

Name: Miss McNeill 6M

Title: Anne of Green Gables

Author: Lucy Maud Montgomery

Background— I grew up in a small town in the province of Nova Scotia, Canada. Throughout my childhood and into my adult life, this red-haired and freckle-faced girl was instantly recognisable. I would watch the Anne of Green Gables shows on television, and I can remember seeing advertisements for the live theatre version of the iconic story. It wasn't until later that I actually decided to pick up the novel and read it. In doing so, it brought back many nostalgic feelings and memories and I only wish I had done so sooner!

The Setting— Crucial to the novel, the story takes place in the isolated province of Prince Edward Island. Set during the turn of the 20th century, readers will find that society and etiquette are different to today. Nonetheless, Canada's smallest province is surrounded by serene beaches and verdant fields aplenty, drawing readers of all interests to its natural beauty. Anne finds herself calling Green Gables, a country house and farm, home. Set in the fictional village of Avonlea, she soon finds that with the rural way of life, news spreads quickly and everyone know everyone's business.

The Plot— On their ancestral farm, siblings Marilla and Matthew Cuthbert decide to adopt an orphan boy to help them out. By mistake, Anne is sent to live with the Cuthberts. The pair decide to keep her and raise her at Green Gables, eventually beginning to see her as their daughter. Anne struggles to adapt to traditional life in the village, often mocked for her vibrant titian hair and lack of social decorum. Despite these troubles, Anne is an inquisitive and intelligent girl with a vivid imagination and zest for life. Follow the story as Anne encounters setbacks and obstacles throughout her quaint time in Avonlea. Perhaps you'll find your kindred spirit!

Comments— This novel is very dear to my heart as the setting is so close to where I am from, taking me back to my roots. I admire Anne's morals and bravery but most of all, I admire her articulate use of vocabulary. This story contains more lessons and adventures than I can explain in a review alone, but you will have to find that out for yourself!

Recommendation— I recommend this novel to Year 5 and 6 children who are looking for escapism. The detailed description of life in rural PEI is charming, relaxing and intriguing. This is a fantastic book if you are looking to expand and improve your vocabulary. You can also watch the most recent television adaptation (with permission) on Netflix—Anne with An E.

