

## READING ABBEY CHARACTERS

Use this resource with the Reading Abbey Rap worksheet.

Reading Abbey is closed in 1539 by Henry VIII. There are lots of characters who will be effected by the closure of the Abbey.

Read through the characters below. How do you think they might feel?

<p><b>Mabel the Cook</b></p> <p>Mabel has a pie stall just outside the abbey walls. She has moved her stall from it's previous spot on the other side of town. Currently, there are always tired and hungry visitors from all over the country arriving at all times of the day but that will all change with the closure!</p> <p>How do you think the closure will affect her?</p>	<p><b>Thomas the Merchant</b></p> <p>Thomas runs several small boats that take supplies to and from the Abbey. He has just finished building a nice, flat side of the riverbank, using a process called riveting. It has cost him a lot of money but he thought it was worth it. This meant that he could get bigger boats, with more supplies on, to the Abbey. He sells lots of supplies to the Abbot and his monks but that will change soon!</p> <p>How do you think the closure will affect him?</p>
<p><b>Matilda the housewife</b></p> <p>Matilda has been unwell over the past month and is staying in the Abbey's Infirmary - a word that means hospital. Whilst staying there she is getting plenty of rest and has even been given new clothes and shoes. They are much better than she could make or afford herself, so she is very grateful but she will have to leave soon!</p> <p>How will the closure affect her?</p>	<p><b>Benedict the Monk</b></p> <p>Benedict was a busy monk. He was in charge of leading morning and afternoon prayer and doesn't get time for a proper lunch. He was happy with this though, because he was serving God all day long. Now, where will he go?</p> <p>How will the closure affect him?</p>
<p><b>Hugh Farringdon</b></p> <p>Hugh is the Abbot at Reading Abbey. He runs the Abbey which welcomes pilgrims, looks after sick, receives royal visitors, hold regular prayers for their (paying) patrons. He has spent almost all his life as a monk, working his way up to the position he is in. He is held in high regard and has support Henry the VIII but now the king is closing the Abbey!</p> <p>How will the closure affect him?</p>	<p><b>Adelisa the Washer Woman</b></p> <p>Adelisa has been washing clothes in the River Kennet next to the Abbey for many years. She earns regular money from washing the monks and the (sometimes wealthy) visiting pilgrims clothes. The closure of the Abbey might mean that she will get less work!</p> <p>How will the closure affect her?</p>

