

<p>The first woman to rule England in her own right didn't simply inherit the throne. She has been studied by many historians.</p>	
	<p>Still, she rode into London on August 3, 1553, to widespread public acclaim. The people celebrated and rejoiced publicly.</p>
	<p>Instead of waiting for the throne, she seized it with unprecedented ambition from those who sought to thwart her</p>
	<p>One of these historians, <a href="#">Sarah Gristwood</a>, describes the ascension of Mary I as a "staggeringly bold" course of action undertaken with little chance of success.</p>
<p>"It was said that no one could remember there ever having been public rejoicing such as this.", one chronicler said.</p>	

Centuries later, however, the Tudor queen is remembered as one of the most **reviled** figures in English history: "[Bloody Mary](#)." This is a story of how a heroic **underdog** became a monarch who was then mythologized as a violent despot—despite being no more **blood thirsty** than her father, Henry VIII, or other English monarchs. It's a tale of sexism, shifting national identity and good old-fashioned propaganda, all of which **coalesced** to create the image of an **unchecked** tyrant that **endures** today.

violent	Came together	Least likely winner
hated	lasts	unstopped

Born on February 18, 1516, Mary was not the long-awaited son her parents, Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon, had hoped for. But she survived infancy and grew up in the public eye as a beloved princess—at least until her teenage years, when her father's infatuation with Anne Boleyn led him to divorce her mother and break with the Catholic Church. Declared illegitimate, downgraded from the title of "princess" to "lady," and separated from her mother, Mary refused to acknowledge the validity of her parents' divorce or her father's status as head of the Church of England. It was only in 1536, after Anne's execution and Henry's marriage to Jane Seymour, that Mary finally agreed to her mercurial father's terms.

#### Speaking and Reading Comprehension

Create five questions for your teammate based on the facts in the above article.