

STEPPING STONES™

a chapter book

CLASSIC

Robin Hood

A full-page illustration of Robin Hood, a man with long brown hair and a beard, wearing a green tunic with a red sash. He is holding a longbow and an arrow, looking intensely forward. The background is a vibrant, painterly scene of a forest with blue and purple foliage and a bright yellow light source in the upper right.

adapted by Annie Ingle



Preface

The Making of an Outlaw

These adventures took place many years ago in merry old England. Richard the Lion-Hearted ruled the land.

One May morning a lad from the town of Locksley set out for the fair at Nottingham. He carried a bow and arrows. He was eager to compete in the shooting match at the fair.

But he never got there.

A man stopped him on the way there. This man thought he would

have a little fun at the expense of a young lad.

He challenged the lad to a private shooting match. The lad agreed. And he beat the man. Fair and square.

But the man was angry. And embarrassed. What if word got out that he had been beaten? And by a mere lad? He tried to kill the lad. The lad struck back, killing the man.

The Sheriff of Nottingham offered one thousand gold pieces as a reward for the lad from Locksley.

The lad went into hiding in Sherwood Forest. There he lived the life of an outlaw for many years.

But he was no ordinary outlaw.

Like most outlaws, he stole. But only from the rich. He kept no more than he needed. He gave the rest to the poor.

These were especially trying times for the poor. King Richard was a good man. But he had gone to fight in the Crusades. He left England in the hands of men who were not so good. Men like the Sheriff of Nottingham and many of the Church's bishops. These bad men got richer and richer. Meanwhile, the poor only got poorer.

Only one man looked after the poor—the outlaw who lived in Sherwood Forest. He became a hero in his own time. And a legend in ours.

His name? Robin Hood!

Many stories about Robin Hood have been handed down. Are they true? Read them and judge for yourself.



Deep in the woods of Sherwood Forest lives a fiercely loyal group of men. They are led by Robin Hood—the most famous outlaw of all time. Together they help the people of Nottingham hold out against the greedy sheriff by stealing from the rich and giving to the poor! Battles of strength, thrilling archery contests, and daring rescues are all in a day's work for Robin and his merry men. But will they *always* be able to outsmart the sheriff? Or will the traps close in around Robin Hood?