

# YOUR HORRIBLE HISTORIES



Terry Deary told this magazine that, of all historical figures, he most admired the ordinary peasant who toiled on regardless of political events. We asked your children to tell us their favourites. Here are the best. Illustrations by *Martin Brown*

## OVERALL WINNER

**Rosa Parks** by Mariel Turner, aged 13

The story of Rosa Parks starts on a bus when she refused to stand for a white man and she got sent to jail. Her real name was Rosa Louise McCauley Parks. This was in the 1950s. During protesting, she was joined by Martin Luther King. His house was bombed by an angry mob. But after the president got involved he had to make a change. So now civil rights are better. She is my favourite because she accomplished big by changing small.



**Boudicca** by Regan Griffiths, aged 9

I've chosen Boudicca because usually it's a boy who is the hero or the leader of a tribe, but this time it's a girl and as I'm a girl I like it a lot more. She is a tribe leader and if she loses she doesn't just sit down and cry, she tries again, which inspires me to be better. Boudicca was very brave — she would rather take a poison and die than be caught by Romans. I hope when I grow up I can be as strong and courageous as her.



**Victoria** by Stewart Reid, aged 11

I like Victoria because she was extremely nasty to anyone who stepped out of line. For such a powerful woman she was really short, 4ft 11in! She was also very lucky because she survived seven assassination attempts. And what was she thinking, marrying her own German cousin? Eurgh! His name was Albert and he died from typhoid. To mourn his death Victoria wore black and never smiled in public. I think she is an iconic character in history and changed our country for the better.



**William Shakespeare** by Toby Harrison, aged 11

My favourite historical character of all time is William Shakespeare because he invented so many fun words, such as "madoap" and "savagery", although my favourite is "equivocal" because it sounds so posh. I also like him because he gave us loads of great plays, like *Twelfth Night* and *Macbeth*. I like to invent words too, for example, "starvationing" (being extremely peckish), "disgustorous" (something quite vile) and "oppositing" (when I'm sitting opposite someone, of course).



**Admiral Lord Nelson** by Robin Saldanha, aged 9

Admiral Lord Nelson is one of my most favourite people in history. He was a famous high-ranking admiral in the British Royal Navy, but, believe it or not, he would get seasick! I like his first name, Horatio: very awe-inspiring. He joined the Royal Navy at the age of 12 and became a captain when he was just 20. He lost an arm and an eye but carried on. He was well travelled and once chased a polar bear. When he died he was put in a barrel of brandy and sent to England.



**Cleopatra** by Darcy Girvin, aged 9

My favourite historical character is Cleopatra and, funnily enough, ancient Egypt is my favourite time in history. I like Cleopatra because she loved cats, like me, and I think it's funny that she bathed in asses' milk instead of water — totally normal! She wore lots of jewellery with very dramatic make-up. I don't exactly think she let a snake bite her arm on the news of Mark Antony's death, even though she did sound slightly cuckoo. It's very strange she killed most of her husbands and siblings.



**Elizabeth I** by Rita Hesketh, aged 8

My chosen character is Elizabeth I because she executed her own cousin and she had rotten teeth. She was called Good Queen Bess. She threw slippers at her courtiers. I bet you wouldn't like that, would you? She also called a Frenchman "frog"! Just what I do to my sister. She had no children. She was never married. I think this was because she was too bossy. Just like me.



**Charles II** by Louisa Annandale, aged 12

My favourite historical character is Charles II. I like him because he liked to party, and he took over from Oliver Cromwell, who was a puritan and banned all fun things, like partying. But when Charles came back he unbanned all those things and made it a better country for everyone. My favourite Horrible Histories song that shows this is the Charles II King of Bling song and I know the whole lyrics to that song. He also looked like a cavalier King Charles spaniel, because his hair is curly like its ears ■



## Congratulations also go to

Olivia Phillips, Marous Murphy, Ella Moss, Isabella Lorde, Ilori Garcia-Grainger, Emily Liffey, Shay McClure, Maya O'Mahony, Lola Kitty Kloot, Saskia Pepper, Jessica Dolbear, Ned Buckingham, Cormac Gardiner, Ciaran Weadiok, Megan O'Connor, Laura Lyons and Freddie Hewitt  
To read their entries, and an interview with the Horrible Histories creators, visit [thesundaytimes.co.uk/magazine](http://thesundaytimes.co.uk/magazine)