

Robert Louis Stevenson

THE BLACK ARROW

In the reign of "old King Henry VI." (1422-1461, 1470-1471) and during the Wars of the Roses (1455-1487) the story begins with the Tunstall Moat House alarm bell being rung to begin mustering troops for its absent lord Sir Daniel Brackley, who intends to join the Battle of Risingham. It is then that the "fellowship" known as "The Black Arrow" headquartered in Tunstall Forest begins to strike with its "four black arrows" for the "four black hearts" of Brackley and three of his retainers: Nicholas Appleyard; Bennet Hatch; and Sir Oliver Oates, the parson. The rhyme that is posted in connection with this attack gets the protagonist Richard (Dick) Shelton, ward of Sir Daniel, to become curious about the fate of his father Sir Harry Shelton. Having been dispatched to Kettleby, where Sir Daniel was quartered, and sent to Tunstall Moat House by return dispatch, he also falls in with a fugitive from Sir Daniel, disguised as a boy, alias John Matcham, who in reality is Joanna Sedley, an heiress, kidnapped by Sir Daniel. Coincidentally Sir Daniel was intending to marry Joanna to Dick himself; and, in her male disguise, Joanna brings up the matter to Dick affording her the opportunity of feeling him out on the subject. Dick says he is not interested, but he does ask her if his intended bride is good-looking and of pleasant disposition.

While making their way through Tunstall Forest that covers the better part of Book 1 Joanna tries to persuade Dick to turn against Sir Daniel in sympathy with the Black Arrow outlaws, whose hideout they discover. The next day they are met in the forest by Sir Daniel himself disguised as a leper and making his way back to the Moat House after his side was defeated at the Battle of Risingham. Dick and Joan then follow Sir Daniel to the Moat House. Here Dick changes sides when he finds out that Sir Daniel is the real murderer of his father, and escapes injured from the Moat House. He is rescued by the outlaws of the Black Arrow with whom he throws in his lot for the rest of the story.

The second half of the novel, Books 3-5, tells how Dick rescues his true love Joanna from the clutches of Sir Daniel with the help of both the Black Arrow fellowship and the Yorkist army led by Richard Crookback, the future Richard III of England.

The second half of the narrative centers around Shoreby, where the Lancastrian forces are well entrenched. Robert Louis Stevenson inserts seafaring adventure in chapters 4-6 of Book 3 as Dick and the outlaws steal a ship and attempt a seaside rescue of Joanna, who is being kept in a house by the sea. They are unsuccessful, and after Joanna is moved to Sir Daniel's main quarters in Shoreby, Dick then visits her in the guise of a Franciscan friar, which was a common disguise during the Wars of the Roses. Stevenson, the popularizer of the tales of the Arabian nights, has Dick tell the tale of Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves in Book 4, chapter 6 to help him escape from the ruined sea captain Arblaster, whose ship Dick and the outlaws had stolen.

Richard Crookback, Duke of Gloucester, makes his appearance in Book 5, with whom Dick keeps his rendezvous. Dick's accurate knowledge of the Lancastrian forces in Shoreby aid Crookback in winning the battle. Dick is also fortunate as a successful commander in this battle. A delighted Crookback accordingly knights Dick, and after the battle gives him 50 horsemen to pursue Sir Daniel, who has escaped Shoreby with Joanna. Dick succeeds in rescuing Joanna, but loses his men in the process. He, Joanna, and Alicia Risingham travel to Holywood where he and Joanna are finally married. In this way he keeps his initial pledge to Joanna to see her safe to Holywood.

Just before the wedding on the outskirts of Holywood Dick encounters a fugitive Sir Daniel, whom he keeps from entering the city and spoiling his wedding. While Sir Daniel slinks away he is shot by the final black arrow from the bow of Ellis Duckworth, who tells Dick, "But be at rest; the Black Arrow flieth nevermore - the fellowship is broken."

Sir Richard and Lady Shelton live in Tunstall Moat House untroubled by the rest of the Wars of the Roses, and the outlaw Lawless lives out his days as he wanted: a Franciscan friar.

Unknown words:

1. **to seize** = to take by force, to capture = zaseči, zajeti
2. **to drive out** = to exile, to banish, to chase away = pregnati, spoditi –
3. **to mingle** = to ally, to unite, to incorporate = združiti se
4. **hatred** = dislike, ill - will = sovraštvo
5. **broad** = wide = širok
6. **oak** = a tree which produces acorns = hrast
7. **knotted** = having knots, gnarled = grčast
8. **scattered** = departed, standing in different directions = razkropljen
9. **trunk** = the main part of a tree, without branches and roots = deblo
10. **brook** = a small stream = potoček
11. **murmuring** = having a quiet, continuous sound = šumeč
12. **garment** = clothing, garb = oblačilo, obleka
13. **brass** = an alloy of copper and zinc = medenina
14. **swineherd** = someone who looks after pigs = svinjski pastir
15. **band** = a flat, narrow strip of cloth, metal, paper, etc. used to hold things together or as a decoration = jermen, obroč
16. **haste** = speed, especially speed in an action = naglica, hitenje
17. **fang** = a large, pointed tooth of a carnivorous animal = čekanj
18. **feebly** = weakly, without strength = slabotno
19. **disobedient** = refusing to obey = neobogljiv, uporen
20. **audible** = loud and clear enough to be heard = slišno, razločno
21. **persuaded** = convinced = prepričan
22. **to accompany** = to come or go with someone = spremljati
23. **rank** = social position = rang, red, čin
24. **gown** = a long robe, frock = halja, ogrinjalo
25. **fold** = a wrinkle on the cloth, plait = guba
26. **awe** = admiration, fear and wonder = strahospoštovanje
27. **to conceal** = to hide, to place out of sight = prikriti, zakriti
28. **attendant** = someone, whose job is to accompany and help someone = spremljevalec, služabnik
29. **spear** = a weapon that consists of a long pole with a sharp point and is thrown from the shoulder = sulica
30. **to arouse** = to cause or produce an emotion or reaction = vzbuditi
31. **prior** = the head of the community of certain orders of monks, a supervisor of a monastery = samostanski nadzornik
32. **priory** = monastery = samostan
33. **scarcely** = only just, hardly = komaj, težko, z muko
34. **to attend** = to answer = odgovoriti
35. **path** = a track, specially surfaced for walking, riding, etc. = pot, steza
36. **rapidly** = fast, quickly = hitro, naglo
37. **to quarrel** = to argue = prepirati se, kregati se

38. **fierce** = violent, aggressive and very unpleasant = zoprn, nasilen, krut
39. **to court** = to try to win the love or favour of someone = dvoriti, potegovati se
40. **pilgrim** = someone who makes a journey to a holy place as an act of religious faith, any wanderer or traveller = romar, popotnik
41. **pilgrimage** = a journey to a holy place in order to gain a greater sense of closeness to the religion = romanje
42. **wicked** = evil, immoral = pokvarjen, brezbožen
43. **eager** = feeling or showing great desire or enthusiasm = željan, nestrpen
44. **to perceive** = to notice, to observe
45. **veil** = a fabric covering of fine netting for a woman's head or face = tančica, pajčolan
46. **glance** = a brief look = pogled
47. **page** = a boy attendant serving a knight and training for knighthood = paž, oproda
48. **nod** = a slight bow, a movement of the head as a gesture of greeting = kimljaj, poklonček
49. **to overthrow** = to defeat. to overcome = premagati, preseči
50. **to proclaim** = to announce something publicly, to declare someone to be something = razglasiti, proglasiti
51. **ascent** = the act of climbing or rising, rising ground = vzpon, vzpon, vzpetina
52. **straw** = the parts and remains of cereals, which may be used for animal feedstuff or for weaving into hats and baskets = slama
53. **to leap** = to jump or spring suddenly or with force = skočiti, poskočiti
54. **in vain** = without success = zaman
55. **to delay** = to linger, to be slow in something = odlašati, cincati
56. **hastily** = fast, quickly = naglo, hitro
57. **willingly** = ready, with pleasure = rad, z veseljem
58. **boundary** = a line or border making the farthest limit of an area = meja
59. **to glimmer** = to glow, to shine, to sparkle = lesketati se, bleščati se
60. **to stoop** = to bend the upper body forward and down = skloniti se, sključiti
61. **limb** = an arm, leg or wing = ud, okončina
62. **meadow** = field of grass, used for grazing animals or making hay = travnik, pašnik
63. **adorned** = decorated = okrašen
64. **gaily** = brightly, colourfully = razkošno, bogato, pisano
65. **deception** = an act of deceiving or the state of being deceived = prevara, goljufija
66. **yonder** = situated over there, in or at that place over there = tamkajšnji, tam, tamkaj

67. **inferior** = low or lower in value, rank or status, poor or poorer in quality = manjvreden, slabši
68. **illbred** = badly brought up or educated, rude = nevzgojen, neotesan
69. **yielding** = able or tending to give away = popustljiv
70. **foe** = enemy = sovražnik
71. **splendid** = very good, excellent, magnificent = odlično, sijajno
72. **to withdraw** = to move away, to live - oditi, umakniti se, oddaljiti se
73. **to restrain** = to keep someone or something under control, to prevent someone from doing something, to control someone's passions = obrzdati, ukrotiti
74. **to mount** = to get up on to a horse or bicycle = zajahati
75. **to thrust** = to push suddenly and violently, to knock down = suniti, zbiti
76. **to maintain** = to continue = nadaljevati
77. **multitude** = a huge crowd of people = množica
78. **assembled** = collected or gathered together = zbran
79. **post** = an upright pole, fixed in the ground as a support, marker, etc. = steber, drog, startno mesto
80. **heap** = a collection of things in an untidy mass = kup, kopica
81. **log** = a tree trunk without branches that has been cut or fallen = bruno, hlod
82. **to swell** = to increase, to become bigger, usually because of an injury or disease = oteči, napihni se
83. **pillar** = column = steber, opornik
84. **insolence** = rudeness, arrogance = predrznost, nesramnost
85. **boastfully** = proudly, showing off = ponosno, ponašajoče
86. **vexation** = something unpleasant = nevšečnost, muka
87. **to neglect** = not to give proper care and attention to someone or something, to live duties undone = zanemarjati, prezreti, zapostavljati
88. **distinguished** = famous and well respected, noble = ugleden
89. **idle** = lazy = len
90. **stunned** = unable to speak, move, think, etc. for a short time because of shock or surprise = omamljen, omotičen, osupel
91. **unceasing** = permanent, continuous = stalen, nenehen
92. **immense** = very great = ogromen
93. **conducted** = leaded, directed = odpeljan, usmerjen