

A PlayAloud from *Stories to Grow By*

Robin Hood & the Golden Arrow

Characters:

1. Narrator
2. Rich Man #1
3. Rich Man #2
4. Sheriff of Nottingham
5. Little John of the Merry Men
6. Robin Hood
7. Sir Guy of Gisbourne
8. Adam of Dell
9. Crowd Member #1
10. Crowd Member #2

Welcome to PlayAloud, a series from *Stories to Grow By*. Today's story is about Robin Hood, the most famous outlaw in English history. Robin Hood and his Merry Men—a group of people that help Robin Hood—steal money from the rich, and give it to the poor. In this adventure, the Sheriff of Nottingham creates a plan to catch Robin Hood, once and for all. Will the Sheriff succeed, or will Robin Hood make a great escape?

Act 1

Office of the Sheriff of Nottingham

NARRATOR: This is a story about Robin Hood, the most famous outlaw ever in England. Robin Hood is famous for taking money from the rich and giving it to the poor. Most people thought he was a hero. To other people, he was a thief.

RICH MAN #1: Sheriff, we must do something about Robin Hood!

RICH MAN #2: We can't ride through Sherwood Forest! Robin Hood and his Merry Men jump out and steal our money every time we pass through.

RICH MAN #1: It happens so fast, we can't do anything about it!

RICH MAN #2: Robin Hood and his band act like they live in the forest. They could steal from us forever!

SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM: They DO live in the forest! King John declared "no one is allowed in Sherwood Forest" and what did Robin Hood do? He moved in!

RICH MAN #1: Everyone thinks Robin Hood is so great because he doesn't keep the money for himself and gives it to the poor.

RICH MAN #2: Maybe we should be kinder to the poor?

RICH MAN #1 + #2: Nah!

RICH MAN #1: Sheriff, we must stop Robin Hood, once and for all!

SHERIFF: I *will* stop him! King John ordered me to capture Robin Hood, and I must catch him or I will lose my job. If only they weren't so fast! And that green clothing they wear is the same color as the trees.

RICH MAN #1: You can barely see them when they jump out!

RICH MAN #2: And then in seconds they disappear into the forest!

SHERIFF: It's not as if Robin Hood will come out for my men to catch him... Say, wait a minute!

RICH MAN #1: What is it? What are you thinking?

RICH MAN #2: Sheriff, you have a strange look in your eye.

SHERIFF: Gentlemen, listen to me. I have a brilliant idea!

Act 2 *Sherwood Forest*

NARRATOR: Meanwhile, in Sherwood Forest...

LITTLE JOHN: Robin Hood, I'm telling you, it's a trap!

ROBIN HOOD: It's not a trap, Little John. It's a regular archery contest. I'll prove to everyone I'm the best archer in England. I'll win the contest and get the prize - that golden arrow!

LITTLE JOHN: Robin Hood, a golden arrow is useless if you're captured by the Sheriff's men. You know that's what will happen as soon as they see you!

ROBIN HOOD: They won't see me.

LITTLE JOHN: They won't see you if you don't go!

ROBIN HOOD: Relax, Little John! You worry too much. Come, everyone! There's something we need to do now. Let's give away the rest of the money from the last coach we jumped.

NARRATOR: Robin Hood and his Merry Men scooped up some bags of gold coins and rode to the edge of the forest, where they gave the coins to a poor family living in a small hut. The family was very surprised to see Robin Hood—and glad to receive the gold coins, as you can imagine.

Act 3

The Archery Contest

Scene 1 – The Contest

NARRATOR: As people arrived for the contest, the Sheriff and Sir Guy stood on a platform watching everyone enter.

SIR GUY OF GISBOURNE: Sheriff, Robin Hood's not here. It looks like we may have misjudged him.

SHERIFF: I can't believe that Robin Hood could resist an archery contest.

SIR GUY OF GISBOURNE: Our men have scanned the crowd three times. Robin Hood has red hair, so he should be easy to spot, but he's nowhere to be seen.

SHERIFF: Then he's late! Or a coward.

SIR GUY OF GISBOURNE: Sheriff, should we start the contest?

SHERIFF: Yes, we can't wait any longer. Adam of Dell, where are you?

ADAM OF DELL: Here I am, Sheriff.

SHERIFF: You are in my household and you are the finest archer I know. Make me proud out there.

ADAM OF DELL: Thank you, sir. I will do my best.

NARRATOR: Adam of Dell took his place in line with the other contestants. The crowd cheered for their favorites.

CROWD MEMBER #1: Say, who are you rooting for?

CROWD MEMBER #2: Robin Hood, of course!

CROWD MEMBER #1: But Robin Hood's not here!

CROWD MEMBER #2: Then I'm rooting for the Sheriff's man, Adam of Dell. I've heard he's the best there is—except for Robin Hood.

CROWD MEMBER #1: Go, Adam!

CROWD MEMBER #2: Yo! Adam of Dell, show them what you've got!

NARRATOR: A man blew a horn and the contest began. One by one, each contestant in the lineup shot their arrow at the target. After several rounds, five archers were left. The first three took their turns, then Adam of Dell. Last in the line was a stranger who wore ragged clothes and an eye patch.

SHERIFF: Did anyone see Robin Hood during the contest?

SIR GUY OF GISBOURNE: No, Sheriff. There are only five archers left. None of them have red hair, and that stranger has an eyepatch. Robin Hood's eyesight is sharp.

SHERIFF: So, he didn't come! We may as well finish up this contest.

NARRATOR: After a few more rounds, the five contestants were down to two – Adam of Dell and the stranger. Each archer had one shot left.

CROWD MEMBER #1: Go, Adam!

CROWD MEMBER #2: Go, stranger with the eye patch!

CROWD MEMBER #1: You don't even know his name!

CROWD MEMBER #2: Well, I'm rooting for him anyway. What's it to you?

NARRATOR: Adam of Dell carefully took his aim and fired. The arrow flew straight to the target!

CROWD MEMBER #1: Look! Adam of Dell hit the bullseye!

CROWD MEMBER #2: That's got to be the winning shot!

NARRATOR: But the stranger still had his turn. He picked up his bow and slowly took aim. His arrow zipped through the air.

CROWD MEMBER #1: Wait! Did you see that?

CROWD MEMBER #2: No, what happened?

CROWD MEMBER #1: The stranger's arrow split Adam of Dell's arrow in half!

CROWD MEMBER #2: No way! Split the arrow that was already in the bullseye? Awesome!

Scene 2 – *The Prize*

SIR GUY OF GISBOURNE: Sheriff, whoever that stranger is, he is one fine archer.

SHERIFF: That stranger just won the contest. I'm going to find out who he is.

NARRATOR: The Sheriff stepped down from his platform and walked up to the ragged stranger.

SHERIFF: Good sir, we don't know you, but you have won the contest, fair and square. I award you this prize, the golden arrow!

NARRATOR: The stranger took the golden arrow. Then he put his hand to his head, and threw his brown wig and eyepatch onto the ground!

ROBIN HOOD: You say you do not know me? Look again – I am Robin Hood!

NARRATOR: The Sheriff of Nottingham gasped. The crowd gasped. Everyone at the contest was in shock! In a flash, Robin Hood jumped high onto a fence and down the other side, onto a horse held by Little John.

CROWD MEMBER #1: Wait a minute, that stranger was Robin Hood!

CROWD MEMBER #2: Where did he go?

CROWD MEMBER #1: I don't know - he was there a moment ago. He's gone!

NARRATOR: Robin Hood had galloped off with his Merry Men. In a flash, they were out of sight.

SHERIFF: Curses!! I will get you, Robin Hood, if my name isn't the Sheriff of Nottingham!

NARRATOR: His name *was* the Sheriff of Nottingham, but he never did catch Robin Hood. In the years to come, Robin Hood and his Merry Men continued to take from the rich and give to the poor. Their adventures became the Legend of Robin Hood we know today.