

Meeting Robin Hood and the Merry Men



Warm up

Famous characters about whom lots of stories are told are called legendary characters. We are not always sure whether these characters were real or someone made them up. Name some legendary characters that you have heard of.

Unscramble these words related to legendary characters.

ROHE BRVAE ADTRUENEV NRSOTG TORYICV



Although nobody knows if Robin Hood was a real person or a made-up character, he is a much-loved legendary hero in poems, plays, stories and films. The legend goes that the King of England had to be away from the country for many years. While he was away, the **Sheriff** of Nottingham, who was left in charge, grew rich by stealing from poor people. Robin Hood fought back, and tried to help the poor. More and more people joined him, until he had his own loyal band of followers called the Merry Men. The Sheriff was furious and tried to punish Robin Hood and the Merry Men. They had to live in Sherwood forest to escape the Sheriff. Here, they had many adventures where they continued helping the poor. Let's read this play based on one of them.



Characters:

Robin Hood Little John Alfred 5 to 6 Merry Men, the friends of Robin Hood

*(A horn sounds and music plays. The curtain rises on a spring day in Sherwood forest in the year 1194. A man dressed in green enters, whistling cheerfully. His friends, the Merry Men, dressed **similarly**, follow him. The man stops and speaks.)*

ROBIN: I would rather **roam** free under these mighty oaks in Sherwood Forest than be King of all England!

sheriff: an officer acting for the king or queen responsible for keeping law and order in old times
similarly: in almost the same way **roam**: to walk around an area without any fixed reason

ALL: We agree! This is life for us!

ROBIN: Besides, we HAVE a fine King, our noble Richard the Lionheart! May he return safe and soon!

FRIEND 1: Before his evil brother, Prince John, steals his kingdom!

FRIEND 2: And before the greedy Sheriff of Nottingham ruins us all!

ROBIN: Come, my friends, 'tis too fine a day to complain. Let's look for an adventure or two.

ALL: Yes, adventure!

ROBIN: We'll seek out some wrongs to right, and a good deed to do.

Little John: What do you have in mind, Robin?

ROBIN: Nothing particular, but I'm sure something will come our way.

FRIEND 3: We'll just follow this path, until we see –

FRIEND 4: (*whispering and pointing offstage*)
Someone on the path!

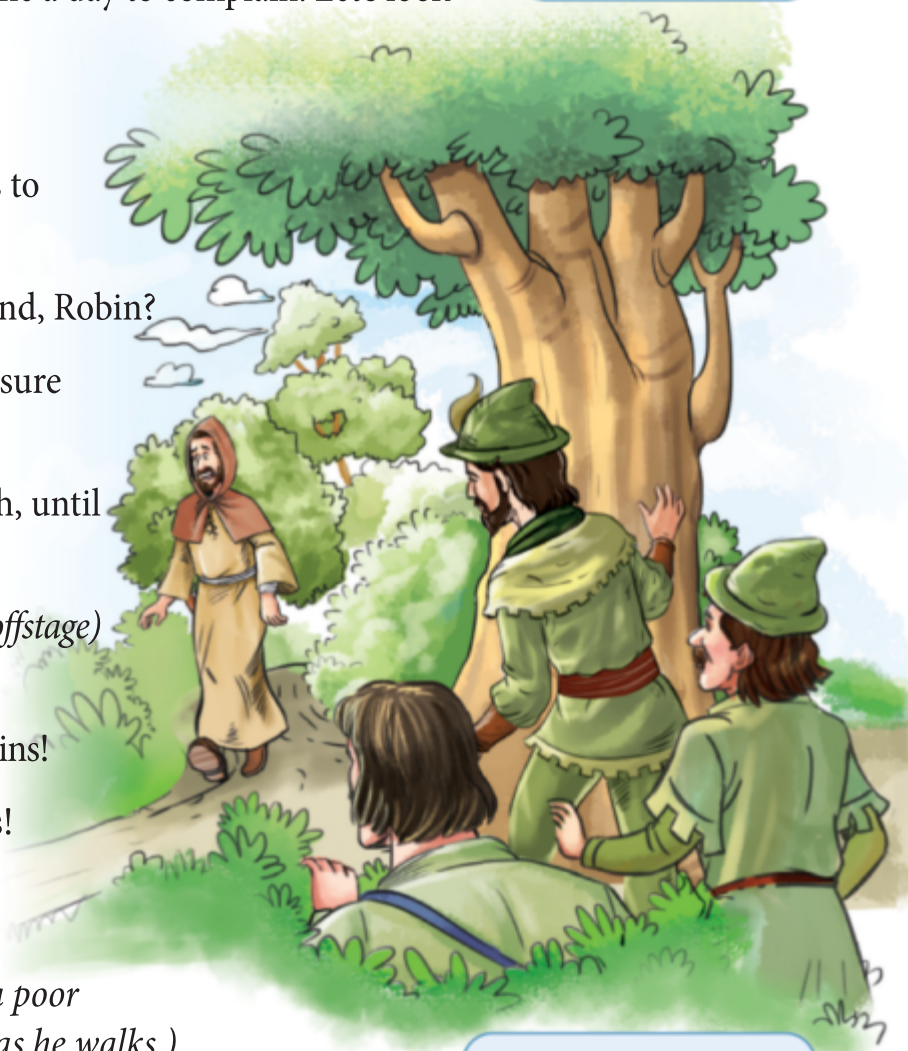
FRIEND 5: (*softly*) The adventure begins!

ROBIN: (*softly, excitedly*) Yes it does!
Let's hide and wait. I wonder who it is – a friend or a foe?

(*They hide behind the trees. Alfred, a poor yeoman, enters, moaning to himself as he walks.*)

ALFRED: Ah! Such sadness around me!

What can you tell about Robin Hood and the Merry Men from their behaviour?



Look at the illustration above. Why do you think Robin and the Merry Men are dressed in green?

noble: having fine qualities that other people admire like courage, honesty and care for others

Richard the Lionheart: King Richard of England, called the Lionheart, because he was a great and brave leader

ruins: makes somebody lose all their money **'tis:** it is **deed:** something that is done or performed; an act

foe: an enemy **yeoman:** one who owns and cultivates a small piece of land **moaning:** making a long deep sound, usually because you are unhappy or suffering

ROBIN: Not a very happy fellow.

ALL: (*sympathetically*) A most unhappy one!

ROBIN: (*coming out of hiding, to Alfred*) Good day, to you, sir! A fine day to be in England, right?

ALFRED: Well, not such a good day to be in Nottinghamshire. Are you here to rob me?

ROBIN: Why – no!

ALFRED: Go ahead. Rob me. I don't care. I have nothing. The greedy Sheriff of Nottingham has already taken all I had.

ROBIN: Has he?

ALL: (*still hiding, making sounds of sympathy*) Awwwwww!

ALFRED: (*suspiciously*) What was that?

ROBIN: It's nothing.

ALFRED: (*peers and sees Robin's companions*) Who are THEY?

(*Companions step out.*)

ROBIN: No need to fear. They are with me.

ALFRED: I should guard my tongue. Are you the Sheriff's men?

ROBIN: Absolutely not! The Sheriff is not welcome in this part of Sherwood.

ALFRED: Yesterday the Sheriff came to our village to collect **taxes**.

ROBIN: Yes, April IS the usual time of the year for that.

ALFRED: April is the **USUAL** time, but in our village, it's not the **ONLY** time!

ROBIN: What do you mean?

ALFRED: The Sheriff visits **EVERY** month.

How is Alfred's attitude and tone when he first sees Robin Hood?



.....
sympathetically: in a way that is kind to somebody who is hurt or sad, and that shows that you understand and care about their problems **sympathy**: the feeling of being sorry for someone; showing that you understand and care about someone's problems **peers**: looks closely or carefully at something, especially when you cannot see it clearly
companions: persons with whom one spends a lot of time or with whom one travels **taxes**: money or goods people gave to their rulers to support their kingdoms

ROBIN: To collect taxes?

ALFRED: To collect anything he can. In October he took our early **harvest** and in November the late harvest. In December he took our front door. In January he took the firewood. In February he took our favorite soup pot – with the soup still in it! In March he took the roof from our cottage, and yesterday he took my children's only two toys!

ROBIN & ALL: (*sounds of **indignation** and **outrage***)

ALFRED: We survived the winter only by means of mysterious gifts that appeared on our doorstep over the night – sometimes food, or firewood or warm clothes!

ALL: Ahhhh!

ALFRED: (*as though **confiding** a secret*) I believe these gifts all came from Robin Hood!

ROBIN: (*pretending great shock*) Robin Hood! The **notorious** robber and **outlaw**?

ALFRED: If you ask me, it's the Sheriff who's the robber! Robin Hood is a loyal friend of the poor! He's our ONLY friend while good King Richard is away!

ROBIN: (*laughing*) Enough, fellow, enough, I say!

ALFRED: I praise Robin Hood, sir! I won't listen to anything against him!

ROBIN: I see.

ALFRED: WHAT do you see?

ROBIN: You are indeed a true friend to Robin Hood. But I am probably Robin Hood's BEST friend.

ALFRED: Truly? Can you take me to him?

ALL: Oh we can!

ALFRED: This is wonderful! I want to ask Robin to help us.

ROBIN: What is your name?

Was the outrage and indignation justified? Give a reason for your answer.

Why did Alfred call the gifts 'mysterious'?

Why does Robin Hood pretend great shock?

harvest: the crops cut and gathered in a farm **indignation:** anger and surprise caused by something that one thinks is unfair **outrage:** a strong feeling of shock and anger **confiding:** telling somebody something that you do not want other people to know **notorious:** well known for being bad **outlaw:** someone who breaks the rules of the law and has to go into hiding

ALFRED: I'm Alfred. But tell me – where IS Robin Hood?

ROBIN: Here before you.

ALFRED: What?

ROBIN: I am Robin Hood!

ALFRED: Robin Hood? The **champion** of the poor?

ROBIN: The champion of ALL who are treated unfairly!
And these men are my loyal companions.

ALFRED: *(grabs Robin's hand and shakes it enthusiastically)*

ROBIN HOOD! It's an **honour**, sir! *(To the others)*
How do you do! It's an honour!

ROBIN: Now Alfred, if you follow this path, you will find
a mighty oak. Wait for us there, and we'll dine together
when the sun goes down. Then we'll decide how to
help you.

ALFRED: Oh, Robin, how can I repay you?

ROBIN: No need for payment, Alfred. Do you happen to know where the Sheriff plans to
rob today?

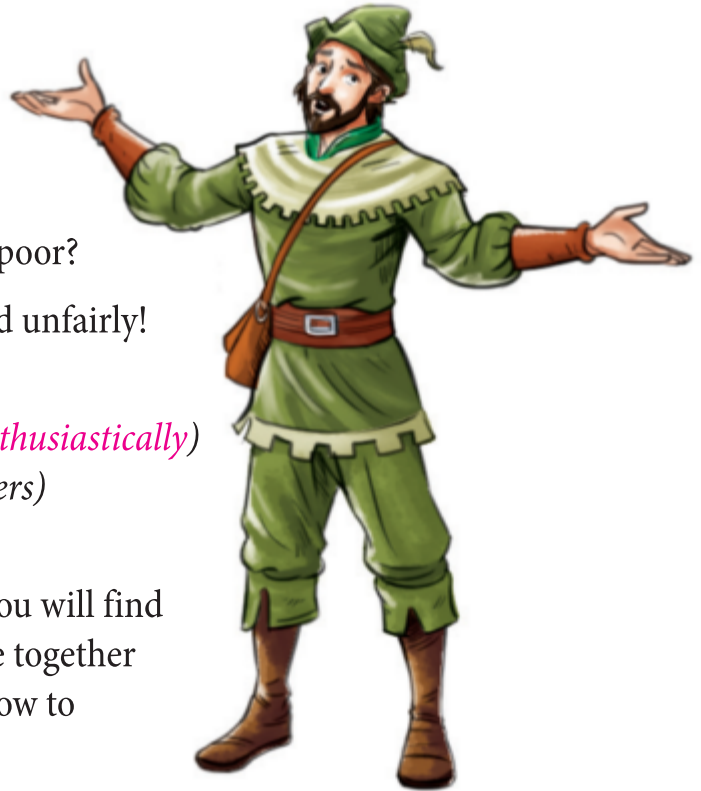
ALFRED: Today he robs Edwinstowe.

ROBIN: Aha! Edwinstowe!

LITTLE JOHN: That's not far from here, Robin.

ROBIN: Right you are! Excuse us, Alfred, but urgent business calls
us away.

ALL: To Edwinstowe!



What do you
think the urgent
business was?
Make a prediction.

champion: here, a person who fights for or speaks in support of a group of people or a belief

enthusiastically: in a way that shows a lot of excitement and interest

honour: a feeling of respect and admiration for someone or something

Make connections

Map the play

Answer the following questions based on the play.

1. Each play needs the right **set**, which is a collection of furniture, structures and props designed and arranged for a particular scene in the play. The set helps show where and when the story of a play takes place to the audience. Which of the following would be the right set for this play?

a.



b.



c.



2. A play **script** is the text of the play written for the stage with a list of characters and the instructions for performing.

- a. Which of the following did you not see in the play script?

- i. Quotation marks around the dialogues
- ii. Stage settings and directions
- iii. Names of the characters



- b. In the script of this play, which character is not required to be played by an actor?

- i. Alfred
- ii. The Sheriff of Nottingham
- iii. Little John



3. **Costumes** are the specific outfits worn by performers in a play. Which of the following costumes would you need for this play?

- a. a silver cape
- b. a green tunic
- c. a blue gown



4. **Stage directions** are the written instructions or descriptions included in a play script that provide guidance on how the play should be performed on stage.

- a. Which stage direction shows how the actor has to speak?

- i. (*peers and sees Robin's companions*)
- ii. (*coming out of hiding, to Alfred*)
- iii. (*sympathetically*)



- b. Which stage direction shows what action or movement the actor has to do?
- (softly, excitedly)*
 - (grabs Robin's hand and shakes it enthusiastically)*
 - (sounds of indignation and outrage)*



Deep dive

Answer the following questions with reference to context.

1. *"I should guard my tongue. Are you the Sheriff's men?"*

RECALL

- a. Who did Alfred think are the 'Sheriff's men'?

INFER

- b. What does the phrase 'guard my tongue' mean?
c. Why do you think Alfred felt that he had to guard his tongue?

ANALYSE

- d. From your reading of the play, what opinion do you have of the Sheriff's character?

2. *"Robin Hood? The champion of the poor?"*

"The champion of ALL who are treated unfairly! And these men are my loyal companions."

RECALL

- a. What had Robin Hood done for Alfred that made him call Robin 'the champion of the poor'?

INFER

- b. Do you think Alfred was one of those who had been 'treated unfairly'? Give reasons for your answer.

ANALYSE

- c. Predict what would have happened once Robin Hood and the Merry Men reached Edwinstowe.

Read, reflect and write

- A legendary hero is known for the good deeds he does. How does this play script show us that Robin Hood is a legendary hero?
- Robin Hood took from the rich to give to the poor. While his kindness and generosity are admirable, it is not right to take what is not ours. What other ways could Robin Hood have dealt with the challenge of the Sheriff?
- Write two similarities and two differences between a story and a play.

Integrate

Draw up a 30-day good deed calendar in class. Draw a grid with 30 squares and in each square write a different type of good deed you can all do. Include good deeds for yourself (like eating healthy and exercising), good deeds for others (like lending a helping hand, donating toys) and good deeds for the planet (like planting trees or saving water at school or at home). Put up the calendar in class and mark each day as the good deeds get done.

Word wall

Homographs



In this section, we will:

- learn about homographs and how to identify them.
- write sentences with the new words we have learnt. (C-4.1, 4.2)

Homographs are words that are spelled the same but have different meanings.

For example:

The word 'mind' can have two meanings. Read the sentences below.

- **Mind** your head – the ceiling is very low!
to pay close attention to
- What do you have in **mind**?
the part of you that allows you to think

Use the clues in the table below to identify and write the homographs from the play you read.

1. a. continuing until now
b. not moving



5. a. good
b. money paid as penalty



2. a. correct
b. not left



6. a. to put yourself where
no one can see you
b. the skin of an animal



3. a. spoils
b. the remains of an
old building



7. a. to have fun; to do
something enjoyable
b. a drama



4. a. fair
b. simply



8. a. used to show an ability;
something one is able to do
b. a metal container



Building sentences

Use the following words from the play script in sentences of your own.

confiding

sympathetically

indignation

mysterious

enthusiastically

Grammar time



In this section, we will:

- learn about adjectives and their degrees. (C-3.4)

Adjectives: Degrees of comparison

Read these sentences.

- The Sheriff is **clever**.
- The Sheriff is clever but Robin Hood is **cleverer**.
- The Sheriff is clever but Robin Hood is the **cleverest** of all.

An **adjective** qualifies or describes a noun.

Clever, cleverer and cleverest are all **adjectives**.

ANCHOR CHART

Adjectives have **three** forms or degrees.

Positive

does not compare



Sunil is **tall**.

Comparative

compares **two**



Sunil is **taller** than Sahil.

Superlative

compares **more than two**



Sunil is the **tallest** in his class.

Complete the tables given below.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
weak	<i>weaker than</i>	<i>the weakest</i>
great		
cold		

Use **than** after the adjective in the comparative degree:
cleverer than

Use **the** before the adjective in the superlative degree: **the cleverest**

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
happy	happier than	the happiest
busy		
silly		

Some two-syllable adjectives ending in **-y** change their degrees with **-er** and **-est**, and the **y** is replaced with an **i**.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
thin	thinner than	the thinnest
big		
hot		

When a short adjective ends in a consonant with a vowel just before it, we double the last letter to form the comparative and the superlative.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
helpful	more helpful than	the most helpful
important		
interesting		

Longer adjectives do not take **-er** or **-est** but have **more** and **most** placed in front of them to show the degrees of comparison, such as **difficult**, **more difficult**, **most difficult**.

Irregular adjectives

bad	worse than	the worst
little	less than	the least
much	more than	the most
many	more than	the most
far	farther than	the farthest
old	older than	the oldest
	elder than	the eldest

Some adjectives do not follow the rules given here. They have irregular forms of comparison. Here are a few for you to remember.



Spelling

ce/se, cy/sy

For words that take the ce/se and the cy/sy endings, **se** and **sy** are **verb** endings and **ce** and **cy** are **noun** endings.

Examples:

Nouns	licence	practice	prophecy	advice
Verbs	license	practise	prophecy	advise

This rule does not apply when nouns and verbs are spelt alike, such as **suspense** and **hypocrisy**.

Use suitable words from the examples given above in the following sentences. You may have to change the tense of some words.

- The coach _____ the students to warm-up before the game.
- My father got his driving _____ at the age of thirty.
- The _____ that the world would end at the turn of the millennium did not come true.
- The girls _____ a lot for the debate competition.

Write well

Script writing

Write a short script in your notebook based on the story below. Include the stage setting, dialogue and instructions for actions.





Listen and speak well

1. Listen carefully to the passage. Now answer the questions that follow.

- Draw a picture of a talking cat.
- What kind of a day was it?
- What does the cat say *happens all the time*?
- Did you find the passage funny? If yes, what made you laugh?
- If you met a talking cat in real life, what would you say or do?

2. Imagine that you were there that day, resting under the tree when your handkerchief turned into something else. What did it turn into? Take turns and tell your story to the class.

It was awfully hot. There I was lying quietly in the shade of a tree, hot, bothered and sweaty. Next to me on the grass was my handkerchief. Just as I was about to pick it up to wipe my face ...