

Film Questions

Young Bess

World History & Geography 2 - Rev 8/15/02

Name _____

Discussion is fine, but please do not copy answers from another student.

1. What is the “bad news” that begins the movie and what does it mean?
2. Who is sent by King Henry VIII to bring the teen-aged Princess Elizabeth back to London?
3. Who is the “old spoilsport?” who seems to hate Tom Seymour?
4. When aboard a ship, why is King Henry VIII upset with his sixth wife?
5. With whom does young Bess fall in love?
6. Why would the film have us believe that Elizabeth developed an interest in sailing and the navy?
7. Of what crime was Tom Seymour accused?
8. Why would the movie have us believe Queen Elizabeth never married?
9. Are there any indications during Bess’s early life that she could grow up to become one of history’s greatest rulers? If so, what? Provide specific examples.

Young Bess

Overview of the film

This is the story of a young girl growing up in an incredibly dysfunctional family. Not only did her father have her mother killed, the girl was repeatedly sent away by her father and brought back again to live with new stepmothers.

It all began when King Henry VIII of England wanted to divorce his first wife so he could marry the young and lovely Anne Boleyn whom he hoped would give him a son and heir to the English throne. When the pope refused to grant the divorce, Henry kicked-out the Catholic church and turned England into a Protestant country. But, Anne and Henry didn't have a son; they had a daughter named Elizabeth, or Bess. The king soon accused Anne of adultery and had her beheaded. He went on to marry four more times; wife three died from childbirth, wife four was divorced, wife five was beheaded, and wife six outlived him. Half of his wives were named Katharine or Catherine.

Cast of Major Characters

(in order of appearance)

Mrs. Ashley - Princess Elizabeth's governess who had to job of raising the princess because Elizabeth's mother had been executed by Elizabeth's father.

Henry VIII - King of England, Elizabeth's father, who turned England into a Protestant country.

Young Bess - Princess Elizabeth, future queen of England

Tom Seymour - He was an admiral in England's navy and he was the brother of Jane Seymour, King Henry's third wife, who died after giving birth to Henry's only son, Edward.

Ned Seymour - Brother of Tom and Jane Seymour.

Edward - Prince of Wales, Elizabeth's brother, son of Henry VIII and Jane Seymour, who became king of England at the age of nine and died at the age of 16. He was succeeded by his older sister Mary.

Catherine Parr - King Henry's sixth and last wife who outlived him.

Queen Mary - sometimes called "Bloody Mary" because of the deaths that resulted when Mary tried to return England to the Catholic religion. She became queen after the death of Edward, ruled for five years, and died at the age of 42. She was succeeded by Queen Elizabeth I.

