Robin Hood
Retold by Meish Goldish

Deep in the heart of Sherwood Forest, in Nottingham long ago,
There lived a band of merry men, and evil was their foe.
The merry band would help the poor, because their hearts were good.
The leader of that merry band was a man named Robin Hood,
Robin was an outlaw, that’s what rich folks said.
The sheriff of Nottingham hated him and meant to see him dead.
But the poor praised Robin as their hero, a good man brave and true.
He robbed the rich and gave to the poor, with his merry crew,
One of the crew was Friar Tuck, a fat and jolly priest.
He loved good Robin’s worthy work and prayed it never ceased.
And even though all friars know that stealing is a sin, Tuck said, “This stealing is allowed, so the righteous weak may win, The righteous weak may win!”
Another member of the crew was a man called Little John.
His height was more than seven feet, a giant thereupon!
Skilled with bow and arrow, Little John could hit his mark,
A worthy aid to Robin Hood, in daylight or in dark.
In the olden days of England, King John ruled the land.
The King was a cruel tyrant whom the poor could not stand.
The poor had little property and worked hard, to the bone.
King John imposed high taxes on the meager land they owned,
The meager land they owned. King John's soldiers and officers enforced his brutish laws.

They pounced on the powerless like a lion's angry claws.

They stole their money, they stole their grain,

They stole most everything, so nothing would remain,

So nothing would remain.

And so did Robin's merry band of men then leave the woods.

Along the spacious countryside, they delivered precious goods.

The poor were very grateful for the help that Robin gave.

They hailed him a hero, so saintly and so brave.

Of course, King John would not describe Robin as a saint.

Of course, the sheriff of Nottingham had a similar complaint.

Now reader, you have learned the facts of Robin in his youth.

Was Robin Hood a hero or outlaw—what's the truth? What's the honest truth?

1. Which of the following best describes the meaning of the word tyrant?

   A. loyal ruler
   B. brave ruler
   C. cruel ruler
   D. determined ruler

2. Based on evidence from the text, what can the reader infer about the actions of the king?

   A. The king did not care about the poor people.
   B. The king was understanding of the needs of the poor people.
   C. The king was generous to the poor people.
   D. The king was a selfless ruler.
3. What is the meaning of the metaphor “The sheriff was, by all accounts, a snake with a poisonous sting?”
   A. The sheriff was very kind to all those who lived in the kingdom.
   B. The sheriff was feared because he was dangerous.
   C. The sheriff was unaware of the poor people.
   D. The sheriff was determined to help the poor people.

5. Justify the reason why Robin Hood said “What’s the honest truth?” at the end of the poem.
   A. Robin Hood wants the reader to side with the rich people.
   B. Robin Hood wants the reader to make the decision that he is a hero.
   C. Robin Hood wants the reader to make the decision that he is wrong in his decision to take from the wealthy people.
   D. His statement is made to encourage readers to make the decision to stand up for what is right.

4. Which of the following best describes the meaning of the word justice?
   A. Unequal
   B. Fair
   C. Dishonest
   D. Incorrect

6. Based on evidence from the text, what will the reader infer the theme of the poem to be?
   A. Overcoming injustices
   B. Accepting other’s differences
   C. Crime
   D. Believe in yourself
7. Which text structure does the author use in the excerpt below?

There lived a band of merry men, and evil was their foe.
The merry band would help the poor, because their hearts were good.

A. Sequential order  
B. Cause and Effect  
C. Simple Procedure  
D. Compare and Contrast

8. Based on the poem, what sound device does the author use in lines 1-4?

A. Onomatopoeia  
B. Rhyme  
C. Alliteration  
D. Assonance

9. Based on evidence from the text, create a summary of Robin Hood.

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