

# “Anne of Green Gables” Audition Packet

## Casting

### Adults:

Marilla Cuthbert  
Matthew Cuthbert  
Rachel Lynde  
Aunt Josephine Barry  
Ms. Sadler  
Mr. Phillips  
Station Master  
Mrs. Blewett  
Reverend Bently  
Mrs. Barry

### More Adults:

Miss Rogerson  
Miss Susan Stacy  
Reverend Allan  
Mrs. Allan

### Children/Teens:

Anne Shirley  
Gilbert Blythe  
Diana Barry  
Mary Jo  
Charlie Sloane

### More Children/Teens:

Jane Andrews  
Minnie May Barry  
Prissy Andrews  
Carrie Sloane  
Ruby Gillis  
Bessie Wright  
Jimmy Glover  
Moody MacPherson  
Jerry Buote  
Josie Pye  
Tillie Boulter

## Synopsis

Marilla Cuthbert and her brother Matthew request an orphan boy to help work their farm. They are mistakenly sent the high-spirited, red-headed Anne Shirley. Knowing they are ill-equipped to raise a child, Marilla attempts to send Anne back to the orphanage. With Matthew lobbying to keep Anne, Marilla ultimately agrees to let her stay at Green Gables. The trials and tribulations Marilla fears come to pass as Anne insults Marilla's best friend, "loses" Marilla's most cherished brooch, smacks the school's prize pupil with a slate, and inadvertently gets her best friend Diana drunk on cherry cordial. She also turns out to be bright, charming and resourceful, full of irresistible imagination. Marilla and Matthew admit she is the best thing that ever happened to them, and Anne comes to understand she is a loved, worthwhile person.

## Audition Scene 1 –Anne, Diana, Mrs. Barry

*(Anne invited her best friend Diane over for her first “tea party”. Unfortunately Anne mistakenly served Diane wine instead of juice and she gets drunk. Her mom, Mrs. Barry, is furious.)*

**ANNE** *(in disbelief)*: Drunk?

**MRS. BARRY**: Drunk! Disgracefully and shamefully drunk!

**ANNE**: But she only had a few glasses of raspberry cordial.

**MRS. BARRY**: Raspberry cordial indeed! I know currant wine when I spell it. *(DIANA giggles)*

**ANNE**: Wine? Oh, no. I must have gotten out the wrong bottle. Mrs. Barry, please forgive me. I didn't mean to intoxicate Diana. *(DIANA giggles again, then moans.)*

**MRS. BARRY**: I don't think I want Diana to play with you anymore.

**ANNE**: Oh, Mrs. Barry –

**MRS. BARRY**: And you'd better cancel your plans to sit with Diana when school begins.

**ANNE**: Please, Mrs. Barry. This will surely cover my life with a dark cloud of woe.

**DIANA**: I think I'm going to be sick.

**MRS. BARRY**: Diane, we're going to get you to bed. *(To ANNE)* As for you, young lady, I don't think you are a fit girl for Diana to associate with. Now please take your big words and dramatic gestures home with you and behave yourself.

**ANNE** *(near tears)*: Yes ma'am.

**DIANA**: I don't *think* I'm going to be sick... I *know* I'm going to be sick. *(She begins to gag.)*

## Audition Scene 2 – Matthew and Anne

*(Matthew, a gentle quiet man, has come to the train station to pick up an orphan boy but instead finds Anne. Anne is excited to see him.)*

**ANNE:** Oh. I do hope you are Mr. Matthew Cuthbert.

**MATTHEW:** Well now, I recon that's me.

**ANNE** *(brightly, giving her "speech")*: Hello my name is Anne Shirley, but please call me Cordelia, I think Cordelia is a much better...

**MATTHEW:** Yes, yes, I heard you saying all that a little earlier. You were talking kinda loud.

**ANNE:** Oh, yes, we tend to do that where I come from. I was beginning to be afraid you weren't coming for me. If you hadn't, I was going to climb that big cherry tree down the tracks and spend the night in it.

**MATTHEW:** You're not a boy.

**ANNE:** But I can climb all the same. And I wouldn't be the least bit afraid. I'd pretend the blossoms in the moonlight were columns in a castle.

**MATTHEW:** Well now, I guess I can't leave you here. I'll take you home and see what Marilla says. The horse and buggy are over there. I'll carry your bag.

**ANNE** *(picking up the suitcase)*: Oh, I can manage it. All my worldly goods are I nit, but it isn't heavy. Now isn't that beautiful?

**MATTHEW:** What?

**ANNE:** That tree over there. What does it make you think of?

**MATTHEW:** Well now, I dunno.

**ANNE:** A bride, of course, with a misty veil. I don't ever expect to be a bride myself. I'm so homely nobody would ever want to marry me – except maybe a foreign missionary. Not only am I homely, I'm also thin. I love to imagine I'm nice and plump with dimples in my elbows. Am I talking too much? People are always telling me I do. Would you rather I didn't talk?

*(Somewhat unexpectedly MATTHEW finds himself becoming intrigued by the waif before him.)*

**MATTHEW:** Well now, I don't mind talkative folks so much since I'm kinda quiet myself. Talk as much as you like.

**ANNE:** Oh, thank you. I can already tell we're kindred spirits, Mr. Cuthbert. I can hardly wait to see Green Gables. Mrs. Spenser said there's a brook nearby. That makes me almost perfectly happy. But I can never be perfectly happy because of this. *(She holds out one of her braids.)*

**MATTHEW:** Your hair?

**ANNE:** What color would you call it?

**MATTHEW:** Red, ain't it?

**ANNE** *(gloomily)*: Yes, red. I can imagine away my freckles and green eyes and skinniness – but not my red hair. Have you ever imagined what it would be like to be divinely beautiful, Mr. Cuthbert?

**MATTHEW:** Well now, no I haven't.

**ANNE:** Will your sister like me even though I'm not divinely beautiful?

**MATTHEW:** I doubt that'd bother her much, but something else might. Might bother her a whole lot. We'd better get home.

### Audition Scene 3 – Marilla and Rachel

*(Marilla, a very serious woman is confronted by her best friend Rachel Lynde – the town gossip who is trying to get Marilla to tell her why Matthew, Marilla's brother, went to town.)*

**MARILLA:** Evening, Rachel.

**RACHEL:** Marilla, are you all right?

**MARILLA:** I had one of my headaches yesterday, but I'm okay now. Why do you ask?

**RACHEL:** I was at my window shelling peas this afternoon, and I saw Matthew going by with the buggy and sorrel mare.

**MARILLA:** Yes?

**RACHEL:** And I haven't seen him come back yet.

**MARILLA:** You've been sitting at your window for three hours?

**RACHEL:** We – had a big pea harvest this year. Anyway, I overheard Matthew tell Peter Morrison over t Blair's store in Carmody yesterday that he meant to sow turnips today.

**MARILLA:** He finished.

**RACHEL:** And?

**MARILLA:** He left.

**RACHEL:** And?

**MARILLA:** That's about all there is to it.

**RACHEL:** I suspect that's *not* all there is to it, Marilla. But not being the nosey type, I certainly won't pry.

**MARILLA** *(resigned to reveal the truth):* Oh, I suppose you may as well know. Matthew went to Bright River. We're getting a little boy from an orphan asylum in Nova Scotia. He was to come in on the five-thirty train. They should be along soon. Sit and have some tea, Rachel.

**RACHEL:** I'll sit, but no tea thank you. I'm much too flabbergasted. Are you in earnest, Marilla?

**MARILLA:** We've been thinking about it for some time. Matthew's getting up in years and his heart troubles him a good deal. So we sent for an orphan boy – old enough to do some chores right now, but young enough to be trained up proper.

**RACHEL:** Well, Marilla, I'll tell you plain that I think you're doing a mighty foolish thing – bringing a strange child into your home – not knowing a single thing about him. Why just last week I read in the paper about a man and his wife that took a boy out of the orphanage, and he set fire to the house – *on purpose*. And I heard of another case where an adopted boy sucked all the eggs he gathered. But the worst one – they say that over in new Brunswick an orphan poured poison down the well and the whole family died in fearful agony. Only it was a girl in that instance.

**MARILLA:** Well, we're not getting a girl. Matthew's afraid of them, and I'd never dream of bringing one up.

**RACHEL:** Well, I can't wait to tell – *(Correcting herself)* – to *see* how all this comes out. *(Going to the window.)* Look, there's Matthew and the boy pulling up now. Hard to see him in this light, but looks like the first thing you're going to have to do is give him a haircut. I'll just slip out the side door so you and Matthew can be alone with the new boy. And I won't breathe a word about this. I'll let you two break the news. *(She starts to leave.)* Oh, and Marilla – if I were you, I'd keep the lid fastened real tight over the well. *(She exits.)*

## Audition Scene 4 – Marilla, Rachel and Anne

*(Anne, who has just arrived at Green Gables, is introduced to Rachel. Rachel is outspoken and speaks her mind about Anne, which Anne takes as insulting and disrespectful.)*

**MARILLA:** Anne, this is Mrs. Rachel Lynde, one of our closest friends. She lives in the next farm.

**ANNE** *(tentatively, under the scrutiny of RACHEL.):* Good morning... ma'am.

**RACHEL:** Well, they didn't pick you for your looks, that's certain. She's terribly skinny and homely, Marilla. Come here child. Lawful heart, did anyone ever see such freckles. And hair as red as carrots. Come here I say. *(ANNE goes to her, pauses, then lets fly.)*

**ANNE:** I hate you! I hate you – I hate you – I hate you! How dare you call me skinny and ugly and freckled and red-headed! You are a rude, impolite woman.

**RACHEL:** Well!

**MARILLA:** Anne!

**ANNE:** How would you like to be told you're fat and clumsy and probably haven't a spark of imagination. You've hurt my feelings and I'll never ever forgive you! *(She stomps away and exits toward her room.)*

**RACHEL:** Did anybody ever see such a temper?

**MARILLA:** Anne, come back here and apologize at once!

**RACHEL:** Well, Marilla. I certainly don't envy you bringing up *that* child.

**MARILLA:** She was very naughty, I'll admit. But you shouldn't have twitted her about her looks, Rachel.

**RACHEL:** Oh, now I have to be considerate of the fragile feelings of orphans, do I?

**MARILLA:** She's never really been taught right from wrong. She'll learn. *(Calling toward Anne's room.)* Anne, come here this instant!

**RACHEL** *(after a pause as both wait for ANNE.):* Well, it appears she has no intentions of apologizing. You needn't expect a visit from me anytime soon, Marilla. Good day. *(She turns in a huff.)*

**MARILLA:** Rachel! *(Again calling toward Anne's room.)* Anne, I'm ashamed of you! Now you come down here this instant! *(Calling out the front door.)* Rachel! Don't go just yet! I'll see if I can get her to come down and *(They see ANNE who sings slowly to her knees. Her "apology" is sincere, but melodramatic as well.)*

**ANNE:** Oh, Mrs. Lynde, I'm so extremely sorry. I could never express my sorrow even if I used a whole dictionary. I've behaved badly toward you, and disgraced my dear friends, Matthew and Marilla, who have let me stay at Green Gables even though I'm not a boy. And you did tell the truth. My hair is red, and I'm freckled and skinny and ugly. If you don't forgive me, it will inflict a lifetime of sorrow on a poor little orphan girl. *Please* say you'll forgive me, Mrs. Lynde. *(RACHEL looks bewildered, MARILLA relieved.)*

**RACHEL** *(after a brief pause.)* There, there, get up child. Of course, I forgive you. Maybe I was a little too hard on you anyway. Don't mind me. I tend to be a trifle outspoken. Anyway, I knew a girl once with hair as red as yours. But when she grew up, it turned to a real handsome auburn.

## Audition Scene 5 – Diana and Anne

*(Diana and Anne meet for the first time after hearing about an ice cream social being planned at the church. Anne is looking for someone her age to be best friends with and finds it in Diana.)*

**DIANA** *(after a pause)*: You're going to be late for church.

**ANNE** *(dreamily)*: Ice cream. I've never tasted ice cream before.

**DIANA**: You will at the picnic. It's going to be near the pond where I live.

**ANNE**: Oh, yes. The Lake of Shining waters.

**DIANA**: Lake of Shining Waters?

**ANNE**: I like to give fancy names to things. You must be Diana Barry.

**DIANA**: I am.

**ANNE** *(gazing at her)*: Marilla said you were pretty, but you're actually beautiful!

**DIANA** *(embarrassed, but pleased)*: Oh...

**ANNE**: You are. Honestly. Oh, my name is Anne Shirley – spelled with an "e." I'd rather be called Cordelia, but Marilla says that would just confuse everybody.

**DIANA** *(extending her hand)*. I'm pleased to meet you, Anne.

**ANNE** *(as they shake, somewhat awkwardly)*. Oh, likewise, I'm sure. We live very near each other. I'm at Green Gables.

**DIANA**: I know. It'll be nice to have someone to play with. No other girls live near me, and my sister – Minnie May – is too little.

**ANNE**: Then it's settled.

**DIANA**: What's settled?

**ANNE**: We can be bosom friends.

**DIANA**: I – suppose so.

**ANNE**: Will you swear to be my bosom friend forever and ever?

**DIANA**: It's dreadfully wicked to swear. Especially in a church.

**ANNE**: Not my kind of swearing. It just means promising solemnly.

**DIANA**: That's okay then. How do you do it?

**ANNE**: We join hands. *(They take each other's hands.)* Now, I'll say the oath first. *(Chanting rapidly.)* "I solemnly swear to be faithful to my bosom friend, Diana Barry, as long as the sun and moon shall endure." Now, you repeat it, and put my name in.

**DIANA** *(also speaking quickly)*. "I solemnly swear to be faithful to my bosom friend, Anne Shirley, as long as the sun and moon shall endure." *(They laugh happily.)* I heard that you were a strange girl, Anne Shirley, but I think I'm going to like you real well.

## Audition Scene 6 – Gilbert and Anne

*(Gilbert and Anne are not friends ever since Gilbert insulted her hair color the first day they met. However Gilbert tries to make nice and brings Anne's books to her when she is stuck at home.)*

**ANNE:** Don't go, Mrs. Allen, I... *(To GILBERT)* What are you doing here?

**GILBERT:** Miss Stacy let me bring your books and assignments to you.

**ANNE:** Why did you want to do that?

**GILBERT:** Maybe it's because I don't want you to have any excuses when I score higher than you on the Queen's entrance examinations.

**ANNE:** Perhaps you'll be the one looking for an excuse.

**GILBERT:** We'll see. Well... good-bye.

**ANNE:** Gilbert.

**GILBERT:** Yes?

**ANNE:** Thank you... again.

**GILBERT:** Again?

**ANNE:** I was remembering the incident on the river last summer.

**GILBERT** *(laughing)*: Oh, when you and the other girls were acting out the Tennyson poem and your flatboat started to sink. Well, I couldn't let you drown, could I? I'm just glad I happened along when I did.

**ANNE:** So am I.

**GILBERT:** Anne, has it ever occurred to you that we might possibly... be friends?

**ANNE:** It has... somewhat.

**GILBERT:** I'm awfully sorry I made fun of your hair that time. Besides, that was so long ago, I think your hair is awful pretty now. Honest I do. *(ANNE appears to be melting ever so slightly, but then a distant memory resurfaces, and a pained expression crosses her face.)*

**ANNE:** Carrots. You called me carrots! I can never be friends with you, Gilbert Blythe. Never!

**GILBERT** *(stung)*: All right. And I'll never ask you to be friends with me again, Anne Shirley. Good-bye. *(He exits)*

**ANNE** *(to herself)*. Why did he really bring these books over? *(She puts the books away.)* Was it truly so that I won't have an excuse if he beats me on the Queen's exams?... Probably so. Well, *I'll beat you*, Gilbert Blythe. And when we're in school at Queen's, I'll study day and night to keep you from winning that gold medal!

## Audition Scene 7 – Marilla and Anne

*(Marilla is getting old and doesn't think she can handle the farm anymore with Anne going away to college so she meets with a man interested in buying the farm. Anne is willing to give up her college scholarship to stay with Marilla.)*

**ANNE:** Marilla...

**MARILLA:** You'd best be getting ready for church.

**ANNE:** All I need is my hat. What did that man want?

**MARILLA:** You know how punctual Reverend Allen is with his services.

**ANNE:** Marilla, what kind of business?

**MARILLA** *(after a brief pause):* You may as well know now as later. The specialist prescribed me a new pair of glasses last week.

**ANNE:** You told me that.

**MARILLA:** But I didn't tell you that he said I couldn't read or sew or do any kind of work that strains my eyes *(resisting tears)* – or I'll be blind in six months.

**ANNE:** Marilla...

**MARILLA:** I can't run the farm, and there's no money to keep a hired hand anymore. I've got to sell Green Gables. Mr. Sadler wants to buy it.

**ANNE** *(in disbelief):* Sell... Green Gables?

**MARILLA:** There's nothing else to be done. Rachel Lynde said I could board with her. I'm so thankful you're taken care of with that scholarship. I'm just sorry you won't have a home to come to on your vacations. *(She cries.)* Forgive me. Now it's my turn to cry.

**ANNE:** You mustn't sell Green Gables.

**MARILLA:** I can't stay here alone.

**ANNE** *(a pause, then with resolve):* You won't be alone. I'll be here with you.

**MARILLA:** But you'll be at Redmond College.

**ANNE** *(firmly):* I'm not going to Redmond.

**MARILLA:** Not going? What do you mean?

**ANNE:** Just what I said. I'm not going to take that scholarship.

**MARILLA:** Now, Anne, you can't –

**ANNE:** I'll get a teaching job, and we'll use part of my salary to pay a hired hand.

**MARILLA:** Where will you teach? Gilbert Blythe already has the position here in Avonlea. Any place else would be too far away for you to live here.

**ANNE:** Then I'll be the hired hand myself. I'll read to you – and cook for you – and keep you cheered up. We'll be real cozy and happy here together – you and I.

**MARILLA:** I can't let you give up that scholarship.

**ANNE:** And I can't let you give up Green Gables.

**MARILLA:** But your dreams, Anne... your ambitions.

**ANNE:** They haven't changed. There'll be time for all that later on. You see, we've just come to a little bend in the road, that's all. And we just have to bend with it. The church service has started. You go along. I'll run to my room and get my hat. I'll catch up to you.

**MARILLA** *(hugging her):* You blessed girl.

## Audition Scene 8 – Gilbert and Anne

*(Gilbert found out about Anne giving up her scholarship to college in order to stay at Green Gables and care for Marilla. Gilbert gives up his job teaching at the local school so Anne can take that job and support her and her family. They FINALLY become friends after years of disrespect and hatred for each other.)*

**ANNE:** Gilbert.

**GILBERT:** I understand from Mrs. Lynde that you plan to sell the farm.

**ANNE:** Why does Avonlea need a newspaper when it has Rachel Lynde? *(They laugh.)* Marilla was going to sell. But not anymore.

**GILBERT:** Because you're going to stay here – and give up your scholarship.

**ANNE:** How did you know?

**GILBERT:** I know *you* – and your love for Green Gables. But how will you manage? You don't have a job, do you?

**ANNE:** I'll – find something.

**GILBERT:** How about the teaching job here in Avonlea?

**ANNE:** But that job is yours. I hear the board of trustees has already approved –

**GILBERT:** I withdrew my application.

**ANNE:** But why?

**GILBERT:** I... found a teaching job at White Sands. I recommended you for the position here. The board said all you need to do is apply.

**ANNE** *(very moved)*: Thank you. Thank you, Gilbert.

**GILBERT:** I hope after this we can be friends and that you'll forgive me my old faults.

**ANNE:** I forgave you long ago. I was just too stubborn to admit it.

**GILBERT:** May I walk you to church? I think the service has already started.

**ANNE:** You go ahead. I'll be there soon.

**GILBERT:** It's too bad Mr. Phillips won't be there.

**ANNE:** Our old school teacher? Why him?

**GILBERT:** He might make us sit together for being late.

**ANNE:** Then let's pretend he *is* there, and we'll sit together anyway.

**GILBERT:** I have an idea. Why don't I re-introduce myself, and we'll start all over again.

**ANNE:** An excellent idea.

**GILBERT:** My name is Gilbert Blythe. I'm very pleased to meet you. I'll be waiting for you at church. *(He exits.)*

**ANNE** *(after a pause)*: And my name is Anne Shirley, but please call me Cordelia. I think Cordelia is a much better... *(Her voice trails off as she smiles wistfully.)* My name is Anne – Anne of Green Gables. And at this moment, God *is* in his heaven, and all's right with the world.