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ANNE



the Orphan

In creating the character of Anne Shirley, L.M. Montgomery added to the long list of orphans in literature, particularly in the fiction of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Famous examples include Charles Dickens's *Oliver Twist*, David Copperfield, and Pip (in *Great Expectations*), but also Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre* and Mark Twain's Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn, among many others. Even Harry Potter, the most famous character in contemporary fiction, is an orphan.

Orphans are often outcasts, as they have no family structure to help them understand and accept who they really are as individuals. According to experts, the number of orphans in literature is a clear reflection of our fear of abandonment and pain. This seems to be proved by the fact that this type of character has its roots in folk tales. A comparison of orphan tales from different cultures around the world has revealed that, while the details in the stories are varied, there are common elements in all of them. For example, orphans usually suffer abuse and overcome difficulties, but in the end they get a reward.

In literature, orphans do not usually have the physical strength to face life in a forceful way. Their strength comes from within, from their inner resources, their strong values, their courage, or, as in Anne's case, their imagination and love of nature. Thanks to these qualities, Anne is able to find a lesson and beauty in every bad situation. She shows us how nature and beauty can comfort us and how we can learn to get in touch with the best part of ourselves and help create a kinder and better world.



GLOSSARY

- **abandonment:** state of being left alone
- **comfort:** (here) make feel better
- **contemporary:** of the present time
- **forceful:** powerful and energetic
- **outcasts:** people who are not accepted by society because they are different
- **overcome:** win (here, against a problem)
- **reward:** prize
- **roots:** (here) beginning
- **tales:** stories
- **varied:** different

Anne of Green Gables

Anne arrives



Marilla Cuthbert



Matthew Cuthbert

Anne Shirley

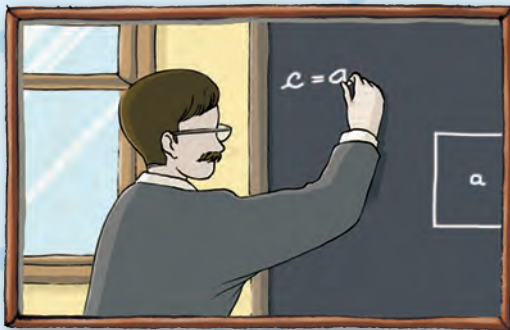




Diana Barry



Gilbert Blythe



Mr Phillips



Mrs Rachel Lynde



Mrs Spencer



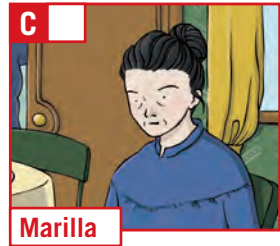
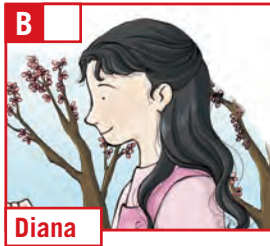
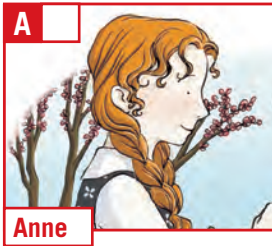
Mrs Barry



Mrs Blewett

BEFORE READING

1 **▶ MP3** Listen and match the descriptions to the characters. Number the pictures 1 to 6.



2 **▶ MP3** Listen again and complete the sentences about the characters in Exercise 1.

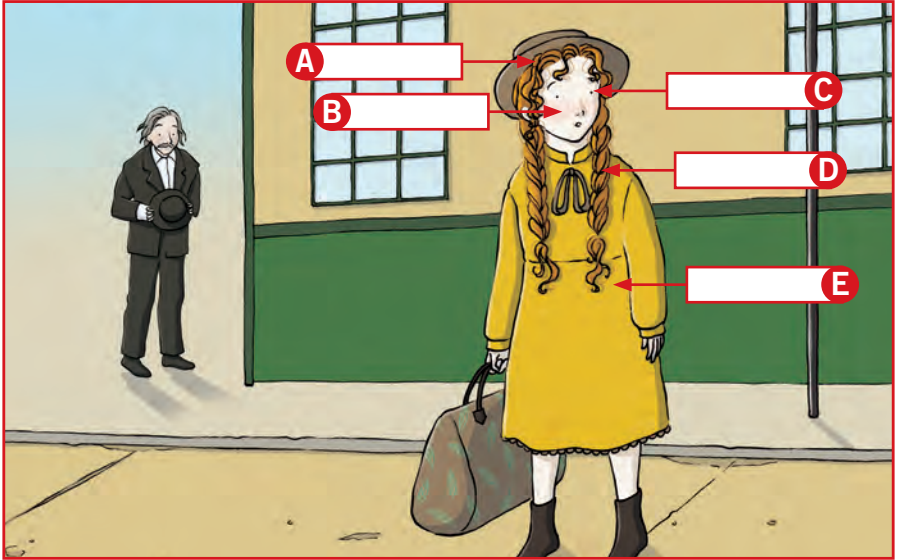
handsome round black red older dark

- 1 Mrs Rachel Lynde had a face.
- 2 Anne had long hair.
- 3 Marilla had hair that she always wore in a bun.
- 4 Matthew was getting He was sixty.
- 5 Diana had black eyes and hair.
- 6 Gilbert was very He was almost fourteen.



3 Look at the picture of Anne. Circle the adjectives that describe her.

plain clothes grey eyes red hair
freckles black hair beautiful plaits



4 Now use the words in Exercise 3 to label the picture.

5  Work with a partner. Ask each other questions about Anne. Then ask and answer questions about each other.

What does Anne look like?

What colour is your hair?

Anne is...

My hair is...

1 Mrs Rachel Lynde is surprised

1 Mrs Rachel Lynde was a curious woman. She knew everything about Avonlea. Mrs Rachel lived in a part of Avonlea called Lynde's Hollow. She saw everyone coming into town and everyone going out. Mrs Rachel was more curious• than most people but she was also very helpful.

Today she was very curious about Matthew Cuthbert. Matthew was dressed in his best clothes and he was driving his horse and buggy• past her house.

'Where is Matthew Cuthbert going?' she asked out loud.

'I can go to Green Gables and ask Marilla,' she thought.



Marilla was Matthew's sister. Marilla and Matthew lived together at Green Gables. Green Gables was a big house. It was far from the main road.

Mrs Rachel knocked on the kitchen door and went into the house. The kitchen at Green Gables was a nice room but it was too tidy•. Marilla Cuthbert was in her chair knitting and the table behind her was set• for supper. There were three plates on the table. Mrs Rachel was very confused.

'Good evening, Rachel,' Marilla said kindly. 'Come in and sit down. How is your family?'

Marilla was a tall, thin woman. She had dark hair that she always wore in a bun•. She looked like a severe woman but her mouth was soft. Maybe she laughed sometimes. The women were very different but they were friends.

GLOSSARY

- **buggy:** 
- **curious:** interested to know things
- **in a bun:** 

- **set:** prepared
- **tidy:** organized and clean

‘We’re all quite well,’ said Mrs Rachel. ‘But I thought that *you* weren’t well because I saw Matthew leaving today. Was he going to the doctor’s?’

Marilla replied patiently, ‘Oh, no, we’re quite well. Matthew went to Bright River. We’re getting a little boy from an orphanage• in Nova Scotia and he’s coming on the train tonight.’

Mrs Rachel was so shocked that she was unable to speak for five seconds.

‘Are you serious, Marilla?’ she asked.

‘Yes, of course,’ said Marilla, calmly.

‘What put such an idea into your head?’ asked Mrs Rachel disapprovingly•.

‘Well, we thought about it for a long time. We thought all winter,’ replied Marilla. ‘A neighbor talked about getting a little girl from the orphanage in the spring. So Matthew and I decided to get a boy. Matthew is getting older, he’s sixty. And he has heart problems. We asked for an intelligent boy of about ten or eleven. A boy old enough to do the chores• and young enough to be trained• properly. Then we got a telegram•: the young boy is coming on the five thirty train tonight. Matthew went to the train station at Bright River to meet him.’

NEWS

What news shocked Mrs Rachel?
Why?

GLOSSARY

- **chores:** jobs around the house
- **disapprovingly:** showing she didn’t agree
- **orphanage:** place where children without parents live
- **telegram:** printed message sent by the post office
- **trained:** taught to do things

‘Well, Marilla, I think you’re doing a very risky• thing. You’re bringing a strange child into your home. You don’t know anything about him. You don’t know what he is like•, or what his parents were like.’

Marilla continued knitting.

‘You are right, Rachel. I do worry, but Matthew is convinced•. There are risks in almost everything in this world. He can’t be very different from us.’

‘Well, I hope everything is okay,’ said Mrs Rachel, doubtfully. ‘I heard an orphan• girl put poison• in a well• and the whole family died.’

‘We’re not getting a girl,’ said Marilla. ‘I definitely don’t want a girl.’

Mrs Rachel left because she wanted to tell the news to everyone she met on the way home.

‘Well,’ thought Mrs Rachel as she left Green Gables. ‘I’m sorry for that poor boy. Matthew and Marilla don’t know anything about children.’

But the child at the station was not what everyone expected•.

GUESS

Why do you think the child at the station is different?



- **convinced:** (here) sure; certain
- **expected:** was waiting for
- **orphan:** child with no living parents
- **poison:** substance that can kill
- **risky:** dangerous
- **well:** deep hole in the ground for water
- **what he is like:** how he is physically and mentally

AFTER READING VOCABULARY

1 Use FIVE of the words in the box to complete the sentences.

naughty mood childhood purpose
poison temper scapegoat skinny

- a** A is someone who is punished for the mistakes of other people.
- b** To do something on means doing it intentionally.
- c** The time of life before becoming a teenager is called
- d** A child usually does not behave properly.
- e** is another word for 'very thin'.

2 Make three sentences with the words left out in Exercise 1.

3 Complete the word formation table below.

ADJECTIVE	NOUN
<i>HAPPY</i>	<i>HAPPINESS</i>
.....	GUILT
SENSIBLE
.....	CURIOSITY
SAD
.....	SILENCE
CAREFUL
.....	COMFORT
ASHAMED
.....	SKIN
HONEST

K A2 Key English Test Reading and Writing Part 4

1 Read the sentences and choose the best word (A, B, or C) for each space.

1 Marilla went to Mrs Rachel's house to ask advice.

A about **B** for **C** her

2 The little boy is coming train tonight.

A with **B** by **C** on

3 'You don't know anything about him. You don't know what he is '

A like **B** really **C** doing

4 'Diana is good and smart. That's better than pretty.'

A being **B** is **C** be

5 Anne studied at home and her chores.

A had **B** made **C** did

6 '.....'s going to be a Sunday school picnic next week.'

A It **B** There **C** That

7 Anne stared angrily Mrs Rachel.

A to **B** at **C** on

8 'She's strange but there's something nice her.'

A about **B** in **C** with

9 The table behind Marilla was for supper.

A set **B** done **C** made