



The Middle Ages book

-from-

Charis Wardell



Maid Marian



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Dear C. ...
In this book I am ...
you what I already know about the
Middle Ages and what nice texts
I can write about it.

The Robin Hood most commonly known today was a good man unjustly wronged by the Sheriff of Nottingham (working with wicked Prince John). He surrounded himself with other good but unfairly treated men. He was loyal to King Richard and was trying to protect the common people until Richard's return from the crusades. One way he did this was by robbing from the rich and corrupt and giving back to the poor and mistreated. He and his men lived in Sherwood forest, feasting daily on venison and other good things. He had a keen sense of humor and, although he was highly skilled with the longbow, he was humble and could laugh at himself. Although he was a noble, he treated his men as equals, almost as brothers. He was courageous, generous, intelligent, and charismatic. These qualities have made him (or at least this romanticized, idealized concept of Robin Hood), a hero to generations around the world, children and adults alike. In this sense, it doesn't matter whether there was ever a real Robin Hood, or what he was like.

<http://www.buzzle.com/articles/the-history-and-legend-of-robin-hood.html>

ROBIN

H.

WIFE of BATH

What do you think?

Answer all the questions below.
The letters of all the right answers will give you the answer to the red question!

How old was the wife of bath on her first wedding?

- 1) What clothes did she wear?
 a) old, ugly b) good quality
 c) nice, smooth

- 2) What colours were the clothes?
 a) bright b) brown
 c) green, brown d) black

3) What hats did she wear?

- a) unknown b) very broad, flat
 c) hat, pointed d) funny, different hats

4) What did her shoes look like?

- a) large slippers b) moccasins
 c) high heels d) moccasins

5) What was her favorite thing to do?

- a) hitting b) marrying men
 c) painting d) going on adventures

6) What was her last husband's name?

- a) Harold b) Gustav
 c) Robert d) unknown



5) How many husbands did she have?
 a) 1 b) 5
 c) 3 d) 6

2
 Write in the right colors

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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Fact or Fiction?

Robin Hood is famous for stealing from the rich and giving to the poor. In fact his name is so well known it has been adopted into popular culture as a term for someone that supposedly does this. Who was the original Robin Hood? If your only experience with Robin Hood has been at the movies, you may think he's just another Hollywood creation. In actuality, tales about an English outlaw named Robin Hood have been told for centuries.

While the actual identity of Robin Hood has been lost in the mists of time, there is ample evidence that the character is based on a real man, or perhaps different men contributing various qualities to the legend over a period of time. From at least as early as the year 1228, the names Robinhood, Robehod, Rabunhod, or Hobbhod were used by English justices as terms for fugitives or outlaws. At least by the fifteenth century, the exploits of an outlaw named Robin Hood began to be celebrated in song and story. In many of these early versions of the Robin Hood legend, he is a very different person from the just and good hearted hero known to later centuries. He is portrayed as vengeful, selfish, and barbarically violent toward his personal enemies, while indifferent toward the suffering of the poor. Could this be a different person altogether, or is history a matter of perspective, with each observer, or chronicler, seeing what he wants to see and telling things in his own way? Perhaps the differences are merely the result of the stories being passed down in the oral tradition, with each successive generation creating a bigger (and better) hero than the one before.

In the same way, over the years Robin Hood has been identified with various historical figures, living in various places and times. For example, some believe that the character is based on Robert the Earl of Huntington, who lived in the first half of the thirteenth century. Other tales say that he was a commoner.



Robin Hood

I'm so happy because in a few will be my first time to dress two important people! I'm going to dress the Baron Godfrey and Lady Alice. Isn't that amazing? I am really excited about that and I hope nothing bad will happen and that I'm going to do a good job. Hopefully I will get everything right because then I can work for them every single day in my life! I am really thankful for my best friends Marn and Glory because they work for the Baron and Lady Alice and they work down all the steps to dress them so that I can help the two. I'm so excited!!!

How Baron Godfrey gets dressed:

Be in the room before the wakes up! Give him his shirt as he sits up straight and help him pull it over his head. Then go in the bathroom with him and give him the rough purple stone that you can find above the washbasin. He will shave with it by rubbing off his whiskers with the stone. You go into the bedroom again and help Baron Godfrey with his long horse. The shoes are next. They are laced up with a button. Get the robe that lined with fur and hold it to his back so that he just needs to put his arms in the sleeves. Slide a useful leather bag onto his belt and fasten it tight. Now Baron Godfrey is successful dressed.

How Lady Alice gets dressed:

Lady Alice is not as lucky as the Baron is. She gets up alone but you have to help her get out of her tunic. When the tunic is fastened tight, the robe called Saracot gets pulled over her head. Also fasten it tightly. Now brush the Lady's long hair and braid them. Coil the braids around her ears neatly. Cover her hair with a band of cloth topped off with a hat. Now Lady Alice is dressed.

Here are little explanations for different people:

- Monks and Nuns:** love and serve God, spend their lives helping people. You can recognize them by their long robes. These show that their special.
- Girls:** wear the same clothes as their mothers but have their clothes looser.
- Boys:** wear the same clothes as their fathers, also have their daggers in their belt.
- Workers and servants:** wear clogs on rainy days to keep their feet dry and wear tough and sensible clothes.

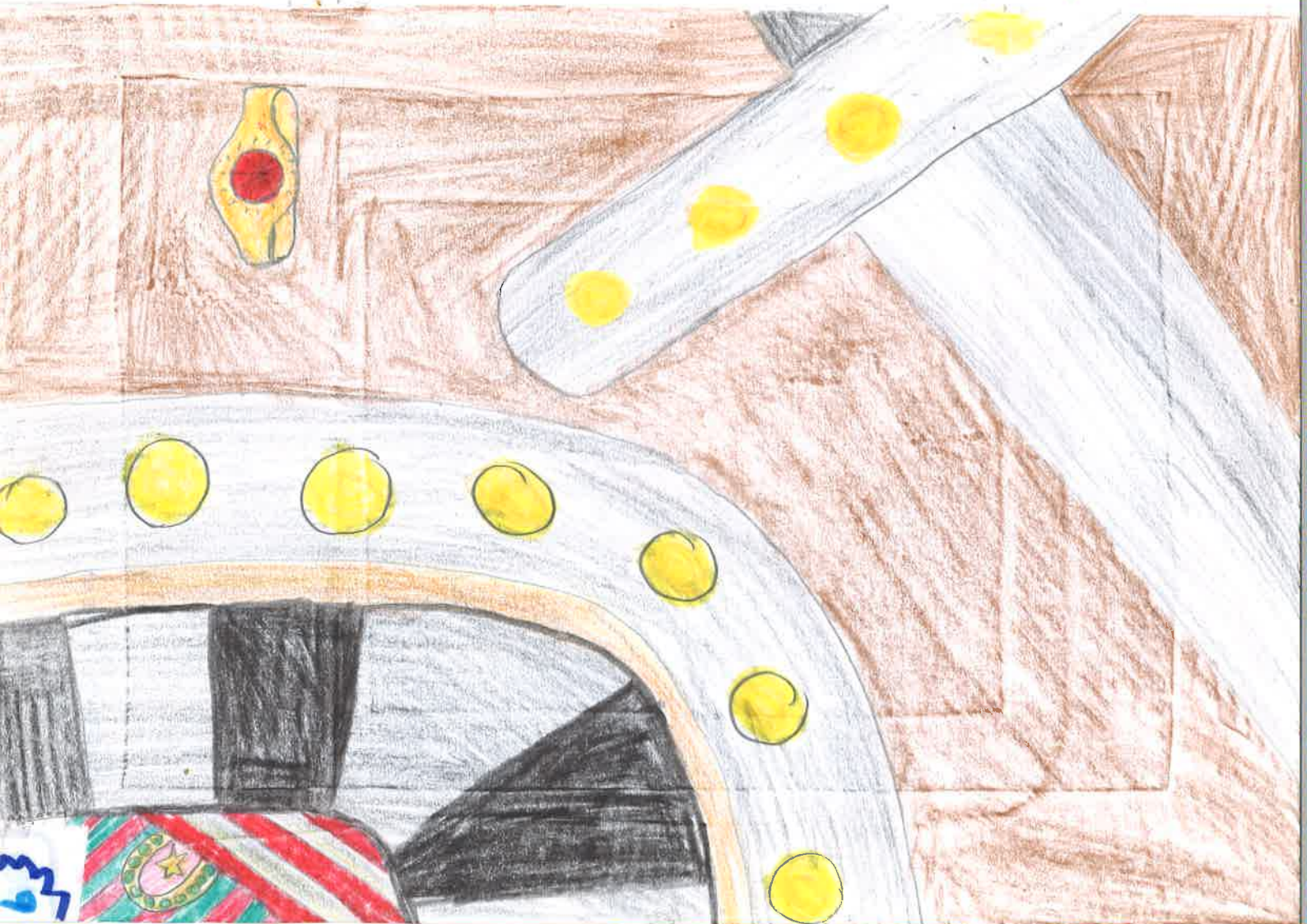
Good work

Mary and Glory



HERO OF FOOD

Yesterday I went outside again to get something for us to eat when I remembered there was a feast going today. Everybody was running around and cooking. It was very dangerous for us mice but I wasn't scared. It smelled so good so I couldn't wait. I just ran and ran to that shelf at the side of the kitchen and hopped up. As you know, with "kitchen" the people who now work there mean courtyard. From there I could see the whole place. A servant and a shed came to the others with two dead geese and potatoes with carrots in a basket. In the middle there was a table where all the food was. On the other side of the table was a bonfire with a cauldron above it. Now I saw that there was actually more than one big bonfire, there were four or five of these scattered in the courtyard. On two of them was meat from which the fat that they use to cook dripped in a pan and two of them were to cook on. The last one was the biggest with the big cauldron. In between the little fires were a few small piles of wood and a few buckets of water. In the middle was that huge wooden table and about ten people were standing around it. They all had something to do. A lot of knives lay on the table and a woman was grinding spices with mortar and pestles. But there was also so much delicious food. I was blind with greed and the gorgeous smell made my mouth water. So I jumped down without thinking of anything dangerous and ran a slalom trough all the people that were rushing around. Finally I was at the special table of food. I felt like Spider mouse when I crawled up and sneaked through all the provisions. Somewhere I found a little leather bag in which I put some things for us to eat. There were plenty of different cheese and fruits. I took as many as I could and tied the bag together again. But now I had a little problem: how would I get this bag off this table again? I couldn't just let it fall because then everything would get smashed. I also couldn't leave it and get help or the people would find it and take it. So I looked around more closely. Still all I found was a short piece of string, and a piece of paper. Now I knew I must be clever, and I was. I pinched a little hole onto each end of the paper and pulled the string through. I made a not on the other side. Then I sat down on the kind of swing I made and took the leather bag in my hand. Elegant as I am, I glided down with my self made parachute. But as I was on the floor, one of their huge dogs took notice on me so I ran for my life. I still had the bag in my hands and somehow the paper didn't get off. The dog barked after me and snarled at me. But I still ran and didn't show any fear. Suddenly I found my self safe in our cave. Till now I didn't take a single look at the paper, so now I did...



II V MCXXII

Hi diary!
Today is the first day I write an entry because I have learned a lot of writing again. I think I'm ready to write a diary with an entry everyday. This first entry will be long because I want you to know me very well and there is a lot to tell by now. So lets start and don't waste too much paper.

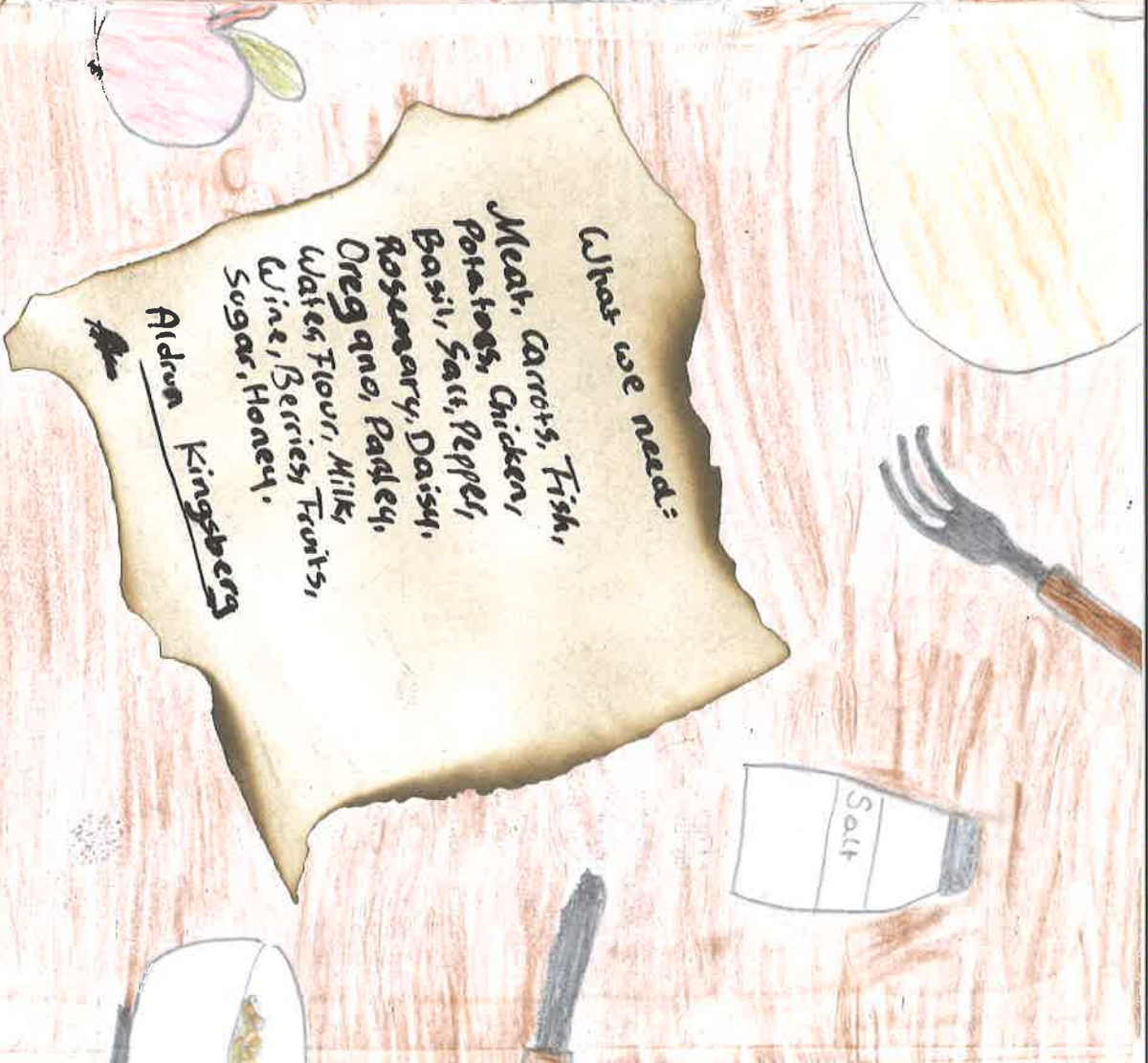
I came here when I was six years old. I was really sad when I left my mom and dad but now I can't imagine what it would be like to live with them. The only thing I remember about them is that they cried when I left because I am their only child and they said that I was their most precious treasure. I'm not very sure if they would recognize me again but I feel that they still love me. My name is Robert and I am the baron's nephew. My uncle taught me to write and read. He is also teaching me to ride a horse, fight with sword, shield and lance, as well as how to be knightly. He is the person who is responsible for me. When I am 14 years old, I won't be a page anymore instead I will be a squire and start my training for a knight will begin. My right now but in exactly two and a half years my training for a knight will begin. That tasks for now are to help my lord dress and arm him for battles and jousts. That teaches me how to use armor and how to take care of it. That is also very important for the future. I already know a lot of things like how to clean rusty mail armor (roll it in a barrel of sand). Of course we also have school, which is actually quite fun. The castle priest teaches us how to read and write. We have a waxed tablet and a pointed stick to write. For mathematics we use counting sticks called abacus. Sometimes Lady Alice reads us a story or tells us some legends about wise, famous and brave people... It's time now to go to bed. I'm tired and I must get up early tomorrow.
Good night, Robert.

Here is another entry in Roberts's diary but its a few years later when Robert is already a knight...

VIII XI MCXV

Hi diary!
There was so much to learn and experience during the last year. I don't have much time left to remember how it was a few years ago when I still was a page. I am getting stronger and stronger so I get to use heavier weapons and sharper swords. A lot has changed since a year ago, I don't have to dress my lord anymore and I can play outside with the other squires. Everyday we go outside to practice fighting with wooden swords and shields or just wrestling with a friend. We keep sneaking up on friends to scare them (that's so much fun!). Outside is just the best playground ever and we still learn everything we need to know. It doesn't even matter if it's raining, freezing cold outside or the nicest day of the year because being outside is important. You also can't choose the weather on the day of a real battle, can you? Oh sorry but I must stop now because the lord calls us to our evening meal...
Good night, Robert.

Position in e.g. from next is with every 2nd letter
NLEAWJJOENOKANWUOR



5

POTION AGAINST THE BAD SPIRITS

This potion helps you and your family to get rid of your bad spirits. It helps really good and without any problems. You just need to start nine minutes before midnight and be quick but doing everything exact. Good luck and may the magic protect you!

You will need:

- 2 onions
- a glass of rose water
- a pot with hot water
- 1 leaf of a lime tree
- 1 leaf of a hazelnut tree
- 1 leaf of an apple tree
- 2 big green apples
- a cup of ash
- a flat stone
- paper and pen
- a leaf wreath

What to do:

First cut the onions into little pieces and put them in a bowl. Also chop up the leaf and put them with the onions. Mix half of the ash with the rose water and pour the mixture into the bowl with the other stuff. Dunk the stone into the water and then rub it with the ash until it's all black. Then cut the apples horizontal in half where you can now see a star in the middle of each and put them somewhere to the side but we will still need them. Slowly pour the mixture with the rosewater and leaves into the pot with hot water and dump the stone in too. Now let it sit for exactly 3 minutes, if it's not exact it won't work!

In the meantime you must write a note on the piece of paper with your names on it, the sheet should almost look like the one below.

All bad spirits take away,
the kind and good ones they may stay.
I wish the bad now disappear,
this house will be forever clear.
Stars and apples will protect,
the family will now connect.

We thank all the good and we thank you god,
in the sky we can see you nod,
Thanks for your protection!

When the 3 minutes are over you take your note and everybody must say the spell.

Now you throw the note into the water and it will smoke while it's melting. Then take the leaf wreath and wet it with the tincture you have completed. Everyone who should get protected must have a sip of it. The youngest (must be over 5 years old otherwise the second born child) has to go outside with the rest of the tincture and pour it evenly on every corner of the house while singing the spell three times. Now you are free from the bad spirits. You can call them back again with an other spell.

Wish the

TAKING A BATH

Juliet is a servant who takes care of the baths. Sophie is her daughter who helps her mom for the first time. Olivia is a friend of Juliet. She is a servant too.

Juliet: Sophie, could you please help me fill up the bathtub with the buckets for the young women?

Sophie: Sure mom, they have a feast today, don't they?

Juliet: Yes my dear.

Sophie: Can we also go there?

Juliet: No, not for children [smile]

Sophie: But I want to go there mommy!

Juliet: Sorry my dear but that's too late in the evening when you are already too sleepy.

Sophie: OK, but could I please do something else because the water buckets are so heavy!

Juliet: Sure, could you take care of the fire then?

Sophie: Yes I know how to do that...

Juliet: Good. The bathtub is almost ready. We only need some more hot water.

Sophie: Mom, don't they want some soap too?

Juliet: Oh yes! I think Olivia and a few others went to get some soap and flowers for the smell.

Sophie: Why do they need flowers for the smell?

Juliet: Oh yes! I know, our society and soft scents is made out of mutton fat, soda and wood ash.

Sophie: Uhh! That's ugly. And they use flowers so that they can't smell the soap or?

Juliet: Yes and now hurry, the tub isn't warm enough yet!

Sophie: I can't make it faster, everybody needs a bit of patience!

Juliet: Yes but I can already hear them so we haven't got a lot of time left! Where is the soap?

Sophie: Mom, look in the other direction and you will see Olivia right behind you!

Juliet: Oh good, where you are.

Olivia: We brought seven bowls of soap and extra much flowers. I think that should be enough...

Sophie: Hi Olivia! May I have a flower to put it in my hair?

Olivia: Sure my dear, we have got enough. Choose one! [smile]

Sophie: Thank! Mommy may I go?

Juliet: Is the water ready and the fire warm?

Sophie: Yes.

Juliet: You are allowed but then I would be all alone and you couldn't watch the little trick...

Sophie: Oh, the one with the cold water? You're usually doing that one mommy? REALLY?

Juliet: Of course, my dear. I said so already.

Sophie: YAY!!! [really really happy]

Olivia: Quiet now their coming.

Juliet: They have left.

Sophie: Mom that was the best time ever! Did you hear them scream when we dumped that

bucket of cold water over their heads?

Juliet: Yes my dear. I was right beside you.

Sophie: Do they have to share a bath?

Juliet: Actually no, but as you now know it takes a very long time to set up a bath.

Sophie: But couldn't they go after each other?

Juliet: They could but the water gets cold to quick and it's much more fun together.

Sophie: That's for sure right mommy.

Juliet: Yes and now its time to go home.

Sophie: [yawn] I'm getting tired anyway.

Olivia: Good night my dear!

Sophie: Good night Olivia, maybe we'll see us tomorrow...

Juliet: Can I go home with her and leave you here with the other servants?

Olivia: Sure you can, Juliet. Good night!

Sophie: May I come again and help tomorrow?

Juliet: Well see you young lady... [smile]