

# **Tender Heart High School, Sector 33 B Chandigarh**

**Subject: English Literature**

**Class: VI**

## **Chapter: 11 “ROBINHOOD AND THE WIDOW’S THREE SONS”**

Good morning students,

Today let us read and understand the summary of poem in your English reader “ROBINHOOD AND THE WIDOW’S THREE SONS” given on page number 61.

Old though this legend is, it remains as fresh as the green leaves of Sherwood Forest in Nottinghamshire, England, where Robin and his Merry Men are supposed to have made their home in the 15th century. Do enjoy reading.

This ballad, a poem that tells a story through song, describes one of Robin Hood’s famous acts of bravery and cleverness, who fights injustice with his band of companions. Robin Hood, a legendary hero known for helping the poor by taking from the wealthy, learns that three squires have been sentenced to death for killing the king's deer. Upon hearing this from a poor widow and an old beggar, Robin decides to intervene.

The poem opens with a description of May as the merriest month of the year, setting a lively tone. However, Robin’s encounter with the widow shifts the mood, as he hears of the unjust fate awaiting her sons. Their crime—killing the king’s deer—is considered severe enough for the sheriff to order their execution. Moved by their plight, Robin takes action.

Disguising himself as the old beggar, he goes to Nottingham. When he meets the sheriff, he cleverly requests permission to act as the hangman, a role that will let him control the situation. The sheriff agrees, not suspecting Robin’s true identity.

Once Robin reaches the gallows, he blows a blast on his horn, a signal to his band of Merry Men hiding nearby. They arrive in large numbers, surrounding the sheriff and freeing the condemned men. In a twist of justice, they hang the sheriff on the same gallows meant for the three squires.

This ballad highlights Robin Hood’s courage, cleverness, and sense of justice. He uses wit and strength to challenge the authority of the corrupt sheriff, embodying the spirit of a hero who protects the helpless and defies unfair power. Through the simple language and rhythm of a ballad, the poem celebrates Robin Hood’s legendary rebellion and loyalty to his band of men and the oppressed.