

Reading & Writing Workshop: *Anne of Green Gables*

This is a **Reading & Writing Workshop** for *Anne of Green Gables* by L. M. Montgomery. This workshop is designed for **Grades 6–9** but is easily modifiable for later grades and can be used in **ELA or Literature courses**, with group-based reading, writing, and discussion.

Theme: Imagination, Identity, and Belonging

Author: L. M. Montgomery (1908)

Structure: 5 Sessions + Group Writing Project

Course Fit: Middle Grades Literature, Character & Coming-of-Age Studies

Session 1: Setting the Stage — Arrival at Green Gables

Objective: Introduce Anne Shirley and explore themes of imagination, identity, and belonging.

Group Focus:

- **Group 1:** Character — Who is Anne Shirley? What makes her unique?
- **Group 2:** Setting — Prince Edward Island and Avonlea as more than a backdrop.
- **Group 3:** Theme — Dreams, imagination, and the desire for acceptance.
- **Group 4:** Tone & Voice — How does Montgomery’s descriptive language create charm and humor?

Reading Assignment: Chapters 1–5

Activities:

- Create a “Character Snapshot” chart for Anne, Marilla, and Matthew.
- Read aloud Anne’s arrival at Green Gables and her first impressions.
- Discussion: *Why does Anne’s imagination sometimes get her into trouble and sometimes save her?*

Writing Task:

- Reflective paragraph: *Describe a time when imagination or daydreaming helped you see the world differently.*
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Session 2: Friendship, School, and Growing Pains

Objective: Examine Anne’s relationships and how they shape her sense of self.

Reading Assignment: Chapters 6–12

Group Roles:

- **Group 1:** Friendship — Anne and Diana: loyalty, mistakes, and forgiveness.
- **Group 2:** Conflict — Anne vs. Gilbert Blythe; pride and rivalry.
- **Group 3:** Humor & Humanity — How Montgomery uses comedy to show growth.
- **Group 4:** Character Development — How Anne’s imagination meets real-world lessons.

Activities:

- “Character Connection Web” showing how Anne’s relationships help her mature.
- Role-play Anne’s apology scene with Diana or Gilbert; discuss how tone changes meaning.
- Discussion: *What makes Anne a relatable or admirable character?*

Writing Task:

- Journal entry from Anne’s point of view after a major mistake — how does she learn from it?
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Session 3: Lessons and Morality — Imagination vs. Reality

Objective: Explore how Anne balances her creative spirit with moral and social expectations.

Reading Assignment: Chapters 13–21

Group Roles:

- **Group 1:** Themes — Imagination, morality, and identity.
- **Group 2:** Symbol Tracker — Nature, color, and beauty as reflections of Anne’s personality.
- **Group 3:** Society & Expectations — What are Avonlea’s social “rules”?
- **Group 4:** Author’s Craft — Use of dialogue and description to reveal inner change.

Activities:

- Create a “Moral Lessons Chart” tracking what Anne learns from her experiences (e.g., hair dye, puffed sleeves, the invitation).
- Analyze one descriptive passage for imagery and tone.
- Discussion: *How does Montgomery show that mistakes are part of becoming wise?*

Writing Task:

- Analytical paragraph: *How does Montgomery use nature imagery to express Anne's emotional growth?*
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Session 4: Loss, Love, and Maturity

Objective: Examine how Anne faces change, responsibility, and loss in the later chapters.

Reading Assignment: Chapters 22–31

Group Roles:

- **Group 1:** Character Development — How Anne grows from child to young woman.
- **Group 2:** Theme — The meaning of home and chosen family.
- **Group 3:** Symbolism — Green Gables, the garden, and the path as metaphors for life.
- **Group 4:** Emotional Tone — How Montgomery blends humor with sadness.

Activities:

- Quote study: Identify lines that show Anne's maturity or new self-awareness.
- Group "Then and Now" chart comparing early and late Anne.
- Discussion: *What does Anne's relationship with Marilla teach about love and acceptance?*

Writing Task:

- Literary analysis: *Explain how Anne's understanding of "home" changes throughout the novel.*
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Session 5: Group Writing Project — The Legacy of Imagination

Objective: Reflect on Anne's growth and the novel's lasting themes.

Group Project Options:

1. **Creative Journal:** Write diary entries from Anne's life after the novel ends (college years, teaching, or returning to Green Gables).
2. **Character Scrapbook:** Combine artwork, quotes, and reflections showing Anne's evolution from orphan to young woman.

3. **Modern Adaptation:** Reimagine *Anne of Green Gables* in a modern setting — what challenges would Anne face today?
4. **Thematic Essay:** Write a group essay on *how imagination shapes identity and resilience*.

Final Reflection (Individual):

“What does *Anne of Green Gables* teach about finding joy, meaning, and belonging in an imperfect world?”

Assessment Rubric (20 points total)

Category	Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Developing (2)	Beginning (1)
Reading Comprehension	Deep, text-based insight	Accurate understanding	Partial comprehension	Limited understanding
Collaboration	Strong leadership & teamwork	Consistent participation	Uneven effort	Minimal engagement
Writing Quality	Clear organization, strong evidence	Mostly clear and supported	Needs structure	Weak or unclear writing
Literary Analysis	Thoughtful use of themes and symbols	Solid thematic understanding	Basic interpretation	Limited analysis
Creativity / Engagement	Original and expressive	Thoughtful effort	Basic creativity	Minimal originality

Extension / Enrichment

- Compare *Anne of Green Gables* with *Little Women* or *A Little Princess* for themes of girlhood and independence.
- Watch scenes from the *Anne with an E* series and discuss adaptations vs. the book.
- Research early 20th-century Canada to understand historical context.
- Write a poem inspired by *Green Gables*, using imagery and personification.