

IN THE BAG
By Carole L. Cooney

In the 1600s, hunters used to stuff small animals into their game bags. A successful hunter had his catch “in the bag.” By the early 1900s, this expression had come to mean a “sure win” or mission accomplished.

Setting: Sherwood Forest

Characters:

Narrator

Robin Hood

Merry Men: Little John

Midge

Much

Narrator: One bright sunny day Robin Hood and his Merry Men went into the forest in search of adventure. Soon they came to a river that was deep and wide. A narrow bridge crossed it.

Robin: Ho, ho, men! Look at those fish in the river.

Little John: I bet I can catch them with my bare hands. Ha, ha, with one hand behind my back!

Robin: Be careful what you say, Little John. You’ve got some good competition here.

Little John: Where? (laughing) I see none.

Midge: Who says there’s no competition? I’m up for catching some fish. (laughing) How about in my teeth!

Much: And me...I bet I can catch fish faster than any one...just with my feet. What do you say, Robin?

Robin: All right. Your plans are in the bag.

Little John: Well, men - let’s get started.

Narrator: The men wade into the water putting great space between them. Robin stood on the bridge overlooking the fishing competition.

Much: Aw... this is easy. I can feel it between my toes. All I have to do is just reach down and...

Narrator: As Much bent over into the water, Midge crept up behind him and gave him a little kick.

Much: What the...! (gurgling in the water) I’ll get you, Midge. I’ll get you.

Narrator: Much jumps up, splashing around in the water, looking for Midge. Robin lets out a loud laugh.

Robin: Much, I thought you were going to catch fish.

Midge: He couldn’t catch a fish if you handed it to him.

Much: (jumping up and down in the water) Is that so! I'll show you what I can catch!

Narrator: Much makes a mad dash at Midge, slips and falls face down in the water. Midge feels the bottom with his toes, then reaches down, grabs Much's shirt and pulls him up.

Midge: (laughing) Oh! Look what I caught? It was my feet that led me to him.

Much: (diving into the water)

Midge: Ow!!! What the...

Much: (jumping up and laughing) It was my teeth led me to him!

All: (Laughing and thrashing about.)

Narrator: Meanwhile, Little John has been grabbing fish left and right, with his bare hands!

Robin: All right, men. It's time to see what Little John has been doing. (calling in a loud voice) Little John! Little John! Where are you?

Little John: (calling) I'm at the far end of the river, just around the bend.

Narrator: Little John began wading up stream to join the men. He lugged a leather bag behind him.

Midge: Well, will you look at him.

Much: Humph! A bag of hot air I suppose.

Robin: (calling) Little John, what are you carrying?

Little John: Just a few trout. How did the others do?

Robin: They didn't.

Little John: That means I won the competition.

Robin: Yes, Little John. For you, it's in the bag.