

# HOODWINKED

*A market scene is set on the stage, with villagers in groups/pairs. Stalls could be set up if desired, with relevant pictorial signs – butcher/baker/fishmonger etc. There should be signposts at either side, one to read: '**Sherwood Forest 1 mile**'; the other: '**Sheriff's Castle 1 mile**'. If villagers cannot stand 'frozen' for the duration of the first scene, they could be seated. There should be someone with '**Boo, Hiss!**' / '**Hurray!**' signs at the side of the stage. The Narrator/s are intended to be 'itinerant musicians', although the narration is not set to music, it is rhythmic and occasional guitar chords could be strummed.*

*The following action takes place in front of the stage, as space allows. The 'rich' people enter through the audience if possible.*

*In order to keep scenery to a minimum, signs could be made up to denote the various scenes:*

**'Ye Olde Sherwood Forest'; 'Ye Olde Market Town of Nottingham'; 'Ye Younge Maid Marian's Room'.**

*Servant* (To audience) Make way, friends of the Sheriff coming through! All you mucky tradespeople stay over there and you smelly peasants keep your distance!

*Lord* Yes, the only filthy people we're interested in are the filthy rich!

*Lady* My dear Sir Gerald, somebody told me the peasants were revolting and they are!

*Robin and some of his men run on and stand in front of the rich folk.*

*Robin* Good morrow to you!

*Servant* It's Robin Hood!

*Lord* Robin Hood!

*Lady* Robin Hood?!!

*Robin* That's my name, don't wear it out! My merry friend and I were thinking how awfully weighed down you look! I think we should jolly well relieve you of some of your burden. Little John! Lighten the load of these weary travellers!

*Little John* Certainly, Robin! Your jewels, m'lady...

*Lady* Never!

*Lord* She won't hand them over!

*Robin* A lady as fair as yourself has no need of trinkets like these. Your natural beauty shines far more brightly.

*Lord* Don't be so ridiculous! This is no time for jokes!

*Lady* Be quiet, Gerald! (*Lady hits him and hands over her jewels*)

*Robin* Farewell lovely lady! Have a safe journey!

*Lord*                    The Sheriff will hear of this! He'll stretch your necks! *(They exit)*

*Little John*           For now, let's go and stretch our stomachs! I'm starving and we've got something to celebrate. *(Holding up bag of jewels)*

*Little John*           Now we'll be able to make a large donation to the Teachers' Benevolent Fund.

*Robin*                   Aye, my friend, a worthy cause! Poor souls! Overworked and underpaid and yet always cheerful. An example to us all! *(They exit. If seated, the villagers can begin to get into place)*

*Narrator*             The nation is divided as you will plainly see,  
                               The rich in all their riches, the poor in poverty.  
                               King Richard has gone to a faraway land,  
                               And justice is left in a brave outlaw's hands.  
                               Young Locksley was robbed of his title and home,  
                               Leaving only forest in which to roam.  
                               His heart to a noble young lady belongs,  
                               But she's held by the Sheriff and all hope seems gone.  
                               Will misfortune now turn him to evil from good?  
                               No! He's doing his utmost is our Robin Hood,  
                               To undo all the bad that the Sheriff stands for;  
                               He just robs from the rich – to give back to the poor!

**Scene: Nottingham Town** *(Market scene comes to life. A villager runs on from forest side)*

*Villager 1*             *(Running up to the nearest group)* Robin's done it again! Wait till you hear!

*The villagers whisper the message across the stage from group to group until it reaches the furthest group.*

*Villager 8*             Robin's done it again!

**Song 1                OUT IN THE FOREST**

*Something is happening here tonight,  
 You might have heard that things aren't right.  
       Out in the forest singing songs,  
       Someone's busy righting wrongs.  
       Out in the forest, out in the night,  
 Things are happening, happening tonight.*

*Is it our hero Robin Hood?  
 He's always trying to do some good,  
 He takes from the rich and gives to the poor,  
       So check your wallet, lock the door.  
 Something is happening, something is happening,  
       Something is happening in here tonight.*

*Something is happening here today,  
Maybe the Sheriff's had his day.  
Times are a changing, wait and see.  
Sometimes things are meant to be.  
Out in the forest, out in the night,  
Things are happening, happening tonight.*

*Is it our hero Robin Hood?  
He's always trying to do some good.  
He takes from the rich and give to the poor  
So check your wallet, lock the door.  
Something is happening, something is happening,  
Something is happening in here tonight.*

*At end of song Deputy appears on stage, going to collect money from the villagers*

Deputy            Villagers of Nottingham, empty your pockets. It's time to collect taxes.

Villager 1        Not again, that's the third time this month. I've only got one groat left.

Villager 8        No-one has any money left to give. What will they do when we really do run out of money?

Villager 1        At least we still have Robin Hood. I'm sure he can find a way to help us

Villager 8        I hope so, he really is our hero.

*Deputy walks around collecting money to put in bag.*

Villager 1        That's your lot. It's all I have left!

Villager 8        I don't know how you sleep at night, taking our only money

*Enter Sheriff, Marian and ladies-in-waiting enter from direction of castle. Deputy passes the bag of money to the Sheriff.*

Sheriff            *(Handing Marian a bag of money)* My dear, you must shop till you drop. Buy everything you need. While you are in my care, you shall have only the best.

Marian            Thank you. I'm sure I'll enjoy spending this on 'necessities'.

Sheriff            *(Pushing people aside)* Right! Out of my way! Deputy! Get those posters up quickly, I want that scoundrel found!

*Deputy puts up **WANTED** posters promising a reward of 100 groats. He is seen to treat the villagers roughly. One poster is misspelled and offers 100 goats reward.*

*Villager 1* (Mocking) Where do you expect us to keep a 100 goats? You've taken all our land!

*Sheriff* (To Deputy) You fool! It's groats not goats! You need to pay more attention in English lessons!

*Marian and ladies walk around, secretly trying to give money back to the villagers.. Marian secretly takes one of the posters.*

*Mary* Here, quick! Take this (to one of the villagers), your need is greater than mine.

*Jane* Please, no need to thank us. We want to help. We can't have the Sheriff treating you like this.

*Lucy* Will the Sheriff ever stop? These poor people have nothing and he's still finding things to take from them.

*Mary* I wish there were something more that we could do. Justice needs to be served.

*Marian* (Looking at poster) Only 100 groats! You're worth so much more than that to me!

*Sheriff* (Moving to front and side of stage - looking at poster) I've had enough of Robin of Locksley, or Robin Hood as he now calls himself. Stupid name! (Sarcastically) Why not Harold Helmet? Or Bertie Bobblehat?

*Deputy* His name's Robin and he wears a hood, Sire.

*Sheriff* (Gives him withering look) Why don't you go and offer yourself as target practice for my archers? (Deputy begins to go) No! Come back here! I hate to say it but I have need of you. I want you to disguise yourself as one of this rabble and see what you can find out about Robin Hood's whereabouts. Here take these that should do the trick, you'll be a commoner in no time. (Gives him a bag marked 'Commoner Disguise Kit' containing a copy of the local paper, local supermarket bag, scarf with colours of the local football team, etc - Deputy exits)

(To audience) I have a cunning plan to rid myself of Robin Hood, 'The People's Champion' once and for all! **[BOO card]** Shut up or I'll have you in the stocks! My Deputy should be able to find out the whereabouts of Robin's forest camp, and his secret password! Meanwhile, I will start chopping down all the trees in Sherwood Forest, leaving him no place to hide! And it'll keep my castle in logs for years! Ha, ha, ha!!! **[BOO Card]** Quiet! Or it's extra maths for a month! When I have Robin Hood, I will think of some exquisitely painful punishment for him – and that will be the 'star attraction' at the party I have planned to celebrate my victory!

*Jester 1* Sire, I heard you were looking for a jester.

*Sheriff* Indeed! I need to keep a sense of humour with all this stress!

*Jester 1* Why do fish live in salt water? Because pepper makes them sneeze!

*Jester 2* When is a well-dressed lion like a weed? When he's a dandy-lion!

*Jester 1* What happened when the lion ate the comedian? He felt funny!

*Jester 2* Well, have you heard the one about the failed lion tamer? He was called Claude Bottom.

*Sheriff* *You should be arrested right now for those jokes! They're criminal!*

*Marian* *(Handing coin to villager)* Please take this. I'm sorry it's not more.

*Villager 3* God bless you, Lady Marian!

*Sheriff* *(To villagers)* You lot are always complaining about not having any money, so here's a chance to get some – one hundred groats, tax-free! *(He holds up poster. No response)* No-one interested, eh? Well I'd better get started on cutting down your precious forest. *(He calls offstage)* Tree fellers please! *(2 lumberjacks walk across the stage)*

*Deputy* *(Counting on fingers)* I thought you asked for three fellers. There are only two! *(Withering look from Sheriff)*

*Villagers try to stand in the way of lumberjacks, Deputy pulls them away.*

*Sheriff* I can see I'm going to have to think of some more taxes for you to pay me!

*Villager 4* How about taxing the air that we breathe!

*Villager 8* Simon's right! That's about the only thing left to tax!

*Sheriff* That's an excellent idea! I'll work on it. For now, I'll just double the tax on grain!

*Villager 3* Robin Hood will never stand for that!

*Sheriff* Anyone found helping that outlaw will suffer terrible punishment, which I will thoroughly enjoy inflicting! **[BOO! Card]** *(To audience)* I've warned you already! *(He exits towards Castle)*

*Deputy re-enters now in 'Commoner' disguise. The villagers don't recognise him but they are suspicious of him, as he is a stranger.*

*Villager 4* What are we going to do? He'll destroy the forest and we won't have any wood!

*Villager 1* We can't pay all the taxes now! If he doubles the tax on grain, we'll all starve!

*Villager 3* Why did King Richard have to go and fight in the Crusades? Nothing's been the same since he left.

*Villager 4* I'd love to get my hands on that Sheriff when he doesn't have his guards round him!

*Villager 1* Quiet! He's got his spies everywhere!

*Deputy* I thought Simon was the pie man. Why's the Sheriff selling pies?  
*(Mumbling to himself)* What sort are they? Shepherd's pies or mince  
 pies or cottage pies or Cumberland pies or sausage pies or, or, or  
 sausage pies with diced onions and a delicate hint of parsley and sage  
 or...?

*All* *(Withering looks)* Shut up!

## **Song 2 ARE WE HAPPY?**

*Ask us are we happy; no, we're not!  
 Ask us what's the matter; quite a lot!  
 Never a day that's without a care,  
 Never a problem that isn't there.  
 We want to say, 'Life isn't fair,  
 Life isn't fair at all.'*

*Ask us are we happy; no, we're not!  
 Ask us what's the matter; quite a lot!  
 So many taxes we have to pay,  
 Eighty percent we all give away/  
 We are so poor we have to say,  
 'Life isn't fair at all, life isn't fair at all.  
 Life isn't fair at all.'*

*Villager 4* I'm not going to hang around here waiting for the Sheriff to hang me  
 around here, I'm going to join Robin Hood.

*Villager 1* I'm with you!

*Villager 3* Me too!

*Villager 8* You'll need the password when you get to his camp, so he'll know he  
 can trust you.

*During the following, the villagers get into a huddle with Deputy at the back trying to  
 listen. He can't quite hear. They mime mouthing the word 'Hood' to each other and  
 practise the three winks in an exaggerated way.*

*Villager 8* The word is 'Hood' and you wink three times!

*The villagers drift away leaving 1 and 3 on stage about to leave as well.*

*Villager 1* *(He has forgotten the password already and shouts after the  
 others)* What was the password? Was it ...?

*Villager 3* *(Interrupts him, indicating that the Deputy is listening)* Hold on  
 you twit! *(He quickly drags Villager 1 offstage)*

*Deputy* *(At front of stage)* 'Hold on you twit'? ... Seems a funny password  
 to me. *(exits)*

*Narrator* Far from the town, tucked away in the green,  
Is Robin Hood's band – faithful, honest and keen  
They want to see justice honoured again,  
So they hope and they pray and they fight and they train.

**Scene: Robin's camp**

*Enter Merry Men doing 'American soldier type' training routine.*

*Leader* 1,2,3,4. 1,2,3,4!  
We are Robin's Merry Men

*All* We are Robin's Merry Men

*Leader* Living in a forest glen

*All* Living in a forest glen

*Leader* With our arrows and our bows

*All* With our arrows and our bows

*Leader* We keep the Sheriff on his toes

*All* We keep the Sheriff on his toes!

*Merry Man 1* We saw the Sheriff pick his nose! *(All laugh)* Enter

*Villagers. They say password together.*

*Villager 8* We've come to help.

*Leader* Welcome!

*Others gather round and greet newcomers with the 'Merry Men' greeting, which children can invent themselves!*

*Enter Robin and men.*

*Merry Men* Robin!

*Robin* Some more goodies chaps! *(Looking at jewels)* These remind me of my darling Marian, so beautiful, so bright and precious ...

*Leader* *(Eyes to Heaven)* What is he like!

*Robin* ... but we'll have to arrange for them to go to those in need.

*Villager 4* There's plenty of them, Robin.

*Villager 3* The Sheriff's trying to starve us into betraying you, Robin - but he'll never make us tell!

*Villager 8* We want to join you Robin and be Merry Men.

*Robin*                    The more the merrier, I say! It makes a chap proud to have fine followers like all of you! If we stick together, we'll win in the end. We won't give up! We'll fight them in the beeches! We'll fight them among the elms! It doesn't matter that we've got so little. Remember – from little acorns do big oak trees grow! The Sheriff's barking up the wrong tree if he thinks he can stop us now! We won't rest until justice walks this land again!

*Villagers*            Hurray! We're with you, Robin!

*Leader*                You'll be a great hero someday Robin! You and Little John have helped us all so much already, we can't thank you enough. Three cheers for Robin. Hip Hip!

*Villagers*            Hooray!

*Leader*                Hip Hip!

*Villagers*            Hooray!

*Leader*                And one for luck, Hip Hip!

*Villagers*            Hooray!

### **Song 3                ROBIN, ROBIN HOOD**

*Robin, Robin Hood,  
Always doing good.  
Help us to follow your example,  
Robin, Robin Hood.*

*Help us to learn today  
There's a price to pay;  
Helping the people who are troubled,  
Robin, Robin Hood.*

**(Robin)** *I try to do my best  
To help the poor oppressed,  
Give everyone a chance to succeed.  
I'm tired of that man,  
I'll stop him if I can;  
Together we'll be strong indeed.*

*Robin, Robin Hood,  
Always doing good.  
Help us to follow your example,  
Robin, Robin Hood.*

*He tries to do his best  
To help the poor oppressed,  
Give everyone a chance to succeed.  
He's tired of that man,  
He'll stop him if he can;  
Together we'll be strong indeed.*

*We will all be true  
In the things we do,*



*Trying to follow your example,  
Robin, Robin Hood.*

*During song, Robin shakes hands with newcomers, perhaps gives them bows and arrows, shows plan marked 'Operation Cash Flow Rich Poor' to men.*

*Robin* Come on then, lads! Let's get this operation underway! *(They exit, cheering)*

*Reset Market scene, or re-show Market scene card. Villagers are looking very miserable.*

*Narrator* The village folk are hungry, the village folk are sad,  
They all agree that things have never really been so bad.  
They haven't any money, the Sheriff's people grab it!  
They need an influential friend, perhaps one in a habit.  
So when you see the villagers, their earnest, heartfelt cry is:  
When the chips are truly down, you need some decent friars!

*Enter Friars carrying basket of goodies.*

*Friar Nosh* This looks like a fine place for a picnic.

*Friar Guzzle* Pop the basket down there and let's tuck in! *(Friars take out rug etc and begin to lay out picnic)*

*Friar Nosh* Don't use that word!

*Friar Guzzle* What, pop?

*Friar Nosh* No, Tuck. He's gone and joined Robin Hood!

*Friar Guzzle* It's enough to put you off your food! Well, maybe not ...

*Friar Nosh* I'm so hungry! I haven't eaten since lunch time!

*Friar Guzzle* But lunch was only half an hour ago!

*Friar Nosh* *I can't help it! (Takes a chicken leg from basket. To Friar Guzzle):*  
Have a chicken leg!

*Friar Guzzle* No thank you, they're 'fowl'! Ha, ha! *(Both laugh)*

*Friar Nosh* Oh, I shouldn't laugh on an empty stomach!

*Villager 8* You don't do anything on an empty stomach!

*Villager 3* Only on an empty head!

*Friar Guzzle* Just ignore them! We won't let them spoil our lunch.

*Villager 4* You ought to be ashamed of yourselves! Getting fatter while poor people starve!

*Friar Nosh*            We need to keep our strength up to pray.

*Villager 3*            There won't be anyone left alive to pray for at this rate!

*Friar Guzzle*        We must pray for the Sheriff as he seeks to lead us.

*Villager 1*            Seeks to lead us? Seeks to bleed us more like! Bleed us dry!

*Villagers*            (*Shouting*) Yeah!

*Friar Nosh*            I think we need to find a more secluded spot. All this shouting will give me indigestion.

*Exit. Friars pick up picnic and repack basket. Villagers drift off muttering discontentedly.*

*Narrator*            Meat, fish and potatoes sizzling brightly on the fire,  
Come out of the frying pan and straight into the Friars!  
They need to learn the lesson that their greed just will not pay,  
That they will get much more from life when giving things  
away; That love is never selfish, but is thoughtful, true and  
kind, But not always smooth-running as Maid Marian will find.

**Scene: Maid Marian's Room** (*A table with mirror, a stool and somewhere for the Friars to hide – perhaps a curtain. Marian is surrounded by her ladies-in-waiting*)

*Marian*            (*Picking petals off flower*) He loves me, he loves me not. He loves me, he loves me not. He loves me! (*Looking at poster*) Oh Robin, some day we'll be together. Until then we'll just have to be satisfied with little glimpses of each other. And I never know when you might be watching me, so I must look my best at all times! (*Looks in mirror*)

*Jane*                Your hair is so shiny since you started using that new pro-active shampoo! I'll need to wear sunglasses soon when I comb it!

*Mary*                And your hands that don't do dishes are as soft as your face!

*Lucy*                'For your wild, green, hairy boyfriend'! (*They snigger*)

**Song 5**            **WE ARE MAID MARIAN'S LADIES** (solo parts available)

*We are Maid Marian's ladies,  
We care for her needs every day,  
Brushing and combing her tresses  
And helping in any old way.  
If there's a pimple that shows,  
We powder her nose,  
We smarten and straighten her clothes.  
If there's a shoe that won't fit,  
We stretch it a bit,  
So nobody here would ever, ever know.*

*We are benevolent ladies,  
Supportive in every way.  
We give advice and assistance  
And keep all those problems at bay.  
If there's a dip in her slip,*

*We hitch it a bit,  
Then get out the needle and thread.  
If there's a hair gone astray,  
We never delay  
To comb every hair on her pretty little head.*

*Instrumental*

*If there's a pimple that shows,  
We powder her nose,  
We smarten and straighten her clothes.  
If there's a shoe that won't fit,  
We stretch it a bit,  
So nobody here would ever, ever know.*

*We are Maid Marian's ladies,  
We care for her needs every day,  
Brushing and combing her tresses  
And helping in any old way.*

- Marian* (To Mary) Mary, I'd like you to take a note to the inn. Don't forget to say the password, 'Hood' and then wink three times. The Innkeeper will make sure it gets to Robin. I just want him to know how much I miss him and that I'd do anything to see him again soon, even for a moment! I long to see his face again and I'm sure he'll find a way. *(She exits)*
- Jane* *(Dreamily)* Ahhh! What is she like!
- Lucy* He's so handsome, I could fancy him myself!
- Mary* And he is rather clever and good and fit!
- Lucy* Well, I prefer Will Scarlet, the Leader of the Merry Men – he's a songwriter. That's what I call a real man, so sensitive.
- Mary* Robin is so handsome – just like the wanted posters
- Jane* Oh no, I prefer Little John, he's so big and strong. You can tell he works out.
- Mary* Works out? *(Thinks)* Oh, out in the forest, you mean! It must be all that fresh air.
- Lucy* Like you've got in your head!
- Mary* Come on, we've got work to do!
- Jane* Yes, as Marian's lady-in-waiting, she is waiting for you to deliver the message to Robin.
- Lucy* Oh I really hope this does all work out and they can live happily ever after!
- Mary* Well they do say that love conquers all
- Jane* Hopefully Robin can fix this dreadful state that the Sheriff has got everyone in

Lucy                    And King Richard can return and take back his crown  
Jane                    And then he can have an outlaw as his in-law!  
Mary                    Well none of this will happen if we don't deliver this note. Come on girls!

*(They exit)*

**Scene: Forest** *[SFX: Track 23 - Tree being felled]*

*Narrator*            So, "Timber!" is the cry we hear,  
                             As one by one trees disappear.  
                             Poor animals are homeless left,  
                             And birds no longer have a nest.

*Animal 1*            *(Despondently)* Where shall we go now?

*Animal 2*            I don't know! Nowhere seems safe! *(They exit)*

*Animal 1*            Nearly all of the trees have been chopped down

*Animal 2*            Surely Robin will be caught soon, the forest is almost gone and there  
                             is nowhere left to hide!

*Animal 1*            The Sheriff really has made good on his threat

*Animal 2*            All I know is that we are all in deep trouble!

*Narrator*            Uncaring of the creatures' need,  
                             Come friars wanting a good feed.

*Narrator*            *(As s/he exits – to audience)* I'm still not happy about that last rhyme!

*Friars enter with their picnic.*

*Friar Nosh*           Right! This should be far enough from prying eyes! Set it down little  
                             brother.

*Friar Guzzle*        This looks like a great spot. No-one around, just peace and quiet.

*Friar Nosh*           It's a bit bare here with all the trees being chopped down.

*Friar Guzzle*        Well the Sheriff is living up to his word

*Friar Nosh*           I just hope this whole thing is over soon. I'd really like to just enjoy a  
                             picnic in peace for once!

*Robin and men appear from both sides of stage.*

*Robin*                Welcome brothers! How kind of you to bring us a picnic. Any ginger  
                             beer?

*Friar Nosh*           Spoke to soon there, didn't I?

*Friar Guzzle* I'm afraid we haven't enough to share.

*Friar Nosh* How true, Brother! (*Friars Nosh & Guzzle slyly try to stuff food up their sleeves*)

*Friar Guzzle* Let us be, Robin. We are hungry and just want to be left alone.

*Robin* Tut, tut, brothers, you seem to be getting into some bad habits!  
Allow us to help you out of them! Come on, chaps!

*Merry Men remove habits from Friars Nosh and Guzzle, leaving them in vests and boxer shorts which could have 'Hello mummy' or 'I support McDonalds/Fitness Centre' etc. written on them.*

*Robin* Feel that bracing air! You'd better run home before you catch cold!  
The exercise will do you good - help you work up an appetite!

*Friar Guzzle* Chopping down those trees has left us a bit exposed really. (*Big Friars exit hurriedly*)

*Villager 4* (*Running on*) Robin, Robin! Little Samuel won't stop crying, he's so hungry!

*Villager 8* The Sheriff's men came and took our last farthing!

*Robin* Here, take this. It's fresh from the Friar! (*He gives them food*)

*Villager 1* God bless you, Robin! Where would we be without you!

*Villager 8* At least you give us hope whilst all of this is going on!

*Villager 1* How can there be any hope with that tyrant, the Sheriff, taxing us all?

*Little John* Robin, you must stop a while and eat, too.

*Robin* When I see what the Sheriff is doing to this land, it takes my appetite away. Come on, chaps, we must share this out, no time to rest!

## **Song 6            WHAT A MAN**

*During the song, they distribute food – perhaps chocolate money or sweets - among villagers who drift onto the stage and some among the audience. Villagers gather round Robin shaking his hand, patting him on the back etc.*

**(Solo)** *What a man, what a guy.  
He's our knight in shining armour,  
No-one can deny.  
He's a friend doing good,  
He's the greatest, Robin Hood.*

**(Solo)** *What a man, what a guy.  
He's our knight in shining armour,  
No-one can deny.  
He's a friend doing good,  
He's the greatest, Robin Hood.*

*He fights against oppression,  
Justice for the poor,  
He's the kind of man that Sheriff can't ignore.  
Victory for the workers,  
Standing for the right;  
He is now our champion,  
We'll stand with him and fight.*

*(Part 1)  
What a man, what a guy.  
He's our knight in shining armour,  
No-one can deny.  
He's a friend doing good,  
He's the greatest, Robin Hood.*

*(Part 2)  
Robin, Robin  
You are  
Our guy.  
Robin, Robin  
Friend, Robin Hood.*

*He'll beat that wicked Sheriff,  
Show him to his face,  
Show that being greedy is a real disgrace.  
He's the man for freedom,  
He will stand for right,  
He is now our champion,  
We'll stand with him and fight.*

*(Part 1)  
What a man, what a guy.  
He's our knight in shining armour,  
No-one can deny.  
He's a friend doing good,  
He's the greatest, Robin Hood.*

*(Part 2)  
Robin, Robin  
You are  
Our guy.  
Robin, Robin  
Friend, Robin Hood.*

*(Part 3)  
Robin, quite a guy,  
You're a friend  
Don't deny.  
Robin, doing good,  
Friend, Robin Hood.*

*All repeat part 1*

<i>Villager 3</i>	Three cheers for Robin Hood!
<i>Leader</i>	Hip hip
<i>Villagers</i>	Hooray!
<i>Leader</i>	Hip hip
<i>Villagers</i>	Hooray!
<i>Leader</i>	Hip hip
<i>Villagers</i>	Hooray!
<i>Narrator</i>	He's leading the Sheriff a merry old dance, Righting wrongs when he gets the chance! Feeding the poor, never seeming to tire, But what if the Sheriff makes taxes far higher?

*Villagers talk amongst themselves. Town Crier enters and put up posters  
'Tournament: One Day Only! Biggest Bow and Arrow Bonanza Ever!'  
Sheriff enters & stands at side of stage.*

*Town Crier* Hear ye! Hear ye! Tomorrow there will be, for your entertainment, a tournament! The prize for the winner will be to kiss the hand of the fair Lady Marian! And two hundred groats! All are welcome to enter! Anyone under the age of eighteen must have the permission of a parent or guardian.

*Villager 3* That's exciting! We could do with a bit of entertainment!

*Villager 1* Someone should tell Robin!

*Villagers* Shhh!

*Sheriff* Pesky peasants! They're still protecting that criminal, Hood. Ah! Here comes my Deputy. Have you discovered the password?

*Deputy* 'Hold on you twit!'

*Sheriff* How dare you talk to me like that! Guards!

*Deputy* You don't understand! Hold on you twit! That's it!

*Sheriff* It certainly is! The man's lost his mind! Take him away!

*Deputy is hauled off crying "Hold on you twit! Hold on you twit! ...".*

*Sheriff* Now for my brilliant plan B! I know that show-off won't be able to resist a tournament and the prize of kissing the hand of the fair Lady Marian. No man could resist trying for such a prize. Meanwhile, I'll make those vile villagers sorry for defying me! I'll keep chopping down their precious forest and I'll squeeze every last drop of money out of them until they beg me for mercy! And of course I won't show them any!  
**[BOO card]**

## **Song 7 I'LL MAKE THEM PAY**

**(Sheriff)** *I'll make them pay, I'll make them pay,  
 I'll line my pockets and I'll make them pay.  
 I'll make them pay, I'll make them pay,  
 I'll line my pockets and I'll make them pay.  
 'Cause I'm the meanest sheriff ever to live,  
 I like to take from the poor in order to give  
 More the rich, the grand, the mighty;  
 And who are the rich? Why me; why me!*

**(All)** *He'll make us pay, he'll make us pay,  
 He'll line his pockets and he'll make us pay.  
 He'll make us pay, he'll make us pay,  
 He'll line his pockets and he'll make us pay.  
 'Cause he's the meanest sheriff ever to live,  
 And he will take from the poor in order to give  
 More to the rich, the grand, the mighty;  
 And who are the rich? Not me; not me!*

**(Sheriff & all others sing in unison)**

**(Sheriff)** *I'll make them pay, I'll make them pay,*

I'll line my pockets and I'll make them pay.  
*I'll make them pay, I'll make them pay,*  
I'll line my pockets and I'll make them pay.

**(All others)** *He will make us pay.*  
*He will make us pay.*  
*Every single day,*  
*He will make us pay.*

*Day after day he'll make us pay.*

*All exit after song.*

*A card could be shown saying 'The Next Day'. The Tournament is set up. People begin to gather excitedly. Nobles, Marian & Ladies seated. Targets are assumed to be offstage.*

Town Crier      Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls, the time has arrived. The Tournament of the Golden Arrow will now begin

Narrator        The people are gathered; contestants are here.  
The Sheriff's plan B started off with a cheer! *(All cheer)*  
Fun and excitement are felt in the air,  
But under it all hides a terrible snare!  
For the love of a lady, Rob casts off all fears,  
So let's hope this day does not all end in tears!

Town Crier      Remember that the lucky winner of this tournament will get to kiss the hand of the fair Maid Marian. Not to mention, they will also win two hundred groats! I think we are in for a spectacular show!

### **Song 8            ROBIN OF LOCKSLEY**

*This is sung as Robin and his band walk around the hall on their way to the stage i.e. Tournament. The song should finish before they arrive.*

**(Robin)** *My name is Robin of Locksley*  
*And they call me Robin Hood.*  
*I've tried my hand at archery*  
*And they say I'm pretty good.*  
*I practise every day*  
*With my companions in the wood,*  
*Oh, my name is Robin of Locksley*  
*And they call me Robin Hood.*

**(All)** *His name is Robin of Locksley*  
*And we call him Robin Hood.*  
*He's tried his hand at archery*  
*And we say he's pretty good.*  
*We practise every day*



*With his companions in the wood,  
Oh, his name is Robin of Locksley  
And we call him Robin Hood.*

**(Robin)** *My name is Robin of Locksley  
And they call me Robin Hood.  
I try to do my best  
Although I'm quite misunderstood.  
When I get to the tournament  
I'll win it like I should,  
Oh, my name is Robin of Locksley  
And they call me Robin Hood.*

**(All)** *His name is Robin of Locksley  
And we call him Robin Hood.  
He's tries to do his best  
Although he's quite misunderstood.  
When he gets to the tournament  
He'll win it like he should,  
Oh, his name is Robin of Locksley  
And we call him Robin Hood.*

*Vendor* Get your firefly necklaces here! Light up in the dark. Don't lose your children!

*Announcer* Ladies and gentlemen, what an exciting event so far! Now it's time for the archery contest! May I remind you again to keep hold of all carrier pigeons for the duration of the performance and that the management takes no responsibility at all for stray arrows landing randomly in body parts. Bring on the contestants! *(Could be led on by a glamorous assistant)* Hasn't it been exciting so far? Are you enjoying it?

*All* Yes!

*Announcer* *(To audience)* What about you lot in the cheap seats? *(Pause for reaction)* Ah! Here's our first contestant... Bob 'Bullseye' Baxter from Buxton.

*Bob 'Bullseye' Baxter shoots [SFX: Track 24 - Bird squawking and falling to ground]*

*Vendor* Ouch! That's got to hurt! Come and get your fresh vegetables here! Brilliant to accompany a cooked roast dinner!

*Announcer* That's a little wide of the mark... but he'll enjoy a nice roast pheasant tonight! Next contestant please. Geoff the Archer! Now this boy has a novel approach, I think you'll find – but no cheating now Geoff!

*Geoff the Archer shoots. [SFX: Track 25 - Person being hit and falling to ground]*

*Vendor* *(gets hit by Geoff's arrow)* Oh yes, that's got me good! Think I might need a doctor...*(falls to ground)*

*Announcer* That's a miss, I think. *(Pause)* Is there a physician in the house? And finally we have a mystery contestant, known only as the Sherwood Sureshot

*Robin Hood shoots. [SFX: Track 26 - Arrow hitting target]*

*Vendor* One hundred and eighty!

*Announcer* There's our winner! Give a big hand for the man who'll be kissing a little hand in just a few moments.

*Sheriff* Bravo! Come forward and claim your prize! *(Signals to guards)* You're an excellent shot. I expect you get lots of practice in Sherwood Forest... Robin Hood! *(Pulls Robin's hood/false beard etc off)* Seize him! I knew you wouldn't be able to resist a challenge or the chance to kiss the Lady Marian's hand. So I've finally trapped you! Take him away until I decide what to do with him. Lock him up and bring me the key.

*Marian* Oh Robin! It's all my fault. I should never have said how much I wanted to see you. *(To Sheriff, furiously)* I should have realised what you were up to you sly old fox!

*Sheriff* You're so beautiful when you're angry. But less of the old my dear... I don't mind the foxy! You know, you mustn't blame yourself, few can compete with an evil genius! Though you must know, Marian, that everything I do, I do it for you! *(Exit Marian upset)*

*Jester 2* Sire! Are you still looking for a jester?

*Sheriff* I am.

*Jester 2* What do you call a woman with a boat tied to her head? Maude!

*Jester 1* What do you call a man with a spade on his head? Doug!

*Sheriff* Ha! Ha! That's wonderful.

*Jester 1* What do you call a man without a spade on his head? Douglas.

*Jester 2* Which public school did Robin Hood go to?

*Sheriff* I don't know. Which public school did he go to?

*Jester 2* 'Arrow! Get it?

*Sheriff* Brilliant! You're hired! *(Exit. Strike Tournament set)*

*Narrator* Things are not looking good, Robin's captured, alas!  
The Sheriff's plan B did indeed come to pass.  
Will the land now be left in such mean, grasping hands?  
And what will become of the proud, merry band?  
The fair Lady weeps - her love's life is at stake!  
Oh, a sad sight it is, to see a heart break!

## Scene: Marian's Room

*Marian*                What am I going to do? I should have seen the danger. I should have told him to keep away! Is all now lost?

### MARIAN'S LAMENT

#### Song 9

**(Marian)** *I can't believe what I have done,  
Could I have ever known?  
Painful the thoughts that he's the one,  
Bound by the love I've shown.*

**(All)** *I cry to God above  
For the sake of the one I love.  
How can I find a way?*

**(Marian)** *It seems all I can do is wait here and pray.*

**(Marian)** *If I'd pretended not to care,  
Would he have stayed away?  
How could I be so unaware,  
Foolish the part I've played.*

**(All)** *I cry to God above  
For the sake of the one I love.  
How can I find a way?*

**(Marian)** *It seems all I can do is wait here and pray.*

**(Marian)** *Tell me that all has not been lost  
Here on this fateful day.  
Tell me there's still a hope for us,  
Robin will find a way.*

*Jane*                Keep your chin up! There's always hope. Love has a habit of finding a way... *(2 friars have entered – Friar Tuck and King Richard in disguise)*  
Speaking of habits...

*Friar Tuck*        We have come to bring comfort to the Lady. Please leave us so that we can pray. *(Jane exits)* Marian! It's me, Friar Tuck. Lock the door... we haven't got much time. I've got a plan to rescue Robin, but you'll have to be very brave.

*Marian*            Anything for Robin!

*Richard*           You love him that much?

*Marian*            Oh yes!

*Richard*           Are you sure he deserves your love? Isn't he just a common thief?

*Marian*            No! He only takes back what's already been stolen by the Sheriff with his unfair taxes! He keeps nothing for himself. He doesn't want to steal, but he won't just let the poor starve! No-one else will stand up to the Sheriff!

*Richard*           What about King Richard?

*Marian* He's a good man but he's not here. He should never have gone away! Robin had no choice and now look what's happened!

*Richard* I see!

*Friar Tuck* Try not to worry, Marian. We must hurry. Here's my plan... *(they huddle together and whisper)*

*Marian* Urgh! Yuck! Disgusting, but for Robin I'll do it! *(There is a knock on the door)* Quick! Hide behind there! *(She opens the door. Friars hide)*

*Sheriff* Marian... why did you lock the door?

*Marian* With an outlaw in the castle, one can't be too careful!

*Sheriff* I thought you were 'in lurve' with that rascal Robin of Locksley, or should I say 'Locked up'? *(He laughs)*

*Marian* A girl can be so easily fooled. He looked all right outdoors, but he just doesn't look good in a dungeon. You'd look wonderful in a dungeon!

*Sheriff* Too kind, my dear, too kind!

*Marian* And you're so clever! No one could pull the wool over your eyes!

*Sheriff* *(Smoothing eyebrows)* If you've got it, flaunt it!

*Marian* You're so right! I'd like everyone to see you for what you really are! So I thought I might make you something special to wear for your big party. I'll need to take some measurements though. *(She fetches tape measure)*

*Sheriff* I'm sure that could be arranged.

*Marian* Or perhaps I should just make it 'Superman' size, I'm sure that would fit! *(Aside)* But not over his big head! Just to be safe, slip your jacket off and I'll just pop this round here. Lovely! Keep your arms up a moment. *(She measures round his chest and then slips the key out of his pocket and hands/slides it to Friar Tuck)* There, all done!

*Sheriff* What will it be like?

*Marian* That will be a surprise!

*Sheriff* Oh I like surprises!

*Marian* Good 'cause you're going to get a really big one very soon! Au revoir!

*Sheriff* *(Obviously not understanding)* Right, well, I'll go then! *(He exits)*

*Marian* *(To Friar Tuck)* Be quick! Bring him here. *(They exit)* Oh Robin, my love!

*Sheriff re-enters.*

*Sheriff* Marian! I seem to have forgotten something! As the real winner at the tournament today, I think I deserve to kiss your lovely hand!

*Marian* Urgh! I mean, I haven't washed them for hours...

*Sheriff* I'll take my chances.

*Marian* No, I couldn't. It wouldn't be fair!

*Sheriff* But I insist! *(He tries to grab her hand. Robin rushes in followed by the Friar Tuck)*

*Robin* Unhand her you cad!

*Sheriff* Hood! How did you escape?

*Robin* Never mind that... how about a fair fight? Just you and me.

*Sheriff* Just you and me, that sounds fair.

*Robin* Good.

*Sheriff* But good never was my style! Guards!

*Robin and Sheriff start to fight, some Guards come in and stand on Sheriff's side. Friar Tuck blows a whistle/horn and some Merry Men rush in and stand on Robin's side – not too many to avoid delaying the action.*

*Robin* Now that's more like cricket!

*Sheriff* Pah! You'll never defeat me, you and your measly men! I'm far too powerful and I'm rich!

*Richard* *(Taking off habit)* No, Im Rich! Richard the Lionheart and I command you to stop this fighting!

*Sheriff* Friar! I mean, Sire!

*Any remaining Guards and Merry Men can enter at this point. They all kneel on seeing the King.*

*Richard* At last I'm back from the Crusades and I've seen enough fighting to last a lifetime! People of Nottingham! Don't we all want the same thing? Enough to eat; a safe, warm place to live and a good education? Don't we all want to be free to live in safety? *(All cheer)* Don't fight, unite!

*All* Don't fight, unite! Don't fight, unite!

*Leader* Long Live King Richard!

*The Sheriff tries to sneak off. Richard grabs him.*

*Richard* Because of your greed, you have caused great misery to my people! Take him away!

*Little John* With pleasure your Majesty.

*All* *(Beginning to shake hands)* Don't fight, unite!

## Song 10

## STOP THIS FIGHTING

*We've got to stop the fighting,  
It may seem quite exciting  
But this will get us nowhere at all.  
There is nothing to be gained  
When we cause each other pain,  
We can work it all together for sure!*

*Standing for the right is the name of the game,  
Learning to respect every person the same;  
For if we treat one another like sister and brother,  
We're sure to work it out okay.  
Standing for the right is the name of the game,  
Learning to respect every person the same;  
For if we treat one another like sister and brother,  
We're sure to work it out okay.*

*You might think that it's trendy,  
But why be so unfriendly?  
This fighting isn't really so cool.  
If we take the time to talk,  
Listen to each other's thoughts,  
We can work it all together for sure!*

*Standing for the right is the name of the game,  
Learning to respect every person the same;  
For if we treat one another like sister and brother,  
We're sure to work it out okay.  
Standing for the right is the name of the game,  
Learning to respect every person the same;  
For if we treat one another like sister and brother,  
We're sure to work it out okay.*

*No need to fight, get it right,  
Let's not fight on this night.*

*Richard* As the Sheriff has planned a party, I think we should go ahead and enjoy it. Things will change now I'm back!

*All* Hurray!

*Richard* (To Robin) You and your Merry Men are all pardoned! You're a free man, Robin!

*Marian* (Winking to audience) But not for long, if I've got anything to do with it!

*Richard* It seems like we've got a lot to celebrate!

**Scene: Party** (There could be 'acrobats', minstrels, jesters, Sheriff and Deputy in stocks)

*A villager could give out cups in preparation for a toast or this could be mimed. Simon the Pieman brings on a custard pie.*

*Sheriff (Getting pie in face) It's a fair cop!*

*Richard A toast! To our hero Robin Hood.*

*All Our hero, Robin Hood!*

*Villager 8 Three cheers for Robin Hood!*

*All (Encouraging audience to join in) Hip, hip hooray!*

**Song 11 OUT IN THE FOREST (Finale)**

*Something has happened here tonight,  
We have begun to put things right.  
Out in the forest singing songs,  
Great excitement all night long.  
Out in the forest, to our delight,  
It's been happening, happening tonight.*

*It was our hero Robin Hood.  
He's always trying to do some good.  
He stole from the rich to give to the poor  
But now he needs to steal no more.  
It's all been happening, it's all been happening,  
It's all been happening in here tonight.*

*Greater rejoicing through the land;  
Robin has won Maid Marian's hand.  
Congratulations, what a man.  
Things have changed in Nottingham.  
Out in the forest, out in the night,  
It's been happening, happening tonight.*

*It was our hero Robin Hood.  
He's always trying to do some good.  
He stole from the rich to give to the poor  
But now he needs to steal no more.  
It's all been happening (claps)  
It's all been happening (claps)  
It's all been happening, happening tonight.*