

## Welcome to Anne of Green Gables Auditions

### Readings:

We will assign parts during auditions. Please be extremely familiar with the roles you are hoping for. We encourage you to try out for more than one role, as being versatile always makes casting easier!

### Songs:

If you are singing a song of your choice, we prefer to have you sing to a background track instead of a Capela. Please bring a karaoke track on your phone (YouTube works just fine!) Otherwise, please practice the opening song from our show listed after the readings. We will provide the background music at auditions and do a run through to get everyone warmed up and familiar with the music.

### Gilbert:

If you are auditioning for Gilbert, we would like to hear the finale song from our show, listed after the readings.

### Please Note:

The roles of Matthew and Minnie May have been precast.

Matthew will always be read by Dave. Minnie May will always be read by McKinley. A special thanks to Dave and McKinley who will be there to read with us at auditions.

# Reading #1.

## Anne, Matthew and Marilla:

- ANNE SHIRLEY.....lively and endearing redheaded, freckled orphan (age 13-18), approximately 186 lines
- MARILLA CUTHBERT .....no-nonsense woman of about 60; sister to Matthew, approximately 133 lines

## BEGIN

ANNE: You don't want me! You don't want me because I'm not a boy! I might have expected it. Nobody ever did want me. (Flings herself onto the couch, buries her face in her arms and cries. MATTHEW and MARILLA exchange glances.)

MARILLA: (Grim, steps towards ANNE.) Well, well, there's no need to cry so about it.

ANNE: (Looks up.) You would cry too if you came to a place you thought was going to be home, then found they didn't want you because you weren't a boy. Oh! This is the most tragical thing that ever happened to me! (Buries her face in her arms again.)

MARILLA: (Warms a bit, smiling wryly. Places a hand on ANNE'S arm.) Well, don't cry anymore. You'll have to stay here while we investigate this matter.

**~CUT to end of the scene~**

MARILLA: Did Mrs. Spencer bring anybody over besides you?

ANNE: She brought Lily Jones, who is very beautiful, with nut-brown hair. (Pensive, tugging on the end of a braid.) If I was very beautiful, with nut-brown hair, would you keep me?

MARILLA: No. We want a boy to help Matthew on the farm. A girl is no use to us. Now, put your hat and bag at the door.

MARILLA: I'll prepare some tea.

ANNE: Oh, I can't eat! I'm in the depths of despair.

MATTHEW: (Regards ANNE.) I guess she's tired, Marilla. Best put her to bed.

MARILLA: (To ANNE.) I suppose you have a nightgown? (ANNE nods mournfully.) Very well then, bring your bag upstairs. The first room to your left is where you'll sleep tonight. (ANNE EXITS. MARILLA turns to MATTHEW, angrily.) Well, this is a fine kettle of fish! That girl will have to be sent back to the orphanage.

MATTHEW: (Reluctant.) I suppose so.

MARILLA: You suppose so!

MATTHEW: Well, now, she's a real nice little thing, Marilla. It's a pity to send her back when she's so set on staying here.

MARILLA: (Astonished.) Matthew Cuthbert, you don't mean to say we ought to keep her!

MATTHEW: Well, now, no, I suppose not—not exactly. I suppose we could hardly be expected to keep her.

MARILLA: I should say not! What good would she be to us?

MATTHEW: We might be some good to her. (Glances meaningfully at Marilla.)

MARILLA: I can see plainly that you want to keep her.

MATTHEW: Well, now, she's a real interesting little thing. You should have heard her talk coming from the station.

MARILLA: Oh, she can talk all right! I don't want a girl. Even if I did, she isn't the style I'd pick out. There's something I don't understand about her. (Pauses, shaking her head.) No, she's got to go back.

MATTHEW: I could hire a boy to help me, and she'd be company for you.

MARILLA: (Resolute.) I'm not suffering for company, Matthew, and I'm not going to keep her.

## Reading #2.

### Mr. Phillips and Students:

- NARRATOR.....Any appearance, helps the story move forward, Approximately 30 lines
- MR. PHILIPS.....Teacher at Avonlea school (may be combined with another role) 15 lines
- DIANA BARRY.....Anne's best friend; gentle, kind, full of laughter, 51 lines
- GILBERT BLYTHE.....bright, handsome young man; likes to tease Anne, 12 lines
- CHARLIE SLOAN .....Anne's classmate and Gilbert's friend, (may be combined) 6 lines
- JOSIE PYE.....Anne's school nemesis; nasty and outspoken, 12 lines
- RUBY GILLIS.....Prone to hysterics and fainting, 12 lines
- JANE ANDREWS.....Compassionate, doesn't take part in Josie's snobbery, 12 lines

### BEGIN

MR. PHILIPS: Class, you are dismissed for recess early. (Squints at the STUDENTS.) Anyone returning late will be punished! (MR. PHILIPS EXITS RIGHT. The STUDENTS begin to rise.)

MINNIE MAY: (DIANA and MINNIE May join ANNE.) I'm sorry Mr. Philips wrote your name up on the board.

RUBY: (Casts ANNE an apologetic smile as JOSIE pulls her arm.) Don't worry Anne, the boys always tease me too.

JANE: (Coming around the other side of ANNE, patting her shoulder sympathetically) And Mr. Philips is sure to forget about it eventually.

JOSIE: (Grabs RUBY'S arm, casting a backwards glance at ANNE. Speaks mockingly.) Temper, temper, Anne!

CHARLIE: (elbowing Josie while poking fun at ANNE) I guess it's true what they say about redheads!

JOSIE: (snobby, purposefully excluding Anne) Jane, Ruby – Let's go! (JOSIE, JANE and RUBY EXIT RIGHT.)

CHARLIE: (From the back of the benches, in a hurry.) Come on, Gil! What are you waiting for?

GILBERT: (Holds his hand up.) Go on ahead, Charlie. I'll meet you over by the brook.

CHARLIE: All right, but don't be long. (EXITS RIGHT.)

GILBERT: (Approaches ANNE, DIANA and MINNIE MAY.) I'm awfully sorry I made fun of your hair, Anne. Honest I am. Please don't be mad for keeps now. (ANNE angrily folds her arms, turning away from GILBERT and tips her nose as high into the air as it will go.) All right then, I'll give you time to cool off. (EXITS RIGHT.)

DIANA: Oh, how could you, Anne? He tried to apologize. He feels badly!

ANNE: (Passionate.) I shall never forgive Gilbert Blythe! Not ever! And look! (Points to the board.) Mr. Philips spelled my name without an "e"! Oh, the iron has entered my soul, Diana!

DIANA: But you mustn't mind Gilbert. He makes fun of all the girls. He laughs at my black hair and calls me crow-head all the time. But he's never apologized for it!

ANNE: It's not the same thing, Diana. Gilbert Blythe has hurt my feelings excruciatingly!

DIANA: (Pats ANNE comfortingly on the back.) Let's go and join the others for recess, and you can forget all about it. (She and ANNE EXIT RIGHT.)

MINNIE MAY: I'll pick some daisies and make a flower crown for your hair!

(ANNE, DIANA and MINNIE MAY EXIT)

NARRATOR: Poor Anne, she didn't fare any better that afternoon. In fact, things only got worse.

**~CUT to end of school scene~**

MR. PHILIPS: Miss Shirley! It seems you mean to make a spectacle of yourself today. And a tardy spectacle at that. Take those flowers out of your hair and trade places with Charlie Sloane. You may sit with Gilbert Blythe for the remainder of the day. (Charlie snickers while ANNE stares with her mouth wide open. DIANA quickly plucks the wreath from ANNE'S head and puts it in ANNE's hand.) Did you hear what I said, Anne?

ANNE: Do you really mean it, sir?

MR. PHILIPS: I assure you I did. Obey me at once. (As CHARLIE rises, MR. PHILIPS points at the empty seat next to GILBERT. ANNE rises, sits next to GILBERT and buries her face in her hands. JOSIE snickers. CHARLIE sits next to DIANA.) Class, take out your history books and read chapter six. (The STUDENTS take out their books, casting uneasy eyes at ANNE. MR. PHILIPS sits at his desk.)

JOSIE: (Whispers to RUBY.) Did you see her face? It's all red and blotchy!

MINNIE MAY: (whispering.) But it's not fair!

RUBY: Gil and Charlie were late too!

NARRATOR: The afternoon hours dragged on sluggishly, and by the end of the school day, everyone was eager to make a speedy departure.

MR. PHILIPS: (Looks at pocket watch, rises.) Class, you are dismissed. Be sure to complete your history lesson for tomorrow. (CHARLIE rises first, grabbing his books. GILBERT frowns at the top of ANNE'S bowed head, while he packs his books. JOSIE, RUBY, JANE, DIANA and MINNIE MAY pack their books.)

CHARLIE: Come on, Gil! I'll beat you to the top of the lane!

GILBERT: Beat me, Charlie? That'll be the day! Tell you what, you can have a head start! (Charlie takes off and GILBERT takes one step, but can't tear his wistful glance away from ANNE. Instead of racing out with CHARLIE, he moves to the back of the benches, trying to decide if he should risk her wrath by talking to her again.)

JOSIE: (Chants tauntingly.) Broken slate... enters late... trouble seems to be Anne's fate!

RUBY: (Pulls JOSIE'S sleeve.) Leave her be, Josie. (JOSIE and RUBY EXIT RIGHT.)

JANE: Are you coming, Diana? Anne?

DIANA: You go on ahead, Jane. I'll wait with Anne. (JANE EXITS RIGHT almost bumping into GILBERT, who finally exits after JANE.)

MR. PHILIPS: (Passes by ANNE and DIANA.) I'll expect much better behavior from now on, Miss Shirley. Good day children.

DIANA AND MINNIE MAY: Good day, Mr. Philips. (MR. PHILIPS EXITS RIGHT.)

ANNE: (Lifting her head.) Have they all gone?

DIANA: (looking as if through the window) They're all gone, except for Gilbert. I think he's outside the door.

ANNE: (Nose in the air again.) Well I shan't say a single word to him as I pass.

## Reading #3.

Anne, Marilla, Matthew and Mrs. Rachel Lynde:

- RACHEL LYNDE.....outspoken, nosy neighbor to the Cuthberts; a plump, older woman, approximately 47 lines

BEGIN

ANNE: (On her best behavior.) How do you do, Mrs. Lynde.

RACHEL: (Studies ANNE.) Well, her looks are nothing to consider. (Turns to MARILLA.) She's terribly skinny homely, Marilla. Come here, child (Beckons) and let me have a look at you. (ANNE, flushing with indignation, stays still.) Come child, I say! And hair as red as carrots!

ANNE: (Angry, starts out almost in disbelief at the cruel words that were just spoken, her anger building with each phrase.) How dare you say I'm skinny and...CARROTS! (Stamps her foot on the floor. MARILLA'S jaw drops in shock while RACHEL stiffens in horror.) You are a rude, impolite, unfeeling woman and I hate you! I hate you!

MARILLA: (Shocked.) Anne Shirley!

ANNE: (Fists clenched, eyes blazing.) How would you like have nasty things said about you? To be told that you're fat and clumsy! You have hurt my feelings more than anyone ever has! And I'll never forgive you for it. Never! Never!

RACHEL: (Horried.) Did anybody ever see such a temper?

MARILLA: Anne, go to your room and stay there! (ANNE runs from the room sobbing.)

RACHEL: (Indignant.) Well! I don't envy you bringing that up, Marilla!

MARILLA: You shouldn't have commented on her looks, Rachel.

RACHEL: Marilla Cuthbert, are you defending that terrible display of temper?

MARILLA: I'm not excusing her. But she's never been taught what is right, and you were too hard on her, Rachel.

RACHEL: (Offended.) Well, I see I'll have to be very careful what I say after this, Marilla, since the feelings of orphans seem to come first! Her temper matches that hair, I guess. Good day, Marilla. And don't expect me to visit here again in a hurry!

**~Cut to Apology Scene~ Add Matthew**

MATTHEW: (Peers cautiously at the door.) Well, now, Anne, don't you think you'd better do it and have it over with? Marilla's a very determined woman. Do it right off, I say, and have it over.

ANNE: Do you mean apologize to Mrs. Lynde?

MATTHEW: (Nods encouragingly.) Yes, apologize, that's the very word. Just smooth it over, so to speak.

ANNE: I suppose I could do it to oblige you. (Thoughtful.) I am sorry, now, though I wasn't a bit sorry at first... not a bit. (Pauses to gather her determination.) If you really want me to, I will.

MATTHEW: There now, of course I do.

ANNE: Very well, I'll tell Marilla I've repented.

MATTHEW: That's a good girl! (Anxious.) But, don't tell Marilla I said anything. I promised not to interfere.

ANNE: Oh no! Wild horses couldn't drag the secret from me! (MATTHEW nods at ANNE, smiling, then EXITS LEFT, trying to stay unseen as MARILLA opens the door.

MARILLA: (Looking back over her shoulder as RACHEL haughtily enters after her.) Thank you for agreeing to come back with me, Rachel. Just give me a moment to find Anne.

ANNE: (Interrupts, falling to her knees at RACHEL'S feet, extending her hands beseechingly.) Oh, Mrs. Lynde, I am so extremely sorry. I'm a dreadfully wicked and ungrateful girl, and I deserve to be cast out by respectable people forever! Every word you said about me was true. I am freckled, skinny and ugly – (with the utmost disgust) – and my hair is red. (Pauses.) What I said about you was true too (adds urgently) although I shouldn't have said it. Oh, please say you'll forgive me. Please! (Clasps her hands, bows her head and closes her eyes waiting. MARILLA regards ANNE suspiciously, yet RACHEL smiles)

RACHEL: There, there, child. Get up. Of course I forgive you. (ANNE looks up.) I guess I was a little hard on you, anyway. But, I'm such an outspoken person. (Takes ANNE'S hand.) You mustn't mind me. (Takes one of ANNE'S braids, examining it.) While your hair is terribly red, I once knew a girl whose red hair turned a beautiful auburn when she grew up. I wouldn't be surprised if yours did, too!

ANNE: (Rises, excited.) Mrs. Lynde, you have given me such a beacon of hope. Thank you!



## Reading #4.

### Anne, Matthew, Marilla and Rachel Lynde:

(This is after intermission and Anne is supposed to be 2 years older, about to go to college. Please show your take on the “more mature” side of Anne, but she should still be spirited.)

### BEGIN

RACHEL: Hello, Anne, dear. Any news of the Queen's entrance results?

ANNE: Not yet, but soon, I hope.

RACHEL: I understand you want to become a teacher. A suitable profession for you, I think.

ANNE: Thank you, Mrs. Lynde. (Peers out the window, frowning.) Oh, I think I'll go and help Matthew with those harnesses. (EXITS LEFT.)

RACHEL: I must say, Anne has turned out a real smart girl. She must be a great help to you, Marilla.

MARILLA: She is. She's steady and reliable now. I thought she'd never get over her feather-brained ways, but she has.

RACHEL: I never would have thought she'd turn out so well. (Laughs.) Lawful heart, I'll never forget that tantrum of hers! That night I said to Thomas, "Marilla Cuthbert will rue the day she took that child in!" But, I was mistaken. And I'm real glad of it! (MARILLA and RACHEL continue their conversation in mime. MATTHEW and ANNE ENTER RIGHT and stand by the picket fence.)

ANNE: You've been working too hard today, Matthew. Why won't you take it easy?

MATTHEW: It's only that I'm getting old and I keep forgetting it, Anne.

ANNE: (Wistful.) If I'd been that boy you sent for, I'd be able to help you so much now!

MATTHEW: (Smiles.) Well, now, I'd rather have you than a dozen boys, Anne. (Pats her hand.) Just mind you that—rather than a dozen boys. (ANNE smiles warmly. Music begins.)

## Reading #5.

### Anne, Diana and Aunt Josephine:

AUNT JOSEPHINE.....Diana's great aunt; formidable woman who takes a shining to Anne, 8 lines

### BEGIN

AUNT JOSEPHINE: AaaaOooo! Merciful goodness! (Alarmed, ANNE and DIANA race out of the bedroom door and DOWN CENTER, huddling in fright. AUNT JOSEPHINE storms through the door, disgruntled and disheveled.) Are you trying to kill me in my sleep? For heavens sake, let a poor old woman get some rest!

### **~CUT to The Confession~**

ANNE: (Timid.) Hello? Miss Barry?

AUNT JOSEPHINE: (The door opens.) Who are you?

ANNE: I'm Anne... of Green Gables. And I've come to confess.

AUNT JOSEPHINE: Confess what?

ANNE: It's my fault about jumping on you in the bed. I suggested it. (AUNT JOSEPHINE'S eyes widen in shock. ANNE steps backwards.) I mean, we didn't know you were in the bed! So you must forgive Diana, Miss. Barry.

AUNT JOSEPHINE: Oh, I must, hey? I rather think Diana did her share of jumping.

ANNE: But it was only in fun. I think you ought to forgive us, now that we've apologized. And please let Diana have her music lessons.

AUNT JOSEPHINE: Do you know what it's like to be awakened out of a sound sleep, after a long journey, by two big girls coming to bounce on you?

ANNE: Oh, I don't know, but I can imagine! I'm sure it was very disturbing.

AUNT JOSEPHINE: (Nods, indignant.) Disturbing, indeed!

ANNE: But then there's our side of it.

AUNT JOSEPHINE: (Narrows her eyes.) What do you mean?

ANNE: Well, (Beckons DIANA who cowers at a distance.) Do you have any imagination, Miss Barry? Put yourself in our place. We didn't know there was anyone in the bed, and you nearly scared us to death! (She and DIANA exchange glances, nodding.) Now we won't get to sleep in the spare room bed, as promised. It was to be such an honor!

AUNT JOSEPHINE: (Laughs.) Well, my imagination is a little rusty. It's been so long since I've used it! And I dare say that your claim to sympathy is just as strong as mine! You're right. It all depends on how we look at it. (Takes a seat on the couch.) Come! Sit down and tell me about yourself, Anne-girl.

ANNE: (Sits, pulling a surprised DIANA next to her.) Oh, Miss Barry, you're a kindred spirit after all! (Peers closely at AUNT JOSEPHINE.) Although you don't look very much like it!

## Reading #6.

### Anne and Gilbert:

(This is the very last moment of our play, the best moment between the two of them – the moment where they realize positive feelings are more important than negative ones. For the first time, they see each other with true respect. For Gilbert, there is some desperation for Anne to care about him, the way he cares about her. For Anne, she is humbled by the fact that Gilbert sacrificed what was best for himself to help her. She regrets her stubbornness. She sees something in Gilbert, that had never occurred to her before.)

### BEGIN

ANNE: (Holds out her hand to him.) Wait! Gilbert, I want to thank you for giving up the school for me. (GILBERT eagerly takes ANNE's hand, smiling.) It was very good of you. And I want you to know that I appreciate it.

GILBERT: It wasn't particularly good of me at all, Anne. I was happy to help you in some way. Are we going to be friends after this? Have you really forgiven me my old fault?

ANNE: (Laughs.) Gilbert, I forgave you that day by the pond, although I didn't know it then. I've been... well, I confess, I've been sorry ever since.

GILBERT: (Sighs jubilantly.) Well, I'm glad you've finally come around...(brushes her cheek tenderly with one finger and pinches a red curl ever so gently) ... "Carrots." (Spoken with affection.)

## Audition Songs:

If you are singing a song of your choice, we prefer to have you sing to a background track instead of a Capela. Please bring a karaoke track on your phone (YouTube works just fine!) Otherwise, please practice the opening song from our show listed below.

Gilbert:

If you are auditioning for Gilbert, we would like to hear the finale song from our show, listed below.

We will provide the background music at auditions and do a run through to get everyone warmed up and familiar with the music.

- Those auditioning for Gilbert – please prepare the finale song (short clip):

<https://youtube.com/clip/UgkxFcfFyQDDrU-bZuYE2UdAb56nEVybL2b8>

I carry your heart with me, I carry it in my heart.  
I am never without it, anywhere I go you go, my dear.  
And whatever is done by only me is your doing, my darling.  
I fear no fate, for you are my fate, my sweet.  
I want no world, for beautiful you are my world, my true.  
And it's you are whatever a moon has always meant.  
And whatever a sun will always sing is you.

- Every other character (men and women) –please prepare the opening song (short clip):

<https://youtube.com/clip/UgkxTsB4oSertOITR7gWr3mdGLKnPIqo5E9Y>

Beautiful Dreamer, wake unto me,  
Starlight and dewdrops are waiting for thee;  
Sounds of the rude world heard in the day,  
Lull'd by the moonlight have all passed away!

Beautiful dreamer, queen of my song,  
List while I woo thee with soft melody;  
Gone are the cares of life's busy throng  
Beautiful dreamer, awake unto me!