***Anne of Green Gables***

***Chapter 15***

### ***A Tempest in the School Teapot***

***Summary:***

* Notice that this chapter title is a little less clear than the rest. It's a reference to the idiom "a tempest in a teapot" which means making a big deal over something small.
* Anne's first day of school goes well. Afterwards, she tells Marilla about it in her long-winded way—how she's only on the fourth reader while the rest of her age group is on the fifth, and how everyone says the teacher Mr. Phillips is in love with an older student named Prissy Andrews. (Oh, and just a note to make this slightly less creepy: students in this area went to a short teaching school when they were sixteen, so Mr. Phillips is probably only a of couple years older than Prissy.)
* Three weeks into school, Diana tells Anne that a boy named Gilbert Blythe will be back from vacation, that he's on the same reader as Anne (he missed a lot of school when his dad got sick), and that he teases all the girls.
* Anne sees Gilbert that day, tying another girl's braids to her chair.
* That afternoon, Gilbert tries to get a daydreaming Anne to notice him by grabbing her braid, and whispering "carrots" at her.
* Oh, people of Avonlea. You should know by now that You Don't Talk About Anne's Red Hair.
* Anne calls Gilbert a "mean, hateful boy" (15.37) and cracks her slate over Gilbert's head.
* Gilbert tries to take the blame, but Mr. Phillips makes Anne stand in the front of the class room with a note over head: "Ann Shirley has a very bad temper. Ann Shirley must learn to control her temper" (15.47).
* That's right—he forgot the "e."
* Gilbert tries to apologize, but Anne's just not over it.
* The next day Anne gets in trouble for coming in from lunch late, even though a bunch of other kids came in late as well. Mr. Phillips makes her sit on the boys' side of the room, next to Gilbert Blythe.
* During their afternoon as desk-mates, Gilbert tries to give Anne a candy heart that says "you're sweet" and Anne grinds it down with her shoe. Bad timing, Gil.
* Anne tells Marilla she's never going back to school.
* Marilla doesn't want to get into another standoff, so she goes to Rachel Lynde for advice. Rachel suggests letting Anne stay home and waiting for it to blow over, rather than battling out this one. She thinks Mr. Phillips is a bad teacher and Anne won't miss much anyway.
* So Anne stays home and hangs out with Diana after school. One day she even cries from imagining a scenario in which Diana dies, which makes Marilla, for the first time in this book, really laugh.

***Synopsis:***

Anne and Diana take the most scenic route to school every day, walking on roads Anne has renamed Lover’s Lane and Willowmere and Violet Vale. Anne is thrilled to have a bosom friend in Diana and is willing to overlook Diana’s average imagination. Because Anne loves Diana so much, she lets Diana call a place the Birch Path, even though the name lacks Anne’s spark of originality. Marilla had worried that Anne’s temper, talkativeness, and oddities would cause her trouble at school, but Anne turns out to be a smart pupil and quickly adjusts. The other girls include her in their potluck lunches and exchange of small gifts. Anne dislikes boys and does not like the idea of flirting with them, though she is humiliated by the thought that boys are unlikely to flirt with her. Anne’s world expands from the quiet life at Green Gables to the bustling gossipy schoolroom at Avonlea. Her usual chatter to Marilla about flowers and nature changes to reports on school. The teacher, Mr. Phillips, pays little attention to the pupils in his one-room school and lets them run amok as he sits in the back row flirting with the oldest student, Prissy Andrews. Prissy is sixteen and studying for her entrance exam to college.

Though Anne has received little schooling previously and is consequently one reading level behind her peers, she is quickly recognized as the smartest in the class. She takes pride in her intelligence, although she says she would rather be beautiful than smart. As Diana and Anne walk to school one day, Diana warns Anne she should not take for granted her status as smartest pupil, since Gilbert Blythe, the handsomest and smartest boy at school, will soon return to class. When she sees Gilbert, Anne agrees that he is handsome. But, unlike all the other girls, she is uninterested in him. Intrigued by the new girl who refuses to look at him, Gilbert tries to get her attention. He reaches across the aisle and whispers “Carrots,” as he tweaks her braid. Anne’s quick temper flares, and she jumps up, yelling at him and smashing a slate over his head.

Mr. Phillips, busy flirting with Prissy, ignores Gilbert’s attempt to take the blame, refuses to listen to Anne’s side of the story, and punishes her by making her stand in front of the class for the rest of the day. Several times, Gilbert tries to apologize and make peace with Anne, but she ignores him each time. The next day, Mr. Phillips decides to make an example of pupils who return to school late after the lunch break. The boys and Anne, who is daydreaming alone, arrive late. Rather than go through the trouble of punishing all the latecomers, Mr. Phillips picks Anne out of the crowd and makes her sit next to Gilbert Blythe, a punishment Anne thinks unfair and humiliating. At the end of the day, Anne packs up her desk and solemnly tells Diana that sitting next to Gilbert was excruciating and that she will never return to school.

Anne goes home and tells Marilla she will not go back to school. Marilla sympathizes with Anne. She goes to Mrs. Rachel for advice and decides that she will let Anne stay at home until she wants to return to school.

***Critical Study:***

Marilla sends Anne off to her first day of school with many misgivings about how the odd little girl is going to get on with other children. Much to Anne's pleasure, she is seated next to Diana. Ruby Gillis gave her an apple, Sophia Sloane lent her a pink card, Tillie Boutler let her wear a bead ring, and Sara Gillis told Prissy Andrews that she had a pretty nose. Even if the master, Mr. Phillips, did mock her spelling, and she was only in the fourth book (other students being in the fifth), it was a splendid day. Three weeks pass without incident, but then Gilbert Blythe, who Anne thinks is handsome but bold for winking at her, returns from visiting with his cousins. When Gilbert, not used to having to put himself out to get a girl to look at him, pulls at one of Anne's braids and calls her "carrots," Anne is indignant to say the least. She calls the boy hateful and brings her slate down on Gilbert's head. Gilbert takes responsibility for the ruckus, telling Mr. Phillips that he teased the girl. However, it is Anne who must stand on a platform in front of the blackboard for the rest of the afternoon, and despite his apologies, Anne vows never to forgive Gilbert. When Anne sweeps in late with the rest of the boys the following afternoon, Mr. Phillips singles Anne out for punishment, making her sit with Gilbert Blythe. Mortified, Anne clears her desk with the intention of never returning to school. Marilla and Mrs. Lynde agree that Mr. Phillips was in the wrong, and taking Mrs. Lynde's advice Marilla decides not to say another word about Anne going back to school — until she is ready to go back on her own accord. Learning her lessons at home, Anne soon comes to miss her bosom friend Diana and sobs to Marilla about the day Diana will marry and be taken from her. Marilla collapses in hysterics at the young girls theatrics.

Anne's flair for melodrama has at last brought Marilla to her knees in a fit of laughter. Humorless and unyielding when first introduced to the reader, Marilla now accepts Anne's melodrama with good nature, and is willing to let her return to school in her own good time, warming her maternal instincts. Meanwhile, Anne is showing herself to be an amiable, if spirited, youth.

***Critical Analysis:***

Weeks have passed and school has begun. Anne and Diana walk to school together every day down beautiful roads with trees and flowers all around. At the school in Avonlea, there are students in many grades, from children Anne’s age through teenagers studying for entrance exams to Queen's teacher’s college. Anne has a good time at school; she makes friends easily and does fairly well academically.

On the way to school about three weeks into the school year, Diana tells Anne that [Gilbert Blythe](https://www.gradesaver.com/anne-of-green-gables/study-guide/character-list#gilbert-blythe) will be coming back to school. Gilbert is a handsome 13-year-old boy who likes to tease the girls at school. Talking about Gilbert gets Diana and Anne onto the topic of boys and crushes. When boys have crushes on girls at the school in Avonlea, they write their names together on the wall of the school’s porch. Diana tells Anne that a boy named [Charlie Sloane](https://www.gradesaver.com/anne-of-green-gables/study-guide/character-list#charlie-sloane) may write Anne’s name on the wall, but Anne says she doesn’t want her name written up. Diana says that Gilbert will be studying the same material as Anne since he had to miss school for almost three years when his father was sick. In school, Anne sees Gilbert for the first time. When he catches her looking at him, he winks. Anne thinks that he is handsome but has bad manners. That afternoon, Gilbert tries to get Anne to look at him while she is lost in daydreams. To get her attention, he says “Carrots! Carrots!” (p. 140.) Anne immediately springs up, yells at him, and smashes her slate on his head. When the teacher comes over, Gilbert says that it was his fault, but Anne is still punished by being made to stand in front of a message reading “[Anne Shirley](https://www.gradesaver.com/anne-of-green-gables/study-guide/character-list#anne-shirley) must learn to control her temper” (p. 141) for the rest of the school day. After school, Gilbert tries to apologize to Anne, but she ignores him.

The next day, the teacher institutes a new rule at the school that students must be back in their seats after lunch break by the time the teacher enters the classroom. The teacher sets this rule because the students like to wander and climb trees during the lunch break and often return late. On the day the new rule begins, the students all have to run back to the school after lunch to try to get there on time. Anne is one of the last to arrive back in the school, along with many boys who were climbing trees. The teacher makes an example of Anne, punishing her by making her sit next to Gilbert. Anne sits down next to Gilbert, puts her head in her arms on the desk, and stays that way for the rest of the school day. Gilbert tries to slip her a candy heart, but Anne drops it on the ground and crushes it with her foot.

At the end of the school day, Anne takes all of her belongings from the school with her, telling Diana that she will not be coming back. Diana tries to convince her to come back to school, but Anne is stubborn. When Anne gets home, she tells Marilla that she will be learning her lessons at home from now on. Marilla objects at first, but then she decides not to press the matter. She decides to talk to [Mrs. Rachel Lynde](https://www.gradesaver.com/anne-of-green-gables/study-guide/character-list#mrs-rachel-lynde) about it.

Marilla goes to Mrs. Rachel’s house; surprisingly, Mrs. Rachel says that she should let Anne not go to school for a little while. Mrs. Rachel says that this will give Anne time to cool down rather than get in more trouble, and she won’t be missing much anyway because the teacher isn’t very good. Marilla lets Anne stay home, and Anne behaves very well, learning her lessons, doing her chores, and playing with Diana after school. Diana tries to get Anne to forgive Gilbert, but she will not budge. Nevertheless, Diana and Anne grow even closer; one night, Anne even cries to Marilla about the fact that someday, Diana will get married and leave her.

***Significance:***

Anne and Diana walk to school together every day, assigning lovely names to many of the spots they pass—Diana's contribution: Birch Path—admiring the wildflowers, and gossiping about their classmates. School is pleasant, too, though Anne doesn't think much of the teacher, Mr. Phillips. Marilla worries Anne will be too odd to make friends, but she's soon at the center of a big group of girls.

As they're walking to school one day a few weeks in October, Diana tells Anne Gilbert Blythe will be back in class that day. He's been away visiting cousins. Diana assures Anne Gilbert is "AW'FLY handsome," adding happily Gilbert "just torments our lives out." He also is used to being head of his class—meaning Anne will have to work hard to keep up with him.

Gilbert does turn out to be handsome, with curly brown hair and "roguish hazel eyes." Anne first spies him when he's playing a trick on Ruby Gillis. Gilbert winks at Anne, not pleased by the attention. That afternoon Gilbert tries and fails to get Anne to notice him. Piqued, he picks up one of her braids and whispers "Carrots! Carrots!" In a flash Anne jumps up and cracks her slate over his head. "You mean, hateful boy! How dare you!" she cries.

Though Gilbert staunchly defends Anne, Mr. Phillips punishes her. For the rest of the afternoon she must stand in front of the class with the words "Ann Shirley has a very bad temper" written on the blackboard over her head. Anne vows never to forgive either Gilbert or the teacher.

Things get worse the next day. After recess Anne gets back to class late, arriving just as the boys do. Several other students have been late too, but Mr. Phillips decides to make an example of Anne. "Since you seem to be so fond of the boys' company," she must sit with Gilbert Blythe for the rest of the afternoon. Stunned and furious Anne obeys but buries her face in her arms and refuses to stand up until it's time to go home. Then she clears her desk ostentatiously. "I'll NEVER go to school to that man again," she tells Diana. Once home she tells Marilla the same thing. "I'll learn my lessons at home and I'll be as good as I can be"—but she won't go back.

Marilla asks Mrs. Lynde's advice that evening. Mrs. Lynde advises letting Anne have her own way for a while. Mr. Phillips shouldn't have singled Anne out for punishment when other students had also been late. He's a terrible teacher, and as Mrs. Lynde states, "The order he keeps is scandalous." Mrs. Lynde is sure Anne will soon get lonely studying at home and "cool off in a week or so."

But Anne does not cool off. She does her schoolwork and plays with Diana after school, but she refuses to return to school or speak to Gilbert. But "as much as she hated Gilbert ... did she love Diana." One evening Marilla finds Anne sobbing "luxuriously" as she imagines Diana's growing up and getting married. "I hate her husband—I just hate him furiously," she wails. Marilla can't help it: she laughs so hard Matthew can't believe his ears.

What a wonderful glimpse this chapter gives into the vanished world of the old-fashioned schoolhouse. The children put their bottles of milk into the brook to keep them cold until lunch; during recess they pull chewing gum from the spruce trees; they sit next to each other at double desks. There are more seats than students, which is why Anne is able to fit next to Gilbert at his desk.

Anne is as passionate in her hatreds as in her loves, and this is the first chapter in which she acquires some enemies. Mr. Phillips becomes one quickly. The Pye sisters, especially Josie, will return to annoy Anne throughout the series. But it's Gilbert she takes against instantly. Who can blame her? Gilbert seems obnoxious on first meeting. The trick he plays on Ruby is unkind, not mischievous. His winking at Anne "with inexpressible drollery" annoys her, and not just because they haven't yet met. Winking at Anne right after he's played a trick on Ruby suggests Anne is complicit in the joke, or at least assumes she won't tell anyone what she's seen.

Gilbert becomes increasingly annoying that day. He doesn't like being ignored by Anne, but what a way he picks to get her attention. True, he doesn't know how much Anne hates people talking about her hair; true, boys that age and in that time might have felt awkward simply introducing themselves to a new girl. But holding up her braid and whispering "Carrots!" is buffoonish. Also this is the second time he's teased a classmate about her braids. Later in the book Gilbert will be almost magically transformed; at the moment, however, he seems like a brat.

Anne is so generous of spirit she may seem like someone who would forgive easily, but she maintains an unwavering hatred of Gilbert for years. Her refusal to return to school quells even Marilla; her endless disdain will finally turn Gilbert himself against her. With this chapter readers learn Anne has a steely side.

***Summary and Analysis Part by Part:***

***Summary Part 1:***

[Anne](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/anne-shirley) and [Diana](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/diana-barry) are walking to school by way of some of their favorite wooded paths. They emerge onto Avonlea’s main road and climb the hill to the school, a whitewashed building with big windows and old-fashioned desks covered with generations of student carvings. After school, [Marilla](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/marilla-cuthbert)’s fears about Anne’s behavior at school are calmed—the first day went well. Anne enjoyed herself, though she thinks the teacher, [Mr. Phillips](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters), spent too much time flirting with [Prissy Andrews](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters), a 16-year-old student. Marilla scolds Anne for disrespecting the schoolmaster by spreading rumors.

***Analysis Part 1:***

It's worth noting that the Avonlea schoolmaster might very well be a teenager himself (as Anne herself becomes a young teacher in later books) and not much older than his eldest pupils; at the same time, different social expectations in the late 1800s meant that Mr. Phillips’s flirtation, though maybe not considered “proper,” wouldn’t have been viewed as scandalous as it would be today.

***Summary Part 2:***

[Anne](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/anne-shirley) assures [Marilla](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/marilla-cuthbert) that she was a good girl in school. She’s behind most of her peers in her studies, but she feels her superior imagination makes up for it. She received several little gifts and compliments from new friends, even overhearing that she has “a very pretty nose.” (Marilla agrees, but she won’t flatter Anne’s vanity by telling her so.) The first three weeks of school pass uneventfully.

***Analysis Part 2:***

Anne is beginning to find her place among her peers in Avonlea. Her neglected childhood means that she’s lacked academic advantages, yet her imagination helps compensate for the lack. She is also beginning to make more friends.

***Summary Part 3:***

One September morning, [Diana](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/diana-barry) tells [Anne](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/anne-shirley) that [Gilbert Blythe](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/gilbert-blythe), a handsome boy who teases all the girls, is back from a summer in New Brunswick. Anne recognizes the name—it was written up along with a girl’s name on the school porch with “Take Notice” printed above. Anne thinks the “Take Notices” are silly, though part of her regrets that there’s no danger of her name ever appearing that way. Diana says that isn’t true—[Charlie Sloane](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters) is “dead gone” on Anne—and anyway, she’s rumored to be the smartest girl in school. Anne would rather be pretty—though she does like being the head of her class.

***Analysis Part 3:***

The “Take Notice” custom is a teasing way of suggesting that certain kids are a couple or ought to be. Though Anne is just 11, she imagines being the object of someone’s crush and assumes she’ll never be beautiful enough. Anne’s quick mind allows her to catch up rapidly in school, but right now, she’d rather be considered pretty than intelligent. (“Dead gone” is slang used in the book to mean that someone has a big crush on someone else.)

***Summary Part 4:***

[Diana](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/diana-barry) warns [Anne](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/anne-shirley) that [Gilbert](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/gilbert-blythe) will be joining her class—though he’s nearly 14, he spent a few years in Alberta where he didn’t attend school much—and that Anne will find it difficult to maintain her lead. Anne says she looks forward to the challenge. In class, Diana points out Gilbert sitting across the aisle. He’s tall, curly-haired, hazel-eyed, and has a teasing smile. After pranking another girl, he winks at Anne. Anne tells Diana that Gilbert is handsome, but she thinks he has bad manners.

***Analysis Part 4:***

Though she doesn’t know it yet, Gilbert will become a major factor in Anne’s life at Avonlea school. In fact, at first, she even finds him somewhat appealing; his intelligence doesn’t intimidate her. However, his arrogant, teasing manner is off-putting to her.Boys and Romance Theme Icon

***Summary Part 5:***

That afternoon, while [Mr. Phillips](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters) is preoccupied with [Prissy Andrews](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters), the rest of the students are doing what they like. [Gilbert](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/gilbert-blythe) is trying to get [Anne](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/anne-shirley)’s attention, but she stares out the window, lost in daydreams. Gilbert isn’t used to being ignored by girls. He reaches across the aisle and holds Anne’s long braid aloft, loudly whispering, “Carrots!” Anne jumps to her feet, calls Gilbert a hateful boy, and cracks her slate over his head.

***Analysis Part 5:***

Gilbert is used to getting the attention he wants from girls. When Anne seems to be resistant to his charms, Gilbert unknowingly resorts to the worst possible way of getting her attention. While many girls would just laugh or ignore the teasing, Anne promptly retaliates, wounded by the mockery of her hated red hair.

***Summary Part 6:***

The entire school watches with shock and delight as [Mr. Phillips](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters) demands an explanation. [Gilbert](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/gilbert-blythe) speaks up to take the blame for teasing [Anne](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/anne-shirley), but Mr. Phillips ignores him. He accuses Anne of “temper and […] vindictive spirit,” and he makes her stand in front of the blackboard for the rest of the day. Above her head he writes, “Ann Shirley has a very bad temper. Ann Shirley must learn to control her temper.” Anne stands there bravely all afternoon, red-faced with anger and resentment. She refuses to look at Gilbert. After school, Gilbert tries to whisper an apology to Anne, but she acts like she doesn’t hear him. She tells [Diana](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/diana-barry) she’ll never forgive Gilbert.

***Analysis Part 6:***

To Gilbert’s credit, he’s willing to take the blame for the incident, but Mr. Phillips cruelly scapegoats Anne for the entire thing (even spelling her name wrong in the process). Far from being shamed by this punishment, Anne finds that it just hardens her hatred and resentment of Gilbert for hurting her feelings and exposing her to ridicule.

***Summary Part 7:***

During the noon hour, students often climb the trees in Mr. Bell’s spruce grove and pick nuts of gum to chew. At the end of the hour, they have to race back to the school in order to be in their seats before [Mr. Phillips](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters) returns. One day, [Anne](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/anne-shirley) is wandering at the grove’s far end with a lily-wreath on her hair, and she’s among the last into the school. Though she arrives among a crowd of boys, Mr. Phillips picks her as a scapegoat and makes her sit with [Gilbert Blythe](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/gilbert-blythe) for the rest of the day, since she’s “so fond of the boys’ company.” To Anne, this is the worst of insults. She buries her head in her arms all day. At one point Gilbert slips a candy heart under her arm, which Anne pointedly crushes with her shoe.

***Analysis Part 8:***

Mr. Phillips seems inclined to scapegoat Anne unfairly for things because of the way she stands out from the crowd. Because she hates Gilbert so much, being forced to sit with him would be further humiliating and enraging. She continues to resist Gilbert’s efforts to reconcile.

***Summary part 9:***

At the end of the day, [Anne](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/anne-shirley) takes everything out of her desk and tells [Diana](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/diana-barry) she isn’t returning to school as long as [Mr. Phillips](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters) is there. [Marilla](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/marilla-cuthbert) calls this nonsense, but she’s struck by the stubborn look on Anne’s face and decides to ask [Mrs. Rachel](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/mrs-rachel-lynde) for advice. As expected, Mrs. Rachel has already heard the whole story—and she loves being asked for advice. She advises Marilla to humor Anne for the time being. It wasn’t right for Mr. Phillips to single Anne out, she says, and it was immodest to make her sit with a boy. So Marilla decides not to make a fuss. Anne happily studies at home, does her chores, and plays with Diana after school. She continues to hate and ignore [Gilbert](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/gilbert-blythe).

***Analysis Part 9:***

Marilla’s reaction to Anne’s resistance to school is telling. It shows that Marilla is already learning the importance of understanding Anne’s stubborn feelings and not forcing her into situations against her will—this is much better for Anne in the long run. Indeed, Anne thrives at home where she doesn’t have to face Gilbert and Mr. Phillips every day. (Formal schooling probably wasn’t compulsory or closely regulated in rural Canada at this time, hence Anne’s flexibility to study at home.)

***Summary Part 10:***

One evening, [Marilla](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/marilla-cuthbert) finds [Anne](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/anne-shirley) weeping by her window. Anne explains that she loves [Diana](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/diana-barry) so much that she can’t bear the thought of someday losing her—she hates whomever her husband will be one day. Marilla tries to keep a straight face, but soon collapses into a chair, laughing heartily. If Anne must borrow trouble, she should borrow it closer to home—she has quite an imagination!

***Analysis Part 10:***

As Anne’s friendship with Diana deepens, her imagination runs ahead to the day things will inevitably change. Marilla finds humor in Anne’s ability to become emotional about future events—though sometimes Anne’s sensitivity should be indulged, like the school situation, sometimes it causes her needless distress about things.