

Queen Elizabeth I of England was born on September 7, 1533 to Henry VIII and his then wife Anne Boleyn (“Elizabeth I” 263). Because her daughter was a girl and Henry had wanted a son, Anne had to safeguard her baby’s rights to her titles and money (Erickson 17).

Unfortunately, for Elizabeth her father had her mother’s head cut off.

Elizabeth grew up in difficult circumstances because her father really wanted a boy and had her declared illegitimate at a young age, although she was still raised as a royal and had riding and dancing lessons, learned languages, and all the proper pursuits of a young lady. She was very intelligent and learned fast. Some of her childhood was spent helping one of her stepmothers, Catherine Parr (“Queen Elizabeth I” n.p.).

“Like most members of the upper class, Elizabeth was more closely bonded to nurses and governesses than to any of her blood relations and it was to those old servants that she showed the most loyalty” (Collinson n. p.). Unfortunately, there came a time when Henry VIII made sure she was confined to a castle in the north of England with only those servants to take care of her and no contact with her family (Erickson 24).