

In Anne's words

This is the speech Anne made just before she was executed.

Good Christian people, I am come hither to die, for according to the law, and by the law I am judged to die, and therefore I will speak nothing against it. I am come hither to accuse no man, nor to speak anything of that, whereof I am accused and condemned to die, but I pray God save the king and send him long to reign over you, for a gentler nor a more merciful prince was there never: and to me he was ever a good, a gentle and sovereign lord. And if any person will meddle of my cause, I require them to judge the best. And thus I take my leave of the world and of you all, and I heartily desire you all to pray for me. O Lord have mercy on me, to God I commend my soul.

Anne Boleyn

I am come hither to die: I have been sent here to die

By the law I am judged to die, and therefore I will speak nothing against it: I will not argue that the law is wrong

And if any person will meddle of my cause, I require them to judge the best: If anyone is thinking of sticking up for me, I hope they will be careful and not get into trouble.

1. Why do you think that Anne praises the king, even though he was responsible for her death?

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2. Why do you think Anne warns people not to stick up for her?

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In Anne's words

Age range

- Years 3/4 (SP4/5).
- Years 5/6 (SP6/7).

Resources

Copies of the worksheet.

Using the worksheet

You may want to use this activity as a review after you have finished studying the unit on Anne Boleyn. It is an opportunity for students to study Anne's words in more depth.

You may like to begin by reading the speech out loud, or having a student read it. You can then ask what the students' impressions are of Anne's final words. How do they make the students' feel? Are they more sympathetic towards Anne after hearing her words? Do they feel sad?

Younger students

You may want to go over the speech line-by-line to make sure the students understand its meaning. The students could then answer the questions on the worksheet. You may wish to have the students answer the questions as a class discussion. There are no real right or wrong answers to the questions. Some answers could include: (1) She wants to be remembered as a loving wife; she really does love the king; she does not want people to remember her saying bad things just before she died. (2) She is warning them that it is dangerous to stick up for her; she doesn't think it is worth the risk to stick up for her; she was really guilty of some of the things she was accused of.

Outcomes

The students can:

- Extract information from a text.
- Understand a little of the language used in formal letters in Tudor times.
- Understand a little of Anne Boleyn's feelings about her fate.
- Use information they have learned to place activities in order of time.

Older students

You may like the older students to rewrite Anne's speech in their own words. They could then answer the questions as a class discussion or on their own.

Outcomes

The students can:

- Extract information from a text.
- Understand a little of the language used in formal letters in Tudor times.
- Understand a little of Anne Boleyn's feelings about her fate.