



SUMMARY

In the exuberant pop musical, Henry VIII's six wives sing about their suffering, remixing and reclaiming 500 years of history.

CHARACTER GUIDE

Catherine of Aragon: A devout Catholic from Spain, Catherine was previously married to Henry VIII's older brother. She gave birth to their daughter, Mary, but he, wanting a son, divorced Catherine and sent her to a convent.

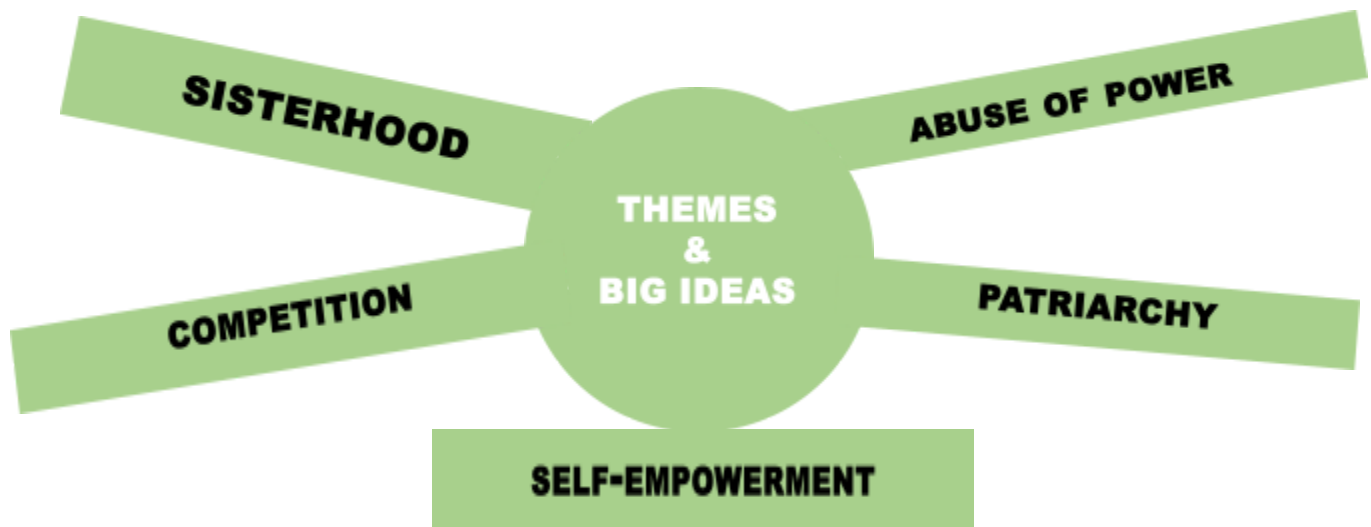
Anne Boleyn: Catherine of Aragon's lady-in-waiting. Henry VIII severed ties with the Catholic church to be able to marry Anne. She gave birth to Elizabeth, but Henry still wanted a son. After deciding to remarry, Henry had Anne convicted of treason and adultery and had her beheaded.

Jane Seymour: Lady-in-waiting to Anne Boleyn, traditional and religious. While married to Henry, Jane gave birth to Edward, but she died due to complications related to childbirth.

Anne of Cleves: Chosen by Henry VIII to be his fourth wife after he saw her portrait. However, when she arrived from Germany, he said that she didn't look like the image painted of her. After they divorced, she lived a comfortable life on her own.

Katherine Howard: Henry VIII's fifth wife was a lady-in-waiting to Anne of Cleves and a cousin to Anne Boleyn. She married at 17 and was executed less than two years later after being convicted of treason for not declaring that she lived an "unchaste" life before her marriage.

Catherine Parr: An author and advocate for education, she was married before and after her marriage to Henry VIII. Her mother was a lady-in-waiting to Catherine of Aragon, and she was friendly with Princess Mary.



EXERCISES & ACTIVATIONS

Writing

Ask yourselves, "How might you tell your own story?" "How have the struggles and challenges of your life shaped you?" "If there is any possibility, how might you regard them through a lens of empowerment?" "

Embodiment

As a class, make a list of powerful people or types of people. Use your body to create postures that depict people from your list. How can you involve as much of your body as possible, including your facial expressions? Is your posture open and expansive or closed and compact? What does power look like in the body? Assemble small groups to create a tableau called "Power."? What empowered you to make it through?

Contextual

Explore the real-life historical world of the queens in *Six* through documentaries available online, such as *Six Wives of Henry VIII* at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RR16igcM1Hw> or *The Six Queens of Henry VIII* or *The Six Queens of Henry VIII* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dhsRdQ5jYVA>. After watching, students should reflect on questions such as, "What fact stood out to you about the wives?" "What would you like to know more about?" and "Is there another woman in history who comes to mind as having a connection with one of the queens? Who and why?"