

### Short story : Marilla Cuthbert Is Surprised

The story is an extract from Lucy Maud Montgomery's "Anne of Green Gables." Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert were unmarried siblings who lived on their ancestral farm, Green Gables. Since Matthew needed a boy to help him on his farm, they had asked Mrs Spencer to send them a boy from the orphanage. Now it turned out that a girl named Anne Shirley was sent instead. Marilla was shocked and unable to accept her. When she faced Anne, she openly rejected her. Anne was badly hurt. She had a lot of hope from the family. Finally, it was decided that Anne could stay for the night but the next day they would drop her at the orphanage. Matthew seemed to sympathise with the girl but Marilla was quite insensitive.

#### Activity 1

Feelings :

- anxious/ worried/ apprehensive
- scared/ afraid/ frightened
- restless
- confused

Expectations:

- To be warmly welcomed by the family.
- To feel re-assured.
- To be loved and cared for.

#### Activity 2

Pg 21

- The author.
- She is badly hurt at being rejected.
- Feeling bad/hurt.

Pg 22

- She likes the name.
- She has been longing for a family.
- She is looking for a new identity.

Pg 23

- She has a low self-esteem.
- Feeling outrageous at their prejudice.

- At first she was quite open, now she is more reserved. Initially, she was hopeful about a better future, now she is greatly disappointed.

Pg 26

- She realised that Anne had been crying and her harsh words would hurt her more.

Pg 27

- Anne could help them out in the house.
- Anne could get a family for which she had longed for.

### **Activity 3**

Pg 28

Hints for scenarios:

(i) Marilla sends Anne back to the orphanage.

(ii) Marilla changes her mind and keeps Anne at home to help her with the household chores.

(iii) Marilla and Matthew have an argument and they decide to keep Anne under some strict conditions.

P.S There is no right or wrong answer to these questions. Students are encouraged to analyse the story and come up with various other interpretations.