

Cut along the dotted lines

1. You are a seventeen-year-old boy with no living family and no job. You have nothing to eat and no home. You sat on the street and asked people to give you money.

2. You are an old woman who lives alone with her cat. Your neighbour is a farmer. He has had a lot of problems recently. His cow has been very sick and his wife has also been ill. Recently, he lost a lot of crops in heavy rain – the problem is he blames you! He shared his idea with the rest of the village and now they say you are a witch.

3. Your husband is fed up with you because you talk too much.

4. You and a group of others plotted to kill Queen Elizabeth.

5. You went out poaching (stealing animals from someone else's land) at night.

6. You went for a walking holiday in the countryside but forgot to get a travelling licence from the guild hall.

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- a** As this happened at night you would be punished by death. Stealing animals by day was not punished by death – you would probably just be whipped.
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- b** A common punishment for an outspoken woman was ‘The Scold’s Bridle’, a piece of metal which the woman had to wear around her head. Spikes would press against her tongue when she tried to talk.
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- c** Witches could swim – normal women could not. If your neighbours suspected a woman of being a witch, the woman would be thrown into the water. If she drowned, the woman was innocent of being a witch (although she would, unfortunately, be dead). If the woman managed to swim to safety she was a witch and would be burnt at the stake.
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- d** Beggars would be marched out of town until they reached the town boundaries. As they walked they would be continually whipped.
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- e** Whipping and/or starvation was the punishment for this crime as travelling without a licence was thought to spread disease (such as the plague).
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- f** This would result in certain death: you would be hanged, drawn and quartered for treason.
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