

# Robin Hood

## STEPHEN COLBOURN

- 1**
- 1 The King ordered young men to practise archery. He wanted archers for his army.
  - 2 Archers could win food and drink and sometimes money.
  - 3 The biggest archery competition was held in Nottingham. The prize was one hundred golden crowns.
  - 4 Robin could hit a target at 500 paces.
  - 5 He was afraid that the King would take Robin to fight in his army.
- 2**
- 1 No man could cut wood or shoot deer in Sherwood Foest.
  - 2 The foresters looked after the trees and the deer.
  - 3 They laughed at Robin because was going to enter the archery contest, in Nottingham. They thought that he was too young.
  - 4 If a man killed a deer, his ears and fingers would be cut off.
  - 5 The foresters had eaten and drunk too much. They could not run fast enough.
  - 6 Robin Hood had killed the leader of the foresters, who was the Sheriff's cousin.
  - 7 The Sheriff heard the townspeople talking about Robin Hood.
- 3**
- 1 Will Stutely was the first man to join Robin.
  - 2 They were outlaws – men who had not paid their taxes or who had killed a deer.
  - 3 They ate deer, fish, berries and wild corn.
  - 4 The outlaws' weapons were bows, arrows and quarter-staffs.
  - 5 The outlaws moved every day, to stop the foresters finding them.
  - 6 The clearing was at the top of a slope. It was hidden by a wall of trees and protected by a ring of stones. It was a safe, pleasant place.
  - 7 Robin blew the horn many times, to call all his men to the clearing.
- 4**
- 1 The camp was easy to guard because the narrow path was the only way in.
  - 2 Robin Hood wanted news of travellers to Nottingham – knights and tax-collectors. And he wanted to take the travellers' money and weapons.
  - 3 A branch of wood was the only bridge over the river. It was narrow and only one man could walk across it at a time.
  - 4 The stranger had a quarter-staff to fight with, so Robin used his quarter-staff too.
  - 5 Robin Hood hit a young tree five hundred paces away.
  - 6 John Little was the biggest man that Robin Hood had ever seen. So his new name, Little John, was a joke.
- 5**
- 1 The Abbot was bringing the taxes from the town of Doncaster to Nottingham.
  - 2 The knights wanted to shave their heads to look like monks. Then Robin Hood would think that they had no weapons and the outlaws would be caught easily.
  - 3 The knights spoke Norman French.
  - 4 The Abbot dressed as a miller and sat on an open cart full of bags of flour. He looked like a poor man. But under the flour bags, were the forty bags of gold.
  - 5 Two knights rode beside the cart. Walking behind the cart were women, one carrying a child.
- 6**
- 1 There were men with crossbows in the covered wagon.
  - 2 The Abbot wanted Robin Hood to think that he was a poor miller. He knew that Robin would not hurt women and a child.
  - 3 The knights were hiding in the covered wagon. They hoped that Robin Hood would attack them when they showed themselves. Then the outlaws would be killed - by the knights or by the Sheriff and his men who were coming from Nottingham.
  - 4 The tall man wanted the knights to think that he was Robin Hood, shouting to the outlaws. He wanted the knights to follow him into the forest. They did and Little John, who was alone, easily got away.
  - 5 The 'miller'. Why does a poor miller have forty bags of gold? He must have stolen the money.

- 6 Prince John was a young man, but he was becoming fat because he ate too much.  
7 Prince John and the Sheriff both love money, so they are alike.
- 7** 1 The Sheriff hoped that Robin would enter the archery contest in Nottingham. Then the outlaw and his men could be caught.  
2 The black centre of the target was called a 'bull's eye'.  
3 His back was bent and his poor clothes were made of red cloth. He had brown hair and a brown beard. He had only one eye. A black patch covered his right eye and half of his face.  
4 The crowd laughed at the beggar, because they did not believe that he could shoot straight.  
5 The Sheriff thought that the tall fair stranger, William of London, was Robin.  
6 The Sheriff offered the beggar food, drink and a place in his army, but the beggar refused.
- 8** 1 Look back at chapter 3, page 18. The outlaws had stolen their coats of Lincoln green from the foresters. The green coats made it easier to hide in the forest.  
2 Robin wanted to know what the Sheriff was doing.  
3 Will Stutely was dressed as a monk. When the Sheriff's men came in, he went into the corner to pray, so that they would not recognise him.  
4 A cat rubbed itself against Will and raised his brown monk's clothes to show the Lincoln green beneath.  
5 The outlaws wanted to be near the cart, to rescue Will. The crowd helped them. Little John climbed into the cart to cut the rope. But the people were so near that the soldiers could not move.
- 9** 1 Will Scarlett (Will Gamwell) had killed his father's steward. The Sheriff was looking for Will, so he had become an outlaw. Will wanted to join Robin Hood.  
2 Will's clothes were scarlet, a bright red colour. So Robin called him Will Scarlett.
- 10** 1 Much's father was hanged for hunting the King's deer.  
2 Much took hold of Little John's quarter-staff and hit Robin and the two outlaws very hard.  
3 Much said, 'How can honest men live in times like these?' It was funny because the outlaws did not obey the King's laws. Were they honest men?  
4 Much wanted the outlaws to look inside his sack. Then he threw flour in their faces and took Little John's quarter-staff.
- 11** 1 Allan's song was sad because he could not marry Fair Ellen. They loved each other, but Ellen's father wanted her to marry an old knight, not a poor minstrel like Allan.  
2 A minstrel was a man who played the harp and sang to people.  
3 Allan sung a sad song about his love for Ellen.
- 12** 1 Robin wanted Friar Tuck to help Allan a Dale to marry Ellen.  
2 Usually, knights carry swords to fight with. Religious men do not fight.  
3 Friar Tuck told Robin to carry him across the river and then made the outlaw carry the fat friar back again. Robin was tired and wet, so he was angry.  
4 Friar Tuck was angry when Robin dropped the friar's sword into the river.
- 13** 1 Fair Ellen's father owed Sir Stephen two hundred crowns. But Sir Stephen said he would take Ellen instead of the money. If Ellen married the old man, her father would not owe Sir Stephen anything.  
2 Sir Stephen was more interested in money. He took the two hundred crowns and let Allan marry Ellen.  
3 Friar Tuck married Allan and Ellen.  
4 The Bishop had a good time. He ate and drank a lot. Then he danced and sang. At last, he fell asleep.  
5 Robin took the Bishop's purse with all his money.

- 14**
- 1 The knight was passing through the forest and he looked sad.
  - 2 The knight was poor, because he had no money. He was also very sad and would not be a cheerful guest. He would be a poor or sad one.
  - 3 Sir Guy's tax collectors have already taken all Sir Richard's money.
  - 4 They thought that Sir Richard had no money to give them.
  - 5 Sir Guy was happy that Sir Richard could not pay the money. All his land and his castle will be given to Prince John – Sir Guy's friend.
- 15**
- 1 Will Scarlett was sure that the stranger wanted to kill Robin Hood. Will was trying to save Robin and he did.
  - 2 Robin put on Sir Guy's strange clothes – the coat made from animal tails and the dark hood.
  - 3 Little John's hands and feet were tied with rope. Robin cut the rope with his sword and his friend was free.
  - 4 The Sheriff turns pale when the black knight speaks, because he knows his voice. He kneels down and calls the black knight 'My Lord'.
  - 5 Robin and all his men were free to go back to their old homes. They were not outlaws any more.