

# *Robin Hood*

A play for young audiences by Kathryn Schultz Miller

Starting May 2023



## The English Theatre Frankfurt - Teachers' Resource Pack

This teachers' pack includes information as well as tasks and topics to be dealt with in the classroom. The tasks do not necessarily build on each other. Cut and paste as you please, and please consult the official program for additional information.

## Background Information to *Robin Hood*

### The author – Kathryn Schultz Miller

**Kathryn Schultz Miller** has written plays for young audiences since 1976. She served for 20 years as co-founder and artistic director of ArtReach Touring Theatre, a professional touring theatre based in Cincinnati. Miller is the recipient of three playwriting fellowships and one fiction fellowship from the Ohio Arts Council as well as a playwriting fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. Fourteen of her scripts have been produced nationwide. Her published plays include *Island Son*, *Amelia Earhart*, *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, *A Thousand Cranes*, *Haunted Houses*, *You Don't See Me* and *Blue Horses* (Dramatic Publishing); *Red Badge of Courage* and *The Shining Moment* (Anchorage Press); *Poe, Poe!* (IE Clark Publishing); and *Choosing Sides for Basketball* (Baker's Plays). *A Thousand Cranes* is included in *Twenty Great Plays for Children*, an anthology edited by Coleman A. Jennings, with foreword by Maurice Sendak, published by St. Martin's Press. Miller is the winner of the 1985 Post-Corbett Award "for literary excellence in playwriting."



<https://www.dramaticpublishing.com/authors/profile/view/url/kathryn-schultz-miller>

### The Director – PJ Escobio



PJ has directed for the English Theatre Frankfurt *Huck Finn*, *Shockheaded Peter* (Covid cancelled) and for this season will direct *Girl with a Book* by Nick Wood. He is the Artistic Director of Shakespeare Frankfurt, for whom he directed the film *Spiritus Vitae*, *The Breath of Life*, and for the 2021-22 season is directing *Travelers*, *Fools and Thieves*, *Antony and Cleopatra* and next year's Garden production *As You Like It*. Other plays he has directed for SF include, *Trojan Women* by Euripides, Shakespeare's *King Lear*, *Macbeth*, *Othello*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Comedy of Errors* (Covid cancelled) and *An Enemy of the People* by Henrik Ibsen. His production of *The Pillowman* by Martin McDonagh was at the Internationales Theater Frankfurt in the Fall of 2019. From 2015-18 he was the Director in Residence at The LOFT, where he directed *Shakespeare in the Garden: Hortus Inclusus*, Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, *Grounded* by George Brandt and was the co-creator of *Where*. For 10 years he was the Artistic Director of Shakespeare Anyone? founded in New York City in 2005, where he directed, produced and/or performed roles from all but 5 of Shakespeare's plays. He was the Associate Artistic Director of WordBRIDGE Playwright's Laboratory. He also cast and directed BFA playwriting thesis projects for NYU's Tisch school of the arts. He has taught Acting, Scene Study, Stage Combat and Shakespeare courses at the collegiate level as well as high schools and private institutions for over 20 years. He holds a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Missouri-KC in Acting and Directing.

## Robin Hood – Synopsis

With King Richard the Lionhearted away fighting wars in the Holy Land, his brother Prince John seizes the regency in England. Prince John and his followers are hard on the peasants, increasing their taxes and hanging those that cannot afford to pay. Robin of Locksley, also known as Robin Hood, rebels against the prince and is declared an outlaw. Living in Sherwood Forest, Robin and the Merry Men rob from the rich, give to the poor. Despite their dedication to avenging the less fortunate, Robin still takes time to woo the lovely Maid Marian, who has been promised to Prince John by her father the Sheriff. She actively resists the force of her father and the prince and later joins the Merry Men.

## The Characters

Robin Hood steals from the rich to give to the poor and is the best archer all around. Robin appears in many disguises and operates right under the Prince's nose as Beggar or Jester.

Little John meets Robin Hood in Sherwood Forest and joins the Merry Men.

Maid Marian, daughter of the Sheriff of Nottingham, is supposed to marry Prince John. However, she has other plans and resists her father actively.

Prince John took charge when King Richard left and rules with an iron fist, suppressing his subjects and constantly raising taxes. He doesn't care for the poor but only for his wealth. He wants to marry Maid Marian.

The Sheriff of Nottingham is Prince John's right hand and the father of Maid Marian.

Friar Tuck is a sly food-loving churchman and part of the Merry Men of Sherwood Forest. Being also a confidant of Prince John, he can provide Robin Hood with information about the Prince's plans and whereabouts.

King Richard is the true ruler but away fighting wars. It is unclear whether he will ever return. He is supported by Robin Hood and the Merry Men.

## Robin Hood – the legend

**Robin Hood**, legendary outlaw hero of a series of English ballads, some of which date from at least as early as the 14th century. Robin Hood was a rebel, and many of the most striking episodes in the tales about him show him and his companions robbing and killing representatives of authority and giving the gains to the poor. Their most frequent enemy was the Sheriff of Nottingham, a local agent of the central government (though internal evidence from the early ballads makes it clear that the action took place chiefly in south Yorkshire, not in Nottinghamshire). Other enemies included wealthy ecclesiastical landowners. Robin treated women, the poor, and people of humble status with courtesy. A good deal of the impetus for his revolt against authority stemmed from popular resentment over those laws of the forest that restricted hunting rights. The early ballads, especially, reveal the cruelty that was an inescapable part of medieval life.

Numerous attempts have been made to prove that there was a historical Robin Hood, though references to the legend by medieval writers make it clear that the ballads themselves were the only evidence for his existence available to them. A popular modern belief that he was of the time of Richard I probably stems from a "pedigree" fabricated by an 18th-century antiquary, William Stukeley. None of the various claims identifying Robin Hood with a particular historical figure has gained much support, and the outlaw's existence may never have been anything but legendary.

The authentic Robin Hood ballads were the poetic expression of popular aspirations in the north of England during a turbulent era of baronial rebellions and agrarian discontent, which culminated in the Peasants' Revolt of 1381. The theme of the free but persecuted outlaw enjoying the forbidden hunting of the forest and outwitting or killing the forces of law and order naturally appealed to the common people.

Although many of the best-known Robin Hood ballads are postmedieval, there is a core that can be confidently attributed to the medieval period. These are *Robin Hood and the Monk*, *Robin Hood and Guy of Gisborne*, *Robin Hood and the Potter*, and the *Lytyll Geste of Robin Hode*. During the 16th century and later, the essential character of the legend was distorted by a suggestion that Robin was a fallen nobleman, and playwrights, eagerly adopting this new element, increased the romantic appeal of the stories but deprived them of their social bite. Postmedieval ballads (which gave Robin a companion, Maid Marian) also lost most of their vitality and poetic value, doubtless as a result of losing the original social impulse that brought them into existence.

### Robin Hood - the hero for everyone

Robin Hood, as the centuries have shown, is an ideal identification figure and a political as well as literary figure. As Judith Klinger, Potsdam medievalist, points out, Robin Hood embodies dreams of social justice, of life in nature, of community and of "heroic resistance" - against whatever. Robin is so powerful because he helps people build castles in the air and escape in their minds from an unjust society full of constraints.

Sometimes Robin appears as a predatory individualist, sometimes as a merry adventurer, sometimes as a disinherited nobleman. He is knight, businessman, courtier, patriot and social revolutionary. Sometimes he rebels against society, sometimes he is system-stabilising. Most of the time he remains a loyal royalist, but is nevertheless an integral part of the socio-political vocabulary of the Left Party. And occasionally he comes across as a modernisation loser who unabashedly robs those who have surpassed him of their possessions. Robin Hood is reinterpreted from epoch to epoch, and anyone who takes a closer look at the man from Sherwood Forest - depending on the play, novel or film - will glimpse the respective zeitgeist.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Robin-Hood>  
<https://www.br.de/radio/bayern2/sendungen/radiowissen/geschichte/robin-hood-raeuber-100.html>





<https://www.nationalgeographic.co.uk/history/2019/02/who-was-the-real-robin-hood>

## Historic King Richard and Prince John

**Richard I** (8 September 1157 – 6 April 1199) was King of England from 1189 until his death in 1199. He also ruled as Duke of Normandy, Aquitaine and Gascony; Lord of Cyprus; Count of Poitiers, Anjou, Maine, and Nantes; and was overlord of Brittany at various times during the same period. He was the third of five sons of King Henry II of England and Eleanor of Aquitaine and seemed unlikely to become king, but his two elder brothers predeceased their father. Richard is known as Richard Cœur de Lion (Norman French: Le quor de lion) or Richard the Lionheart because of his reputation as a great military leader and warrior.

By the age of 16, Richard had taken command of his own army, putting down rebellions in Poitou against his father.[1] Richard was an important Christian commander during the Third Crusade, leading the campaign after the departure of Philip II of France and achieving considerable victories against his Muslim counterpart, Saladin, although he finalised a peace treaty and ended the campaign without retaking Jerusalem.

Richard probably spoke both French and Occitan.[4] He was born in England, where he spent his childhood; before becoming king, however, he lived most of his adult life in the Duchy of Aquitaine, in the southwest of France. Following his accession, he spent very little time, perhaps as little as six months, in England. Most of his life as king was spent on Crusade, in captivity, or actively defending his lands in France. Rather than regarding his kingdom as a responsibility requiring his presence as ruler, he has been perceived as preferring to use it merely as a source of revenue to support his armies.[5] Nevertheless, he was seen as a pious hero by his subjects.[6] He remains one of the few kings of England remembered more commonly by his epithet than his regnal number, and is an enduring iconic figure both in England and in France.[7]



### Modern reception

King Richard's reputation over the years has "fluctuated wildly", according to historian John Gillingham.[161] While contemporary sources emphasize his stern and unforgiving nature and his excessive cruelty, his image had already been romanticized a few decades after his death, with the new views on Richard depicting him as generous-hearted preux chevalier.[162]

Richard left an indelible imprint in large part because of his military exploits, and his popular image tended to be dominated by the positive qualities of chivalry and military competence.[136] This is reflected in Steven Runciman's final verdict of Richard I: "he was a bad son, a bad husband, and a bad king, but a gallant and splendid soldier" ("History of the Crusades" Vol. III).

Victorian England was divided on Richard: many admired him as a crusader and man of God, erecting an heroic statue to him outside the Houses of Parliament. The late-Victorian scholar William Stubbs, however, thought him "a bad son, a bad husband, a selfish ruler, and a vicious man". During his ten years' reign, he was in England for no more than six months, and was totally absent for the last five years. Stubbs argued that:

He was a bad king: his great exploits, his military skill, his splendour and extravagance, his poetical tastes, his adventurous spirit, do not serve to cloak his entire want of sympathy, or even consideration, for his people. He was no Englishman, but it does not follow that he gave to Normandy, Anjou, or Aquitaine the love or care that he denied to his kingdom. His ambition was

that of a mere warrior: he would fight for anything whatever, but he would sell everything that was worth fighting for. The glory that he sought was that of victory rather than conquest.<sup>2</sup>

In most Robin Hood story's, King Richard is presented in a romanticized way: as the noble King, caring for his subjects, whose return will bring freedom and relief for the poor and helpless, who are exploited by King Richard's brother Prince John. His permanent absence though is in accordance with historic events. In the Robin Hood stories, Prince John is only able to seize the throne because Richard the Lionhearted is not around to rule his country. Instead, he fights in the Crusades and does not spend much time in England.



**Prince John's** illegitimate ascent on the throne as well as his bad reputation is based on true events, too. While Richard was fighting abroad during the Third Crusade (1189-1192 CE) and then held in captivity by the Holy Roman Emperor, John took the opportunity to try and usurp the throne. The help of Philip II of France did not prove decisive, though, and Richard's able ministers Hubert Walter organised enough resistance to thwart the rebellion. When Richard

returned briefly to England in 1194 CE, he forgave his brother his excessive ambition and even nominated him as his official successor. King John of England (aka John Lackland) ruled from 1199 to 1216 CE and he has gone down in history as one of the very worst of English kings, both for his character and his failures. He lost the Angevin-Plantagenet lands in France and so crippled England financially that the barons rebelled and forced him to sign the Magna Carta charter of liberties in 1215 CE.

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<sup>2</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard\\_I\\_of\\_England](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_I_of_England)  
[https://www.worldhistory.org/King\\_John\\_of\\_England/](https://www.worldhistory.org/King_John_of_England/)

## Topics addressed in the English Theatre Frankfurt's *Robin Hood*

### Friendship

All our lives are shaped by the people among us which is why *friendship* is a universal topic with which students can easily relate. In „Robin Hood“, Robin and his Merry Men, especially Friar Tuck and Little John realize their plan to free Maid Marian with the help of their good cooperation. Maid Marian herself joins the group of friends, bound together by loyalty and a common code of honor. Together they outsmart the Prince.

### Love

*Love*, similar to *friendship*, is a topic that is very present in everyday life and will get more and more important in our students' personal lives over the years. In our „Robin Hood“ production, we changed the love story to a more modern version. Robin Hood is clearly in love with Maid Marian and wants to rescue her. Maid Marian does not want to be married to someone, she does not love, which is why she starts to rebel against her father. However, instead of marrying Robin Hood after not being in touch for years, Marian decides to join the Merry Men and take a more individual role than just being a wife.

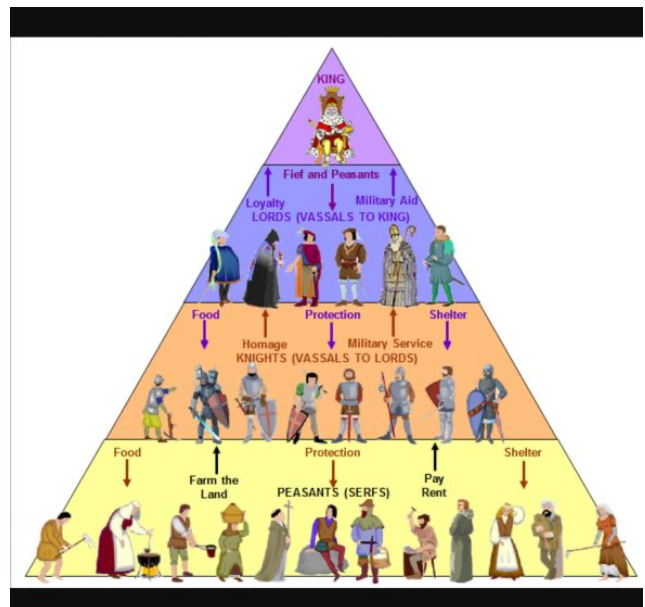
Still, Robin Hood is not only about romantic love between two people. Maid Marian's love for humankind mirrors that of Robin Hood. She too cannot stand idly by while others suffer.

### Feudalism

„Robin Hood“ is set in the Middle Ages and we can find hints of that time in the play.

The society in the Middle Ages (5th – 15th century) was hierarchical. Hence, if one was born in the peasantry, there was not much possibility to move up to the nobility or the clergy. People of lower classes were given land and protection by people of higher rank, and worked and fought for them in return. They had to give up parts of their income and crop to finance wars and personal wealth of the landowners.

However, sometimes people could change their hierarchical status through marriage. Maid Marian is in such a position when offered to marry the prince. This would mean moving up the social ladder but instead she decides to move downwards in joining Robin Hood and the Merry Men. In the society Robin Hood lives in many suffer immensely from the taxes claimed from them and live very poorly. Robin Hood therefore takes matters in his/her own hands and tries to re-establish *social justice* by *redistributing wealth* – a means still discussed today in politics in the face of a widening gap between the poor and the rich fuelled by inflation.



### Vigilantism

Robin Hood takes law into his/her own hands because the local authorities cannot be trusted. In our production no one gets physically hurt, but in stealing from the rich and giving to the poor Robin Hood and Maid Marian do something illegal in order to make the world a better place.

The adequacy of an attempt to reinstate justice by subverting those in power can be discussed and Robin's situation living in the Middle Ages where those who rule do not have a supervisory authority to control them can be compared to the democratic state and the situation we live in with older students.

### Gender roles

According to most Robin Hood stories and based on the original ballads, Robin Hood is male. However, there is no evidence that the character is based on an actual historical person. There is even a theory stating that in the course of centuries there have been several Robin Hoods, inspired by and reinventing the legend for the next generation. Accordingly, the character's image evolved over centuries mirroring the society's need for heroism at the particular time.

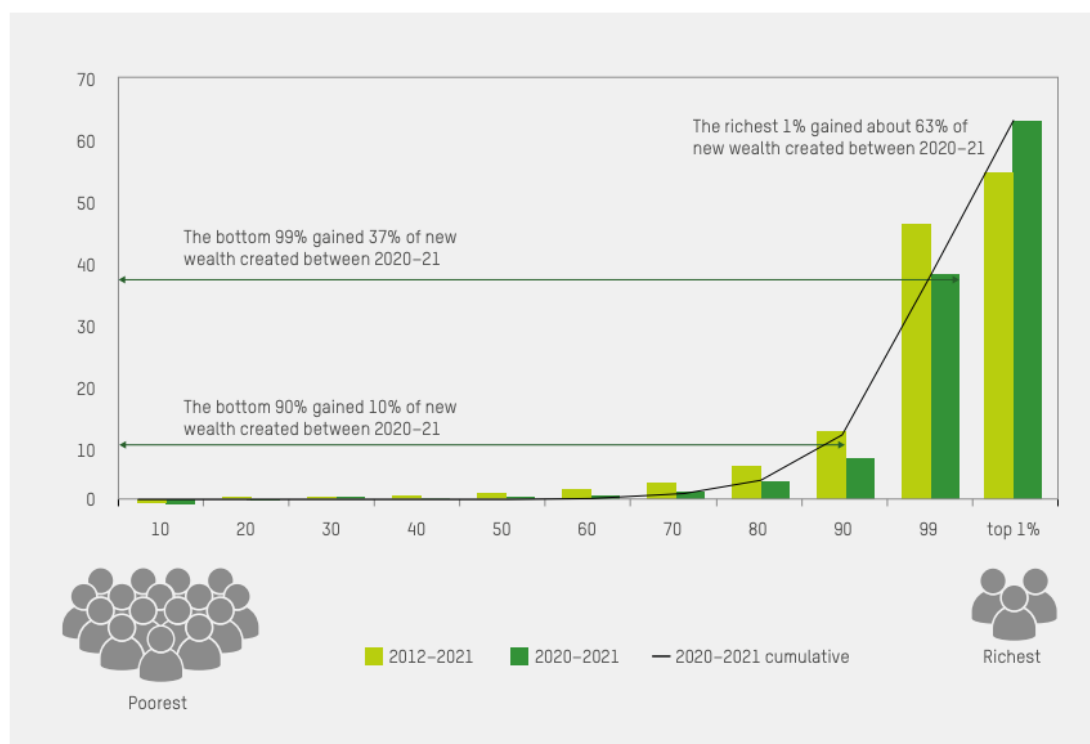
In our production the gender of the main character cannot be clearly identified. Robin Hood could be both male or female and definition is completely up to the individual in the audience.

Similarly, the character Maid Marian does not represent the typical stereotype of the princess who needs to be saved. She escapes the tower all by herself and later on joins the group of Merry Men as an equal even though she is clearly female.

### Relevance of the "Robin Hood" today

One could argue that, since we live in a democratic welfare state like Germany, a Robin Hood figure is not needed anymore at least in the EU. However, the world we live in is far from fair and there is much room for improvement even in the society we live in. In the following, a summarized Oxfam survey (The survival of the Richest 2023) portrays, why the topic of social injustice is still relevant today and why the redistribution of wealth is so important.

**FIGURE 1 SHARE OF NEW WEALTH GAINED (% OF TOTAL NEW WEALTH)**





Oxfam has called for immediate action to tackle a post-Covid widening in global inequality after revealing that **almost two-thirds of the new wealth** amassed since the start of the pandemic **has gone to the richest 1%**.

In report to coincide with the annual gathering of the global elite at the World Economic Forum in Davos, the charity said **the best-off had pocketed \$26tn (£21tn)** in new wealth up to the end of 2021. That represented **63% of the total new wealth, with the rest going to the remaining 99% of people**. Oxfam said for the first time in a quarter of a century the rise in extreme wealth was being accompanied by **an increase in extreme poverty, and called for new taxes to be levied on the super-rich**. [...]

The report said that for every **\$1 of new global wealth earned by a person in the bottom 90% in the past two years, each billionaire gained roughly \$1.7m**. Despite small falls in 2022, the combined fortune of billionaires had increased by \$2.7bn a day. Pandemic gains came after a decade when both the number and wealth of billionaires had doubled.

Danny Sriskandarajah, the chief executive of Oxfam GB: "The current economic reality is an affront to basic human values. Extreme poverty is increasing for the first time in 25 years and **close to a billion people are going hungry** but for billionaires, every day is a bonanza.

"Multiple crises have pushed millions to the brink while our leaders fail to grasp the nettle – governments must stop acting for the vested interests of the few." "How can we accept a system where the poorest people in many countries pay much higher tax rates than the super-rich? Governments must introduce higher taxes on the super-rich now."

Oxfam said **extreme concentrations of wealth led to weaker growth, corrupted politics and the media, corroded democracy and led to political polarisation**. [...]

In support of its call for redistribution of wealth, Oxfam said:

- Food and energy companies had more than doubled their profits in 2022, paying out \$257bn to wealthy shareholders at a time when more than 800 million people were going hungry.
- Only 4 cents in every dollar of tax revenue came from wealth taxes, and half the world's billionaires lived in countries with no inheritance tax on money they give to their children.
- A tax of up to 5% on the world's multimillionaires and billionaires could raise \$1.7tn a year, enough to lift 2 billion people out of poverty, and fund a global plan to end hunger.
- In a foreword to the report, Colombia's finance minister, José Antonio Ocampo, said: "Taxing the wealthiest is no longer an option – it's a must. Global inequality has exploded, and **there is no better way to tackle inequality than by redistributing wealth**." [...]<sup>3</sup>

For **Germany** in particular the WSI survey found out in 2022 that poverty in Germany is as high as never before. The **rate of very poor people with less than 50 per cent of the median income at their disposal had increased by a good 40 per cent** between 2010 and 2019.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/inequality/2023/jan/16/oxfam-calls-for-new-taxes-on-super-rich-pocket-dollar-26tn-start-of-pandemic-davos>

[https://www.oxfam.de/system/files/documents/davos\\_2023\\_full\\_report\\_english\\_embargoed.pdf](https://www.oxfam.de/system/files/documents/davos_2023_full_report_english_embargoed.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.zdf.de/nachrichten/wirtschaft/mehr-armut-deutschland-wsi-studie-corona-inflation-energiekrise-100.html>

## Vermögen ungleich verteilt

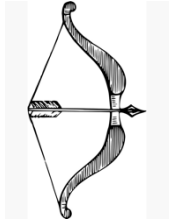
Von den Nettovermögen  
in Deutschland entfallen auf...



Quelle: Becker, Hauser 2009 | © Hans-Böckler-Stiftung 2009

Robin Hood's goal of creating a better and more fair society still is as badly needed today as it was back then, however, it is also just as illegal if realized by a single person by theft. Thankfully, we live in a society that has legal options to solve the issue of social injustice – at least in theory. Since our governments do have the power to take better care of all their citizens with a relatively small adjustment in tax laws, modern Robin Hoods can make the world a better place in using their voting rights accordingly for example or getting active themselves in groups fighting for social justice. In order to fight the symptoms – though not the source –, supporting your local *Tafel* is also always a way to help.

## Important vocabulary for "Robin Hood"



→ bow and arrow

archery contest ←



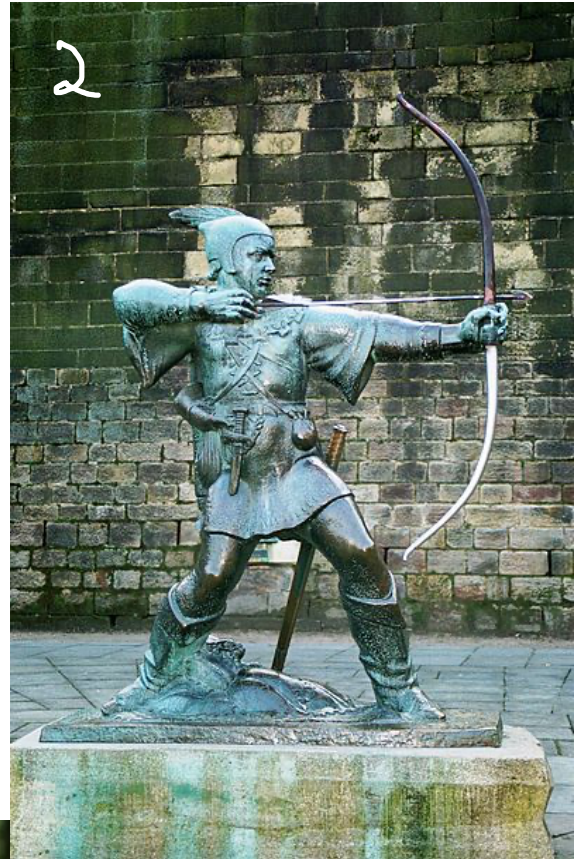
outlaw	→	gesetzlos/kriminell
poor	→	without money
rich	→	with a lot of money
tax/ taxes	→	Steuern/Abgaben des eigenen Gehalts an den Staat bzw den Landsherren
to steal	→	to take something that is not yours without being allowed to / stehlen
to rob someone	→	jemanden ausrauben
an honour to bestow	→	eine Ehre erweisen
merry	→	fröhlich
to marry	→	heiraten
to be enemies	→	verfeindet sein
a tower	→	ein Turm
The Sherwood Oath	→	der Shwerwood Eid/ Schwur

## Lesson Material for *Robin Hood*

### Pre-Watching Material

#### Re-activating knowledge

Choose one picture. Describe what you can see.



On picture one / two / three I can see....

In the foreground I can see...

In the background I can see...

All pictures show...

Only picture number.... shows....

*Name the character portrayed in all of these pictures.*

*Collect first in pairs then in class: What do you know about the character?<sup>5</sup>*

<sup>5</sup> Je nach sprachlichen Vorkenntnissen kann diese Phase auch auf deutsch durchgeführt werden. Bei der Sammlung kann eine Mind Map erstellt werden, wobei die Lehrkraft die entscheidenden Vokabeln auf deutsch und englisch festhält und so eine Vokabelvorentlastung für das Stück schafft.



Alternative lesson start for younger students



You can see pictures of Robin Hood and Prince John from the Disney movie "Robin Hood".  
Flashlight: Which Robin Hood character are you today? Choose a picture and say why.<sup>6</sup>



Example: I am picture three today, because I overslept this morning.

<sup>6</sup> Schüler\*innen kommen in der Zielsprache an und berichten kurz, wie es ihnen geht. Die Lehrkraft erhält so einen Eindruck zur Stimmung in der Klasse.



## Robin Hood – access to the topic and introduction of important vocabulary

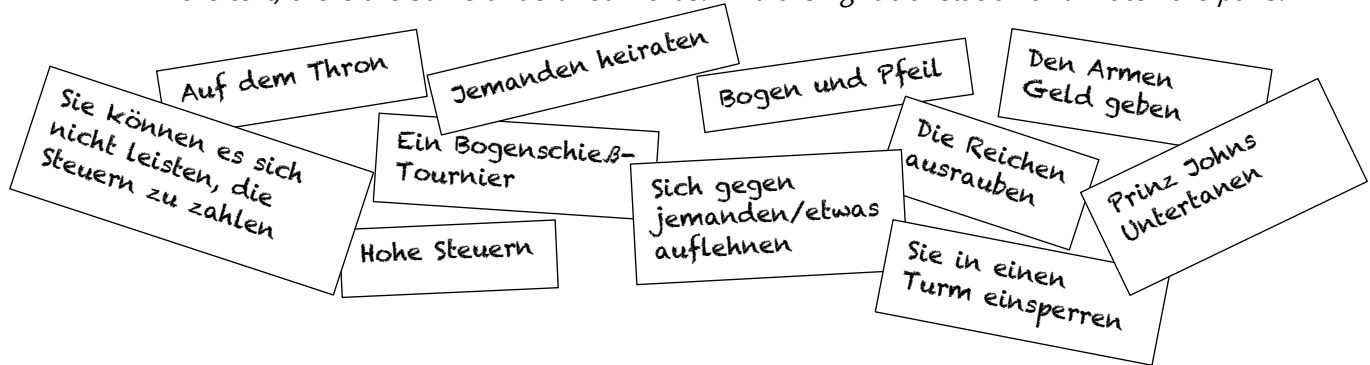
*Read the text below. Collect in class what you understood.*

Robin of Locksley, also known as Robin Hood, lives in Sherwood Forest near the town of Nottingham, where Prince John is on the throne. Prince John and his followers are hard on their subjects, asking for high taxes and hanging those that cannot afford to pay.

Robin is very good in using bow and arrow and rebels against Prince John's methods together with the Merry Men. They rob the rich and give the money to the poor. To stop them, Prince John plans an archery tournament because he wants to catch Robin.

At the same time, Prince John tries to win Maid Marian's love, who is not interested in the Prince. She would like to join Robin Hood and the Merry Men but her father, the Sheriff of Nottingham, pushes her to marry Prince John and locks her in a tower.

*In the text, there are some underlined words. Find the right translation and match the pairs.*



On the throne	_____
Price John's subjects	_____
High taxes	_____
They cannot afford to pay taxes	_____
Bow and arrow	_____
To rebel against something/ someone	_____
To rob the rich	_____
To give to the poor	_____
An archery tournament	_____
To marry someone	_____
To lock her in a tower	_____

*Get together in pairs and tell the story to each other without looking in the text but using the vocabulary. You can take turns telling the different parts of the story.*

## Working with the script

*Read the script below in class. Stop with every line and talk about what the scene you have just read was about.*

*Practice the pronunciation of words that are new to you together.*

**TIME:**

Middle Ages<sup>7</sup>

**PLACE:**

Nottingham, shire in England, and the surrounding Sherwood Forest.

### SCENE 1 "Marian the Hood"

MAID MARIAN: Once there was a tiny hamlet<sup>8</sup> of great charm and beauty called Nottingham... where all was peaceful and serene...

GUARD: *(Entering, swinging bell.)* Four o'clock and all's well!

MAID: Time went by at a sleepy pace...

*(GUARD yawns and stretches.)*

The people were gentle and content<sup>9</sup>.

GUARD: Ah, me... *(Sits on bench and begins to sleep.)* One little sheep and two little sheep and three little... (snoars, while Maid Marian picks his pocket of coin)

*(MUSIC CUE: A crack of thunder! Ominous sounds, as hooded BEGGAR enters.)*

MAID: Little did they know that trouble was brewing<sup>10</sup>. Good King Richard had gone off to war leaving his kingdom to Prince John. Terrible times were at hand...

BEGGAR: Alms! Alms for the poor!

MAID: Anon, good pilgrim. Here is a farthing<sup>11</sup> for your woes<sup>12</sup>.

*(She drops the coin she just filched<sup>13</sup> from the guard in his hand.)*

BEGGAR: I thank you most humbly, kind lady. Blessed are those, who give to the poor.

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<sup>7</sup> Middle Ages: Mittelalter

<sup>8</sup> hamlet: Very small village / Dörfchen

<sup>9</sup> Gentle and content: Nice and happy

<sup>10</sup> Trouble was brewing: Ärger war im Anflug

<sup>11</sup> Farthing: Kind of money

<sup>12</sup> Woes: (financial) problems/difficulties

<sup>13</sup> To filch: stehlen/mopsen

MAID: But hurry on, sir. The Prince doesn't like beggars about his castle. If the guard sees you...

BEGGAR: His castle? Why Prince John has stolen that castle from his brother King Richard, the rightful King of Nottingham!

MAID: Sir, he will hear you...

BEGGAR: I'll not be silent in the face of such injustice!<sup>14</sup> Look around you my lady, Nottingham is coming undone! The people cannot pay Prince John's cruel tax.<sup>15</sup> They are starving<sup>16</sup>, they have no hope.

GUARD: *(Stirring.)* Huh? Eh?

*(ROBIN and MARIAN hide. GUARD looks around, sees nothing. Sniffs and settles back down on the bench. BEGGAR and MARIAN come out.)*

BEGGAR: Look at the rags I wear, while Prince John's men wear buttons of gold.

*(BEGGAR draws a knife and flips a button off the sleeping guard's coat. GUARD stirs and snorts but settles back down to his nap.)*

BEGGAR: This trinket will feed a hungry family for a week! The guard will hardly miss it.

MAID: So, you steal<sup>17</sup> from the rich and give to the poor? Who on earth would do such a good thing? It's laughable.

BEGGAR: Laugh if you will my lady. But there is one whose purpose is true and straight as an arrow<sup>18</sup>.

*(BEGGAR whips out a bow and arrow from beneath his cloak.)*

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<sup>14</sup> In the face of such injustice: Im Angesicht solchen Unrechts

<sup>15</sup> Tax: Steuer

<sup>16</sup> To starve: Dying of hunger

<sup>17</sup> To steal: taking something that is not yours without permission

<sup>18</sup> Bow and arrow: Pfeil und Bogen

MAID: So do you mean to steal from me as well?

BEGGAR: *(Tenderly.)* Only your heart, Maid Marian. Only your heart.

*(BEGGAR is about to kiss her hand, and almost reveal himself when GUARD wakes and sees the two.)*

GUARD: Hey what's going on here? No one is allowed to beg around here. Off with you, now, move it along!

BEGGAR: Alms! Alms for the poor!

GUARD: I'll give you alms for the poor. Out! Scram! Beat it!

MAID: *(To BEGGAR.)* But wait! How did you know my name?

BEGGAR: *(Exiting.)* Alms! Alms for the poor.

*(BEGGAR exits up the aisle, begging to individual audience members.)*

*After reading: Some of the text is in italics (kursiv). What do these parts of the text do?*

*Get into groups of threes and act out the scene. Practice for a presentation.*

### Drawing the *Robin Hood* set design

*Other than in the movies, in theatre we cannot change the scenery completely. We only have one stage, so all places mentioned in the play need to be represented on stage at the same time and still need to be separate enough to clearly represent separate places. The English Theatre Frankfurt's Robin Hood is set in a **forest**, **near a tower** and at an **archery tournament**.*

*Draw a set design that includes all these elements for our stage.*








## While-Watching Material

### Robin Hood – Quiz

1. What is „Robin Hood“ about?
  - a) Kings, Peace, Travelling
  - b) Thieves, The Middle Ages, Circus
  - c) Love, Friendship, Courage
  - d) Nature, Love, Literature
  
2. Where did Robin and Marian leave their initials?
  - a) On a tree
  - b) On the tower
  - c) On the bridge
  - d) On an arrow
  
3. Why do the people not accept Prince John?
  - a) He does not appear in public
  - b) He killed King Richard
  - c) He is too young to be in charge
  - d) He demands enormous taxes
  
4. What is the English word for „Ehre“?
  - a) Hope
  - b) Honor
  - c) Honey
  - d) Host
  
5. Who demands „Alms“?
  - a) The Prince
  - b) The Sheriff
  - c) Little John
  - d) The beggar
  
6. Little John is...
  - a) clumsy
  - b) shy
  - c) a great cook
  - d) big
  
7. What is the Sherwood Oath?
  - a) Robin Hood's promise to help the poor
  - b) The name of the castle
  - c) The soup which the Merry Men eat
  - d) The name of the archery contest
  
8. What is a Friar?
  - a) A comedian
  - b) A butler
  - c) A member of the Catholic church
  - d) An outlaw

9. What does Robin do at the archery contest?
- He sits in the audience
  - He hits the bulls eye three times
  - He tries to kidnap the Prince
  - He does not win
10. What is the English word for „Hofnarr“?
- Jester
  - Mocker
  - Friar
  - Archer
11. How does Maid Marian escape from the tower?
- Robin saves her
  - She uses bed sheets to climb down the wall
  - She frees herself with a hairpin
  - She overpowers the guards with bow and arrow
12. What is the English word for „Gerechtigkeit“?
- Contest
  - Justice
  - Promise
  - Victory
13. My hand upon my heart, I'll forever cherish good, in sunshine or in dark...
- ... do it as you should!
  - ... we are misunderstood!
  - ... I only have one foot!
  - ... I pledge to Robin Hood!

10-13 correct answers	5-9 correct answers	0-4 correct answers
 Congratulations! You understood a lot!	 Quite good already! Talk to your classmates again about the show, you might tap into new levels of understanding!	 Don't give up! Talk to your classmates about the parts of the show that are still a bit fuzzy to you.

### Characterizations

*When watching Robin Hood, we met many different characters. Each and everyone of them had a very special relationship with Robin and their very own characteristics.*

*a) Match the adjectives below to the characters. (Some adjectives can be used more than once.)*

Robin Hood	
Maid Marian	
Friar Tuck	
Little John	
Prince John	
Sheriff of Nottingham	

Egoistic, reckless, responsible, courageous, violent, selfish,  
unselfish, afraid, greedy, childish, mature, reliable,  
dutiful, confident, caring, strict, negligent, imaginative, silly,  
changeable, deceitful, independent, ...

*b) Get together in groups of three and compare your results. Think of additional adjectives.*

## Post Watching Material

*Following the archery tournament, Prince John sits at home not yet knowing that King Richard has returned but deeply frustrated with the events and furious that Robin Hood not only got away but also again stole some of his most treasured crown jewels as well as Maid Marian.*

*Write a diary entry from his point of view about the events.*

*Alternatively:*

*Following the tournament and the admittance of Maid Marian to the Merry Men, Little John writes a letter home to his parents. He tells them all about the friends he has made and the evil Prince they have fooled. Use your results from the Characteristics task.*

## Correct Answers *Robin Hood Quiz*

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  - **Love, Friendship, Courage**
  - Nature, Love, Literature
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  - **big**
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