

Anne of Green Gables

March 19-28, 2021

Online Streaming

March 26-28, 2021

**Fridays & Saturdays at
7:30 pm**

Sundays at 3:00 pm

2nd Street Stage

**Hannah Block Historic
USO/Community Arts
Center**

120 South 2nd Street



A dramatization with all the charm and excitement of L.M. Montgomery's enduring classic about an orphan girl, Anne Shirley, from her first encounter with her austere guardian to her thrilling graduation from Queen's Academy. The play faithfully recreates the memorable events and characters from the brilliant novel.

About the Thalian Association

Thalian Association Community Theatre is a non-profit, membership organization that's dedicated to enhancing the rich artistic

environment of the Cape Fear region. Tracing its roots back to 1788, the Thalian Association Community Theatre was founded to provide arts education and bring the excitement of the performing arts to Wilmington, North Carolina. Today the Thalian Association Community Theatre produces five major productions annually on the Main Stage at historic Thalian Hall, offers a Youth Theatre program and professionally manages the Hannah Block Historic USO/Community Arts Center for the City of Wilmington. In 2007, the North Carolina legislature named the Thalian Association Community Theatre the Official Community Theater of North Carolina.



Reading Activity: Setting

The setting of *Anne of Green Gables* is based on the real-life community of Cavendish, Prince Edward Island, Canada. The book's author, L.M. Montgomery, grew up on her grandparents' farm in Cavendish during the late Victorian period. Her cousins also owned a nearby farm called Green Gables. Montgomery's writing is known for its detailed descriptions of the setting, allowing the reader to fully imagine the views, scents and textures that her characters experience.



The Green Gables farmhouse on Prince Edward Island



Prince Edward Island

In the story, 11-year-old Anne is left orphaned after the death of her parents. Anne is very lonely and only has her vivid imagination to keep her company.

Anne lives at an orphanage until she is sent to live with Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert, two middle-aged siblings who need help running Green Gables, their family farm.

However, when Anne arrives, she is dismayed to learn that there has been a terrible mistake -- the Cuthberts requested a boy from the orphanage, not a girl! Broken-hearted, Anne dreads going back to the orphanage. She has already fallen in love with Green Gables and the beautiful landscape of Prince Edward Island.

Reading Excerpts from *Anne of Green Gables*

Will Anne's imaginative personality and charm win the Cuthberts over? Will they let her stay at Green Gables? Read the following excerpts from *Anne of Green Gables* to learn more about the setting.

Excerpt from Chapter IV. Morning at Green Gables

It was broad daylight when Anne awoke and sat up in bed, staring confusedly at the window through which a flood of cheery sunshine was pouring and outside of which something white and feathery waved across glimpses of blue sky.

For a moment she could not remember where she was. First came a delightful thrill, as something very pleasant; then a horrible remembrance. This was Green Gables and they didn't want her because she wasn't a boy!

But it was morning and, yes, it was a cherry-tree in full bloom outside of her window. With a bound she was out of bed and across the floor. She pushed up the sash—it went up stiffly and creakily, as if it hadn't been opened for a long time, which was the case; and it stuck so tight that nothing was needed to hold it up.



Anne from "Anne with an E" on Netflix



The Green Gables Farmhouse on Prince Edward Island

Anne dropped on her knees and gazed out into the June morning, her eyes glistening with delight. Oh, wasn't it beautiful? Wasn't it a lovely place? Suppose she wasn't really going to stay here! She would imagine she was. There was scope for imagination here.

A huge cherry-tree grew outside, so close that its boughs tapped against the house, and it was so thick-set with blossoms that hardly a leaf was to be seen. On both sides of the house was a big orchard, one of apple-trees and one of cherry-trees, also showered over with blossoms; and their grass was all sprinkled with dandelions. In the garden below were lilac-trees purple with flowers, and their dizzily sweet fragrance drifted up to the window on the morning wind.



Prince Edward Island landscape

Below the garden a green field lush with clover sloped down to the hollow where the brook ran and where scores of white birches grew, upspringing airily out of an undergrowth suggestive of delightful possibilities in ferns and mosses and woodsy things generally. Beyond it was a hill, green and feathery with spruce and fir; there was a gap in it where the gray gable end of the little house she had seen from the other side of the Lake of Shining Waters was visible.



Prince Edward Island landscape

Off to the left were the big barns and beyond them, away down over green, low-sloping fields, was a sparkling blue glimpse of sea.

Anne's beauty-loving eyes lingered on it all, taking everything greedily in. She had looked on so many unlovely places in her life, poor child; but this was as lovely as anything she had ever dreamed.

Excerpt from Chapter II. Matthew Cuthbert is Surprised

Below them was a pond, looking almost like a river so long and winding was it. A bridge spanned it midway and from there to its lower end, where an amber-hued belt of sand-hills shut it in from the dark blue gulf beyond, the water was a glory of many shifting hues—the most spiritual shadings of crocus and rose and ethereal green, with other elusive tintings for which no name has ever been found.



Prince Edward Island landscape



Boats in Prince Edward Island

Above the bridge the pond ran up into fringing groves of fir and maple and lay all darkly translucent in their wavering shadows. Here and there a wild plum leaned out from the bank like a white-clad girl tip-toeing to her own reflection. From the marsh at the head of the pond came the clear, mournfully-sweet chorus of the frogs.

There was a little gray house peering around a white apple orchard on a slope beyond and, although it was not yet quite dark, a light was shining from one of its windows.

Writing Activity: Examining L.M. Montgomery's Descriptions

L. M. Montgomery's writing is known for vivid descriptions of the Prince Edward Island landscape.

In this exercise you will find some of those descriptions in the text excerpts above. Then you will create your own descriptions using Montgomery's style.



Prince Edward Island landscape

Part 1: Using the two excerpts above, find five descriptions and write them down in the space below. Be sure to note the chapter and paragraph where you found them!

For example, in the first paragraph of Chapter IV, Montgomery describes the window in Anne's bedroom: "the window through which a flood of cheery sunshine was pouring and outside of which something white and feathery waved across glimpses of blue sky."



The Anne of Green Gables set by Tourism PEI

Example: Chapter IV, Paragraph 1: the window through which a flood of cheery sunshine was pouring and outside of which something white and feathery waved across glimpses of blue sky

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Part 2: Using what you have learned about L.M. Montgomery’s writing style, write five of your own descriptions. Get inspiration from the natural world, for example a beautiful tree in your backyard, a flower in your school garden or the soft grass at your local park.



Covehead Harbour Lighthouse on Prince Edward Island

Example: the crooked branches of the old oaks were stripped of leaves, and tufts of silvery-green mistletoe hung in their crests

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

History Activity: The 1918 Flu Pandemic

Ten years after publishing *Anne of Green Gables*, Lucy Maud Montgomery was infected with the H1N1 virus and nearly died. The 1918 flu epidemic infected around 500 million people around the world during the first half of the 1900s. Many parallels have been made between the 1918 flu and the current Coronavirus pandemic. As of February 2021, over 100 million people have been infected with the Coronavirus.

Though the first 1918 flu patients in the United States were reported as early as March 1918, World War I censors blocked these reports from the national media to keep up morale for the war effort. Spain, a neutral country during the war, was free to accurately report on the devastation caused by the virus. Consequently, many assumed that Spain had been terribly affected, leading to the nickname 'the Spanish flu'. In reality, the virus was spreading quickly around the entire globe, and its origins have never been accurately pinned down.



L.M. Montgomery



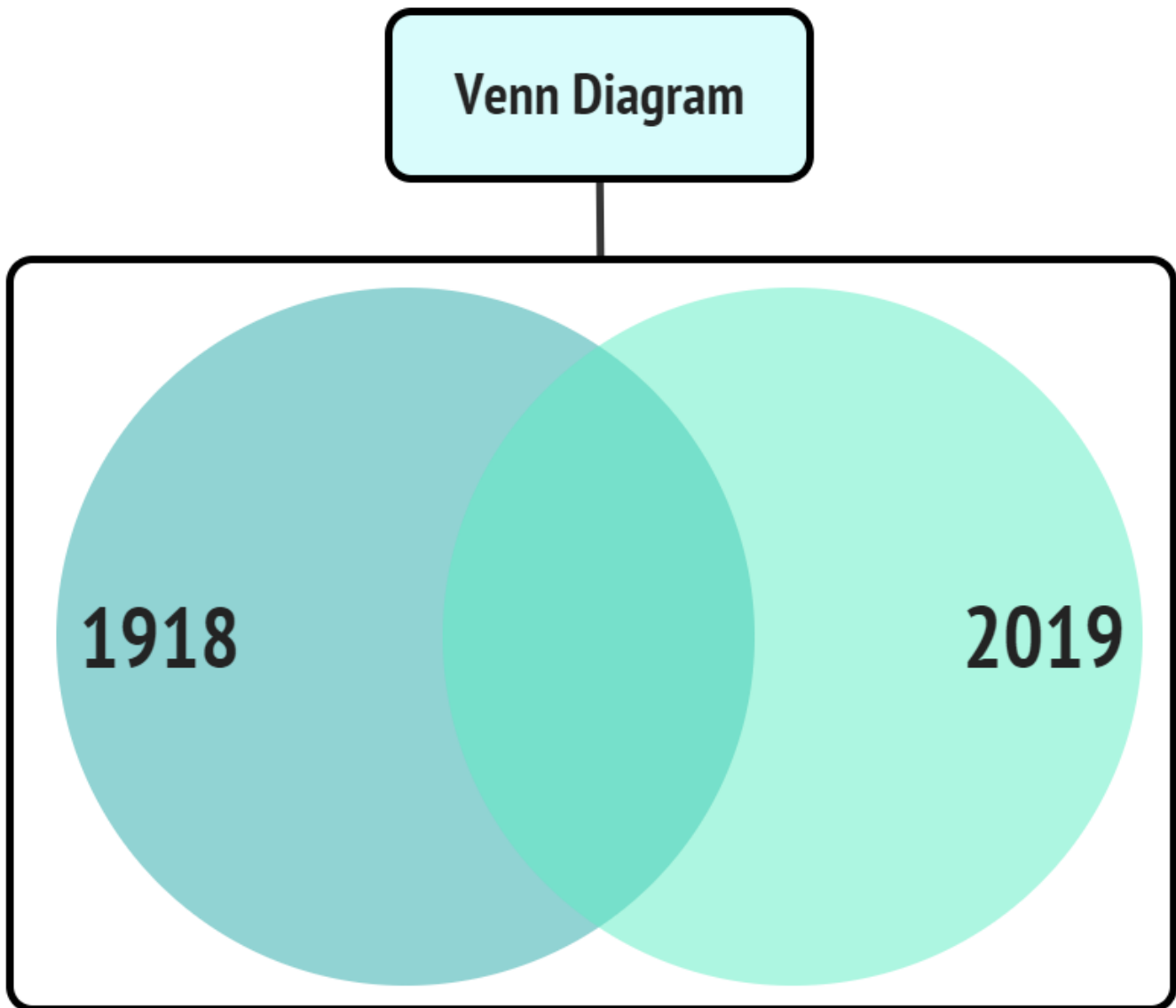
L.M. Montgomery

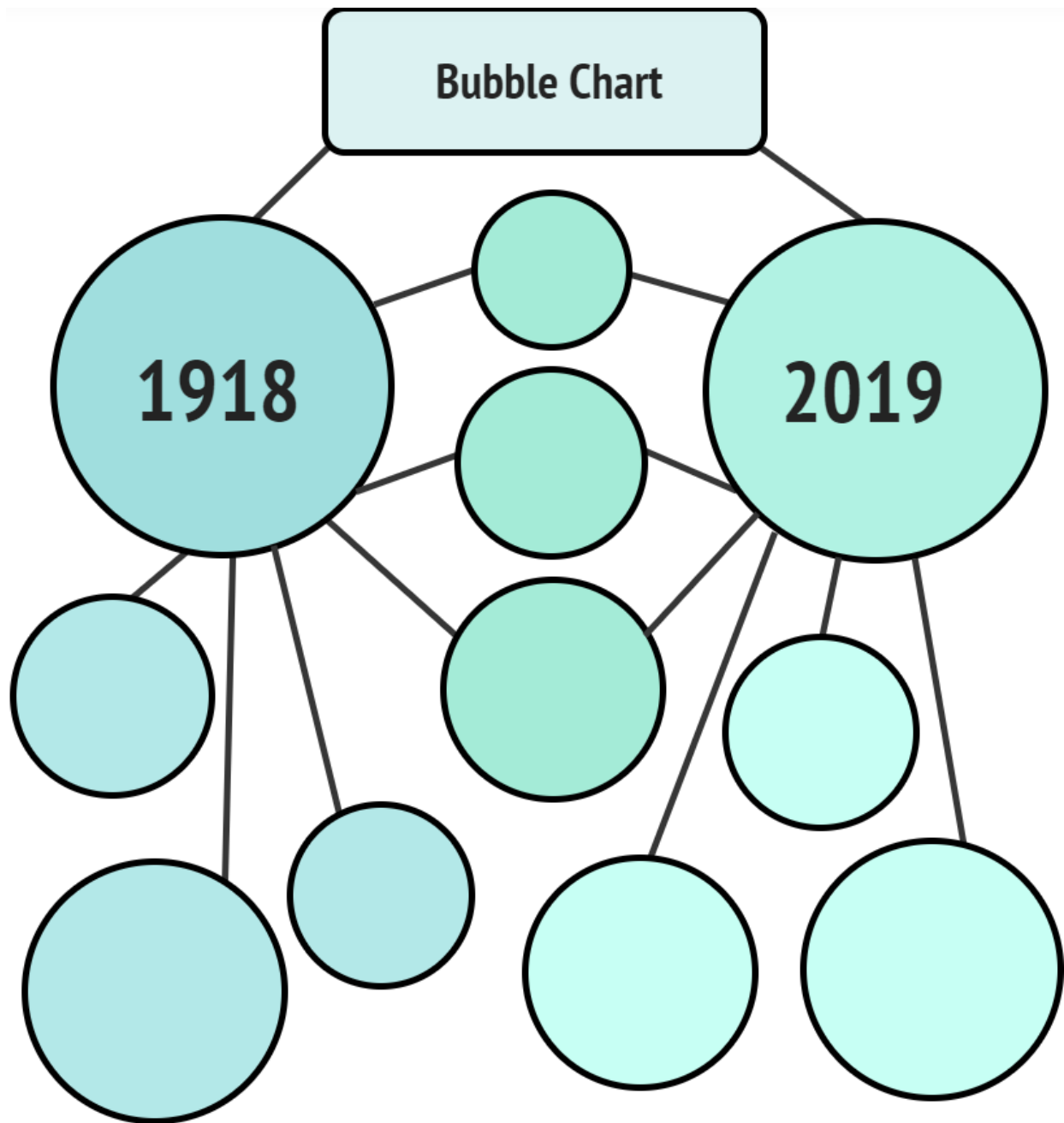
Following a visit to Toronto in November 1918, Montgomery wrote in her diary that "Toronto was then beginning to be panic stricken over the outbreak of the terrible 'Spanish flu'. The drug counters were besieged with frantic people seeking remedies and safeguards". Montgomery wrote about being infected with the 1918 flu: "I was in bed for ten days. I never felt so sick or weak in my life".

Montgomery eventually recovered, but her best friend Frederica Campbell MacFarlane died from the flu in January 1919. Many scholars believe Frederica was the basis for the character Diana, Anne's best friend in *Anne of Green Gables*.

History Activity: Contrasting Past and Present

Using what you have learned about the 1918 Flu Pandemic, compare and contrast the 1918 Flu outbreak with the 2019 Coronavirus pandemic. Complete the following diagrams.





Art Activity: Anne in Color

The character Anne in *Anne of Green Gables* amazes everyone with her vivid imagination. Using the coloring sheet below, color in Anne's world as you imagine it!

