



Robin Hood

retold by Gina D. B. Clemen



free Audiobook



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Retold by Gina D. B. Clemen



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The CD contains an audio section (the recording of the text) and a CD-ROM section (additional games and activities that practise the four skills).

- To listen to the recording, insert the CD into your CD player and it will play as normal. You can also listen to the recording on your computer, by opening your usual CD player program.
- If you put the CD directly into the CD-ROM drive, the software will open automatically.

System Requirements for CD-ROM

PC:

- Pentium III processor
- Windows 98, 2000 or XP
- 64 Mb RAM (128Mb RAM recommended)
- 800x600 screen resolution 16 bit
- 12X CD-ROM drive
- Audio card with speakers or headphones

Macintosh:

- Power PC G3 or above (G4 recommended)
- Mac OS 10.1.5
- 128 Mb RAM free for the application

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The text is recorded in full.



These symbols indicate the beginning and end of the passages linked to the listening activities.

The Characters

First row from left : Little John, Marian,
Robin Hood, Friar Tuck, Alan a' Dale

Second row from left : Sheriff of Nottingham,
King John, Lord Fitzwater.

Above : King Richard



Introduction

What is a legend?

 A legend is a very old and popular story that may be true. A legend sometimes begins as a true story, but as the years pass some things are added to it and other things are forgotten. So, a legend is a mix of historical facts and popular fantasy.

Who was Robin Hood?

Everyone has heard of the outlaw ¹ Robin Hood who lived in Sherwood Forest. No other outlaw in history or literature is as famous as Robin Hood. People everywhere love this colourful hero and his men.

No one knows for certain who Robin Hood was. Legend tells us that Robin Hood lived in the late 12th century at the time of King Richard the Lionheart in Sherwood Forest near the town of Nottingham.

In the records of the English courts of 1225 there was a real outlaw named Robert Hood. In the 15th century ballads ² about Robin's life and adventures became well known and the earliest text of a Robin Hood ballad was 'Robin Hood and the Monk'. This ancient manuscript was written shortly after 1450 and is now kept in Cambridge University, England.

During the Victorian Age, Howard Pyle wrote *The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood* (1883) which became very popular and influenced most of the versions of the legend of Robin Hood throughout the 20th century.

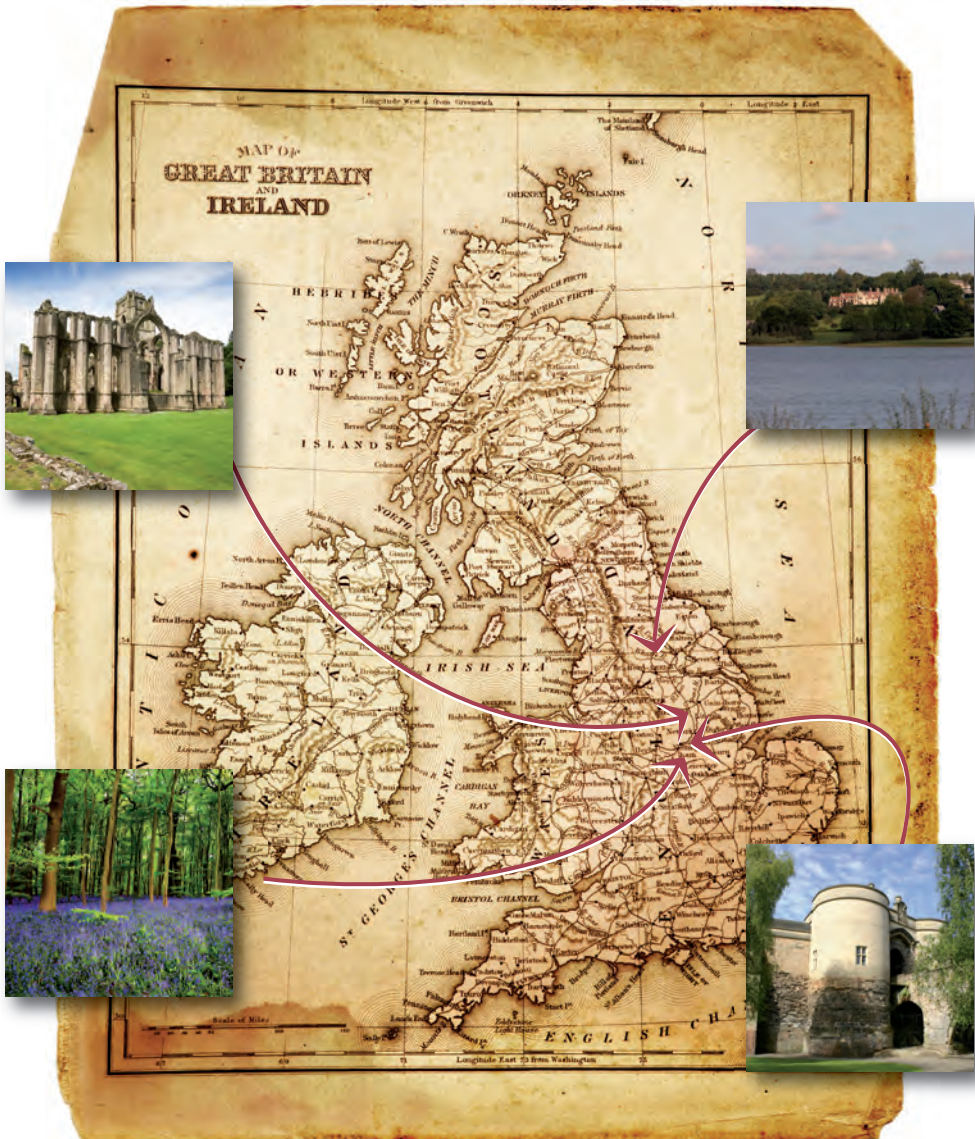


The statue of Robin Hood, Nottingham.

1. **outlaw** : a person who lives outside the protection of the law; a criminal.
2. **ballads** : songs that tell stories.

Robin Hood Country

The adventures of Robin Hood and his outlaws took place in central England, in Sherwood Forest and Nottingham. These are real places, although the forest has become much smaller and Nottingham has become much bigger since Robin's time.



1 LISTENING



You're going to take a tour of Robin Hood Country with a tour guide. You will hear the guide telling you about tour times, meals and some special places. For each question fill in the missing information in the numbered space.

Robin Hood Country Tour

Tour guide

Her name is (1)

Her office is (2)

Tour times

Bus tour starts at (3)

Ticket prices: (4)for adults and
(5)..... for children.

Meals

Packed lunches:

Regular meal: (6), cheeseburger,
fries, soda, (7) , chocolate biscuits

Kids' meal: hamburger, (8) ,
(9) , biscuits

Tour

Fountains Abbey

Founded in (10)by
(11) monks.

Barnsdale Forest

One of Robin Hood's outlaws,
(12) , came from Barnsdale.



View of a city with labourers paving roads while the king stands in a chamber dictating to two scribes (15th century).

Medieval Times in England

4 After the Battle of Hastings in 1066, the Normans conquered and controlled England. The Normans were people from Normandy, a region in north-west France and their leader, William, Duke of Normandy, became William I, King of England.

The story of Robin Hood is set in medieval times when England was under Norman rule. In these times there was the feudal system in Western Europe which meant that all the land in the country belonged to the king. However, since the king could not live on all his land he let noblemen use it. These were people from high society and knights. The king also gave land to important religious leaders.

In return these people protected the king and gave him money. When there was a battle or a war the knights went to fight for their king. Kings and noblemen lived in big castles from which they could control the peasants.

People who were not noble were called peasants and they paid money to the nobleman to live on his land. They also grew food and had to give most of it to the nobleman. These peasants were very poor, had no rights and led a difficult life. These were times of great social injustice, as you will see in the story you are going to read.



Peasants farming outside the castle (circa late 15th century).



Knights jousting at a tournament in the 12th century (circa 1815).

In medieval times, England was divided into counties, or shires, such as Nottinghamshire. Each county had a sheriff who was chosen by the king. He had to collect taxes and carry out the decisions of the king. A sheriff had a number of men to help him do his work. When the king was away the sheriff and his men sometimes became cruel and dishonest.

1 COMPREHENSION CHECK

Answer these questions.

- 1 Who were the Normans and when did they conquer England?
- 2 What was the feudal system?
- 3 What did the peasants do with most of the food they grew?
- 4 Who chose the sheriff of a county?
- 5 What was the sheriff's job?

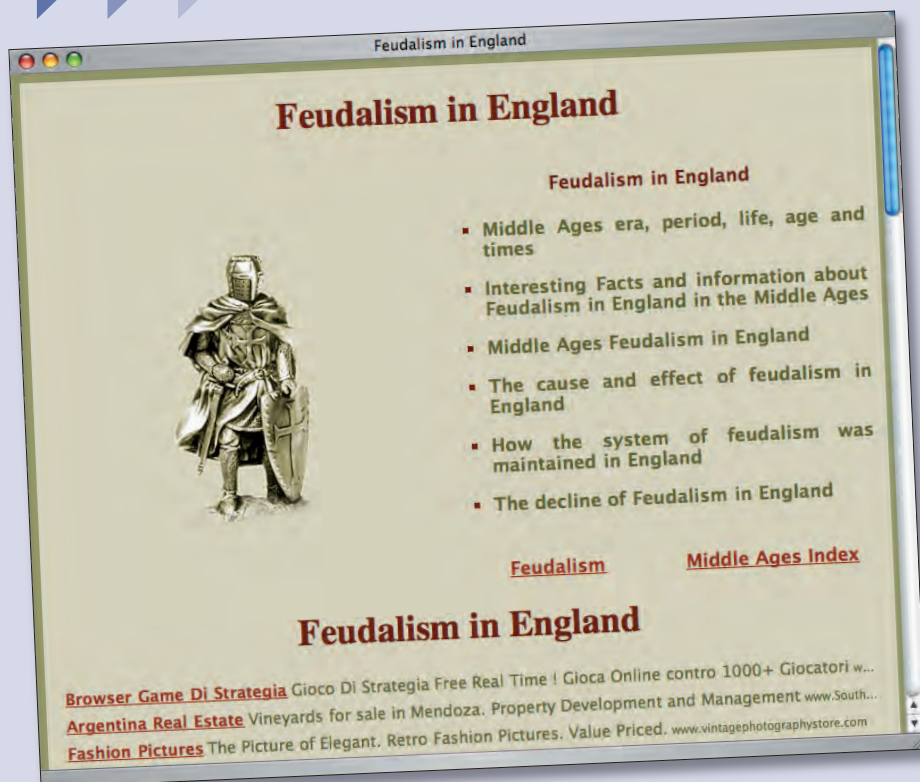
PROJECT ON THE WEB

Feudalism in England

Connect to the Internet and search for information about feudalism in England.

Work in small groups and answer these questions:

- 1 When was feudalism introduced in England?
- 2 Who was William the Conqueror?
- 3 What was the Domesday Book?
- 4 Did the Anglo-Saxons fight against the Normans?
- 5 What did feudalism mean to the English peasants?
- 6 How did the Normans maintain feudalism in England?



BEFORE YOU READ

1 VOCABULARY

Match the words with their meaning. Use a dictionary only if necessary.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1 ☐ greedy | A the title of a nobleman |
| 2 ☐ slaves | B a very small river |
| 3 ☐ earl | C people who sell things to others |
| 4 ☐ merchants | D people who are not free |
| 5 ☐ staff | E a big wooden stick |
| 6 ☐ stream | F a large hole in the side of a hill |
| 7 ☐ cave | G when you want to have more and more, and you never share anything |

2 WORD SQUARE

Now circle the seven new words from exercise 1 in the word square.



3 READING PICTURES

Look at the picture on page 15 and answer the following questions.

- 1 Where are the men sitting?
- 2 What is the man on the tree doing?
- 3 What do you think Robin Hood is saying?



CHAPTER ONE

How Robin Became an Outlaw



At the time of this story King Richard, known as the  Lionheart because of his bravery, was away on a crusade in the Holy Land. During this time his brother, the greedy Prince John, ruled England in his place and no one liked him. Although John was a prince and not a king, people called him King John when he was ruling England. Prince John made the people pay very high taxes and took away their lands and belongings. Poor peasants often died of hunger. The sheriff of Nottingham was one of Prince John's worst sheriffs. These were very difficult times.

Robin Hood's real name was Robert, son of the Earl of Huntingdon, a tall, handsome young man. He was kind and friendly with everyone. One day the cruel sheriff of Nottingham killed Robin's father in order to take away his many lands in Locksley.

Robin Hood

Young Robin lost his father, his home, his belongings and all his lands. He was very upset because he loved his father very much.

‘What can I do?’ he thought. ‘I’m alone and I don’t have my family or my home any more.’

Robin decided to escape to Sherwood Forest with his faithful servants. They chose to live as free men in the forest, although they lived outside the law. They did not want to be slaves of King John and the evil sheriff of Nottingham. However, King John considered them dangerous outlaws and enemies of England.

Deep inside the forest Robin sat under a huge old oak tree ¹ and talked to his faithful servants.

‘Sherwood Forest is our new home. We’ll live in the caves that are warm and dry in the winter and cool in the summer. We’ll hunt the animals of the forest and go fishing in the streams. We’ll wear green clothes, the same colour as the trees, and carry bows and arrows. ² When I blow my horn ³ three times, you must all hurry to my side.’

‘It sounds good!’ said his men, who sat listening to him.

‘But remember, my friends, we are free but we are outlaws,’ said Robin seriously. ‘We are considered dangerous enemies of England – the rich and the greedy hate us and are against us. Only the poor honest people are with us.’

‘We understand,’ they all said.

‘I’ll always stay with you but you must do what I tell you. Remember, we are good, honest men. We must never hurt the poor, the old or women and children. We must help and protect them. Do you agree?’

1. oak tree :



2. bows and arrows :



3. horn :







Robin Hood

‘Yes, we do!’ cried his men.

‘This is my plan,’ said Robin. ‘We’ll only take from rich noblemen, dishonest merchants and greedy churchmen. When rich travellers come through Sherwood Forest we’ll invite them to eat with us, but they must pay for their meal. We’ll then give this money to the poor. Do you all promise to do what I tell you?’

‘Yes, we do,’ shouted his men happily.

Soon the rich and greedy noblemen and merchants were afraid to travel through Sherwood Forest alone. They always travelled with a small army of men for protection because they knew that the price for Robin’s meal was high. Some people called this the Sherwood Tax.

Other brave and honest men heard about Robin and his men and they soon joined the outlaws: Much, Nat, Will Scarlet and others. All the men were excellent archers but Robin Hood was the best archer of all. They often practised in the forest with their bows and arrows.

The peasants in the nearby villages and in Nottingham knew about the outlaws of Sherwood Forest and liked them. They often hid them from the sheriff’s men and offered them bread and soup. In return the outlaws often gave the peasants fish from the streams.

One day while Robin was walking in Sherwood Forest he came to a stream with a narrow wooden bridge. He began to cross it when he saw a huge man on the other side of the stream.

‘This man is a giant,’ Robin thought. ‘He’s very tall and strong and he’s carrying a wooden staff.’

‘Step back and let me cross the bridge first,’ shouted the stranger who was a bit older than Robin.

‘No, I was here first,’ shouted Robin, looking at the stranger.

‘Well, if you’re strong enough to knock me off the bridge then you can cross first,’ said the huge man with a loud voice. ‘You have a sword but I only have a staff.’

How Robin Became an Outlaw

Robin took his sword and cut a long branch from a tree and made a long staff.

‘Very well,’ said Robin, ‘I’m ready to fight. Let’s see who’s the strongest! The winner will be the one who knocks the other into the water.’

‘Alright, I agree,’ said the tall stranger.

The two men got onto the narrow bridge and walked towards each other slowly. When they reached the middle they started fighting. Robin was light and moved quickly but the other man was much stronger. Suddenly the stranger pushed Robin off the bridge and into the cold water of the stream. The stranger started laughing and pulled Robin out of the water.

‘You beat me!’ said Robin laughing. ‘You’re a strong fighter. What’s your name?’

‘My name’s John Little and I’m from Barnsdale,’ said the stranger smiling. ‘I’m looking for Robin Hood because I want to join his outlaws who live somewhere in this forest. I’m an honest man and a good archer. I don’t want to live under King John’s rule; he’s a cruel, greedy man. And his sheriff is even worse!’

‘Welcome to Sherwood Forest! I’m Robin Hood!’ said Robin happily. ‘We need strong men and good archers.’

The two men laughed and became good friends.

‘Now you’re one of our outlaws and you must change your name,’ said Robin, thinking of another name. ‘Your new name will be... Little John.’

Robin introduced Little John to the other outlaws who were glad to welcome the new outlaw. That evening they enjoyed a big meal around the fire, telling stories and laughing.

UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT



1 COMPREHENSION CHECK

Choose the correct answer – A, B, C or D.

- 1 Prince John ruled England
 - A ☐ and everyone liked and admired him.
 - B ☐ and people called him Lionheart because of his bravery.
 - C ☐ because his brother was away from England.
 - D ☐ for only three months.
- 2 Robin Hood grew up in
 - A ☐ Locksley.
 - B ☐ Barnsdale.
 - C ☐ Nottingham.
 - D ☐ Sherwood Forest.
- 3 The Sherwood Tax
 - A ☐ was the Sheriff of Nottingham's highest tax.
 - B ☐ was the price of a meal with Robin and his outlaws.
 - C ☐ was paid by all the peasants in Nottingham.
 - D ☐ was paid to King Richard before going on a crusade.
- 4 Robin Hood and Little John
 - A ☐ fought on the bridge with their swords.
 - B ☐ fought in the forest with bows and arrows.
 - C ☐ fought on the bridge with their staffs.
 - D ☐ didn't fight because they were good friends.
- 5 John Little was from
 - A ☐ Barnsdale.
 - B ☐ Nottingham.
 - C ☐ Sherwood Forest.
 - D ☐ Locksley.
- 6 The outlaws promised Robin Hood
 - A ☐ to go hunting in the forest every day.
 - B ☐ to meet under the old oak tree twice a week.
 - C ☐ to build new homes in Sherwood Forest.
 - D ☐ to take from the rich and give to the poor.

2 VOCABULARY

A Circle the word that doesn't belong and explain why.

- 1 greedy cruel dishonest kind
- 2 Earl brother King Prince
- 3 protect attack help defend
- 4 meal breakfast dinner lunch
- 5 England France English Turkey
- 6 upset worried unhappy tired
- 7 fast quickly slowly immediately

B Use the odd words to complete the sentences.

- 1 The outlaws enjoyed a good by the fire.
- 2 Robin Hood was a man.
- 3 The people didn't like King John.
- 4 John was King Richard's
- 5 The old man walked because his legs hurt.
- 6 The peasants were after a long day at work.
- 7 The sheriff's men started to the poor peasants.

3 QUESTION WORDS

Complete the questions with *why*, *how*, *what*, *who* or *where* and then choose the correct answer below.

- 1 did Robin Hood and the outlaws live?
 - 2 was King Richard's brother?
 - 3 did Little John leave Barnsdale?
 - 4 did rich noblemen and dishonest merchants travel through Sherwood Forest?
 - 5 was Little John's staff made of?
- A** ☐ He left because he didn't want to live under King John's rule.
- B** ☐ They travelled through Sherwood Forest with a small army of men for protection.
- C** ☐ They lived in Sherwood Forest.
- D** ☐ Wood.
- E** ☐ Prince John.

PROJECT ON THE WEB

The Major Oak and Sherwood Forest today

Connect to the Internet and search for information about the Major Oak and Sherwood Forest.

The Major Oak is the legendary oak tree where *Robin Hood* and his outlaws used to meet and talk. Today this beautiful old tree is a famous tourist attraction. Work in small groups and answer these questions:

- 1 Where is the Major Oak located?
- 2 What are its dimensions?
- 3 What does the Domesday Book say about Sherwood Forest?
- 4 What are the theories about this extraordinary tree?
- 5 How is Sherwood Forest taking care of the Major Oak?

