***Anne of Green Gables***

***Chapter 35***

### ***The Winter at Queen’s***

***Summary:***

Anne’s homesickness wears off as the school year progresses. Midway through the year, the scholars at Queen’s Academy stop their weekend visits to Avonlea and prepare for exams in the spring. Anne finds that though she is as ambitious as ever, her rivalry with Gilbert has lost some of its power. The thought of defeating him academically still excites her because he is a worthy opponent, but she no longer cares about beating him just to humiliate him. In fact, she secretly wishes to be friends with him. Seeing him walking with Ruby Gillis all the time makes her wonder what Gilbert sees in Ruby, since Ruby has none of the ambition or thoughtfulness that Anne and Gilbert share.

Anne’s circle of friends expands as she meets other girls in her class. She also continues her friendship with Aunt Josephine. At the end of the term, while all the other girls are nervous about exams, Anne forgets about the pressure of school and enjoys the beautiful sights of spring.

***Synopsis:***

Throughout the fall, Anne studies at Queen’s during the week and returns to Avonlea on the weekends. On the return trip to Avonlea, Anne notices that Gilbert always walks with Ruby and carries her bag, and she thinks to herself that it would be nice to be friends with Gilbert. The narrator notes that Anne had many female friendships, but she lacked friendships with males.

At Queen’s, Anne makes new friendships and settles into her studies. In the winter, Anne and the other students from Avonlea stop going back home as frequently. Anne and Gilbert are at the top of the class, along with a few other students, and Anne continues to feel motivated by seeing herself as competing with Gilbert. On Sundays, Anne eats lunch and attends church with Aunt Josephine.

Spring arrives, and soon, the school year will end. The students worry about their end-of-year exams, though Anne is more concerned with whether she will win the medal or the scholarship than whether she will pass.

* ***Significance:***Anne settles into her classes and makes new friends. Meanwhile, Gilbert Blythe is "walking home with" (this decade's equivalent to dating) Ruby and still not talking to Anne.
* Anne and her friends begin studying for examinations. If they pass, they'll get their teacher's certificates. If they pass at the top of their class, they have a chance to get the medal or Avery scholarship.
* Anne's friends are worried about passing at all. Anne alternates between worrying about the medal and scholarship and just enjoying the spring nature.***Critical Study(Ch23-30):***
* Anne and her companions soon settle in at Queen's, though Anne still thinks her weekends in Avonlea are the best part of the week. She makes a devoted circle of friends at the Academy but it galls her Gilbert spends so much time with Ruby Gillis. She generally eats her Sunday dinner at the house of Miss Josephine Barry, of whom she's still a favorite. Anne wishes she had someone like Gilbert with whom she could joke and talk and "exchange ideas about books and studies and ambitions." But for the most part, boys are nothing more than "possible good comrades" to her.
* The Avonlea group acquits itself well at the Academy. Anne and Gilbert are both taking the two-year course in one year, and both work furiously hard at their studies. Still intense, their academic rivalry has lost the bitterness it had back at school in Avonlea. Now Anne wants only "the proud consciousness of a well-won victory over a worthy foeman."
* At the Academy three are in contention for the medal: Anne, Gilbert, and another boy; six are in contention for the Avery scholarship, including Anne. Ruby Gillis is the prettiest girl of her year; stolid Jane Andrews excels in the domestic science course; and Josie Pye is said to be the sharpest-tongued girl at the school. Miss Stacy's former students are doing her credit.
* Before Anne knows it, spring has come and with it, the looming final examinations. Anne is less nervous than the other girls from Avonlea, even when spiteful Josie Pye tells her a student named Emily Clay is rumored most likely to win the Avery scholarship. "Next to trying and winning," Anne says cheerfully, "the best thing is trying and failing."
* [Chapter 35](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Anne-of-Green-Gables/chapter-35-summary/) is mostly exposition intended to fast-forward Anne through the Queen's academic year. There's little dialogue and lots of logistics. [Montgomery](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Anne-of-Green-Gables/author/) occasionally falls back on chapters like this, and checking off all the plot elements makes it hard for her to do much characterization. In such cases throughout the Anne of Green Gables series, she often resorts to having another character describe Anne. It's almost as if she were saying, "I'm busy moving all these characters around, but here's a reminder Anne is still wonderful."

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

***Summary Part 1:***

[**Anne**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/anne-shirley)’s homesickness soon wears off, as she takes the train home most weekends along with the other Avonlea students. [**Diana**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/diana-barry) and other friends meet them at the station, and they walk home as a merry group in the autumn evenings. Anne notices that [**Gilbert**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/gilbert-blythe) walks [**Ruby Gillis**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters) home and carries her bag for her. She can’t help thinking it would be pleasant to have a friend like Gilbert to walk and chat with. What’s more, she knows that she and Gilbert have ambitions in common; Ruby doesn’t seem to have any. Anne has never had trouble gathering female friends around her, and she’s not sentimental about boys. Yet she has a vague desire for a male friend to broaden her horizons, and Gilbert seems like the kind she’d enjoy.

***Analysis Part 1:***

Anne maintains her links to Green Gables and her Avonlea friends, showing that ambition hasn’t changed what’s most important to her. She’s aware of other things, too—like the fact that the idea of Gilbert’s friendship isn’t repugnant to her, and that she’s even a little envious that he’s no longer offering it. Even though her feelings aren’t exactly romantic in nature, she still feels that friendship with Gilbert would be different from what she enjoys with her female friends, and the idea is desirable.

***Summary Part 2:***

At Queen’s, [**Anne**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/anne-shirley) makes two good friends, [**Stella Maynard**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters) (a fanciful, daydreaming girl) and [**Priscilla Grant**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters) (a fun and mischievous girl). After Christmas, however, everyone at Queen’s has to buckle down to work. Anne, [**Gilbert**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/gilbert-blythe), and a boy named Lewis Wilson are acknowledged as the front-runners for the Queen’s medal. Anne continues to view Gilbert as her rival, yet she no longer feels bitter toward him; he just seems like a worthy opponent. Anne often enjoys visiting [**Aunt Josephine**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/aunt-josephine-barry) and attending church with her. Aunt Josephine finds Anne as colorful “as a rainbow” and easy to love, even though she’s no longer an “amusing” little girl.

***Analysis Part 2:***

Anne’s love for home doesn’t stop her from expanding her horizons of friendship at Queen’s, even as she focuses most of her energies on pursuit of the highest marks in competition with Gilbert. Now that she’s grown up, she values his rivalry as a useful spur to achievement and not as a reflection of her bitterness towards him.

***Summary Part 3:***  
Spring brings harried exam preparations and speculation over who will win the medal and scholarship, though [**Anne**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/anne-of-green-gables/characters/anne-shirley) feels that as long as the violets and ferns are blooming at Green Gables, the exam outcome doesn’t make much difference. Anyway, the effort of trying is most satisfying of all. She’s optimistic about the future—there seem to be endless years and possibilities stretching before her.

***Analysis Part 3:***

Though academic achievement remains important to Anne, she also has a mature, balanced perspective—the beauty of the world, especially of her home, remains one of her chief joys. Not only that, but the effort of striving has become its own reward, representing a step beyond the years of competition with Gilbert.