

AXE 5

UNIT 14

SHORT CUT

# ANNE BOLEYN, THE DOOMED QUEEN



*Why is Anne Boleyn  
an iconic figure?*



## YOUR PROJECT

Play Anne or Henry and write  
each other a love letter!

Au menu de cette unité :

### DÉCOUVERTES CULTURELLES

- 👑 Henry VIII et les Tudor, son règne, ses épouses
- 👑 Le destin d'Anne Boleyn
- 👑 Adaptations littéraires et cinématographiques

### OUTILS LINGUISTIQUES

- 👑 Le style indirect / la concordance des temps
- 👑 Les adverbes

## BEFORE CLASS!

Flash to listen!

Listen to [MP3 n°78](#) about Henry VIII.  
Be ready to talk about it in class!

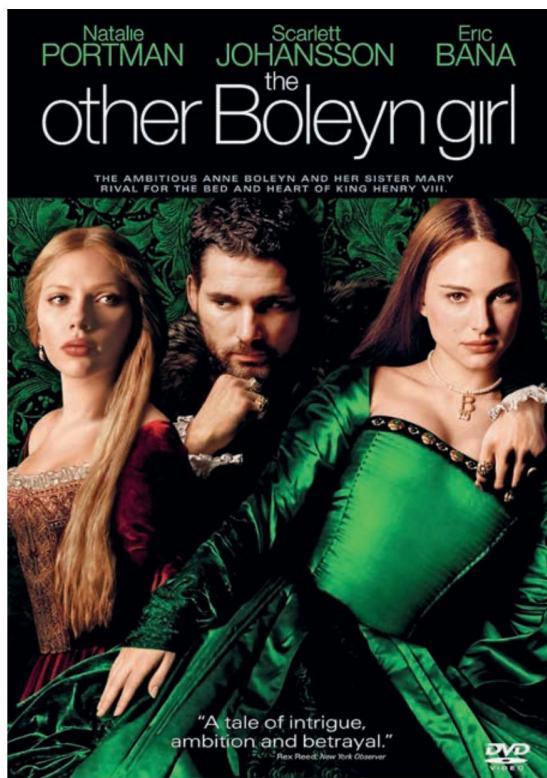


# 1 Meeting Anne Boleyn

*Who was Henry VIII's most famous mistress?*

## 1 Fascinating Anne Boleyn

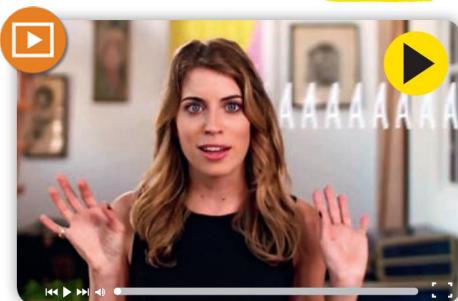
- A. Look at the film poster. What can you guess about Henry, Mary and Anne?  
B. Read the catchphrase. Rephrase it in your own words and explain its meaning.



## 2 Who was Anne?

- A. Read Anne's ID on [Worksheet n°43](#). Memorise as many facts as you can.  
B. Watch the video and focus on names, places, Anne's education and personality, and on Henry's goals. Sum up what you understood.

VIDEO N°31



## 3 Courtly love

- A. What do you know about courtly love? Read the text to check your knowledge.  
B. Watch the video. Where and when did Anne and Henry's story begin?

The art of courtly love, so popular during the early medieval period, saw a revival during the Tudor era. The majority of noble marriages were arranged, for financial or political gain, so courtly love was a gentle [...] game 5 of flirtation where people might express true, heart-felt affections. According to historian Eric Ives, "The courtier, the 'perfect knight', was supposed to sublimate his relations with the ladies of the court by choosing a 'mistress' and serving her faithfully and exclusively. He wooed<sup>1</sup> her 10 with poems, songs and gifts".

<sup>1</sup> *courtiser*

Adapted from [\[link\]](#)

### HELP!

#### Nouns

- Boleyn /bo'lin/
- contender: *prétendant(e)*
- sibling = brother or sister

#### Expressions

- affairs of the heart
- all is fair in love and war
- court intrigue
- be madly / passionately in love

VIDEO N°32



## 2 A Passion that Shaped History

How did Anne and Henry's love story change the country's destiny?

### 1 Henry's love letters

A. Look at the two letters and focus on the elements in bold (*en gras*) at the bottom.

How did Henry consider his relationship with Anne?

B. Read the two letters and analyse Henry's feelings.

Report his words.

C. Go further. What characteristics of courtly love can you find?

Henry VIII wrote Anne 17 love letters at the time when she had retired from court (between May 1527 and October 1528).

#### Love letter 1 (May 1527)

In turning over in my mind the contents of your last letters, I have put myself into great agony, not knowing how to interpret them [...], beseeching<sup>1</sup> you earnestly<sup>2</sup> to let me know expressly your whole mind as to the love between us two. It is absolutely necessary for me to obtain this answer, having been for above a whole year stricken<sup>3</sup> with the dart<sup>4</sup> of love, and not yet sure whether I shall fail of finding a place in your heart and affection, which last point has prevented me for some time past from calling you my mistress; [...] if you please to do the office of a true loyal mistress and friend, and to give up yourself body and heart to me, [...] I promise you that not only the name shall be given you, but also that I will take you for my only mistress, casting off all others besides you out of my thoughts and affections, and serve you only. [...] Written by the hand of him who would willingly remain yours,

1 supplier • 2 sincèrement •  
3 frappé • 4 flèche



#### Love letter 4 (June 1527)

The longer the days are, the more distant is the sun, and nevertheless<sup>1</sup> the hotter; so is it with our love [...]. Absence is already too great for me; and when I think of the increase of that which I am forced to suffer, it would be almost intolerable, but for the firm hope I have of your unchangeable affection for me: and to remind you of this sometimes, and seeing that I cannot be personally present with you, I now send you the nearest thing I can to that, namely<sup>2</sup>, my picture set in a bracelet [...].

This is from the hand of your loyal servant and friend,

1 néanmoins • 2 à savoir



### YOUR TURN! 2 Write modern love letters!

Step into the shoes of Henry and make him time travel to nowadays.  
Rewrite one of these letters into modern English!

### HELP!

#### Nouns / Adjectives

- beloved /bɛl'vɪd/
- eagerness = enthusiasm
- earnest = resolute / determined
- enamoured / infatuated with sb
- dedicated = devoted
- steadfast /'stɛdfa:st/ = not changing

#### Verbs

- ache /eɪk/ = avoir mal
- pursue /pə'sju:/

#### Adverbs

- desperately /despə'retli/
- increasingly /ɪn'kri:sɪŋli/
- never / rarely / sometimes / often / always
- quickly /'kwɪkli/
- strongly

#### Expressions

- absence makes the heart grow fonder
- pouring one's heart out

### 3 The English Reformation

Watch the video. Focus on the historical facts, the dates and the consequences of Henry's decision.

#### HELP!

##### Names

- **William Tyndale** was a scholar who advocated protestantism.
- **Cardinal Wolsey** was the representative of the Roman Catholic Church in Henry VIII's court.

##### Nouns

- (an) heir /eə/ : héritier(ère)
- the Pope /pəp/

##### Adjectives

- clandestine
- critical / crucial /kru:ʃəl/
- rushed = precipitated

##### Expression

- born out of wedlock /wedlɒk/ = être né(e) hors mariage



VIDEO N°33

### 4 A secret wedding

A. Read the texts to find more details on the reasons that led to the wedding and the ceremony.

#### Text A

Anne was pregnant [...], and that made it absolutely necessary to marry quickly – for the sake of the child's legitimacy [...]. If they put off the wedding too long and Anne delivered a healthy boy, he would automatically be named a bastard<sup>1</sup> – unable to sit upon the English throne after Henry. Such a risk was unthinkable, so Henry became a bigamist. He would marry Anne Boleyn in a secret ceremony, becoming her lawful husband while still technically married to his soon-to-be ex-wife, Katherine [...]. No doubt, after about six years of waiting around, Anne was more than happy to go along with the plan, trusting that Katherine would be out of the picture soon.

So, the wedding went ahead! Just before dawn on 25 January 1533, according to historian Alison Weir, some of the king's closest companions and members of Anne's family gathered<sup>2</sup> in Henry's personal chapel at Whitehall Palace, where a simple ceremony was carried out.

<sup>1</sup> illégitime • <sup>2</sup> se rassembler

#### Text B

[Henry] passed the Act of Supremacy<sup>1</sup>, declaring that he was the Head of the English Church. In June 1533 Anne was crowned Queen of England in a lavish<sup>2</sup> ceremony at Westminster Abbey.

<sup>1</sup> adopter une loi • <sup>2</sup> somptueux/euse

B. Look at the painting. Does it illustrate one or several documents on these two pages? Justify.



Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn, William Hogarth, circa 1728