

## 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 fleche



#### 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 /br'laɪd/
- eagerness = enthusiasm
- earnest = resolute / determined
- enamoured / infatuated with sb
- dedicated = devoted
- steadfast /'stedfə:st/ = not changing

##### Verbs

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

##### Adverbs

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

##### Expressions

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