***Anne of Green Gables***

***Chapter 30***

### ***The Queen’s Class is Organized***

***Summary:***

* One evening, Anne comes home to a very tired Marilla. Marilla hasn't been feeling well lately and thinks she needs to get her glasses changed.
* Marilla tells Anne that Miss Stacy came to visit Green Gables, but can't get further with her story. First, Anne gets sidetracked talking about growing up, and then Anne thinks she's in trouble for reading *Ben-Hur* during class and tells Marilla that whole story.
* Finally she lets Marilla speak. Marilla tells her that Miss Stacy wants Anne to be part of a class of elite students who stay after class to prepare for Queen's.
* Anne's thrilled. She didn't think she'd be able to go because of the expense, but Marilla and Matthew have put money away for her education.
* The only problem? Diana's parents won't let her go to Queen's. So Anne has to prep without Diana.
* Did we mention Gilbert's in the class? Anne's favorite enemy. He's been ignoring Anne since she snubbed him at the river. Anne, by the way, regrets what she said, but would never admit it.
* Studying's hard in the spring, but summer vacation finally begins.
* Marilla misses a ladies aid meeting, which is a big deal for her. When Mrs. Lynde comes over to find out what's wrong, Marilla tells her Matthew's been having bad heart "spells." Which doesn't sound good. He's supposed to avoid excitement.
* Anne serves Marilla and Rachel tea and biscuits. They talk about how good Anne is at cooking now, and how helpful she's become for Marilla.
* Quite the change from the beginning of the story.

***Synopsis:***

One night Marilla rests after another one of her eye aches, which occur with increasing frequency and severity. She looks at Anne with an expression of fondness that she would never permit herself to show in the daylight when she could be seen. Because of Marilla’s tendency to veil her affection, Anne does not know, we are told, that Marilla loves her so much. Marilla tells Anne that Miss Stacy visited that afternoon, and Anne, assuming Miss Stacy told Marilla about her recent misbehavior, quickly admits to sneaking a novel into class when she should have been studying. Anne also tells Marilla that she and Diana have been talking about serious subjects like the future and that they are thinking of becoming old maids and living together. Anne explains that Miss Stacy told the girls they must cultivate sound characters now, because once they reach their twenties the foundations of their characters will be set for life.

Marilla tells Anne that Miss Stacy has invited Anne to join a group of advanced scholars who will study every day after school to prepare for the entrance exam to Queen’s Academy in a year and a half. Marilla says that every woman should be able to support herself and that teaching is a good profession for a woman. Anne hesitates to accept the offer to attend college because she worries that the cost of college will be too high for the Cuthberts. However, after Marilla says that Anne’s education is worth the cost, Anne expresses excitement.

The other students in the advanced class are Gilbert Blythe, Ruby Gillis, Jane Andrews, Josie Pye, Charlie Sloane, and Moody Spurgeon MacPherson. They study for an hour every day, but begin to lose their drive when spring comes and the other students leave school early every day. For the first time since Minnie May was sick, Anne and Diana are separated, since the Barrys do not intend to send Diana to college.

The rivalry between Gilbert and Anne rekindles. Gilbert decides to treat Anne just as coldly as she treats him. This icy treatment distresses Anne, but she acts unconcerned. She realizes that she no longer feels angry with Gilbert, and she regrets causing tension.  
The school year ends and Anne locks her books away, declaring that she wants to make the most of her last summer as a child. The next day Mrs. Rachel drops by Green Gables, and Marilla tells her that Matthew has had another bad spell with his heart, which is the first we hear of his condition. Marilla expresses her happiness that Anne is growing into a trustworthy person. Mrs. Rachel agrees that she was mistaken to doubt Anne when she arrived three years ago. She comments that Anne has improved in everything, especially in her looks. Though Anne lacks Diana’s coloring and Ruby’s flashy looks, there is something special and arresting in her “pale, big-eyed style.”

***Significance:***One evening in November, Marilla tells Anne that Miss Stacy has come over to talk to her. Anne chatters for a long time without letting Marilla tell her what Miss Stacy came to talk about. When Marilla says that Miss Stacy came to talk about Anne, Anne gets flustered and confesses to reading a novel during Miss Stacy’s history class. Marilla says that Miss Stacy did not come over to talk about this, but rather to discuss Anne joining a class of students studying for the entrance examinations for Queen’s teachers college. Anne says that this is her dream but that she doesn’t think the family has money for it. Marilla says not to worry about that. Anne is grateful and tells Marilla that she will do her very best to be a credit to her. Marilla reminds Anne that she won’t be able to take the entrance exam for a year and a half, but she says it is time to really focus on school.

The class of advanced students studying for the entrance exam consists of Anne, Gilbert, Ruby, Jane, Josie, Charlie, and Moody. Diana’s parents do not plan to send her to Queen’s, so she is not included in the group, which makes both Diana and Anne sad. Anne tells Marilla about the desired professions of her classmates, though she skips talking about Gilbert as usual. The narrator says that Anne and Gilbert’s rivalry was now well-known and that Gilbert had reciprocated Anne’s coldness ever since she rejected his apology by the pond. Anne still regrets that moment, but, since Gilbert is now cold to her, she is too proud to tell anyone this.

The winter in Avonlea passes with Anne and her classmates in focused study. When the spring arrives, focus wanes for all the advanced students. Soon, it is time for summer vacation, and Anne tells Marilla she is putting her books away for the whole summer since it may be “the last summer I’ll be a little girl” (p. 311). The next afternoon, Mrs. Rachel Lynde comes to Green Gables to see why Marilla had not been at the Aid meeting a few days before. Marilla tells her that “Matthew had a bad spell with his heart” (p.312) and is not supposed to do any heavy work or get excited. Marilla and Mrs. Rachel sit together and discuss how much Anne has matured in the three years she has lived at Green Gables.

***Critical Study(Ch23-30):***

Miss Stacy is an important character in [Anne of Green Gables](https://www.gradesaver.com/anne-of-green-gables) because she is a double for Anne in many ways. Like Anne, Miss Stacy is a new and different kind of person in Avonlea. Unlike previous teachers at the Avonlea school, Miss Stacy's curriculum includes outdoor exploration, physical education, and writing stories. This is encouraging to Anne who already loves nature and stories, leading her to excel at school. Furthermore, Anne becomes a teacher at the Avonlea school herself at the end of the novel, and she is likely influenced and inspired by Miss Stacy's teaching style.

Matthew's relationship with Anne is central in this section of the book. His positive and relaxed attitude with Anne contrasts with his awkward, flustered manner toward Anne's friends and with the shopkeeper in Carmody. This contrast demonstrates to the reader that there is something special about Anne: she can charm and befriend anyone. Matthew also understands Anne better than Marilla does in some ways, as shown in this section. He realizes how much having a pretty dress with puffed sleeves would mean to Anne because it would allow her to fit in with her friends—something Marilla has been too stubborn and moralistic to truly consider.

Though Mrs. Rachel Lynde is originally presented as a nosy and judgmental character, in this section of the book it becomes clear that she is also wise and empathetic when it comes to raising children. Earlier in the book, she surprises Marilla—and perhaps the reader—by telling Marilla to let Anne stop going to school for a while. She reasons that Anne will only get in more trouble if she is forced to go to school. In this section, Mrs. Rachel Lynde agrees with Matthew that Anne should be allowed to wear pretty clothes that fit in with other young women in Avonlea, and she states that "There's no hard and fast method in the world that'll suit every child" (p. 251).

Anne and Diana's conversation on Anne's birthday shows how girls were constricted by norms of femininity and modesty in the early 20th century. For example, Diana says, "Alice Bell is only sixteen and she is wearing her [hair] up, but I think it's ridiculous. I shall wait until I'm seventeen" (p. 261). Anne is depicted as traditionally feminine in some ways, such as caring about her appearance and clothing, but she also does not conform to some norms of femininity at the time. For example, she is as smart or smarter than all the boys at her school, she is daring and adventurous, and she has no interest in dating boys.

Anne's story about Cordelia and Geraldine is used by Montgomery to bring out the themes present in the novel as a whole. Female friendship is at the center of Anne's story, and Anne and Diana's friendship is a central component of *Anne of Green Gables*. Romance, marriage, and betrayal in the middle of Anne's story call attention to Anne's conflicted feelings about femininity and her relationship with Gilbert. Finally, Anne's story ends with death and insanity, which recalls Anne's traumatic childhood and foreshadows that a death will occur at the end of *Anne of Green Gables*.

***Analysis:***

Twilight at Green Gables, and Marilla and Anne are enjoying a rest in front of the fire. Marilla looks at Anne and wonders if it's sinful to love "any human creature" as much as she loves Anne. Maybe that love is what makes her so strict; maybe the strictness is a form of punishment for caring so intensely.

Abruptly Marilla tells Anne Miss Stacy visited that afternoon. She wants to organize a class of her most advanced students to study for the Queen's Academy entrance examinations, and she wants Anne to be a part of that class. During the visit she heaped praise on Anne, but Marilla refrains from passing on that information. She doesn't want to make Anne vain.

Queen's Academy is a teachers' training school, and it has been a dream of Anne's—for the past six months, at least—to become a teacher. But won't it be too expensive? Marilla tells her not to worry about that. Marilla and Matthew have always planned to give Anne a good education and to prepare her for life's vagaries. Anne promises to study hard, and the class is duly organized. Several of Anne's friends (plus Gilbert and Josie Pye) join it, but not Diana: the Barrys don't plan to send her to Queen's. It's the first time Anne and Diana haven't walked home from school together. Anne feels a pang as she watches Diana leave alone.

Except for that sorrow, Anne throws herself into studying. She and Gilbert are avowed rivals for first place now, and Gilbert's a tough opponent. Since the day he rescued her from the Lake of Shining Waters, he has never spoken to her. Anne realizes she's already forgiven him, but now it's too late to do anything. Anne keeps her feelings to herself so entirely even Gilbert thinks she doesn't notice the scorn he now shows her.

A pleasant winter passes quickly. Once spring arrives, the Queen's students feel less ardent about their studies, and everyone—Miss Stacy included—is glad when the spring term ends and summer vacation begins.

Miss Stacy is a much more dedicated teacher than Mr. Phillips was. Whereas he helped only Priscilla Grant prepare for Queen's, and then only because he had a crush on her, Miss Stacy sacrifices much of her own time to put together that after-school class. That she's able to do this also speaks to her own education. To teach upper-level classes means she has to know the material herself.

Miss Stacy makes up one more link in the chain of women connected to Anne. Except for Gilbert, men aren't strong characters in this book. Mr. Phillips is a poor teacher; the Sunday school superintendent reads the prayers; Moody Spurgeon MacPherson, Charlie Sloane, and Billy Andrews are nonentities. Even Anne's beloved Matthew is a bit odd.

By contrast the women in the book are strong, vigorous, and influential, beginning with Marilla. Miss Stacy and Mrs. Allan are paradigms of inspiration for Anne. As [Mrs. Rachel Lynde](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Anne-of-Green-Gables/character-analysis/#Mrs._Rachel_Lynde) might be the first to say, Avonlea couldn't run without her. Diana's strict mother has the power to halt a devoted friendship and then dispense mercy. Even Mrs. Thomas and Mrs. Hammond are powerful forces in Anne's life. Avonlea is a matriarchy. Only Gilbert is worthy of Anne, and she has shut him out of her life.

Speaking of power, it's Diana's parents who don't want to send her to Queen's. Diana seems to have no say in the decision.

In [Chapter 30](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Anne-of-Green-Gables/chapter-30-summary/) the pace of the book changes, the days slipping by for Anne "like golden beads on the necklace of the year." From now on the plot mainly concerns Anne's education, and whole seasons will pass with no adventures described in detail. [Montgomery](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Anne-of-Green-Gables/author/) was aware something went out of the book as Anne grew older. She once said, "My forte is in writing humor ... Young women in the bloom of youth and romance should be sacred from humor. It is the time of sentiment, and I am not good at depicting sentiment." Readers too may miss the old Anne.

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

***Summary Part 1:***

One dark November evening, [Marilla](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/marilla-cuthbert) lays her knitting aside; her eyes grow tired easily these days. [Anne](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/anne-shirley) is curled up in front of the fire, her book fallen to the floor. Marilla watches the daydreaming girl with tenderness. She refrains from “indulging” Anne by being demonstrative; indeed, Anne isn’t even sure that Marilla loves her. Marilla fears it isn’t right to love a human being so intensely and compensates for her affection by being stricter than necessary.

***Analysis Part 1:***

Though Marilla’s restraint toward Anne can be difficult to understand, it was typical of an age in which affection could be seen as a spoiling indulgence of children. Marilla loves Anne so much, in fact, that she overcorrects by being far too strict.

***Summary Part 2:***

[Marilla](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/marilla-cuthbert) tells [Anne](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/anne-shirley) that [Miss Stacy](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/miss-muriel-stacy) stopped by this afternoon. Anne is interested, but goes on a digression describing her wanderings in the woods with [Diana](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/diana-barry) that afternoon. She and Diana no longer talk about childish things, she says—they’re almost 14. In fact, the other day, Miss Stacy took all the teenage girls for a walk and talked to them about the importance of developing good habits now, since their characters will already be formed by the time they are adults. After that, she and Diana resolved to become as sensible as possible.

***Analysis Part 2:***

Even as she grows up, Anne still has a difficult time not wandering off into flights of imaginative fancy. Her description of Miss Stacy’s serious discussion with the girls, urging them to focus on developing their characters, is in amusing contrast to Anne’s inability to focus on the matter at hand.

***Summary Part 3:***[Marilla](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/marilla-cuthbert) tries to get a word in edgewise, but when [Anne](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/anne-shirley) hears that [Miss Stacy](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/miss-muriel-stacy) stopped by to discuss her, she feels a pang of conscience. She explains that Miss Stacy caught her reading Ben-Hur during Canadian history yesterday. She’d gotten to the chariot race scene during the dinner hour, and she couldn’t bear to set it aside, so she tucked the novel inside her history book. When Miss Stacy discovered this, she was very disappointed. She kept Anne inside during recess and rebuked her both for wasting time and for deceiving her, but then she readily forgave Anne.

***Analysis Part 3:***

Anne still has a tendency to get into trouble at times because of her curiosity and imagination. Lew Wallace’s Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ, a story of an early Christian charioteer, was a bestselling historical fiction novel in the 1880s.

***Summary Part 4:***[Marilla](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/marilla-cuthbert) says [Miss Stacy](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/miss-muriel-stacy) never mentioned this story and that when she was young, she wasn’t even allowed to look at novels. Anne says Ben-Hur shouldn’t really be considered a novel when it’s such a religious book. Anyway, she no longer reads books that both Miss Stacy and [Mrs. Allan](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/mrs-allan) wouldn’t approve of. One day Miss Stacy found her reading a “lurid” mystery book and told her it was unwholesome, but Anne wants so much to please Miss Stacy that she happily gave it up.

***Analysis Part 4:***

Anne places a great amount of stock in both Miss Stacy’s and Mrs. Allan’s opinions. Although novels were more widely considered to be disreputable in earlier generations, those with “wholesome” themes, like Ben-Hur, can be distinguished from those that are merely “lurid.”

***Summary Part 5:***[Marilla](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/marilla-cuthbert) says that [Anne](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/anne-shirley) clearly isn’t interested in [Miss Stacy](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/miss-muriel-stacy)’s news, so Anne promises to stop talking so much. Marilla explains that Miss Stacy wants to organize a class to study for the Queen’s Entrance exam and she asks if Anne wants to go to Queen’s and become a teacher. Anne says it’s been her dream over the past few months, but she thought it would be too expensive. Marilla says she doesn’t need to worry about that; she and [Matthew](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/matthew-cuthbert) have been setting aside money for her education. Marilla believes that a girl should be able to earn a living. She can always live at Green Gables, but she wants Anne to be able to support herself just in case. Anne hugs Marilla and promises to work hard.

***Analysis Part 5:***

When Marilla finally tells Anne her news, it’s even better than Anne imagined: Anne has the opportunity to try to study at Queen’s, a teacher’s college (and thus one of the most likely avenues for a young woman to have a career in this era). Marilla actually has a forward-looking attitude about Anne’s education—knowing that she and Matthew won’t be around forever, she wants Anne to be in a position to be able to work and support herself financially someday.

***Summary Part 6:***[Marilla](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/marilla-cuthbert) says she’s sure [Anne](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/anne-shirley) will do well, though she doesn’t tell Anne just how highly [Miss Stacy](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/miss-muriel-stacy) praised her. The Entrance exam isn’t for another year and a half, so she tells Anne not to study excessively hard. Anne is happy to have a worthy goal in life—[Mrs. Allan](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/mrs-allan) says everyone should—and she likes the idea of being a teacher like Miss Stacy someday.

***Analysis Part 6:***

Anne is surrounded by women who are each encouraging her growth in different ways—Marilla in providing for her and making sure she gets schooling, Mrs. Allan in encouraging her aspirations, and Miss Stacy in helping her prepare for college and a career.

***Summary Part 7:***Soon the Queen’s class is organized, including [Anne](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/anne-shirley), [Gilbert](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/gilbert-blythe), [Ruby Gillis](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters), [Jane Andrews](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters), [Josie Pye](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters), [Charlie Sloane](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters), and [Moody Spurgeon MacPherson](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters). Diana’s parents don’t plan to send her to Queen’s, so it’s the first time the two of them have been separated in school. But Anne is excited about the Queen’s class for its own sake.

***Analysis Part 7:***

Going to Queen’s is a selective process that involves a separation between Anne and Diana for the first time—another part of growing up. Anne is beginning to develop aspirations beyond having a home and best friend, even though that doesn’t mean leaving other things aside.

***Summary Part 8:***

Some of the girls intend to earn their living by teaching, some just want an education and hope to marry. [Moody Spurgeon](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters) wants to be a minister, and [Charlie](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters) wants to go into politics. But [Anne](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/anne-shirley) doesn’t know or care what [Gilbert](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/gilbert-blythe)’s goals are. They’re locked in a rivalry for the first place in their class. Ever since the incident on the pond, Gilbert has steadfastly ignored Anne. Anne finds this isn’t so pleasant, but she tries to tell herself she doesn’t care. Her resentment has faded. She realizes she’s forgiven Gilbert—but it’s too late.

***Analysis Part 8:***

Preparation for Queen’s doesn’t mean that Anne and Gilbert leave their rivalry behind. At this point, Gilbert seems to have given up hope of winning Anne over, but this doesn’t please her as she thought it would; deep down, she doesn’t mind him anymore, but it seems to be too late for their friendship to go anywhere.

***Summary Part 9:***

The winter passes pleasantly, as [Anne](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/anne-shirley) is an eager, engaged student. She loves reading books, singing in the Sunday school choir, and visiting [Mrs. Allan](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/mrs-allan) on Saturday afternoons. As spring comes to Avonlea, Anne’s enthusiasm for studying wanes, but [Miss Stacy](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/miss-muriel-stacy) encourages the Queen’s class to have a relaxing vacation with lots of outdoor time. Anne decides to put her books away for the summer, since it might be her last summer as a “little girl,” and she might not even believe in fairies next year.

***Analysisi Part 9:***

The pacing of the novel picks up as Anne grows and prepares for the next steps in her life. The major pieces of Anne’s life have fallen into place—home, school, and friendship—and her mishaps are fewer and farther between. Indeed, Anne herself suspects that within a year’s time, she will be more of a young woman than a girl, meaning that even her cherished imagination won’t be the same anymore.

***Summary Part 10:***The next day [Mrs. Lynde](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/mrs-rachel-lynde) drops by. [Marilla](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/marilla-cuthbert) has been anxious about [Matthew](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/matthew-cuthbert)’s more frequent bad spells with his heart. It seems that he works too hard. As they drink tea together, Mrs. Rachel observes that [Anne](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/anne-shirley) has turned out to be much smarter and more helpful than she seemed at first. Marilla agrees that Anne has turned out to be steady and trustworthy. Rachel gladly admits she was mistaken about Anne—she was an odd child to whom the rules that work with other children don’t seem to apply.

***Analysis Part 10:***

Anne has grown up to be more of an asset to Green Gables than anyone expected—but underneath this assessment, Mrs. Lynde’s and Marilla’s affection for Anne can be detected. She’s not just useful and trustworthy, but a joy to Green Gables and Avonlea. At the same time, keeping Anne rather than sending for a boy has meant that Matthew has had to work harder than he should—a moment of foreshadowing what’s to come.