

FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR ANNE OF GREEN GABLES (and ANNE OF AVONLEA)

ANNE OF GREEN GABLES

A Kevin Sullivan production starring Megan Follows, Colleen Dewhurst, Richard Farnsworth

Based on the novels by Lucy Maud Montgomery

Grandma's comments:

I think this is a great movie for families!!! I've noted some scenes and questions that might stimulate some family discussions below. I'd suggest you watch a section, stop the movie, and spend some time discussing what you've seen. These questions are not suited to all ages, but may help you focus your thoughts and discussions.

If you have the dvd of this movie, the scene descriptions might not quite match as grandma has an old VHS version. I've tried to divide each section into approx. 45-65 minutes segments.

Blessings!

Grandma

P.S. I've also gone through Anne of Avonlea and noted some discussion questions. Most of those questions would be more applicable to adults and teens. Enjoy, and grow together!

ANNE OF GREEN GABLES DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Starting scene through Marilla and Anne walking home from Rachel Lynde's house

What are orphans?

How are orphans treated and cared for?

Who do you like so far? Why?

Who do you not like so far? Why?

You might want to go through each specific scene with the following questions:

The Lady of Shalott by Alfred Lord Tennyson (the poem can be found on the web)

Why do you think Anne has read and memorized this? Have you memorized anything? Why?

What was Anne supposed to be doing? What distracts you from what you should be doing?

Why did Mrs. Hammond burn the book? What would you have done with Anne?

What happened to Mr. Hammond? What has happened to change your whole life?

Who is Katy? Who do you talk to when you have problems?

Why would Anne blame herself for Mr. Hammond's death? Is there something that you blame yourself for?

What is a "home child"? What is an orphanage? Why is Anne called "trash"? What happens to children who have lost their parents/family?

The Orphanage

What is happening to Mrs. Hammond's family? What choices is she faced with?

Why is Anne brought back to the orphanage? What is it like to not have a real home/family?

What does Anne know about her family? What do you know about your family?

Are names important? What do your names mean? Why do you like/dislike them?

Does Anne live in a dream world? Why? What would you have done if you lived her life?

The Train Station

Why does Anne want to sit outside to wait for her ride? What is "imagination"?

What is it like to have a "nosy" neighbor like Rachel Lynde? Do you ever feel like people are watching you?

Why do Matthew and Marilla choose to adopt a boy? Why would you adopt?

Why does Rachel think that adopting a child is risky? Can you think of adoption situations that have been challenging? Can you think of biological family situations that have been challenging? Do you have an answer as to what makes the difference between successfully raising a biological child and successfully raising an adopted child?

The ride home

Why does Anne find it easy to be wicked without knowing it? How easy is it for you to be good?
Why can't Anne ever be "perfectly happy"? Is there something about yourself that makes you feel the same way?
Would you choose to be divinely beautiful, dazzlingly clever, or angelically good? Are those your real or only options?
Why does Anne feel like she is having a dream? Have you ever felt like that?

Anne arrives at Green Gables

Why does Anne want to be called "Cordelia"? What other name would you pick for yourself? Why?
Why is Anne with an "E" so important to Anne? What do you think makes you special?
Marilla says - "To despair is to turn your back on God" – Is that true?
Why does Matthew want to keep Anne?
Can you identify with Anne's feelings of rejection? When have you felt the same way?

Marilla tries to return Anne

Why does Mrs. Blüett want Anne? Why did Matthew and Marilla want a boy?
Why does Marilla think twice about turning Anne over to Mrs. Blüett?
Why is Anne desperate to be kept by Matthew and Marilla? What have you been desperate about?
How are your prayers like/unlike Anne's?
What is a heathen?

Anne meets Rachel Lynde

How did Rachel Lynde treat Anne? Has anyone ever talked about you that way?
How did Anne treat Rachel? Have you ever responded to someone that way?
How did Marilla handle the situation? Have you ever been forced to apologize?
How did Matthew handle the situation? Do good relationships make it easier or harder to apologize? Why?
What are the basic parts of Anne's apology? How do you normally apologize?
What effect does Anne's apology have on Rachel Lynde? How have your apologies changed your relationships?
What else have you learned about Katy? What more does that tell you about Anne?
How are Marilla and Anne different? How are they alike?

The brooch is missing through Anne says goodbye to Diana

Why don't Marilla and Anne trust each other when the brooch is missing? How do you know who is telling the truth?
Why is the picnic so important to Anne? Is there anything that you really, REALLY want to do? Why?
Why doesn't Anne forgive Gilbert for calling her "carrots"? What's the worst name you've been called?
Would you have dyed your hair? What don't you like about yourself?
Why doesn't Anne have more friends at school? Who are your friends at school?
Why does Gilbert watch Anne? Do you have someone you like to watch? Why?
Why does Anne walk on the roof? Have you ever accepted a dare?
Why were the woods scary? Where are you scared of going? Why?
What happens to break up Anne & Diana's friendship? Who have you lost as a friend? Do you know why?

You might want to go through each specific scene with the following questions:

The brooch is missing

Why are clothes so important to Anne? Are they important to you? Why?
Why does Marilla jump to the conclusion that Anne took the brooch? Has anyone ever assumed you have done something you haven't? How did that make you feel?
Why does Marilla want to send Anne back? How would you feel if a liar and a thief lived in your house?
Why does Anne lie about losing the brooch? Is there anything so important in your life that you would lie about

something you have or haven't done?

How do you think Marilla felt when she found the broach? Have you ever had to tell someone you were wrong about them?

How are Marilla and Anne able to continue their relationship? How do you resume a relationship that has been broken?

The Sunday School Picnic

Do you have a close friend? How did you meet them? How important have they been in your life? Why?

How does the sack race change Anne & Diana's relationship? How has competition changed your life?

School

Why is Anne so happy to sit next to Diana in school? How do you get comfortable in a new situation?

Why do the other kids tease Anne? When have you been teased?

How does Anne react to the teasing? Why? How do you react to teasing?

Why does Gilbert try to take the blame for Anne? Why doesn't the teacher punish Gilbert?

Why doesn't Anne accept Gilbert's apology? Have you ever not accepted an apology? Why?

Anne dyes her hair

Why does Anne dye her hair? What have you tried to change about yourself? Why?

Why did Anne not ask Marilla to help her with dying her hair? What do you try to do by yourself when you should ask for help?

Why do you think Marilla decides to keep Anne at Green Gables? Can you think of a time when something happened to help you make a decision?

School Exams & competition

Why is it so important to Anne to be the best at everything? What do you want to be known for? Why?

Why does Gilbert watch Anne? Why does Anne continue to want to hurt Gilbert?

Why does Anne accept the dare to walk the ridge pole on the roof? Have you ever accepted a dare?

Why does Anne refuse to accept help after falling off the roof? Has your pride ever gotten in the way of accepting help?

The walk home

Would you have walked the long way through the woods on the way home? Why?

Why are the girls scared of walking through the forest? What scares you?

Would you rather have stayed behind in the forest like Anne or had to run by yourself to get help like Diana?

Why wasn't Marilla harder on Anne when Anne was carried home?

Anne has company

What is it like to have a "tea party"? How do you prepare for your guests?

Why/how did Diana get sick? Why does this break up their friendship?

Why is it so important to Anne to be loved? Who loves you? How does that change your life?

What is it like for Anne to have to say "goodbye" to Diana? Who have you had to say "goodbye" to?

A new teacher through the Charlottetown exams

Would you like a teacher like Miss Stacey? Why?

What happened with the pudding? When did you made a mistake? Why?

What is the difference between Anne's education and Diana's? Have you had to make choices about your education?

What happened to break and then restore Diana & Anne's friendship? Have you lost, then regained a friend?

Why did Matthew buy Anne a dress? What "treat" have you unexpectedly received? From whom? Why?

How does Gilbert treat Anne at the ball? Why?

What would you have done after jumping on Diana's great aunt Jo?

What is it like for Anne to visit Diana's rich great aunt Jo? Do you have any "rich" relatives?

You might want to go through each specific scene with the following questions:

A new teacher

How is Miss Stacey different from their last teacher? Who have been your “best” and “worst” teachers? Why? What do you think of Miss Stacey’s advice? –

“Tomorrow is a new day with no mistakes in it, yet.”

“The truth will set you free.”

What kind of an opportunity does Miss Stacey offer Anne? Have you ever been given such an opportunity? What happened with the pudding? Why didn’t Anne tell Marilla about it right away? Have you ever had such a public failure? How do you think Anne’s and Diana’s futures will change because Anne is in the class and Diana is not? How do choices now affect your future?

Anne saves a life

What is the croup? Why is Anne able to help? How has your past helped you?

How would it feel to save a life?

Why does Mrs. Barry change her mind? How does she apologize to Anne?

Why does Marilla have a problem with Anne going to the ball? Do you have trouble letting others have new experiences?

What does Matthew’s speech about the ball tell you about Matthew & Marilla’s lives? What can you tell your children about your childhood?

Why does Matthew have such trouble asking for a dress for Anne? What have you hesitated to buy at a store?

How is Anne changing Matthew?

The ball

Why does Anne only talk to Gilbert on a dare? Does this help or hurt their relationship? Why?

Why is everyone afraid of Diana’s great aunt Jo? Is there someone you are afraid of? Why?

How is Anne able to face the great aunt Jo? How do you face a personal challenge?

Why is great aunt Jo pleased with Anne? Name one person whose life you have brightened.

Charlottetown

According to Anne, why do the poor need a bigger imagination than the rich? Do you agree?

What helps Anne get over the jitters of testing? What helps you to take a test?

What special treats does great aunt Jo give to Diana and Anne? What is on your wish list of special things to see or do?

How is Anne and Gilbert’s relationship changing?

The Lily Maid through Matthew’s death

What story would you like to act out? Why?

How do Anne and Gilbert become friends? How do you make friends?

What gets in the way of Anne & Gilbert’s new friendship? Is it hard to keep friends?

When has it been hard to say goodbye?

What is different about college life from Anne’s life at Green Gables? Have you had to change schools?

What difference do money and scholarships make in Anne & Gilbert’s lives?

How does Matthew’s death change Anne & Marilla’s lives?

How does Gilbert show he cares about Anne? How do you show you care about your friends?

You might want to go through each specific scene with the following questions:

The Lily Maid

What story have you acted out? Did anything go wrong?

How would you feel and what would you do if you were Anne’s friends and thought she had drown?

What do we learn about Gilbert? What do we learn about Anne?

The recitation

Gilbert says, "Life's too short to hold grudges." Do you agree or disagree? Why?
Who knows Anne better, Gilbert or Anne? How can you tell? Who knows you well?
Why does Marilla discourage Anne's friendship with Gilbert? Has anyone ever discouraged one of your friendships? How and why?
Read "The Highwayman" by Alfred Noyes. What is the poem about?
How is a string of pearls worth diamonds? Whose gifts do you value?

College

Who do you think Anne has kissed most, Matthew or Marilla? Why?
How has Anne changed Matthew and Marilla? Who has helped to change your life?
Why isn't Anne staying with great aunt Jo as she had planned? Have you ever had a change of plans?
How does great aunt Jo feel about money? How important is money to you?
Why is Anne disturbed by seeing Gilbert in the library? What makes you jealous?
Why does Anne work hard for a scholarship? Have you ever worked hard for such a goal?
How does Diana feel about Gilbert? Have you ever competed with a friend for a friend?

Matthew dies

What does Matthew's dying speech tell you about his life? What do you think your last words will be?
How does Matthew's death change Anne & Marilla's relationship? Has a death changed your life?
What do you learn about Marilla's past? Is there someone you haven't forgiven?
What choices do Anne and Marilla face after Matthew's death? How would a death in your family affect you?
How does Gilbert show concern for Anne and Marilla? What have you given up for a friend?

ANNE OF AVONLEA

**A Kevin Sullivan production starring Megan Follows, Colleen Dewhurst,
Based on the novels by Lucy Maud Montgomery**

Anne writes on the beach through the wedding

What about Anne has/hasn't changed? Have you ever seen any change in yourself?
How has Anne & Gilbert's relationship changed? How have your relationships changed as you have grown up?
Why doesn't Anne want Diana to get married? What things in your life do you want to stay the same?
What is the difference between making fun of people and teasing them? Do either of them make you feel good?
What does Anne's cow like to do? Have you ever had an animal that got you in trouble?
Why is Anne surprised that her story won the contest? Were you ever surprised to win something?
How would you have caught the cow in the field?
Why does Anne get mad at Gilbert? What gets you mad?
What is more important to Rachel Lynde, the cow or her husband? Why?
How does marriage change friendships? Have you ever felt "left out"?
Why doesn't Anne want to marry Gilbert? Who do you dream of marrying?
How will Diana and Anne's friendship change when Diana is married?
Why does Anne decide to leave Green Gables?

You might want to go through each specific scene with the following questions:

Anne writes and teaches

What do the scattered papers tell you about Anne? Have you ever lost anything while you were distracted?
How does Anne, the teacher, handle the outhouse situation? How would she have handled it as a child?

Anne's story is rejected

What is Anne trying to keep secret? Why? Have you ever tried to keep something you are working on a secret? Why doesn't Anne want people to grow up? What do you think is hard about growing up? How can "teasing" hurt people? Have you ever hurt someone by teasing them? What kind of a man does Anne dream about? What kind of a person do you think you'll marry? What happens that hurts Anne's relationship with Rachel Lynde? How else could Anne have handled the situation? Have you ever had a relationship go bad because of neglect?

Anne's story is published

How well do you think Anne handles her surprise at winning the baking powder story contest? Have you ever done something like Diana did behind a friend's back? How did Anne and Diana work together in the emergency with the cow? Have you ever tried to catch an animal? Why does Anne ask Diana for her reaction to Anne's story, but doesn't want to listen to Gilbert's advice? Have you ever gotten advice that you don't want? How can imagination or unrealistic ideals ruin relationships? What do you learn about Rachel Lynde when Anne apologizes for selling Rachel's cow? Why is Rachel Lynde having trouble deciding what to do after her husband's death?

The party

How hard is it to be single when everyone you know is dating and getting married? Has a marriage changed your friendships? What is a good age to get married? Would you say you are over-particular/over-opinionated? Why does Anne dance alone? Why does Gilbert follow her? When has someone pursued you when you have tried to avoid them? Why does Gilbert want to marry Anne? Why doesn't Anne want to marry Gilbert? What choices would you have made?

Diana's wedding

What is the difference between "real life" and "romantic novels"? Which do Diana and Anne represent? How can Anne and Gilbert be such good friends and yet hurt each other so much? Who has hurt you the most? Does Anne have too big of an opinion of herself? What do people think of you? Why does Anne think of leaving Green Gables? What makes it possible for her to leave? How will you feel when you leave home?

Anne arrives in Kingsport through Anne visits Emmeline's grandmother

Why is Anne unwanted by the Pringles? Have you ever felt unwanted? Would you like to attend the school? Why? What happened Anne's first day of school? Did you ever have a day like that? Was Anne's punishment for Jen Pringle appropriate? Why? If you were the teacher, how would you decide who is telling the truth when the girls were fighting? Should you say "I'm sorry" if you don't mean it? How should Anne have helped the girls get the bike back? What did Anne believe was in the box and why did she want it put in the fire? Have you ever assumed what was inside something? Why are the Pringles complaining about Anne? Have you ever been up against such prejudice? Why is Emmeline so sad? How does Anne want to help her? What does Emmeline's grandmother think that Anne wants? Have you ever been misunderstood?

You might want to go through each specific scene with the following questions:

Anne arrives in Kingsport

Why does Anne feel like she's 10 years old? Have you ever felt that way? Would you like to live in a place that is run by rules and regulations? What rules and regulations do you have at

home? At school?

Why does Anne have trouble with the whistle? What gives you the same feeling?

Anne's first class

How well did Anne handle her first class? Have you ever pulled a prank on your teacher?

Why did Jen Pringle admit to putting the snake in Anne's desk? Have you ever admitted to a prank?

Did Jen Pringle deserve the punishment she got? What kind of punishments have you gotten?

The bicycle

Why did the girls fight? Have you ever had a fight at school?

Did Miss Brooke do the right thing in locking up the bicycle? Have you ever had something taken away that wasn't yours?

What did you think of the girls' apologies? When have you been forced to say "I'm sorry"?

Did Anne choose the hard way or the easy way to try and get the bike back? How would you have gotten the bike back?

Why did Captain Harris take Emmeline out of the school? Have you ever had to switch schools?

The play

How are the Pringles working together to get rid of Anne? How are Miss Stacey and Anne going to fight back?

Is it going to be easy for Anne to work on the play with Miss Brooke and Jen Pringle? Have you ever had a hard time including someone else in your plans?

Who would Anne really like to help? When is it easy to include someone in your plans?

Anne visits Emmeline's grandmother

How does Anne get to speak with Emmeline's grandmother? What have you done to get invited for a visit?

How does Anne get permission to help Emmeline? What have you had to do in order to help someone else?

Anne teaches Emmeline through Anne meets Gilbert

Have you ever had a teacher that gave you the kind of attention that Anne gives Emmeline? How did that change your life?

Why is Mrs. Harris so hard to live with? Have you ever had to take care of someone else?

Why was the picnic a treat for Mrs. Harris? Have you ever been challenged with an outing that turned out to be a treat?

Why was doing the play such a brilliant idea? What have you done that involves people and builds relationships?

Why does Morgan Harris not spend more time with his daughter, Emmeline? Do you know of a family that doesn't spend a lot of time together? How does that change their lives?

Why is Miss Brooke so hard to be around? Do you know any people who are hard to be around?

How has Anne and Gilbert's relationship changed after not seeing each other for a year? What is the difference between your relationships with those you see often and those you seldom see?

You might want to go through each specific scene with the following questions:

Anne teaches Emmeline

Should Emmeline wear her glasses more or less often? Do you have something you rely on that others say you don't need?

Why does Mrs. Harris limit Emmeline's use of the piano? Why do Anne and Emmeline have to be so quiet when they study and talk? How would you handle those frustrations?

How does Emmeline feel about her father? When do you feel neglected and alone?

How does Anne get Mrs. Harris to accept the curtains being opened, the piano being played, Pauline's visit to the party, and the picnic outing? How do you go about helping to make changes in the lives of others?

The picnic

Why is Pauline so afraid to answer the door, wear a pretty dress, and smell of perfume? How do you decide if you should obey or defy someone?

What happened to Emmeline's mother? Do you have any questions about someone who is no longer in your life?

How has Anne's influence rubbed off on Pauline? Who is changing you?

Why would Mrs. Harris have "all those carriages" but not ever use them? What do you have that you don't use?

Were you surprised to see Mrs. Harris stand up and climb into the carriage? Why? What do you do that surprises the people around you?

What would it mean to you to have your (poor) teacher buy you a pair of glasses when your (rich) grandmother and father won't? Who do you need to thank for their generosity?

Why does Mrs. Harris feel so alone? Who do you miss?

Would you rather ride in a hay wagon or a carriage?

What is the best way to catch sheep? What is the most fun way to catch sheep?

What do people think about Anne? Would you want to know what people are saying about you?

How does Morgan Harris react to Anne's challenge that he should spend more time with Emmeline? Would you have handled that confrontation differently?

Is it nice to be needed?...even by Mrs. Harris? Who needs you?

The play

Is Jen Pringle really sick? Has anyone ever canceled on you at the last minute?

What gives Anne the courage to ask Morgan Harris about having Emmeline in the play after their last confrontation? What drives you to action?

What do you think of Anne's speech after the play? What are the benefits of "sharing the glory"?

Miss Brooke

Why does Miss Brooke have such a hard time with friendship and love? What hardships have you had in your life?

What makes the difference between how Anne looks at the world and how Miss Brooke looks at the world?

What choices do we have with the hardships that we face in life?

How has the play changed Anne's classroom? Jen Pringle? What would you do anything to be a part of?

A trip to Boston

What does the part about the hat box on the train tell you about what Pauline is facing in taking care of her mother? Have you ever felt that you can't win?

Why does Mrs. Harris want Emmeline to live with her father? What are your family fights about?

Why does Anne have such wonderful memories of Green Gables while she is having such a grand time in Boston? What is the difference between visiting somewhere and living there?

Anne describes Emmeline as a treasure that Morgan Harris didn't know he had. Do you have a treasure that you didn't know you possessed?

Anne Meets Gilbert

What news does Gilbert have for Anne? How are they handling their differences now that they are "adults"?

Why will Gilbert and Anne always remember each other? Is there anyone in your life that you don't want to forget?

Why does Anne throw away her old writings and begin writing something new? When have you taken a friend's advice?

The hospital bazaar through summer's end

Why does Anne avoid Morgan Harris? Who have you tried to avoid?

Would you have married Morgan Harris?

How does Mrs. Harris's death change things? What major changes have you had in your life and what brought them about?

Would you have asked Miss Brooke to spend the summer with you?

What does Miss Brooke really want to do? Is it going to be possible for her?
How does Anne's book show that she has grown up?
Does Anne know what she wants in life? How did she find out?

You might want to go through each specific scene with the following questions:

The hospital bazaar

What do you learn from the "work" session for the hospital bazaar? Would you like to be the topic of gossip?
How do you know that Anne believes the gossip about Morgan Harris? How do you know if you should believe what you hear?
Why does Anne not accept Morgan Harris's proposal of marriage? How is Morgan's reaction to being refused different than Gil's reaction to being refused?

Mrs. Harris is ill

How does Pauline become "free" from her mother? How and when do you stand up for yourself?

Summer holidays

Why does Miss Brooke feel trapped at the school? Do you ever feel trapped?
If you were Miss Brooke, how would you feel at the way Anne and Marilla greet each other? What does your family look like when they greet each other?
What's it like to hold a baby for the first time?
What is scarlet fever? Have you ever had a really sick friend?
Why didn't Anne immediately go to see Gilbert? When have you avoided friends?
Why wouldn't Gilbert marry Christine? Have you been honest with yourself and others about your friendships and feelings?
How has Miss Brooke changed?
How has Anne's view of the world and her life changed?