

Anne Askew: Comprehension answers

1. Here are some adjectives and pieces of evidence you might use:

| Anne is... | Evidence (quotes from the text) |
|--|--|
| passionate / feisty / hot-headed / intense / angry | "Her eyes flashed" / "Anne was a firebrand" / "Blazing with passion, Anne jumped to her feet" / "I'll say what I like" |
| brave / fearless / spirited / courageous / defiant | "Her voice trembled, but she went on boldly." / "her face brave but pale" / "I shall say such things, and I will go on saying them until the day I die." |
| fun-loving / high-spirited / joyful | "she stuck out her tongue at him" / "her joy at life was just as strong as her anger" |
| intelligent / smart | "He much admired his sister's razor-sharp tongue" / "You know full well you can't stop me" / "Girls deserve to read the Bible just as much as boys" |

2. It tells us that girls were considered less important than boys and were only good for being "useful" by serving their husbands and bringing up children. It also tells us that girls were expected to obey their fathers without question.

3. It suggests that he speaks in a very hard, heartless way, with no feeling or softness in his voice.

4. There are several pieces of evidence that show Anne does not like being married to Sir Thomas:

- She locks herself away from him, which shows she doesn't want to be near him.
- She makes fun of him, for example saying "I did not hear you approach me so softly" even though he was hammering at the door.
- She shows a "continuing hostility" towards Sir Thomas, which proves she dislikes him.
- She has refused to take his surname, which suggests she doesn't want to belong to him.

5. These are the exact words her father used when he told her she had to marry Sir Thomas. (Back then, she did as she was told. Now she is older, she has more courage to be independent.)

6. She thinks she can be free to study, learn and pray, and to teach and help others. Francis and Edward both work at the court so she hopes they can introduce her to people who can support her, such as scholars (educated men) and priests.

7. Francis is worried because women are not allowed to do any of the things Anne wants. He also knows it can be dangerous to discuss new ideas about religion because it could be seen as heresy (going against the Church), which is punished by death. He fears that Anne will be too passionate and outspoken.

8. The Lord Chancellor is made to sound like a snake: he “watched her like a snake eyeing its prey”, has “reptilian eyes” and draws himself up like “a viper preparing to strike”. This all emphasises how cunning and evil he is, as well as silent and sneaky. Like a venomous snake, he is dangerous and will harm Anne.

9. The word ‘buzzing’ suggests they are eager and excited, like the frenzied buzz of bees. It also shows that there are a lot of people moving around in a huddle, all talking enthusiastically to create a hum of noise.

10. You will have your own opinion here, but I think that a lot of people would *not* have wanted Anne to die. As executions were popular entertainment in Tudor times, many people would have come along out of interest (like going to the theatre!), not because they disliked Anne personally. Most probably didn’t even know who she was, seeing as poorer people had nothing to do with the King’s court, and couldn’t read or write. Some poor or sick people might even have had help from her, in which case they probably liked her. I suspect many people felt she was too harshly treated, but they did not want to speak out in case they got into trouble themselves.