

# The Tale of Robin Hood

Tales of Robin Hood have been told for hundreds of years and have been written since at least 1377.

The first known tale was entitled “A Gest of Robyn Hode,” so even the spelling of Robin’s name has changed over time. Other changes have been the tales’



locations, including Nottingham, Sherwood Forest, and Barnsdale. Characters have changed as well, though some have been popular throughout the tale’s history, such as Friar Tuck, Maid Marian, and Little John, pictured to the left in the Disney film.

## How Robin Hood Conquered Our Hearts

### Robbing the Rich

Robin Hood is remembered for Robbing the rich to give to the poor. The origin of this idea is unknown, though it has been portrayed as a means to combat a corrupt tax-collector (as in the Disney film) or as a way of saving the repressed Anglo-Saxons from the ruling Normans. Either way, this idea of Robin Hood fighting for justice is part of what makes his stories live on.

### Robin Lives On

Robin Hood is an adventurous hero who fights evil using strategy and skill – common elements of superhero stories in any culture. In addition to adventure, audiences appreciate romantic plots (such as the chivalrous relationship of Robin and Marian) and the level of realism. When a story is realistic, the audience can picture themselves as the powerful hero.

## Modern Adaptations

There have been many versions of Robin Hood told, printed, and filmed. Pyle’s 1883 version is popular for children, and is illustrated with woodcuts by the author. McKinley’s 1988

version incorporates all the most popular historical elements and the BBC’s television version saw the introduction of technology like steel, gunpowder, and poison darts.

