

Scene Nine

(Patch quilt drop and school)

[MUSIC NO. 09: "BACK TO SCHOOL"]

(BOYS and GIRLS:)

1ST BOY.

THINK A THE HOMEWORK! GOTTA BE DONE!

1ST BOY & 2ND BOY.

THINK A THE SPELLING BEE... THAT'S FUN!

1ST BOY, 2ND BOY & 3RD BOY.

THINK A THE 'RITHMETIC ON THE SLATE!

ALL BOYS.

THINK ABOUT RECESS... CAN'T WAIT!

ALL BOYS & GIRLS.

IT'S SCHOOL AGAIN!

SCHOOL AGAIN!

SCHOOL AGAIN!

MOODY. Nix, nix, it's old man Phillips!

(Everyone freezes.)

ALL. Good morning, Mr. Phillips! **(MR. PHILLIPS rides through on a bicycle.)**

SCHOOL AGAIN!

SCHOOL AGAIN!

SCHOOL AGAIN!

(TOMMY SLOANE aims his slingshot offstage. There is a crash. MR. PHILLIPS returns on foot, furious. TOMMY SLOANE shakes in his boots. PRISSY ANDREWS steps forth and charms MR. PHILLIPS. They go off arm in arm. KIDS follow. SCHOOL BALLET: Skipping rope, tag, leapfrog, hopscotch, and other hi-jinks as the KIDS wend their way to school.)

Scene Ten

(School)

(Chaos reigns. A cross-eyed likeness of MR. PHILLIPS has been drawn on the blackboard.)

(MR. PHILLIPS enters with PRISSY ANDREWS. Stops. Rubs off board. Restores order by whacking desk with a pointer. He then takes a pitch pipe out of his pocket, motions the CLASS to rise. MR. PHILLIPS blows pitch pipe.)

[MUSIC NO. 9A: "AVONLEA, WE LOVE THEE"]

KIDS. Hmmmm. *(out of tune)*

AVONLEA, WE LOVE THEE.

TO THEE WE PLEDGE, OUR ALMA MATER,
HEADS AND HANDS AND HEARTS FOREVER,
FOR WE KNOW THAT YOU ARE GRAND.

MR. PHILLIPS. 2-3-4.

KIDS.

AVONLEA, ABOVE THEE
WILL RAISE OUR LOYAL SONS AND DAUGHTERS,
BANNERS OF SINCERE ENDEAVOR
OVER PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

(KIDS sit down noisily.)

MR. PHILLIPS. All right, class, now settle down...settle down and get on with...the work I gave you yesterday.

(MR. PHILLIPS squeezes into the seat beside PRISSY ANDREWS.)

(ANNE starts to move out of her seat.)

DIANA. Don't bother Mr. Phillips now, Anne. He's busy.

ANNE. But he doesn't even know I'm here, Diana.

DIANA. Oh, he doesn't know any of us is here. He spends all his time with that Prissy Andrews. He's getting her ready to try for a scholarship. At least, that's what he says he's doing.

ANNE. But what are the rest of us supposed to do?

DIANA. Oh, finish up the work we didn't do yesterday.

ANNE. But I wasn't here yesterday.

DIANA. I know. You lucky thing. Why don't you draw something funny on your slate?

JOSIE. *(reading a note that has been passed to her)* Gilbert Blythe, you dirty little...

MR. PHILLIPS. All right, class. Settle down and concentrate.

DIANA. That boy teases Josie Pye something terrible. And she's dead gone on him! He's awf'ly handsome, isn't he? His name is Gilbert Blythe.

ANNE. I think he's very bold.

(DIANA giggles.)

When does Mr. Phillips start teaching the rest of us?

DIANA. As soon as he straightens out Prissy Andrews.

GILBERT. Psst! Hey, what are these...carrots?

ANNE. You mean, hateful boy! How dare you!

(ANNE breaks her slate over GILBERT BLYTHE's head.)

MR. PHILLIPS. *(rising)* Who is this strange girl?

ANNE. Anne Shirley, sir. I'm new... I have a note.

MR. PHILLIPS. And what does all this mean?

GILBERT. It was my fault, sir. I teased her.

MR. PHILLIPS. Sit down, Blythe. I am sorry to see a new pupil displaying such a vindictive spirit. What did you say your name was?

ANNE. Anne Shirley, sir. Anne with an "e"...

MR. PHILLIPS. Class repeat after me..."Anne Shirley has a very bad temper."

(JOSIE PYE writes this on the blackboard, omitting the "e" in "Anne.")

CLASS. Anne Shirley has a very bad temper.

MR. PHILLIPS. Anne Shirley must control her temper.

ANNE. Oh, please, sir! She's spelled it wrong! She forgot the "e."

MR. PHILLIPS. You must learn to control your tongue as well as your temper. Go and sit with Gilbert Blythe... Did you hear what I said?

ANNE. Yes. But I didn't suppose you really meant it.

MR. PHILLIPS. I assure you that I did. Obey me at once... Class repeat after me..."Anne Shirley has a very bad temper."

CLASS. Anne Shirley has a very bad temper.

MR. PHILLIPS. Anne Shirley must control her temper.

CLASS. Anne Shirley must control her temper.

MOODY. ...trol her temper.

MR. PHILLIPS. Moody Spurgeon MacPherson. Come here. Here. Here!

(Hits himself on the hand with the pointer, which breaks in two.)

(Laughter from CLASS.)

MOODY. *(after CLASS.)* Ahh-ha-ha... *(gulp)*

MR. PHILLIPS. What have you got in your mouth? Have you been chewing pine gum again?

MOODY. No, sir, I was just soaking a prune for recess.

MR. PHILLIPS. Well, get rid of it!

(He does. In MR. PHILLIPS' outstretched hand.)

(CLASS laughs again.)

All right, recess! Except for Blythe and the new girl. Gilbert, you stay in and clean off the board. The rest of you, dismiss in an orderly fashion...

(CLASS exits like a stampede of buffaloes. GILBERT and ANNE are left alone in the classroom.)

[MUSIC NO. 10: "WOND'RIN'"]

GILBERT.

WOND'RIN'.

ALL AT ONCE I'M WOND'RIN'

WHAT IT'S LIKE TO GROW UP

AND HAVE SOMEONE SHOW UP