

Robin Hood

Chapter 4-6



Chapter 4

The King's Deer

After the fight in the abbey, the Sheriff of Nottingham asked Prince John for Robin Fitzooth's lands. The prince sold them to him for a lot of money in gold. The greedy sheriff, of course, wanted to get the money back again as fast as possible. So his poor villagers had to pay the sheriff more money than before. The villagers on Robin's land also had to pay. Their new lord, the sheriff, was a very hard man.

One of these villages was Farnsfield. It was very close to Sherwood, and the villagers often went into the forest. There they caught small animals and birds for their dinner. On their first visit to Farnsfield, the sheriff and his men took money and food. They also found an old man in the forest, with a dead deer on his back.

That evening, the sheriff called all the villagers. Then his men brought out the old man and the dead deer.

‘Listen well!’ said the sheriff loudly. ‘You know that the deer in the forest are the king's deer. The king and his lords can catch and kill them — you cannot. This evening, I will help you to remember that!’

The sheriff looked at the villagers and smiled. Nobody spoke. Then he turned to the old man.

‘What is your name, old man?’ asked the sheriff, coldly.

‘I ... I ... I am Much the forester, My Lord,’ answered the man, very afraid.

‘Well, Much the forester,’ said the sheriff. ‘You killed a king's deer. How much are you going to pay me for it?’

‘My Lord, you know that I cannot give you anything!’ said poor Much. ‘You ... you took our money ... and our food. I found the deer, but it was dead. I didn't kill it!’

‘I am not interested in your stories, old man,’ said the sheriff. ‘You cannot pay me any money? Very well, then you will have to pay with your life!’

He turned to one of his men. ‘Kill this robber,’ he said, ‘and pull down his home! This will be a lesson for the villagers of Farnsfield!’

The sheriff's man took out his sword, and pulled back Much's head. The villagers could not help the old forester because they were afraid. But Much called out, 'No! Kill me, but please do not pull down my house! It is my son's home, too, and he did not hurt you. He did not take the deer. Wait, please ...!' Much turned his eyes to the forest. 'Oh, Robin Hood,' he thought, 'where are you now? Only you can help me.'

'So you have a son?' said the sheriff's man. 'Well, he can stay in your house when we pull it down!'

He laughed loudly, but the sheriff looked more carefully at the forester.

'Wait!' he called. 'I think this man knows something! Old man, why are you looking into the forest? Do you think that Robin Hood will help you? Do you know something about him? Tell me, and perhaps I will not kill you!'

'I can take you to Robin Hood!' said Much quickly. 'I can take you to his home in the forest. It is this way! Follow me!'

The sheriff's man took his hands away, and Much began to move slowly to the forest. Then he suddenly ran as fast as he could.

'Catch him!' shouted the sheriff.

Much was nearly inside the forest now, but the sheriff's fighters quickly took out their bows. Three arrows hit him, and Much fell to the ground. His open eyes looked up at the sky.

'I said "catch him", not "kill him",' said the sheriff angrily. 'Now the man is dead, he cannot tell us anything.' He looked at the villagers again. 'Perhaps one of you can tell me the way through the forest to the robber's home? I will pay you well!'

But nobody told the sheriff about Robin Hood. The sheriff was now very angry.

'There is nothing more for us here,' he said to his men. 'Pull down the forester's house, and we will go.'

He turned one last time to the villagers. 'The next man with a deer will die too - but not as quickly. Remember that!'

Later in the evening, the villagers carried Much into the centre of the village. The forester's young son stood outside his father's house. There was nothing there now.

‘We are very sorry,’ the villagers said to the boy. ‘We could not do anything. Do not be too sad — your father died bravely!’

Then a small man with a bow and arrows on his back walked quietly into the village.

‘It is Will Scarlet, Robin Hood's man!’ said the villagers.

Will Scarlet put down his bow, and put his hand on the boy's head.

‘Robin knows that the sheriff was here,’ he said. ‘He sent me to help, but I am too late! Who was this man? Was he your father?’

‘Yes, he was my father,’ answered the young boy sadly. ‘Now I have no family - and no home!’ He turned to Will Scarlet. ‘Oh, please,’ he cried, ‘take me with you! My father taught me a lot about the forest. You can teach me to be a fighter too! I want to be Robin Hood's man. I want to fight the sheriff - and Prince John too.’

‘You are very young,’ said Will. ‘When you are older, perhaps...’

‘I am not young, I am fourteen,’ said the boy. ‘I am small, but I am strong. I learn quickly. I have nothing here. Please take me with you.’

And so Will Scarlet took young Much to Robin Hood.

That year, many young men came to the forest. They all had stories about the sheriff and his men. Robin and Will Scarlet taught them to use a sword and a bow and arrow. But Much, the forester's son, was always one of the best and bravest of Robin's men.

Activities for chapter 4

Easy activities:

Understanding the words

Try to **translate** the following words. Some of the words, you will probably need to look up online:

- 1) **Forester**
- 2) **Deer**
- 3) **Evening**
- 4) **Dinner**
- 5) **Bravery**

Insert the correct word

- 1) The Sheriff is a very _____ (*sweet / hard / calm*) man.
- 2) Farnsfield is very _____ (*close to / far from / good to*) Sherwood.
- 3) The Sheriff tells his men to _____ (*kick / spit on / kill*) the forester.
- 4) Will Scarlet says that the forester's son is very _____ (*ugly / young / old*).
- 5) The forester's son becomes one of the _____ (*best / worst / funniest*) men.

Medium activities

Questions for the story

- 1) What is the name of the old man, who the sheriff finds with a dead deer?
- 2) What does the sheriff want the old forester to pay with, if the old man doesn't have money?
- 3) What happens to the old forester, when he tries to run to the forest?
- 4) What does the Sheriff and his men do to the forester's house?
- 5) How old is the forester's son?

Find examples

Find examples of the following in the story

1) Find at least five **nouns**

2) Find at least **five verbs**

Difficult activity

Who was Much the forester?

We get to know very little about Much, before he is killed in this chapter. We know that he is **old**, that he is a **forester**, he has **no money** and he has a **son**.

With this little information, try to describe how you think Much's life has been, until the Sheriff came and took all the money.

Chapter 5

Robin Hood Meets Little John

In the first weeks and months after the fight in the abbey, Robin and his men worked very hard. They cut down young trees and built homes in the centre of the forest. They made arrows from wood and caught forest deer for their food. They bought bread and milk from the villagers.

Sometimes Robin liked to leave his men, and look for adventure. One fine autumn morning, he and his friend Will Scarlet woke early.

‘It is a beautiful day,’ said Robin. ‘I think I will go for a walk to the river. Will you come with me?’

‘I want to make some new arrows for my bow,’ answered Will. ‘But I will meet you at lunch time near the bridge.’

So Robin left Will and walked quickly through the forest to the river and the little bridge. Robin stood in the middle of the bridge, and looked up at the trees.

The autumn colours are beautiful,’ he thought. Then he looked down at the water. ‘I will Catch a fish for our lunch,’ he thought. ‘Will and I can make a fire. I have some bread, and there is fruit on the trees. We will eat very well. Ah, this is a wonderful life!’

Suddenly somebody behind him said, ‘Well, little man! Are you going to stand there all day? Get out of my way!’

Robin turned. The speaker was a big man, nearly two metres tall. ‘Now this will be an interesting adventure,’ he thought. ‘That man is very strong. Can I fight him - and win ?’ He did not move from the bridge.

‘I arrived here first,’ he called to the big man, ‘so you will have to wait. I think I am going to do some fishing. Then, perhaps, I will get out of your way’

The big man moved onto the bridge.

‘I will not wait!’ he said. ‘And you are not going to fish, you are going to fight!’

They fought there, in the middle of the bridge. Robin couldn't win. He knew that after a minute or two. The man wasn't very fast but he was very strong. So Robin quickly thought of a plan.

He looked over the top of the big man's head, and shouted, 'Look, the sheriff's men!'

The big man turned and looked. Robin quickly kicked the man's legs as hard as he could. The big man was very angry — but he didn't fall. He kicked Robin, and Robin fell off the bridge into the water.

The big man laughed.

'I won the fight,' he said. 'Come, I will help you.'

He looked over the bridge into the water. But Robin was not there.

'Where are you?' called the man. 'Are you all right?'

Robin suddenly came up from the water. He was a long way from the bridge.

'Perhaps you won the fight,' laughed Robin, 'but you did not catch me!'

He began to climb onto dry ground. Then Will Scarlet arrived.

'What happened, Robin?' he called. 'Did this man throw you in the water? He will have to fight me now!'

'No! No!' laughed Robin. 'Let's be friends. So what is your name, friend? And what are you doing in my forest?'

'Your forest?' answered the big man. 'It is not your forest! I came here to find brave Robin Hood. But first, I think, I will throw you in the river again!'

'Friend,' said Robin, 'you found Robin Hood, and threw him in the water. Please, don't do it again!'

'What! Are you really Robin Hood?' asked the man. 'I am very happy about that. My name is John Little and I want to be one of your men.'

Robin laughed. ' "*Little*" is a good name for you, because you are very small - only the size of a small tree! We will always call you our "little" John. Come to our forest home, Little John!'

Activities for chapter 5

Easy activities:

Translate the words

Translate the following words. Use a dictionary if necessary:

- 1) **Autumn**
- 2) **River**
- 3) **Bridge**
- 4) **Arrived**
- 5) **Friend**
- 6) **Somebody**

Change from past to present tense

Past	Present
<i>He worked</i>	<i>He works</i>
<i>I answered</i>	<i>I</i>
<i>They turned</i>	<i>They</i>
<i>We looked</i>	<i>We</i>
<i>She laughed</i>	<i>She</i>
<i>I asked</i>	<i>I</i>

Medium activities

Questions for the story

- 1) Where to does Robin ask Will, if he want to join him for a walk?
- 2) What does Robin want to catch that he can eat for lunch?
- 3) What does the big man say, when he moves out on the bridge?

4) What does Robin shout to distract Little John, when he realize he can't win the fight?

5) What does Little John say he wanted to find in the forest?

Write a sentence with a specific word

Write **a sentence** with the following words. Use a dictionary, if you don't know the words:

1) **Beautiful:**_____

2) **Bow:**_____

3) **Fire:**_____

4) **Laughing:**_____

5) **Friend:** _____

Difficult activity

Friendship

Robin tells Little John that they should be friends. **Write at least three sentences** about what makes a good friend:

Chapter 6

Lady Marian and the Sheriff of Nottingham

Every year in summer, Marian's father had a great party. Lords and ladies and the people from the villages came. They ate and drank. This year, the Sheriff of Nottingham came too, with fifty of his men. He watched Marian carefully.

‘She is very beautiful,’ he thought, ‘and Robin Hood loves her. I know he will come today. Then my men can catch him.’

The music started and people began to dance. A man went to Marian and spoke to her. She smiled and gave him her hand.

The sheriff stood up and called loudly to his men, ‘That's him! That's Robin Hood! Take him!’

The sheriff's men took out their swords and moved through the dancers. Suddenly ten of the dancers ran for their swords too. They were, of course, Robin's men, and a great fight began. Robin's men were better fighters than the sheriff's. Marian wanted to fight too, but her father stopped her.

‘Marian, what are you doing? Put down that sword! I am sorry about Robin — no other man will marry you. You are only interested in fighting!’

The sheriff heard Marian's father and smiled.

‘Lady Marian is really very lovely,’ he thought. ‘Her father wants to find another husband for her? Good. I will marry her, then she will help me find Robin Hood.’

The next day, the sheriff arrived at Lord Fitzwalter's house with twenty horsemen. Lord Fitzwalter watched them through a window. He was not happy.

‘He wants to talk about yesterday's fight,’ he said to his daughter, ‘and you nearly fought too! Please go to your room. I will speak to him.’

‘I do not want to speak to the sheriff, father,’ said Marian, ‘but I will listen behind the door!’

Marian left the room, and a minute later, the sheriff walked in.

‘My Lord Sheriff,’ began Lord Fitzwalter, ‘I am sorry about the fight yesterday, but your men...’

‘No, no, I do not want to talk about that,’ said the sheriff. He put his hand on Lord Fitzwalter's arm and smiled. ‘I want to speak to you about your daughter, the Lady Marian.’

‘Ah, Marian,’ said Lord Fitzwalter unhappily. ‘Marian is a good girl but she does not always listen to me. Perhaps one day a husband will...’

‘Ah yes!’ said the sheriff and smiled. ‘Well, I am looking for a wife, and I would like to marry your daughter. I like a strong woman - and Marian is also very beautiful. I will be a good husband. I have lands, money - and important friends.’

‘My Lord, what can I say?’ said Marian's father. He was now very unhappy. Marian wanted to marry Robin and no other man - he knew that. ‘You are very kind. I will talk to Marian but...’

‘I will come back tomorrow,’ said the sheriff. ‘Remember -Prince John is my very good friend. He can be your friend too. Think carefully!’

That evening, Marian and her father talked for a long time about Robin, the sheriff and Prince John.

‘Marian, why don't you marry the sheriff?’ said her father. ‘He is rich and important, and he is a friend of Prince John. I am afraid of the prince. Please marry the sheriff, and forget Robin Fitzooth.’

Marian took her father's hand. ‘Father, I am sorry to bring you so many problems. I will not marry the sheriff, but he will be angry with me, not you. Listen. Tomorrow I will leave the house very early and stay with my uncle. The sheriff will come late in the morning. Tell your men to look for me. Look in every room. Be very angry. Then the sheriff will think that you know nothing!’

‘You are right, Marian,’ said her father. ‘You will have to marry the sheriff or leave here. Go then to my brother's house. But who will go with you?’

‘Good Friar Tuck is staying here tonight,’ answered Marian. ‘He will help me.’

‘That fat churchman ?’ said her father. ‘He is a strange friar. He fights too well for a churchman. People say that the Abbot of St Mary's hates him. The friar had to leave the abbey.’

Friar Tuck does not like the abbot because the abbot takes a lot of money from the villagers,’ answered Marian. ‘Friar Tuck says that the church has to help poor people.’

‘Mm,’ said her father.! ‘The abbot does live very well. He is a greedy man. Friar Tuck is greedy too - he eats more than ten men! But he is a brave man and very strong. Yes, take Friar Tuck with you.’

Activities for chapter 6

Easy activities:

Translate the words

Translate the following words. Use a dictionary if necessary:

- 1) **Beautiful**
- 2) **Suddenly**
- 3) **Husband**
- 4) **Wife**
- 5) **Room**
- 6) **Tomorrow**
- 7) **Friar**

Insert the correct word

- 1) Marian's father has a great _____ (*party / sword / dinner*).
- 2) Robin's men hides with the _____ (*peasants / dancers / knights*).
- 3) Marian's father says that Marian is only interested in _____ (*riding / fighting/ flowers*).
- 4) The Sheriff says that Prince John is his _____ (*enemy / brother / friend*).
- 5) Friar Tuck says the church has to help the _____ (*monks / nobles / poor*).

Medium activities

Questions for the story

- 1) How does the Sheriff knows Robin is at the dance?
- 2) What does Marian's father do, when she wants to join the fight?
- 3) Why does the Sheriff visit Lord Fitzwalter's house the next day?
- 4) Who does Marian want to with stay to avoid the Sheriff?

Understanding the words

Write a sentence with the following words. Use a dictionary, if you don't know the word

- 1) **Suddenly:** _____
- 2) **Listen:** _____
- 3) **Fight:** _____
- 4) **Yesterday:** _____
- 5) **Problem:** _____

Difficult activity

Summary

Give a short description of what happens in this chapter
