

Look carefully

Which of these words best fit this interpretation of the Tudors?

Cruel

Rich

Exotic

Grand

Heroic

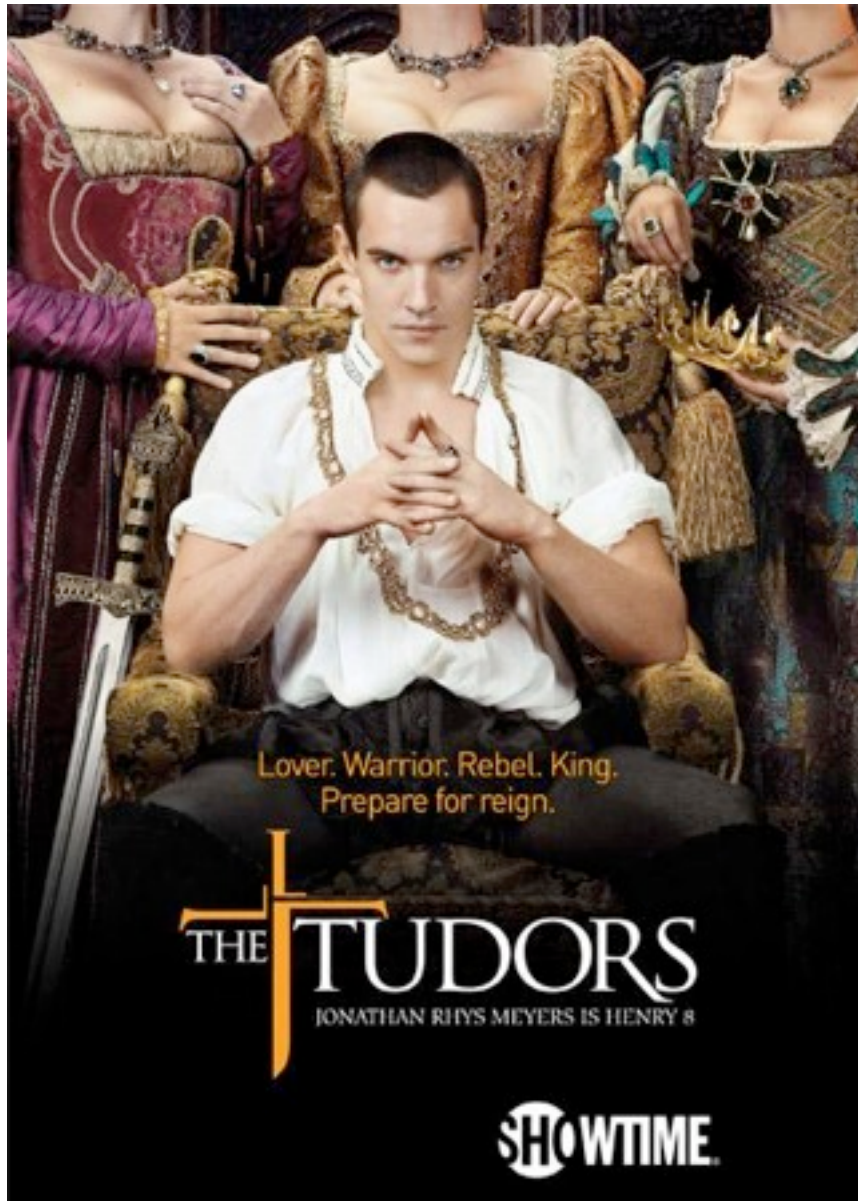
Mysterious

Fun

Scheming

Erotic

Which details in the poster made you think of these words?



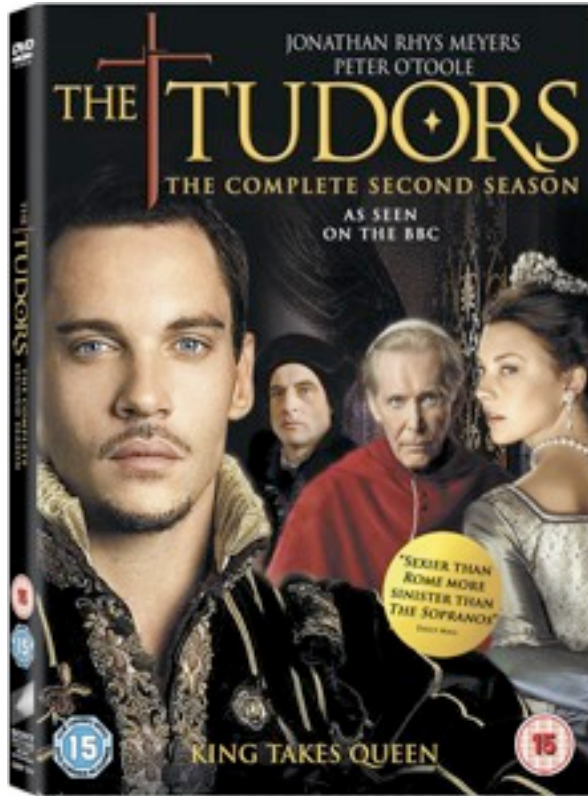
Look carefully

Which aspects of life in the Tudor period do you think this interpretation...

- a) includes?
- b) leaves out?

Watch carefully

How do these two interpretations of the Tudor period differ?

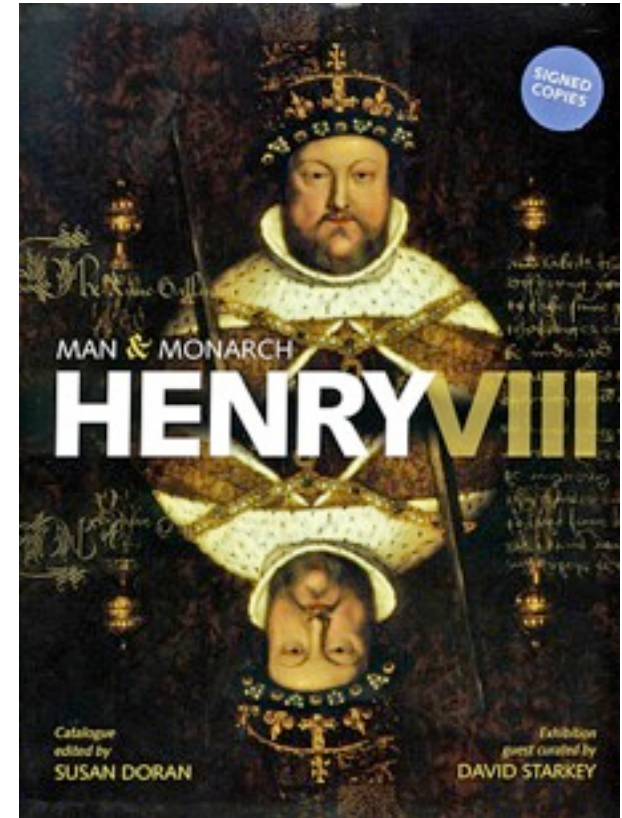


***One focuses
on...
The other
focuses on...***

***What does one
interpretation
include that the
other leaves
out?***

***Why has this
happened?***

[http://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=3hP2ogOgfO0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3hP2ogOgfO0)



[http://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=IYqGd7FhH6E](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IYqGd7FhH6E)



***“History written
with lightning”***

***Illuminating, but with
the ability to distort***

Your Tudor film: Stage 1

- You are an historian, who is a specialist in Tudor history
- You have been hired by a TV production company which has been commissioned to make a new documentary about the Tudor era – particularly during the time of Henry VIII
- In a moment, pick up any one of the HISTORIAN cards
- Do NOT tell anyone else what is on your card

Historian A

- Your interpretation of the Tudor era is that **its most visible feature was the magnificence* of Henry's life and court**
- You have spent years investigating evidence to validate your interpretation
- When the TV company meet you, you want to convince them their new programme should be about your interpretation
- Find 2 sources that best illustrate your view

* *You can interpret magnificence as you see fit, but ask for help if you're unsure what it means*

Historian B

- Your interpretation of the Tudor era is that **it's most visible feature was the contrast between the rich and poor**
- You have spent years investigating evidence to validate your interpretation
- When the TV company meet you, you want to convince them their new programme should be about your interpretation
- Find 2 sources that best illustrate your view

Your Tudor film: Stage 2

- The TV company are intrigued by your interpretation about the most visible feature of society, but they are not convinced
- They tell you that they've had another conflicting interpretation from another historian, although they're not convinced about their interpretation either
- They suggest you both have a meeting to discuss your interpretations

BUT!

- Just before you go, you realise that some interpretations have slipped into your archive - shock horror!
- Discard anything that is actually someone's conscious reflection on the past, rather than a contemporary source
- You would not want to look like a fool at the meeting!

Reflection...

- What do you notice about Historians and their craft?

The meeting: out of role...

- Come out of role as Historians
- Instead, as students, can you...
 - Pool all of the sources
 - Examine them together to decide which interpretation has the **greatest weight** of evidence
 - Be prepared to defend the interpretation which has the greatest weight of evidence by criticising the alternative interpretations which, in your opinion, have less weighty evidence

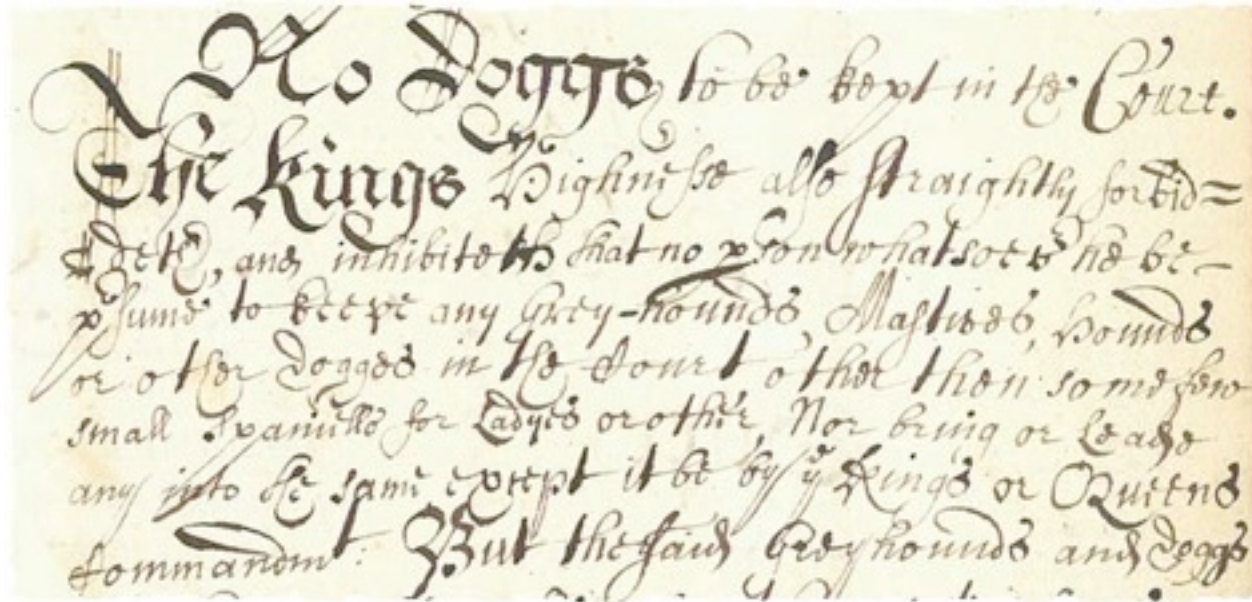
How could you weigh?

- Typicality of evidence
 - Is the evidence typical of Tudor society, or atypical?
 - For example, is it supported or contradicted by other sources?
 - This will need to be based on a wide survey of other evidence
- Origin
 - What was the original purpose / motive of the source (who made it, when and why)?
 - Context: what was going on when the source was produced, which could affect its content?
 - If you have doubts about the origin of the source, perhaps it should lend less weight to the interpretation...



A Tudor watering
can (to water plants)
made out of pottery

Rules for the Court of Henry VIII



Transcript

No one living at court is allowed to bring with him more servants than a person of his rank is allowed to keep there, ...

The boys who work in the kitchen shall not go naked or in such scruffy clothes as they do now. Nor should they sleep at night in the kitchen or by the fireside. ...

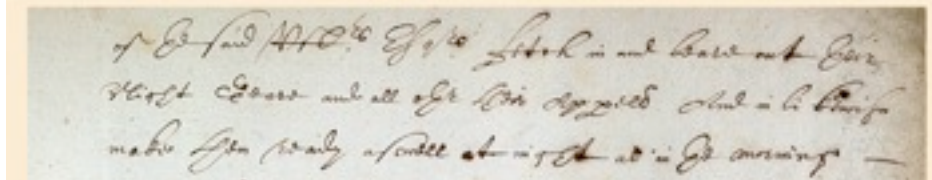
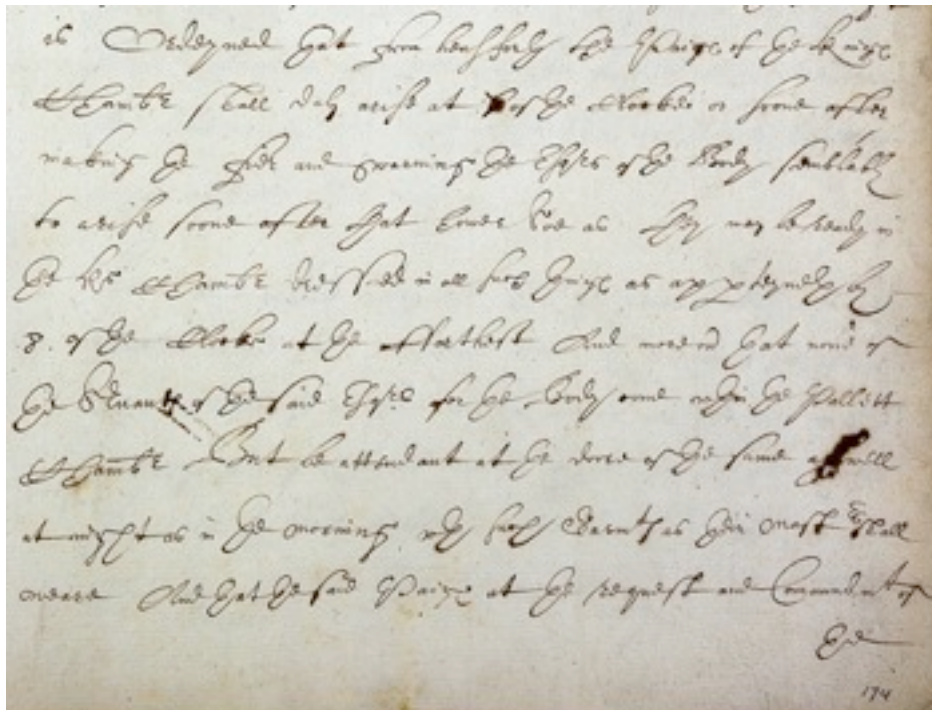
No one is allowed to have greyhounds or other dogs at court, except for a few small spaniels for ladies. ...

The first dinner begins at 10 o'clock and the supper at 4 on workdays. ...

To keep the king's bedroom pure and clean and to stop people disturbing the king, no one is allowed to enter it except the Marquis of Exeter, who is a relative of the king and was brought up with him from a child, six waiters, two ushers, four grooms, the barber and a page; in all 15 people. ...

No unruly playing of dice or cards in the king's chamber during his absence, ...

From the Ordinances of Eltham (the rules for the King's day)



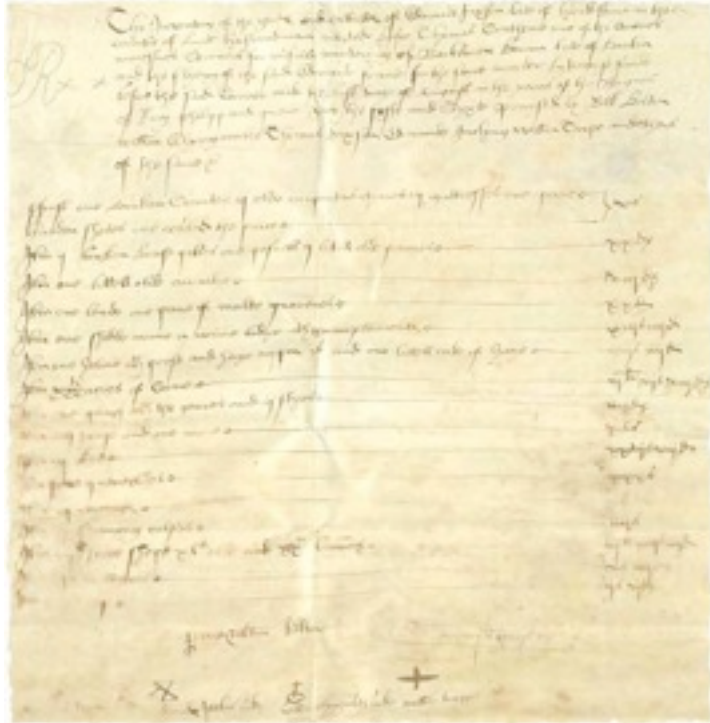
The duties of the King's pages, and the pages' esquires

Simplified Transcript

It is ordered, that from now on the pages of the Kings chamber shall daily arise at seven of the clock, or soon after; making the fire and warning the esquires for the body similarly to arise soone after that hour, so as they may be ready in the King's chamber, dressed in all such things as relate, by eight of the clock at the latest. And moreover, that none of the servants of the said esquires for the body come within the pallet chamber, but be attendant at the door of the same, as well as pages, at the request and commandment of

the said esquires, fetch in and bear out their night gear, and all other their clothing; and in the same way make them ready, as well at night as in the morning

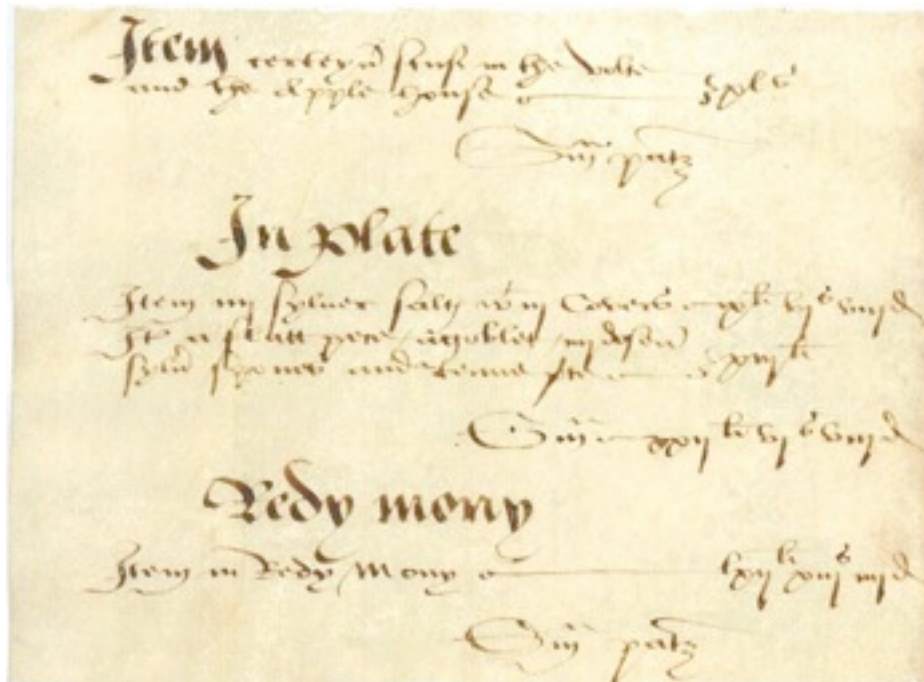
Part of an inventory of the goods belonging to Edward Jaxson



Jaxson was a farmer who lived in Lincolnshire. He had been charged with the murder of Bartholomew Benam. This inventory was made in 1558 after he'd been charged. If he was found guilty, he would be hanged and all of these belongings taken from him.

Item	£	s	d
1 broken table, 2 old carpenter's chairs, 3 mattresses, 1 pair rough sheets, 1 coverlet		5	
2 broken brass pots, 1 small boiling pot, 2 little old pans			20
1 little old cupboard			18
1 lead, 1 pair of malt querns [a mill for grinding corn]			20
1 large cart [with 4 iron wheels for hay or corn], a cart body [without the wheels], with the equipment		13	4

Part of an inventory of the goods belonging to Margery Wren



Margery died in 1540. This inventory was made when she died so that her family knew what she owned. Margery had left a will saying who she wanted to give her things to when she died. This inventory helped her family to execute her will.

Item	£	s	d
20 pairs linen sheets, 20 pairs of rough sheets, 20 pillow cases, 20 tablecloths, 12 towels, 5 cloths [to cover cupboards], 48 napkins	6	17	4
10 featherbeds, 29 pillows, 15 mattresses, 10 pairs of blankets, 10 coverings for beds, 5 tablecloths, 12 hangings for beds	21		4
4 sets of metal dishes, 48 bowls, 4 basins with jugs, 3 pans, 6 large serving plates, 8 brass basins, 12 basins [for washing hands], a chaffer, 4 chaffing dishes [dishes with a flame underneath for heating up food at the table]	7	18	
13 metal pots, 21 candlesticks, 3 cauldrons, 2 kettles, a copper pan	2	19	

A Tudor pottery dish

This cheap pottery dish was most likely used on a farm. Corn or water could be held in the rings and the dish put out to feed the farm birds (maybe chickens or geese).



A Tudor purse. Carried by both men and women to hold either perfume or





A destitute man
asks a Tudor
gentleman for
money

© estherarnott

During the Tudor years, the population of London quadrupled in size from 50,000 to 200,000 people. But there were not enough jobs. Therefore, the number of vagrants and homeless people rose so quickly that the government passed new laws to try and prevent more people coming to London. Vagrants were dragged through the streets, being whipped. They were then branded (burned) with a V and a hole was burned in their ear with a hot poker so the authorities would know they were beggars. If they got caught begging again, they were hung.





A Tudor salt dish.
Salt was very
expensive in the

A Tudor grace cup

This is a grace cup. It would have been passed around the dinner table after the prayers (i.e. after you have said 'grace' or prayers).

The cup is made of ivory (from the tusk of an elephant) with a gold rim. The lid is made of gold, silver and pearls, and is very ornate. It would have been used at the Tudor court.



A Tudor piece of jewellery



This is an example of jewellery worn by people at court. It would have been worn around the neck with a chain through the loop on left. It is a whistle made in the shape of a gun. It is gold with emeralds and other decoration. A bit like a pen-knife today, as it has 3 tools. There is a spike for picking your teeth. There is a hook for scraping your tongue. There is a spoon for getting wax out of your ears.

A Tudor chair



This chair is made of wood which is highly polished. This type of chair was found in the houses of wealthy people. The most important person in the house or a guest sat in the armchair. Everyone else sat on stools or benches.

Nonsuch Palace, Surrey – home to the Tudor family. This was the greatest of the Tudor palaces ever built – designed to celebrate the power and wealth of the family. It cost £24,000 (about £35million in today's money)

