

FREE SCRIPT EXCERPT

ANNE

A Children's Musical

Based on Anne of Green Gables by L. M. Montgomery

Adapted for the stage by Elisha Galotti

A glimpse of the dialogue, characters,
humour, and heart of the musical.



CLASSICAL CHILDREN'S PLAYS

Truth · Goodness · Beauty

classicalchildrensplays.com

Cast of Characters

(In Order of Appearance)



Orphan Girls	Praying Children
Anne Shirley	Mrs. Spencer
Mrs. Cadbury	Avonlea Schoolchildren
Marilla Cuthbert	Diana Barry
Rachel Lynde	Gilbert Blythe
Bright River Station Master	Mr. Phillips
Avonlea Townspeople	Mischievous School Boys
Avonlea Children	Mrs. Barry
Matthew Cuthbert	Miss Stacey
Cherry Blossom Children	Mr. Lawson



Synopsis of Scenes

A quick map of the full musical

OVERTURE

Scene 1: Hopetown Orphanage

SONG: Some Day (Orphan Girls)

Scene 2: Green Gables (Mrs. Lynde Questions Marilla)

Scene 3: Bright River Train Station (Matthew Meets Anne)

SONG: Cherry Blossoms (Cherry Blossom Girls and Boys)

Scene 4: That evening, Green Gables (Marilla Meets Anne)

Scene 5: That evening, Green Gables Bedroom (Anne's Prayer)

SONG: Prayer (Marilla and Anne)

SONG: Lullaby (Praying Girls and Boys)

Scene 6: The next morning, An Avonlea Road (Marilla Questions Mrs. Spencer)

Scene 7: A few days later, Green Gables (Rachel Lynde Criticizes Anne)

Scene 8: A few days later, The Avonlea Schoolhouse (Anne Meets Diana and Gilbert)

SONG: That's What Boys Do Best (School Boys)

Scene 9: A few months later, Green Gables (Diana Drinks Raspberry Cordial)

SONG: The Orphan Girl (Avonlea Townspeople, MRS. CADBURY, RACHEL LYNDE, BRIGHT RIVER STATION MASTER, MRS. SPENCER, MR. PHILLIPS, MRS. BARRY, MR. LAWSON)

INTERMISSION

ACT TWO

Scene 1: The next year, The Avonlea Schoolhouse (Meeting Miss Stacey)

SONG: Tomorrow Is Always Fresh (DIANA, MISS STACEY, ANNE, Avonlea School Girls)

Scene 2: Lawson's General Store (Matthew Buys Puffed Sleeves)

Scene 3: Later that afternoon, The Avenue with Anne and Gilbert (Reconciliation)

Scene 4: That Evening, Green Gables (Anne's New Dress / Diana Needs Help)

Scene 5: The next morning, Green Gables (Reconciliation and Reunion)

SONG: The Orphan Girl Reprise (ALL)

SONG: Finale: Like A Winding Path (ALL)

Curtain Call





ACT ONE

Scene 7: Green Gables Sitting Room / Kitchen

(Scene changes back to Green Gables Sitting Room, and lights fade up once ANNE is sitting at the table and MARILLA is working in the kitchen. RACHEL LYNDE knocks and enters from SL.)

RACHEL: Good morning, Marilla. I heard about the shocking mistake.

MARILLA: Good morning, Rachel. I don't suppose you are any more surprised than I am.

RACHEL: *(Shaking her head in disgust at ANNE, with ANNE looking on)* Can't you send her back?

MARILLA: I suppose, but we are deciding what we should do. Matthew has taken a fancy to her. And I must say I like her myself—although I admit she has her faults. Already, the house seems a different place. She's a real bright little thing.

RACHEL: *(Speaking harshly to ANNE)* Come here, child, and let me have a look at you. *(ANNE walks closer, and RACHEL looks her up and down)* Well, they didn't pick you for your looks, that's for certain. Why, her hair is as red as carrots!

ANNE: *(Angry, stomping her feet)* How dare you! How dare you call me ugly! How dare you say I'm redheaded? You are a rude, impolite, unfeeling woman, and I hate you!

MARILLA: Anne Shirley!

ANNE: *(Still stamping for exclamation)* How dare you say such things about me? How would you like to have such things said about you? How would you like to be told that you are clumsy and mean and probably hadn't a spark of imagination? I don't care if I hurt your feelings by saying so! I hope I hurt them. I'll never forgive you, never, never! *(ANNE runs to DSL, where she sits down and sobs)*

MARILLA: *(Calling after her)* Anne Shirley! You come back here at once and apologize!

(Lights fade, and spotlight on ANNE, sobbing at the stairs. MATTHEW, holding a rake and coming from doing chores, walks across the front and meets her at the stairs.)

MATTHEW: I heard from Marilla about what happened with Mrs. Lynde. As far as I'm concerned she deserves what she gets. But Marilla is dreadful determined, and will make you apologize if you're to stay here. Please, Anne? You don't have to be really sorry. Just a little sorry. Just smooth it over.

ANNE: (*Wiping away tears, face brightening*) You really don't want me to go, do you?

(*MATTHEW, after smiling and shaking his head, walks away, and ANNE walks back into the sitting room.*)

MARILLA: Anne, I hope you are ready to apologize.

ANNE: (*Drops to her knees dramatically, voice quivering*) Oh, Mrs. Lynde, I am so extremely sorry. I could never express all my sorrow, no, not if I used up a whole dictionary. You must just imagine it. I behaved terribly to you—and I've disgraced my dear friends, Matthew and Marilla, who have let me stay at Green Gables on trial, even though I'm not a boy. I'm a dreadfully wicked and ungrateful girl, and I deserve to be cast out forever. It was very wicked of me to fly into a temper because you told me the truth. My hair is red and I am ugly. What I said to you was true, as well, only I shouldn't have said it. (*Voice quivering*) Oh, Mrs. Lynde, please, please, forgive me?

RACHEL LYNDE: (*Soft and compassionate*) There, there, get up, child. Of course I forgive you. I guess I was a little too hard on you. You just mustn't mind me, that's what. It can't be denied your hair is terrible red; but I knew a girl once whose hair was every bit as red as yours, but when she grew up it darkened to a real handsome auburn.

ANNE: Oh, Mrs. Lynde! You have given me a hope.

RACHEL LYNDE: (*To MARILLA*) And trial or no trial, you should put this girl in school, Marilla, that's what.

MARILLA: I believe you're right, Rachel.

Scene 8: Avonlea School

(Anne Meets Diana and Gilbert, and Smashes Slate Over Gilbert's Head)

(Scene changes to the Avonlea Schoolhouse. There is a big blackboard with a sign that says Avonlea School. The scene begins in the school yard, with children laughing, talking, and playing outside, and with ANNE walking in alone with her books and lunch pail. She meets DIANA first and then GILBERT next. Sounds of laughter and talking fade as ANNE takes Center Stage.)

ANNE: *(Looking around, speaking aloud to herself)* I've dreamed my whole life of going to school, but now that I'm here, now that I'm in a school yard with other children, I hardly know if it's real or if I'm about to wake up from a dream.

DIANA: *(Has wandered over and is listening, smiling)* Hello. My name is Diana Barry. You must be Anne Shirley, from Green Gables. I've heard about you.

ANNE: *(Delighted but resolute)* I've promised Marilla that I won't say anything too shocking on my first day of school. *(Clasping her hands, almost whispering)* Oh, Diana. Oh, do you think you can like me a little—enough to be my bosom friend?

DIANA: *(Laughing)* Why, I guess so. I'm awfully glad you've come to live at Green Gables. It will be wonderful to have somebody to spend time with. There isn't any other girl who lives near enough, and I've no sisters big enough.

ANNE: *(Eagerly)* Will you swear to be my friend forever and ever?

DIANA: *(Rebuking)* Why it's dreadfully wicked to swear.

ANNE: Oh no, not my kind of swearing. There are two kinds, you know.

DIANA: *(Doubtfully)* I never heard of but one kind.

ANNE: There really is another. Oh, it isn't wicked at all. It just means vowing and promising solemnly.

DIANA: *(Relieved)* Well, I don't mind doing that. How do you do it?

ANNE: We must join hands. It ought to be over running water, but we'll just imagine this is running water. I'll repeat the oath first. I solemnly swear to be faithful to my bosom friend, Diana Barry, as long as the sun and moon shall endure. Now you say it and put my name in.

DIANA: (*With ANNE'S promptings and help, laughing before and after*) I solemnly swear to be faithful to my bosom friend, Anne Shirley, as long as the sun and moon shall endure. You're a strange girl, Anne. I heard before that you were strange. But I believe I'm going to like you real well.

(*Girls are interrupted by GILBERT BLYTHE holding a big frog right up to ANNE'S face. ANNE shrieks and looks horrified. Gilbert laughingly winks at her and walks away.*)

DIANA: That's Gilbert Blythe, Anne. He can be a tease, but just look at him and see if you don't think he's handsome.

ANNE: I think your Gilbert Blythe is handsome, but I think he's very bold. It isn't good manners to wink at a strange girl.

(*MR. PHILLIPS walks into the school house and rings the bell on the teacher's desk. CHILDREN "enter" the schoolhouse and take their seats. GILBERT is trying to get ANNE'S attention, but fails to do so until he pulls her braid.*)

MR. PHILLIPS: Class, please take out your Latin Readers and begin reviewing where we left off yesterday. There will be a test on chapters 1 through 4 tomorrow, so I advise you to read dutifully and carefully. (*Children take out readers, begin working*)

MR. PHILLIPS: Students, those of you reading Latin 4 please rise and recite page 47. I expect you to recite clearly and articulately. (*Some students stand and recite Latin verse.*) That was decent, I guess. Be seated. Keep studying for tomorrow's test.

GILBERT: (*Has been trying to get Anne's attention through throwing small things at her, but then reaches out and yanks her braid, saying in a piercing whisper*) Carrots! Carrots!

ANNE: (*Angry, then smashing her slate over his head*)) How dare you! How dare you!

ALL CHILDREN: (*General gasping and shock*) Oh! What? Is he all right? Why did she do that? What is going to happen?

MR. PHILLIPS: (*Infuriated*) Anne Shirley, what is the meaning of this?

GILBERT: It was my fault Mr. Phillips. I teased her.

MR. PHILLIPS: (*Ignoring Gilbert*) I am shocked to see a pupil of mine displaying such a temper and such a vindictive spirit. Anne, go and stand by the blackboard for the rest of the afternoon. You will write the words 'Anne Shirley has a very bad temper' one hundred times before leaving class today.

(ANNE begins writing on the blackboard... the afternoon passes through a musical interlude and then the chiming of clocks, followed by Mr. Philips ringing his bell.)

MR. PHILIPS: *(Glancing at pocket watch and glaring at ANNE)* We have come to the end of the day. I hope some of you have learned your lesson. Class dismissed. *(Rings bell)*

GILBERT: *(As they are collecting their belongings, speaks earnestly to ANNE)* I'm awfully sorry I made fun of your hair, Anne. Honest I am. I just wanted to meet you. Don't be mad at me for keeps.

ANNE: *(Coldly)* I shall never forgive you, Gilbert Blythe. An Iron has entered my soul. *(She takes DIANA'S arm and they exit along with CHILDREN and MR. PHILIPS. GILBERT stays on stage, shrugging, musing aloud.)*

GILBERT: *(Alone on stage, but mischievous schoolboys enter while he's musing aloud with music already in the background)* I hope she isn't mad for keeps. Perhaps we could still be friends one day. I didn't mean to make her mad, nor to be a pest, I only meant it as a joke...

SONG: That's What Boys Do Best

(Sung by: Gilbert and Schoolboys)



Want to Read the Entire Musical?

The complete preview script is available for C\$10, so you can explore the full dialogue, lyrics, and staging before deciding whether Anne is right for your cast.



RETURN TO ANNE

[Anne: A Children's Musical →](#)

Complete Preview Script — C\$10

Available from the Anne production page.

classicalchildrensplays.com

Thank you for taking a closer look at Anne.