

Minnesota

2020 Minnesota K–12 Academic Standards in English Language Arts

LESSON

Building a Theme About Family

Anne of Green Gables

TEACHES

4.1.4.2

Determine a theme or central idea of a story, drama or poem from details in the text.

WHY THIS EARNS THE STANDARD

Students determine a theme about family and explain how details from different parts of the story develop that theme.

The canonical lesson that follows is unchanged. This cover is an additive curriculum-placement layer.

TumbleTA | Tumbleweed Press Inc. | Corrected build 2026-09-09

TUMBLETA | GRADE 4 ELA | STANDALONE SKILL LESSON

Building a Theme About Family

Anne of Green Gables

20 minutes

OBJECTIVE

State a theme about family and support it with two different acts of care or commitment.

STUDENT PRODUCT

A theme statement plus two evidence-and-reasoning sentences.

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What does the story suggest makes people a family?

TEXT FOCUS

Reciprocal care and commitment between Anne, Matthew, and Marilla.

LESSON SEQUENCE

1. Collect | 3 min Choose two moments when one character gives care, protection, or opportunity to another.

2. Name the shared idea | 4 min State what the two moments have in common.
3. Turn topic into theme | 5 min Write a complete thought about what the story suggests, not just the word 'family'.
4. Support | 6 min Explain how each moment supports the theme.
5. Check | 2 min Make sure the theme could be true beyond this one plot event.

TEACHER KEY / EXPECTED THINKING

The novel suggests that family is built through reciprocal care and commitment rather than only through biological relationship or first expectations.

LOOK FOR

- States a full theme, not a topic.
- Uses two distinct moments.
- Explains how each moment supports the theme.

TumbleTA | Grade 4 ELA | Canonical standalone skill lesson