
Westminster Abbey

Learning



Life of Queen Elizabeth II – tomb handout

Edward III

Here is the glory of the English, the paragon of past kings, the model of future kings, a merciful king, the peace of the peoples, Edward the third fulfilling the jubilee of his reign, the unconquered leopard, powerful in war like a Maccabee. While he lived prosperously, his realm lived again in honesty. He ruled mighty in arms; now in Heaven let him be a king.

Glossary

paragon - a perfect example of something

jubilee - special anniversary (Edward III ruled for 50 years)

Maccabee - the Maccabee's were a group of Jewish people who successfully rebelled against Greek occupation (167-160BCE). The word Maccabee comes from the Hebrew word for 'hammer'. The Maccabees were fierce fighters.

prosperously - with wealth

arms – weapons



Henry VII

Henry VII rests within this tomb, he who was the splendour of kings and light of the world, a wise and watchful monarch, a courteous lover of virtue, outstanding in beauty, vigorous and mighty; who brought peace to his kingdom, who waged very many wars, who always returned victorious from the enemy, who wedded both his daughters to kings, who was united to kings, indeed to all, by treaty, who built this holy temple, and erected this tomb for himself, his wife, and his children. He completed more than fifty three years, and bore the royal sceptre for twenty four.

Glossary

courteous - polite and respectful

virtue - behaviour showing high moral standards

vigorous - strong, healthy and energetic

waged - carried on

wedded - married

treaty - formal agreement

bore the royal sceptre - ruled as king



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Elizabeth I

Sacred to memory...peace settled, money restored to its just value, domestic rebellion quelled, all England enriched. Elizabeth, a most prudent governor 45 years, a victorious and triumphant Queen, most strictly religious, most happy, by a calm and resigned death at her 70th year left her mortal remains, till by Christ's Word they shall rise to immortality,...

To the eternal memory of Elizabeth queen of England, France and Ireland, daughter of King Henry VIII, grand-daughter of King Henry VII, great-grand-daughter to King Edward IV. Mother of her country,...skilled in many languages, and excellent for princely virtues beyond her sex.

Glossary

sacred to memory - remembered with great respect and reverence

domestic rebellion quelled - rebellions in England stopped

prudent - acting with care and thought for the future

mortal - earthly/human

immortality - everlasting life/life after death

virtues - behaviour showing high moral standards



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