



# Robin Hood

## Robin Hood

### Synopsis

Robin of Loxley returns from fighting alongside King Richard in the crusades to discover that the King's brother, Prince John, is plotting to overthrow the throne. Prince John has increased taxes and is claiming land and property in lieu of payment and has appointed a merciless Sheriff to govern Robin's hometown of Nottingham. Unable to pay the extortionate taxes, the villagers are forced to leave their homes and take refuge in the forest. They turn to crime to provide for their families and have been outlawed by the ruthless Sheriff.

Robin discovers that, in his absence, his home and everything he owned has also been claimed. All that's left is his faithful steed Trigger, who he finds wandering aimlessly across the land.

Robin befriends an outlaw, Little John, who introduces him to the merry men and the exiled community that they protect. Robin persuades the merry men to join his plight to bring down the Sheriff and defend the throne. He teaches them to fight and protect their families and when the opportunity arises to enter an archery competition and compete against the Sheriff, Robin jumps at the chance. Especially as the prize is a thousand gold pieces. Robin convinces the villagers that if they all work together, they can defeat the Sheriff and take Nottingham back. In the meantime, Robin does his utmost to make the Sheriff's life difficult and in doing so is re-united with his childhood sweetheart, Marion, King Richard's cousin.

Things start to heat up when the Sheriff decides to marry Marion. Now Robin must win the archery competition and save his sweetheart.

Can Robin and the merry men save the throne or will The Sheriff of Nottingham and his flunkies triumph? There can only be one winner and maybe with a little luck and a touch of fairy magic, it will be Robin Hood.

## Characters

**Robin Hood** The brave hero.

**Maid Marion** Robin's childhood sweetheart and cousin of King Richard.

**Sheriff of Nottingham** Heartless and greedy villain.

**Little John** Leader of the merry men.

**Big Ron** Little John's brother.

**Will Scarlett** Merry man.

**Friar Tuck** Merry man known for his love of ale.

**Lady Molly Coddle** (Dame) Marion's Lady in Waiting.

**Captain Percy Honey** Sheriff's Commander in Chief.

**The Narrator** Keeps us updated throughout the story.

**Mavis the sprite** Forest sprite.

**Pilfer, Nobble and Nab** The Sheriff's tax collectors.

**Trigger** (one or two people) Robin's trusty steed.

**Tom Tomas** Merry man with a bad sense of direction.

**Russell Hobbs** Merry man and the camp cook.

**Dr Martin Boots** Merry man and the camp physician.

**Bob** Merry man and the camp DIY expert.

**King Richard** Small part which can be combined. (Appears in final scene only)

**Chorus x 3+**

## **ACT 1**

**Scene 1.** Home from the Crusades

**Scene 2.** The Merry men and Marion

**Scene 3.** The Sheriff

**Scene 4.** Robin and The Merry men

**Scene 5.** A close encounter

**Scene 6.** Villagers and Children

## **ACT 2**

**Scene 1.** Ready! Aim! Fire!

**Scene 2.** The encounter

**Scene 3.** The outlaws' camp

**Scene 4.** The sacrifice

**Scene 5.** The golden Arrow contest and grand finale

## **Song Suggestions**

**Song 1** Teamwork from Chitty Chitty Bang Bang the Musical

**Song 2** Material Guy (Girl) - Madonna

**Song 3** I Can Hear The Bells - from Hairspray

**Song 4** I'm Too Sexy – Right Said Fred

**Song 5** Rockin' All Over The World – Status Quo

**Song 6** Ain't No Mountain High Enough – Marvin Gaye & Tammi Terrell

**Song 7** Could It Be Magic – Take That

**Song 8** Men In Tights (from Robin Hood Men In Tights film)

**Song 9** Uptown Girl - Billy Joel

**Song 10** The Lazy Song – Bruno Mars

**Song 11** Honey Honey - Abba

**Song 12** Reach – S Club 7

## **Robin Hood**

### **Act 1**

#### **Scene 1**

*Front of tabs.*

*Narrator enters and reads from a large book.*

**Narrator** Legend tells of a brave outlaw,  
Who stole from the rich and gave to the poor.  
And as you have an hour or two,  
We're going to tell his tale to you.  
A long way back, back many centuries ago,  
There lived a young lord who was good with a bow.  
When the king called for knights to join his crusade  
He was there like a shot to his majesty's aid.  
Though he was loyal and fought very well,  
He was caught by the enemy and thrown in a cell.  
This could well have been the end of his tale  
Locked up in chains and no prospect of bail.  
But he was a fighter - he would not surrender,  
Nor stay behind bars like a common offender.

*Robin enters with chorus dressed as prisoners.*

**Chorus 1** Will we ever get out this terrible place?

**Chorus 2** I long to see good old England.

**Chorus 3** I long to see my family and friends.

**Chorus 1** I long to see a Ye olde Burger King cheeseburger with fries and a shake.

*(aside)* Other fast-food outlets are available.

**Robin** We can't wait to be rescued; it may never happen! We must break out...!  
have a cunning plan!

**Chorus 2** What is it?

**Robin** First, we must overpower the guards.

**Chorus 3** But how? They're armed and they're bigger than us.

**Robin** If we pull together, we can achieve anything. All it takes is a little teamwork!

**Chorus 1** He's right!

**Chorus 2** Let's do it!

*Robin and the chorus exit.*

**Narrator** (*reading from the book*) So they made their escape in the dead of the night,  
And then they kept going 'till home was in sight.  
Once back in England they all knuckled down,  
Planning their journeys back to their hometown.

*The Narrator exits as the curtain opens. Robin and the chorus enter a woodland clearing. A sign points to Nottingham.*

**Robin** Well men, this is it! Nottingham, my home! It's time to part ways.

**Chorus** Don't leave us Robin!

**Robin** You all have homes and families waiting for you too. We've done the hard part; you can make your own way from here.

**Chorus 1** But who will tell us what to do?

**Chorus 2** Who will tell us where to go?

**Chorus 3** Who will lead us on our way?

**Robin** You're a team! Work together and you'll succeed.

## **Song 1**

**Robin** Goodbye men, and good luck.

*Robin exits.*

**Chorus 1** What now?

**Chorus 2** I don't know about you, but I'm going home.

**Chorus 3** Me too. Who's up for a bit of teamwork?

*They all cheer and exit.*

*The Narrator enters opposite followed by Pilfer, Nobble and Nab who put up signs that say, 'Private Property' and 'Trespassers will be prosecuted'.*

**Narrator** What Robin doesn't realise is since he's been away,  
Things have changed in Nottingham and there has been foul play.  
His stately home is boarded up and something's not quite right,  
There are trespass signs across his land, and not a soul in sight.  
There's something in the distance and as it's getting bigger,  
He sees that it's his trusty steed, a horse that he calls Trigger.  
Together, they set off to find out what is going on,  
What awful thing has taken place whilst Robin has been gone?

*SFX Horse hooves. The Narrator exits as Robin, carrying a staff, enters opposite with Trigger.*

**Robin** Everything looks so different. Do you have any idea where we are Trigger?

**Trigger** Neigh.

*Big Ron enters carrying a small staff.*

**Big Ron** Stop! Who goes there? If you want to pass through this 'ere forest, it's gonna' cost you!

**Robin** I'm Robin and this is my faithful steed, Trigger. What do you mean, cost me? This is my land. If anyone is trespassing here, it's you.

**Big Ron** This land belongs to Prince John, and I am collecting taxes on his behalf. Pay up, or you can't pass.

**Robin** And who are you?

**Big Ron** I'm Big Ron.

**Robin** Big Ron?

**Big Ron** That's right, Ron after me dad and Big after me personality! Hold on, you say this is your land? Surely, you're not Lord Robin of Loxley? The word on the street is that Robin perished, whilst fighting in the crusades.

**Robin** The word on the street is wrong, for I am he.

**Big Ron** I'm afraid much has changed since you left, Robin. You will find things quite different here now. Prince John has claimed your land in lieu of unpaid taxes. Whatever you had when you left England now belongs to him. We're all in the same boat. We do what we must to scrape by. *(Holds out his hand)*. So, pay up, or I'll have to take it from you. *(He points his staff at Robin)*

*SFX Eastenders finale drums. They both look around confused.*

**Robin** I don't have any unpaid taxes, I've just got home from the crusades. It looks like Prince John has helped himself to all I own. I don't have money and I certainly won't be bullied by a little pipsqueak like you. *(He holds his staff in front of him)*

**Big Ron** A pipsqueak, eh? Take that back, or my brother will sort you out.

**Robin** Ha! I'm not scared. I'll take on both of you!

**Big Ron** Is that right? *(Calls off stage)* Hey, Little John, this fella's here refusing to pay his taxes.

**Robin** *Little* John? He's doesn't sound very threatening!

*Little John enters carrying a small staff.*

**Little John** Is this bloke hassling you, Ron?

*Robin turns to face Little John to see that he's not so little.*

**Robin** You're *Little* John?

**Little John** Yep, John after me mum, *(aside to audience)* she was a butch woman!  
Little after my...

**Robin** IQ?

**Little John** *(holding out his staff)* No...my staff! Now, let's see what you're made of.

*Choreographed staff fight between Robin and Little John. Big Ron cheers John but is never brave enough to step in and lend a hand. Trigger whinnies in support of Robin, who finally wins.*



## **ACT II**

### **Scene 1**

*The Narrator enters.*

**Narrator** For families in Nottingham it was a trying time. Folks were feeling tense, there was a sharp increase in crime. Meanwhile in the forest, the men were pretty jumpy. The sheriff's mood was terrible, in fact he was quite grumpy. The tournament was almost here, and time was getting tight. So came the hour for Rob to teach his merry men to fight.

*Mavis enters.*

**Mavis** Excuse me, you with the book.

**Narrator** (*looking around*) Are you talking to me?

**Mavis** I don't see anyone else with a book? I love to read. I read a book on helium once...couldn't put it down!

**Narrator** What can I do for you madam? I'm in the middle something.

**Mavis** No need to be so rude. Could you flick to the end of that book and let me know if I'm needed?

**Narrator** What do you mean? Who are you?

**Mavis** I'm Mavis the sprite.

**Narrator** The what?

**Mavis** Here we go again! I said I'm Mavis the sprite. I'm sort of a woodland nymph with magic power. Cleverer than a pixie, not as grand as a fairy, less naughty than a leprechaun, better looking than an elf!

**Narrator** I see. If I could draw your attention to the first rule of pantomime, it clearly states that it is forbidden to skip to the conclusion of a story to satisfy the curiosity of any of its participants. You will have to wait until the end, like the rest of us.

**Mavis** Couldn't you consider bending the rules a tiny bit...for the sake of a happy ending?

**Narrator** No. No rule bending!

**Mavis** Oh dear. The carpenter is working flat out to mend my wand, but what if it's not ready? What if good doesn't overcome evil? What if I can't save the day? (*she wails*)

**Narrator** Calm down, lady. I haven't the faintest idea what you're rabbiting on about. But one thing I do know, this is pantomime and in panto there's always a happy ending.

**Mavis** That's because there's always a fairy with a magic wand, to put things right. It's all going to end in tears, and it'll be my fault! (*She sniffs*)

**Narrator** Can I make a suggestion? Take a break. Have a cuppa and some cake. Woody the carpenter is very efficient. I'm sure that when you go back, he'll have fixed your...umm...problem.

**Mavis** That's good advice. Thank you, sorry to interrupt. (*She composes herself*)  
Panic over. Do continue.

*She exits, mumbling to herself about needing a holiday.*

**Narrator** I do apologise folks. Now where was I? Oh yes...  
The competition was almost here, and time was getting tight.  
So came the hour for Rob to teach his merry men to fight.

*Robin and the men enter with bows and arrows and mime practicing their bowmanship as the Narrator continues.*

*SFX Twanging, followed by arrows flying, followed by thuds and screams.*

**Narrator** He picked a clearing in the wood where there was lots of space.  
And as they started to take aim, he found a hiding place.  
He dodged the arrows deftly as they flew straight through the air,  
But not one hit the target and he started to despair.  
Surely, they were not that bad? Rob began to fear,  
As an arrow shot right past his head and narrowly missed a deer.

**Robin** (*waving a white handkerchief*) That was too close for comfort! Stop now, before you have someone's eye out.

**Little John** (*with an arrow in his bow ready*) We need more practice.

**Robin** You could say that.

**Will** We're a lost cause!

**Robin** You're not that bad.

**Big Ron** We're terrible!

**Friar Tuck** We'll never be ready on time.

*SFX Horses hooves. Trigger enters behind the merry men and whinnies. Little John swings round to greet him with his arrow ready to shoot. Everyone ducks as he turns. (Mexican wave style)*

**Little John** Hello, Trigger.

*Trigger panics.*

**Robin** John, put down the bow.

*Little John swings back towards Robin and everyone ducks down again. (Mexican wave style)*

**Little John** Did you say something?

**Robin** *(With his hands in the air)* P-p-put the b-b-bow down and s-s-step away!

*Little John does as instructed and everyone breathes a sigh of relief.*

**Robin** Rule number one. Never point a loaded bow unless you intend to use it.

**Little John** Oops!

**Robin** Now, how to teach you lot the basic skills of simple bowman-ship? Fire the arrow and hit the target. *(They think. SFX Triangle ting)* I have an idea! *(Calls of stage)* Come here, lads.

*Tom, Russell, Boots and Bob enter. Each has a cardboard target hanging around their neck with a picture of a well know celebrity/ local. They line up across the back of the stage facing forwards. They have their hands behind their backs holding an arrow.*

**Boots** Are you sure this is a good idea, Robin?

**Robin** It's quite safe if you stand still.

**Bob** What if we're hit?

**Robin** Dr Boots at the ready.

**Russell** What if *he's* hit?

**Robin** Stop worrying.

**Tom** I've got a bad feeling about this.

**Robin** Right men, ready.

*SFX Knocking knees as the merry men line up at the front of the stage with their backs to the audience.*

**Robin** Take Aim.

*They mime taking an arrow from their quivers, placing it in their bows and taking aim.*

**Robin** Fire at will!

*They all turn towards Will Scarlett.*

**Will** (*ducks*) Ahhh!

**Robin** Stop! I don't mean, fire at Will. I mean fire at will.

*They all apologise to Will.*

**Robin** Let's start again, shall we? Ready, aim, fire!

*The men take aim and fire. SFX Arrows being shot. The targets turn and bend, taking the arrows from behind their backs and hold them to their bottoms.*

**Robin** It's a Bullseye!

*The merry men celebrate as Tom, Russell, Boots and Bob run off yelping.*

**Robin** I knew you could do it men.

**Little John** We just needed the right incentive.