

Here is a possible opening scene for a Robin Hood pantomime suitable for children:

Scene 1: Sherwood Forest

(The curtain opens to reveal SHERWOOD FOREST. TREES and BUSHES surround the stage. ROBIN HOOD enters followed by his MERRY MEN - LITTLE JOHN, WILL SCARLET, and FRIAR TUCK.)

ROBIN: (addresses the audience) Welcome everyone to Sherwood Forest! I'm Robin Hood, defender of the poor, and these are my Merry Men. Say hello, Merry Men!

MERRY MEN: Hello!

(The MERRY MEN wave and smile at the audience.)

ROBIN: We live in this forest, hiding from the nasty Sheriff of Nottingham, and we steal from the rich to give to the poor!

WILL: (proudly) That's right! We're the good guys.

ROBIN: Now, the Sheriff's been acting very strangely recently. Sending his men into the forest to search for something. I'm not sure what he's up to, but knowing the Sheriff it can't be good!

LITTLE JOHN: He's probably hatching some evil plan to get more gold to fill his money bags! That greedy old Sheriff!

ROBIN: You're probably right, Little John! Well don't you worry, boys and girls, Robin Hood is on the case. We'll find out what the Sheriff is up to and put a stop to his wicked schemes! Are you with me?

ALL: (The MERRY MEN and ROBIN turn to the audience.) Yes!

ROBIN: To Sherwood Forest, away!

(ROBIN and the MERRY MEN run off into the forest. Lively pantomime music plays as the curtain closes.)

Here is a possible comedic scene with the fairy of Sherwood Forest and risque jokes:

Scene 2: The Fairy's Glen

(The curtain opens to reveal a small clearing in the forest. Beautiful lighting and sound effects show this is an enchanted place. The FAIRY of Sherwood Forest enters, waving her wand.)

FAIRY: Now, let me see...how can I help Robin defeat that scoundrel Sheriff? His men have been ravaging my forest, chopping down trees left and right! (pretends to hit tree with axe, making chopping sounds). Those trees were friends of mine!

(The FAIRY hugs an imaginary tree and pretends to cry. She sees the audience and wipes her tears away.)

FAIRY: Don't mind me, I'm just having a littletreesonality crisis! (giggles at pun) But now it's time for action! I'll use my magic to transport Robin and his Merry Men here. They can help me hatch a plan to save the forest...and make the Sheriff look like an ass! (FAIRY laughs uproariously at own joke)

(The FAIRY waves her wand. There is a burst of light and smoke. ROBIN and the MERRY MEN appear, looking bewildered.)

ROBIN: Where are we? And who is this beautiful maiden?

FAIRY: I'm the Fairy of Sherwood Forest, here to help you on your quest! The Sheriff's men have been destroying the forest. We need to stop them!

LITTLE JOHN: Don't worry, Fairy, we'll give those rascals what-for! I'll swat them like flies with my quarterstaff!

FAIRY: Wonderful! And Will can demonstrate his skill with a bow...and his longbow too! *winks at audience*

(WILL SCARLET looks embarrassed as the FAIRY and MERRY MEN laugh.)

FAIRY: I have a plan. Disguise yourselves as the Sheriff's horsemen. Then ride into Nottingham, sneak into the castle, and steal the Sheriff's gold! Without gold to pay his men, they'll stop ravaging the forest.

ROBIN: A brilliant scheme, Fairy! We'll put an end to the Sheriff's evil plans once and for all! To Nottingham!

(ROBIN and the MERRY MEN cheer and run off. The FAIRY winks again at the audience as the curtain closes.)

Here is a possible short scene with a song between the Fairy and Maid Marian:

Scene 3: The Fairy's Glen (again)

(The FAIRY enters again, waving her wand. MAID MARIAN, dressed in Lincoln green with a bow and quiver, strides in confidently.)

FAIRY: Maid Marian! Just the woman I wanted to see. Robin's plan to thwart the Sheriff is working perfectly. But he'd be lost without your guidance!

MARIAN: Thank you, Fairy. But the fight is not over yet. The Sheriff is cunning and cruel. I fear he may have another malicious scheme brewing!

FAIRY: You're right, we must remain vigilant. But for now, let's take a moment to appreciate the beauty of Sherwood Forest.

(Melodic music begins to play. The FAIRY waves her wand and flowering vines wrap around the trees.)

FAIRY: (sings) The trees are dressed in blossoms sweet,
Sherwood Forest fair and fleet.
Nature's splendor can't be beat,
Especially when true love's the treat!

MARIAN: (sings in reply) The oaks stand tall, the birds take wing,
Joyful songs of spring they sing.
My heart swells at the sight,
On a balmy forest night, with my dear Robin Hood so bright!

FAIRY & MARIAN: (link arms and sing together)
Trees and love, a perfect pair,
Both so wondrous fair!
Branches reach up to the skies,
While romance fills our eyes!
Trees and love, a perfect pair,
Both so wondrous fair!

(They curtsey to each other as music ends. Lights fade on MARIAN and the FAIRY hugging trees on opposite sides of the stage.)

FAIRY: (final line before blackout) Trees and love - the perfect allies against villainy!

(Lights out.)

Here is a longer comedic scene with Robin and his men attempting to sneak into Nottingham Castle, making mistakes and risque jokes:

Scene 4: Outside Nottingham Castle

(ROBIN and the MERRY MEN enter on imaginary horses, dressed as the SHERIFF's horsemen, with hats pulled low over their faces.)

ROBIN: Remember men, act casual! We're just the Sheriff's ordinary horsemen, out for an ordinary ride.

(They all sit up straight in their saddles, looking stiff and unnatural. Two of the SHERIFF's GUARDS enter.)

GUARD 1: Halt, horsemen! What's your business here?

WILL: (nervously) Er, we're...the Sheriff's... favourite knights... Sir Loins-a-lot... and Sir Cumference! We've come to report for booty! I mean, duty!

(The GUARDS look at each other in confusion. The MERRY MEN slap their foreheads at WILL's foolish slip-ups.)

GUARD 2: Sir Loins-a-lot? Sir Cumference? I've never heard of you. And the Sheriff has no knights, only guards. I believe you're imposters! Seize them!

(The GUARDS grab ROBIN and the MERRY MEN and pull them off their "horses".)

ROBIN: Curses, foiled again! Nice going, Sir Loins-a-lot. (they glare at WILL)

WILL: Me and my big mouth! I really put my foot in it this time.

LITTLE JOHN: More like you put your lance in it! (The MERRY MEN laugh at the bawdy joke.)

GUARD 1: Silence, scoundrels! You're wanted by the Sheriff for theft and treachery. To the dungeons with you!

(The GUARDS march ROBIN and the MERRY MEN offstage. Will they escape the dungeons? Stay tuned for the finale!)

(Blackout.)

Here is a possible longer scene with Maid Marian singing a song and formulating a plan:

Scene 5: The Dungeons of Nottingham Castle

(The curtain opens on the dungeons. ROBIN and the MERRY MEN are locked in a cell. They look despondent.)

ROBIN: I'm sorry I got us into this mess, lads. Now the Sheriff will have his revenge!

(MAID MARIAN enters stealthily, carrying a torch. She gasps when she sees ROBIN in the cell.)

MARIAN: Robin! Oh, my darling, what has the Sheriff done to you?

ROBIN: Marian, my love! The Sheriff's men captured us. But how did you get in here?

MARIAN: I disguised myself as a kitchen maid. I had to see you, even if it meant sneaking into this foul place. (She touches ROBIN's hand through the cell bars.) My poor Robin, locked away! It's like a song I once heard...

(Melancholy music begins to play. MARIAN sings a verse of "Someone Like You" by Adele.)

MARIAN: (singing) I heard that you're settled down,
That you found a girl and you're married now.
I heard that your dreams came true.
Guess she gave you things I didn't give to you.

(Speaking) Oh, Robin, I thought I had lost you forever!

ROBIN: Never, my darling. But now we must find a way to escape this prison and defeat the Sheriff!

MARIAN: I have an idea. The Sheriff plans to execute you at dawn. I'll return to the kitchens, drug the guards' dinner with sleeping draught. When they're asleep, I'll steal the dungeon keys, free you and the Merry Men, and we'll take the Sheriff by surprise!

ROBIN: A bold scheme, my cunning Maid Marian! We shall foil the Sheriff yet.

MARIAN: To the end of all villains who keep true love apart! The Sheriff's days of evil are numbered!

(MARIAN and ROBIN embrace through the bars as the scene fades.)

(Blackout.)

Here is a possible longer scene with the evil Sheriff overhearing the plan and threatening Marian and the Merry Men:

Scene 6: The Throne Room of Nottingham Castle

(The curtain opens on the SHERIFF sitting aloofly upon his throne. He calls out to the audience.)

SHERIFF: Loyal subjects, come and hear your Sheriff speak! (Waits for audience reaction) *pretends to look aggrieved* Boo and hiss as you like, peasants, your jeers mean nothing to me! I have captured Robin Hood at last, and by dawn he will be no more.

(SHERIFF laughs maniacally. MAID MARIAN sneaks onstage behind him, coming from the dungeons, but stops when she hears him speak.)

SHERIFF: Without their leader, the Merry Men will scatter and be easy pickings for my men. And as for you, Maid Marian, your wanton outlaw days are numbered!

(Gasps and boos from MARIAN and audience. The SHERIFF whirls around in surprise and grabs MARIAN by the arm.)

SHERIFF: Aha, eavesdropping on your own funeral plans, are you? I know all about your pathetic scheme to drug my guards and free Robin. But your heroics end tonight! Throw her in the dungeons with the outlaw she loves so well!

(GUARDS emerge and drag MARIAN offstage to jeers and cries from audience. The SHERIFF turns back to audience.)

SHERIFF: Now none remain to stand in my way! At dawn I shall rid myself of Robin Hood, and my power over Nottingham will be complete! No more will I have to suffer the curses of peasantry or endure your wretched booing and hissing! The reign of Robin Hood is at an end!

(Maniacal laugh from SHERIFF as thunder and lightning effect is heard. Pandemonium breaks out in audience. But the story is not yet over...stay tuned for the grand finale!)

(Blackout.)

Here is a possible establishing scene for Act 2 with the characters singing a sad song as hope seems lost:

Scene 7: The Dungeons of Nottingham Castle (Act 2)

(The curtain opens on ROBIN, MARIAN and the MERRY MEN in the dungeon cell. They look forlorn, realizing the SHERIFF's plan to execute them at dawn is at hand.)

ROBIN: I'm sorry to have led you all to this fate. Now there is no escape for any of us.

MARIAN: We fought for what was right, Robin. I would do it all again, just to stand by your side.

(Melancholy music begins to play. They sing “Rolling in the Deep” by Adele.)

ALL: (singing)

There’s a fire starting in my heart,
Reaching a fever pitch and it’s bringing me out the dark.
Finally I can see you crystal clear.
Go ahead and sell me out and I’ll lay your ship bare.
See how I leave with every piece of you.
Don’t underestimate the things that I will do.

The scars of your love remind me of us,
They keep me thinking that we almost had it all.
The scars of your love, they leave me breathless,
I can’t help feeling...

We could have had it all,
Rolling in the deep,
You had my heart inside of your hand,
And you played it,
To the beat.

(The music fades. Dawn starts to break, with a rooster crowing. The sounds of GUARDS approaching the cell can be heard.)

LITTLE JOHN: Do you hear that, mates? The Sheriff’s men come to haul us to the gallows. This is the end!

(The chorus of ‘Rolling in the Deep’ repeats as the lights fade on the dungeon.)

(Blackout.)

Here is a possible slapstick scene with Robin’s confused mother and the cowardly dungeon ghost:

Scene 11: The Dungeons of Nottingham Castle (Additional Scene)

(ROBIN, MARIAN and the MERRY MEN are in the dungeon cell, sleeping. ROBIN’S MOTHER, a doddering old woman, sneaks onstage.)

MOTHER: (whispering loudly) Robin! Robin, wake up! It’s your mother, come to rescue you!

(ROBIN wakes up and sees his MOTHER. He groans in exasperation. The others wake up.)

ROBIN: Mother, what are you doing here? I told you the Sheriff captured us! You’ll get us all in trouble!

MOTHER: Don't you sass me, young man! I'm here to save the day. Now, how do I get you out of this cage? Do I have to pick the lock? Climb through the bars? Oh, I know - I'll cast a spell to magically open the door!

(She begins mumbling nonsense. The DUNGEON GHOST enters, unseen by the characters. He sneaks up behind MOTHER and says "BOO!" She shrieks and runs offstage. The GHOST chuckles, proud of scaring the old woman.)

WILL SCARLET: What was that? I could swear I heard a ghostly chuckle!

(The GHOST sneaks up on WILL and boos him. WILL yelps and runs offstage. The GHOST then scares off LITTLE JOHN and FRIAR TUCK in turn as they voice their fears of a ghost.)

ROBIN: There's no such thing as ghosts! Must have been a rat. Now, how do we actually escape this place?

(The GHOST approaches MARIAN, ready to scare her too. But when he says "BOO!", MARIAN simply glares at him.)

MARIAN: (shouting) BOO yourself, you silly spook! Get out of here before I really give you something to haunt about!

(The GHOST screeches in fear and runs offstage. MARIAN turns to ROBIN with a smug smile. Blackout.)

Here is a possible longer scene with the Fairy and villagers attacking the Sheriff to free Robin and his friends:

Scene 8: The Courtyard of Nottingham Castle

(The curtain opens on the SHERIFF and his GUARDS leading ROBIN, MARIAN and the MERRY MEN to the gallows in the courtyard. Villagers boo and hiss from offstage.)

SHERIFF: Silence, you peasants! Your booing won't save your precious outlaws now. At last I'll be rid of Robin Hood and his band of misfits!

(The FAIRY flies in above the crowd. She waves her wand and a burst of magic hits the GUARDS, causing them to let go of the prisoners and clutch their behinds in pain.)

FAIRY: Not so fast, Sheriff! You didn't count on my magic, or the people of Sherwood coming to rescue their heroes!

(The villagers, led by FRIAR TUCK, storm the courtyard armed with pots, pans, and pitchforks. They chase the GUARDS in circles, hitting them on their sore behinds. Laughter from audience and characters.)

FRIAR TUCK: We've come to save our friends, Sheriff, and put an end to your villainy! The reign of Prince John and his henpecked Sheriff is over!

SHERIFF: Prince John will hear of your treachery, Friar! He'll toss you all in the dungeons! (realizes KING RICHARD, the FAIRY and others are glaring at him.) Er, I mean...mercy, kind heroes! I was only following orders!

KING RICHARD: (stepping forward)Orders which end today! I am King Richard, returned from the Crusades. I've heard of my brother's evil scheme to steal my throne. But thanks to Robin and Marian, his plot is foiled!

(Cheers from all as KING RICHARD shakes hands with ROBIN and MARIAN.)

KING RICHARD: Sheriff, you and Prince John are banished from England forever! (more cheers) And as for you, brave friends, your heroism will be rewarded. I hereby decree that Sherwood Forest shall belong to Robin Hood and his Merry Band, to protect forevermore!

ALL: Long live King Richard! Long live Robin Hood!

(Music swells as ALL characters wave to the audience. Blackout.)

Here is a possible short comedic scene of the Sheriff attempting to escape in disguise:

Scene 9: The Drawbridge of Nottingham Castle

(The curtain opens on the SHERIFF dressed in a washerwoman's dress and bonnet, with a large basket of laundry. He approaches the drawbridge guarded by two CASTLE GUARDS.)

SHERIFF: (falsetto voice) Make way, good guards, just a humble washerwoman here to wash the castle linens!

(The MALE and FEMALE GUARDS eye him suspiciously.)

MALE GUARD: Oi, Millie, take a butcher's at this! That's no washerwoman, that's the Sheriff in disguise! Look at the size of those hands - and the warts!

FEMALE GUARD: Cor, you're right, Tom! No washerwoman has hands like a bunch of bananas and a face that could turn the milk sour!

SHERIFF: How dare you speak to me like that! I am a poor, defenseless- (realizes his error)- er, washerwoman! Now let me pass, you insolent dogs!

TOM: Not so fast, your Sherifffness! We know the password for the drawbridge, and we know you don't! If you want out of the castle, you'll have to make it worth our while.

(The SHERIFF fumes then takes a bag of gold coins from his basket and offers it to them.)

SHERIFF: Curses, take your filthy gold then and let me leave this wretched place!

MILLIE: The password is 'laundry duty'! Now off with you, and don't come back, you ugly old turnip!

(They lower the drawbridge. The SHERIFF scurries across as fast as he can, dropping his bonnet. Laughter and cheers from the GUARDS and audience. Blackout.)

Here is a possible funny scene with Robin and Marian realizing their love, singing a popular duet:

Scene 10: Sherwood Forest (The Final Scene)

(The curtain opens on ROBIN, MARIAN and the MERRY MEN back in their beloved forest.)

ROBIN: We're home again, my friends! Thanks to King Richard, Sherwood belongs to us once more. The Sheriff is banished, and we are free!

(Cheers from the MERRY MEN. ROBIN turns to MARIAN. They gaze at each other adoringly while the MERRY MEN start to look uncomfortable.)

LITTLE JOHN: Oi, are they gonna keep making sheep's eyes at each other all day? Get a room, you two!

WILL SCARLET: For once I agree with Little John! All this soppy stuff is making me nauseous.

(ROBIN and MARIAN turn to the MERRY MEN, annoyed at the interruption. ROBIN strides over to them, puffing out his chest importantly.)

ROBIN: Now listen here, you rascals! I'm your leader and if I want to gaze at my beautiful Maid Marian, I jolly well will!

(The MERRY MEN grumble but concede. Triumphant music begins to play. ROBIN turns back to MARIAN and takes her hands. They sing "Don't Go Breaking My Heart" by Elton John and Kiki Dee.)

ROBIN: (sings) Don't go breaking my heart

MARIAN: (sings in reply) I couldn't if I tried

ROBIN: Honey if I get restless

MARIAN: Baby you're not that kind

ROBIN/MARIAN: (together) Don't go breaking my heart
You take the weight off me
Honey when you knock on my door
I gave you my key

(The MERRY MEN jump in on the chorus, singing backup "oohs" and "ahhs" behind ROBIN and MARIAN. The scene ends in celebration as ALL characters dance and sing, rejoicing at being together in their forest home.)

ALL: Nobody knows it
When I was down
I was your clown
Nobody knows it
Right from the start
I gave you my heart
I gave you my heart

(Curtains close.)

Here is a possible short final scene with the Castle Guards realizing their love:

Final Scene:

(TOM and MILLIE, the CASTLE GUARDS, enter in front of the closed curtain.)

TOM: Well, Millie my girl, looks like we're out of a job now the Sheriff's been run out of Nottingham! Whatever will we do?

MILLIE: Don't worry, Tom. King Richard himself promised us positions in the royal guard. And with the Sheriff gone, we're free to follow our hearts...

(TOM and MILLIE gaze at each other shyly. Triumphant music begins to play. They sing "Simply The Best" by Tina Turner.)

TOM: (sings) I call you when I need you, my heart's on fire

MILLIE: (sings) You come to me, come to me, wild and wired

TOM/MILLIE: (together, to audience) You're simply the best, better than all the rest

Better than anyone, anyone I ever met

I'm stuck on your heart, I hang on every word you say

Tear us apart, baby, I would rather be dead

(TOM and MILLIE dance together, then turn front to invite the audience to join in. Sing "Simply the Best" Chorus all together.)

ALL: (singing and dancing)

You're simply the best, better than all the rest

Better than anyone, anyone I ever met

I'm stuck on your heart, I hang on every word you say

Tear us apart, baby, I would rather be dead

(As music fades, TOM and MILLIE face the audience.)

MILLIE: Thank you all for coming to our show! We hope you enjoyed our Robin Hood adventure.

TOM: And remember - good always triumphs over evil in the end! Now off with you, good folk of Nottingham, and God bless you all!

(TOM and MILLIE cheer and wave to the audience as the curtain opens for the final bows. Lively finale music plays. Blackout.)

Here is a possible final short scene with a double wedding and risque jokes:

Double Wedding Finale

(The curtain opens on SHERWOOD FOREST decorated for a wedding. ALL good characters are assembled - ROBIN, MARIAN, MERRY MEN, KING RICHARD, FAIRY, TOM, MILLIE, VILLAGERS. FRIAR TUCK stands before two flower-decorated arbors, one for each couple.)

FRIAR TUCK: We are gathered today to join these two couples in holy matrimony. Robin, do you take Maid Marian to be your unlawfully wedded wife?

ROBIN: I do! To love, honour and laugh with, for as long as we both shall live.

FRIAR TUCK: And Maid Marian, do you take Robin to be your unlawfully wedded husband?

MARIAN: I do, with all my heart!

FRIAR TUCK: And do you, Tom, take Millie to be your lawfully wedded wife?

TOM: You bet I do, Friar! I can't wait to get my hands on her wedding tackle- I mean, tackle married life together!

(Laughter from all. MILLIE elbows TOM in embarrassment.)

FRIAR TUCK: And Millie, do you take Tom to be your lawfully wedded husband?

MILLIE: I do, though heaven help me after that comment!

(More laughter.)

FRIAR TUCK: Then by the power vested in me, I pronounce you husbands and wives! You may kiss the brides!

(ROBIN kisses MARIAN and TOM kisses MILLIE passionately. Cheers and celebration from all!)

KING RICHARD: And now, to the wedding feast! Where there will surely be food, drink, song and dance all night to properly celebrate this happy union...not to mention the wedding nights!

(TOM and ROBIN leer and rub their hands together eagerly. MARIAN and MILLIE slap them in indignation, then kiss them again to more cheers. ALL characters dance and celebrate as the curtain closes.)

Here is a revised final scene using the song "Mr. Blue Sky" by ELO:

Finale (Revised)

(The curtain opens on SHERWOOD FOREST. ALL characters enter and face the audience.)

ROBIN: My friends, we've made it through! The Sheriff is defeated and Sherwood is saved.

MARIAN: There will be wedded bliss for some. But for now, let's just enjoy this happy ending!

FAIRY: Evil never wins as long as good folk stand up for what's right. Together, we can accomplish anything!

KING RICHARD: Well said, Fairy! And now, for our grand finale - a joyful tune to celebrate this triumph of good!

(Upbeat music begins to play. ALL characters sing "Mr. Blue Sky" by ELO.)

ALL: (singing)
Sun is shinin' in the sky,
There ain't a cloud in sight.
It's stopped rainin', everybody's in a play,
And don't you know, it's a beautiful new day, hey,
Runnin' down the avenue,
See how the sun shines brightly in the city,
On the streets where once was pity,
Mister blue sky is living here today, hey, hey.

Mister blue sky, please tell us why,
You had to hide away for so long, so long.
Where did we go wrong?

(Big finish!)
Mister blue sky, please tell us why,
You had to hide away for so long, so long,
Where did we go wrong?

(ALL characters dance and celebrate. ROBIN lifts MARIAN and spins her, TOM does the same with MILLIE. Repeat final chorus.)

ALL: Mister blue sky, please tell us why,
You had to hide away for so long, so long.
Where did we go wrong?
Where did we go wrong?

(Music ends. ALL characters take their bows to cheers and applause.)

ALL: (shouting) Long live Robin Hood! Long live King Richard! And long live Sherwood Forest!

(Final bows. Blackout.)

THE END