

# History Hackers and the Mary Rose



*This is the winning entry for the Twinkl Upper Key Stage 2 Story-Writing Competition 2018, written by Emily from Saint Anthony's Catholic Primary School.*

Without even opening their eyes, Tilda and Charlie could tell when and where they were. The first thing that hit them was the noise: the shouts of angry neighbours, the cutter-clatter of horses on the streets and the loud music from pubs and inns. Another thing was the stench; an utterly revolting and gruesome scent was almost the only thing that they could smell! How it reeked! Even the pomanders that women wore on their belts couldn't help with it.

Behind an old inn door, Tilda and Charlie saw some beautiful women whispering about how Henry VIII was going to watch his majestic flagship, the Mary Rose, show off its sailing efficiency in Portsmouth harbour in three days' time. Tilda instantly alerted Charlie. "We need to save the Mary Rose!"

He nodded in agreement. "If we don't, the ship will sink and more than five hundred men will die. But, how are we going to get to Henry VIII?"

When they went up to the huddle of lovely ladies, Tilda and Charlie were looked at curiously.

“What outlandish attire!” said Catherine, the leader of the group. Tilda and Charlie were taken aback. Never had they heard anyone say anything about how they dressed, they were just wearing jeans, tops and jumpers.

“Good day, fair maiden,” stammered Tilda. “Pray tell where King Henry VIII is in residence.”

“King Henry VIII is in the Tower of London,” replied Catherine.

The journey to the Tower of London was a long and dreadful one. Everywhere Tilda and Charlie went, they had to watch their step; there were rats, fleas and poo strewn carelessly across the cobblestone, narrow pathway.

Once they were there, the main challenge was getting past the guards. All of a sudden, Charlie had a brilliant idea. “Tilda, if we take the clothes off some servants, then put them over our regular clothing, that would allow us to sneak past the guards and into the Tower of London.”

“Perfect solution, Charlie,” encouraged Tilda.

Tilda and Charlie saw some servants tending to the garden. “This is the perfect time to start the plan. You go up and be a chatterbox and convince them to lend us their spare clothes. I’ll explain the rest of the plan in detail when the time comes,” said Charlie excitedly.

Tilda went up to the servants and started talking to them about how they would let them eat Charlie’s bag of 100 penny sweets, on the condition that they were allowed borrow the servants’ uniform for a while. Of course, the servants (Anne and Edward) agreed because they didn’t even know what 100 penny sweets were and neither did anyone else in the whole of Britain at the time.

Tilda and Charlie walked past the guards without any questioning at all and made their way to the banqueting hall. Henry VIII was sitting at the head of the table on his throne and eating so much food that nearly the whole table was empty! He was just in the middle of a huge pig when Tilda and Charlie burst through the doors with a mixture of excitement and nervousness.

“What on Earth are you doing barging into the dining hall without my permission? John, have these servants relieved of the weight of their heads!” ordered Henry.

“Wait just one second, we beg you. We carry an incredibly important message; it concerns the hundreds of men on board the Mary Rose,” begged Charlie. Tilda and Charlie took off the servant uniform to reveal their regular clothes.

“We bring terrible news from the future. Your magnificent flagship, the Mary Rose, is going to sink the day that you go to Portsmouth harbour. Only 35 men will survive and over 500 men will die; your amazing nation will be much less successful and you will lose more wars than the ones that you win,” explained Tilda.

“How do you know that?” asked Henry.

“We are from the future and we can prove it.” They held out their phones.

“What is this oddly shaped thing?” asked Henry.

“You can look at it if you want.” Tilda scrolled down on her phone to find a picture of the Mary Rose after it had sunk and showed it to him.

“For the glory of God! Why didn’t I believe you in the first place? John, cancel the executioner, we have some life-savers in the room!” shouted Henry, totally shocked by this. “We shall have to call off all ships sailing today and postpone the inspection.”

Tilda and Charlie high-fived each other. “We saved the day again!” Tilda celebrated.

“We certainly did!” exclaimed Charlie. “Now, what about the Titanic?”

## The End