

Anne of Avonlea
by Lucy Maud Montgomery

Name: _____ Date: _____ Room # _____

This sequel to Anne of Green Gables follows Anne Shirley, a young Canadian orphan. Anne was sent to live with the Cuthberts, a brother and sister who have a farm on Prince Edward Island, Canada. In Anne of Avonlea, written in 1909, Anne is 16 years old and is going to teach school for the first time in the town of Avonlea.

Chapter V. Full-fledged Schoolma'am

When Anne reached the school that morning . . . for the first time in her life she had traversed the Birch Path deaf and blind to its beauties . . . all was quiet and still. The preceding teacher had trained the children to be in their places at her arrival, and when Anne entered the schoolroom she was confronted by prim rows of "shining morning faces" and bright, inquisitive eyes. She hung up her hat and faced her pupils, hoping that she did not look as frightened and foolish as she felt and that they would not perceive how she was trembling.

She had sat up until nearly twelve the preceding night composing a speech she meant to make to her pupils upon opening the school. She had revised and improved it painstakingly, and then she had learned it off by heart. It was a very good speech and had some very fine ideas in it, especially about mutual help and earnest striving after knowledge. The only trouble was that she could not now remember a word of it.

After what seemed to her a year . . . about ten seconds in reality . . . she said faintly, "Take your Testaments, please," and sank breathlessly into her chair under cover of the rustle and clatter of desk lids that followed. While the children read their verses Anne marshalled her shaky wits into order and looked over the array of little pilgrims to the Grownup Land.

List three examples from the passage that show Anne is nervous on her first day of teaching school.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____
