

Read the newspaper article below. Think about the use of language that places the article into a historical setting. Complete the text analysis below.

July 1485

The Tudor Times

½ groat

Bread thief grabs a taste of trouble

Thieving bread-grabber, Tom Tinkerson, aged 10, was arrested today after a spate of thefts in Baker Lane. His latest victim, a Mr Ichabod Smith, 37, of Treewick, had made ready for when the thief might strike.

“I’d heard tell of this thief in nearby villages, so I set myself ready to capture the dastardly villain,” expounded Mr Smith.

He explained how he set his dog ready beside the opening to his bread stall, of which he has held tenure these past 20 years. Knowing that the thief would surely strike upon seeing and smelling his fresh loaves, Mr Smith cleverly left the bread near the stall opening to tempt the crook.

His plan worked! The clever dog Dandy, nought but a pup, barked heroically and revealed the thief in mid-grab, at which point Mr Smith did venture forth with great haste and seize the vile vagabond!

Speaking from the local magistrate’s gaol, Tom Tinkerson had this to say for himself: “I am a poor boy, seeking only to feed my family, me being one of ten children!”

We spoke to the woman he claims to be his mother, Gladice Tinkerson, 32, who said she had no son by that name. “I shall have nothing to do with a thief!” she proclaimed, and thence rushed away to tend to her nine off-spring, who were calling like hungry kittens from inside the hovel from whence she came.

Tom Tinkerson will be judged today and, after a spell in the stocks, is likely be sent to the tin mines of Farnley to do some well-deserved hard labour!



Image credit

Exhibit: Benny Mazur, 2007, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/benimoto/998470516/>

Tudor life – vagabond or vanquisher?

Name:

Date:

What were the key facts about the incident? (names, dates, places, key events)

List any facts that you learnt about Tudor life that you learnt from the article.

Write down any words or phrases that place the article in an historical setting (old fashioned words or terms that you may not hear any more).

List the words and phrases that are used to describe Tom. Think of alternatives to these words that would show a more sympathetic view towards Tom.

Think about how the boy, Tom Tinkerson is portrayed. Write an alternative version sympathising with Tom. Don't forget to draw on your knowledge of Tudor life and include some of the language you have identified in the original article to place your article in a historical setting!