



### ABOUT YOU

Answer the questions and compare your ideas.

- 1 What causes bad moods in people?
- 2 Can you think of a time when and the reason why you were in a bad mood?
- 3 What makes some classrooms better places to learn than others?
- 4 Have you ever been in a classroom that was too hot or too cold? Did that make studying difficult?

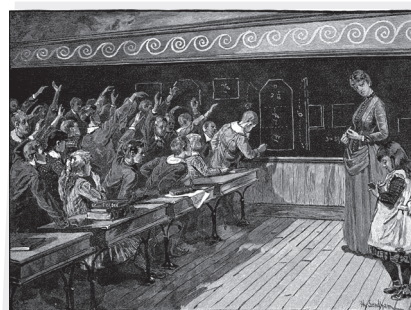
A typical early twentieth century classroom was often a dark place with very little heating. Maybe it had just a coal fire or small stove. In this text, a young and very dedicated teacher called Anne is teaching her class. The students love her because she is kind and understanding. However, on this cold winter day, Anne is suffering from toothache and has been awake most of the night. She is tired and in pain.

- 1 Read the text. As you read, think about this question. What do the students notice about Anne's behaviour?

### *Anne of Avonlea* (1909) Lucy Maud Montgomery

The schoolroom was cold and smoky, for the fire refused to burn and the children were **huddled** about it in groups, shivering. Anne sent them to their seats with a **sharper tone** than she had ever used before ...

- 5 It seemed to Anne that there had never been so many **squeaky** pencils as there were that morning; and when her pupil Barbara Shaw came up, she tripped over the box with coal in it with **disastrous** results. The coal rolled to every part of the room, and when she picked herself up, her face was stained with the black coal and the boys laughed out loud. "Really, Barbara," she said icily, "if you cannot move without falling over something, you'd better remain in your seat. Her sympathetic teacher had never spoken to her in such a tone and Barbara was **heartbroken**."
- 15 St. Clair Donnell arrived out of breath. "You are half an hour late, St. Clair," said Anne. "Take your seat and work out the six problems on page eighty-four." He went **meekly** to his desk, then he carefully passed a small parcel to Joe Sloane across the **aisle**. Anne noticed him doing it and **jumped to her own conclusion** about that parcel. Old Mrs. Hiram Sloane, a lady who lived in the village, had lately taken to making and selling "nut cakes" by way of adding to her small income. The cakes were especially appealing to small boys. On their way to school the boys would spend their spare cash at Mrs. Hiram's. They brought



- 30 the cakes along with them to school and, if possible, shared them with their mates and ate them during school hours. "Joseph," said Anne quietly, "bring that parcel here." "Throw it into the fire," said Anne. Joe looked very worried. "Please, miss," he began. "Joseph, are you going to obey me or are you NOT?" said Anne. This was a new Anne whom none of her pupils had ever seen before. Joe, looking desperately at St. Clair, went to the stove, opened the big, square front door, and threw the blue and white parcel into the flames. For a few moments, the terrified occupants of Avonlea school did not know whether it was an earthquake or a volcano that had occurred. The innocent-looking parcel which Anne thought contained Mrs. Hiram's nut cakes really held a variety of fireworks. St. Clair's father had sent them to Donnell's father the day before, having intended to have a birthday celebration that evening. Joseph was told to give them to St. Clair.

### GLOSSARY

<b>huddled</b>	standing or sitting close together
<b>sharper tone</b>	stricter way of speaking
<b>squeaky</b>	making a very high sound
<b>disastrous</b>	extremely bad or unsuccessful
<b>heartbroken</b>	extremely sad
<b>meekly</b>	in a quiet, gentle way and without arguing or expressing opinions
<b>aisle</b>	a long, narrow space between rows of seats in an aircraft, cinema or church
<b>to jump to a conclusion</b>	to guess the facts about a situation without having enough information

**2** Read the text again and answer the questions.

- 1 Which things seem to annoy Anne?  
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- 2 Explain the reasons why Anne jumped to the wrong conclusion.  
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- 3 Why do you think Joe didn't try to explain what was in the parcel?  
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- 4 Why do you think volcanoes and earthquakes are mentioned?  
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- 5 What do you think will happen next?  
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**VOCABULARY**

**3** Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in brackets.

- 1 If you listen carefully, you can hear the mouse ..... (**SQUEAKY**)
- 2 We only lost the football final by one goal, so it wasn't a complete ..... (**DISASTROUS**)
- 3 We were ..... under the tree trying to keep dry in the rain. (**HUDDLE**)
- 4 He said he was ..... when he said goodbye to Sam, his true love. (**HEARTBREAK**)

**4** Find a word or phrase from the glossary to solve these 'crossword clues'.

- 1 You can find this on a plane and in a theatre.
- 2 His way of speaking to me reminded me of a knife!
- 3 She quickly decided, but didn't think about all the facts.
- 4 He did what he was told to do without complaining.

**WRITING**

**5** Imagine you are a student in Anne's class and you keep a diary. Write your diary entry for the day described in the text. You can add more details and ideas, such as conversations with friends, how you felt or descriptions of the weather, but try and use your own words.

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**SPEAKING**

**6** Work in a group. First, on your own, rank the list below according to how dangerous you think they are (1 – most dangerous, 10 – least dangerous). Then work as a group to discuss and agree on a new, shared ranking that reflects the ideas of the whole group.

- 1 Fireworks
- 2 Riding a bike at night without lights
- 3 Thunderstorms
- 4 Living in a very polluted city
- 5 Doing a sport like roller-blading without proper protection
- 6 Eating too much fast food
- 7 Contact sports like rugby or boxing.
- 8 Living close to an active volcano
- 9 Living in place where earthquakes sometimes happen
- 10 Bungee jumping