Mary, Queen of Scots

Before Reading

BEFORE READING ACTIVITIES (PAGE 44)

ACTIVITY 1  BEFORE READING
1 Yes  2 Yes  3 No  4 No  5 Yes  6 No  7 Yes  8 No

ACTIVITY 2  BEFORE READING
Encourage students to speculate and to make guesses but do not tell them the answers. They will find out as they read that Mary had three husbands, one child, died before Elizabeth, her enemies tried to kill her, and she only gets out of Fotheringhay Castle when she is dead.

While Reading

CHAPTER 1  WHILE READING
1 Because Queen Elizabeth was afraid of her.
2 Twenty years old (in 1587).
3 Ten months old.
4 Never.
5 The lie that his mother (Mary) killed his father.

CHAPTERS 2 AND 3  WHILE READING
1 In 1560, when he was sixteen, Francis, the King of France, died, and so his wife went back to Scotland.
2 The Protestant Scots lords were angry when Mary went to a Catholic church.
3 Queen Elizabeth wanted Mary to marry Robert Dudley, the Earl of Leicester.
4 Mary’s second husband was Henry Darnley, the great-grandson of Henry VII of England.
5 The Earl of Moray was Mary’s half-brother, and he tried to stop Mary’s marriage to Darnley.
6 Mary had a young Italian friend called David Riccio.
7 Riccio helped Mary with her work, but Darnley went out drinking every night.

BEFORE READING CHAPTER 4
Encourage students to guess, but do not tell them the answer. They will find out as they read that the answer is one of Darnley’s friends (Lord Ruthven).

CHAPTERS 4 AND 5  WHILE READING
1 Who . . .? Lord Ruthven, Darnley’s friend.
2 Why . . .? Because Darnley had her in his arms.
3 Who . . .? Mary, Darnley, and Bess Curie.
4 Who . . .? Lord Bothwell.
5 Where . . .? Back to Edinburgh.
6 Who . . .? Mary’s son, James.
7 Why . . .? Because he was afraid to go into Edinburgh Castle.
8 Where . . .? In Edinburgh Castle.
9 Where . . .? In the garden of the house, Kirk o’Field.

BEFORE READING CHAPTER 7
Encourage students to guess but do not tell them the answers. They will find out as they read that the two ‘yes’ answers are numbers 1 and 3.

CHAPTERS 7 AND 8  WHILE READING
1+11 Mary looked for Darnley’s killers, but she could not find them.
2+10 The Scots lords did not like Mary’s new husband, so they sent their army to fight Mary and Bothwell.
3+8 The two armies met at Carberry Hill, but Bothwell’s men did not want to fight.
4+13 After Carberry Hill, James was the new King, and the Scots lords put Mary in prison for a year.
5+9 When Mary lost the fight at Langside, near Glasgow, she ran away and rode south to England.
6+14 Mary asked Queen Elizabeth for help, but Elizabeth put Mary in prison for twenty years.
7+12 The English Protestants wanted to kill Mary because the English Catholics wrote letters to her and asked her for help.

CHAPTER 9  WHILE READING
1 F James did not come to see his mother before she died.
2 T
3 F Mary was born a Catholic, and died a Catholic.
4 T
After Reading

**ACTIVITY 1** AFTER READING
1 Henry Darnley
2 James
3 John Knox
4 Lord Bothwell
5 The Earl of Moray
6 David Riccio
7 Queen Elizabeth
8 Lord Bothwell
9 Henry Darnley
10 Bess Curle
11 Lord Ruthven
12 Mary

**ACTIVITY 2** AFTER READING
People tell me, madam, that your *husband* Darnley is dead. They say that you *killed* him, and that you are going to *marry* a new husband. Darnley’s friends in England are very *angry* about this story. Please tell me it is not *true*. You must find the *killers* very quickly.

Elizabeth

**ACTIVITY 3** AFTER READING
Suggested answers:

**JOCK:** Big news, Alex! The King, Darnley, is dead!
**ALEX:** Really! When *did that happen? / did he die?*
**JOCK:** Last night. Did you hear that bang at *two o’clock in the morning?*
**ALEX:** Yes, I did. What *was it?*
**JOCK:** That was his house, Kirk o’Field. It isn’t *there any more.*
**ALEX:** Was Darnley in the house, then?
**JOCK:** No. They found his body *in the garden.*
**ALEX:** Did somebody *kill him* with a knife?
**JOCK:** No. There was *no blood on him.* But he’s dead, all right.
**ALEX:** So who *killed him? Was it the Queen?*
**JOCK:** Perhaps. Now she can *have a new husband / marry Lord Bothwell!*

**ACTIVITY 4** AFTER READING

6 **BESS:** Here is a letter for you, sir, from your mother. She wrote it just before her death.
1 **JAMES:** Thank you. I must read it later. Tell me, Miss Curle, was my mother afraid to die?
12 **BESS:** Not afraid, sir, no. She was tired of life.
10 **JAMES:** But she wasn’t very old, was she?
3 **BESS:** She was forty-five. But she was in prison for twenty years, sir. It’s a hard life, in prison.
2 **JAMES:** She was in prison because she was a dangerous woman! She killed my father, you know!
8 **BESS:** No, sir! That’s not true! Who told you that?
5 **JAMES:** The Earl of Moray told me. I’m sure it’s true. He’s her half-brother.

7 **BESS:** But, sir, Moray always hated Mary. He tells a lot of lies – please don’t listen to him, sir!
9 **JAMES:** I always listen to him. He is a Protestant, like me. My mother was a Catholic.
4 **BESS:** Yes, she was a Catholic, sir, but she was your mother, and she loved you. Please, read her letter.
11 **JAMES:** I can’t read it now. I have a lot of work today, madam. Goodbye.

**ACTIVITY 5** AFTER READING
1 Bess begins the story
2 Praying in a Catholic church
3 Marrying and making friends
4 Death on the stairs
5 Riding through the night
6 Death in a garden
7 Losing the last fight
8 Waiting for a Queen’s answer
9 Bess finishes the story

**ACTIVITY 6** AFTER READING
All of these answers are possible. Encourage students to discuss them, and to give their own opinions as to which answers are most likely.