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AP Literature 2A

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Diagnostic Essay

Anne of Green Gables

Anne Shirley, the protagonist in the novel *Anne of Green Gables* by LM Montgomery, possesses a personality unlike any other characters that I have ever experienced. Her love for books and literature at a young age far exceeds several children her age and even some of the adults in her life.

Very much like Anne, I itch for a good book to read, and when one is found, I find myself engulfed in the world that's been created on the pages in front of me. When Anne has a good book in hand, time loses its meaning as she forgets to do her every-day tasks. I myself forget simple daily things like Anne does when reading a good book for everything else seems mundane in comparison.

Her personality, on the other hand, always tends to leave a significant impression on all those she comes across. She is remarkably candid about the way she speaks to others that one finds it refreshing.

As a child, I always spoke my mind without the intent of offense to those that I gave my opinion to. However, Anne and I share the same flaw of being too outspoken in certain circumstances. After years of constant practice in various situations, the need to give the entire truth has been toned down to giving a sugarcoated version of it. Yet, to my relief, there are still certain times where I can give my non-sugarcoated truthful opinion to others without any harm done.

Although Anne and I are quite blunt, our humor can make even an awkward situation bearable. Throughout her life, Anne used her witty sense of humor to make even the most strict and uptight person to come to love her. Although I can't say that I can make everyone that I come across to adore me the way that Anne had done, I can say that I've made the hardly-ever-smile type of person twitch a smirk or two once in a while with my remarks—a quality that I find most valuable in myself.

When used correctly, humor becomes a form of sugarcoating that gets the message across without being too harsh. Anne used this tool her entire life and I can't help but find myself relating to the way that she manipulates humor to not only make others laugh, but to get the truth out there.

However, when Anne was younger, she found it very hard to apologize when she was too outspoken. Taking after my dad, I have a hot temper in which I find it difficult to apologize for things that I believe is right. Like Anne, I am head-strong about not apologizing when I believe that what I've said is justified. Unfortunately, adults do not reward this type of behavior to children, and therefore, Anne and I would wound up saying sorry. Eventually, we both learned to admit that we can be wrong at times, and that apologizing is not meant to kill one's pride, but to recognize that one is wrong and is brave enough to willingly admit it.

All of these traits that Anne possesses I find myself having as well to a certain degree. However, there is one in particular that I relate to the best: Anne's drive to show other's that she's capable of accomplishing anything that she sets her mind into doing. Anne was an orphan shortly after her birth, and it wasn't until she was in her teen years when a pair of middle-aged siblings adopted her. However, there were countless people who doubted Anne's capabilities to succeed in her goals, but she was able to prove them wrong by carving a great future for herself.

The expectation that was placed upon her was set at an extremely low point, but she was able to baffle everyone by exceeding farther than they could imagine from an orphan girl.

Anne was a driven person because she had purposes, some stronger than others, in her life that she wanted to accomplish. Her motivation is endless and is admirable in my eyes. Like Anne, I have found my goals in life and I have also experienced the lack of belief that I am capable of achieving great things in my lifetime. The fact that Anne was able to accomplish so much with such little expectation makes me feel as if I am capable of doing the same thing. As Anne had done, I strive to break the boundaries that the people around me has encased me in.