

Anne

The Animated Series

EDUCATOR'S  
GUIDE  
EPISODE #9





## IDLE CHATTER - EPISODE #9

Anne thinks she may have seen Gilbert cheating on a test, and her decision to discuss her unfounded suspicions with other schoolmates harms Gilbert's grades and reputation. When Anne sees the error of her ways, she scrambles to fix things -- but is it too late?

### **Learning Objective**

The harm done by gossip may never be repaired. Learning about the damage rumours and gossip can cause will build:

*Social/Emotional Skills*

### **Talking About the Episode**

Unfortunately, gossip and rumours play an unhealthy role in the lives of young children. Cliques, loyalty, and belonging spur both positive and negative benefits. Children are never too young to start discuss what it means to be a good friend, respect others and believe the best in one another.

- What is gossip?
- Do you know what a rumour is? Who can tell us what it is? In Idle Chatter how was Gilbert hurt by gossip?
- How can you be hurt by gossip? Once the whole town is talking about Gilbert being a cheat, Anne knows that she must admit to her mistake-to starting the rumour. Why must she tell the truth?

### **Broken Telephone**

This treasured circle game is an ideal tool for modelling how words can get mixed up. Have the children sit in a circle. Have one child step aside with you and tell them a short phrase such as "The yellow elephant likes peanuts." Have them repeat it back to you as they have to get all the way back to the circle before they can share it with their neighbour.

Each child then whispers the phrase into the ear of the child sitting next to them with the last child in the circle telling everyone what they heard!



## IDLE CHATTER - EPISODE #9 (CONTINUED)

### Fact versus Fiction

To help children expand their understanding of factual information, use your storybook centre to introduce children to the notion of fiction and non-fiction. Begin with two signs: Fiction and Non-Fiction. Then, start simply by sharing two books: *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak and *Chickens Aren't the Only Ones* by Ruth Heller. Before sharing the books, tell children that one of the books is based on facts and one is a made-up story. Encourage them to guess which is which before and after reading the books. Be sure to help children understand that fiction may be based on real life people or events.

Create two baskets or tubs with the signs and the books. Make an activity out of sorting all of the books in your class or home library: fiction or non-fiction? What about Anne of Green Gables?

For older children expand the concept to television. Use a TV guide to talk about shows that are based on real-life and those that are fictional.