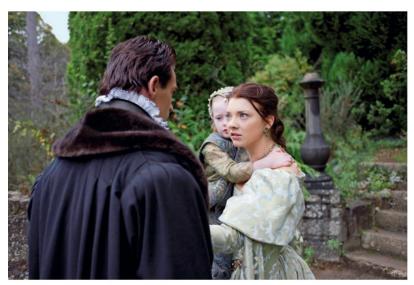
# The Last Steps to the Scaffold

### How did Anne Boleyn become an iconic figure?



## Anne's downfall

A. Look at the still from the series *The Tudors*. What problems might have led the couple to an end?

#### B. Groupwork.

- **Group A** reads Text 1. Check your hypotheses and make a list of the problems mentioned.
- **Group B** reads Text 2. Focus on dates, places, names, and reasons for Anne's downfall.
- **C.** Together, say how the still illustrates both texts.

#### Text 1

Despite all the years of waiting and longing, there had been "much coldness and grumbling" between the couple since their marriage, for Anne, once won, had perhaps been a disappointment. She had not been born to be a queen, nor educated to that end. She had found it difficult, if not impossible, to make the transition from a mistress with the upper hand to a compliant and deferential wife, which was what the King, once married, now expected of her. Years of frustration, of holding Henry off while waiting for a favorable papal decision that never came [...], had taken their toll on her as well as the King, and made her haughty¹, overbearing, shrewish², and volatile, qualities that were then frowned upon³ in wives, who were expected to be meek⁴ and submissive, not defiant and outspoken. And Henry VIII was nothing if not a conventional husband.

- 1 hautaine 2 acariâtre •
- 3 voir d'un mauvais œil 4 douce, docile

The Lady in the Tower,
Alison Weir, 2010

#### Text 2

Henry and Anne's daughter Elizabeth (the future Queen Elizabeth I) was born in September 1533. Two more pregnancies ended in miscarriage<sup>1</sup> [...]. When Henry discovered the second baby had been a boy, he became

- 5 convinced the marriage was cursed. Henry was still desperate for a male heir and he blamed Anne for<sup>2</sup> this misfortune. He took on Anne's lady-in-waiting<sup>3</sup> Jane Seymour as his mistress and looked for a way to end his marriage. In April 1536, Sir Francis Weston, William
- Brereton, Mark Smeaton, Sir Henry Norris and Anne's brother Lord Rochford were arrested on suspicion of having had relations with the Queen. Anne was investigated by a secret commission which included her father, her uncle the Duke of Norfolk and Thomas Cromwell.
- On 2 May 1536 Anne was arrested on charges<sup>4</sup> of adultery with five men including her own brother, Lord George Rochford. At the trial<sup>5</sup>, presided over by the Duke of Norfolk, Anne was accused of adultery<sup>6</sup> [...]. She was convicted<sup>7</sup> and imprisoned in the Tower of London.
  - 1 fausse-couche 2 reprocher qach à qqu 3 dame de compagnie • 4 accusations • 5 procès 6 adultère • 7 déclarée coupable

## FE P

#### Adjectives

- doomed /duxmd/ = ill-fated
- unfair: injuste
- biased: partial
- scared = afraid

#### Verbs

- argue /ˈɑːgjuː/ = quarrel /ˈkwɒrəl/
- condemn
- sacrifice /'sækrɪfaɪs/

#### Expressions

- even if = although = despite the fact that...
- go to great lengths to do sth
- desperate for a male heir /eə/
- star-crossed lovers
- the end justifies the means