

## 2 “O death, rock me asleep”

A. Focus on the title. Explain its meaning.

B. Read the stanza and listen to **MP3 n°79**.

What is the atmosphere of the poem?

C. What is Anne's feeling in this poem?

Is the painting a good illustration for it?

Justify.

*According to legend, Anne Boleyn wrote this poem on the eve of her execution. We will never know for certain!*

*O death, rock me asleep,  
Bring me to quiet rest,  
Let pass my weary guiltless ghost  
Out of my careful breast.  
Toll on<sup>1</sup>, thou<sup>2</sup> passing bell;  
Ring out my doleful knell<sup>3</sup>;  
Let thy<sup>4</sup> sound my death tell.  
Death doth<sup>5</sup> draw nigh<sup>6</sup>;  
[For I must die]  
There is no remedy.*

1 sonner • 2 you • 3 triste glas • 4 your • 5 does • 6 proche



“Anne Boleyn in the Tower” by Édouard Cibot, 1835

## 3 Anne Boleyn's last speech

A. Look at the picture. Where and when does the scene take place? Imagine Anne's feelings.

She must have felt + adj... Maybe she was...

B. Listen to her last speech on **MP3 n°80**. Focus on her feelings. Then report what she said.

### HELP!

#### Nouns

- scaffold /'skæfəʊld/ : échafaud

#### Adverb

- heartily /'hɑ:təli/ = with all my heart

#### Adjectives

- brave
- broken down: effondré(e)

- ghostly = like a ghost = lifeless
- merciful: clément(e)
- overwhelmed: bouleversé(e)
- resilient /rɪ'zɪliənt/ = able to be strong during and after problems

#### Expressions

- take one's leave: prendre congé



Still from the BBC TV show *Wolf Hall* (2015)


## 4 Class conversation!

Focus on all the documents (p. 142-147).

Why is Anne Boleyn such a fascinating character?

### YOUR PROJECT

**Write each other a love letter!**

- Pupil A: you are Anne Boleyn.
- Pupil B: you are Henry.
- Look at your role on **Worksheet n°44** .