream of attending college. They are both excited about their new friendship