

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

To learn the importance of storytelling in drama; to imagine what life was like in the court of Henry VIII.

**CURRICULUM LINKS**

History KS1 and KS2: 2a, 5, 10.

QCA History: Unit 7 – Why did Henry VIII marry six times?

# Rumour chain

## What you need

Safe, open space; 'Rumour chain' photocopiable page 18 (one copy for each pair of children).

## What to do

- Group the children into pairs.
- Give each pair a copy of the 'Rumour chain' photocopiable sheet and look at the pictures together.
- Explain that the pictures show a story becoming exaggerated. In pairs, ask the children to discuss what is happening in each picture. Listen to some of their interpretations, and invite comments and suggestions from others.
- Ask the children to define what the words 'gossip' and 'exaggerate' mean.
- Encourage the children to support their opinions with evidence from the pictures, such as the characters' facial expression, stance and position.
- After discussion, ask each pair to prepare a scenario between two of Henry VIII's servants. The servants can be located in the kitchen or in Henry VIII's private quarters. The discussion is about his forthcoming wedding to Anne Boleyn, and the servants are to discuss what they think of Anne Boleyn and her demands on them as servants.
- Once you are satisfied that the children are clear about what they have to do, give them five minutes of rehearsal time.
- Watch some of the performances. Ask the rest of the class to offer their opinions on the realism of the dialogue.
- Ask one of the pairs to perform their scenario again, and use it as a starting point for a 'rumour circle'. Call the children Servant 1 and 2, with Servant 1 starting the rumour. When they have finished their scenario, ask Servant 1 to sit down, and invite another child to play Servant 3. Servant 2 then repeats the rumour to Servant 3, but slightly exaggerates some of the information. Servant 2 then exits, to be replaced by Servant 4. Servant 3 continues the rumour, now even more exaggerated.
- Continue this for a maximum of ten servants. Invite constructive comments from the rest of the class.

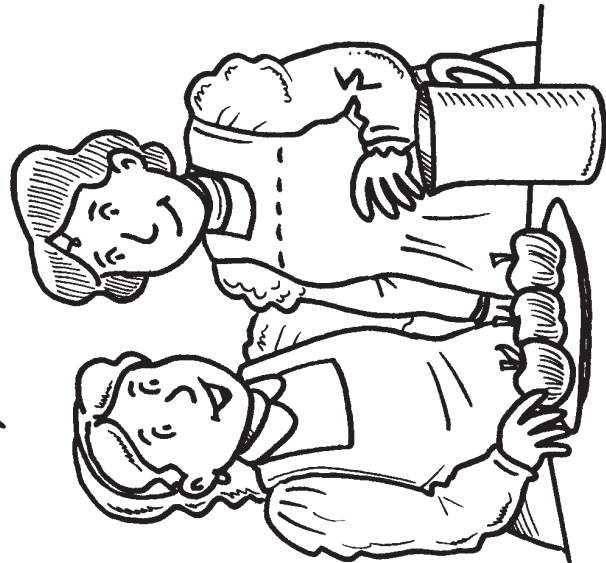


## Differentiation

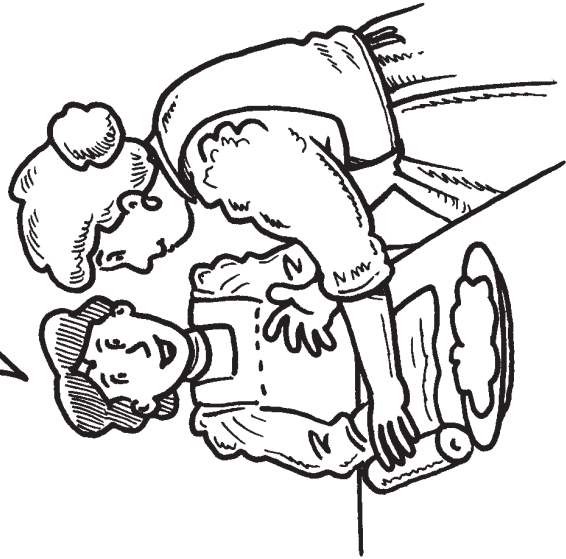
Allow younger children to write down their opening lines to give them confidence to continue without a script. Challenge older children to experiment with characters and content, giving more realism to their characters.

# Rumour chain

Do you know how much her wedding dress was? It beggars belief!



Do you know her dress cost two thousand pounds and her jewellery is being made in Italy?



Do you know her dress cost three thousand pounds, she stole the late king's jewellery and the wedding cake is coming from France?

