Name:
Date:

This sequel to Anne of Green Gables follows Anne Shirley, a young Canadian orphan. 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.

The following is an excerpt from chapter 5 of Anne of Avonlea by Lucy Maud Montgomery.

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.

Directions: Answer each of the following questions.

1. Which quote from the selection shows that Anne is nervous on the first day of school?

2. According to the selection, why did Anne stay "up until twelve the preceding night composing a speech"?

3. Which statement gives support to the assertion that the children are ready for class when Anne enters the class?
   a. "the rustle and clatter of desk lids that followed"
   b. "for the first time in her life she had traversed the Birch Path deaf and blind to its beauties"
   c. "she was confronted by prim rows of "shining morning faces" and bright, inquisitive eyes"
   d. "hoping that she did not look as frightened and foolish as she felt"

4. Which quote from the selection supports the theme?
   a. "hoping that she did not look as frightened and foolish as she felt"
   b. "all was quiet and still"
   c. "she had sat up until nearly twelve the preceding night composing a speech "
   d. "under cover of the rustle and clatter of desk lids that followed"