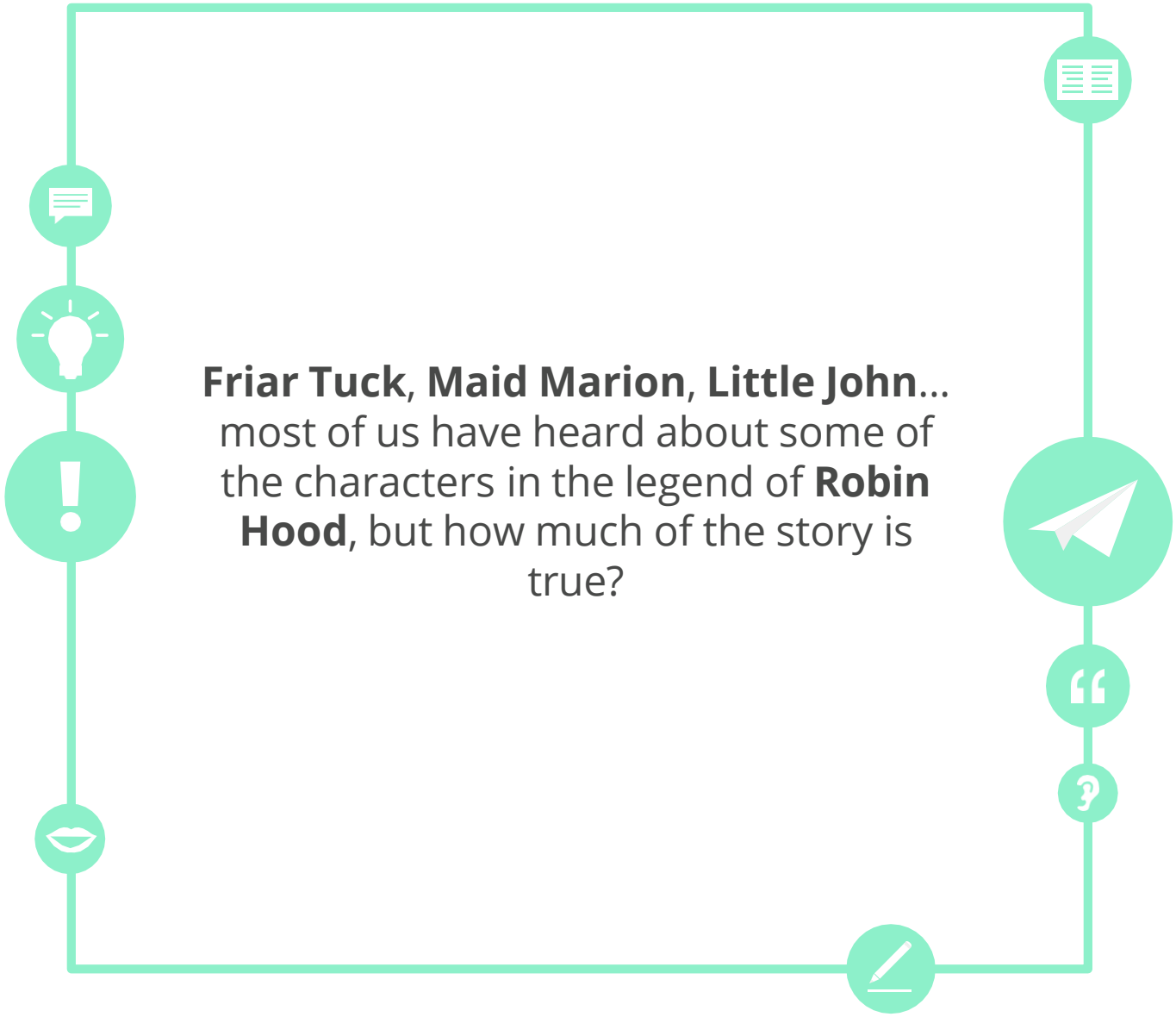

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Goals

- Can read and understand a challenging text about the character of Robin Hood.
- Can present an extended and well-formulated opinion on morality and legends.





Friar Tuck, **Maid Marion**, **Little John**... most of us have heard about some of the characters in the legend of **Robin Hood**, but how much of the story is true?

Folk legends

Discuss these questions with your teacher.



1 Do you know the legend of Robin Hood? What do you know about him?

Folk legends

Discuss these questions with your teacher.



1 Do you know the legend of Robin Hood? What do you know about him?



2 Do you know any other famous legends from England, the USA or other English speaking countries?

Folk legends

Discuss these questions with your teacher.



1 Do you know the legend of Robin Hood? What do you know about him?



2 Do you know any other famous legends from England, the USA or other English speaking countries?



3 Do you have any similar legends from your country?

Read the text and summarize it.

Robin Hood

The legend of Robin Hood is familiar to many, thanks to children's stories and Hollywood films alike. However, though the **lauded** outlaw did exist, the details of much of his life are uncertain, having been exaggerated and **dramatised**. Fact and fiction are often mixed when it comes to well-known legends.



Read the text and summarize it.

Robin Hood

Robin Hood is one of the most famous figures in English **folklore**; an outlaw who stole from the rich and gave to the poor. These are the details on which most agree. Robin Hood is also always associated with the north of England; though his place of birth is a **point of contention**, two of the most likely theories are that he was born in either South or West Yorkshire. Many have agreed that his **haunts** were Sherwood Forest in Nottinghamshire and Robin Hood's Bay in North Yorkshire.



Read the text and summarize it.

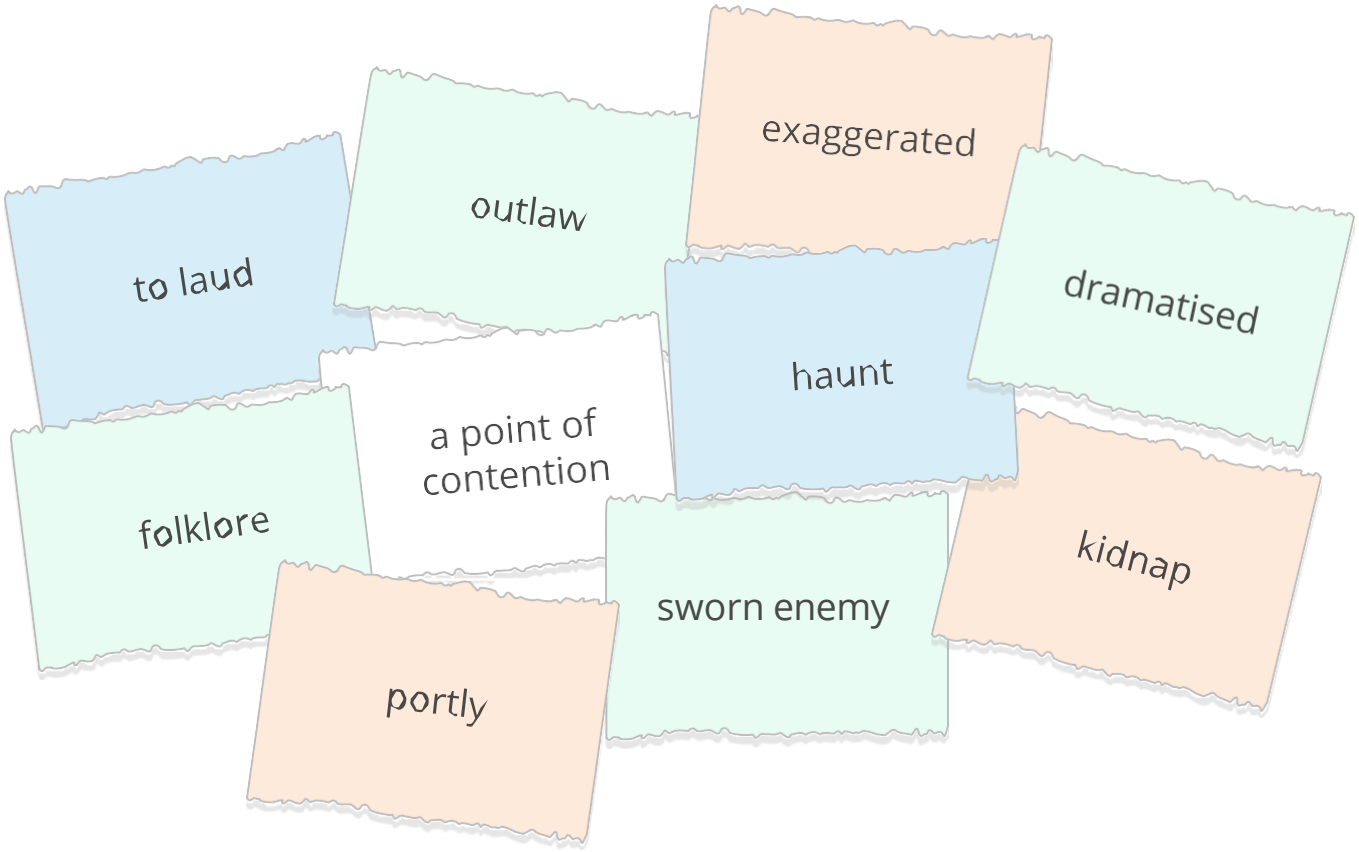
Robin Hood

Film adaptations of Robin Hood have typically dressed the character in Lincoln green with a feather in his cap. He's usually surrounded by his band of merry men, the most famous of whom is Little John. The beautiful Maid Marion and the **portly** Friar Tuck are also popular characters.

A **sworn enemy** of the Sheriff of Nottingham but loyal to the king, Robin Hood would **kidnap** unsuspecting travellers in Sherwood Forest and later demand payment. Those who were honest about their wealth were set free, however those who lied were robbed of all of their valuables. These riches were then distributed among the poor.



Do you know these words from the text? Discuss the meanings with your teacher and use each in a sentence.



Retell the story

Use the words on the previous page to briefly retell what you remember of what you read to your teacher.



What do you think?

Why do you think different parts of England want to claim Robin Hood? What benefits can come from an attachment to fame and legend?





Points of contention

Think about the following questions in relation to the text.



1. Several parts of the story of Robin Hood are described as *points of contention*. Why might this be?

2. Are there any legends from your country which people cannot agree upon?

3. Why do you think there are so many different versions of the story?



Discuss

Read the quote below and discuss in relation to the text you have read so far. Do you agree with this assessment of Robin Hood's character? Were his actions morally right, morally wrong or morally ambiguous? Explain your answer in detail.

> "Robin Hood deserved his status as an outlaw. He was no more than a common thief and the fact that his life story is still celebrated today is incomprehensible. It's a shame he was never caught and properly punished – his actions of stealing from the hard-working rich and giving to the poor only serves to encourage young criminals."

Lawyer for a day

Imagine you are a lawyer. You are working on Robin Hood's case and it is going to trial today. Choose whether you will prosecute or defend him for his crimes and practise making your opening speech. Your teacher will act as the jury and decide whether or not to grant you the case based on your arguments. Use some of the points you made in the last activity to help you.

- Make a convincing case! Be as persuasive as possible. Don't shy away from emotive language!
- Remember to outline the crimes for which Mr Hood is being tried.

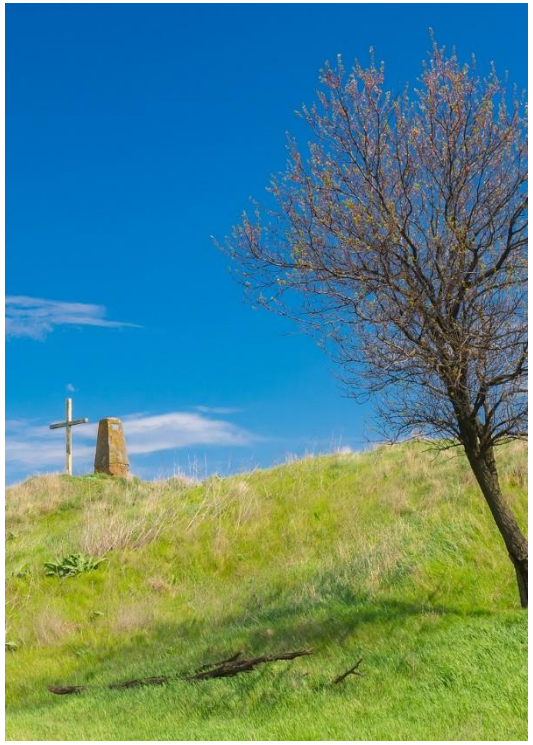




the defendant
my client
on trial
to be accused of
(im)moral
alleged
justice
the defence rests
the prosecution rests

The death of Robin Hood

What do you think about the story of Robin Hood's death? Is it a fitting end? How do characters in legends usually die?



betrayal

murder

burial

friendship

Hero or villain?

Do you think Robin Hood was ultimately a hero or a villain? Or both? Explain your answer.

Presentation

If you could be a legend, hero or villain from any story, which would you be and why?

Prepare a two-minute presentation. Include several reasons to support your point of view.
Give your presentation to the class. Answer questions and get feedback.

