

# Anne's Imagination



At the beginning of the book Anne and Matthew are walking on their way to Green Gables. Anne is talking incessantly and starts to share with Matthew what she sees in her imagination. It is spring-time and they are walking along the Avenue, which Anne renames the **“White Way of Delight”**.

*“But they shouldn't call that lovely place the Avenue. There is no meaning in a name like that. They should call it - let me see - the White Way of Delight. Isn't that a nice imaginative name?”*

Anne of Green Gables  
Lucy Maud Montgomery



*“Isn't it splendid to think of all the things there are to find out about? 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?”*

**Montgomery uses similes, metaphors and personification to illustrate Anne's Imagination.**

## Definitions

**Simile:** a figure of speech involving the comparison of one thing with another thing of a different kind, used to make a description more emphatic or vivid (e.g. **as brave as a lion**).

**Metaphor:** a figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to an object or action to which it is not literally applicable. (e.g. **she's a star**).

**Personification:** the attribution of a personal nature or human characteristics to something non-human, or the representation of an abstract quality in human form. (e.g. **the wind howled**).

**Alliteration:** the occurrence of the same letter or sound at the beginning of adjacent or closely connected words. (e.g. **the White Way of Delight**).

**Pathetic fallacy:** A type of personification where emotions are given to a setting, and object or the weather

**Onomatopoeia:** Words that sound like they mean (e.g. **the rain splashed me**).

**Hyperbole:** The use of obvious exaggeration for rhetorical effect (e.g. **She was as tall as a house**).

**Emotive language:** Language intended to great an emotional response.

Colour is always important too. Montgomery uses colours to paint a picture of Anne's world and the nature around her. The colour of Anne's new life at Green Gables contrasts completely to her previous life in the orphanage; she relishes her new home full of colour and sound.

Using colour in a passage of writing enriches it like no other technique can. The sentences come alive for the reader and by combining it with sound (onomatopoeia), you are catapulting them into your world.

*“I love bright red drinks, don't you? They taste twice as good as any other colour.”*

*“Anne revelled in the world of colour about her.”*

## Quotes from *Anne of Green Gables* to Inspire your Imagination:

*"It was November- the month of crimson sunsets, parting birds, deep, sad hymns of the sea, passionate wind-songs in the pines. Anne roamed through the pineland alleys in the park and, as she said, let that great sweeping wind blow the fogs out of her soul."*

*"Look at that sea, girls- all silver and shadow and vision of things not seen. We couldn't enjoy its loveliness anymore if we had millions of dollars and ropes of diamonds."*

*"I read in a book once that a rose by any other name would smell as sweet, but I've never been able to believe it. I don't believe a rose WOULD be as nice if it was called a thistle or a skunk cabbage."*

*"The world calls them its singers and poets and artists and storytellers; but they are just people who have never forgotten the way to fairyland."*

*"Listen to the trees talking in their sleep," she whispered, ... "What nice dreams they must have!"*

*"But if you have big ideas you have to use big words to express them, haven't you?"*

*"Oh, Marilla," she exclaimed one Saturday morning, coming dancing in with her arms full of gorgeous boughs, "I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers. It would be terrible if we just skipped from September to November, wouldn't it? Look at these maple branches. Don't they give you a thrill-several thrills?"*

*"...the Lake of Shining Waters was blue — blue — blue; not the changeful blue of spring, nor the pale azure of summer, but a clear, steadfast, serene blue, as if the water were past all modes and tenses of emotion and had settled down to a tranquillity unbroken by fickle dreams."*

*"Oh, here we are at the bridge. I'm going to shut my eyes tight. I'm always afraid going over bridges. I can't help imagining that perhaps, just as we get to the middle, they'll crumple up like a jack-knife and nip us. So, I shut my eyes. But I always have to open them for all when I think we're getting near the middle. Because, you see, if the bridge did crumple up, I'd want to see it crumple. What a jolly rumble it makes! I always like the rumble part of it. Isn't it splendid there are so many things to like in this world? There, we're over. Now I'll look back. Good night, dear Lake of Shining Waters. I always say good night to the things I love, just as I would to people. I think they like it. That water looks as if it was smiling at me."*

*"Velvet carpet," sighed Anne luxuriously, "and silk curtains! I've dreamed of such things, Diana. But do you know I don't believe I feel very comfortable with them after all. There are so many things in this room and all so splendid that there is no scope for imagination. That is one consolation when you are poor- there are so many more things you can imagine about."*

*"Sometimes I feel as if those exams mean everything, but when I look at the big buds swelling on those chestnut trees and the misty blue air at the end of the streets, they don't seem half so important."*

*"If I wasn't a human girl, I think I'd like to be a bee and live among the flowers."*

## ACTIVITY BOX



Choose something from nature such as a tree, leaf, lake, river etc. and use metaphors, similes and personification to describe it. Be as imaginative as Anne, make something seemingly ordinary and every day magical. Almost as if you are seeing it for the first time!

