## CLASSIC STEPPING STONES a chapter book Anne of Green Gables by L. M. Montgomery adapted by Deborah Felder



It was a sunny afternoon in June. Mrs. Lynde looked out her kitchen window and saw Matthew Cuthbert drive by in a horse and buggy.

"Where is Matthew Cuthbert going?" wondered Mrs. Lynde. "And why is he wearing his best suit? He never goes visiting. He's much too quiet and shy."

Mrs. Lynde liked to know what everyone in Avonlea was doing. Matthew lived at Green Gables with his sister, Marilla. So Mrs. Lynde decided to walk over to Green Gables.

When Mrs. Lynde got to Green Gables, she found Marilla Cuthbert in the kitchen. Marilla was a tall, thin woman with graystreaked dark hair. It was twisted into a hard knot at the back of her head.

"Good evening, Rachel," she said. "It's a fine evening, isn't it? Won't you sit down?"

"I saw Matthew going off," Mrs. Lynde said. "I was afraid you were sick. I thought maybe he was going to get the doctor."

"Oh, no, I'm quite well. Matthew went to Bright River. We're getting a boy from the orphanage in Nova Scotia. He's coming on the train tonight."

Mrs. Lynde could not believe her ears. Marilla and Matthew adopting a boy! The world was certainly turning upside down!

"Are you serious about this, Marilla?" asked Mrs. Lynde.

"Yes, of course," Marilla said. "Matthew is getting on in years. He isn't as strong as he once was. We decided a boy could help him on the farm."

Mrs. Lynde wanted to stay until

Matthew came home with the boy. But it would be at least two hours before they arrived. She decided to go up the road and tell the surprising news to Mrs. Bell.

"I'm sorry for that poor orphan," Mrs. Lynde said when she was back out in the lane. "Matthew and Marilla don't know anything about raising children."

When Matthew Cuthbert arrived at the station, there was no sign of the train. The long platform was empty except for a girl sitting at the end.

The stationmaster was locking up the ticket office.

"Will the five-thirty train be along soon?" Matthew asked.

"The train's been in and gone," the stationmaster said. "But there was a passenger for you—a little girl."

"I don't understand," Matthew said.
"Mrs. Spencer was supposed to send a boy, not a girl."



## STEPPING STONES

a chapter book



Marilla and Matthew want to adopt an orphan boy to help out on the farm. By mistake, they are sent spunky red-haired Anne instead. At first, it seems that wherever Anne goes, trouble follows. She hits a boy over the head with her slate at school. Then she falls off the neighbor's roof during a game of truth or dare! But as she grows up, all of Avonlea comes to love Anne of Green Gables.