

MR. PHILLIPS

How many spoken lines did you have, Miss Pye?

JOSIE

Hark.

MR. PHILLIPS

Yes?

JOSIE

Hark. My line was, "hark!"

GILBERT

*(Sotto voce)* Did she say she hooked a hark on her line? *(STUDENTS giggle.)*

MR. PHILLIPS

Mr. Blythe, perhaps you would like to continue entertaining us with your wit?

GILBERT

No, sir. Sorry, sir.

PRISSY ANDREWS

Mr. Phillips!?

MR. PHILLIPS

*(Smitten)* Yes, my dear? I mean, yes, Miss Andrews?

PRISSY ANDREWS

I realize I have been honored with the lead role in this performance. But I would be happy to step aside for Josie.

JOSIE PYE

I do have experience. And a costume. Thank you, Prissy Andrews. It is for the best, and a benefit to us all. *(Sits down.)* I am glad you saw reason.

PRISSY ANDREWS

Yes, Josie. Those whom life has blessed with personal loveliness are obligated to share their bounty with others less fortunate.

MR. PHILLIPS

Tomorrow will be our spelling test. I expect you to study and know the words at the end of chapter two in the spelling book. Anne. *(She is looking out the window, day dreaming.)* Anne Shirley! A lot more effort, and more attention, please, Miss. *(Class giggles at ANNE's discomfiture. JOSIE PYE wags her finger at ANNE and tosses her curls. GILBERT mimes that ANNE has been asleep and snores.)* The answers are in the book, not in the trees. Now Miss Pye, you have done outstanding work this week.

JOSIE PYE

Yes, I have.

MR. PHILLIPS

Please spell epitome.

JOSIE

*(JOSIE smirks at ANNE and stands, looking at her workbook, without MR. PHILLIPS seeing her.)*

Epitome. E.P.I.T.O.M.E. Epitome.

*(Sits down. GILBERT takes out a pin, and pins JOSIE's pigtails to the desk.)*

MR. PHILLIPS

Thank you. Now, Anne Shirley. Please spell floribunda.

ANNE

Floribunda. F.L.O.R.I.B.U.N.D.A. Floribunda. *(Hisses to JOSIE.)* Without cheating.

MR. PHILLIPS

I beg your pardon?

ANNE

Nothing, sir. Floribunda.

MR. PHILLIPS

Miss Pye? Tractate.

*(JOSIE attempts to stand, but is pulled roughly back by her pigtails. She begins to squall and accuses ANNE of the trick.)*

Anne! Did you tease Miss Pye? Answer me now.

ANNE

I did not, Mr. Phillips.

MR. PHILLIPS

Josie, stop that wailing. Anne, come up here and tell the truth.

ANNE

But Mr. Phillips! *(She sees she has no choice and starts forward. GILBERT grabs her braid as she goes by.)*

GILBERT

Carrots! Carrots! Carrots AND freckles!

*(ANNE turns in horror, mortified. She grabs GILBERT's slate.)*

ANNE

You mean, hateful boy! *(Breaks the slate over his head.)* How dare you! *(She tries to hold back her tears. The class is in shock.)* Who do you think you are to hurt someone's feelings!

MR. PHILLIPS

Stop! Anne Shirley! That is the most irresponsible thing I have ever seen in this classroom. I am sorry to see a pupil of mine displaying such a temper and such a vindictive spirit. You will go and stand on the platform in front of the blackboard for the rest of the afternoon.

GILBERT

Mr. Phillips, it was my fault, sir. I teased her.

MR. PHILLIPS

Anne!

ANNE

*(Marches to platform and stands in front of GILBERT. She glares at him. JOSIE PYE cries and is comforted by the class.)*

I will never forgive you, Gilbert Blythe. *Never!*

OLDER ANNE

After that incident, I ignored Gilbert. He did not exist, as far as I was concerned.

GILBERT

Anne... I'm sorry.

*(ANNE stomps by, ignoring him.)*

Good morning, Anne!

*(ANNE continues to ignore him, walking around him, staring him down, tossing the flowers on the ground.)*

Anne, I really do want to apologize. Can't we be...?

I picked you some flowers.

Look, Anne. I am so very very sorry for hurting your feelings. It was mean and selfish of me. Please, please, forgive me.

*(ANNE hesitates for a second, then looks at her braids, and squares her shoulders.)*

ANNE

I can accept your apologies, Mr. Blythe, but we can never be friends.

*(GILBERT watches her walk away, and ANNE joins DIANA.)*

ANNE

Diana! Come to my house for tea! Marilla and Matthew are in town today, and they said I should invite you for biscuits and raspberry crush.