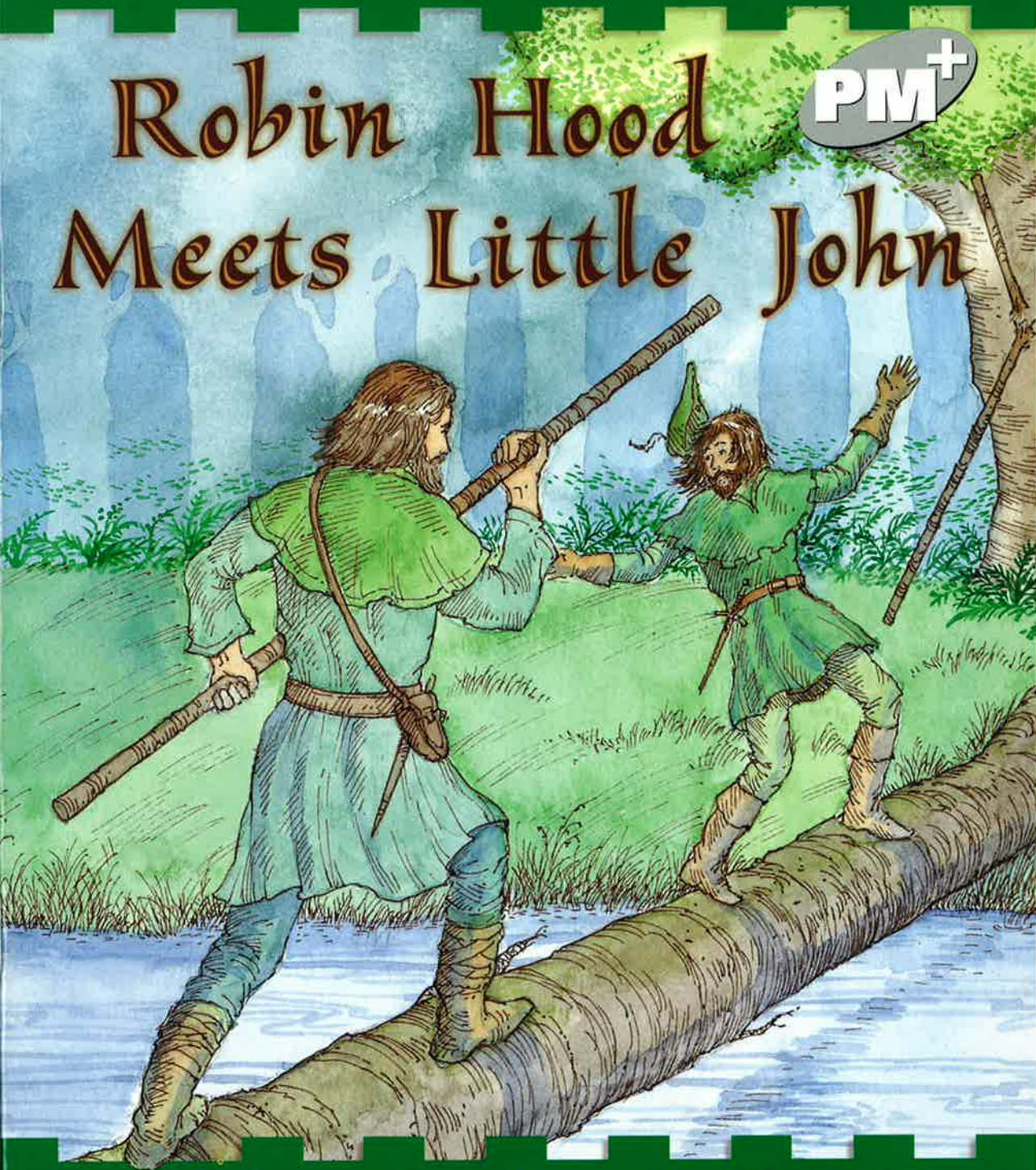
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Robin Hood Meets Little John



Retold by Jenny Giles

Illustrated by John Fairbridge

For teachers' inspection ONLY

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Chapter One

Robin and His Merry Men

Long, long ago, a band of outlaws lived in Sherwood Forest, near the town of Nottingham, in England. They were well known throughout the land for their hunting skills and their fearless deeds. The most famous outlaw of all was the leader of these merry men, Robin Hood.

Most of the time, Robin and his men stayed hidden in the great forest, so that the Sheriff of Nottingham would not find them.

The sheriff was a cruel man, who treated the poor farmers very badly. He often sent his soldiers to terrify them, and to take all the crops that they had worked so hard to grow. Many of the farmers did not have enough food left for their families.



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The sheriff was determined to catch Robin Hood, because he and the other outlaws took money from the rich people who rode through Sherwood Forest. Some of these rich people were the sheriff's friends, and they were furious with Robin, because he gave their money to the poor farmers so that they would not starve.

But the outlaws were too clever for the sheriff and his soldiers. They always managed to escape to the hideout that they had made for themselves, deep within the forest.



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Chapter Two

The Challenge

One fine day, when Robin and several of his men were walking beside a stream, they heard the sound of someone approaching.

"Quick!" muttered Robin. "Hide behind the trees! One of the sheriff's men may be looking for us."

But it was not a soldier who was walking on the other side of the stream. It was a tall stranger, and in his hand he held a staff made from a straight, narrow branch. The outlaws could see that he was about to step onto the trunk of a fallen tree, which was used as a bridge over the water.

"Stay here," said Robin to his men. "I will ask this stranger what he is doing in Sherwood Forest."