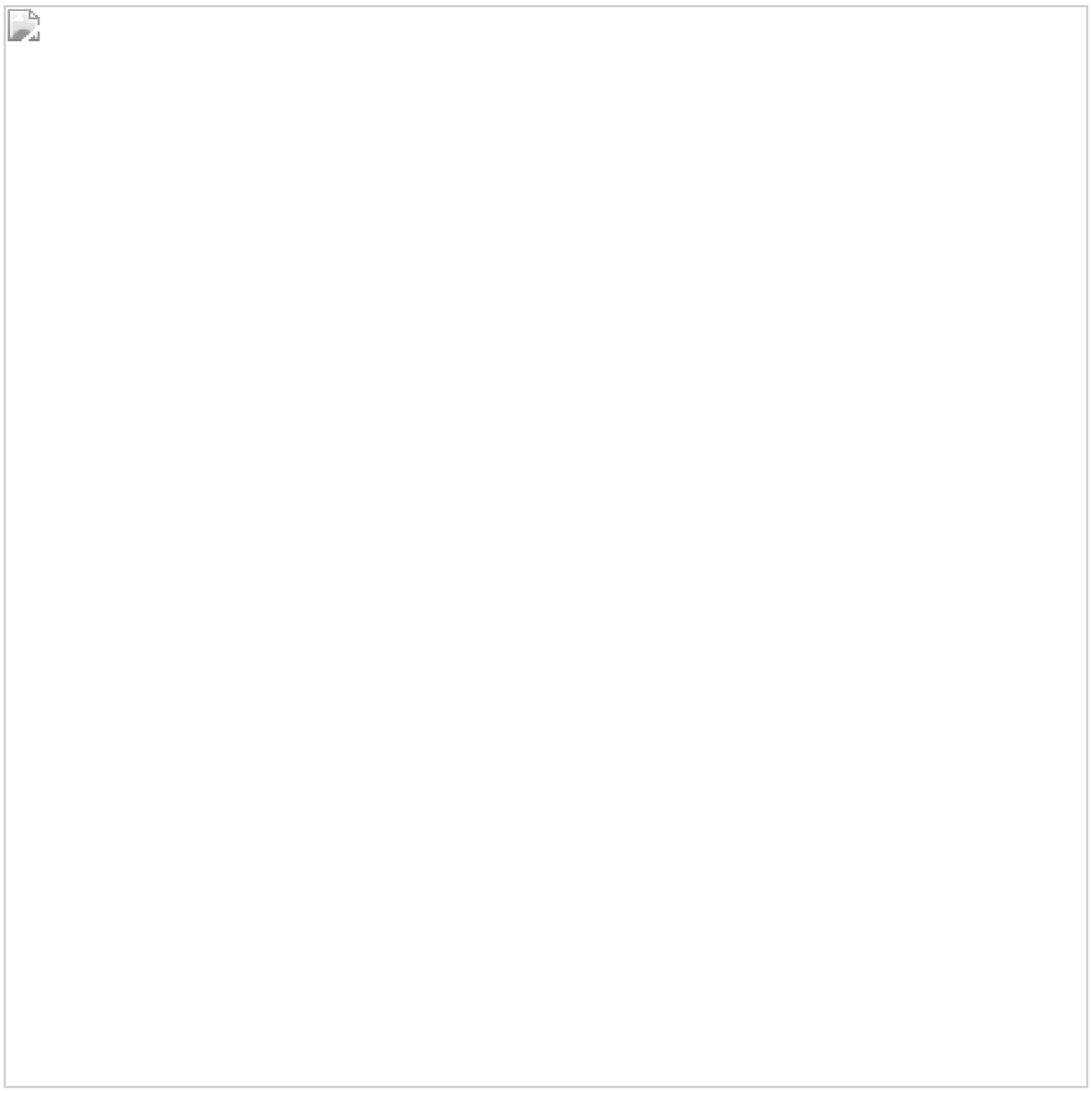
COLORING THE CLASSICS

Robin Hood

A Hero of England



Very many years ago, England had a brave king named Richard. His name meant lion-hearted. He loved noble deeds, and he was always ready to help the weak against the strong. But he was called away across the sea.

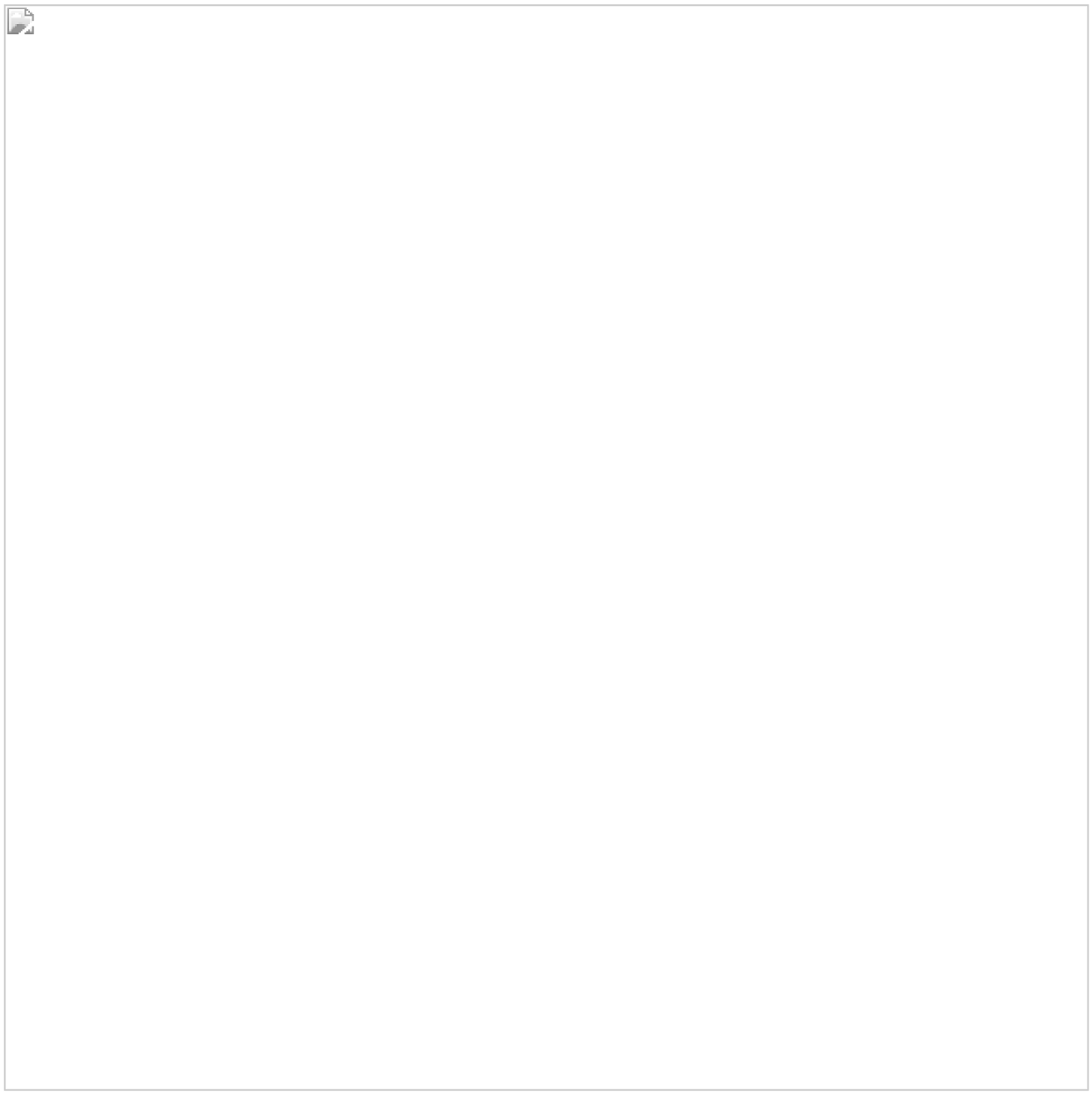
Before he left, he asked two bishops he thought were good and wise to take care of England and rule his people well.

TALK ABOUT IT

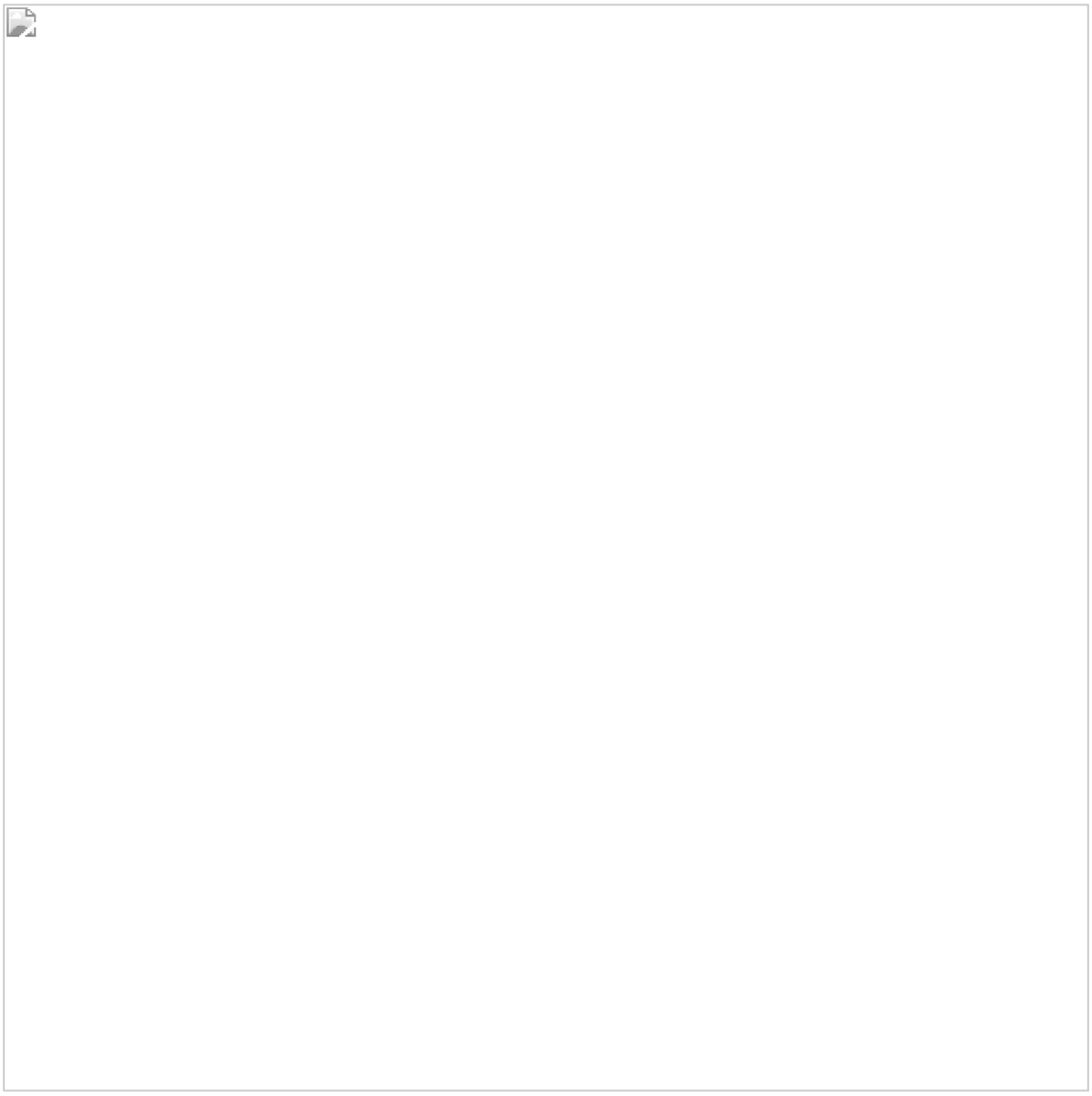
King Richard asked someone to take care of his people while he was gone. What does it mean to take good care of people?

This book belongs to _____

Robin Hood · another picture



Prince John



King Richard had a brother, Prince John, who was not at all a nice man. He was jealous of Richard, and as soon as the King had sailed, he told the bishops, “You must let me rule while the King is away.”

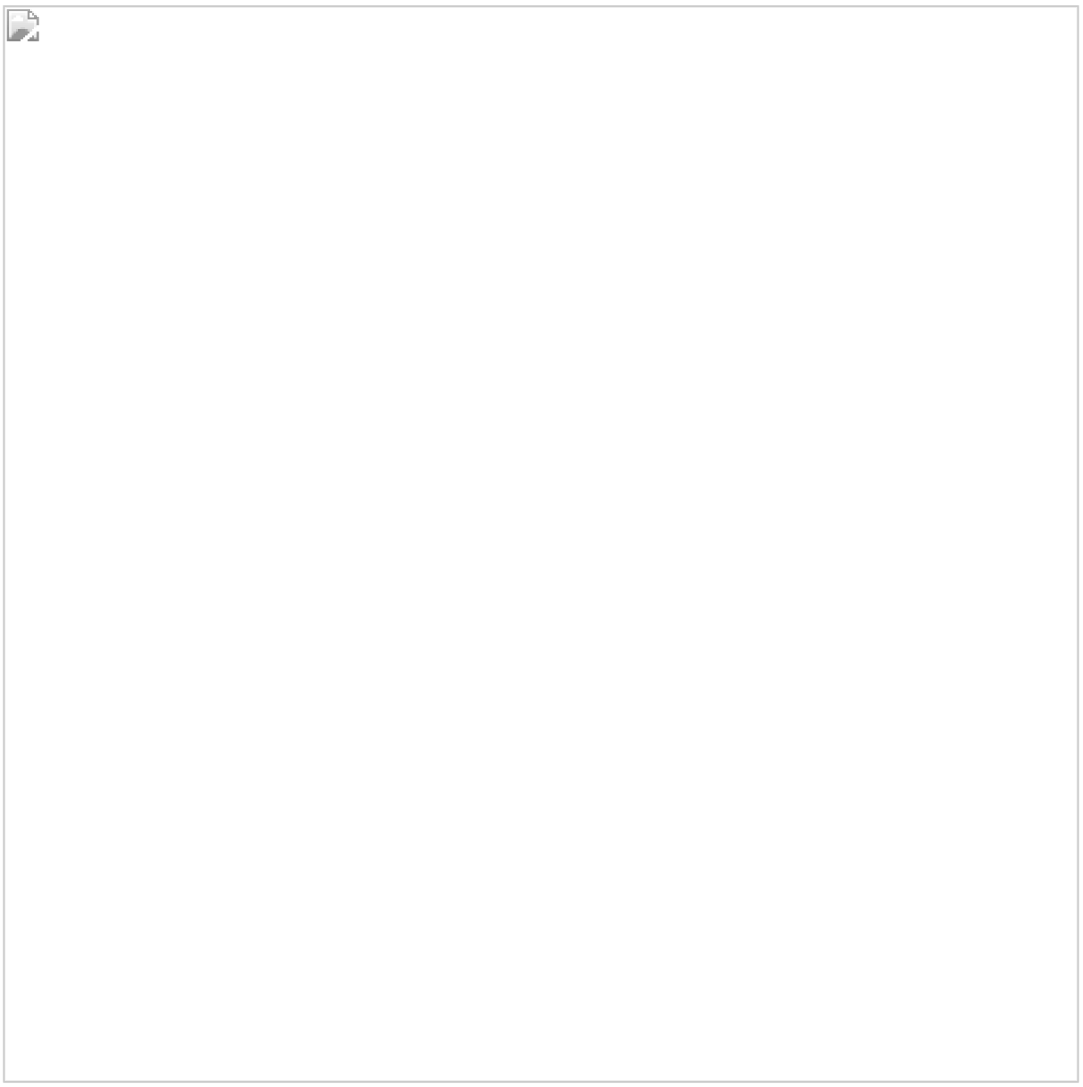
The bishops let him. John wanted the proud nobles on his side, so he took money and land from the poor Saxon people and gave it to them.

Many Saxons lost their homes. Some lived a wild life in the great forests that covered much of England.

TALK ABOUT IT

Prince John took from people who had little to please people who had plenty. Is that fair? Why or why not?

Prince John · another picture

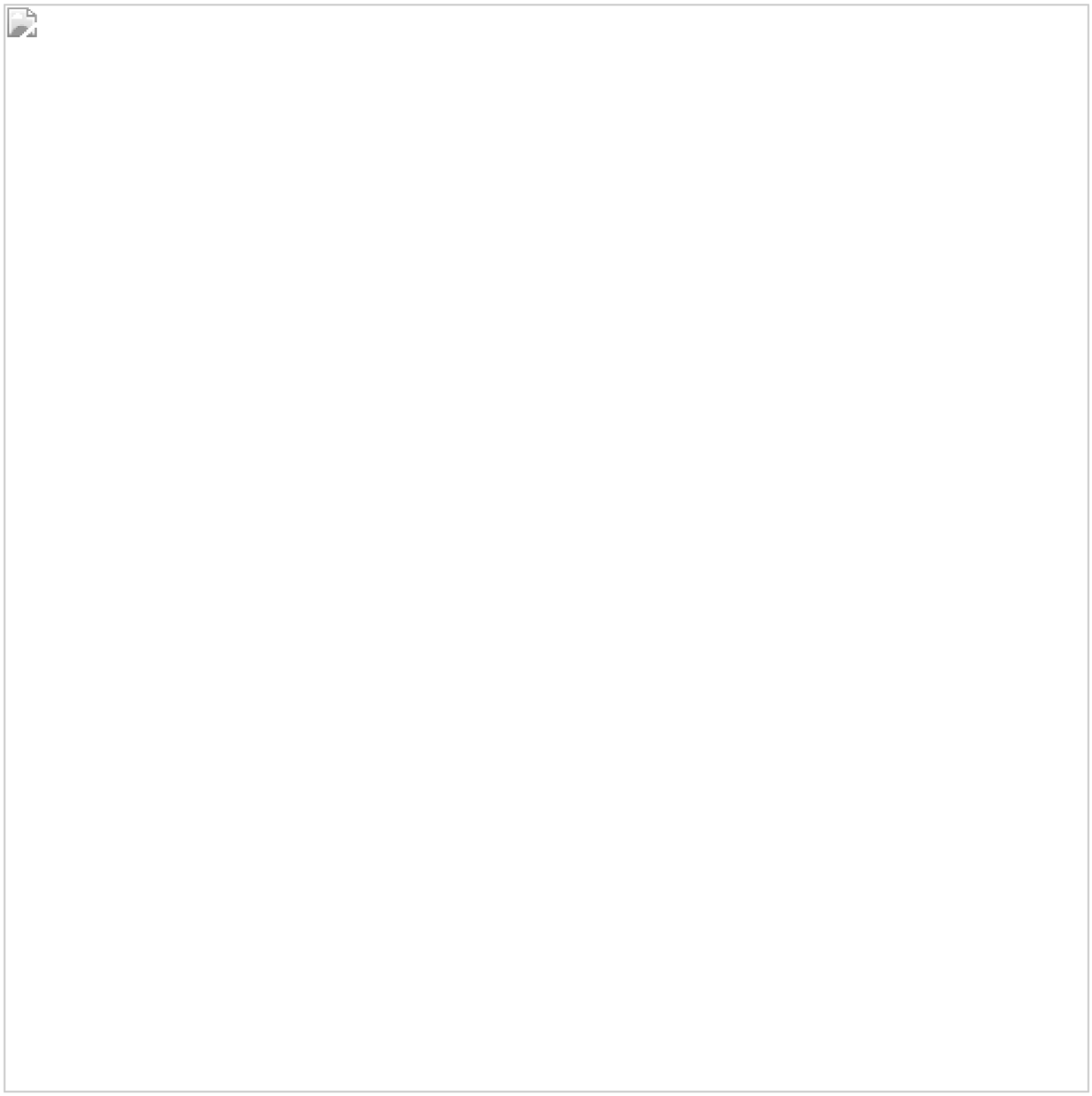


Think about it

1. Where did many homeless people go to live?

- ○ In the castle
- ○ In the forests
- ○ On ships

Robin of Huntingdon



There was a young man named Robert, whom everyone called Robin. His father was the Earl of Huntingdon. Robin was tall, strong, handsome and full of fun, and he kept his father's house bright with songs and laughter.

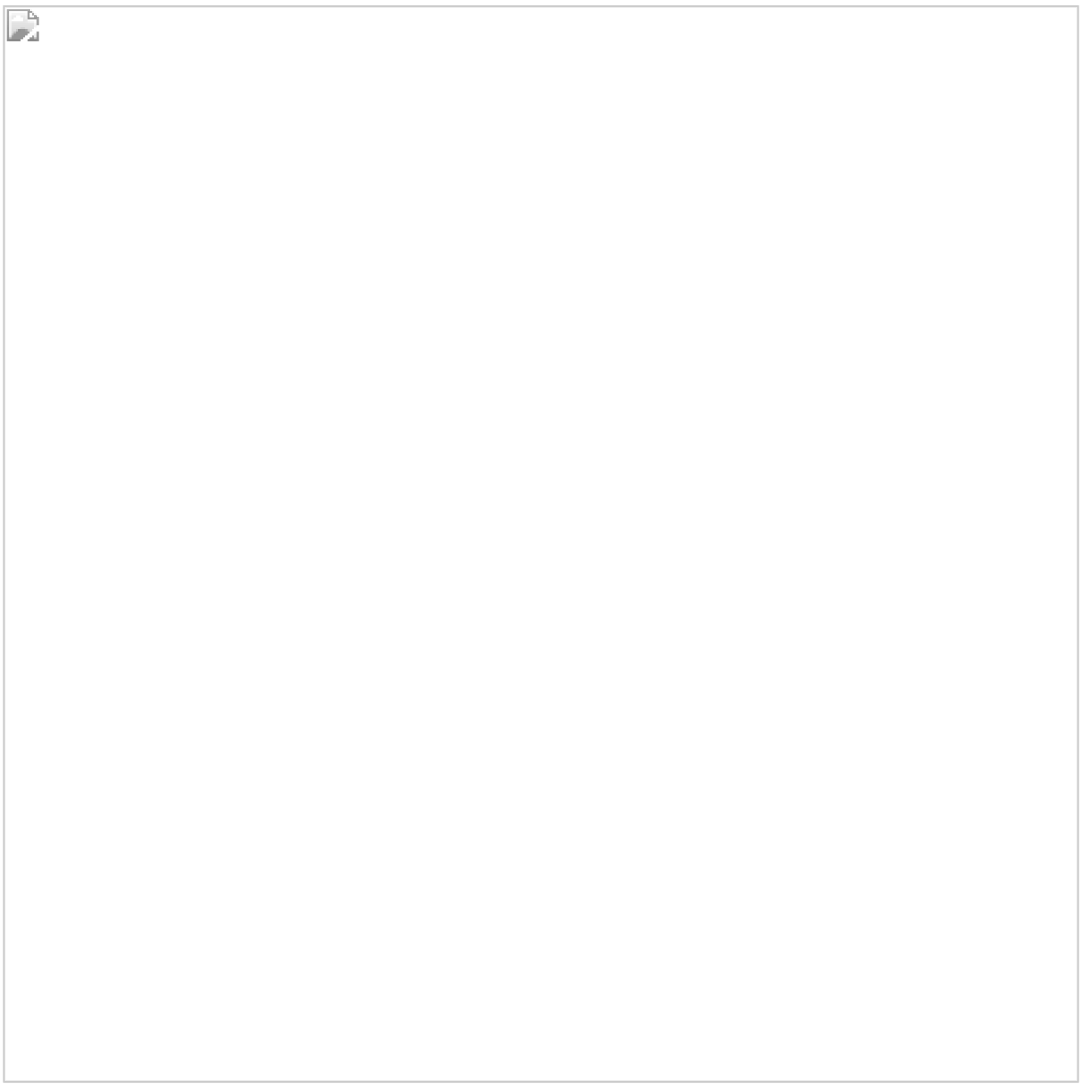
He was the best archer in the whole countryside. And with it all, he was gentle and tender, never hurting the weak nor scorning the poor.

But one day an enemy came with many soldiers. There was a terrible fight. Robin's father was killed, and the house was burned down. Robin had lost everything, and he ran for the great forest of Sherwood.

TALK ABOUT IT

Robin was kind to people who had little. Who is someone you know who is kind like that?

Robin of Huntingdon · another picture

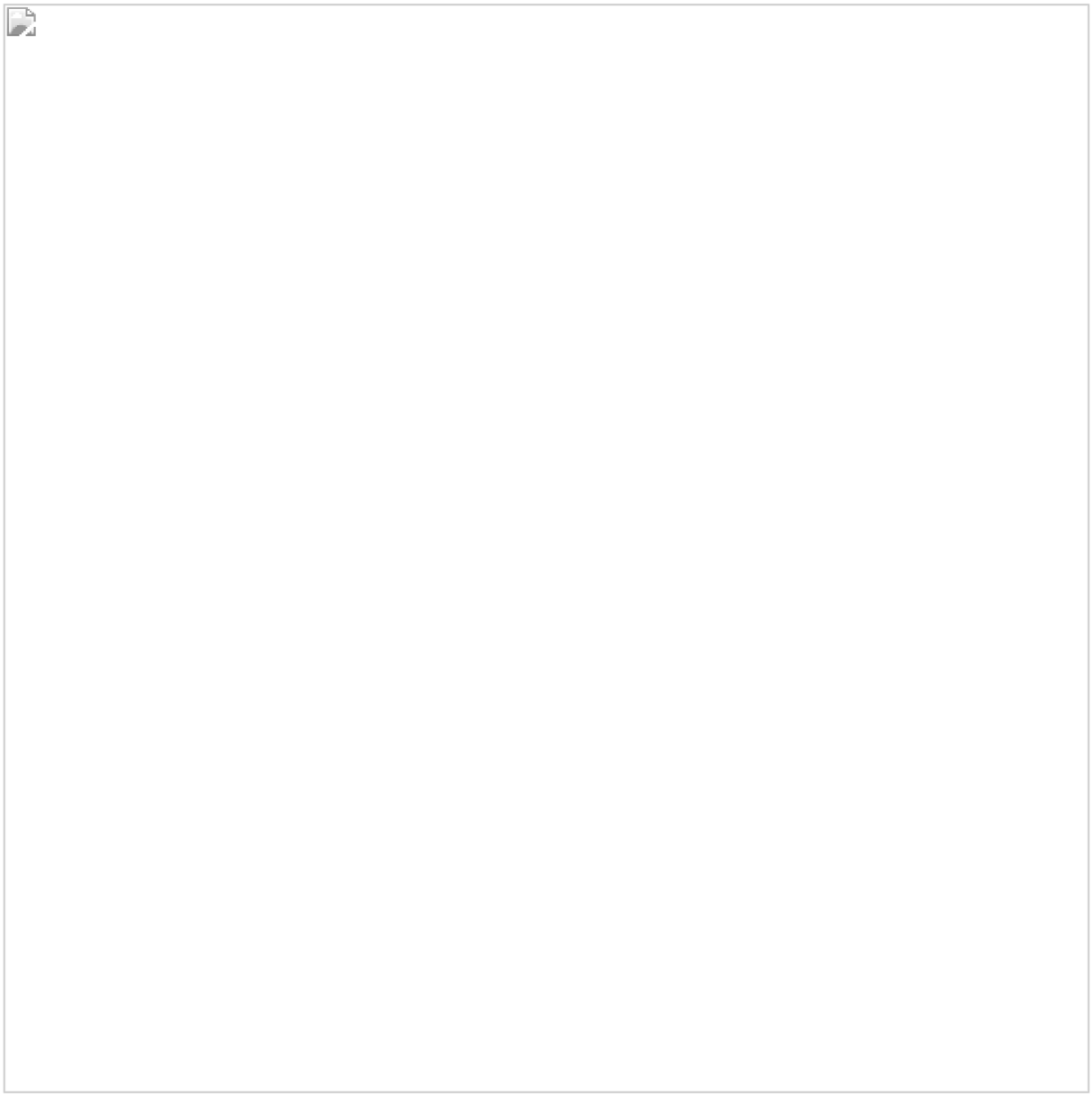


Think about it

1. What was Robin best at?

- ○ Baking
- ○ Sailing
- ○ Shooting a bow

Under the Great Oak



Robin ran on and on, deeper and deeper under the shadow of the trees. At last he threw himself down under a great oak and hid his face in the cool, green grass.

His heart was hot and bitter, and he wanted only revenge.

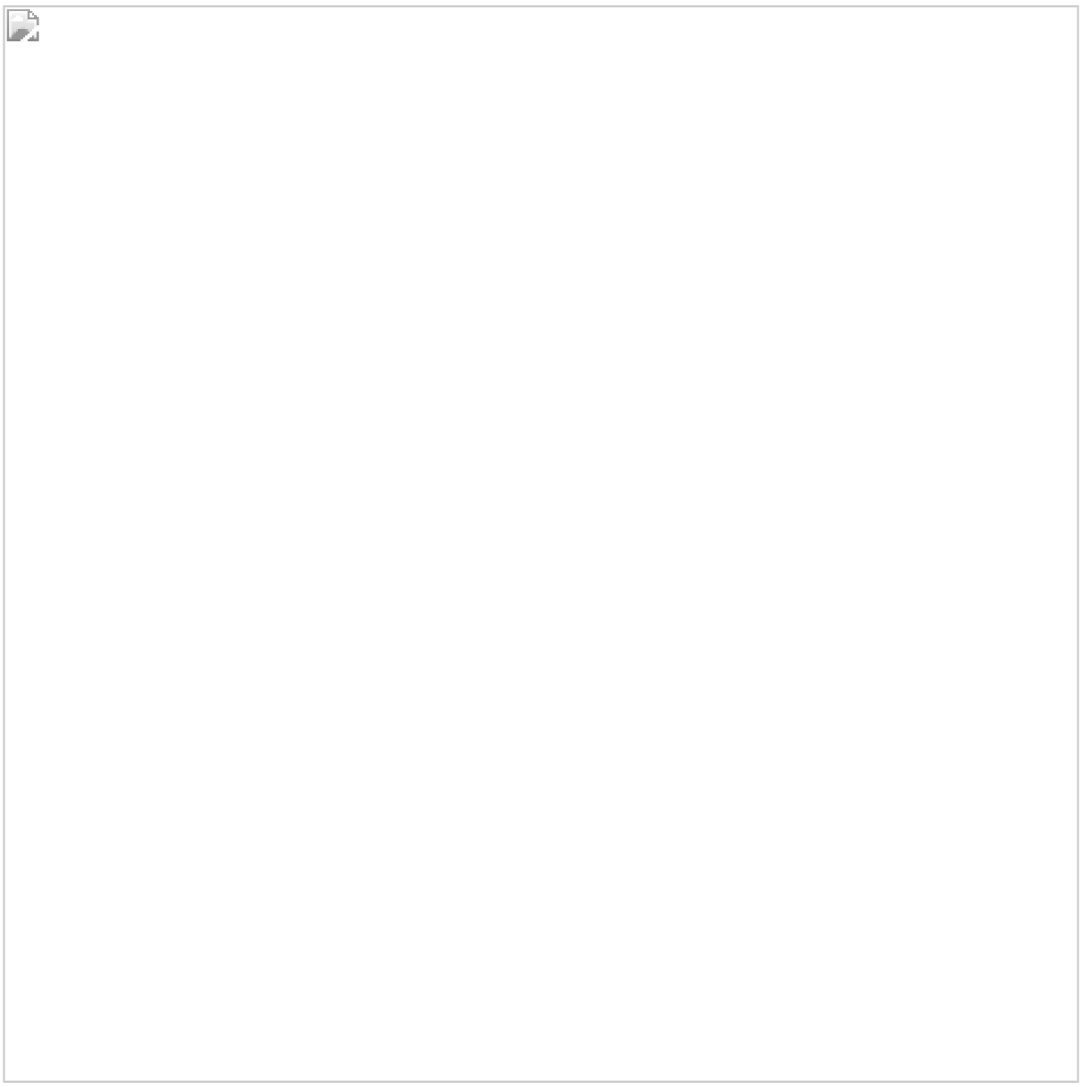
But the evening was calm. The sun sent gold light through the trees, birds sang, deer rustled, and squirrels leaped from branch to branch. Robin loved the forest. It seemed to him like a tender mother with wide-open arms.

Soon the tears came, and the bitterness melted away. Only sorrow was left.

TALK ABOUT IT

Robin was angry, and then he cried, and he felt different. Why do you think crying helped?

Under the Great Oak · another picture

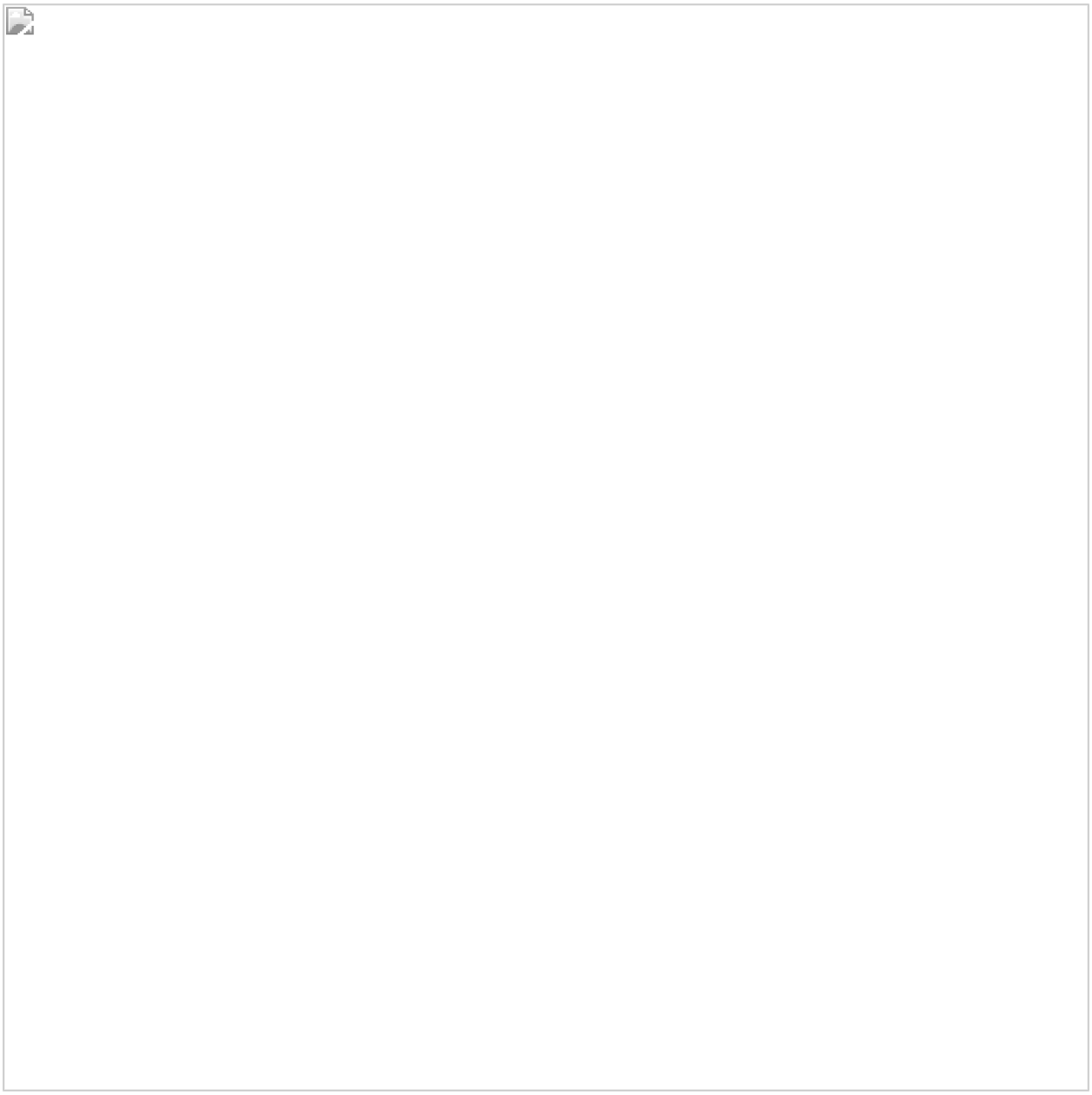


Think about it

1. How did Robin feel at first, under the oak?

- ○ Full of revenge
- ○ Full of joy
- ○ Sleepy

Robin's Promise



In the dim light, Robin knelt on the grass and said his prayers. Then he stood and made a promise out loud.

“I swear to honor God and the King, To help the weak and fight the strong.”

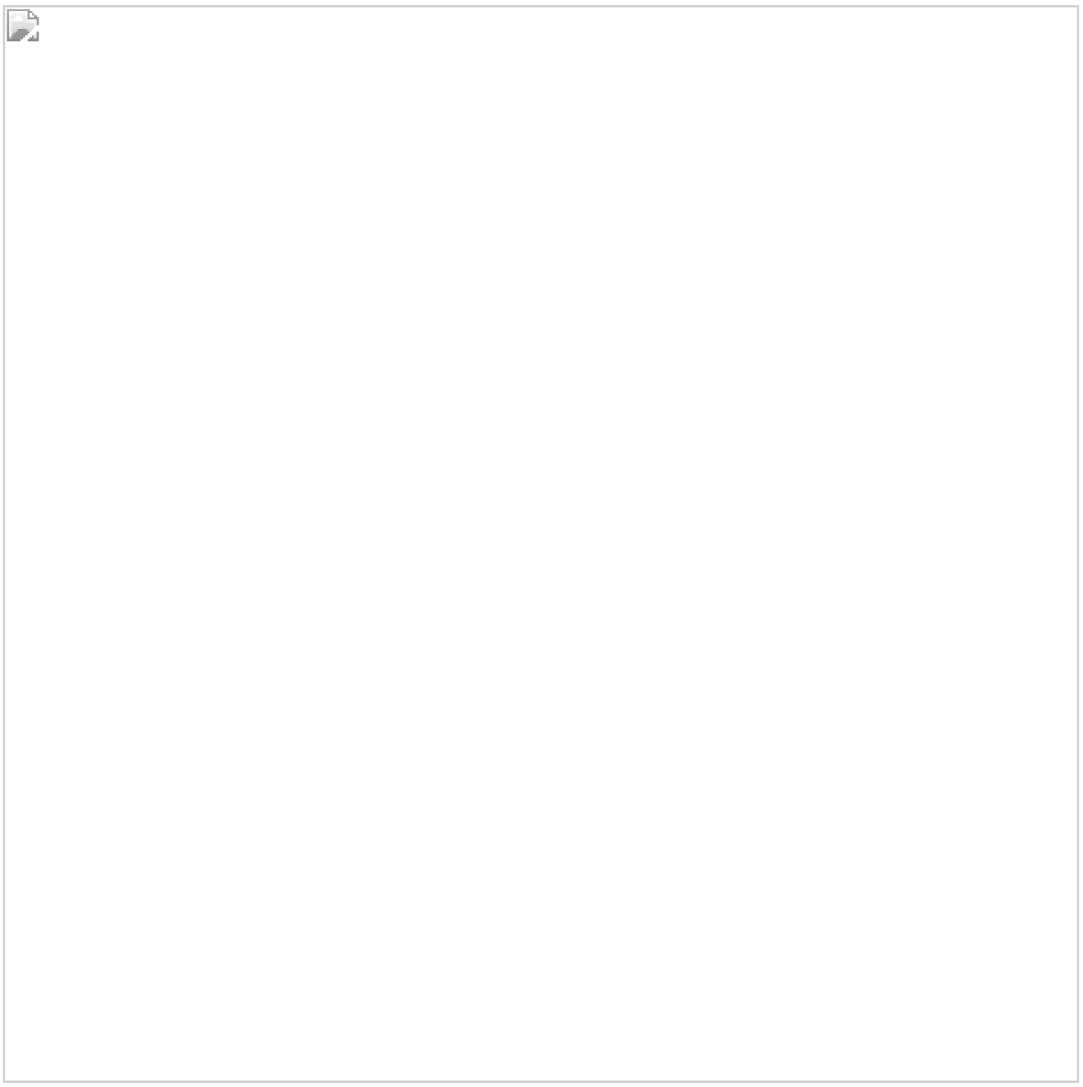
Then he lay down under the trees with his good longbow beside him and fell fast asleep.

And this is how Robin Hood first came to live in the Green Wood.

TALK ABOUT IT

Robin made a promise to help the weak. Who are some people who might need help today?

Robin's Promise · another picture

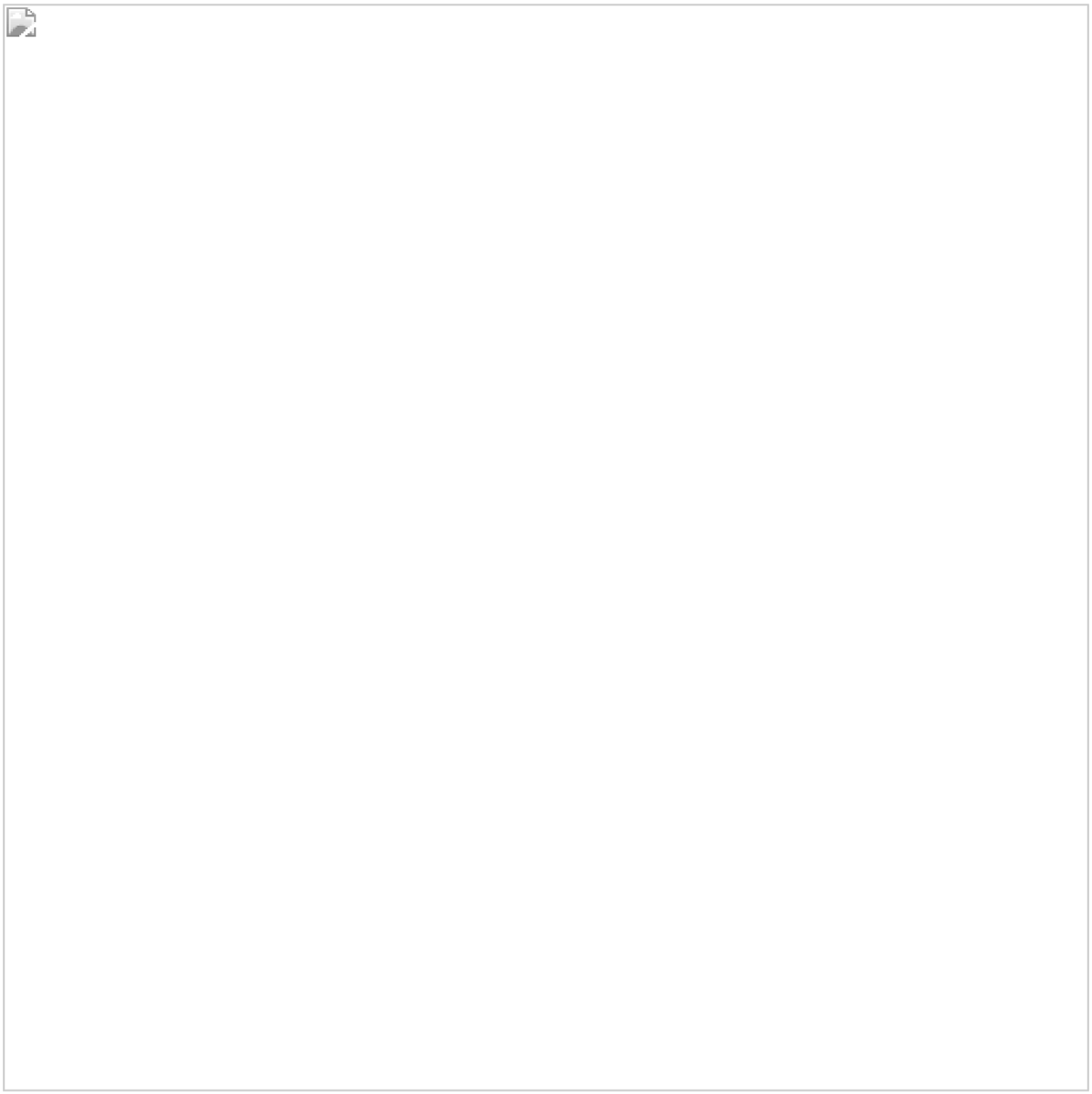


Think about it

1. Who did Robin promise to help?

- ○ The rich
- ○ The weak
- ○ Only his friends

The Merry Men



At first Robin was sad in Sherwood Forest. But he was not lonely long. Other poor men who had lost their homes came to join him. They became a band and were called the Merry Men.

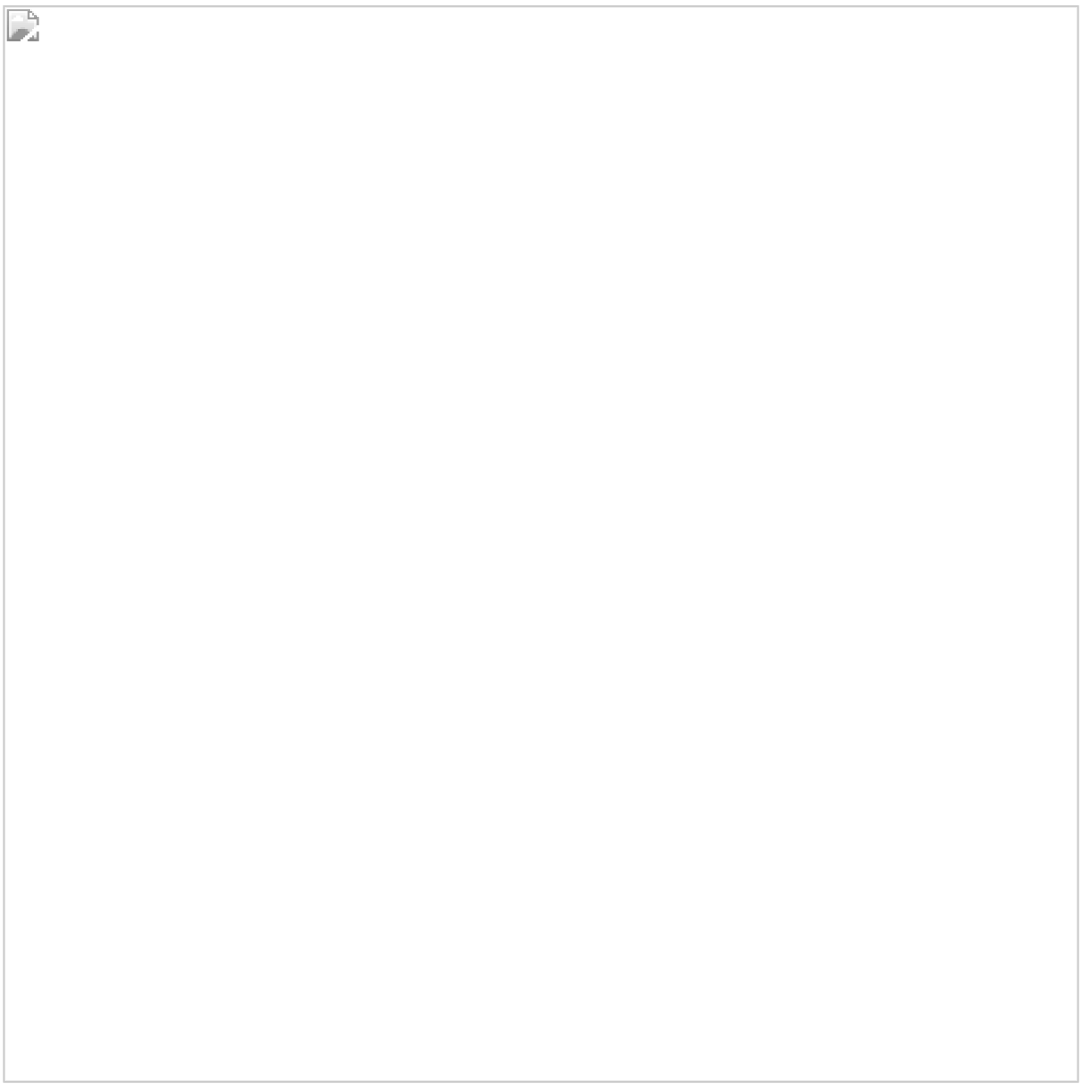
People shortened Sherwood to Hood, and soon Robin was known all over England as Robin Hood.

In the winter they lived in caves and made bows and arrows and mended their boots and clothes.

TALK ABOUT IT

Robin and the other men had all lost their homes. How do you think it helped them to be together?

The Merry Men · another picture

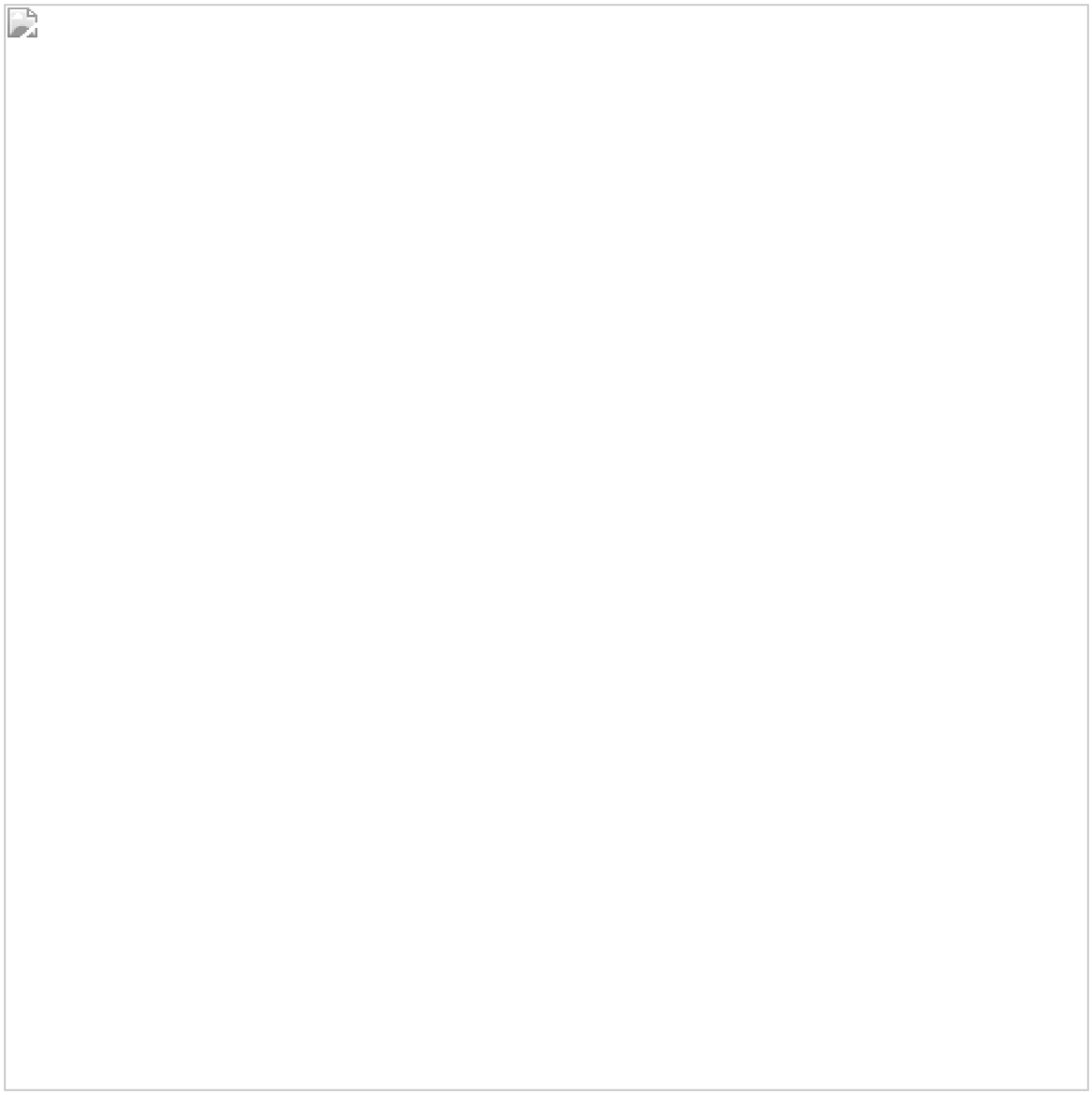


Think about it

1. What were Robin's friends called?

- ○ The Merry Men
- ○ The Wise Men
- ○ The Silent Men

Two on a Narrow Bridge



One spring morning Robin went off with his bow to find an adventure.

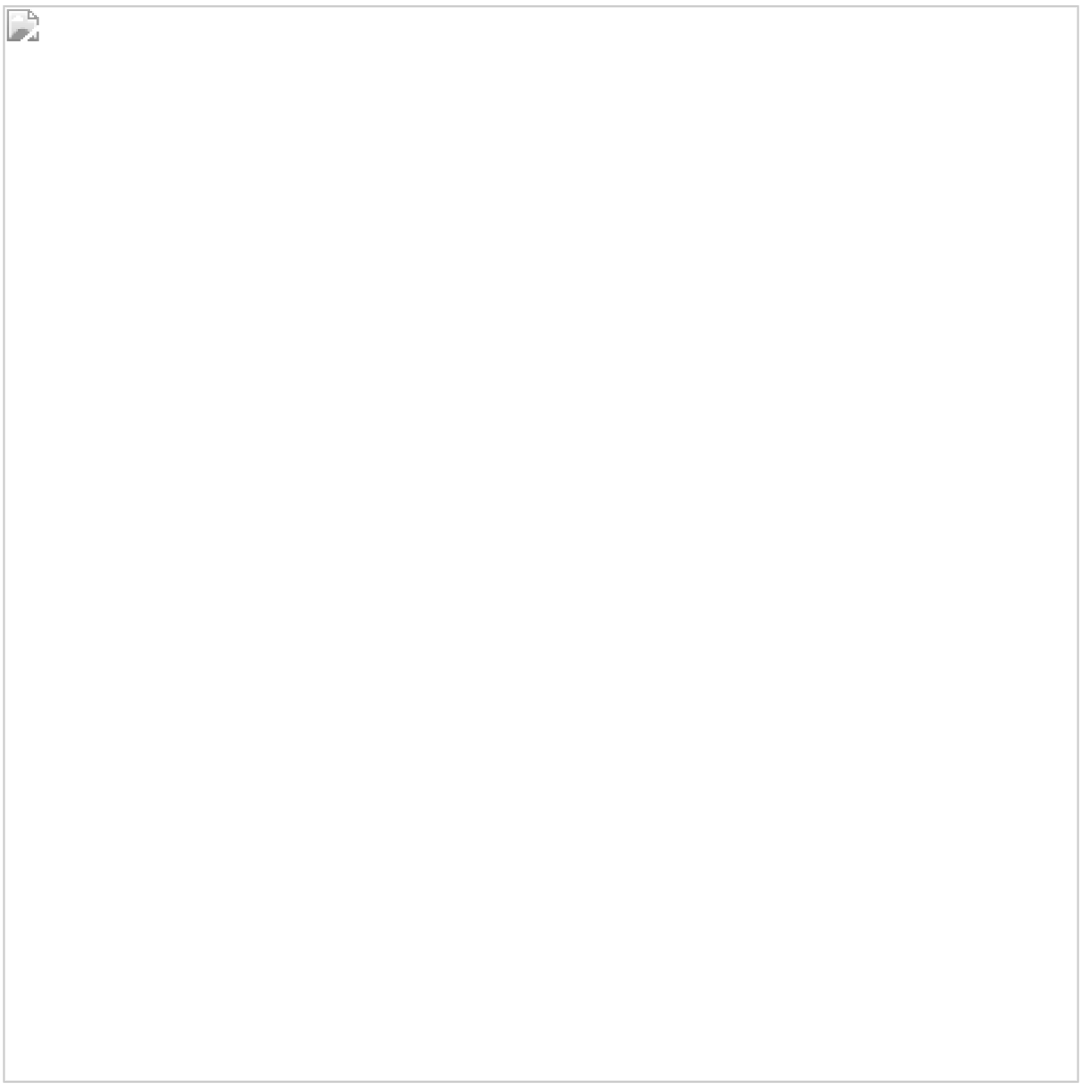
On a narrow bridge over a wide, deep river, Robin met the tallest man he had ever seen.

“Go back and wait until I have come over,” called Robin. The stranger laughed. “I have as good a right to the bridge as you.”

Robin, used to being obeyed, fitted an arrow to his bow. “If you do, I'll beat you till you are black and blue,” said the stranger. “Do you call it fair to stand with your bow and arrow ready to shoot at me when I have only a stick?”

TALK ABOUT IT

The stranger said it was not fair. What do you think Robin should do?

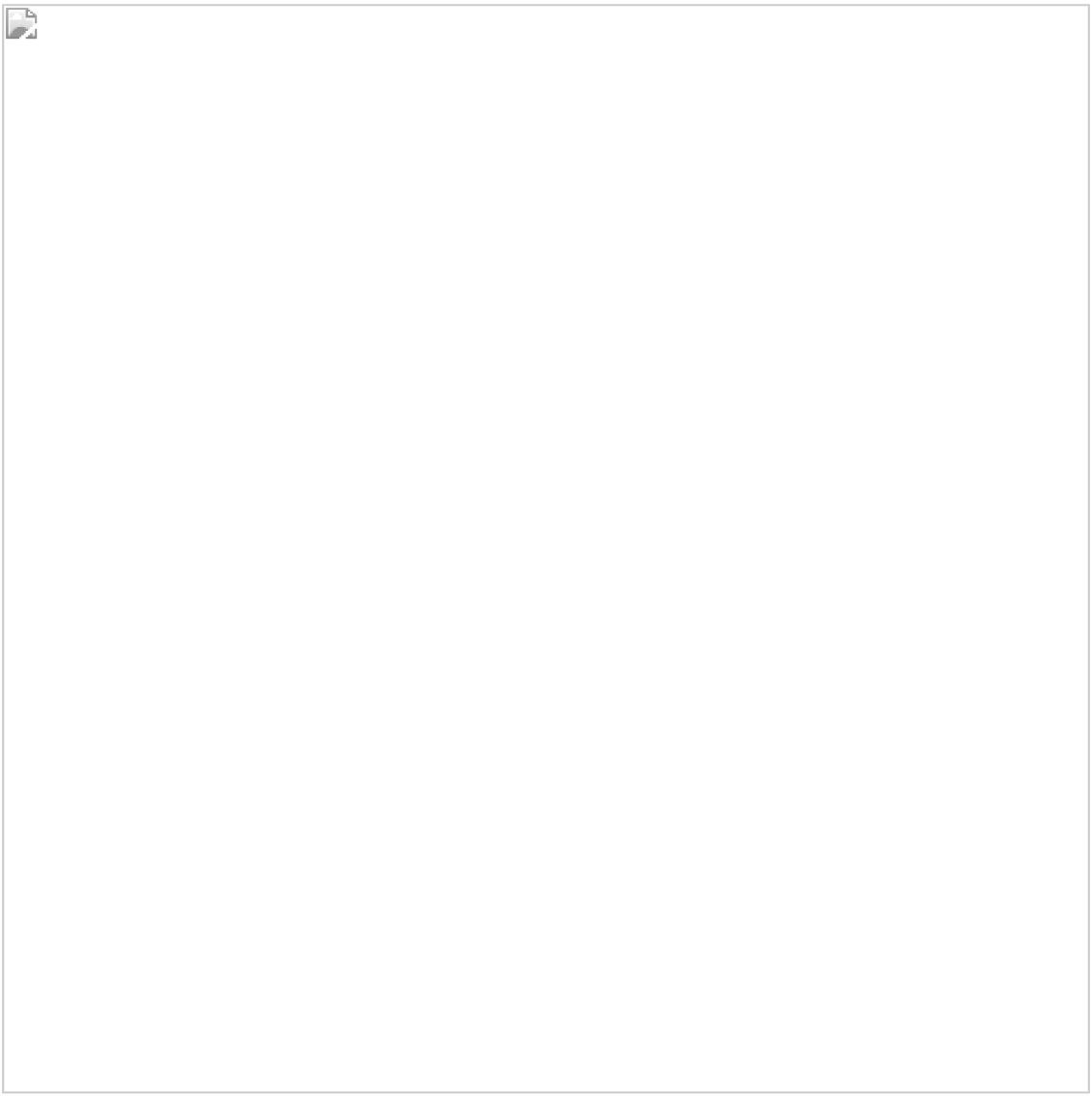


Think about it

1. What did the stranger have to defend himself?

- ○ A sword
- ○ A shield
- ○ A stick

Splash!



Robin was no coward. He threw down his bow, cut an oak stick, and said, “We will fight on the bridge, and whoever first falls into the river has lost.”

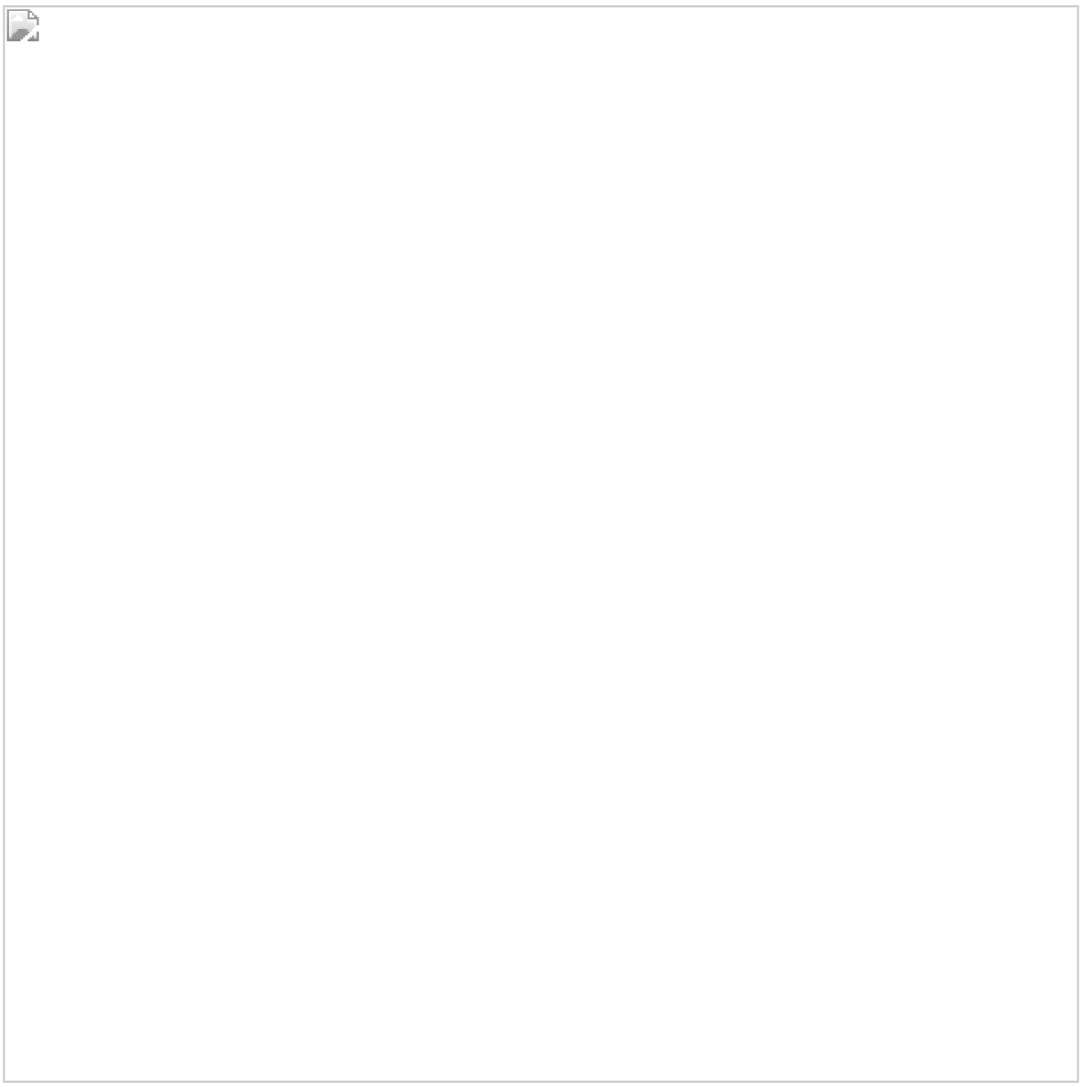
They swayed and banged, till a mighty swing sent Robin splashing into the river.

“Hallo, where are you?” called the frightened stranger. “I'm here,” called Robin, far downstream. “I'm just swimming with the tide.”

Robin climbed out laughing. “It was a fair fight, and you have won the battle. I don't want to quarrel with you any more. Will you shake hands and be friends with me?” “With all my heart,” said the stranger.

TALK ABOUT IT

Robin lost the fight and then laughed and made a friend. What do you think made that possible?



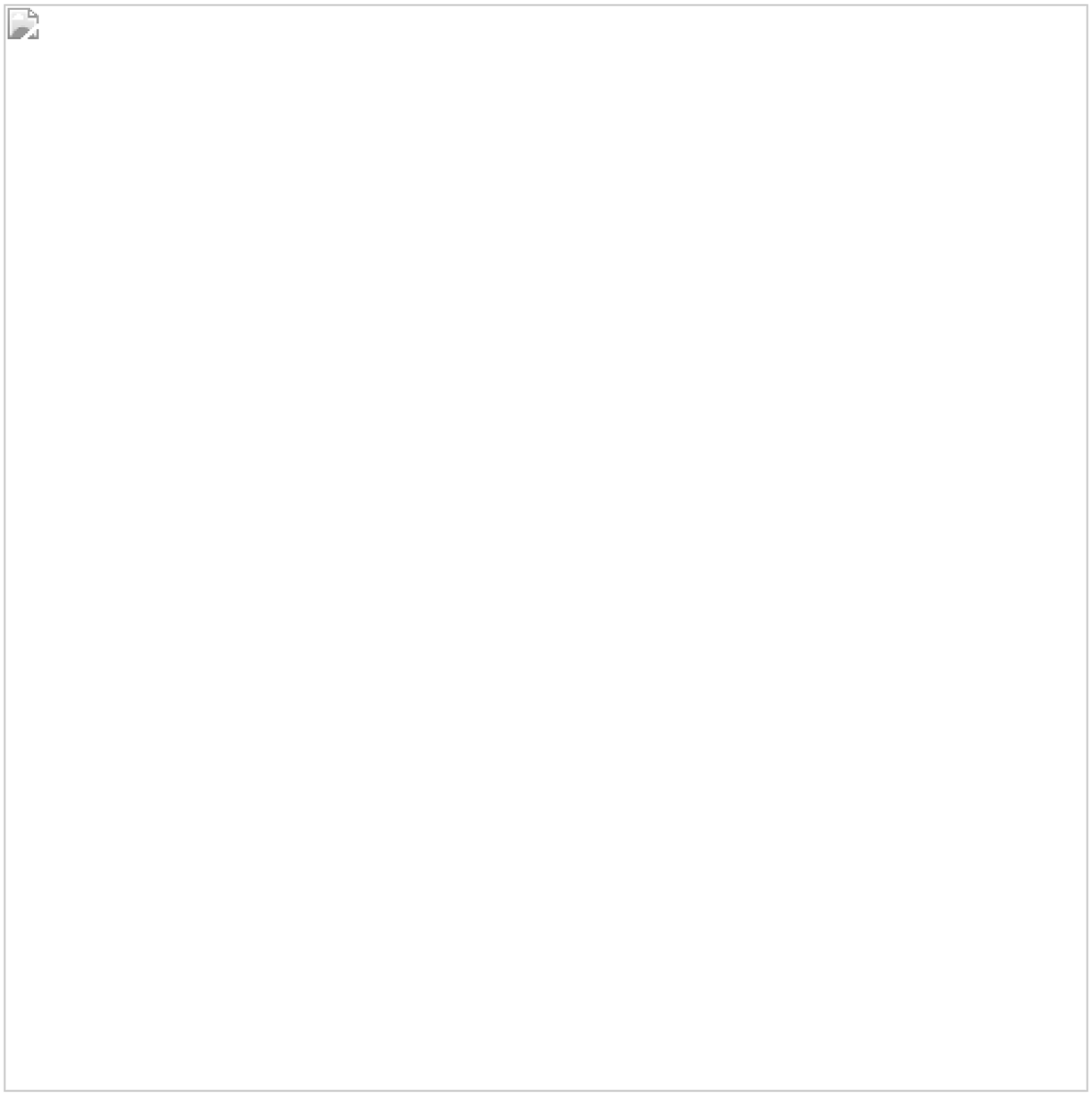
Think about it

1. What happened to Robin?

- ○ He ran away
- ○ He won
- ○ He fell into the river

2. How did the fight turn into a friendship?

Little John



Robin blew his horn, and the Merry Men ran up, ready to throw the stranger in. “Stop, stop!” cried Robin. “It was a fair fight. He is a brave man, and we are very good friends now.”

Robin asked him to join the Merry Men. “My name is John Little,” said the stranger, “and I promise to serve you faithfully.”

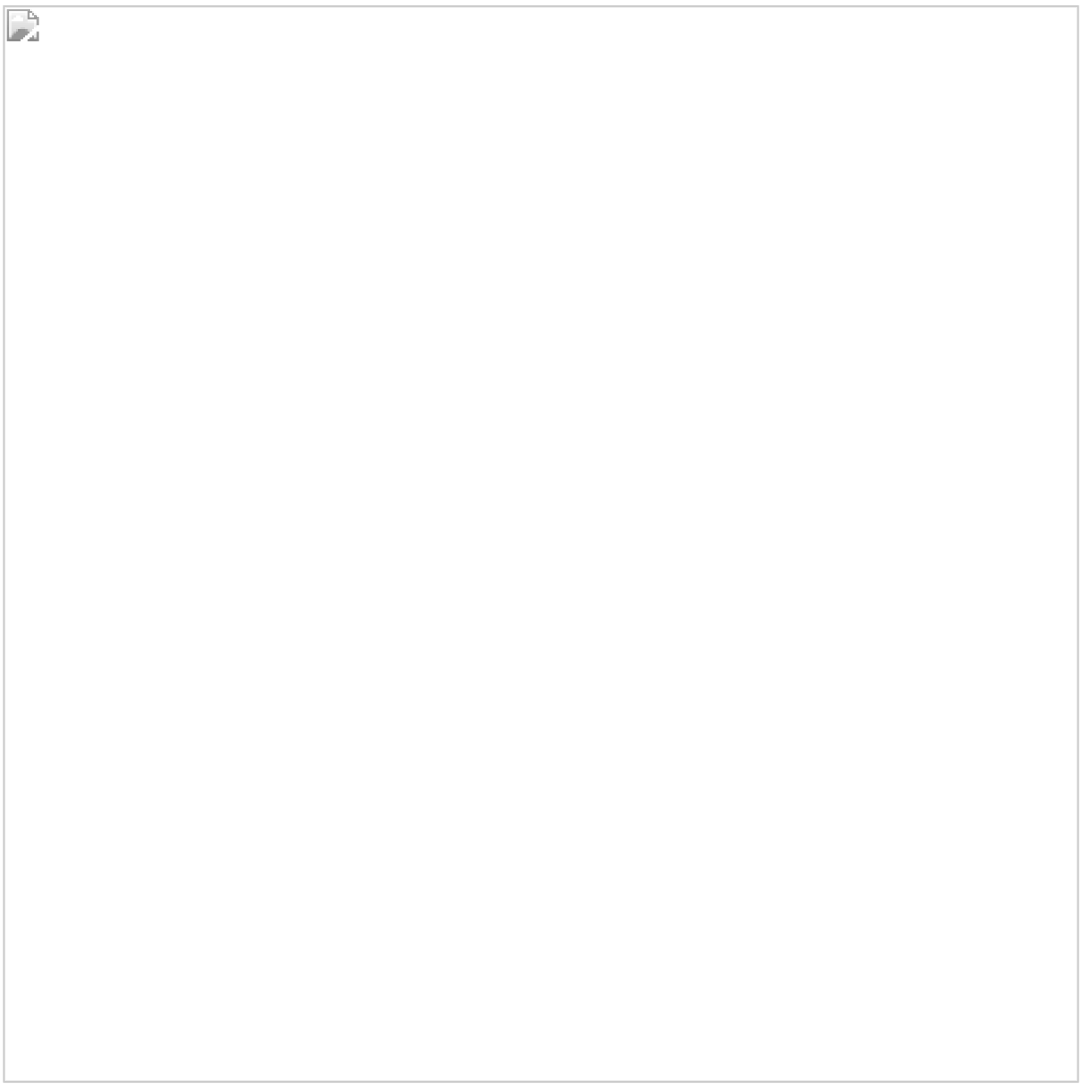
He was seven feet tall! Everyone laughed at such a name, till the villagers said, “Hark! how Robin Hood and his Merry Men do laugh!”

They poured water on him and gave him a new name: Little John. From that day he stood next to Robin.

TALK ABOUT IT

Robin stopped his men from hurting the stranger. Why do you think he did?

Little John · another picture

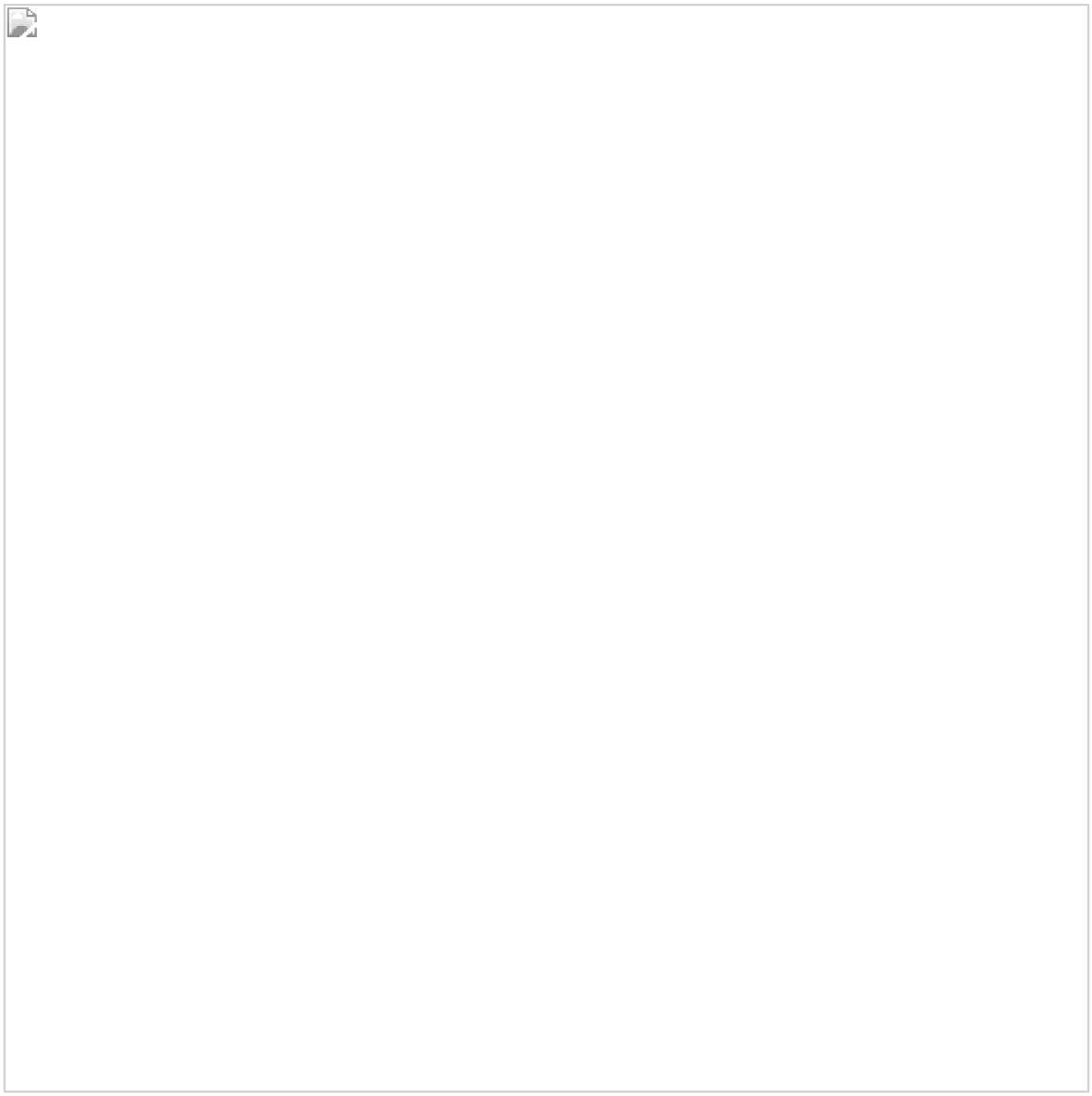


Think about it

1. What new name did the Merry Men give John Little?

- ○ Big John
- ○ Little John
- ○ Tall John

The Butcher



The Sheriff of Nottingham hated Robin. He was a very unkind man who took money and houses from the poor Saxons. They came into the forest, where Robin gave them food and money, and many stayed to become his men.

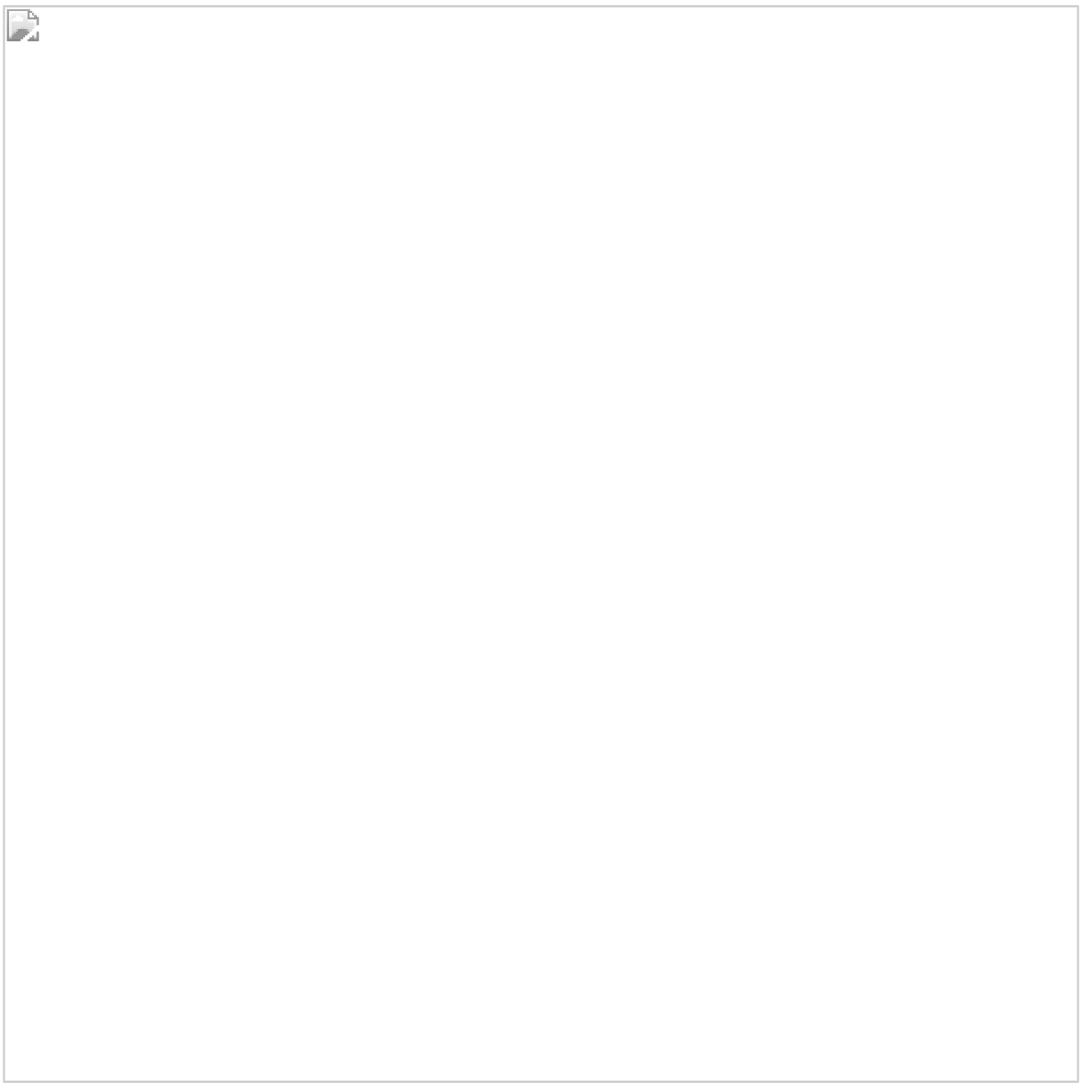
One day Robin met a butcher riding to Nottingham market, with baskets of fine meat. Robin bought all of it, and the pony too. They swapped clothes, and Robin rode to the market dressed as a butcher.

But Robin knew nothing about selling meat. “Twopence a pound, ladies,” he cried. Everyone crowded to his stall. The other butchers stood idle.

TALK ABOUT IT

Robin put on a disguise. When is it all right to pretend, and when is it not?

The Butcher · another picture

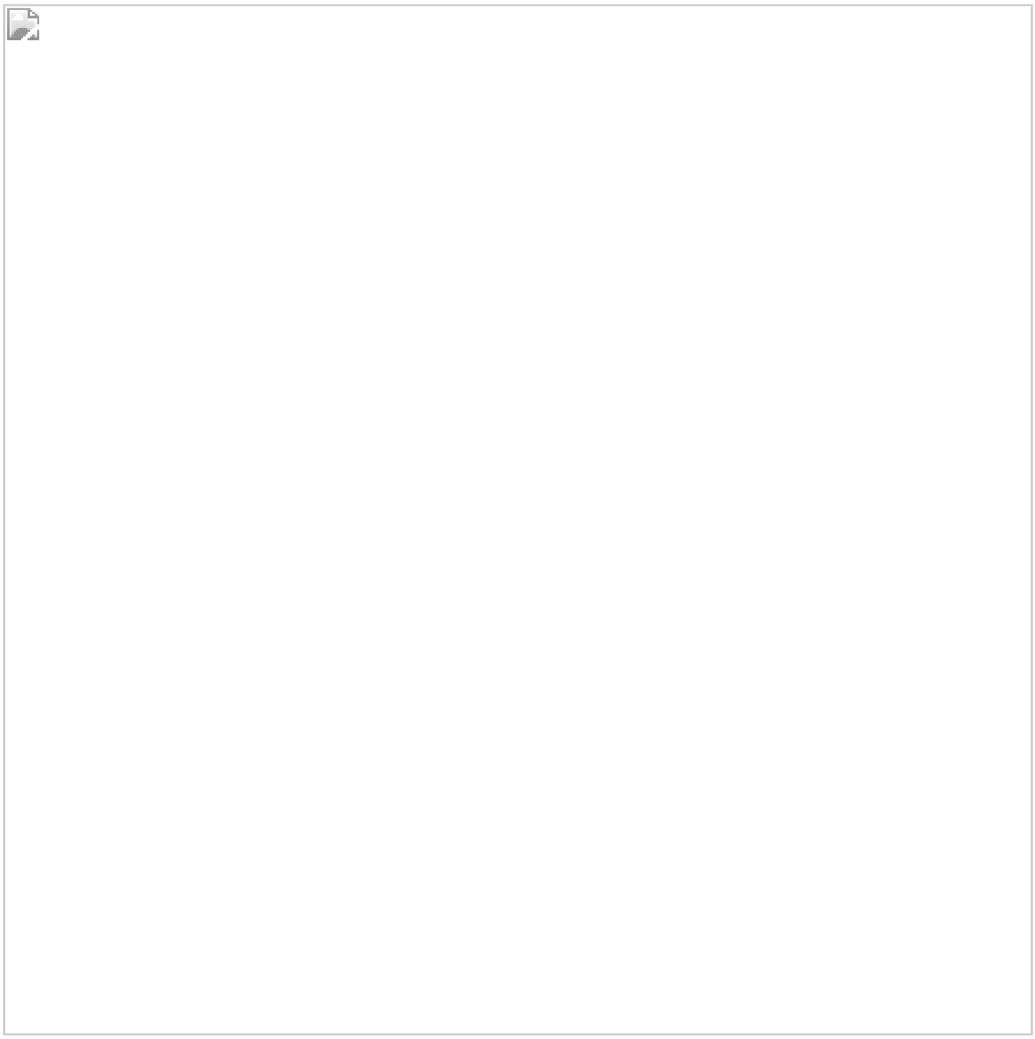


Think about it

1. What price did Robin charge?

- ○ Twopence a pound
- ○ Ten pounds
- ○ Nothing at all

Dinner with the Sheriff



The butchers asked the new butcher to dine at the town hall with the Sheriff. Robin chuckled at dining with his great enemy.

The Sheriff's wife was very kind to Robin. “Come to see me next time you have meat to sell,” she said. “Thank you, lady, I will not forget your kindness,” said Robin.

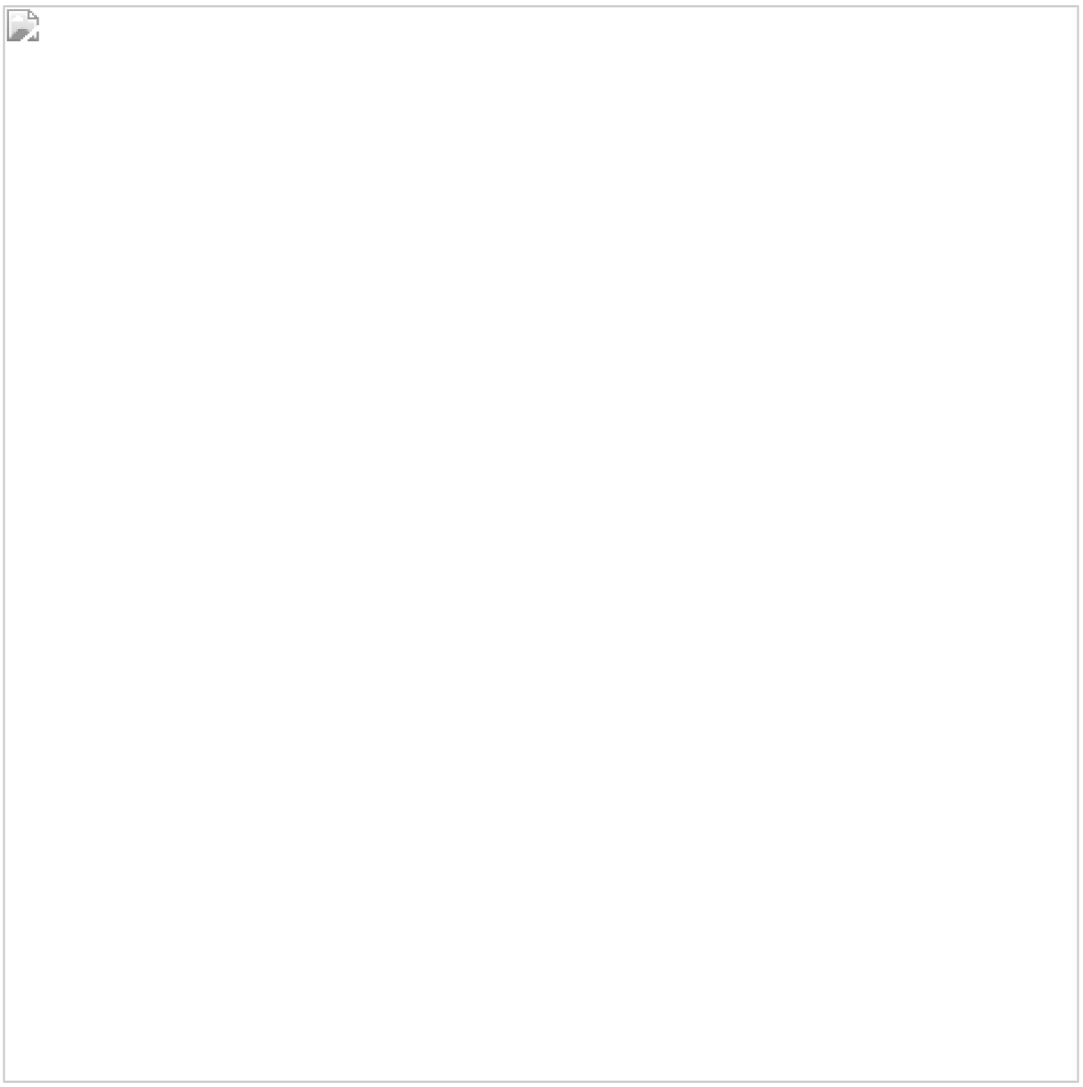
The greedy Sheriff thought this young fellow did not know what things were worth. “If you have any cattle to sell, come to me,” he said. “I'll give you a good price.”

With a twinkle, Robin said he had hundreds of horned beasts, and the Sheriff agreed to ride out and see them.

TALK ABOUT IT

The Sheriff wanted to cheat Robin. How do you think the Sheriff would feel if he knew who Robin was?

Dinner with the Sheriff · another picture

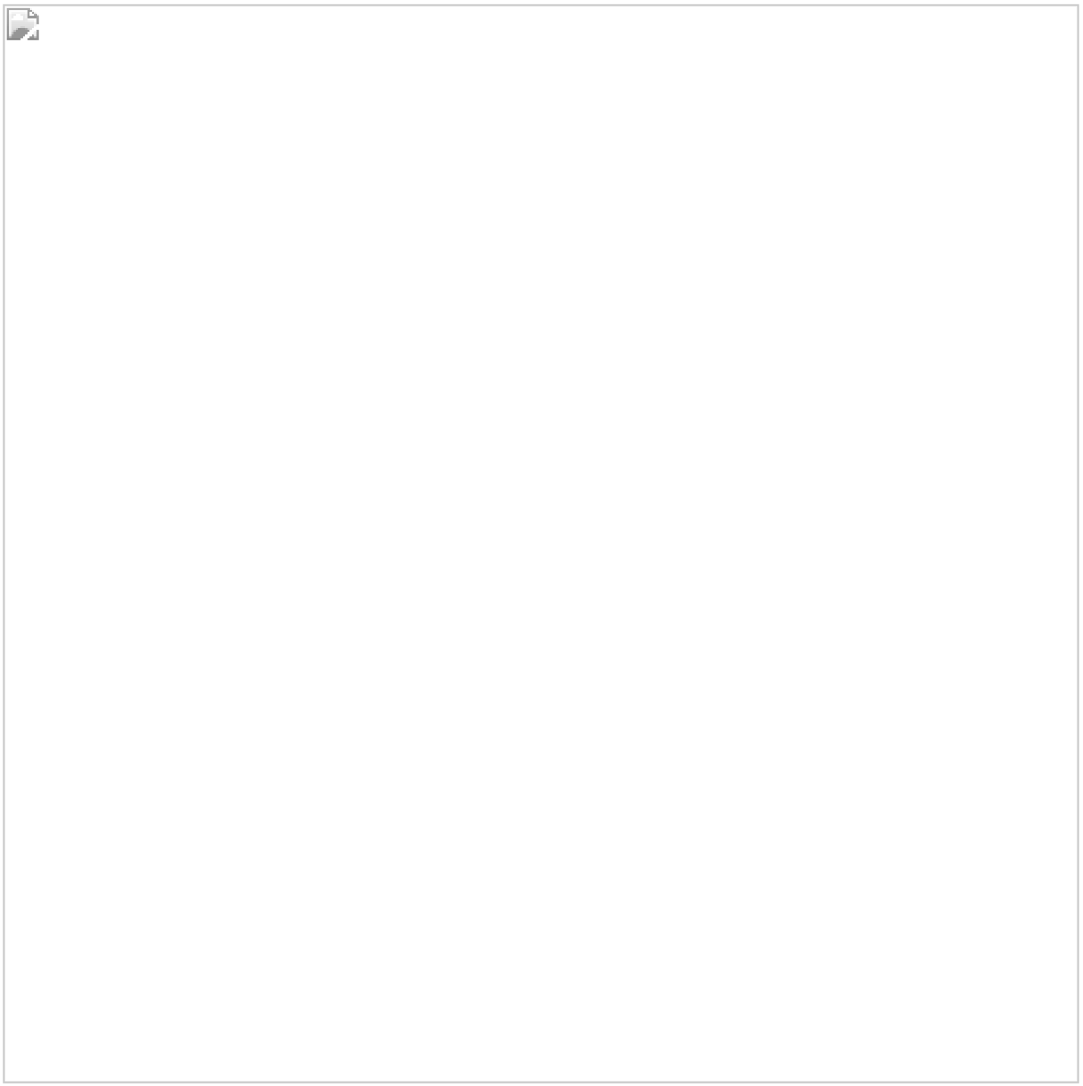


Think about it

1. Who was kind to Robin at the Sheriff's house?

- ○ The Sheriff
- ○ The Sheriff's wife
- ○ The old butcher

The Horned Beasts



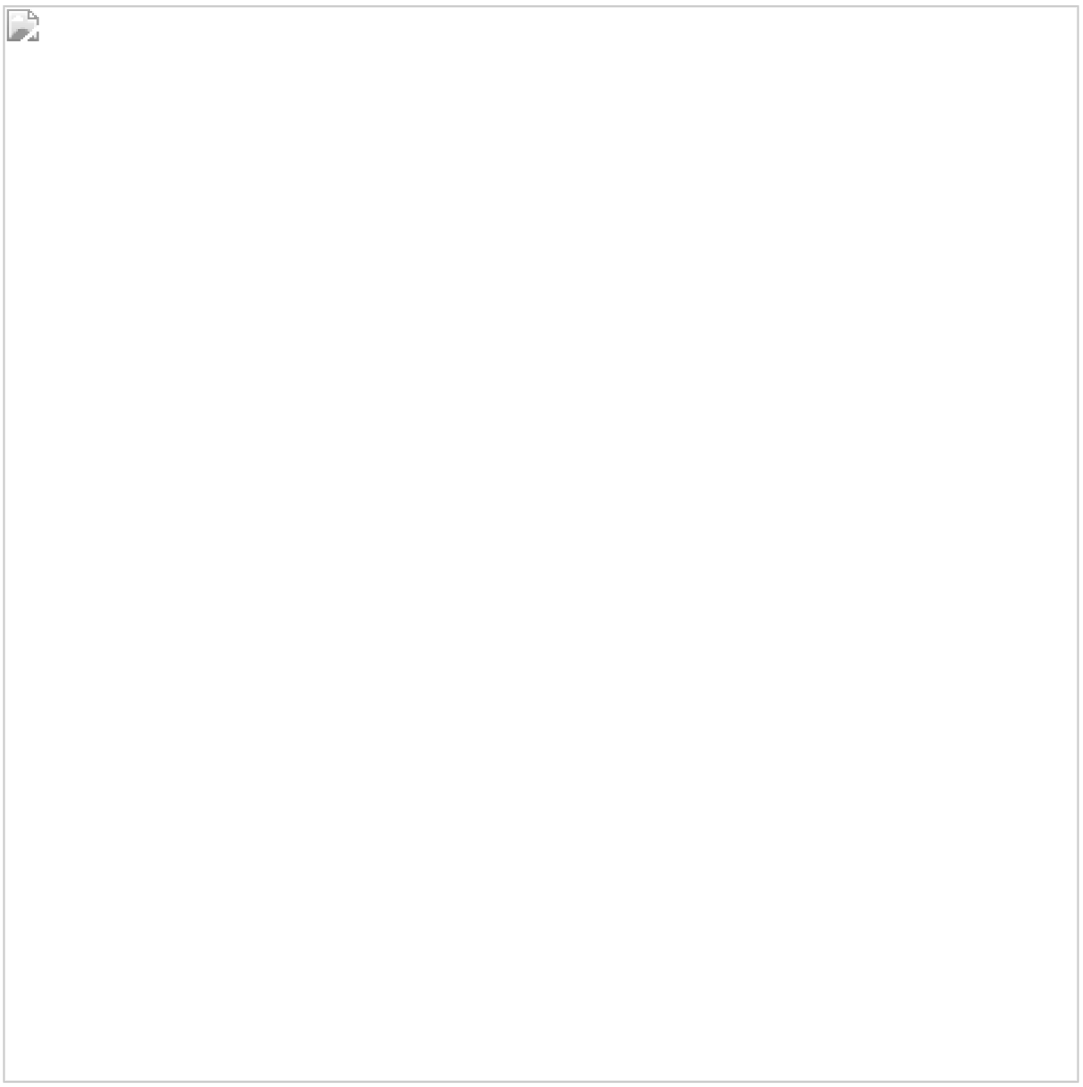
That night the Sheriff stuffed three hundred pounds in gold under his pillow. In the morning he rode away with Robin.

On the road into Sherwood Forest, the Sheriff grew nervous. “There is a bold, bad man in these woods,” he said. “I am quite sure we won't meet him,” said Robin, laughing.

Then they saw a herd of fat deer. “Look there,” said Robin. “What do you think of my horned beasts?” “I think,” said the Sheriff, in a trembling voice, “I think I should like to go back to Nottingham.”

Robin blew his horn three times, and Little John and the Merry Men came.

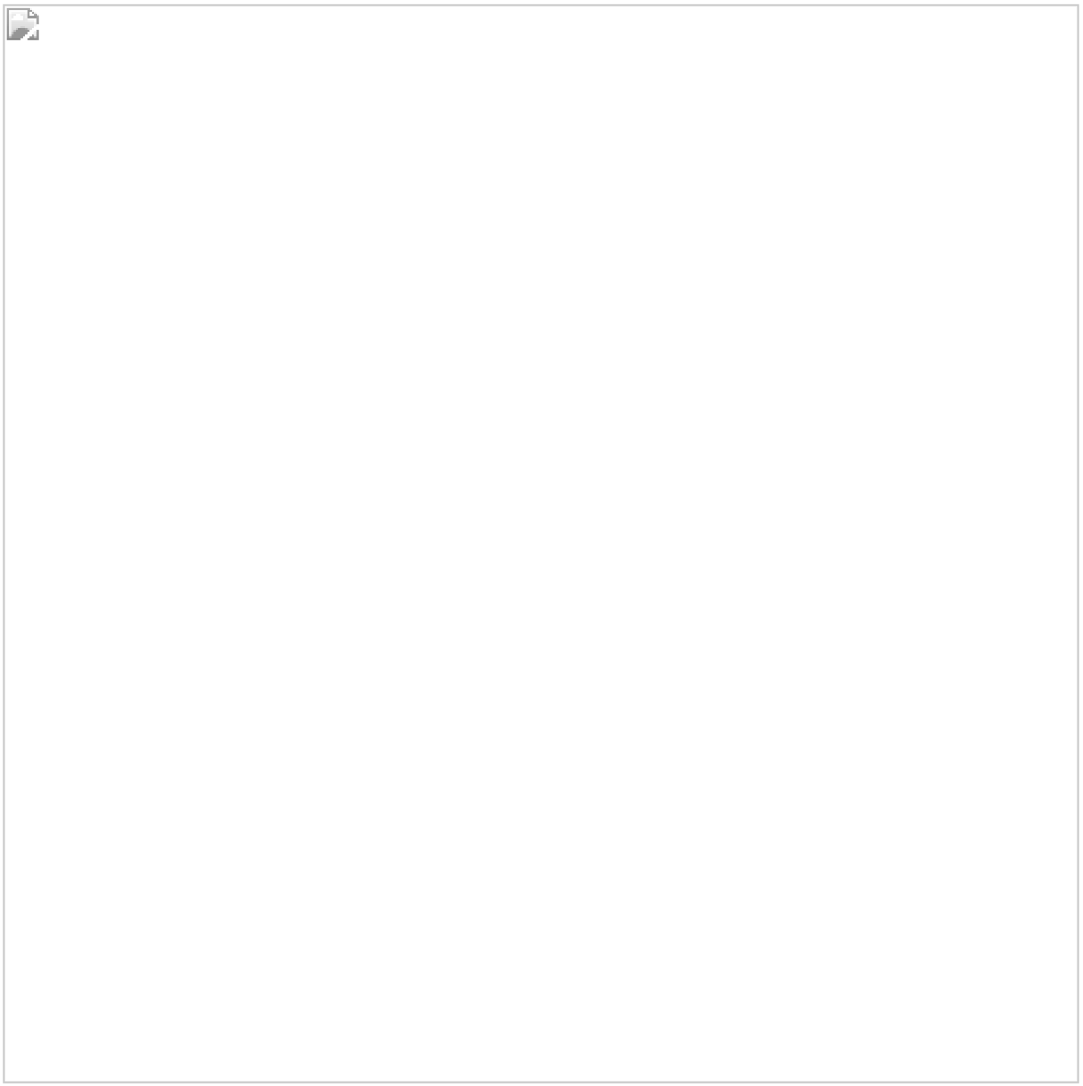
TALK ABOUT IT
The Sheriff wanted to get rich by tricking a young man. How do you think he felt when he saw deer instead of cows?



Think about it

1. What were Robin's “horned beasts”?
    - ○ Cows
    - ○ Goats
    - ○ Deer

The Sheriff Pays



After a fine forest dinner, Robin said, “Now, Master Sheriff, you must pay for your dinner.”

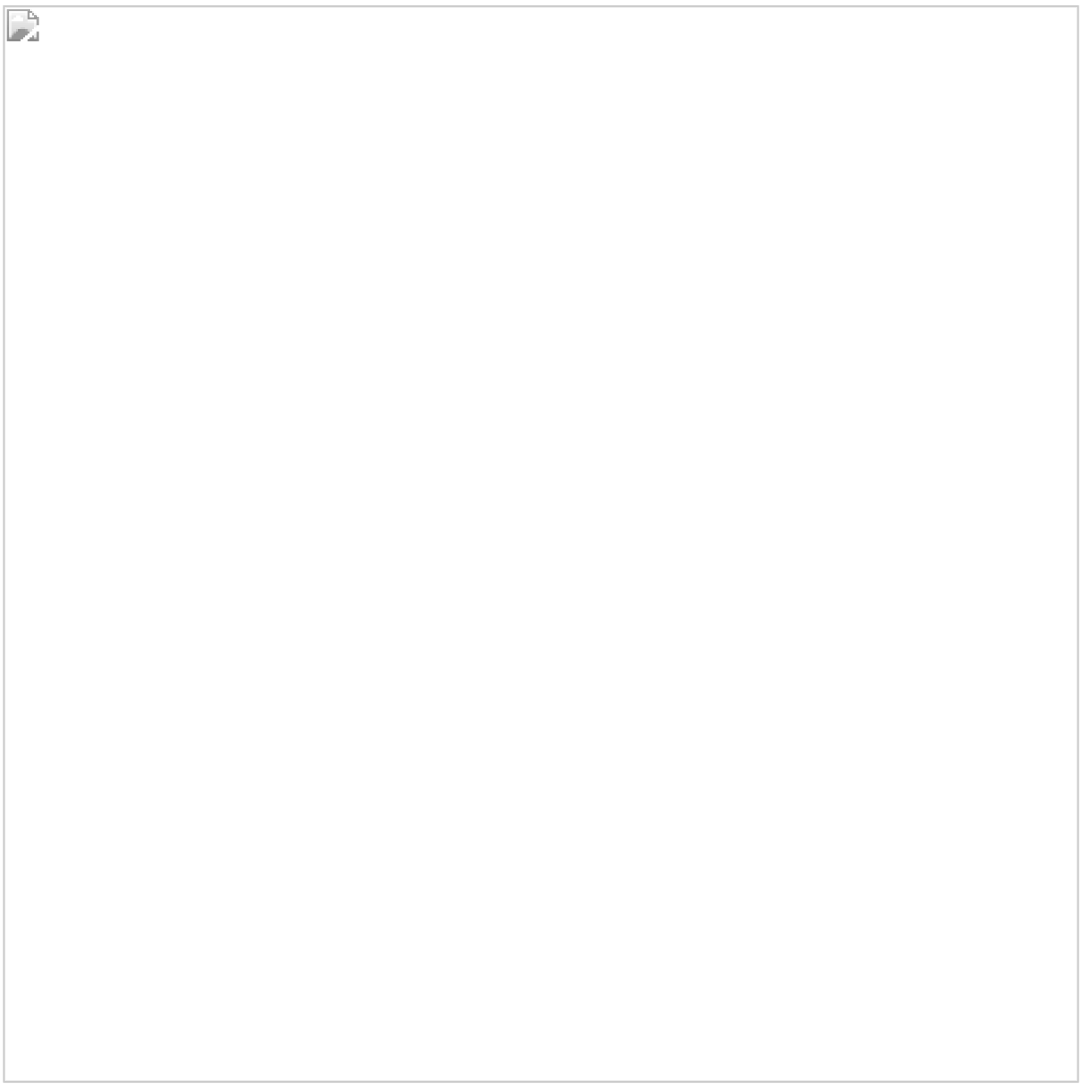
“Only pebbles, nothing but pebbles,” said the Sheriff. But Little John counted three hundred pounds out of his bags.

Robin would share the money among his men. “It is not half as much as you have stolen from them. If you had told me the truth about it, I might have given you some back.”

“Your good wife was kind to me yesterday. For her sake, I let you go.” Then Robin set the Sheriff on his pony and went laughing away.

TALK ABOUT IT

The Sheriff told a lie, and Robin took the money. Why do you think Robin let him go home? Who else was affected?



Think about it

1. Why did Robin let the Sheriff go?

- ○ For his wife's sake
- ○ Because he was afraid
- ○ Because it was raining

2. Robin tricked the Sheriff, but he also showed mercy. What do you think about both?

“There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

— Yeshua HaMashiach

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