

## Robin Hood

The brave and handsome nobleman, Robin Hood, has to live as an outlaw in Sherwood Forest, after the terrible Sheriff of Nottingham kills his family and takes his land and money. With the help of his Merry Men, Robin becomes a hero, stealing from the rich to give to the poor. Will the horrible Sheriff of Nottingham manage to catch Robin and his friends? Will Robin get his land back and be able to offer Marian, his love, a real home? Read about this legendary hero of the English Middle Ages and discover all the exciting and romantic adventures he has with his band of Merry Men!

### In this reader you'll find:

- Focus on: Robin Hood - Legend or Reality; Robin Hood in the 20th and 21st century; The East Midlands
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- Comprehension and grammar activities including B1 style exercises and 21st century skills activities
- Final Test

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Robin Hood

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# ROBIN HOOD



ILLUSTRATED BY PAOLA CHARTRoux



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# *Book brief*

- 1 This is the story of the legendary hero Robin Hood, and one of the best-known tales of English folklore.
- 2 Robin appears in ballads as early as the 15th century and is described as a brave fighter and good at disguising himself.
- 3 Robin Hood, unjustly called an outlaw, has to find clever ways to stop his biggest enemy, the Sheriff of Nottingham, from capturing him.
- 4 His adventures take place in Sherwood Forest, where he cleverly gets money from rich people passing through the forest but never kills anyone while doing so.
- 5 Main themes include knowing right from wrong and helping people in difficulty.

# Robin Hood

*Retold and Activities by*

**Silvana Sardi**

*Illustrated by*

**Paola Chartroux**

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## Main Characters



**Robin Hood**

*The hero of the story. He steals from the rich to give to the poor.*



**Marian**

*The girl Robin Hood loves.*



**Little John**

*One of Robin Hood's Merry Men.*



**Will Scarlett**  
*Robin Hood's cousin.*



**The Sheriff of Nottingham**  
*A wicked man who wants to see Robin Hood dead.*



**King Richard the Lionheart**  
*A brave and honest man.*

## Before you read

### Reading

#### 1 How much do you already know about Robin Hood?

Decide if the following sentences are true (T) or false (F).

|                                                         | T                                   | F                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Robin Hood lived in Sherwood Forest.                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1 The Sheriff of Nottingham was Robin's friend.         | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Robin lived with his mother and father in the forest. | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 King Henry wasn't kind to his people.                 | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 Robin only stole from the rich.                       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 Robin and his Merry Men used guns.                    | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 The ordinary people of Nottingham hated Robin Hood.   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 Robin was in love with Marian.                        | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |

### Vocabulary

#### 2 A Match the words that mean the same.

|                                            |                                |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a harm | <del>a</del> hurt              |
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> help            | <b>b</b> criminal              |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> outlaw          | <b>c</b> rob                   |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> angry           | <b>d</b> wealthy               |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> rich            | <b>e</b> give (someone) a hand |
| 5 <input type="checkbox"/> steal           | <b>f</b> annoyed               |

#### 2 B Complete the following sentences with a word from the first column.

Robin Hood didn't steal from the poor.

- 1 The Sheriff got \_\_\_\_\_ when he couldn't catch Robin Hood.
- 2 Robin Hood tried to \_\_\_\_\_ the poor.
- 3 The \_\_\_\_\_ people of Nottingham were afraid of being robbed.
- 4 The Sheriff of Nottingham called Robin an \_\_\_\_\_.



## Reading B1 Preliminary

### 3 Choose the best answer, A, B, C or D to complete the text about Robin Hood.

Robin Hood is a folk hero from the Middle Ages in England. He has appeared in many legends of that time. His story is (1) \_\_\_\_\_ very popular today, and there are many films and cartoons about this character. These stories aren't always the same, but usually Robin Hood is an outlaw who lives in Sherwood Forest, (2) \_\_\_\_\_ the town of Nottingham in England with his band of Merry Men. Following the King's instructions, the Sheriff of Nottingham (3) \_\_\_\_\_ the ordinary people pay more and more tax until they have nothing left. Therefore, Robin Hood and his men do their (4) \_\_\_\_\_ to rob from the rich to give the money back to the poor. However, they do this (5) \_\_\_\_\_ killing anybody, so everyone considers them as heroes and not criminals (6) \_\_\_\_\_, of course, the Sheriff of Nottingham, who hates Robin Hood and his men.

- |   |                  |                 |                  |                  |
|---|------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
|   | <b>A</b> in      | <b>B</b> to     | <b>C</b> on      | <b>D</b> from    |
| 1 | <b>A</b> still   | <b>B</b> yet    | <b>C</b> already | <b>D</b> just    |
| 2 | <b>A</b> next    | <b>B</b> near   | <b>C</b> close   | <b>D</b> between |
| 3 | <b>A</b> gets    | <b>B</b> has    | <b>C</b> makes   | <b>D</b> lets    |
| 4 | <b>A</b> good    | <b>B</b> better | <b>C</b> well    | <b>D</b> best    |
| 5 | <b>A</b> before  | <b>B</b> after  | <b>C</b> without | <b>D</b> since   |
| 6 | <b>A</b> besides | <b>B</b> except | <b>C</b> apart   | <b>D</b> even    |

## Speaking and Writing

21st  
Century  
Skills

### 4 Robin Hood is an adventure story. Discuss these questions with a partner and write your answers.

- 1 What kind of books do you like reading? Why?
- 2 How important do you think it is to read in your free time? Why?
- 3 Do you prefer reading ebooks or paper ones? Why?
- 4 What else do you do in your free time?
- 5 Do you prefer spending your free time with your friends or your family? Why?
- 6 How important do you think it is to do some kind of sport in your free time? Why?





## Chapter 1

# Robin Hood and Will Scarlett

- 2 It was a warm sunny day in Sherwood Forest. Robin Hood was enjoying the peace and quiet under the shade of a big tree. He loved this forest where he lived with his band of Merry Men. They were his family now, since the Sheriff of Nottingham had killed his parents and taken all his land.

Robin Hood has lived in Sherwood Forest with his band of Merry Men since the Sheriff of Nottingham killed his parents and took all his land. Robin and his men steal from the rich to give to the poor.

*The Sheriff is probably looking for me now,* thought Robin.

The Sheriff called him ‘The Outlaw’<sup>1</sup> Robin Hood’ because Robin and his men helped the poor people of Nottingham: they stole from the rich to give to the poor.

King Henry wanted to become richer and richer and invented a new tax<sup>2</sup> every day, so many people didn’t have enough money to live. Robin Hood and his men tried to help these people, so the poor loved them but the rich hated them.

Robin and his band of men were all good archers<sup>3</sup>. This was important for hunting and defending

<sup>1</sup> **outlaw** criminal

<sup>2</sup> **tax** (here) money people had to give to the King

<sup>3</sup> **archer** a person who uses these

## Robin Hood

themselves against the Sheriff's soldiers. However they never harmed<sup>1</sup> the rich people they stole from. Instead they outwitted<sup>2</sup> them.

Suddenly Robin heard a noise. He jumped up quickly and hid behind the tree. Nearby, a young man was about to shoot a deer<sup>3</sup> with his bow and arrow<sup>4</sup>.

'Put down your arrow at once!' Robin said.

'Who do you think you are to give me such orders?' asked the stranger.

Robin was about to get angry, when he noticed something familiar about the boy, so he said:

'I'm Robin Hood. May I have the pleasure of knowing your name?'

The young man was very surprised and, in a trembling<sup>5</sup> voice, he asked:

'Robin, do you really not recognise your cousin? Has the war changed me so much?'

'Do you mean you're William Gamwell? William Gamwell, better known as Will Scarlett because of the colour of your hair?'

In reply, William pushed back his hood<sup>6</sup> to

Robin doesn't recognise his cousin Will Gamwell at first. Then William pushes back his hood to show Robin his red hair and Robin realises it's him.

<sup>1</sup> **to harm** to hurt

<sup>2</sup> **to outwit** to be cleverer than

<sup>3</sup> **deer** 

<sup>4</sup> **bow and arrow** see front cover. Robin is holding a bow and has arrows in the bag on his back

<sup>5</sup> **trembling** shaky

<sup>6</sup> **hood** see page 13. Robin has a hood on his head

## Chapter 1

Will's family isn't rich anymore because the King took their home and land. Therefore, Will decides to join Robin and his Merry Men to fight the King and his friends.

show his head of curly red hair. The two young men laughed and cried at the same time; they were so happy to see each other!

However, this happy moment ended when Will asked Robin about his family.

'I'm sorry, Will, but the King forced<sup>1</sup> your family to leave Gamwell Hall and took all your land. They're now living in a smaller house in Barnsdale with Maude and Marian.'

'But are they all well?' asked Will.

'Yes, my dear cousin,' Robin answered. 'They're all well, even though they're less rich. But it's more important that they still have each other to love.'

'You're right, Robin,' agreed Will, 'but my father made his fortune<sup>2</sup> as an honest man. This is all so unfair<sup>3</sup>!'

'I know,' said Robin. 'Why don't you join me and my band of Merry Men? Together we can fight against the King and his friends!'

'It would be a great pleasure for me!' exclaimed<sup>4</sup> Will.

'In that case you must meet my men,' said

<sup>1</sup> **to force** make someone do something

<sup>2</sup> **fortune** (here) money and land

<sup>3</sup> **unfair** unjust, wrong

<sup>4</sup> **exclaim** (here) shout because you're happy

➤ Robin is happy that his cousin, Will, has decided to join him and his Merry Men in their fight against the King and his friends.





## Chapter 1

Will, Robin, and two of his men, Much and Little John, set out on foot for Barnsdale where Will's family lives. Will can't wait to see the girl he loves, Maude. Robin is in love, too, with Marian.

Robin, and he blew on his horn<sup>1</sup>. In a few seconds, about a hundred men appeared, all dressed in green like Robin.

That evening, at their hideout<sup>2</sup> in the forest, they had a big dinner to celebrate Will's return. During the meal, Will said he wanted to go to Barnsdale the next day to see his family again. Robin and two of his men, Much and Little John, decided to go with him.

Early next morning, they happily set out on foot for Barnsdale. Will Scarlett was excited about seeing his family again and the girl he loved: Maude... his sweet, beautiful Maude. Will was lost in his dreams and only realised that he had spoken his thoughts aloud when Robin and Much laughed and said: 'Maude, Maude, my sweet beautiful Maude!' William became as red as his curly hair.

'You shouldn't laugh, Robin,' he said. 'While you were sleeping last night, I heard you say the name of your loved one, Marian.'

Now it was Robin's turn to feel embarrassed and everyone laughed again.

On the road to Barnsdale, they decided to stop

<sup>1</sup> **horn** instrument used by hunters

<sup>2</sup> **hideout** a secret hiding place usually used by criminals

## Robin Hood

at an inn<sup>1</sup> for the night. Robin pulled his hood down over his face in case the Sheriff's men were in town. They sat at a table drinking and talking. Will Scarlett looked up as two men came into the inn. One of the men looked at Will intensely<sup>2</sup>, then quickly left the room. Will was excited about seeing his family again, and said nothing about the stranger to his friends.

At the inn, Will sees a stranger looking at him, but he doesn't tell his friends.

The following morning, Much and Little John decided to return to Sherwood Forest. Robin and Will continued their journey.

Robin and Will arrive at Will's house and his mother and father cry for joy when they see their son. Then the two men go and look for Maude and Marian who are in the garden.

When they arrived at the house, Robin entered first to prepare Will's parents: he was afraid the shock would be too much for them.

At last Will embraced<sup>3</sup> his mother and father again and his two sisters, and everyone cried for joy<sup>4</sup>.

Maude and Marian weren't there. They were out walking, so the two young men went to look for them. They soon saw the girls in the garden. Will was suddenly afraid.

'And if Maude doesn't like me anymore, what

<sup>1</sup> **inn** small hotel

<sup>2</sup> **intensely** (here) for a long time

<sup>3</sup> **embrace** to put your arms around someone

<sup>4</sup> **cry for joy** cry with happiness

## Chapter 1

Will asks Maude to marry him and she says yes. Robin loves Marian but he doesn't want her to have to live like an outlaw in the forest. Marian is also worried about her brother, Allan who's fighting in the war.

shall I do, Robin?' he asked sadly.

'Are you mad, Will Scarlett? You're talking about Maude, who loves you so much. How can you doubt<sup>1</sup> her love?' asked Robin.

Will had no time to answer, because at that moment the girls turned round and saw the two young men. They ran to each other, shouting for joy.

'Will, you're safe at last!' exclaimed Maude.

'Yes, my beautiful Maude,' replied Will, kissing her tenderly<sup>2</sup>. 'I'll never leave you again. Please say you will marry me, dear Maude, and we can be together forever!'

'Yes, of course, my love. I'll be the happiest woman in England!' she exclaimed.

Meanwhile, Robin and Marian stood together hand in hand, watching the scene. They, too, were in love, but Robin didn't want his beautiful Marian to live like an outlaw in the forest.

Besides, Marian was also worried about her brother, Allan. He was away fighting in the war and nobody knew exactly where he was.

'Marian, I'll bring you back your brother! Then, when I have my home and land again, we, too, will

<sup>1</sup> **to doubt** not to believe in, to be unsure about

<sup>2</sup> **tenderly** in a gentle way

## Robin Hood

marry,' promised Robin.

'Bring me back my brother, but don't worry about the house or land. I'll be happy to live anywhere with you,' replied Marian.

The young couple kissed, then followed Maude and Will who were running home to tell everyone about their wedding plans.

The wedding was arranged for the following day and everyone prepared for the happy event.

However, the next morning when they went to call Will, they could find him nowhere. 

**Robin promises Marian that he'll find her brother, Allan. Marian loves Robin so much that she says she'll live with him anywhere.**

**Will and Maude start to arrange everything for their wedding the next day, but the following morning, nobody can find Will.**



### Think

**What good things would you do if you and your friends decided to form a group like Robin's Merry Men?**



## Reading B1 Preliminary

- 1 Complete the text about Chapter 1 with one word in each space.**

Robin has lived in Sherwood Forest with his Merry Men since the Sheriff of Nottingham killed his parents and took all his land. Robin and his men steal **(1)** \_\_\_\_\_ the rich to give to the poor people of Nottingham who always **(2)** \_\_\_\_\_ to pay more and more money to the King. When Robin's cousin, Will Scarlett, hears that the King made his family leave their home and took all their land, he decides to **(3)** \_\_\_\_\_ Robin and his men to fight against the King. Early next morning, they happily set **(4)** \_\_\_\_\_ on foot for Barnsdale where Will's parents live. They stop at an inn and Robin pulls his hood down **(5)** \_\_\_\_\_ his face in case the Sheriff's men are in town. Will sees a man looking at him but he doesn't say **(6)** \_\_\_\_\_ to his friends about it.

## Writing

- 2 Complete the sentences with the verbs in the correct tense.**

~~be~~ not marry have (2) not be not catch  
meet not see blow sit

Robin has been an outlaw since his parents died.

- 1** At the moment, Robin \_\_\_\_\_ under a tree in the forest.
- 2** The Sheriff \_\_\_\_\_ Robin yet.
- 3** Two days ago, Robin \_\_\_\_\_ his cousin in the forest.
- 4** Last night, they \_\_\_\_\_ a big dinner at their hideout.
- 5** Now Will's parents \_\_\_\_\_ as rich as before.
- 6** Will \_\_\_\_\_ Maude for a long time and he can't wait to get home.
- 7** Robin \_\_\_\_\_ Marian until he \_\_\_\_\_ his land once more.
- 8** Robin's Men always come when he \_\_\_\_\_ on his horn.

## Grammar

- 3 Put the words in the correct order to make questions, then discuss the answers with a partner. Begin your questions with a capital letter.**

Robin / live / with / does / who ?

*Who does Robin live with?*

- 1 Will Scarlett / colour / got / hair / of / has / what ?
- 2 rich / why / from / Robin / steal / the / does ?
- 3 parents / Sheriff of Nottingham / did / whose / kill / the ?
- 4 is / get / Maude / to / when / married / going ?
- 5 brother / is / in / whose / the / fighting / away / war ?
- 6 call / men / does / his / Robin / how ?
- 7 does / hunt / archer / to / what / an / use / deer ?
- 8 many / there / in / men / Robin's / how / are / band ?
- 9 say / sleeping / name / Robin / did / while / was / whose / he ?
- 10 the / happened / wedding / of / day / what / the / on ?

### Before-reading Activity

## Speaking and Writing

21st  
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Skills

- 4 At the end of Chapter 1, nobody can find Will Scarlett. Discuss these questions with a partner and write your answers.**

- 1 What do you think has happened to Will ?
- 2 Where could he be ?
- 3 Do you think someone forced Will to go away? Why / Why not?
- 4 Did anything strange happen in Chapter 1 before Will disappeared?
- 5 What's the best way to find him?

