



STUDY BUDDY™

Anne of Green Gables

A ONE-ACT MUSICAL *based on the
novel by Lucy Maud Montgomery*

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ARTSPOWER NATIONAL TOURING THEATRE

GARY W. BLACKMAN
MARK A. BLACKMAN
Executive Producers

Anne of Green Gables
Adapted by GREG GUNNING
Music by RICHARD DeROSA
Costume Design & Construction
by FRED SORRENTINO
Set Construction by RED DOT STUDIOS

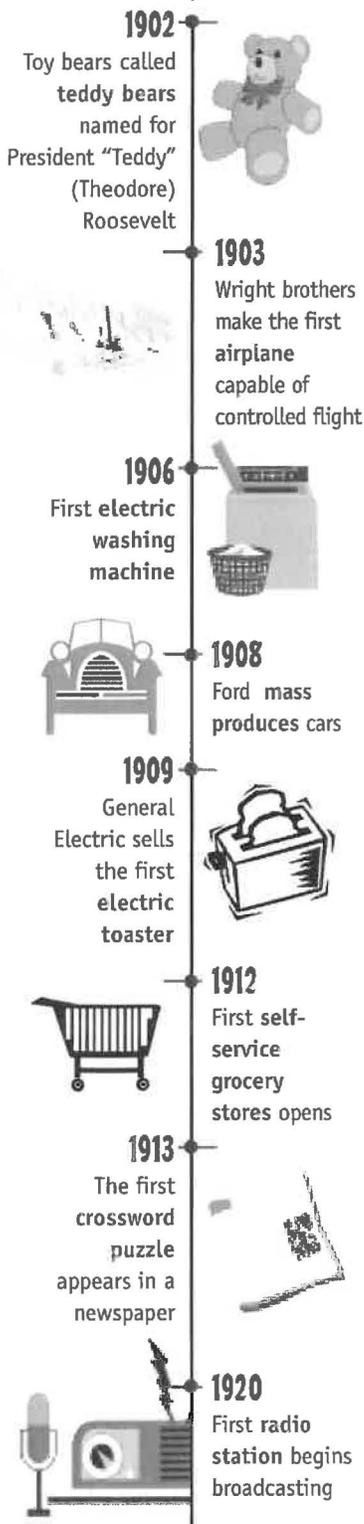
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PLEASE PHOTOCOPY ANY OR
ALL OF THE FOLLOWING PAGES
TO DISTRIBUTE TO STUDENTS.

Welcome to Anne's World — The Early 1900s

The play *Anne of Green Gables* is based on the novel of the same title. The main character, Anne Shirley, had no television, fast food, or vacations away from home. In 1900, the United States of America had 45 states. Most people were farmers. Anne Shirley would never have heard of any of the things on the time line below.



Student Exercise

What do you see around you (your desk, the lights, your clothing, your shoes) that would not have been the same in 1900?

In 1900, were there jobs similar to the ones your parents have now?

LUCY MAUD MONTGOMERY 1874-1942

Lucy Maud Montgomery set *Anne of Green Gables* in her hometown on Prince Edward Island in Canada. Since the novel became so popular, the people of Prince Edward Island often call the entire north shore "Anne's Land."

Lucy Maud Montgomery was born, raised, and is buried on Prince Edward Island, Canada. When Maud (who hated the name Lucy) was two years old, her mother died. When she was eight, her father remarried and moved away, leaving her to live with her strict grandparents. She often felt lonely, and she used her imagination to help her feel better. Since young Maud liked to read, she decided to become a writer. She constantly wrote little notes to herself that contained story ideas. In 1904, she came across a note she had written that said: "Elderly couple apply to orphan asylum for a boy. By mistake a girl is sent." After being rejected four times by publishers, *Anne of Green Gables* was finally printed in 1908. It was an immediate success.



TO LEARN MORE about Lucy Maud Montgomery
Andronik, Catherine M. *Kindred Spirit: A Biography of L.M. Montgomery, Creator of Anne of Green Gables*. New York: Atheneum, 1993.

Bruce, Harry. *Maud: The Life of L.M. Montgomery*. New York: Seal Bantam Books, 1992.

Colin, Molly. "It all began with Anne". *Publishers Weekly*, October 19, 1992.

Internet Resource: www.uxbridge.com/people/maud.html

TO LEARN MORE about Anne

Lucy Maud Montgomery wrote a series of "Anne" books. Look for: *Anne of Green Gables*, *Anne of Avonlea*, *Anne of the Island*, *Anne of Ingleside*, *Anne of Windy Poplars*, and *Anne's House of Dreams*.

Video recording: "Anne of Green Gables," "Anne of Avonlea." Sullivan Films, Inc. in association with Canadian Broadcasting Corp., PBS/Wonderworks. Written, produced, and directed by Kevin Sullivan. Walt Disney Home Video, 1993.

Sound recording: *Anne of Green Gables*. 8 sound cassettes. Washington, DC: Audio Book Contractors, 1980.

Anne's Story



Brother and sister **MATTHEW** and **MARILLA CUTHBERT** own a farm on Prince Edward Island in Canada.

They seek to adopt a boy orphan to help Matthew run the farm.

Instead of a boy, the orphanage sends them a young girl, **ANNE SHIRLEY**.

Sensible Marilla wants to send Anne back to the orphanage.

Shy Matthew wants Anne to stay. He likes her conversation and vivid imagination.

Marilla agrees to let Anne stay on a trial basis. Anne calls her new home **GREEN GABLES**.

Soon, nosy neighbor **MRS. RACHEL LYNDE** pays a visit. She calls Anne "plain, small, and homely."

Anne loses her temper and calls Rachel "rude, impolite, and unfeeling."

Will Anne be allowed to stay with Matthew and Marilla?

Will she be sent back to the orphanage?

Find out when you attend the play!

GABLES — the parts of a roof that are triangular in shape

ADOPT — to make a child one's own through legal action

ORPHAN — a child whose parents have died

ORPHANAGE — a home for orphans

You are the audience. You play an important role in our performance. Your role requires you to listen carefully and watch closely. It is okay to laugh or applaud if you enjoy the play, but remember that you and the actors are in the same room. Not only can you see the actors, but they can see you. Talking, whispering, or making noise during the performance will distract them and other audience members, too. Please help the company present the performance by playing your role well.

The Characters

How does an actor play different characters?

Working with the director and costume designer, the actor decides how to “play” each character. Each character must have a distinctive way of:

- Dressing** — Which costume belongs to which character?
- Moving** — How does the character walk, stand, or otherwise move?
- Gesturing** — What kind of mannerisms does each character have?
- Talking** — What accent, dialect, or vocal quality does each character have?

DIALECT—the way a language is spoken in a particular place or among a particular group of people. For example, in the Midwest people say, “Read-up the room,” but in the Northeast people say, “Get the room ready.”

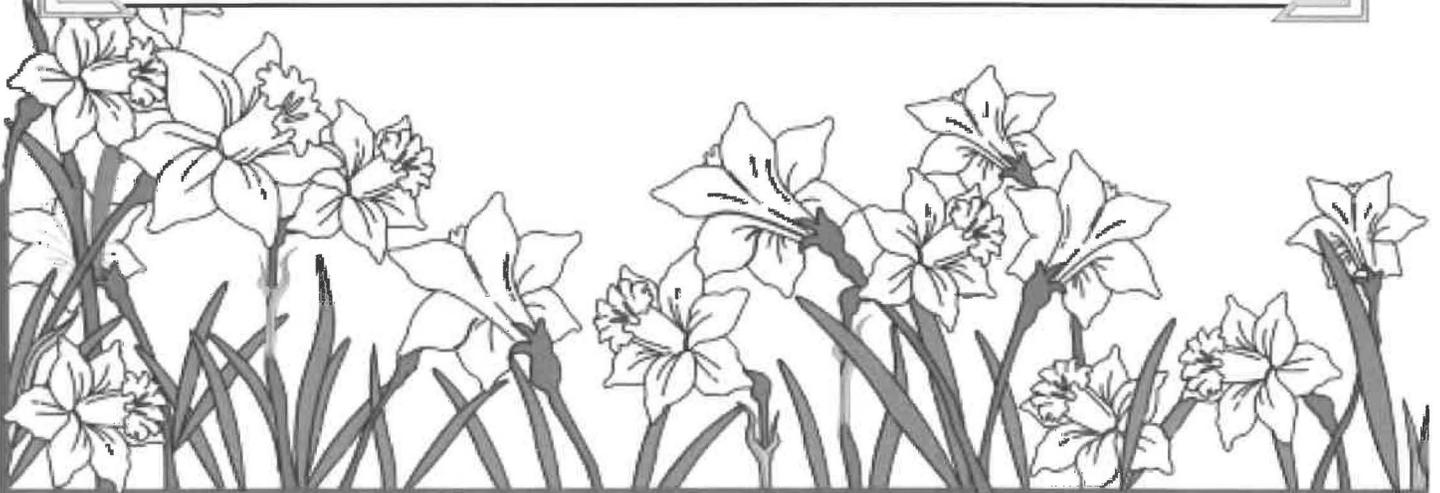
In the musical play *Anne of Green Gables*, four actors play eleven characters. Part of the fun of watching this play is seeing actors play different characters or roles. Actors who play more than one character are said to be **doubling roles**. There are four main or lead characters and seven supporting characters:

LEAD CHARACTERS

ACTOR 1 PLAYS *Anne Shirley*
 ACTOR 2 PLAYS *Marilla Cuthbert*
 ACTOR 3 PLAYS *Matthew Cuthbert*
 ACTOR 4 PLAYS *Mrs. Rachel Lynde*

SUPPORTING CHARACTERS

Mrs. Spencer (Orphanage Headmistress) & Teacher
Conductor, Mr. Hammond, & Diana Barry
Mrs. Thomas & Gilbert Blythe



Listen for These Lines

A playwright writes lines of dialogue for actors to speak. By listening to the play's dialogue, you discover what the characters think and feel about themselves and others. What do these lines tell you about the characters in ArtsPower's *Anne of Green Gables*?

ANNE "A person couldn't survive without an imagination."

MATTHEW "That little girl deserves all the love we can give her. Besides, maybe we need her more than she needs us."

MARILLA "Plain and sensible is best."

MRS. RACHEL LYNDE "Now, how can a body drink tea when they're so darn curious they're just about ready to bust?"

MRS. SPENCER
Orphanage Headmistress
"If you weren't such a good-for-nothing, you would have been adopted years ago."

Developing your own character

Picture a person, real or imaginary, in your mind. Use this space to help describe that person.

Name

Age

Address

Family members/pets

Way of walking

Way of dressing

Way of talking (*sadly, hoarsely, cheerfully, nastily...*)

Mannerisms (*rubs head a lot, rolls eyes, chews lip...*)

Like a playwright, you have created a character. *Have a conversation with a classmate while being your character.*

Making A Musical

Student Activity

Imagine writing a play based on a book you've read in class. How much of the original story do you have to tell? Which characters are the most important? Which parts of the book would look good on stage?

How does a story played live in a theater differ from a story created in the movies? Do the movies have conventions the way the theater does?

Theatre Conventions

When you attend a play as an audience member, you enter an imaginary world. You agree to "suspend disbelief"—to pretend that the stage action and characters are real. You accept the use of traditional rules of theater called "theater conventions."

The Stage: The stage becomes a house, a barn, a school, a field—any place or any time—simply by having items on stage that suggest that place and time.

Doubling: One performer plays more than one role.

Split Stage Effect: Two sides of the stage are used for scenes that occur simultaneously in different locations.

Singing: The audience accepts the idea that people sing to one another in the middle of a conversation.

Characters Freeze: Even though you can still see them, characters "frozen" in positions on stage are not part of the action.

Time: The audience understands that time has passed when the scene changes.

Addressing the Audience: Some plays allow a character to break away from the play and talk directly to the audience.

Theatre Collaborators

When you attend a performance, you see the actors on the stage. There are many people you do not see who work to create the performance. These people work together, or collaborate, long before the performance is ready for an audience.

Producer – puts the theatrical production together and is responsible for managing the production's business and money matters.

Playwright – writes the play.

Composer – writes the music.

Lyricist – writes the words to the music.

Director – helps the performers understand their roles and tells them where to move on stage.

Choreographer – creates the dances.

Set designer – creates the scenery.

Costume designer – creates the clothing the performers wear on stage.

Stage manager – ensures that the performers, the set, scenery, and props (objects) get on and off the stage at the proper times.

Stagehands – move the scenery and work the lights. (Note: The actors in *Anne of Green Gables* move the scenery themselves.)

We welcome your comments!

Contact ArtsPower at 973 239-0100 or visit us on the web at www.artspower.org

Letter to Families



Dear Family,

Today I saw a live musical theater production of *Anne of Green Gables*. It was brought to us by ArtsPower National Touring Theatre of Montclair, New Jersey. The story was filled with music, and the actors were terrific.

The main character was Anne, who was an orphan. She went to live with an old couple on Prince Edward Island in Canada—only, they had asked for a boy orphan to help with the farming. They got Anne by mistake.

Nobody wanted to adopt Anne because she daydreamed too much and kept asking too many questions. Finally, though, the Cuthberts decided they needed Anne and her cheerfulness as much as Anne needed a home.

Seeing a story told by live actors is a lot different than watching a story on TV. Can we talk about the show? I can tell you all the things I remember best.

Love,

What did you think?

Teacher's Name  _____

Your School  _____

City, State  _____

Date  _____

ArtsPower
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I attended a performance of *Anne of Green Gables* at _____

My favorite part of the play was _____

My favorite character was _____

Another thing I remember about the performance is _____

One thing I would change about the performance is _____

That's because _____

The best adjective I would choose to describe *Anne of Green Gables* is _____

Sincerely,

ARTSPower
ONLINE
If you want to
communicate via
ArtsPower's
Internet web site,
go to: www.artspower.org
and click on
"Contact us."