Name _____ Date _____

Robin Hood and the Golden Arrow

Myth or legend · 4th–5th grade

In the green depths of Sherwood Forest lived Robin Hood and his band of Merry Men. They took gold from greedy lords who cheated the poor and gave it back to the families who needed it. The Sheriff of Nottingham hated Robin, but no matter how hard he tried, he could never catch him.

One day, the sheriff had an idea. "Robin Hood is the best archer in England, and he is proud of it," he said. "I will hold an archery contest. The prize will be an arrow made of pure gold. Robin will not be able to stay away, and when he comes, my soldiers will be waiting."

News of the contest reached the forest. "It's a trap," warned Little John. "Every soldier in Nottingham will be there." Robin smiled. "Then they'll be looking for Robin Hood in green. They won't be looking for a ragged old beggar with a patch over one eye."

On the day of the contest, the town square was packed. Soldiers stood at every corner, watching every archer in green. Nobody noticed the stooped stranger in a torn brown cloak who limped to the line.

Round after round, the targets were moved farther away. One archer after another missed. At last, only two were left: the sheriff's best archer and the old beggar. The sheriff's man shot first, and his arrow landed in the very center of the target. The crowd cheered.

The beggar raised his bow, took a slow breath and let go. His arrow flew straight and split the other arrow in two, right down the middle. The square went silent, then exploded with cheers. The sheriff himself handed over the golden arrow, never guessing who stood in front of him.

That night, a note was found pinned to the sheriff's door with an ordinary arrow. It said: Thank you for the prize. Signed, Robin Hood. The sheriff's shout of anger could be heard all the way to Sherwood Forest, where the Merry Men were laughing around their fire.

Questions

1. Why did the sheriff hold the contest?

2. How did Robin keep from getting caught?

3. Why didn't the soldiers notice Robin?

4. Why was the sheriff so angry at the end?

5. Which word best describes Robin Hood in this story?

6. Robin took from the rich and gave to the poor. Do you think that was right? Why?

7. Why do you think Robin left a note instead of staying hidden?

The lesson in my own words

Answer Key

1. To trap Robin Hood.
2. He wore a disguise as an old beggar.
3. They were watching for archers in green.
4. He gave the prize to the man he was trying to catch.
5. Clever.
6. Answers will vary.
7. Answers will vary.

Lesson: Cleverness and courage can stand up to unfair power.