

Reading Notes

Avonlea	the town in which most of the story takes place	*Vocabulary words with an asterisk are Mastery Words and will appear in the tests.
Mrs. Rachel Lynde	the town gossip; lives next door to the Cuthberts	
Marilla Cuthbert	unmarried woman; tall and thin; stern	
Matthew Cuthbert	Marilla's unmarried brother; shy	
Green Gables	the Cuthberts' home, founded by Matthew and Marilla's father	
asylum	a place offering protection and safety; a shelter	

Vocabulary

Write the meaning of each bold word or phrase.

- without due regard for decency and **decorum**. _____ n. polite behavior
- she had **ferreted** out the whys and wherefores thereof. _____ v. uncovered; hunted out
- run the unseen **gauntlet** of Mrs. Rachel's all-seeing eye. _____ n. attack from all sides
- deftly*** putting this and that together _____ adv. skillfully
- instead of being an unheard-of **innovation**. _____ n. new idea or method
- I've had some **qualms** myself. _____ n. uneasy sense of doubt, concerns

*Look up "deft" in the dictionary, and write out the complete definition, the alternate forms, and 2-3 synonyms. _____ adj. neatly skillful or dexterous, adroit

_____ *alternate forms:* deftly - adv. deftness - n.

_____ *synonyms:* dexterous, skillful, proficient, nimble, astute

Expressions for Discussion

- "Well, Marilla, I'll just tell you plain that I think you're doing a mighty foolish thing—a risky thing, that's what." - Mrs. Lynde What is the foolish thing Marilla is doing? *adopting a child*
- "And as for the risk, there's risks in pretty near everything a body does in this world." - Marilla
- "Only don't say I didn't warn you if he burns Green Gables down or puts strychnine in the well—" - Mrs. Lynde Who is going to burn Green Gables down? *the adopted child*

*Comprehension Question answers with an asterisk indicate important plot points that will appear in the tests.

Comprehension Questions

Answer the following in complete sentences.

1. What is the setting and time of this book? (The time is not specified, but we can assume it was written as a modern novel, so use the copyright date.) The setting of this book is Nova Scotia, in Canada. The book was published in 1908, so it is set at the turn of the twentieth century.
2. The author does not make the relationship between Matthew and Marilla clear in the beginning of the book. What is their relationship? Matthew and Marilla are brother and sister. This is hinted at when Rachel Lynde says, "Matthew and Marilla were grown up when the new house was built ..." Their relationship becomes clear in later chapters.
3. What is Rachel Lynde's surprise? Rachel Lynde's surprise is that Matthew and Marilla are going to adopt a child from an orphanage.
4. What are the requirements Marilla has for the type of child she and Matthew are willing to adopt? The requirements for the adopted child are that it has to be a boy to help Matthew farm, he has to be a native-born Canadian, and he has to be ten or eleven years old.
5. Why does Rachel Lynde not wait at Marilla's house to see the arrival of the new child? Rachel Lynde prefers to visit the neighbors and spread the news rather than wait for Matthew to return because "Mrs. Rachel dearly loved to make a sensation."
6. We are given a good glimpse into the characters of Marilla and Rachel Lynde in this chapter. Name some of their character attributes. Marilla keeps a very neat house and yard, takes the world seriously, is a woman of "narrow experience and rigid conscience," tends toward a sense of humor, and is perceptive of people (as shown in her dealings with Rachel). Rachel Lynde is nosy, a good housewife, a manager of people, devoted to church work, strongly opinionated, observant, outspoken, and a gossip.

Enrichment

1. Locate on a map: Prince Edward Island, Canada (see map included in Appendix)
2. Research the following expressions and explain them:
 - a. *"A body can get used to anything, even to being hanged."* This is an old proverb with an unknown source. Rachel Lynde's comparison of being hanged to Matthew and Marilla living off of the road is humorous.
 - b. *"... the proverbial peck of dirt."* This is another old proverb originating from the idea that one must eat a peck of dirt before one dies.
 - c. *"Job's comforting"* When Job was afflicted with tragedy after tragedy, his friends "comforted" him with a list of his shortcomings and a criticism of his anger and disillusionment. This was no comfort to Job, but only made his lot harder to bear. Real comfort would have been sympathetic, not judgmental.

"There was more scope for imagination."

Reading Notes

Bright River	the town where Matthew goes to meet the orphan boy at the train station
Anne Shirley	the story's protagonist; an orphan with red hair and freckles; full of spirit
Mrs. Spencer	a worker at the orphan asylum who brings Anne to the Cuthberts

Vocabulary

Write the meaning of each bold word or phrase.

1. the big eyes were full of spirit and **vivacity***. _____ n. liveliness, animation
2. our **discerning** extraordinary observer _____ adj. showing good judgment or insight
3. of whom shy Matthew Cuthbert was so **ludicrously** afraid. _____ adv. in an absurd or ridiculous manner
4. But there is so little **scope** for the imagination _____ n. range, extent of room
5. She came out of her **reverie** _____ n. daydream
6. spiritual shadings of crocus and rose and **ethereal** green _____ adj. airy, delicate, heavenly

*Look up "vivacious" in the dictionary, and write out the complete definition, the alternate forms, and 2-3 synonyms. _____ adj. lively; sprightly; animated

_____ *alternate forms:* vivaciously - adv. vivaciousness - n. vivacity - n.

_____ *synonyms:* lively, spirited, energetic, spry

Expressions for Discussion

1. "I've never belonged to anybody—not really." - Anne
2. "I do love to imagine I'm nice and plump, with dimples in my elbows." - Anne
3. "But am I talking too much? People are always telling me I do. Would you rather I didn't talk? If you say so, I'll stop. I can stop when I make up my mind to, although it's difficult." - Anne
Who is Anne talking to? *Matthew*
4. "Now you see why I can't be perfectly happy. Nobody could who had red hair ... It will be my lifelong sorrow." - Anne
5. "Have you ever imagined what it must feel like to be divinely beautiful?" - Anne
6. "Well now, I dunno." - Matthew
7. When he thought of that rapt light being quenched in her eyes he had an uncomfortable feeling that he was going to assist at murdering something ... Who is "he"? *Matthew*
What is going to quench the light out of Anne's eyes? *finding out that she can't live at Green Gables*
What does Matthew compare his feelings to? *having to kill a lamb, calf, or any other innocent creature*