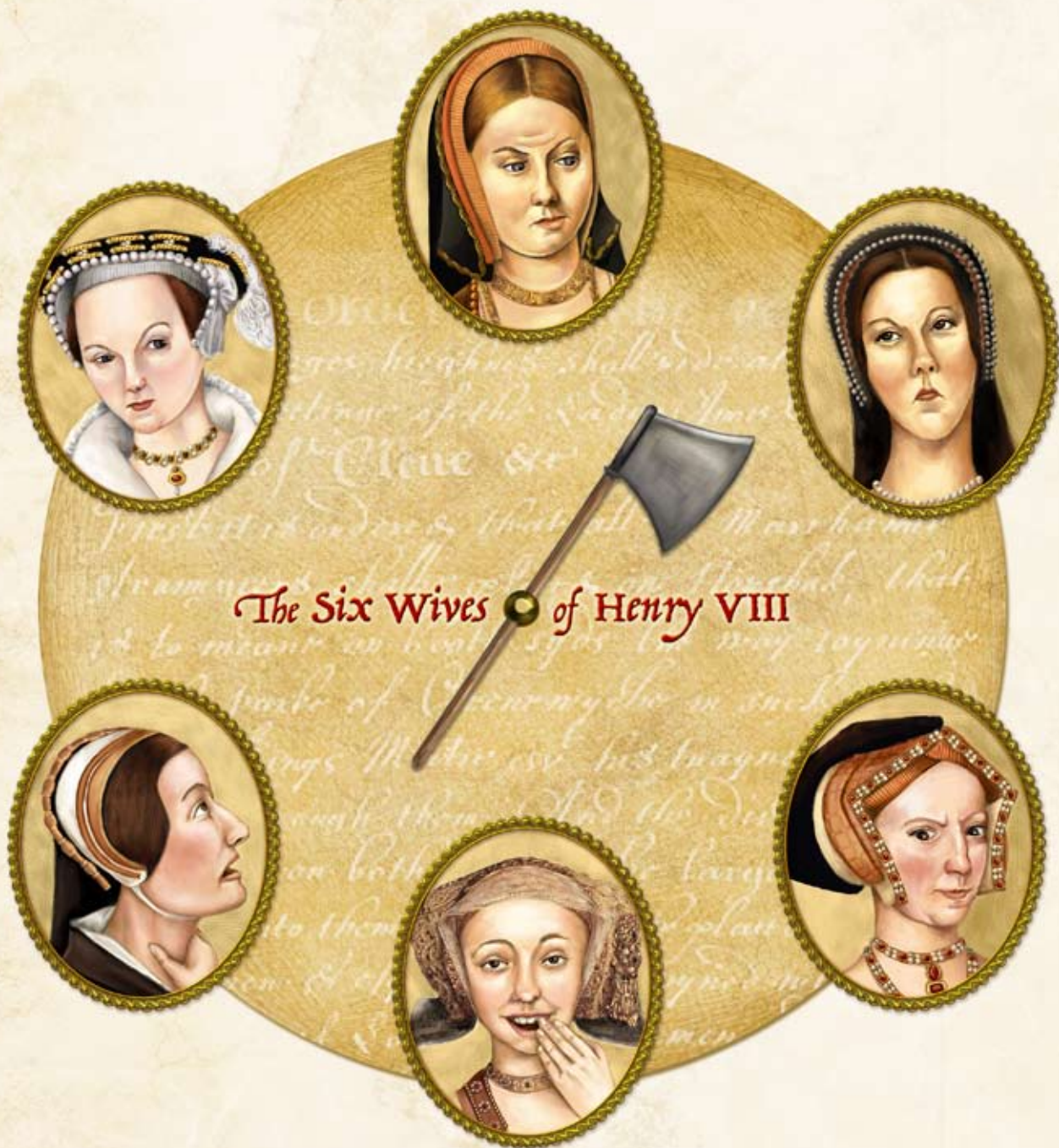


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# The Raucous Royals

## Teacher's Guide

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## Goal of Teacher's Guide

This teachers guide offers lesson plans to help teachers incorporate the material in *The Raucous Royals* into their curriculum. These lesson plans are used in author, Carlyn Beccia's presentation. To set up an author visit at your school, contact Carlyn Beccia at 781-334-4408 or [info@carlynbeccia.com](mailto:info@carlynbeccia.com)

## About the Author

Beccia attended the University of Massachusetts on a 4-year art scholarship and graduated in 1995. In 2005, Beccia was the Grand Prize Portfolio Winner in the Society of Children's Writers & Illustrators (SCBWI) portfolio exhibition. In 2006, she was awarded a certificate of merit in The Society of Illustrators of Los Angeles, Illustration West 44 Annual and she was also the Grand Prize Portfolio Winner in the New England, Society of Children's Writers & Illustrators (NEW ENGLAND SCBWI) portfolio exhibition. In 2008, Beccia's debut book, *Who Put the B in the Ballyhoo?* was a the Golden Kite honor recipient for picture book illustration. In 2009, Beccia was the winner of the *International Reading Association's 2009 Children's and Young Adult Book Award for Intermediate-Nonfiction*.

Carlyn Beccia has also illustrated the *Houdini and Nate Mysteries* series along with cover of Newbery winner Christopher Paul Curtis's *Elijah of Buxton*.

## About the Book

Pssst....Have you heard the one about Anne Boleyn and her six fingers? Did King George III really talk to trees? Did Napoleon Bonaparte have reason to have a short complex? Do you believe any of these rumors?

The Raucous Royals invites readers to become a history detective and come to their own conclusions about 13 pretty raucous royals. Each of these rulers is remembered for rumors and gossip that have survived thousands of year. Some of these rumors are true and some of them are false. And with some of them we will never know. But all of them are told to you in secret. Please don't repeat them...

*The Raucous Royals: Test your Royal Wits: Crack Codes, Solve Mysteries, and Deduce Which Royal Rumors are True* (Hardcover)

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin 2008 (September 1, 2008)

Age Range: 9+

Pages: 64

For more information about the book, visit: [www.RaucousRoyals.com](http://www.RaucousRoyals.com)

## Planning an author visit

To have a successful author's visit, discuss the goals of the visit with the author. Become familiar with an author's book and in turn explain your curriculum and how the book can fit into the your learning objectives. Discuss the age range, number and personality of your classroom.

# Lesson 1: Be a history detective...not a rumor spreader

**Age range:** 3rd - 8th grade

**Time Frame:** 45 minutes

The following activity teaches art and research techniques used in beginning writing. The goal of The Raucous Royals is not only to educate students on historical facts, time line and biographies, but to teach students how to educate themselves using their own research techniques. Through this exercise, students will learn the importance of using more than one source by showing how history can be interpreted in different ways by different people.

**10 minutes:** Carlyn Beccia will first give an art demo showing how she draws characters. Topics discussed will include: the basics of how to draw a face, using clothing references for historical accuracy and how to instill emotion and character into a portrait. This demo can be given on paper with marker on a presentation board or shown digitally on Beccia's pressure sensitive tablet and laptop.

**Remaining Time:** Carlyn Beccia will divide the classroom into two groups. Using examples of primary sources, each group will hear a contemporary description of a famous historical person. One description will be flattering and the other will be more derogatory. The two groups will not be allowed to share their sources. Each group of students is then asked to draw a portrait of the famous person based solely on the contemporary description that they were assigned. Students are encouraged to use the art techniques learned in the demonstration.

Students are given approximately 15-30 minutes to illustrate their portraits. At the end of the allotted time, examples from each group will be compared and contrasted. How did each person portray the person differently based on the description? Carlyn Beccia will discuss the motivations behind each writer and why they may have chosen to describe the person using particular words. Topics to further discuss include the pitfalls of using only one source, understanding the motivations behind each writer, the difference between primary and secondary sources and how contemporary letters can be used in research.

**Required Materials:** Pencil and Paper, Crayons, presentation board or chalk board.

**Optional:** paint, construction paper

## Lesson 2: History on Trial

**Age range:** 3rd -8th grade

**Time Frame:** 45 minutes

Mary Queen of Scots execution

Carlyn Beccia gives a brief description of the events that led up to Mary's imprisonment and execution. Primary source examples are given in a letter from Mary and a letter from Elizabeth. Students are given a work sheet that lists the key points of each queen's side. They are then instructed to write a description either defending or prosecuting Mary.

**Required Materials:** Work sheet printed out before class

**Optional Preparation:** Teachers can introduce background information about Elizabeth and Mary Queen of Scots, but it is not necessary.