***Anne of Green Gables***

***Chapter 34***

### ***A Queen’s Girl***

### ***Summary:***

Anne’s departure for Queen’s Academy is imminent, and everyone at Green Gables helps with the preparations. Marilla changes her ideas about fashion and buys Anne fabric for a fancy evening dress. When Anne tries the dress on and recites a poem for Matthew and Marilla, Marilla begins to cry. At first proud that her poem has moved Marilla, Anne realizes her departure is what makes Marilla sad and reassures her that though she has grown up, she is still the same person, saying, “It won’t make a bit of difference where I go or how much I change outwardly; at heart I will always be your little Anne.” They embrace, and Matthew reflects that it was Providence (God’s will), not luck, that sent Anne to them in the first place.

On the first day at Queen’s Academy, Gilbert’s presence in the advanced class comforts Anne. Although Anne and Gilbert never speak to each other, his presence reminds her of the rivalry that has motivated her for so many years. Anne is lonely in the classroom full of unfamiliar people and miserable later that night in her room at the boardinghouse. Just as Anne starts crying, Josie Pye shows up, and Anne is delighted to see a familiar face, even though she dislikes Josie. Jane and Ruby visit, and Jane admits that she has been crying too. Josie announces the news of the Avery Scholarship, which provides money for the best student in English to attend a four-year college after his or her one-year program at Queen’s Academy. Anne immediately imagines Matthew’s pride if she were to earn a bachelor’s degree.

***Synopsis:***

* Anne catches Marilla crying as she is getting Anne ready for Queen's. Marilla wishes Anne could have stayed a little girl, but Anne reassures her she'll always be her Anne inside.
* The first day at school presents new challenges: a medal for the top of the class upon graduation. Of course, both Anne and Gilbert are trying for it. They're both taking extra classes to finish in one year instead of two.
* When Anne reaches her bedroom at the boardinghouse, she cries from homesickness. She is so homesick that she's actually happy when Josie Pye visits her.
* Anne and Ruby visit too, and mention another goal to try for: The Avery Scholarship, which will guarantee the winner a full ride to Redmond College. Anne hadn't thought about a B.A. before, but decides to go for it.

***Significance:***Over the next three weeks, Anne prepares to go to Queen’s. Marilla and Matthew make sure that Anne has multiple new dresses, including one of delicate green material that Marilla chooses particularly thoughtfully. When the green dress has been made, Anne puts it on and performs a recitation for Marilla and Matthew. Marilla starts to cry as she thinks about Anne arriving at Green Gables when she was so young and neglected. Marilla says she wishes that Anne had stayed a little girl, and Anne assures her that she is the same as ever. Marilla and Anne hug, and Matthew goes outside to hide his tears.

The day comes for Anne to leave for Queen’s. Anne says tearful goodbyes to Diana and Marilla; Diana proceeds afterward to a beach picnic, while Marilla devotes herself to working all day so that she won’t feel so lonely. On her first day of school, Anne meets the other new students and her professors. Out of all the students from the Avonlea school, only Anne and Gilbert have decided to skip to the second year at Queen’s, meaning they will get their teacher’s license after only one year. Anne is happy that Gilbert is in her class since, without him, she wouldn’t know any of the fifty students. Additionally, she feels that she wouldn’t be comfortable in a school environment without their rivalry. Anne examines the other students and wonders which of them will become her friends.

Anne feels lonesome on her first night in the bedroom she has rented in a boarding-house. She has just started to cry when [Josie Pye](https://www.gradesaver.com/anne-of-green-gables/study-guide/character-list#josie-pye), a student Anne did not like at the Avonlea school, shows up at her door. Josie Pye speaks somewhat rudely to Anne, and Anne is just thinking that she may have actually preferred solitude when their friends Jane and Ruby show up. Ruby asks Anne whether she is going to try for the gold medal, which is awarded at the end of the year, and Anne says she has been thinking of doing so. Josie announces that there will also be a scholarship to college awarded at the end of the year to whoever gets the highest grades in English. Anne feels a burst of ambition as she imagines herself going to college and making Matthew proud.

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

***Summary Part 1:***

The next three weeks are spent making arrangements for Queen’s. [**Matthew**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/matthew-cuthbert) has made sure [**Anne**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/anne-shirley) will be well outfitted, and [**Marilla**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/marilla-cuthbert) doesn’t protest. She even plans a pretty evening dress for Anne, with material [**Mrs. Allan**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/mrs-allan) picked out. When the dress is finished, Anne tries it on and recites “The Maiden’s Vow” for Marilla and Matthew in the kitchen. It reminds Marilla of Anne’s first night at Green Gables, and she starts to cry. Anne sits on Marilla’s lap and assures her that she hasn’t really changed at heart—she’ll always be their little Anne. Marilla just embraces her wordlessly. Matthew, hiding his tears, wanders outside, reflecting that the “mistake” at the orphanage four years ago was really “Providence.”

***Analysis Part 1:***

Now that Anne is growing up, Matthew and Marilla are there primarily to support her, not to raise her. This fact is emotional for them, and Marilla is demonstrative in her feelings for the first time. From Anne’s perspective, she hasn’t really changed and never will, at least not inwardly. Whether that’s completely true or not, it shows how central Green Gables is to her identity. Matthew believes that God sent Anne to them as a blessing, even though it seemed like a mistake at the time.

***Summary Part 2:***

One September morning, [**Matthew**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/matthew-cuthbert) drives [**Anne**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/anne-shirley) to Charlottetown. Though Anne’s and [**Marilla**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/marilla-cuthbert)’s farewell was calm and practical on Marilla’s side, Marilla spends the day in furious housework, and she cries herself to sleep that night. Anne’s day, on the other hand, is filled with the busy excitement of learning her way around the Academy. Like [**Gilbert Blythe**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/gilbert-blythe), she’ll be starting Second Year work, an accelerated course for the teacher’s license. As she sits in one of her huge classes, she can’t help but feel glad that Gilbert is here—without their rivalry, she’d hardly know how to motivate herself.

***Analysis Part 2:***

Anne’s departure changes Green Gables forever, and her absence is deeply felt. For Anne, it’s a time of new beginnings, though some things remain the same—like her reliance on Gilbert’s competition to help motivate her academically. Gilbert has been a constant in Anne’s life and she values him, whether she admits that to herself or not.

***Summary Part 3:***That night in her boarding house room—a narrow, pictureless, dull little room—[**Anne**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/anne-shirley) is filled with homesickness for Green Gables. Just as she’s starting to cry, [**Josie Pye**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters) appears. Even Josie Pye’s face is welcome in this lonely place. [**Jane**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters) and [**Ruby**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters) show up soon after, and the group shares some of [**Marilla**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/marilla-cuthbert)’s cake among them. Anne blushingly admits that she’s thinking of trying to win the Queen’s medal that year. She also learns that an Avery scholarship will be available to a Queen’s scholar. Suddenly, Anne’s ambitions shift. If she won the scholarship in English, she could go to Redmond College for a real Bachelor’s degree. Ambition, Anne decides, is delightful—as soon as one ambition is achieved, another one appears on the horizon.

***Analysis Part 3:***

Even if it’s the right place for Anne, Queen’s can never be the same as Green Gables or Avonlea. Still, old friends help her with the transition—and even while homesick, she doesn’t abandon ambition, which has been an important part of her maturity. When she learns that a goal beyond the Queen’s medal is available—the chance to get a full college degree in addition to teaching licensure—she is quick to embrace it.