

# Did You Say Six?

"Ah, the fifteen hundreds! Those were the days, I say. None of these hipsters, cars or tevelisions, tevel-, tel-, TELEVISIONS!", Henry roared. "Gosh darn it! *Hiccup*. Whoops. Spilt my mead on my new velvet top! MAID! Clean this up, will you? Maid! Young lass? You, over there! The one with the hair. Clean it..."

The 'maid' stepped out from behind the camera. Her cropped blue hair, doused in glitter, caught the bright lights and shone like a disco ball on her head. Her face, accentuated by lip and nose piercings and deep purple eyeshadow, glowered across the room at Henry. To her credit, she kept silent, but thought of a lot of choice words (too rude to repeat here) to call him. *Buffoon* was the cleanest.

Henry rolled his eyes, clearly confused and irked by the girl's refusal. "In my day," he said, mopping up the mess himself, "the hairy side of my hand would have greeted you upside the head, girl! My wives knew exactly who the mo--"

"Your wives!" interjected Bo, "Yes, what a perfect segue. Let's discuss those. You certainly had plenty. Tell us all about them. Do you have any regrets?" he asked, knowing that Henry's ghost may not stick around if he became too enraged. Fitting him into the slim chair had been trouble enough. Apparently, thrones were *much* comfier in 1509.

"Regrets? Ha! No. Mate, I had six wives. Most folks made do with one. Not me, no sir. Six! What a legend. My first? Now she was a beauty. Catherine," he punctuated the name with a chef's kiss, "of Aragon. A real Spanish jewel. Betrothed to my insipid brother. We weren't close, him and I. When a fancy took me, I'd text him a thumbs up emoji to keep in touch."

Bo, nibbling the end of his pencil, nodded graciously and scribbled a quick note that Henry was likely confusing now with then. Perhaps it was the mead. Water next, then.

"But Catherine," the old king continued, "became mine when our Arthur kicked the bucket. Cursed, some said, because she was my brother's widow. But we married six weeks after I donned the crown. *Hiccup*. We had a bunch of sprogs, but most of them died in infancy. An heir and a spare though, eh?" He said, winking at nobody in particular and nudging the air with his plump elbow. Yet more mead sloshed out of the goblet. "No, without jest, I wanted a legitimate male heir. Little Mary wouldn't do, and Cat wasn't giving me any boys, so I implored the church to let me divorce her. They, in their 'wisdom'," his goblet-less hand made air quotes around the word, "said no. Stuff it, I thought! And I made my own, better church. Plague take all of those fools and their rules! *Hiccup*. HA! Rules. Fools. Fools. Rules.... Anyway. I, er, don't judge me, I... married someone else when I was still married to Cat. What? It's my church. I'm the King. I'll wed who I darn well please! A beauty from Cat's own court no less. So, my archbishop of Canterbury annulled the marriage for me. DIVORCED!"

Henry looked around the room, mighty pleased with himself, checking the other faces for any sign of someone else being impressed. He was met with raised eyebrows and one or two uncomfortable throat-clearing coughs.

"Tough crowd," he said, abashed. "Next! It's 1536, and I've been married to Anne Boleyn for three years, content... ish. Another child, too, Elizabeth. And then some raging, air-headed ninny unseated me in a jousting match! Can you believe it? Me! Eugh. My leg was hurt badly, man. I never fully recovered from that. Anne found out and lost the baby she was carrying. I was fuming, of course. Quite bored, anyway. I accused the girl of treason and that sorted her out. She met the wrong end of sword a short time later... BEHEADED!"

Henry slammed his empty goblet on the arm of the chair: a clear indicator that it needed refilling. A young man, mid-twenties, ran over and filled the goblet with water, thankfully. Henry didn't seem to notice.

"Jane Seymour came next. God above," he whispered, "did I love her. She birthed me Edward soon after we wed. A perfect bride. Two weeks later, my Jane, well, well you know... DIED!" Henry almost sobbed the last word, his face contorting.

"Let's move on then, shall we?" asked Bo. "And somebody find Henry a tissue, please. The man's in distress."

"It's not a dress, you fool! It's a doublet!" yelled Henry.

Bo took a deep breath. He wasn't going to get into that. "Right," he said, "Anne of Cleves. Tell us about her."

"Well," snorted Henry, "a political marriage. She looked great on Instagram, but the reality wasn't all that, in my lofty opinion. Total catfish. My duties with her were unfulfilled, so, six months in, she found herself DIVORCED!"

Jimmy, the sound technician, jumped a little at the sudden volume shift. Even Henry smirked.

"Three weeks later, it's mid 1540, and I took Catherine Howard as my new wife. That... woman... I won't spend much time on her or her eye for others. She too," he purred, "found herself without a head." A long pause. "BEHEADED!" Henry shouted, watching for Jimmy's reaction. He was disappointed.

"Last, but certainly not least..." offered Bo.

"Ah yes, Katherine Parr. Twice widowed, poor lass. Didn't stop me though. Henry wanted. Henry got. We were married in 1543. Yes, good sir. My wretched wound was still an issue, and I grew a little bit... larger. More of me to love, you see. She doted on my kids, did Katherine. A good egg. Even brought me closer to them, despite their faults. She was a wild card, though. Had beliefs and wants unbecoming for a lady. She even wrote a book or two. I didn't manage to read them all. I followed my ex-wives to the grave in 1547, but Katherine, well. My dear Katherine became the wife that SURVIVED!"

### Vocabulary

1. Find a word that is similar in meaning to annoyed.
2. What does 'jest' mean?
3. What word could be used instead of 'fuming'?
4. What does Henry mean by 'doted on my kids'?

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### Summarise

1. Summarise Henry's view of modern times.
2. Briefly summarise Henry's marriage to Catherine of Aragon.
3. Create an appropriate title for the paragraph beginning *"Tough crowd..."*.
4. Order these paragraph titles in the order that they happened in the story: 'It's 1536', 'The final wife', 'A perfect segue', 'It's not a dress!'.

### Retrieve

1. Where did Henry spill his mead?
2. Where was Catherine of Aragon born?
3. How did Henry hurt his leg?
4. What year did Henry marry Catherine Howard?

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### Infer

1. Why did Bo interrupt Henry and stop him speaking in the middle of his sentence?
2. Does Henry believe that the 'Church' is very wise?
3. What does Henry's face 'contorting' tell us about how he is feeling?
4. Why does Henry think that his opinions are 'lofty'?

### Predict

1. Using the information on page 1, who might Henry have been in the past?
2. What do you think Henry will discuss next? Why?
3. Given how Henry's marriage to Anne Boleyn ended, how do you think his future wives might have felt?
4. If Henry had lived longer, do you think he would have had any more wives? Use evidence from the text to explain your answer.

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### Effect of language

1. Find two examples of language that shows us Henry is from a different time period.
2. What does the author's use of the repeated *hiccup* tell the reader about Henry?
3. How does the language used in the paragraph beginning '*Jane Seymour came next...*' show us how Henry feels about Jane Seymour?
4. The story says 'Henry smirked' after startling the sound technician. What does the word 'smirked' tell us about Henry?

### Link ideas

1. How might Bo saying 'You certainly had plenty' link to the title of the story?
2. How does the paragraph beginning '*Bo, nibbling...*' help to explain Henry's confusion on page 1?
3. How does the paragraph beginning '*Henry slammed...*' link to the paragraph beginning '*Bo, nibbling...*' on page 2?
4. How does Henry's wound mentioned in the paragraph beginning '*Ah yes, Katherine...*' link to the end of his marriage to Anne Boleyn?

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### Compare

1. How has Henry compared the time that he was alive to modern times?
2. Compare Henry's mood in the paragraphs beginning '*But Catherine...*' and '*Henry rolled...*'.
3. Compare Henry's marriage to Jane Seymour with his marriage to Anne Boleyn.
4. How does Henry's mood change throughout the text?

## Did You Say Six?

1. 'To her credit, she kept silent.' What does this tell you about the blue-haired girl?

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1 mark

2. Find evidence to show that Bo is able to steer the conversation with Henry.

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1 mark

3. In the paragraph beginning '*Bo, nibbling...*', why might Bo have chosen to make a note rather than to interrupt Henry when he was speaking?

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1 mark

4. What impression do you get of Henry from the interview? Give two impressions using evidence from the text to support your answer.

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3 marks

## Did You Say Six?

1. 'To her credit, she kept silent.' What does this tell you about the blue-haired girl?

1 mark for smart / intuitive / not easily upset etc.

1 mark

2. Find evidence to show that Bo is able to steer the conversation with Henry.

1 mark for 'Let's talk about those' / 'Let's move on then' etc.

1 mark

3. In the paragraph beginning 'Bo, nibbling...', why might Bo have chosen to make a note rather than to interrupt Henry when he was speaking?

1 mark for reference to Bo wanting to keep the conversation

flowing / not wanting to interrupt and make Henry angry as

we know he might leave if he is enraged etc.

1 mark

4. What impression do you get of Henry from the interview? Give two impressions using evidence from the text to support your answer.

3 marks for two acceptable points, at least one evidenced.

Acceptable points for impression e.g: set in his ways /

determined / loving / fun / selfish / arrogant

Likely evidence: 'In my days' / he created his own church to

get what he wanted / he seemed to love Jane Seymour / he

tried to scare the sound technician by shouting / 'Henry

wanted. Henry got.'

3 marks

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Henry rolled his eyes, clearly confused and irked by the girl's refusal. "In my day," he said, mopping up the mess himself, "the hairy side of my hand would have greeted you upside the head, girl! My wives knew exactly who the mo—"

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## ← QUESTION SELECTION BOX 1

**Vocabulary (2a):** Find a word that is similar in meaning to annoyed.

**Retrieve (2b):** Where did Henry spill his mead?

**Summarise (2c):** Summarise Henry's view of modern times.

**Infer (2d):** Why did Bo interrupt Henry and stop him speaking in the middle of his sentence?

**Predict (2e):** Using the information on page 1, who might Henry have been in the past?

**Link ideas (2f):** How might Bo saying 'You certainly had plenty' link to the title of the story?

**Effect of language (2g):** Find two examples of language that shows us Henry is from a different time period.

**Compare (2h):** How has Henry compared the time that he was alive to modern times?

*Each question in this box is the first question in its respective section of the 'Questions by skill' sheet.*

**QUESTION SELECTION BOX 2** →

**Vocabulary (2a):** What does 'jest' mean?

**Retrieve (2b):** Where was Catherine of Aragon born?

**Summarise (2c):** Briefly summarise Henry's marriage to Catherine of Aragon.

**Infer (2d):** Does Henry believe that the 'Church' is very wise?

**Predict (2e):** What do you think Henry will discuss next? Why?

**Link ideas (2f):** How does the paragraph beginning '*Bo, nibbling...*' help to explain Henry's confusion on page 1?

**Effect of language (2g):** What does the author's use of the repeated hiccup tell the reader about Henry?

**Compare (2h):** Compare Henry's mood in the paragraphs beginning '*But Catherine...*' and '*Henry rolled...*'.

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"Regrets? Ha! No. Mate, I had six wives. Most folks made do with one. Not me, no sir. Six! What a legend. My first? Now she was a beauty. Catherine," he punctuated the name with a chef's kiss, "of Aragon. A real Spanish jewel. Betrothed to my insipid brother. We weren't close, him and I. When a fancy took me, I'd text him a thumbs up emoji to keep in touch."

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"But Catherine," the old king continued, "became mine when our Arthur kicked the bucket. Cursed, some said, because she was my brother's widow. But we married six weeks after I donned the crown. *Hiccup*. We had a bunch of sprogs, but most of them died in infancy. An heir and a spare though, eh?" He said, winking at nobody in particular and nudging the air with his plump elbow. Yet more mead sloshed out of the goblet. "No, without jest, I wanted a legitimate male heir. Little Mary wouldn't do, and Cat wasn't giving me any boys, so I implored the Church to let me divorce her. They, in their 'wisdom'," his goblet-less hand made air quotes around the word, "said no. Stuff it, I thought! And I made my own, better church. Plague take all of those fools and their rules! *Hiccup*. HA! Rules. Fools. Fools. Rules.... Anyway. I, er, don't judge me, I... married someone else when I was still married to Cat. What? It's my church. I'm the King. I'll wed who I darn well please! A beauty from Cat's own court no less. So, my archbishop of Canterbury annulled the marriage for me. DIVORCED!"



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Henry looked around the room, mighty pleased with himself, checking the other faces for any sign of someone else being impressed. He was met with raised eyebrows and one or two uncomfortable throat-clearing coughs.

“Tough crowd,” he said, abashed. “Next! It’s 1536, and I’ve been married to Anne Boleyn for three years, content... ish. Another child, too, Elizabeth. And then some raging, air-headed ninny unseated me in a jousting match! Can you believe it? Me! Eugh. My leg was hurt badly, man. I never fully recovered from that. Anne found out and lost the baby she was carrying. I was fuming, of course. Quite bored, anyway. I accused the girl of treason and that sorted her out. She met the wrong end of sword a short time later... BEHEADED!”

Henry slammed his empty goblet on the arm of the chair: a clear indicator that it needed refilling. A young man, mid-twenties, ran over and filled the goblet with water, thankfully. Henry didn’t seem to notice.

“Jane Seymour came next. God above,” he whispered, “did I love her. She birthed me Edward soon after we wed. A perfect bride. Two weeks later, my Jane, well, well you know... DIED!” Henry almost sobbed the last word, his face contorting.

“Let’s move on then, shall we?” asked Bo. “And somebody find Henry a tissue, please. The man’s in distress.”

“It’s not a dress, you fool! It’s a doublet!” yelled Henry.

### ← QUESTION SELECTION BOX 3

**Vocabulary (2a):** What word could be used instead of ‘fuming’?

**Retrieve (2b):** How did Henry hurt his leg?

**Summarise (2c):** Create an appropriate title for the paragraph beginning ‘*Tough crowd...*’.

**Infer (2d):** What does Henry’s face ‘contorting’ tell us about how he is feeling?

**Predict (2e):** Given how Henry’s marriage to Anne Boleyn ended, how do you think his future wives might have felt?

**Link ideas (2f):** How does the paragraph beginning ‘*Henry slammed...*’ link to the paragraph beginning ‘*Bo, nibbling...*’ on page 2?

**Effect of language (2g):** How does the language used in the paragraph beginning ‘*Jane Seymour came next...*’ show us how Henry feels about Jane Seymour?

**Compare (2h):** Compare Henry’s marriage to Jane Seymour with his marriage to Anne Boleyn.

*Each question in this box is the third question in its respective section of the ‘Questions by skill’ sheet.*

**QUESTION SELECTION BOX 4** →

**Vocabulary (2a):** What does Henry mean by 'doted on my kids'?

**Retrieve (2b):** What year did Henry marry Catherine Howard?

**Summarise (2c):** Order these paragraph titles in the order that they happened in the story: 'It's 1536', 'The final wife', 'A perfect segue', 'It's not a dress!'.

**Infer (2d):** Why does Henry think that his opinions are 'lofty'?

**Predict (2e):** If Henry had lived longer, do you think he would have had any more wives? Use evidence from the text to explain your answer.

**Link ideas (2f):** How does Henry's wound mentioned in the paragraph beginning 'Ah yes, Katherine...' link to the end of his marriage to Anne Boleyn?

**Effect of language (2g):** The story says 'Henry smirked' after startling the sound technician. What does the word 'smirked' tell us about Henry?

**Compare (2h):** How does Henry's mood change throughout the text?

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Bo took a deep breath. He wasn't going to get into that. "Right," he said, "Anne of Cleves. Tell us about her."

"Well," snorted Henry, "a political marriage. She looked great on Instagram, but the reality wasn't all that, in my lofty opinion. Total catfish. My duties with her were unfulfilled, so, six months in, she found herself DIVORCED!"

Jimmy, the sound technician, jumped a little at the sudden volume shift. Even Henry smirked.

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"Ah yes, Katherine Parr. Twice widowed, poor lass. Didn't stop me though. Henry wanted. Henry got. We were married in 1543. Yes, good sir. My wretched wound was still an issue, and I grew a little bit... larger. More of me to love, you see. She doted on my kids, did Katherine. A good egg. Even brought me closer to them, despite their faults. She was a wild card, though. Had beliefs and wants unbecoming for a lady. She even wrote a book or two. I didn't manage to read them all. I followed my ex-wives to the grave in 1547, but Katherine, well. My dear Katherine became the wife that SURVIVED!"

# Did You Say Six? – Answer Matrix

by selection box	by skill →				
	<p><b>Vocabulary (2a) 1</b> Find a word that is similar in meaning to annoyed. <b>Irked</b></p>	<p><b>Vocabulary (2a) 2</b> What does 'jest' mean? <b>joke</b></p>	<p><b>Vocabulary (2a) 3</b> What word could be used instead of 'fuming'? <b>Various answers, for example: angry, cross, mad</b></p>	<p><b>Vocabulary (2a) 4</b> What does Henry mean by 'doted on my kids'? <b>It means that Katherine was really fond of the children.</b></p>	
	<p><b>Retrieve (2b) 1</b> Where did Henry spill his mead? <b>On his new velvet top.</b></p>	<p><b>Retrieve (2b) 2</b> Where was Catherine of Aragon born? <b>Spain</b></p>	<p><b>Retrieve (2b) 3</b> How did Henry hurt his leg? <b>He was unseated in a jousting match.</b></p>	<p><b>Retrieve (2b) 4</b> What year did Henry marry Catherine Howard? <b>1540</b></p>	
	<p><b>Summarise (2c) 1</b> Summarise Henry's view of modern times. <b>Henry doesn't like modern times as much as the fifteen hundreds because of hipsters, cars and televisions.</b></p>	<p><b>Summarise (2c) 2</b> Briefly summarise Henry's marriage to Catherine of Aragon. <b>Henry married Catherine of Aragon six weeks after he became king and they had several children, only one of which survived (Mary). Henry divorced Catherine because they didn't have any male children.</b></p>	<p><b>Summarise (2c) 3</b> Create an appropriate title for the paragraph beginning "'Tough crowd...'. <b>Various answers, for example: Anne Boleyn</b></p>	<p><b>Summarise (2c) 4</b> Order these paragraph titles in the order that they happened in the story: 'It's 1536', 'The final wife', 'A perfect segue', 'It's not a dress!'. <b>A perfect segue (1), It's 1536 (2), It's not a dress! (3), The final wife (4).</b></p>	
<p><b>Infer (2d) 1</b> Why did Bo interrupt Henry and stop him speaking in the middle of his sentence? <b>He wants to get on with their conversation / to stop Henry shouting at the girl with the blue hair / to stop Henry saying something he shouldn't etc.</b></p>	<p><b>Infer (2d) 2</b> Does Henry believe that the 'Church' is very wise? <b>Various answers that should refer to Henry's use of 'air quotes' to indicate sarcasm and that he does not think they are wise.</b></p>	<p><b>Infer (2d) 3</b> What does Henry's face 'contorting' tell us about how he is feeling? <b>It suggests that he is in some kind of pain.</b></p>	<p><b>Infer (2d) 4</b> Why does Henry think that his opinions are 'lofty'? <b>Various answers, for example: he thinks very highly of himself because he was the king.</b></p>		

# Did You Say Six? – Answer Matrix

by skill	by selection box		
<p><b>Predict (2e) 1</b> Using the information on page 1, who might Henry have been in the past? <i>Various answers, for example: A king because it mentions thrones being more comfortable in 1509 / he was someone wealthy because he is used to having maids / Henry VIII because it mentions multiple wives.</i></p>	<p><b>Predict (2e) 2</b> What do you think Henry will discuss next? Why? <i>Various answers that should refer to another marriage (or his marriage to Anne Boleyn) being the next discussion topic based on the earlier reference to his multiple marriages and the interviewer wanting to find out about them.</i></p>	<p><b>Predict (2e) 3</b> Given how Henry's marriage to Anne Boleyn ended, how do you think his future wives might have felt? <i>Various answers, for example: They would likely be nervous because Anne Boleyn was beheaded and they wouldn't want that to happen to them.</i></p>	<p><b>Predict (2e) 4</b> If Henry had lived longer, do you think he would have had any more wives? Use evidence from the text to explain your answer. <i>Various answers that must be justified from the text. For example: No because he seemed happy with Katherine Parr / Yes because he still wanted a son.</i></p>
<p><b>Link ideas (2f) 1</b> How might Bo saying 'You certainly had plenty' link to the title of the story? <i>Bo is saying that Henry certainly had plenty of wives, so it could link to Henry having six wives.</i></p>	<p><b>Link ideas (2f) 2</b> How does the paragraph beginning 'Bo, nibbling...' help to explain Henry's confusion on page 1? <i>Various answers, which should refer to Henry being from a different time period where he would have a maid or servant to clean up after him and confusing the different periods.</i></p>	<p><b>Link ideas (2f) 3</b> How does the paragraph beginning 'Henry slammed...' link to the paragraph beginning 'Bo, nibbling...' on page 2? <i>Various answers that reference the young man bringing water to Henry and the fact that Bo had wanted him to stop drinking mead.</i></p>	<p><b>Link ideas (2f) 4</b> How does Henry's wound mentioned in the paragraph beginning 'Ah yes, Katherine...' link to the end of his marriage to Anne Boleyn? <i>Accept answers that acknowledge the leg wound that Henry received while jousting during his marriage to Anne Boleyn which led to the loss of a child.</i></p>
<p><b>Effect of language (2g) 1</b> Find two examples of language that shows us Henry is from a different time period. <i>Various answers, for example: mead / maid / in my day</i></p>	<p><b>Effect of language (2g) 2</b> What does the author's use of the repeated <i>hiccup</i> tell the reader about Henry? <i>It tells the reader that Henry might have had too much to drink.</i></p>	<p><b>Effect of language (2g) 3</b> How does the language used in the paragraph beginning 'Jane Seymour came next...' show us how Henry feels about Jane Seymour? <i>Various answers, for example: The author says that Henry whispered, which could show that he is sad about her passing.</i></p>	<p><b>Effect of language (2g) 4</b> The story says 'Henry smirked' after startling the sound technician. What does the word 'smirked' tell us about Henry? <i>It tells us that Henry was pleased with himself and was feeling smug about making the sound technician jump.</i></p>
<p><b>Compare (2h) 1</b> How has Henry compared the time that he was alive to modern times? <i>Various answers, for example: He has said that there were no cars and televisions. He has implied that thrones were much comfier in 1509.</i></p>	<p><b>Compare (2h) 2</b> Compare Henry's mood in the paragraphs beginning 'But Catherine...' and 'Henry rolled...'. <i>Various answers that acknowledge Henry's contempt towards the blue-haired girl and his more jovial and fond tone towards Catherine of Aragon.</i></p>	<p><b>Compare (2h) 3</b> Compare Henry's marriage to Jane Seymour with his marriage to Anne Boleyn. <i>Various answers that discuss the differences in language used and emotions expressed illustrating that Henry did not care about Anne at the end of their marriage, but that he still thinks fondly of Jane.</i></p>	<p><b>Compare (2h) 4</b> How does Henry's mood change throughout the text? <i>Various answers that should reference the different emotions expressed towards interactions with other characters and feelings towards his six wives.</i></p>