

From the full length play:

Anne of Green Gables

Adapted from L.M. Montgomery by Tracy Wells

ANNE SHIRLEY, *a child aged 12 is explaining to Marilla how she learned to care for children.*

ANNE

In the foster homes I lived in. You see, my mother and father both died of fever when I was three months old. Nobody wanted me, so I went to live with a neighbor named Mrs. Thomas who was poor and had a drunken husband and four children. When I was old enough it became my job to look after them. When I was eight years old, Mr. Thomas was killed and Mrs. Thomas and her children went to live with her mother. Her mother didn't want me.

Well, Mrs. Hammond from up the road said she'd take me, seeing as I was handy with children. Mrs. Hammond had eight children—she had twins three times. I like babies in moderation, but twins three times in a row is too much. I told Mrs. Hammond so firmly, when the last pair came. Of course, she tore up my behind for saying such a thing.

I lived with the Hammonds for two years until Mr. Hammond died. Mrs. Hammond divided her children amongst three relatives and moved to the States. I had to go to the orphanage because nobody would take me. They didn't want me at the orphanage either; they said they were overcrowded. But they had to take me and I was there four months until Mrs. Spencer came.

And when people mean to be good to you, you don't always mind when they're not very nice. Besides, they had a good deal to worry about—what with a drunk husband and twins three times in a row. But I'm pretty sure they meant to be good to me.

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