

Anne Shirley may have been born in a book 110 years ago, but people are still crazy about her today. *Anne of Green Gables* has sold more than 50 million copies and has been translated into more than 36 languages. Many kids study the book in school, and lots of plays and films have told Anne's story. Anne is a lonely orphan who longs to fit in. When she's 11 years old, an older couple takes her in and Anne finds her first true friend. A man named Matthew listens to Anne's stories when no one else will. Before long Anne discovers that a girl living nearby is a "kindred spirit," a friend who tries to understand her and stands up for her no matter what. When Anne starts school, however, the real learning begins as Anne learns hard lessons about different kinds of friendship, and she has to figure out what the word *friend* really means.

Think About It . . .

- Have you ever heard of *Anne of Green Gables*? Why do you think people like the story so much?
- What different kinds of friends might a kid have?

THE BEAT

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Lesson 11



Article and activity by Rebecca Haynes Mott
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"I'll Be at Friend to You"

On the board, draw three wide columns. Label them: Close Friend, Family Friend, and Activity Friend. Explain that an "activity friend" is someone who is a friend because of one's involvement at school, in a club, or on a sports team. Have kids call out characteristics of friends in each category. Write their responses in the appropriate columns. Discuss which type of friend is best. **SAY: Let's dig into God's Word to see how we each can be a friend God's way.**

How will you be a friend to someone God's way?