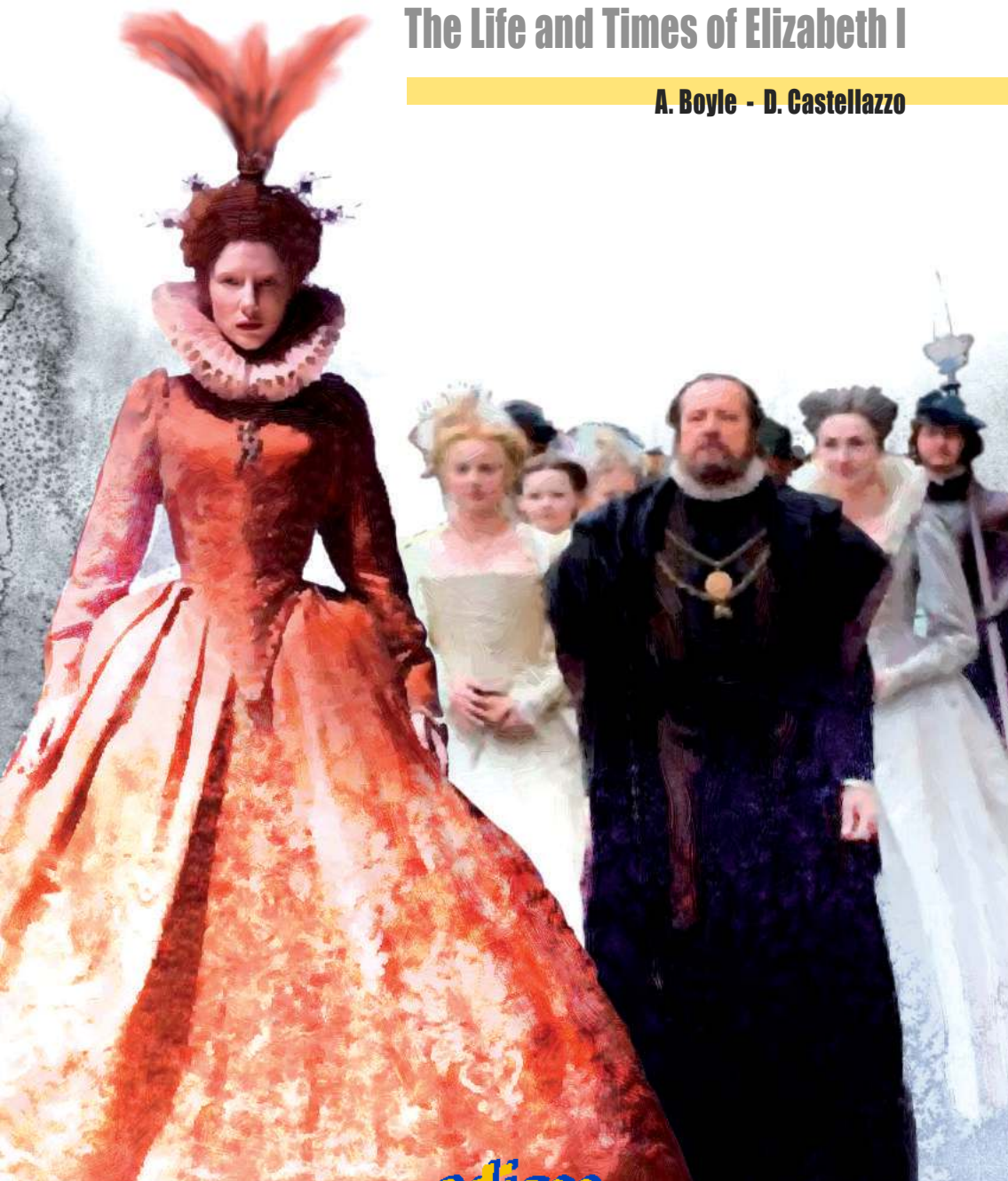




The Invincible Queen

The Life and Times of Elizabeth I

A. Boyle - D. Castellazzo





R A I N B O W S

Anthony Boyle - Daniela Castellazzo

The Invincible Queen

The Life and Times of Elizabeth I

Elizabeth I



edisco

The Invincible Queen

Project editor: Raffaele Polichetti

Cover: Mauro Borgarello

Design: Manuela Piacenti

Quality controller: Lunella Luzi

Page layout: Studio Pattern, Torino

Printing: La Grafica, Boves (Cn), Italy



All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the written permission of the publisher.

Every effort has been made to acknowledge and contact the source and/or copyright holder of material used in this book. The publisher apologizes for any unintentional errors or omissions and will be pleased to make corrections in future editions. All lyrics, music and films quoted are for review, study or critical purposes.

We would be happy to receive your comments and suggestions and give you any other information concerning our material.

Our email address: info@edisco.it

Our website address: <https://www.edisco.it>

Copyright © Edisco Editrice

Via Pastrengo 28

10128 Torino (Italy)

Tel. (+39) 011.54.78.80

Reprint

5 4 3 2 1 0

2023 2022 2021 2020 2019 2018

TABLE OF CONTENTS

• Tudors' and Stuarts' family tree	4
Chapter 1 – Henry VIII's Second Daughter	7
• Extension: <i>Women in Elizabethan England</i>	20
Chapter 2 – A Royal Teenager's Troubled Years	25
• Extension: <i>The Nine-Day Queen</i>	36
Chapter 3 – The Virgin Queen	39
• Extension: <i>The golden age of exploration</i>	54
Chapter 4 – A Queen with the Heart of a King	57
• Extension: <i>Scotland until Mary Stuart</i>	72
Chapter 5 – As the Century Closes	75
• Extension: <i>Elizabethan Literature</i>	94
• SUMMING-UP ACTIVITIES	98
• GLOSSARY	107



TUDORS' AND STUARTS'



Henry VII



Elizabeth of York



Margaret



James IV of Scotland



Arthur



James V



Marie de Guise



Mary Stuart



Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley



Elizabeth I (1533-1603)



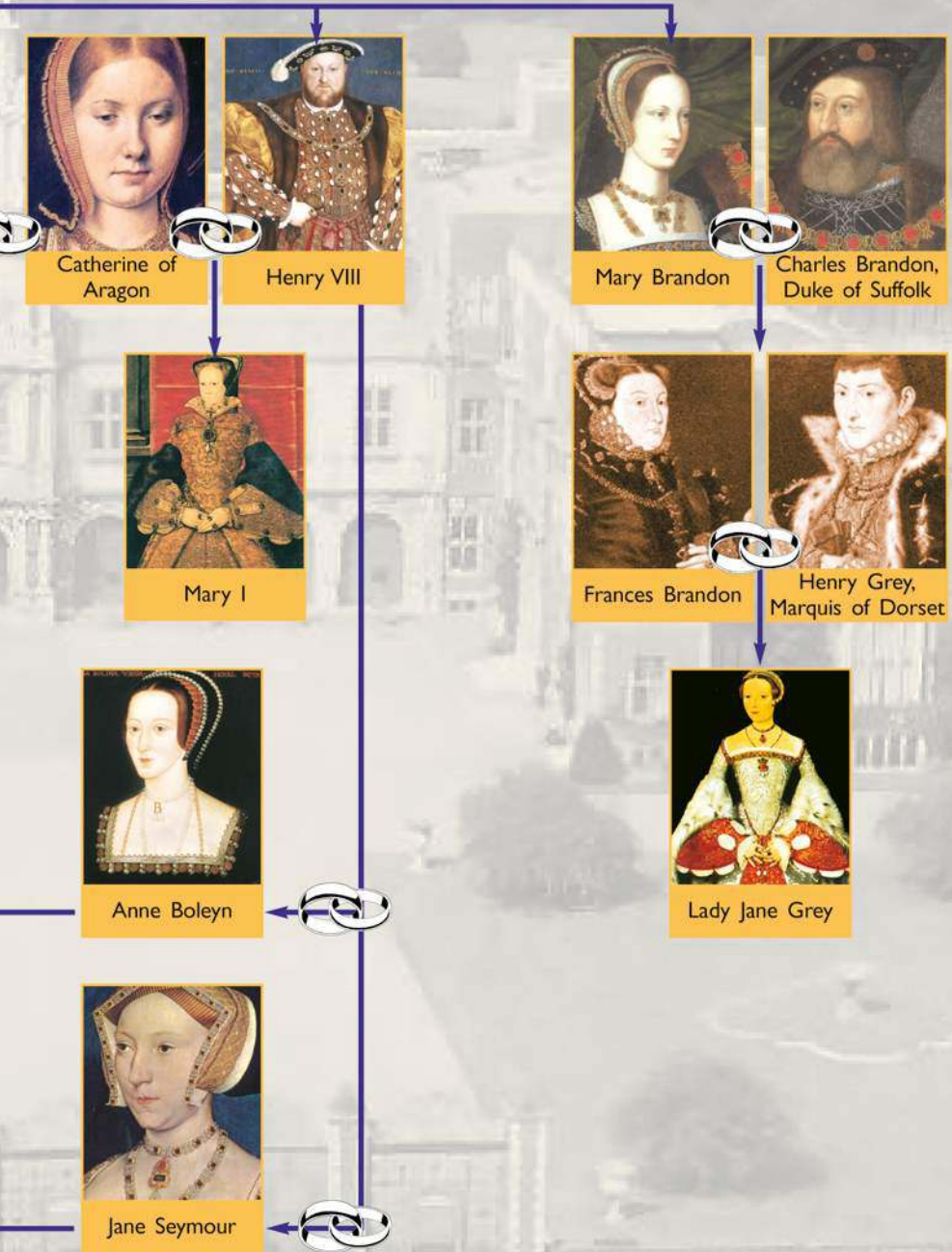
James VI of Scotland (I of England)



Edward VI



FAMILY TREE





BEFORE READING

1 What do you know about Henry VIII and his family?

- He had six wives.
- He ordered the execution of two of his wives.
- He had three children, Mary, Elizabeth and Edward.
- His third wife died while giving birth to Edward.
- Mary and Elizabeth were declared illegitimate.
- He declared himself Head of the Church of England.
- He confiscated the wealth of the monasteries.

2 Predicting. Here is a short summary of Elizabeth's life given in jumbled order. Try to reorder it. Then, as you read the book, check your answers. Number 1 is already given for you.

- a. But it was also an age of great wars, especially against Spain and Ireland.
- b. She expanded trade with the East and her rule to America.
- c. Elizabeth was the daughter of Anne Boleyn.
- d. There were serious religious and personal conflicts with her cousin Mary Stuart, whose execution she ordered.
- e. She died without being married; therefore, she is remembered as the Virgin Queen.
- f. Her long reign was called 'The Golden Age' because she gave impulse to the Arts.
- g. She became Queen after her sister Mary's death.

3 Predicting. Three of these famous people (artists, kings and politicians) were in contact with Queen Elizabeth. Find who.

- a. Sir Francis Drake
- b. Charles V of Spain
- c. Sir Winston Churchill
- d. Philip II of Spain
- e. William Shakespeare
- f. Sir Elton John



Princess Elizabeth
(W. Scrots, c. 1546).

The Inevitable Queen

Henry VIII's Second Daughter

Chapter 1

The pale young woman, with flaming red hair, was seated under an ancient oak tree¹ in Hatfield House. She heard a horse in the distance and knew that a messenger was bringing important news.

The horseman knelt² at her feet and declared,

“The Queen is dead. By blood and law, you are the legal heir. I solemnly promise to serve you as my Queen.”

William Cecil, her counsellor in all things, then gave her the ring that was taken from the finger of her sister, Mary, and Elizabeth slipped³ it on her own.

It was a cold November day in 1558. Elizabeth was twenty-five. Finally, her destiny was in her own hands. She knelt in prayer and whispered⁴ in Latin:

“A Domino factum est istud et est mirabile in oculis nostris.”

(“This is the Lord’s doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes.”)

Then, turning to Cecil, she said,

“I may not be a lion, but I am a lion’s cub and I have a lion’s heart.”

This was a moment of triumph for the unwanted daughter who had feared her older sister. In the precious stone on her finger, Elizabeth perhaps saw reflected the difficult and uncertain years of her early life. She was now in control.

1. oak tree:



2. knelt (*kneel-knelt-knelt*): went down to his knees.

3. *slipped*: put (it) in a quick way.

4. *whispered*: spoke very quietly, using the breath but not the voice.



Hatfield House, where Elizabeth spent most of her childhood.

The complex history of Elizabeth's family

England's greatest monarch was born in 1533. Three years later, she was declared illegitimate. In that year too, her mother, Anne Boleyn, was beheaded⁵ by order of her husband. Anne, a beautiful but careless young woman, was accused of being unfaithful⁶ to the King. Her daughter was too young, of course, to know the circumstances of her mother's death. Or that her father, Henry VIII, celebrated Anne's death with a number of parties. And she did not know that he immediately married again. Many years later, she was told of the calm way her mother faced her executioner⁷.

Henry's first marriage, to Catherine of Aragon, lasted twenty-four years. She was the widow of his brother and the sister of the King of Spain. However, though she had many pregnancies, she could not give Henry the son he desired. Only a daughter, Mary, lived. After meeting the more beautiful and the much younger Anne Boleyn, Henry asked the Pope to declare his marriage invalid, but the Pope refused. Henry then turned to his Parliament for support and declared himself the 'Supreme Head of the English Church'. He quickly married Anne.

The divorce and marriage to Anne were not popular with the English. But Anne was everything that Catherine was not. She was ten years younger, prettier, and lively. She also offered a new possibility for a son and heir.

Bad stories were soon circulated about Anne. One said that she was marked by the sign of a witch⁸, an extra finger on her left hand. Moreover, people were not willing to put aside very old beliefs and accept Henry's religious changes.

Many were on the side of Catherine, the pious⁹ woman rejected for a younger woman. There was also fear in the country over the reaction of Catherine's powerful relative, Charles V. He ruled¹⁰ over a vast empire, including the newly discovered Americas.

5. *was beheaded*: her head was cut off.

6. *unfaithful*: having a sexual relationship or experience with a person who is not your husband, wife, or usual sexual partner.

7. *executioner*: someone whose job is to put to death people who commit crimes.

8. *witch*: a woman believed to have magic powers.

9. *pious*: strongly believing in religion, and living in a way that shows this belief.

10. *ruled*: governed, reigned.



Henry VIII (H. Holbein the Younger; 1540)

The Invincible Queen

Among those who refused to agree with Henry's new directions was Thomas Moore, Henry's loyal advisor. Moore was admired in the country for his integrity and piety. But his resistance to the changes led to his trial¹¹ and execution. Henry was not to be challenged by anyone.

After her birth, Elizabeth's care was in the hands of others. Even during her infant years, her father and his advisors tried to use her to promote their foreign policy.

When she was only seven months old, she was inspected by agents of the French King as a possible future wife for his young son. The negotiations between the French and English were intense but no marriage contract was made. The French were not willing to support what Henry had done – defy¹² the Church of Rome.

Because her parents, Henry and Anne, had other interests and responsibilities, they had little contact with their infant daughter. Henry had a country to manage and Anne was distracted by the pleasures of palace life. Henry was very concerned with¹³ having a son to take his place on the throne and he blamed¹⁴ his wives – Anne was the second of six – for not giving him one.

Mary, Elizabeth's sister

After his marriage to Anne, Henry took away Mary's title and placed her under the control of members of Anne's family. Later, she was forced to put in writing her agreement that the marriage of her parents was not legal. These were insults she did not forget. Mary didn't accept that she had to honour the half-sister¹⁵ who now had her title.

Her bitterness was intense, but her safety was not certain. Those who were close to powerful people feared murder and Anne was a woman to be feared. It was Anne's goal¹⁶ to have her child inherit the throne. Mary had to be careful.

11. *trial*: a formal examination of evidence in court by a judge (and often a jury) to decide if somebody accused of a crime is guilty or not.
12. *defy*: refuse to obey.

13. *concerned with*: anxious about.
14. *blamed... for*: accused... of.
15. *half-sister*: a sister who is the daughter of only one of the parents.
16. *goal*: objective, ambition.



Mary as a princess, aged 29, and Elizabeth, aged 12

A few years after the birth of Elizabeth, Anne became pregnant again. Unfortunately, she had a miscarriage, i.e. she lost the baby, who was a male. Henry's violent reaction to Anne's unsuccessful childbirth brought about¹⁷ her execution. She was accused of adultery, incest, and high treason¹⁸. The verdict of the court that carried out his wishes said:

"The law of the Kingdom is that you have deserved death and you shall be burned here on the green within the Tower or you shall have your head cut off as the King will decide afterwards."

As the trial concluded, Henry considered his alternatives:

"Should she admit her guilt, I'll have pity on her and she'll die the quickest way."

Anne 'confessed' and Henry ordered the executioner to cut off her head with a sword. On the morning of her death, Anne gave the officer of the guard a locket¹⁹, which was Henry's first gift and said,

"A serpent formed part of the locket and a serpent the giver has proved to be."

The day before Anne's execution, Henry had their marriage

17. *brought about*: caused, determined.

18. *high treason*: the crime of showing no loyalty to your country/sovereign/etc.

19. *locket*: a metal case on a chain in which small pictures can be kept.

The Invincible Queen

annulled making Elizabeth a royal bastard. She was now in the same difficult position as her half-sister, Mary. She lost her royal title and became the Lady Elizabeth. She was a child but a bright one, and the change of title did not escape her. She asked one of her guardians, “How is it that yesterday I was Lady Princess and today I’m only Lady Elizabeth?”



Anne Boleyn's beheading

A new wife and the birth of Edward

Eleven days after Anne’s execution, Henry married again. His new wife was Jane Seymour. The marriage lasted for seventeen months. Childbirth was one of the major reasons for the high rate of mortality among women of the era. Jane died shortly after giving birth to Edward, the son Henry had desired. Mary and Elizabeth were present for his baptism.

Henry marries again and again – Anne of Cleves

When Elizabeth was about five, the King and his advisors put her on the marriage market. Connecting Elizabeth to a member of another royal family could be a benefit to England. It is ironic that Henry’s decision to declare her illegitimate ruined any chance of a marriage arrangement.

Henry VIII's Second Daughter

England was in need of allies and Henry's advisors encouraged him to marry Anne of Cleves, a member of the Protestant German nobility. But the marriage was a disaster. Henry, who had only seen her portrait, found her ugly. By the time of the marriage, Henry was also concerned that a connection to the German Protestants might lead him into further conflict with Catholic Europe. Within six months, Anne was banished from the court and the marriage was annulled. The man who had promoted it met the end of those who displeased Henry – he was executed. The very clever Anne went on to become one of the richest women in Europe.

Catherine Howard

Before his marriage to Anne of Cleves, the forty-nine-year-old Henry had found a new interest, Catherine Howard, a young cousin of Elizabeth's mother. Henry's marriage to Catherine took place almost immediately after Anne was sent away.

Catherine was a lively woman and Henry had become fat and was often ill. Their marriage mirrored that of Henry to Anne Boleyn. Catherine brought Elizabeth into the life of the court, because she was kind and caring. So Catherine's execution probably pained²⁰ the eight-year-old girl.

We can only wonder how the servants responded when Elizabeth inquired about the fate of the Queen and those close to her. We can only wonder how she behaved in the presence of her father, in the brief meetings she had with him. Though she was trained to react to her father through the strict manners of the court, she must have had some fear when he embraced her.

Catherine Parr

As usual, Henry quickly married again. His sixth wife, Catherine Parr, was exactly what he needed in his older years. She was mature and was willing to take care of him. Catherine, who had been widowed twice, wished to provide Henry with the tranquil home he had never known. The only major trouble that she created was due to an interest in religious reform that Henry did not support.

20. *pained*: caused her to feel sad and upset.

The Invincible Queen

Perhaps her submission to his views saved her from a cruel fate. But it is probable that Catherine shaped the young Elizabeth's Protestant beliefs.

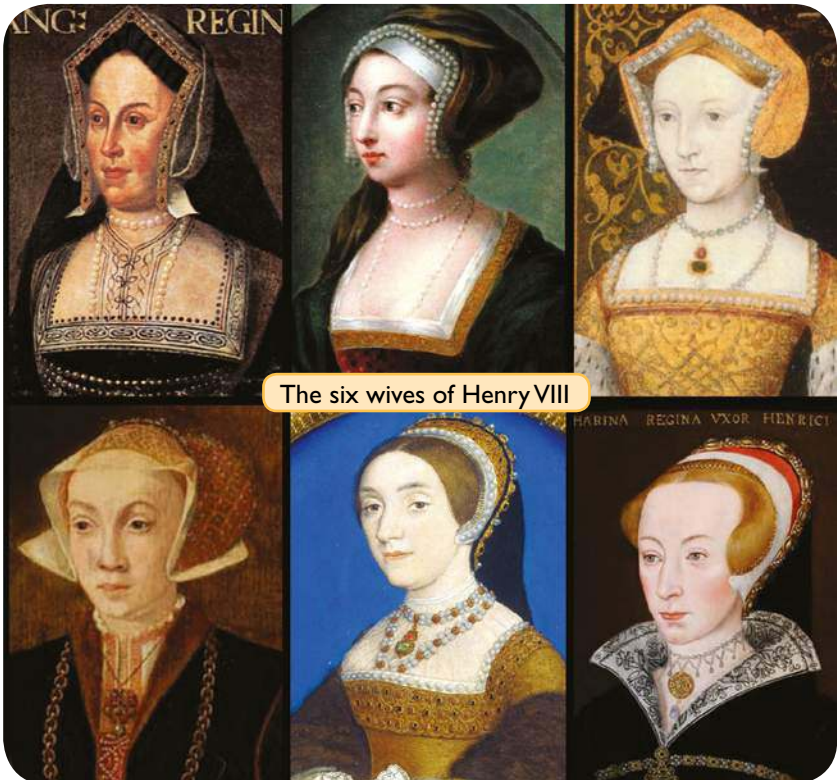
Though Henry and Catherine rarely lived in the same palace as his children, Catherine took an interest in their development. She pressed Henry to restore the succession rights of his daughters. While Mary and Elizabeth did not become close during the years of this marriage (age and religious belief kept them apart), Elizabeth and her brother established a bond²¹. In Catherine's 'School of Virtue for Learned Virgins', Elizabeth became skilled in a number of foreign and classical languages. She delighted in Italian and excelled in Latin and Greek. Such education was designed to make her attractive to the husband that Henry wished for her.

21. *bond*: tie, connection.

Catherine of Aragon

Anne Boleyn

Jane Seymour



Ann of Cleves

Catherine Howard

Catherine Parr

WORKING ON THE TEXT

1 Why did Henry want the execution of Anne Boleyn, Elizabeth's mother? Tick (✓) the correct answers.

- a. She was unfaithful.
- b. She had left him for another lover.
- c. She had not given him a son.
- d. She was a witch.
- e. He was tired of her.
- f. She did not love her daughter.
- g. She was not popular among the people.

2 What were Elizabeth's relations to the following people? Match them with what is said in the text.

- a. Her father 1. She did not become close – age and religious beliefs kept them apart.
- b. Her mother 2. She established a bond with him.
- c. Her sister Mary 3. In her 'School of Virtue for Learned Virgins', she became skilled in many languages.
- d. Her brother 4. She must have had some fear when he embraced her.
- e. Her stepmother 5. He was her counsellor in all things.
Catherine Parr
- f. Cecil 6. She was distracted by the pleasures of palace life.

3A **PET** Decide if these statements are true or false.

- | | T | F |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Henry's marriage with Catherine of Aragon lasted 24 years. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Gossip circulated that Anne Boleyn had an extra finger on her left hand. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. People were willing to put aside old beliefs and accepted Henry's radical religious changes. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. When Elizabeth was seven months old, a marriage contract was made with the French King's young son. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. Mary didn't accept that she had to honour her half-sister. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f. Mary and Elizabeth didn't lose their royal title. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g. Jane Seymour, the third wife, was executed after giving birth to the heir Edward. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| h. Elizabeth was upset by the execution of her father's fifth wife. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- i. Elizabeth liked to be embraced by her father.
- j. The succession rights for Mary and Elizabeth were restored.

3B Now correct the false statements.

WORKING ON VOCABULARY

4 Decide what the following words/phrases mean.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. flaming | a. burning |
| | b. like gold |
| | c. on fire |
| 2. cub | a. young lion |
| | b. a lion's prey |
| | c. a lion's spot |
| 3. pregnancy | a. having a lot of money |
| | b. being concentrated |
| | c. expecting a baby |
| 4. banish | a. order someone to leave the country |
| | b. beat a musical instrument |
| | c. have a particular interest |
| 5. We can only wonder | a. We can only decide |
| | b. We can only imagine |
| | c. We can only admire |

Miniature portrait of young Elizabeth



WORKING ON GRAMMAR

5 Fill in the blanks with the correct *preposition*.

- a. Elizabeth was seated an ancient oak tree.
- b. Anne Boleyn was beheaded order of her husband.
- c. Henry was much concerned having a son.
- d. Henry was informed the birth of another child.
- e. He rushed Anne's rooms.
- f. Henry VIII's last wife's submission to his views saved her a cruel fate.
- g. Catherine Parr took an interest the development of her husband's children.

WORKING ON SKILLS

Listening



You are going to listen to a dialogue between Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn in which she tells him she has lost the son she was expecting. While listening, fill in the blanks.

"Well, Madame, my (1).....? Where is the son I have been hoping for all these (2).....?"

"Forgive me!" Anne cried, stretching out her arms in desperation.

"Forgive? What is this? What have you done to my son?"

"I've been so frightened. He came too (3)..... ."

"Where is he?" Henry insisted, incredulous.

"Our son was born (4).....," Anne replied. "Too soon before my time; there can be no (5)..... for that. Our son is dead!"

"Oh, no! NO!!!"

"God's will, Your Grace. We've had bad (6)..... but it will change."

"You've (7)..... him dead, Madam. I cannot weep for you, not now. I hear one thing pounding in my (8)....., 'the great (9).....!' You killed my son! You killed my son!"

"Our son!"

"You killed my son! You killed my son! My son! You killed my son! You bewitched him! As you bewitched me these (10)..... years."

Speaking

7 In pairs, act out the previous dialogue between Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn.

Writing

8 Imagine you are Elizabeth. Write a short diary of her early years. You can start like this:

Bless's diary

My name is Elizabeth. My father is King Henry and my mother Queen Anne. So I am a Princess, a royal member of the

WORKING ON IMAGES

- 9 Here are some paintings of the Tudor era. Their description is given below in jumbled order. Match picture and description.



1



2



3



4



5



6

- a. Sentimental image of Anne with her daughter Elizabeth.
- b. Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn observed by Catherine (in the painting).
- c. Henry VIII with Charles V and Pope Leon X (circa 1520).
- d. Allegory of The Tudor Succession. Henry VIII in the centre. On his right, Mary with her husband Philip II. Kneeling by him Edward VI. On his left, Elizabeth with Peace and Plenty.
- e. Henry and Catherine before the Papal Legates at Blackfriars in 1529.
- f. Title page of the Bible authorised by Henry VIII in 1539 to be the 1st English Bible.

WOMEN IN ELIZABETHAN ENGLAND



Middle class Elizabethan women

There were few rights for most women in Elizabeth's England. They were in no way equal to men. They were usually under the control of fathers or husbands and, in some cases, other male relatives. The fact that a woman ruled England had little impact on the general role of women in society. Apart from **Elizabeth**, her sister **Mary**, the **wives** of Henry VIII and other royals, like **Mary of Scotland**, we know in detail about the lives of only a few women of the time.

There are almost no records¹ of the individual lives of middle-class and lower-class women. They struggled², they often died in childbirth or, after having too many children, they died too young. Disease injured and killed many and they had to face serious problems if their husband died in one of the many wars of the period. There were no general welfare programs to provide for them. Almost all were repressed by the way society was constructed.

While the education of upper-class women was a concern³ of their parents, there were few opportunities for women of the other social classes. Higher education was restricted to men. The upper classes wanted their daughters to prepare for a good marriage. So, they learnt

1. *record*: testimony, documentation.

2. *struggled*: experienced difficulty and made a very great effort in order to do

something; fought,

3. *concern*: preoccupation.



The Invincible Queen

Elizabeth I was the Queen of England and Ireland from 1558 until 1603. She was the daughter of King Henry VIII of England and Anne Boleyn, his second wife, and was the last of the Tudor dynasty of monarchs. In the early years, Elizabeth's life was a troubled one. She then ruled with intelligence and hard work and her reign was distinguished by great achievements in the arts, trade, and exploration.

A stimulating reader which also offers dossiers about this period, known as The Golden Age.

Cover illustration taken from the film
Elizabeth: The Golden Age (Universal Pictures, 2007).
Graphic adaptation by Mauro Borgarello.

beginner

• **A1** (*Breakthrough*)

elementary

• **A2** (*Waystage*)



pre-intermediate

• **B1** (*Threshold*)

intermediate

• **B2** (*Vantage*)

post-intermediate

• **C1** (*Effectiveness*)

Levels of accredited examination boards:

Cambridge English:	<i>Preliminary (PET)</i>
Trinity:	<i>Grade 5, 6 / ISE I</i>
City & Guilds (Pitman):	<i>Intermediate</i>
ESB:	<i>Intermediate 1, 2</i>
Edexcel:	<i>Elementary</i>



Teacher's Resources available online:
Answer Key, Audioscripts, Summing-up Activities.