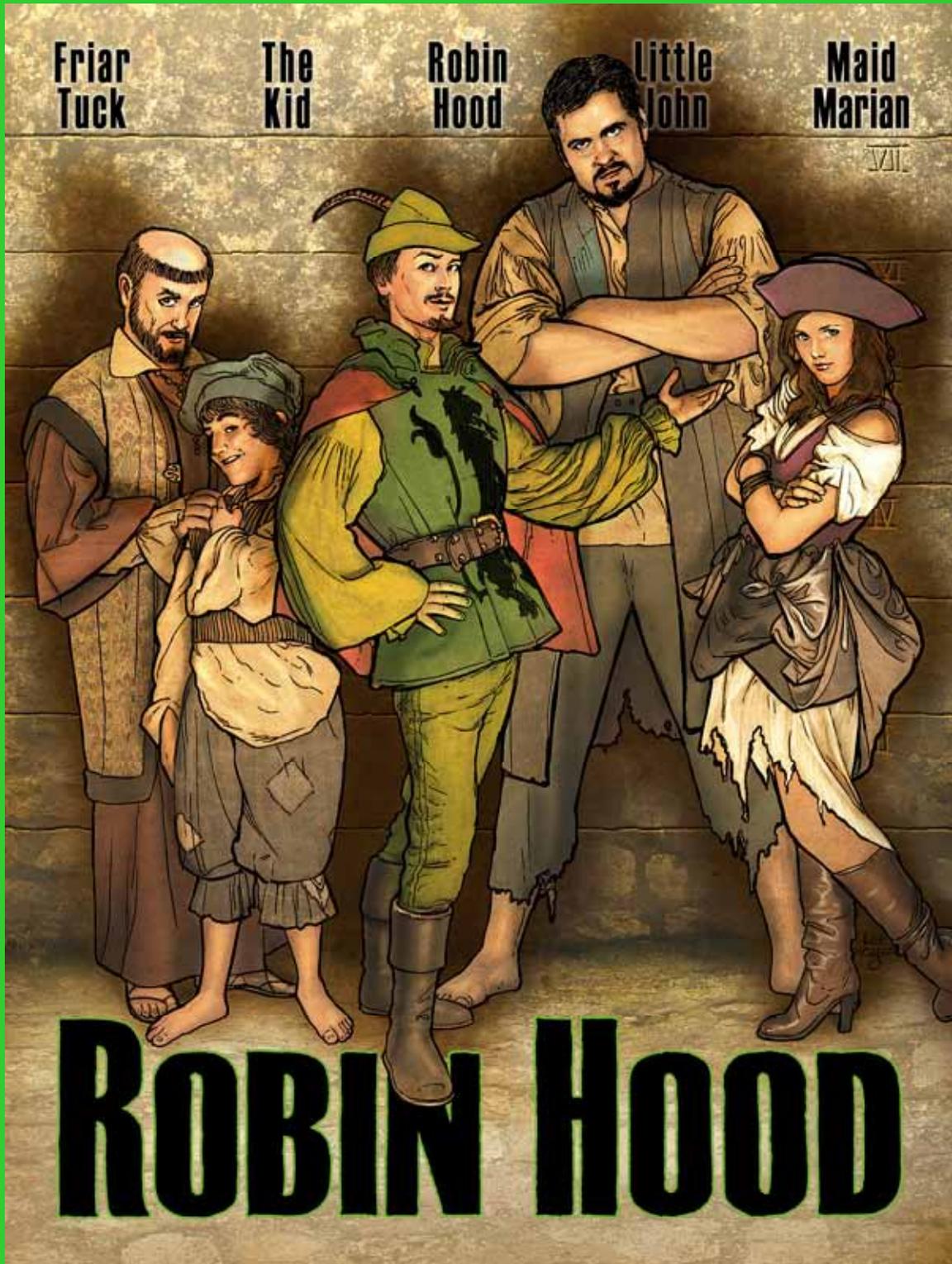


EDUCATIONAL GUIDE



A NOTE FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT ABOUT THE CONTENT



To Our Parents and Educators: Our brand-new adaptation of Robin Hood was commissioned to be written by one James Moore (lower case intentional), a Portland theater personality and talented artist. Though he recently moved to Vermont, James worked at NWCT for many years as a teacher, actor, director and writer. He is an award-winning playwright and producer, and we are delighted to feature his quirky, unique voice on our stage. Below is a show synopsis written by James himself!

WARNING: for a version of a well-known story, there are spoilers a-plenty in this synopsis! Here we go...

The Narrator opens our story in Jolly Olde England, in Nottingham, near the beginning of the 13th Century. King Richard is off in the Crusades, and his brother, Prince John, is in charge. With the help of the Sheriff of Nottingham and Sir Guy, Prince John has raised taxes on the people of England. Betty and Claude cannot pay the high taxes, and are thrown into the dungeon.

Their child (let's call that child "the kid") escapes to Sherwood Forest to hide. There, the kid pretends to be Robin Hood. Unwittingly, this child attempts to steal from Little John and Will Scarlet, who invite the kid to meet the real Robin Hood. Robin invites the kid into his Merry Band and they vow to rescue the kid's parents.

Robin and the Merry Band "gather donations" from a wagon carrying tax collections for Prince John. The Prince is outraged, and he and the Sheriff of Nottingham devise an archery contest (with Maid Marian giving the award to the winner) to lure Robin Hood to Nottingham. Robin Hood goes to the contest in disguise, but is discovered. During their daring escape, the Sheriff of Nottingham recognizes the kid and has the kid's parents moved to a more secure part of the dungeon.

Robin and the kid visit Marian (who is staying in the castle) to find out where the parents are held. They hear news that King Richard will return to England very soon. However, Prince John is on his way, having heard that Robin is in Marian's chambers. Robin and the kid escape. Prince John and the Sheriff settle on a dastardly plan to catch Robin Hood.

King Richard returns to England, but is quickly kidnapped by a mysterious person. A king's ransom is asked for his return. Friar Tuck believes they can pay the ransom. However, when they look for the money, they find that Sir Guy has stolen all of it.

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A NOTE FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT CONTINUED

Marian, having heard about the stolen money, races to Robin and delivers him blueprints to the castle that reveal where the money and the kid's parents are held. The Merry Band devise a plan.

Robin Hood, disguised as the Sheriff of Nottingham, enters the castle. Much the Miller pretends that he is the mother to the kid, who is acting crazy, to ask Prince John to get rid of the kid. In the midst of this, Friar Tuck comes along, and asks that they pray for guidance. While the guards' eyes are closed, the kid sneaks into the castle.

Will Scarlet, in disguise as Mead Flagon (bounty hunter), arrives at the castle to "deliver" Little John to the Sheriff of Nottingham. While the Sheriff is distracted with them, the kid, likewise in disguise, comes through and steals the keys to the dungeon from the Sheriff. The Sheriff takes Little John away and Will gives the guards some 'delicious treats.' The guards eat the treats and fall asleep.

Robin Hood, still in disguise, gets the keys from the kid, and dismisses the guards from the dungeon. While he moves towards the cells, someone dressed as the Sheriff of Nottingham approaches. Robin duels with this person, both of whom think the other is the Sheriff. When Robin is nearly defeated, the other person realizes that it's Robin, and reveals that she is actually Marian in disguise. The actual Sheriff of Nottingham comes into the dungeons and, with the help of Sir Guy, duel with Marian and Robin. Marian defeats Sir Guy and while Robin and the Sheriff fight, Marian sees that one of the cells holds...KING RICHARD! Robin subdues the Sheriff.

King Richard reveals that it was his brother's plot to kidnap him, keep the money from any attempt at a ransom payment, kill the King and take over the kingdom. Prince John and the Sheriff are banished, and the kid's parents are freed. The parents reveal that the kid (whose name, Frances (a girl's name), Robin heard as "Francis" (a boy's name)) is a girl. Frances asks to stay with Robin and his Merry Band. The parents agree, and Robin names her The Kid. The Narrator reveals that she is The Kid and we've been watching the story of how she joined the Merry Band. There are three cheers for The Kid, and the Merry Band live another day to keep righting wrongs!

Also, many jokes happen throughout. Hope you like it!

-james moore

ROBIN HOOD ACROSS THE AGES: A TIMELINE OF TALES, BOOKS, FILMS, AND PLAYS

Find a graph version of this timeline at:

<http://www.timetoast.com/timelines/32528>

- 1247** Robin Hood's earliest origin of Evidence
- 1261** One of the earliest works of Robin Hood
- 1420** Andrew of Wyntoun's *Orygynale Chronicle* is written
- 1492** One of the oldest surviving tales of Robin Hood, "A Gest of Robyn Hode" (ballad) was printed
- 1500** "Rhymes of Robin Hood" is mentioned in the late 14th-century poem "Piers Plowman"
- 1883** *The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood* by Howard Pyle is published
- 1903** Eva March Tappan publishes *Robin Hood*
- 1908** The first British silent movie of Robin Hood, *Robin Hood & His Merry Men*
- 1912** A second silent movie called *Robin Hood Outlawed* comes out
- 1913** A third silent movie called *Days of Robin Hood* comes out
- 1922** A movie entitled *Robin Hood* by Douglas Fairbanks
- 1938** *The Adventures of Robin Hood*, a movie directed by Michael Curtis and William Keighly
- 1946** *The Bandit of Sherwood*, movie
- 1948** *Prince of Thieves* movie debuts starring Jon Hall
- 1950** *Rogues of Sherwood Forest* marks the 8th movie about Robin Hood
- 1952** *The Story of Robin Hood and his Merrie Men* becomes the most expensive movie made to date
- 1956** *The Adventures of Robin Hood*, a television series with Richard Greene starring as Robin Hood
- 1959** *Son of Robin Hood* features an excellent final sword fight
- 1960** *Men of Sherwood Forrest* stars Don Taylor
- 1961** *Sword of Sherwood* stars Richard Greene reprising his TV role
- 1967** *A Challenge for Robin Hood* stars Barrie Ingham
- 1973** Walt Disney's *Robin Hood* featured all of the characters as animals
- 1975** The BBC series *The Legend of Robin Hood* premieres
- 1976** *Robin and Marian* stars Sean Connery and Audrey Hepburn
- 1984** The TV series by the BBC *Robin of Sherwood* premieres
- 1991** *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves* stars Kevin Costner and Morgan Freeman
- 1993** *Robin Hood Men in Tights* directed by Mel Brooks comes out
- 2006** The BBC launches yet another TV series called *Robin Hood*
- 2010** The premiere of *Robin Hood* directed by Ridley Scott and starring Russell Crowe



A screenshot of Douglas Fairbanks in the movie *Robin Hood*



A screenshot from Mel Brooks' *Robin Hood: Men in Tights*

AND ...

2011 *Robin Hood* by James Moore premieres at Northwest Children's Theater!

ORAL HISTORY IN ACTION



*“Robin Hood shoots with Sir Guy”
by Louis Rhead*

Before it was written down, the story of Robin Hood was told verbally by balladeers and storytellers. Due to this oral tradition of passing down stories, the legend has gradually changed and morphed over time. Most versions of the legend agree that Robin is an outlaw, often a displaced minor noble, Robin of Locksley, forced to flee injustice and live in the great forest with his loyal band of followers.

The characters included in the legend often shift as well. Some of the more frequently occurring characters are the large Little John, and Will Scarlet. Friar Tuck appears in later versions of the legend as a symbol of the church, although he also acts as a symbol of the pleasure of food and drink. Maid Marian is a rather a late addition to the legends as a noble maiden.

King Richard (the Lionheart) leaves England to fight in the Crusades while his younger brother, Prince John rules in the King’s absence. Working for the Prince is the story’s major villain, the Sheriff of Nottingham. He appears as the epitome of a grasping government, taxing anything that moves or stands still, reveling in a life of luxury while the peasants have no bread.

A MAN OR A MYTH?

There is no way to prove Robin Hood did, or did not, exist. An oral history of the legend has left us with changing locations, names, and deeds.

During the time that King Richard left for the Crusades and his corrupt younger brother (Prince John) took the throne there was major taxation. Hard times befell many people who could not afford to pay the government. Because of this, many were forced to flee as outlaws into the surrounding forests and woods. Robin Hood (or Robin of Loxley) would have been much like one of these outlaws who fled and fought against the taxation of the poor.

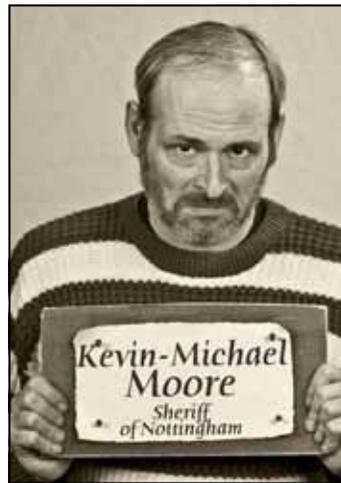
**Have your students argue whether or not they believe the legend.
Do they think that Robin Hood really did exist? Why?**

Citation: Information Britain <http://www.information-britain.co.uk/loredetail.php?id=35>

MEET SOME OF THE HISTORICAL CHARACTERS IN ROBIN HOOD

The Sheriff of Nottingham

His task was to capture outlaws such as Robin Hood, either to ensure the safety of trade routes through Sherwood Forest, or to keep them from poaching the King's deer.



Little John

According to a 17th-century ballad, he was a giant of a man (at least seven feet tall) who was named John Little. Robin Hood first encountered him when he tried to prevent Robin from crossing a narrow bridge. The two men then fought with quarterstaves, and Robin was knocked into the river. Despite having won the duel, John agreed to join his band and fight alongside him. He was baptised by the Merry Men and then called Little John, as he most certainly was not little.

Maid Marian

Maid Marian was originally a character in May Games festivities and is sometimes associated with the Queen or Lady of May of May Day. Indeed, Marian remained associated with such celebrations long after the fashion of Robin Hood had faded again. She became associated with Robin Hood in this context, as Robin Hood became a central figure in May Day, associated as he was with the forest and archery.



CHARACTERS IN ROBIN HOOD CONTINUED

Will Scarlet

A later ballad, *Robin Hood and the Newly Revived*, ascribes an origin story to Scarlet. In it, Robin finds a finely dressed young man shooting deer in Sherwood, and offers to let him join the band; they quarrel and fight. Robin asks who he is; he says he is Young Gamwell, who killed his father's steward and fled his father's estate to seek out his uncle, Robin Hood. Robin makes him welcome and renames him Scarlet.

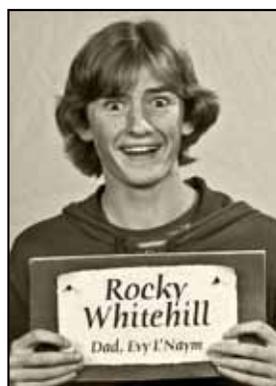
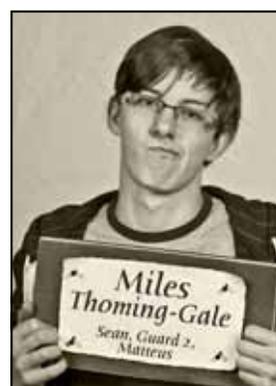
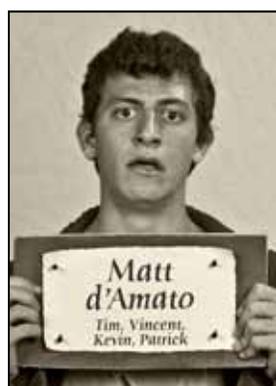
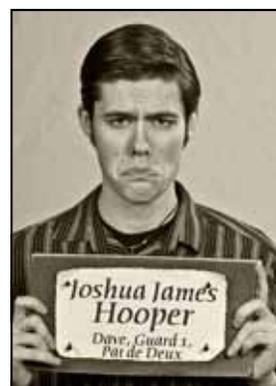
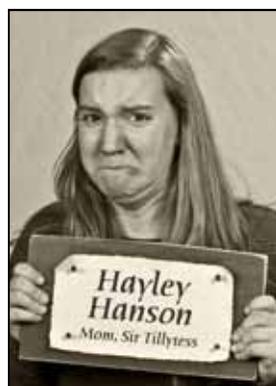
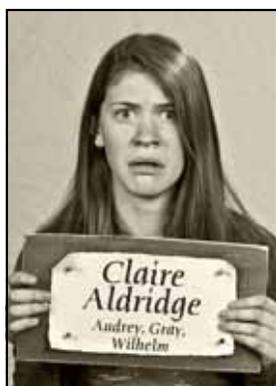
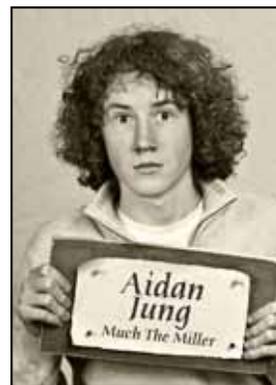
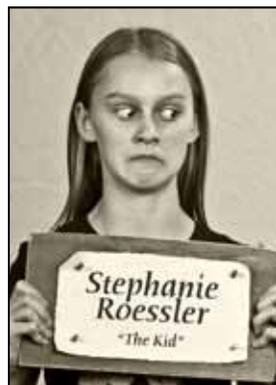
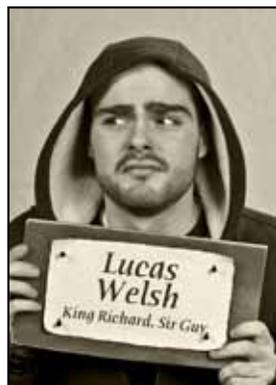


Friar Tuck

He was a former monk of Fountains Abbey (or in some cases, St. Mary's Abbey in York, which is also the scene of some other Robin Hood tales) who was expelled by his order because of his lack of respect for authority. Because of this, and in spite of his taste for good food and wine, he becomes the chaplain of Robin's band. In Howard Pyle's *The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood*, Robin has need of a priest who will marry Alan-a-Dale to his sweetheart in defiance of the Bishop of Hereford and seeks out Friar Tuck to perform the ceremony.

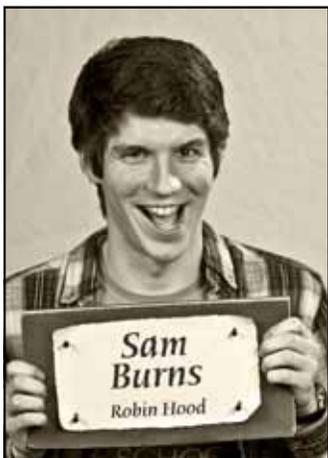


CHARACTERS IN ROBIN HOOD CONTINUED



And...

MEET ROBIN HOOD!



Sam Burns

as

ROBIN HOOD

AN INTERVIEW WITH SAM BURNS

NWCT: Sam, did you ever dream you'd be playing the part of Robin Hood?

Sam: No, I never wanted to play the part of Robin Hood. I wanted to BE Robin Hood. Living lawlessly in the forest, surviving off of the land. Delivering swift and biting justice to those that abuse their fellow man. You don't see many staged versions of *Robin Hood*, he seems to prefer the screen. It never occurred to me that I could play the character in a show. Let me tell you though, it's the next best thing.

NWCT: Have you actually ever shot a bow and arrow?

Sam: I have, but I'm afraid I'm a bit out of practice. I did win an archery competition at Cub Scout camp though, so I have experience at being an awesome archer which has greatly helped me develop the character.

NWCT: When did you first know you wanted to be an actor?

Sam: When I was ten I got involved in a school production of *Hamlet*, which inspired my mother to sign me up for an acting class. My teacher had been cast in a show and knew that they were looking for a boy in my age range. I auditioned, got cast, and had an incredible experience working on the show. At the end of the run they gave me my paycheck. I realized that this was a job that, not only would people applaud you and thank you in person every night, but they were also going to pay me! I did as many shows as I could after that.

NWCT: And how did you get your start at NWCT?

Sam: I auditioned and got into Kid's Company NW. I was also signed up for classes at the time, so in between classes and rehearsal Carolyn would make sure I had something to do. I started helping out with classes and soon started working as a class assistant. I got cast in a few shows and fell in love with the place and the people.

NWCT: What is your favorite role you have ever played?

Sam: I played Flute in Shakespeare in the Parks *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. That part was definitely the most fun to play.

NWCT: What was your favorite story as a child?

Sam: My father read *The Hobbit* to my sisters and I when we were very young. I remember being amazed at the vastness of Bilbo's journey. I read it on my own as soon as I was able. It's one of my all time favorite books.

ROBIN HOOD ACTIVITIES (GRADES K—4)

Design your own title page for your book about Robin Hood!

Here is an old page from a version of Robin Hood. Use the space below or your own sheet of paper to design your own book page.



Exploring the Set

The set in theater is the scenery present on and around the stage informing the audience of the time and place of the action. It can range from a single chair or painted stage, to an elaborately recreated street.

Our production of *Robin Hood* has a very minimal set, meaning there are not a lot of moving set pieces, decorations, or furniture. Instead, *Robin Hood* uses a few basic levels and platforms to “represent” multiple objects and places.

When you see the show, ask your students to look for different ways that the set is used to represent something.

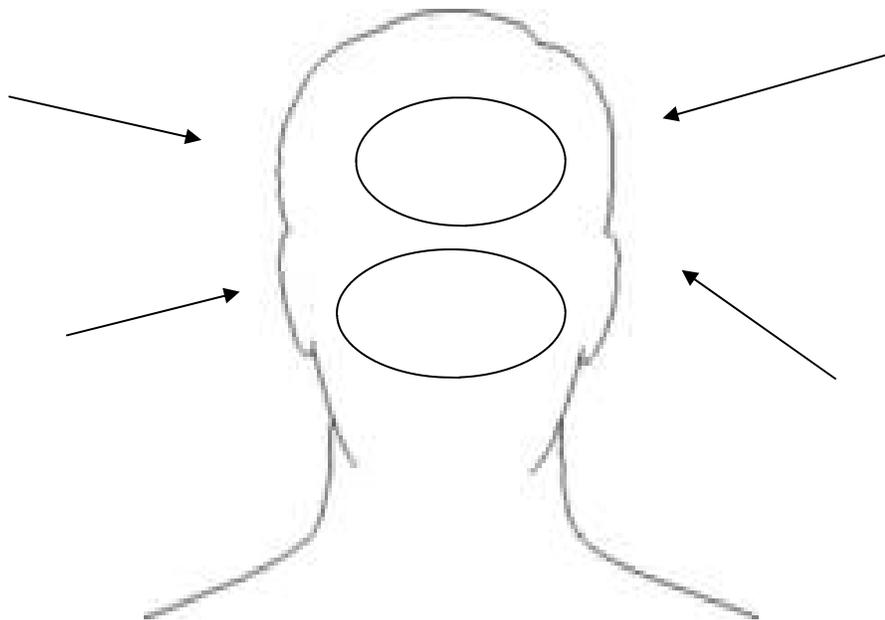
Create a basic set for your own production of *Robin Hood* using what you have in your classroom. Use tables, chairs, and whatever you can find to represent the forests and castles of the story.

ROBIN HOOD ACTIVITIES (GRADES 4—12)

Character on the wall

In life and theatre, people make choices based on many different factors. When an actor tries to understand the character they are playing they often explore the many influences or “forces” that inform the character’s decisions. Some of these forces are “environmental” (outside) which means that they are part of the situation or environment the character is faced with. Other forces are “internal” which means they are part of the character’s personality, history, or moral code.

Use the diagram below (or make your own) to create a flow chart that illustrates the various forces acting on Robin Hood and where they come from. Write a number from 1-10 to indicate the power of each force.



Explore the hero myth

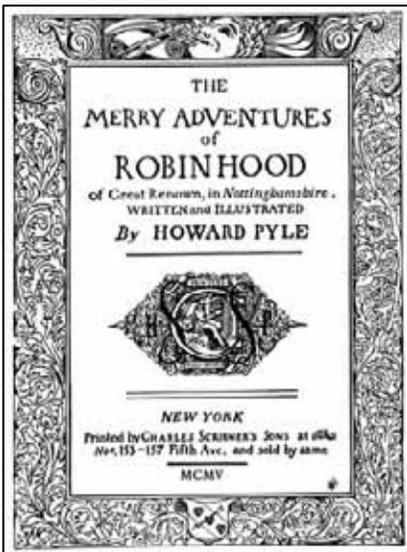
In literature, a hero or heroine is any character who displays courage and self-sacrifice in the face of danger and adversity. The character who displays heroism is fighting for the greater good and displays a strong moral code.

What are some other historical heroes you can think of?

Are all heroes good?

Choose a hero from your list and compare their heroic qualities to Robin Hood’s.

BOOK SPOTLIGHT: *The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood*



The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood by Howard Pyle (Grades 6-8)

This classic book, written in 1883 by Howard Pyle, set a lot of standards in how the Robin Hood myth is now told today. It features encounters with Friar Tuck, Little John, and Alan-a-Dale. This is an elegantly written book full of old language as well as images throughout.

More recommended reading ...

- Ivanhoe*** by Sir Walter Scott (Grades 9-12)
- The Outlaws of Sherwood*** by Robin McKinley (Grades 9-12)
- The Sword and the Circle*** by Rosemary Sutcliff (Grades 6-8)
- Adam of the Road*** by Elizabeth Janet Gray (Grades 6-8)
- Gathering Blue*** by Lois Lowry (Grades 6-8)
- The Adventures of Robin Hood*** by Roger Lancelyn Green (Grades 3-6)
- Redwall*** by Brian Jacques (Grades K-3)
- The Tale of Despereaux*** by Kate DiCamillo (Grades K-3)

HOW TO BE A GOOD AUDIENCE

The Audience is an important part of live theater performance. Without the audience there would be no one to laugh when the show is funny, to gasp when it is scary, or to applaud at the end. It is important to be a good audience.

If you have been to the theater before, you know it is different from watching television or going to the movies. The actors will be right in front of you. It is important to be quiet and attentive. You can't hit the rewind button if you miss something an actor says, and noise can be distracting for other people in the audience.

Here are some things you can do to make this a great experience for everyone:

- Stay in your seat. Make sure you use the bathroom before the show starts.
- Listen quietly. Save comments and questions for later.
- Keep your feet on the floor. It will keep the seats clean for the next audience, and nobody likes having the back of their seat kicked when they're trying to watch the play.
- Save snacks and treats for after the show. Food and drinks aren't allowed in the theater, and crinkling candy and gum wrappers can sound loud.
- Sit quietly during the performance. Don't pass notes, wrestle with your friends, wriggle around, or stand up. Your movements could distract or annoy others.
- Please don't take photographs. We don't allow photos during the performance.
- The house lights (the lights in the theater) dim to signal that the show is about to start. That is your cue to settle down and get quiet so the play can begin.
- Stay in your seat when the performance ends. The actors will return to stage for the curtain call (when the actors bow and you clap). Wait until they exit for the last time and the lights come up before you leave your seat.
- Turn off all cell phones, pagers and electronic devices.

CURRICULUM TIE-INS:

- Medieval history
- Storytelling, Oral History, Myth
- British History (King Richard, Prince John, Crusades, etc)
- Adaptation
- Comedy
- Heroes
- Imagination (endowment)

CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF ROBIN HOOD? HERE ARE SOME MORE WEBSITES TO VISIT:

Robin Hood: Bold Outlaw of Barnsdale and Sherwood

<http://www.boldoutlaw.com/>

The Robin Hood Project, The University of Rochester

<http://www.lib.rochester.edu/camelot/rh/rhhome.htm>

Annotated Bibliography for Teachers

<http://www.teamsmedieval.org/ofc/SP07/robinhoodbib.htm>



***Alexander and the Terrible,
Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day***

book & lyrics by Judith Viorst,
music by Shelly Markham

Alexander's comical catastrophes turn any day from bad to glad.

Most enjoyed by ages 5 and up

October 2010



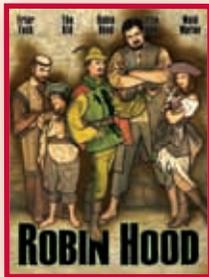
Annie

book by Thomas Meehan, music by Charles Strouse,
lyrics by Martin Charnin

Leapin' lizards! Bet your bottom dollar on everyone's favorite redhead.

Most enjoyed by ages 6 and up

December 2011



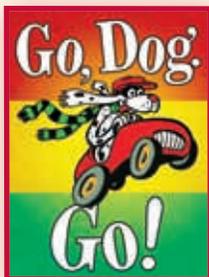
Robin Hood – NWCT World Premiere!

adapted by James Moore

Get ready for justice Sherwood Forest-style in this new twist on an 'olde' classic.

Most enjoyed by ages 6 and up

February 2011



Go, Dog. Go!

book by P.D. Eastman, music by Michael Koerner,
adapted by Allison Gregory and Steven Dietz

BARK by popular demand! This award-winning musical is a fun-filled world of doggy delight.

Most enjoyed by ages 4 and up

March-April 2011



Snow White

adapted by Milo Mowery, composed by Rodolfo Ortega

Join the battle against an evil plot, potions and a poison apple!

Most enjoyed by ages 6 and up

May 2011

**2010-11
Season of Plays**

*"We just love coming to
NWCT's plays.
They're always so
fun and inventive.
My kids love them,
my husband and I love
them – finally, something
we can all agree on!"*

– NWCT patron parent

**CONTACT US
TODAY!**

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503-222-4480

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