

A parchment scroll with a bow and arrow. The scroll is yellowed and has torn edges. A bow is drawn across the top right, and an arrow with a purple and blue fletching is at the bottom. The text is written in a serif font.

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12TH CENTURY ENGLAND

The adventures of Robin Hood take place during the reign of Richard I (known as Richard the Lionheart) from 1189 to 1199. This was a time of social injustice and great economic inequality, and tales of outlaws began to be popular with the common people. These tales were often based on real people, men who tried to escape justice and live a free life in nature. Men like Robin Hood.

THE DOMESDAY BOOK

King William created the first record of all the land in England. This was called the Domesday Book. And thanks to it, he knew how much land he owned and how much it was worth.

Why did Robin Hood choose to help the poor of his time by stealing from the rich? To answer this, we must look at the changes in Anglo-Saxon society after William the Conqueror won the Battle of Hastings in 1066. One of the most important changes was the introduction of the feudal system which forced many people to live like slaves. It was a system based on a strict vertical structure, like a ladder, with the king at the top. Everyone on the ladder had to do or give things to the people above them in exchange for a piece of land.



KING

When William became king in 1066, he took all the land from the Saxons who owned it. He now owned ALL the land.

Barons and LORDS

He then gave some of the land to the Norman barons, if they promised to give him money and men for his army.

KNIGHTS

The barons gave some of their land to the knights, if they promised to fight in the king's army.

SERFS

The knights gave some of their land to the common people or serfs. They could stay on the land, but they had to work on it and give much of their produce to the knights. They could not leave the land and were not free men.



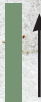
In this system, the Church was powerful, and priests had the same status and privileges as the barons and knights.

So it is not surprising that the common people loved Robin Hood and his Merry Men.

Did you know?

There was no paper money in 12th century England; coins were the only currency in use at the time. They were mostly made of silver, gold and copper.

GLOSSARY

- **barons:** noble men
- **economic inequality:** when some people are very rich and others are very poor
- **injustice:** when things are not fair
- **owned:** it was his
- **privileges:** special treatment that some people have
- **produce:** things they grew (corn, potatoes, etc.)
- **reign:** time when a king or queen is in power
- **slaves:** people without rights who belong to someone else
- **vertical:** 
- **was worth:** cost in money

ROBIN HOOD



Robin Hood



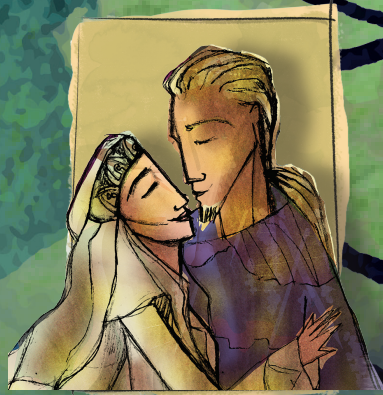
Friar Tuck



Little John



The Sheriff
of Nottingham



Ellen and Allan Dale



Sir Guy of Gisbourne



Sir Richard Lea



King Richard



The Bishop
of Hereford

BEFORE READING



1 Listen and match the objects to the characters.

- a bow and arrow b coins c harp
- d pies e staff f sword and dagger



2 Listen again, read the questions and write the correct names.

- a Who is good at shooting?
- b Who is a dangerous man?
- c Who is a famous singer?
- d Who loves a good fight?
- e Who hates Robin Hood?
- f Who loves to eat?



3 Look at this picture of Robin Hood. Which sentences describe him? Tick (✓).



- a His nose is like a bird's.
- b He has hair the colour of gold.
- c He is young.
- d He has shoulders as wide as an oak tree.
- e He has a thick black beard.
- f His lips are thin and cruel.
- g He has deep blue eyes.

4 Complete the information about Robin. Use the words in the box to help you.

Little John laugh blue Sherwood
bow gold shooting young


- a Robin lives in Forest.
- b Robin is
- c Robin's eyes are and his hair is the colour of
- d Robin always carries a and arrow.
- e Robin is good at
- f Robin's best friend is
- g Robin likes to and have fun.





CHAPTER 1



 Many years ago, there was a lad from Locksley Town. This lad had deep blue eyes and hair the colour of gold. And he always carried a bow.

One day, the lad saw a poster. It was for an archery competition in faraway Nottingham Town. *I am good with a bow and arrow. I can win that,* he thought.

So he began walking.

The journey from Locksley to Nottingham was long, but the sun was shining, and the birds were singing. The lad walked happily along. Soon, he came to a great forest, and he met a group of men. They were eating under a tree. One of them looked up and spoke. He was ugly with big ears.

‘Hey, boy!’ he said, his mouth full of food. ‘Where are you going with that old bow?’

The others laughed, but the lad smiled.

‘I’m going to Nottingham,’ he said calmly, ‘to win the archery competition.’



When the men heard this, they laughed again. But the ugly one laughed the loudest.


‘Do you see that deer in the distance?’ he asked. ‘Hit it and you can have all the money in my bag.’

Without a word, the lad lifted his bow and fired. His arrow flew through the air.

It hit the deer and killed it.

GLOSSARY

- **archery:** the use of a bow and arrow
- **arrow:** 
- **bow:** 
- **competition:** match or game one wants to win

- **deer:** 
- **fired:** shot
- **lad:** boy
- **poster:** piece of paper with pictures and words

The men couldn't believe their eyes•. They stared• at the lad. No one could hit a deer from so far away, no one!

The lad smiled. 'I think you owe• me some money!'

The ugly man jumped to his feet. 'Go away!' he shouted. 'Go on! Go away!'

The lad didn't want to start a fight, so he turned and began walking again in the direction of Nottingham.

But the ugly man was angry now. Suddenly, he lifted his bow and fired at the lad. Just in time•, the lad turned, and the man's arrow flew past him. It missed•.

The lad fired back at the man. His arrow didn't miss. It hit the man's heart and killed him there and then.

'Murderer•!' the men cried. 'Catch him!' But the lad disappeared into the trees.

WHAT DID THEY HIT?

Tick (✓) the correct sentences.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> The ugly man hit the deer. | <input type="checkbox"/> The lad hit the deer. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The ugly man hit the lad. | <input type="checkbox"/> The lad hit the ugly man. |

GLOSSARY

- **couldn't believe their eyes:** thought it was incredible
- **just in time:** not too late
- **missed:** (here) didn't hit him
- **murderer:** person who kills people
- **owe:** must pay some money
- **stared:** looked at for a long time

Later, the group of men went to Nottingham to tell the sheriff about the death. The dead man was a cousin of the Sheriff of Nottingham. The sheriff was furious• when he heard the news.

‘Two hundred pounds for the murderer’s head,’ he shouted.

And so the lad was now an outlaw•, and the sheriff was his enemy•. He could no longer return to Locksley, or go to Nottingham as a free man. But the lad with deep blue eyes and hair the colour of gold was safe. Deep in the green forest, he lay and dreamed of adventures to come.

And so began many adventures – because the forest was Sherwood Forest, and the lad’s name was Robin Hood.



-
- **enemy:** opposite of friend
 - **furious:** very angry

- **outlaw:** person the police want to catch

AFTER READING VOCABULARY

1  Three words are related to each other, but one is not. Which one? Find the odd one out. Explain why to a partner.

- | | | | | |
|---|---------|----------|--------|---------|
| a | horn | trumpets | target | whistle |
| b | reward | throat | pardon | promise |
| c | butcher | dagger | leader | outlaw |
| d | fool | coward | aide | skilful |
| e | wedding | starving | groom | bride |
| f | owl | deer | bird | bee |

2 Write questions about the underlined information.

Example: *They went to Nottingham.* → *Where did they go?*

- a The poster was for an archery competition.
- b Robin bought the butcher's meat.
- c When they heard this, Robin and his men laughed.
- d The sheriff had an idea.
- e Nobody knew the mysterious archer.
- f Thousands of gold coins fell out of the box.
- g Robin dreamed of adventures to come.
- h They were going to have a feast.
- i The giant's shoulders were as wide as an oak tree.
- j Will Stoutly knew all about roads with rich travellers on them.
- k The harp was made of gold and silver.
- l Robin saw Ellen for the first time.
- m The crowd cheered each time.

K A2 Key English Test Reading and Writing Part 4

1 Read the sentences and choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

- 1** 'Do you have a broken heart?' asked Robin. Allan said he and he told Robin all about his problems.
A is **B** could **C** has **D** did
- 2** Robin jumped the friar's back, and they started to cross the river.
A at **B** above **C** onto **D** over
- 3** 'My sons killed one of the king's deer because we starving.'
A was **B** aren't **C** needed **D** were
- 4** Little John ran off to find the woman's sons. He not have to go far.
A did **B** could **C** needed **D** must
- 5** The sheriff thought that the king's was a stupid idea, but he his mouth shut.
A held **B** kept **C** forced **D** took
- 6** It didn't long for Robin to find the two friars: he could smell the shiny yellow coins!
A last **B** take **C** feel **D** pass
- 7** On the day of Ellen's marriage Sir Stephen Trent, Robin woke up early.
A at **B** like **C** together **D** to
- 8** 'Here is my present,' he said, lifting the chain from the bishop's neck and it to Ellen.
A robbing **B** taking **C** handing **D** lying
- 9** Robin Hood – the outlaw, the robber of the rich, the Sheriff of Nottingham's enemy – was Sir Robin of Locksley!
A but **B** real **C** now **D** not