

LITERATURE – 2A

Matthew Cuthbert is returning home from the train station after just having picked up an **orphan** who will live with him and his sister, Marilla. The Cuthberts asked for a boy to help them on their farm, Green Gables, so Matthew was surprised to see a girl, Anne, waiting for him on the platform.

START THINKING ...

1 Work in pairs. Discuss the questions.

- How do you feel when you meet new people for the first time?
- How do you try to make a good impression?
- What do you do on long journeys if you haven't got any gadgets?

ANNE OF GREEN GABLES (1908) Lucy Maud Montgomery

The child put out her hand and broke off a branch of wild plum that brushed against the side of the buggy.

'Isn't that beautiful? What did that tree, leaning out from the bank, all white and **lacy**, make you think of?' she asked.

5 'Well now, I dunno,' said Matthew.

'Why, a bride, of course – a bride all in white with a lovely misty **veil**. I've never seen one, but I can imagine what she would look like. I don't ever expect to be a bride myself. I'm so homely nobody will ever want to marry me. But I do hope that some
10 day I shall have a white dress. That is my highest ideal of earthly **bliss**. I just love pretty clothes. And I've never had a pretty dress in my life that I can remember – but of course it's all the more to look forward to, isn't it? And then I can imagine that I'm dressed gorgeously. This morning when I left the asylum I felt
15 so ashamed because I had to wear this horrid old wincey dress. All the orphans had to wear them, you know. A **merchant** in Hopeton last winter donated three hundred yards of wincey to the asylum. Some people said it was because he couldn't sell it, but I'd rather believe that it was out of the kindness of
20 his heart, wouldn't you? When we got on the train I felt as if everybody must be looking at me and **pitying** me. But I just went to work and imagined that I had on the most beautiful pale blue silk dress – because when you ARE imagining you might as well imagine something worth while – and a big hat all
25 flowers and nodding plumes, and a gold watch, and kid gloves and boots. I felt cheered up right away and I enjoyed my trip to

the Island with all my might. I wasn't a bit sick coming over in the boat. Neither was Mrs Spencer, although she generally is. She said she hadn't time to get sick, watching to see that I didn't fall
30 **overboard**. She said she never saw the beat of me for **prowl**ing about. But if it kept her from being seasick, it's a mercy I did prowl, isn't it? And I wanted to see everything that was to be seen on that boat, because I didn't know whether I'd ever have another opportunity. Oh, there are a lot more cherry trees all
35 in bloom! This Island is the bloomiest place. I just love it already, and I'm so glad I'm going to live here. I've always heard that Prince Edward Island was the prettiest place in the world, and I used to imagine I was living here, but I never really expected I would. It's **delightful** when your imaginations come true, isn't
40 it? But those red roads are so funny. When we got into the train at Charlottetown and the red roads began to flash past, I asked Mrs Spencer what made them red and she said she didn't know and for pity's sake not to ask her any more questions. She said I must have asked her a thousand already. I suppose I had, too,
45 but how you going to find out about things if you don't ask questions? And what DOES make the roads red?'

'Well now, I dunno,' said Matthew.

'Well, that is one of the things to find out sometime. Isn't it
splendid to think of all the things there are to find out about?
50 It just makes me feel glad to be alive – it's such an interesting world. It wouldn't be half so interesting if we know all about everything, would it? There'd be no **scope** for imagination then, would there? But am I talking too much? People are always telling me I do. Would you rather I didn't talk? If you say so I'll
55 stop. I can STOP when I make up my mind to it, although it's difficult.'

Matthew, much to his own surprise, was enjoying himself. Like most quiet folks he liked talkative people when they were willing to do the talking themselves and did not expect him to
60 keep up his end of it. But he had never expected to enjoy the society of a little girl.

Glossary

- 1 _____ a child whose parents are dead
- 2 _____ a person whose job is to buy and sell products in large amounts
- 3 _____ over the side of a boat or ship and into the water
- 4 _____ a piece of thin material worn by women to cover the face or head, usually at a wedding
- 5 _____ made of or decorated with lace (= decorative cloth)
- 6 _____ the opportunity for doing something
- 7 _____ perfect happiness
- 8 _____ to move around quietly trying not to be seen or heard, such as an animal does when hunting
- 9 _____ very pleasant, attractive or enjoyable
- 10 _____ to feel sadness or sympathy for someone's unhappiness or bad situation

- 2 **▶▶2A.1** Read the text and listen.
- 3 Match the words in bold to the definitions to form a glossary.
- 4 Read the text again. Mark the sentences T (true), F (false) or DS (doesn't say).

- 1 Anne thinks that she will get married one day.
- 2 The orphans all wear dresses that are exactly the same style.
- 3 A man gave free dresses to the orphans.
- 4 Anne had been on a boat before.
- 5 Anne learns why the roads are red.
- 6 Matthew doesn't want to speak.

- 5 **READ BETWEEN THE LINES** Answer the questions. Give reasons and examples from the text.

- 1 How does Anne use clothes to explain what her life is like now?
- 2 How does she cope with the embarrassment of wearing ugly clothes?
- 3 Is Anne optimistic or pessimistic? How can you tell?
- 4 How well do you think Anne and Matthew are going to get on?

- 6 **VOCABULARY** Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words from the glossary.

- 1 Indian food started to become popular outside India when _____ began to trade spices.
- 2 Modes of transportation are constantly changing, but there's still _____ for improvement.
- 3 _____ used to have very difficult lives. Many of them were forced to work in factories.
- 4 In 2005, a man fell _____ while cruising around Greece on his honeymoon.
- 5 Many people feel total _____ on their wedding day, more than any other.
- 6 It's normal to feel _____ when a member of your family gets divorced.

- 7 **ROLE PLAY** Work in groups of three. Anne and Matthew arrive at Matthew's farm. Matthew introduces Anne to his sister, Marilla. Imagine the conversation. Student A is Marilla, Student B is Matthew and Student C is Anne. Read the beginning of the conversation and then continue it with your own ideas.

MARILLA Matthew! What's this? This isn't a boy orphan. It's a girl. A girl can't help on our farm!

- 8 **LISTENING** **▶▶2A.2** Listen to the next part of the story where Anne talks to Marilla the next morning. Put the words in the order you hear them. There are two words that you do not hear.

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------|--------------------------|----------|--------------------------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | dream | <input type="checkbox"/> | Billy | <input type="checkbox"/> | imagine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | geranium | <input type="checkbox"/> | sense | <input type="checkbox"/> | life |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | orchard | <input type="checkbox"/> | playmate | | |

- 9 **LISTENING** **▶▶2A.2** Listen again. Complete the summary. Write one word.

Anne is very upset and instead of going outside, she ¹_____ by the table. She knows Marilla doesn't want her to ²_____ at Green Gables. Anne doesn't want to fall in ³_____ with the house and the garden if she has to leave. She dreamed of her new life, but now she knows her dream is ⁴_____. She asks what a plant is called, and when Marilla replies that it's an ⁵_____ -scented geranium, Anne replies that it needs a proper ⁶_____ like Bonny. Marilla thinks ⁷_____ is silly, but Anne replies that she has already named another tree the ⁸_____ Queen.

THINK STYLE

Children's literature

Children's novels often contain the following features: a main character who is the same age as the child the book is written for, characters that behave in a similar way or who have the same fears as the reader, short chapters, illustrations, and links to traditional stories or fairy tales. In a series of books aimed at children, the main character gets older in each book. Some examples of series written for children include *The Chronicles of Narnia* by C.S. Lewis, *Harry Potter* by J.K. Rowling and *The Famous Five* by Enid Blyton.

- 10 Think of your favourite children's series and discuss why you think it is so successful with a partner. Talk about the themes, the main characters and how the characters grow up during the series. Then present your ideas to the class.

WRITING A story

- 11 **WRITING** Write a children's story in which the main character has a good imagination.

- Give your story a clear beginning, middle and ending.
- Use lots of descriptive language including similes and metaphors.
- Include adjectives and adverbs to make the characters and situations interesting.
- Remember that you are writing from the point of view of a child.