Student Name

Teacher Name

Language Arts

Date printed

Title

Prompt: In any story, events change the main character in some way. Think abut the way one character changed. Write a story as if you were that character to show what it was like to take on new responsibilities and reflect on what the character learned from the experience. What were some of the challenges the character faced and how did he/she deal with those difficulties? Use descriptive details to show what the experience meant to the character.

As I told Mrs. Rachel Lynde on that fall day, I expected Matthew to bring us back a little boy from the orphan asylum in Nova Scotia. I was surprised when Matthew brought home a girl with long braids. Her name was Anne Shirley. We needed a boy to help on the farm, so a girl would not do. When I realized we would be keeping Anne, I knew I was in for the challenge of my life.

My name is Marilla Cuthbert. I live at Green Gables with my brother, Matthew. I never had any children. I had no experience in raising a young girl. Anne was a very talkative and dramatic girl, which often got her into a pickle. But a few of the troubles were caused by me. Right in the beginning, I did not trust her and accused her of taking my brooch. When Anne insisted that she had put my brooch back on the bureau, I did not believe her. IN fact, I said, “There now, don’t say anything more unless you are prepared to tell the whole truth. Go to your room and stay there until you are ready to confess” (Montgomery 134). The following Monday, I found the brooch in the trunk, pinned onto my sweater. But I was still not ready to trust Anne.

One of the troubles caused by me was when Anne was trying to make a raspberry cordial. What happened was I told Anne the juice was in the pantry, but really it was in the cellar. I did not remember that the juice was in the cellar. When Diana came over, Anne served her three cups of wine, thinking that it was a raspberry cordial. Diana went home sick and everybody blamed Anne. When I finally accepted responsibility for my mistake, I tried to tell Diana’s mother, Mrs. Barry, the truth. “Of all the unreasonable women I ever saw, she’s the worst” (Montgomery 179).

Another time was when Anne made a vanilla cake. Anne used the vanilla bottle that I had poured anodyne liniment into. When the cake was ready the minster’s wife, Mrs. Allan, took a bite and did not like it. Anne got all upset and cried in bed. From these episodes I learned how important it is to be careful and to not immediately blame others before I understand the whole story. Before Anne came to live with us, I did not have to explain myself to anyone. Now I know that if I child is in the house, I have to be more careful in what I do and say.

Over the years, I learned to be responsible for Anne, and Anne became responsible herself. When Matthew died, I told Anne, “I know I’ve been strict and harsh with you maybe — but you mustn’t think that I didn’t love you as well as Matthew did, for all that. I want to tell you now when I can. It’s never been easy for me to say things out of my heart, but at a time like this it’s easier. I love you as dear as if you were my own flesh and blood” (Montgomery 410). As I grew older and knew I was going blind, I feared that I would be unable to take care of the farm. I decided to sell Green Gables. My dear Anne would not hear of it. As if in a dream, this girl of mine gave up her scholarship to Redmond in order to take care of Green Gables. She felt that giving up Green Gables would have been the greater sacrifice.

I look back at when I did have a beau, John Blyth. I only wish I had the heart of Anne and had forgiven him when I had the chance. I wanted to punish him for the quarrel we had, and he never came back. It seems that Anne was really the one teaching me how to care. she’s smart and pretty and loving, too. She has been a blessing to us and I never made a better decision than that day when we decided to keep Anne.

Questions

1. When Anne was 15, what changes did Marilla notice in Anne?
2. Why does Mrs. Lynde make Anne feel like she wants to do something wicked?
3. Why does an 11-year-old girls have so much wit and sense about her?
4. Why did Marilla and Matthew decide to keep Anne?
5. Why did Anne hold a grudge against Gilbert?