



Growing Up as a Girl in Early 20th Century Canada

(based on Lucy Maud Montgomery's
"Anne of Green Gables")

Kateryna Nikolenko

PhD student, Ivan Franko National University of Lviv



Questions



What does it mean to be a girl?
What challenges do we face growing up as girls?
How can we find our way in the world?
And how can we find our voice to say what we want?

Lucy Maud Montgomery
(1874-1942)



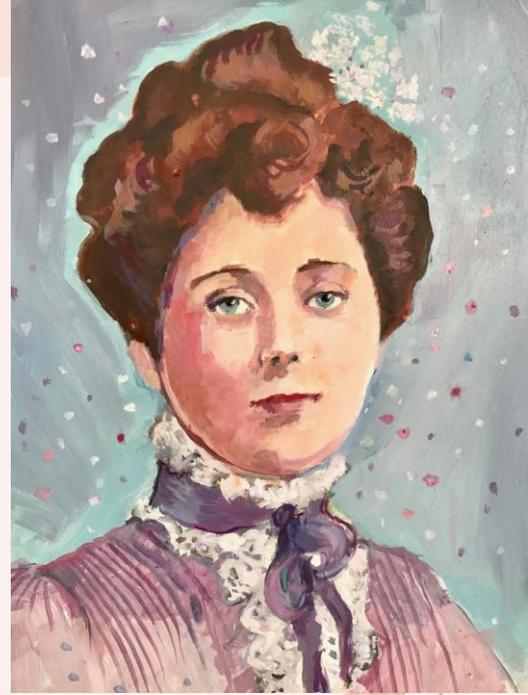




Maud was raised by her grandfather and grandmother. Her mother died when she was young, and her father was absent.



Maud loved to laugh and be “merry” – one of her favorite words. She had a genius for finding the fun in every situation.



“Don’t you feel as if you just loved the world on a morning like this? And I can hear the brook laughing all the way up here. Have you ever noticed what cheerful things brooks are? They’re always laughing. Even in winter-time I’ve heard them under the ice.”



Anne Shirley



“I was very near to a kingdom of ideal beauty.”

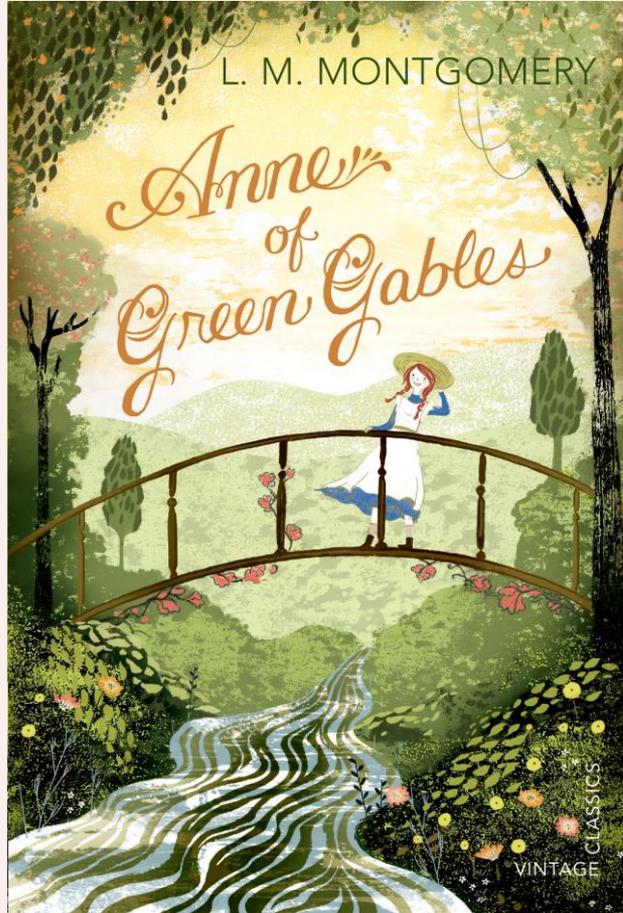
– *L.M. Montgomery*



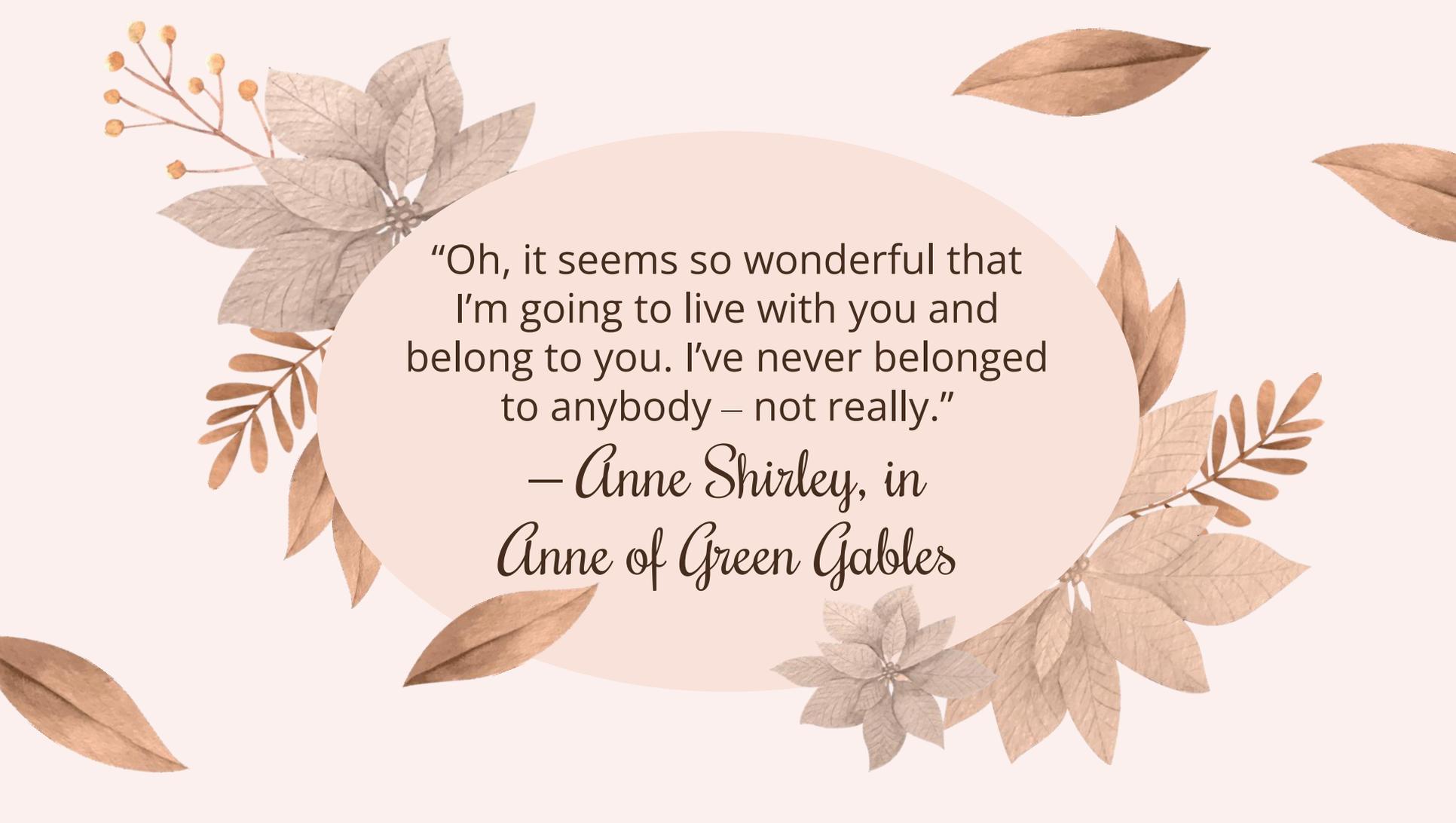
***Green Gables* in Cavendish, Prince Edward Island, Canada**

When her grandmother got sick, Maud was forced to stay with her and take care of her if she wanted to keep her childhood home. She stayed in Cavendish for more than 10 years.





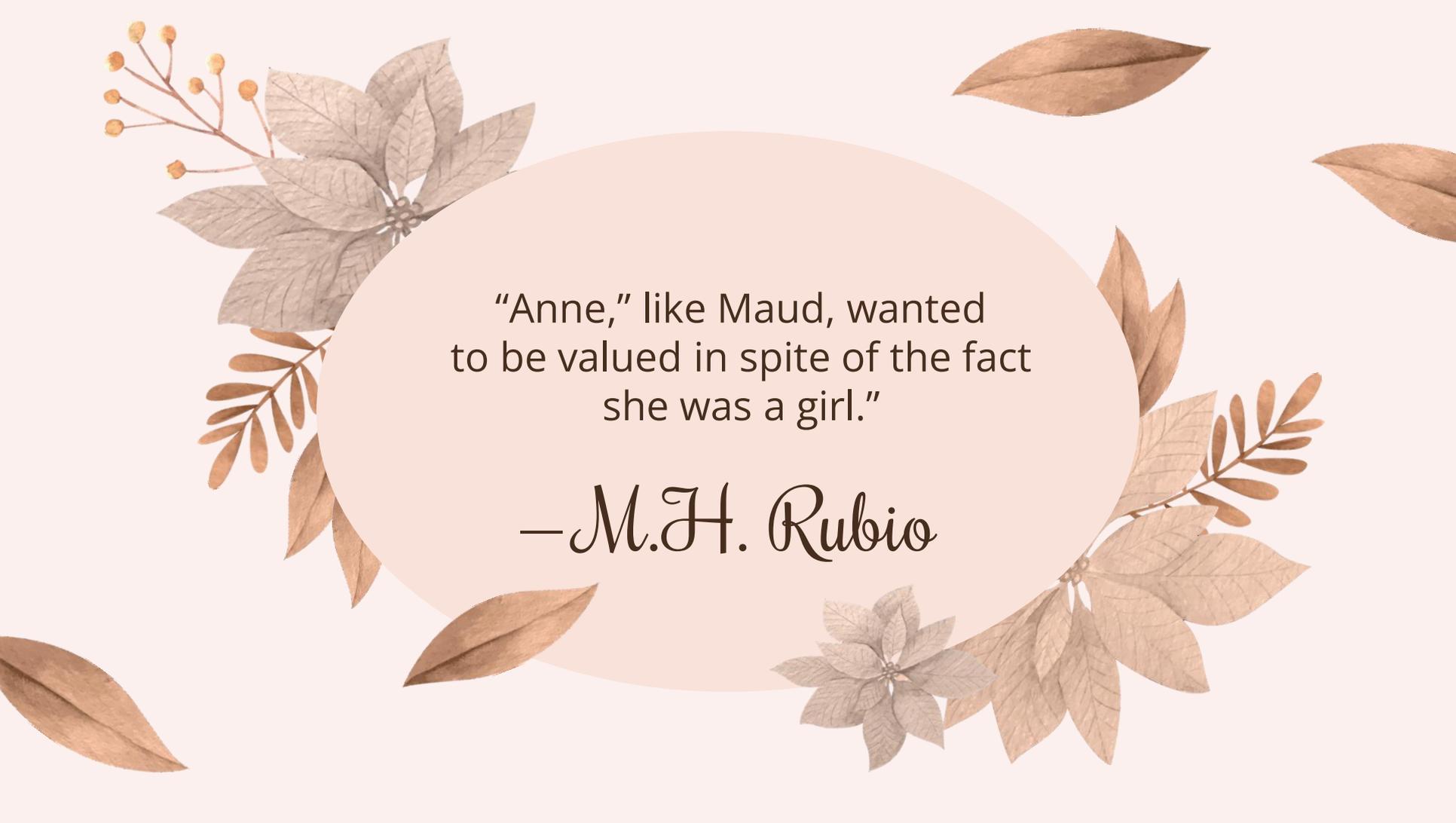
- **Anne Shirley** is an orphan from Nova Scotia (Canadian province)
- She is adopted by brother and sister **Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert**
- They were initially looking for a boy, but a girl was sent to them by mistake



“Oh, it seems so wonderful that
I’m going to live with you and
belong to you. I’ve never belonged
to anybody – not really.”

– *Anne Shirley*, in
Anne of Green Gables





“Anne,” like Maud, wanted
to be valued in spite of the fact
she was a girl.”

—*M.H. Rubio*

The page is decorated with various autumn leaves in shades of brown, tan, and beige, scattered around the edges. The main title is centered at the top in a black, cursive font.

Anne finds joy in:

Friendship

Looking for 'kindred spirits' who will understand her

School

Excited to learn and wanting to be better than Gilbert Blythe

Culture

Reading, writing and performing poetry





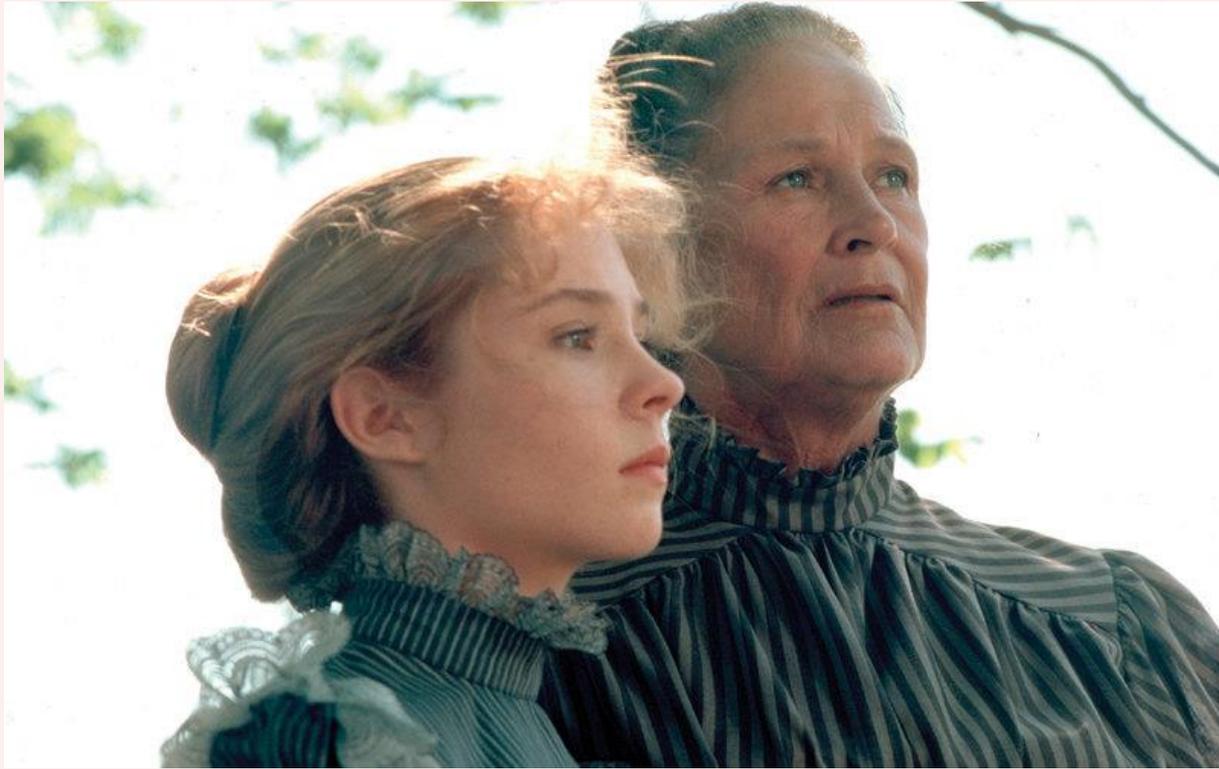
“I don’t ever expect to be a bride myself. I’m so homely nobody will ever want to marry me—unless it might be a foreign missionary.”





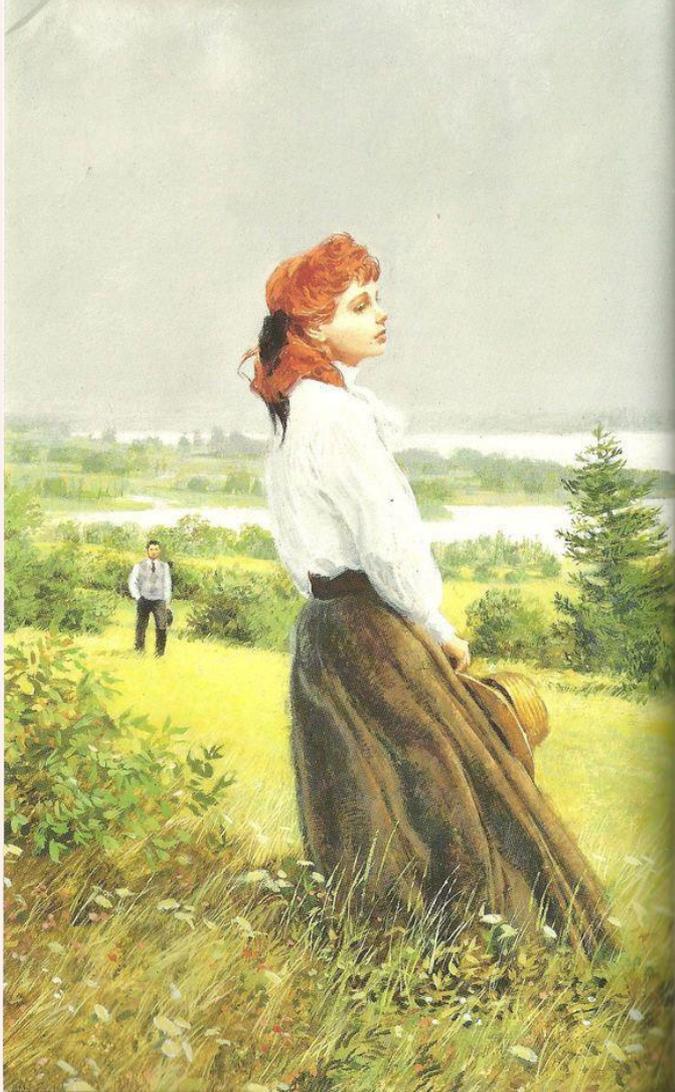
“Her “story” extends beyond the *impact* of her books. In a 20th-century society still dominated by patriarchy, she was one of the forces convincing young women that they could have careers in many different professional fields (such as medicine and law), opening new vistas for them.”

—M.H. Rubio



After Matthew's death, Anne decides to stay at Green Gables to support Marilla. To be able to do this, she rejects a prestigious university scholarship.





- Anne goes on to work as a teacher at a local school
- She becomes the primary breadwinner in the home
- She's the only one with a stable income



01

Motherhood

The possibility of becoming a mother without getting married and/or giving birth

(Marilla Cuthbert adopting Anne from an orphanage, and later adopting twins Dora and Davey after their parents' death)



Education

Women receiving proper education and going on to make a living for themselves (Anne, Priscilla, Stella, etc).



02

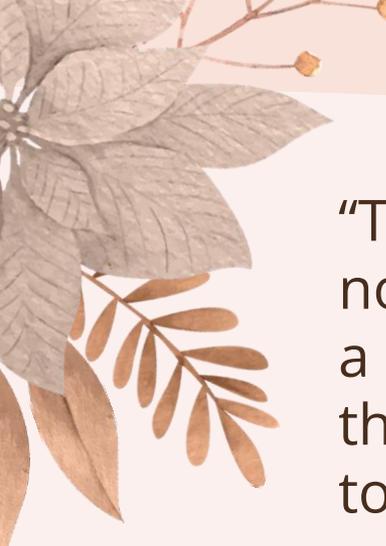




03

Self-realization

The possibility for a woman to leave
her job and pursue her dreams



“The truth is, I hate teaching ... and there's nothing else I can do. A school-teacher is simply a slave of time. <...> Anne, I want to travel. It's the one thing I've always longed for. <...> I want to see the Southern Cross and the Taj Mahal and the pillars of Karnak. I want to *know* ... not just *believe* ... that the world is round.”

– Katherine Brooke, in
Anne of Windy Poplars





Living situation

Marilla & Anne owning Green Gable together (without men)

Anne & her college friends renting a house together → essentially creating a safe female-only space



04

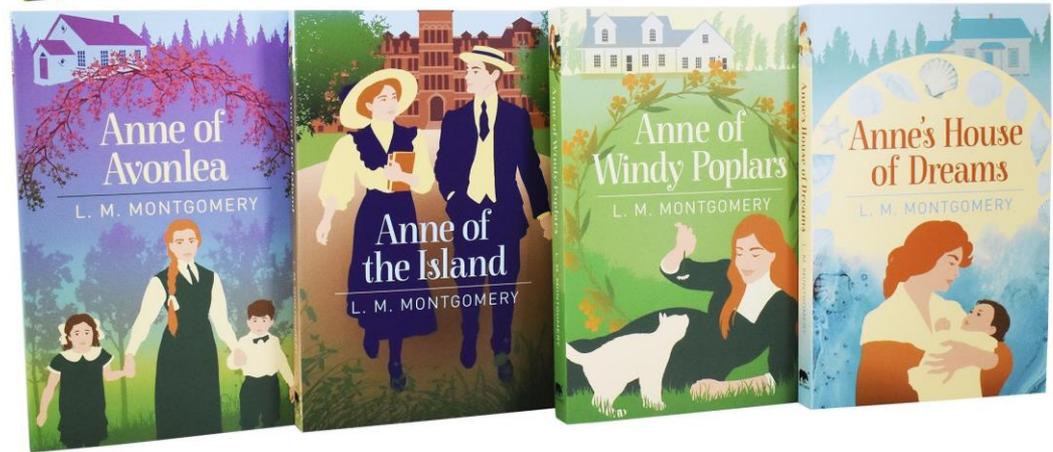
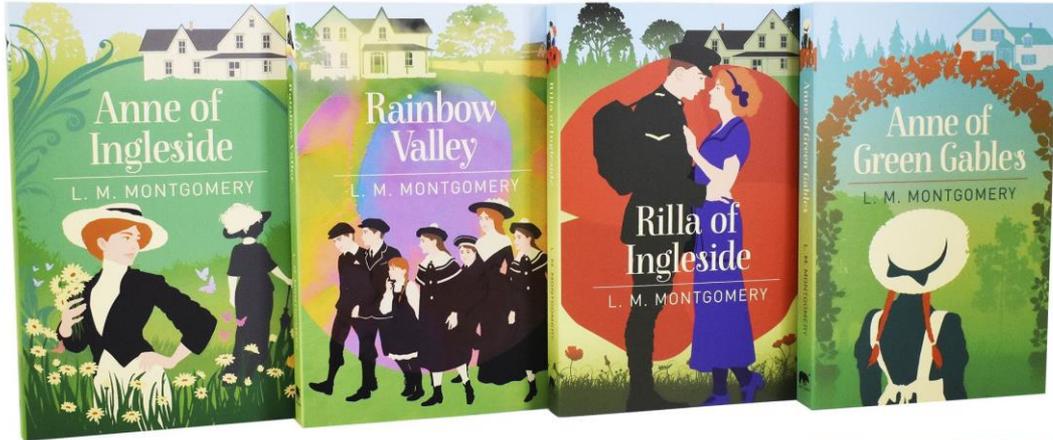




“How those girls enjoyed putting their nest in order! As Phil said, it was almost as good as getting married. You had the fun of homemaking without the bother of a husband.”

— *“Anne of the Island”*







Anne of Green Gables continues to give hope and encouragement to many around the world, says Princess Takamado of Japan.



L.M. Montgomery Statue by Nathan Scott @ Montgomery Park in Cavendish

Thank you for your attention!

