

17 Education



inkhorn quill pen

Rich Tudor children were treated just like little adults. They dressed like adults and they were expected to behave like them. Yet many died before they really did become adults. Out of every five babies, only two survived to become teenagers.

Even more poor children died. Their parents could not afford servants or doctors to look after them. The poor could not afford to educate their children, so they never learned to read or write. Most poor children started work when they were five or six.

For the better off, there was the chance to send their sons to a grammar school. Nearly every town had one in Elizabeth's reign. They were called 'grammar' schools because they taught Latin and Greek grammar. Latin was still the language used throughout Europe by businessmen and officials. Daughters of the better off were educated at home.

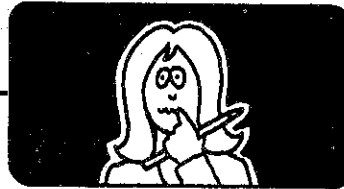
Many of these grammar schools still exist today. Rugby and Harrow schools began in Elizabeth's time. They were mainly local schools and there were free places for poor but intelligent boys. Today, we call them public schools and pupils from all over the world attend them.

Lessons must often have been dull. A lot of the lessons were learned by heart and the pupils worked very long hours. So teachers had to be strict. Pupils were often beaten with a birch rod or a cane. They were often held down while this was done!

The children wrote with a quill pen, made from a feather. They usually made their own ink at home and kept it in an inkhorn. Parents had to buy candles for the winter, and pay for their son's books. One boy's books might cost about £13. That was about as much as the teacher earned in a year!



Tudor schools believed in strict discipline.



- Write one sentence about each of the words in the word box.
- Divide your page into two columns, using a pencil. In the left-hand column, list the times and events in a Tudor school day. On the right, list a typical day's events at your own school.
 - Who works longer hours – you or a Tudor boy?
- Look at the cartoon above. Which of these 'offences' would you *not* be punished for in your school? *Why* wouldn't you be punished?
- Imagine you were a pupil at an Elizabethan grammar school. Describe your day and draw a scene at school. (Do not just copy it straight from page 45.)

A DAY AT AN ELIZABETHAN SCHOOL

