

Robin Hood – Prince of Thieves

Long ago, in England in Sherwood Forest lived Robin Hood. At the time, King John of England was a bad king; he took a lot of money from the poor people of England. Robin wanted to help: he would *rob*¹ the rich and give back to the poor.

Robin lived in the forest with his friends. They were called the *Merry*² Men. His best friends were Little John (who was very big) and Friar Tuck (who was very fat). Robin Hood was in love with the beautiful Maid Marian.



The rich were scared of going through Sherwood Forest because they knew Robin Hood would attack. The *Sheriff*³ of Nottingham wanted to catch Robin Hood but nobody could catch him.

Finally, the Sheriff thought of a plan. "Let us have a *competition*⁴ to choose the best shooter in Nottingham. Robin Hood loves shooting; I'm sure he will come! And when he does, my *guards*⁵ will capture him."

Now, Robin Hood was an excellent shooter; there was none better than him with a *bow and arrow*⁶ in the whole of Nottingham. And the Sherriff was right: Robin Hood really wanted to go to the competition.

The Merry Men said Robin shouldn't go. "Robin, this competition is a *trap*⁷ for you," said one of the men. "It would be stupid to walk into *the lion's den*⁸," said another. But Robin Hood wouldn't listen.

So, the next day the town was made ready for the competition. The crowds were all seated and ten contestants were there. The Sheriff turned to one of the guards and asked *in a whisper*⁹, "Has Robin come?" "No, Your Highness, Robin has red hair. None of the contestants have red hair." The Sheriff said, "He must be scared."

The competition began. The final round was played between someone called William and a stranger in a green outfit. The first prize was a golden arrow. It was time for the last arrow to be shot; the winner of this round would win the golden arrow and officially be the best shooter in Nottingham.

William *took aim*¹⁰ first and shot; it was very close to the center. The Sherriff applauded. "Good shot,

¹ beroven

² vrolijk

³ een soort politie-commisaris

⁴ wedstrijd

⁵ bewakers

⁶ pijl en boog

⁷ valstrik

⁸ het hol van de leeuw

⁹ op een fluisterton

¹⁰ richtte

William," he said. Then it was the turn of the man in green; he let go of his arrow. The crowd cheered hysterically. It went through William's arrow and bull's eye. And *within a flash*¹¹ the man in green let go of two more arrows which came flying towards the chair on which the Sheriff sat and stuck on either side of it. The Sheriff couldn't move and was in shock.

The man in green was Robin Hood. Before the Sheriff could say anything, Robin pulled off his black *wig*¹², threw it on the ground, jumped over a wall onto his waiting horse and was gone. "Get him, you fools. That is Robin Hood," shouted the helpless Sheriff, but it was too late. Robin Hood had escaped again.

¹¹ vliegensvlug

¹² pruik