***Anne of Green Gables***

***Chapter 32***

### ***The Pass List is Out***

***Summary:***

The end of June marks the end of Miss Stacy’s tenure and Anne’s time at Avonlea School. Anne and Diana walk home, weeping that their time together as child scholars has ended. Though Anne is paralyzed by nervousness about her upcoming entrance exam, she dutifully follows Miss Stacy’s advice and avoids cramming during the week of the exam. After the first day of the exam, she writes Diana a letter from Charlottetown, relating the students’ nervousness and comparing her own sense of foreboding to her fear when she first asked Marilla if she could stay at Green Gables.

Anne returns to Avonlea and greets Diana as though they had been apart for years. She spends an agonizing three weeks waiting for the results of the exam. Although Anne feels she has passed, she claims she would rather not pass at all than be beaten by her rival, Gilbert. Finally, the newspaper comes out with the results: Anne and Gilbert have tied for first place in the entire island, and all the Avonlea scholars have passed. Matthew, Marilla, Mrs. Rachel, and Diana are enormously proud of Anne’s success.

***Synopsis:***

In June, the school year ends again. Anne and Diana walk home together and cry over Miss Stacy leaving. Anne will be leaving soon to take the entrance exams, which will be proctored in Charlottetown. Diana’s [Aunt Josephine](https://www.gradesaver.com/anne-of-green-gables/study-guide/character-list#aunt-josephine) has invited Anne to stay in her house during her trip. Anne promises Diana that she will send her a letter about how the exams go.

Anne’s letter to Diana says that all the students were very worried before the exam. Some didn’t sleep the night before, while others spent all morning cramming. Students from all over the island had come to take the exam. Anne had exams in English and History on her first day and would take the exam in Geometry the next day.

Anne gets through her Geometry exam, and Anne and her classmates return to Avonlea to wait a fortnight for their exam scores. Anne is anxious to get her scores and see whether she beat Gilbert. She also hopes to score high in order to make Marilla and Matthew proud.

One evening, Diana comes to Green Gables with a newspaper and tells Anne that she passed her exams. In fact, Anne tied with Gilbert for first place out of all the students who took the exam. The first person to whom Anne runs to tell is Matthew. Matthew, Marilla, and Mrs. Rachel Lynde all express their pride at how well Anne has done.

* ***Significance:***It's the end of year: time for the entrance exams. Anne travels to Charlottetown to take them.
* In a letter to Diana, Anne describes everyone's initial fear right before the test starts, and how she thinks she's done on the tests so far.
* She (not-so-) secretly wants to beat Gilbert. All the kids in town are waiting to find out who scores higher.
* The pass list is supposed to come out in the paper. Anne waits in agony for three weeks.
* Diana manages to get her hands on a paper from a nearby town and runs it to Anne. Anne tied with Gilbert for first place, out of everyone on Prince Edward Island. Woo-hoo!
* Before they leave to tell their friends, Anne finds Matthew, Marilla, and Mrs. Lynde near the house and gives them the news first.
* Matthew says he knew it, Marilla tries to hide her extreme pride, and Mrs. Lynde says, very sincerely, "We're all proud of you." (32.46)

***Analysis:***

It's the end of June, and Miss Stacy has just left Avonlea School never to return. Anne and Diana walk home with "red eyes and damp handkerchiefs." When Diana comments it seems like the end of everything, Anne reminds her at least she, Diana, will still be attending Avonlea School the following year whereas Anne will be away at teachers' college.

Or maybe she won't be away! Anne is terrified of the entrance exams. She and the other prospective Queen's students are spending four days in Charlottetown to take the exams, and although she's done well on all her practice tests, she's sure she'll fail the real ones. At least she'll get to stay at the house of Diana's Aunt Josephine; the two have become great friends.

From Charlottetown Anne writes a long letter to Diana about her first day of exams. As they walk to the Academy, Josie Pye makes a point of saying Anne looks tired. Moody Spurgeon sits alone, muttering the multiplication tables to steady his nerves. Anne envies "good, steady, sensible" Jane's composure, but she's fairly confident she's done well on the English and history exams. Moody, on the other hand, gloomily announces he might as well give up and become a carpenter.

Anne and the others come home on Friday. Anne isn't sure she's even passed the geometry exam—much less done well on it—though Josie Pye claims it was easy enough for a 10-year-old. Anne has "strained every nerve" during the exams, and so has Gilbert. Who will come out first? Josie Pye says it will definitely be Gilbert. Anne wants dreadfully to beat Gilbert; she's even more eager to please Matthew and Marilla.

Three weeks go by before the pass list appears in the newspaper. Anne is sitting at her bedroom window one evening when she spies Diana rushing toward the house, paper in hand. She shrieks Anne has placed first out of 200 students. Actually Anne and Gilbert have tied, but Anne's name is printed before his. It's a glorious triumph for her.

[Montgomery](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Anne-of-Green-Gables/author/) manages the difficult task of making exams sound interesting by having Anne write Diana a letter about the week in Charlottetown. It's a good letter, packed with funny details—and readers may notice when Anne mails it on Monday, it reaches Diana on Tuesday.

As this chapter shows, the process of becoming a teacher in turn-of-the-century Canada was difficult and complicated. Teachers' colleges, or "normal schools," trained students to teach in primary schools and one-room schoolhouses. Over the 19th century they gradually replaced the monitorial system, in which the highest-performing eighth graders studied with an adult teacher and then taught younger or less accomplished students themselves. Teachers' colleges were called normal schools because they were supposed to establish a norm in teaching standards across the country.

When first created, normal schools had a lax, unregulated curriculum. As the 19th century progressed, teacher training became more rigorous and more aware of child psychology. Canadian normal schools were originally headed by departments of education in each province. As the teaching profession became more respectable, universities began to add education departments, and would-be teachers began to train there.

Montgomery attended Prince of Wales College in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, for the 1893–94 school year and earned a First Class teachers' license there. Like Anne she crammed the two-year course into one year, and like Anne she spent her first year as a teacher in a one-room schoolhouse.

Anne benefits from the strong women who encourage her. Whereas earlier Marilla does not approve of female teachers, she now encourages Anne to make a career of teaching. Miss Stacy provides a model for Anne’s possible career as a teacher. Even Mrs. Rachel, who is so often very critical of Anne, takes pride in Anne’s academic achievements and begins to respect her as a woman.

The pace of the novel mirrors the pace of Anne’s life. Earlier in the novel, each minor event, each cooking accident and social gaffe, fills Anne’s mind, and so fills an entire chapter. As Anne matures, the events of her life move more quickly, and she begins to think of important plans like going to college. As a result, the novel’s pace accelerates. Instead of focusing on one daylong event, as do the early chapters, these chapters begin to cover entire school years. The acceleration of the narrative does not necessarily suggest that Anne is growing up too quickly; rather, it shows that Anne is maturing and that what she deems important has changed. In her youth she focuses on immediate events, but as she grows older she develops a broader, more far-reaching perspective.

***Analysis(Ch29-32)***

Having used early chapters of the novel to establish Anne’s -character, in this section Montgomery shows the results of Anne’s -development and maturity. Anne is contented, lovely, and -successful. After visiting Aunt Josephine, Anne realizes that the luxurious belongings for which she has always yearned do not -satisfy her as she dreamed they would. She discovers that the ways of Avonlea suit her better than elegant city life. Even the critical Mrs. Rachel, initially a vocal critic of Anne’s looks, proclaims that Anne has turned into a beauty. And Anne’s dedicated studying pays off tangibly when she ties Gilbert for first place in the entrance exams.

Anne’s progress into adulthood is not always easy, however. She and Diana cling to their childhoods, deciding that they can avoid marriage, children, and adulthood by living together as old maids. The girls know that they will be separated, as Anne will go to college and Diana will not. Their separation at the end of every day, as Anne studies with the Queen’s Academy candidates while Diana goes home, foreshadows the greater separation to come the following year, when Anne will attend Queen’s Academy full time. Marilla, too, feels the pangs of impending separation, mourning the loss of Anne’s childhood and the nearness of her departure for Queen’s Academy. Marilla appreciates the companionship and energy Anne brings to Green Gables. As Anne becomes more adult, Matthew and Marilla grow older; Marilla has frequent head and eye aches, and Matthew has heart troubles.

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

***Summary Part 1:***

June feels like the end of an era: [**Miss Stacy**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/miss-muriel-stacy) says farewell to Avonlea school, and most of the Queens scholars don’t expect to come back next year. On the last day, [**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) walk home in tears. Diana is confident that Anne will pass the Entrance exam in Charlottetown, since she did so well on Miss Stacy’s practice version, but Anne is still worried.

***Analysis Part 1:***

Even school has been a fleeting phase of growing up. No matter what happens with the Entrance exam, things will no longer be the same after this year—Miss Stacy will be moving on, and Anne won’t be returning to Avonlea school.

***Summary Part 2:***

In town, [**Anne**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/anne-shirley) stays at [**Aunt Josephine**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/aunt-josephine-barry)’s house. She writes to [**Diana**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/diana-barry) to tell her all about it. She’s very lonely without Diana and struggling not to cram for her exams, but she promised Miss Stacy she wouldn’t.  Students from all over Prince Edward Island have come to take the exam. There are exams for different subjects each morning and afternoon; Anne feels she does well on English and history but dreads geometry.

***Analysis Part 2:***

Anne goes to Charlottetown for the exam, which is taken by students from all over the province and covers all academic subjects. Simply taking the exam shows how much Anne’s horizons have expanded since she first arrived in Avonlea.

***Summary Part 3:***However, [**Anne**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/anne-shirley) survives the exams and reunites jubilantly with [**Diana**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/diana-barry) at the end of the week. She still doesn’t know if she passed geometry or not; they’ll have to wait two weeks for the results to be published. Anne says she’d rather not pass at all than rank low on the list. Diana knows Anne means that she will feel like a failure unless she beats [**Gilbert**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/gilbert-blythe) in the rankings. Everyone in Avonlea wonders which of the two will triumph. But Anne also wants to distinguish herself for [**Marilla**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/marilla-cuthbert) and [**Matthew**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/matthew-cuthbert)’s sake.

***Analysis Part 3:***

Anne’s and Gilbert’s rivalry has become legendary in Avonlea by this time. Though Anne can’t pretend indifference to it, there’s also the deeper motivation of wanting to please the Cuthberts who’ve done so much for her.

***Summary Part 4:***One evening, after more than three weeks have passed, [**Diana**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/diana-barry) comes running down from Orchard Slope with a newspaper in her hand. [**Anne**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/anne-shirley) knows immediately what that means and feels faint and unable to move. Diana bursts into her room and announces that Anne and [**Gilbert**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/gilbert-blythe) tied for first place on the whole Island. Anne hadn’t dared to hope for that result, and she immediately runs to show [**Matthew**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/matthew-cuthbert). Matthew isn’t surprised, and [**Marilla**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/marilla-cuthbert) says, with an effort at restraint, that Anne has done “pretty well.” [**Mrs. Rachel**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/mrs-rachel-lynde) tells her she’s “a credit to her friends.”

***Analysis Part 4:***

Anne’s result surpasses her dreams, as she and Gilbert distinguish themselves above all other students on Prince Edward Island, bringing pride to Green Gables and her neighbors.

***Summary Part 5:***That evening [**Anne**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/anne-shirley) has a serious chat with [**Mrs. Allan**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/mrs-allan), and before going to bed that night, she prays sincerely and with gratitude, giving thanks for the past and petitioning God for her future.

***Analysis Part 5:***

When Anne first arrived at Green Gables, she had no notion of how to pray. Now, gratitude and hope spill out of her in a spontaneously heartfelt prayer.