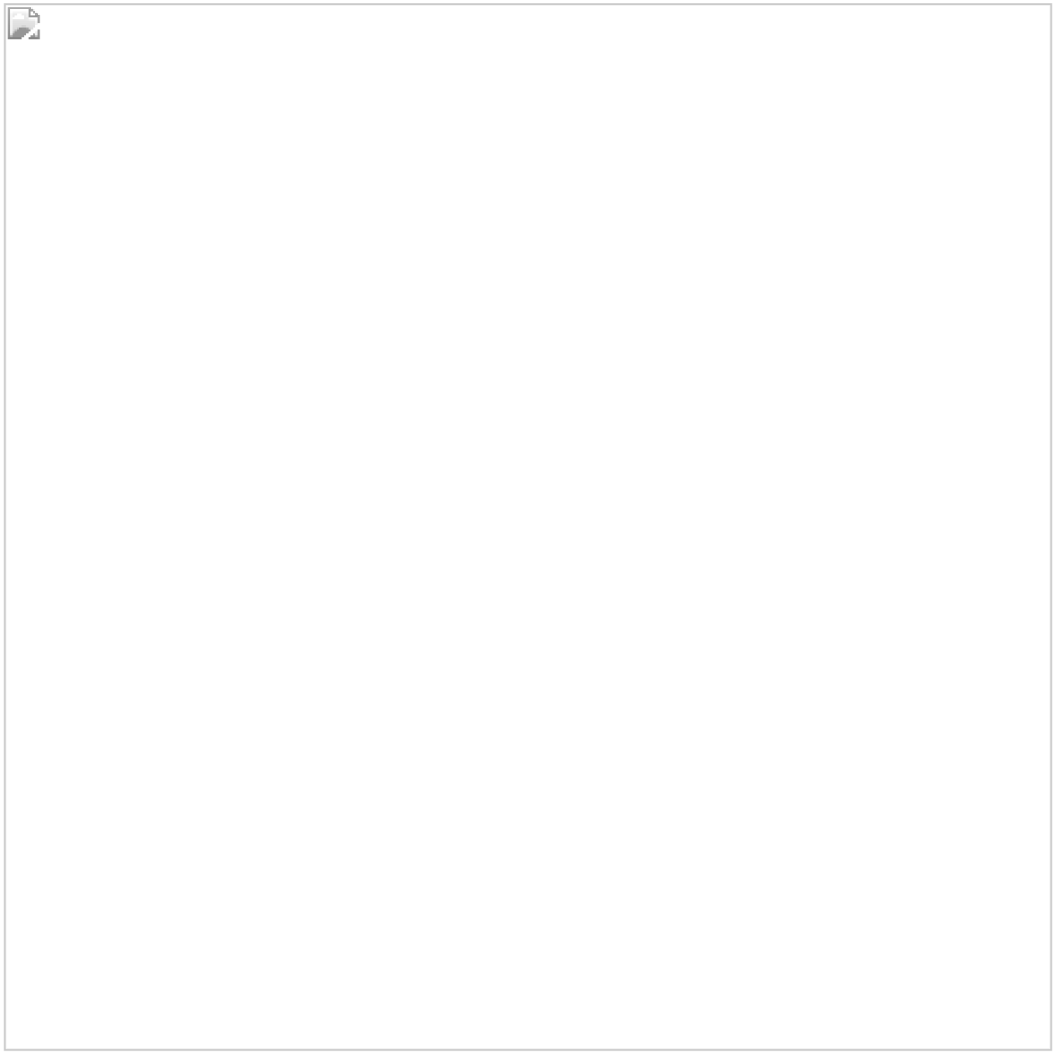
COLORING THE CLASSICS

The Perilous Voyage of Aeneas

A Hero of Troy and Rome



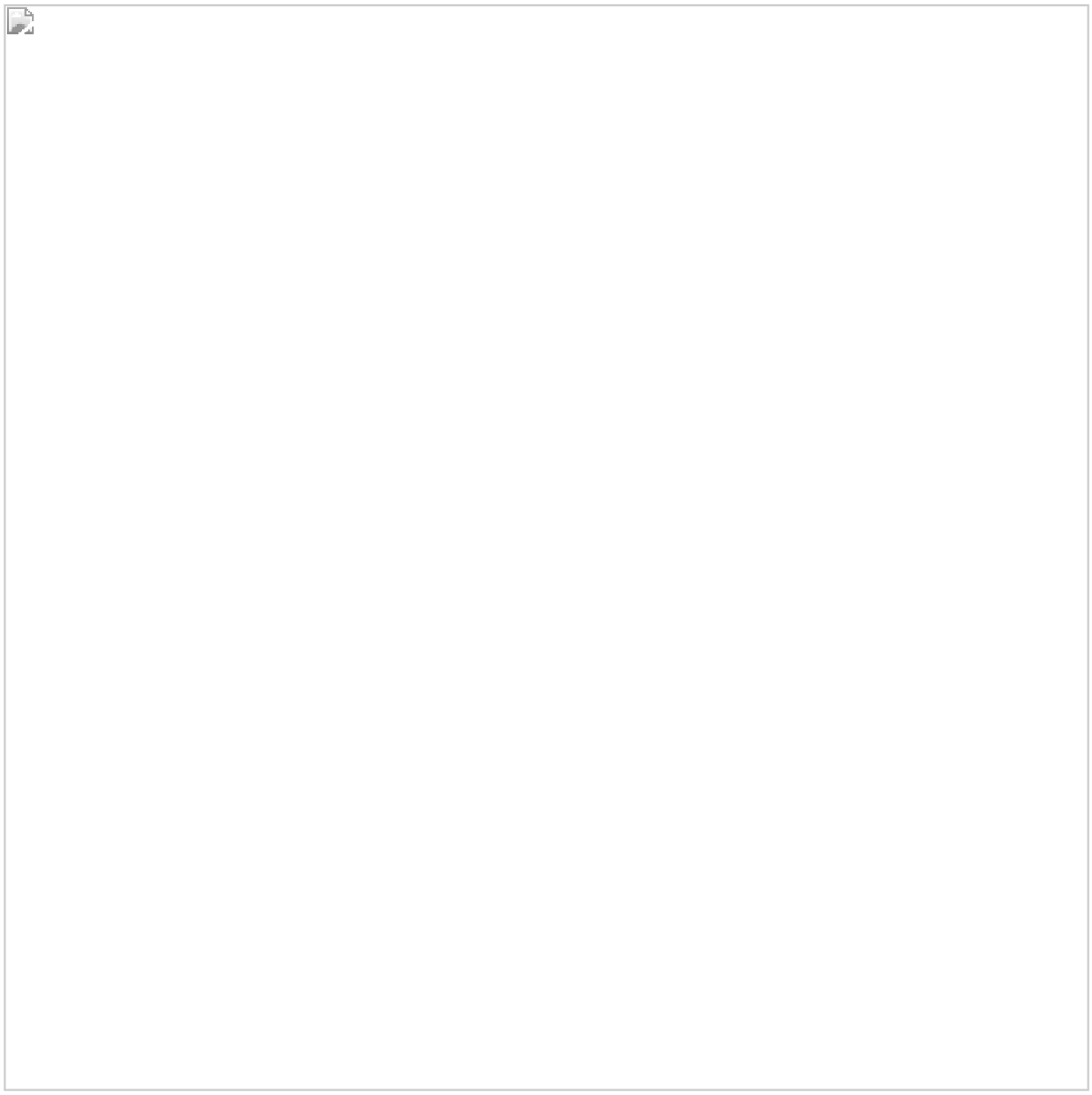
On the last night of the great city of Troy, the Trojans had pulled a huge wooden horse inside their walls. They did not know that Greek soldiers were hiding in it. Late that night, the soldiers crept out and opened the gates.

TALK ABOUT IT

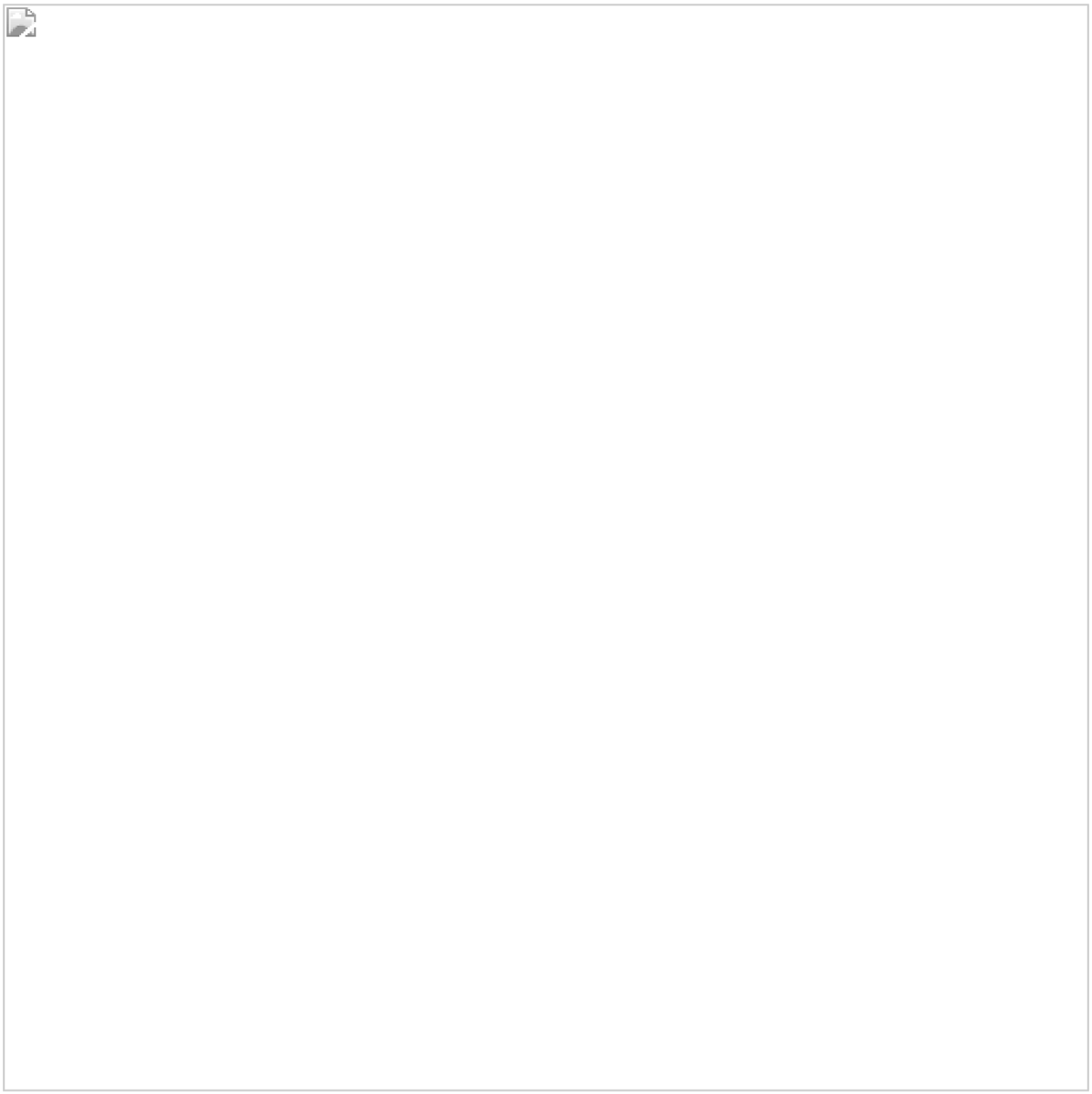
The Trojans thought the horse was a gift. Have you ever been fooled by something that looked friendly?

This book belongs to _____

The Perilous Voyage of Aeneas · another picture



A Dream in the Night



Aeneas was a brave prince of Troy. That night, as he slept, he dreamed that Hector, the hero of Troy, stood before him, holding the images of Troy's gods.

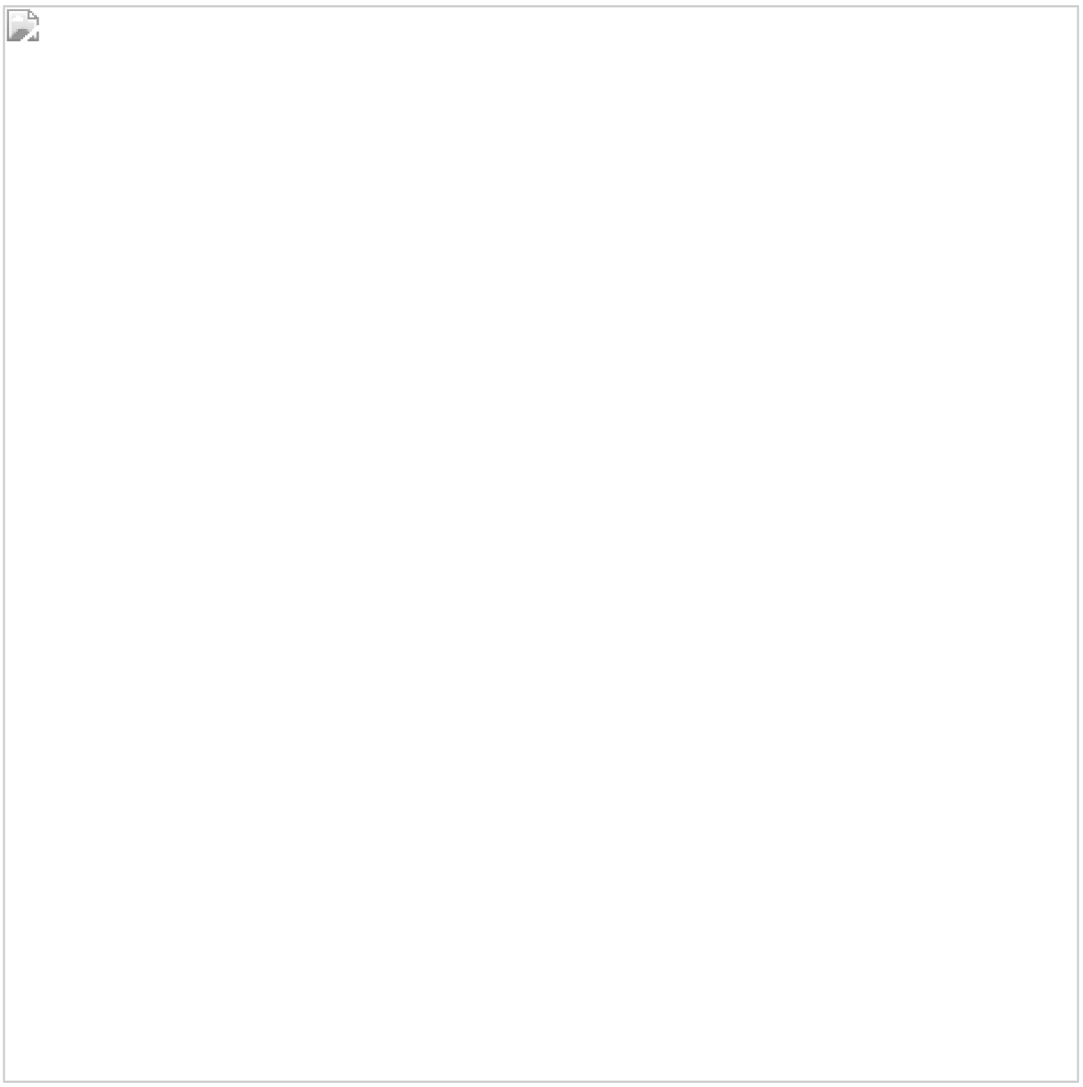
“Take these images, and go forth beyond the seas,” Hector said. He told Aeneas to leave the doomed city and found a new Troy far away.

Aeneas woke up, put on his armor and rushed out to fight. But by the time he reached the palace, the Greeks were already inside. He could not save the city. Then he thought of his father, his wife and his little son.

TALK ABOUT IT

Aeneas could not save Troy, so he turned to save the people he loved. Why do you think that mattered most?

A Dream in the Night · another picture

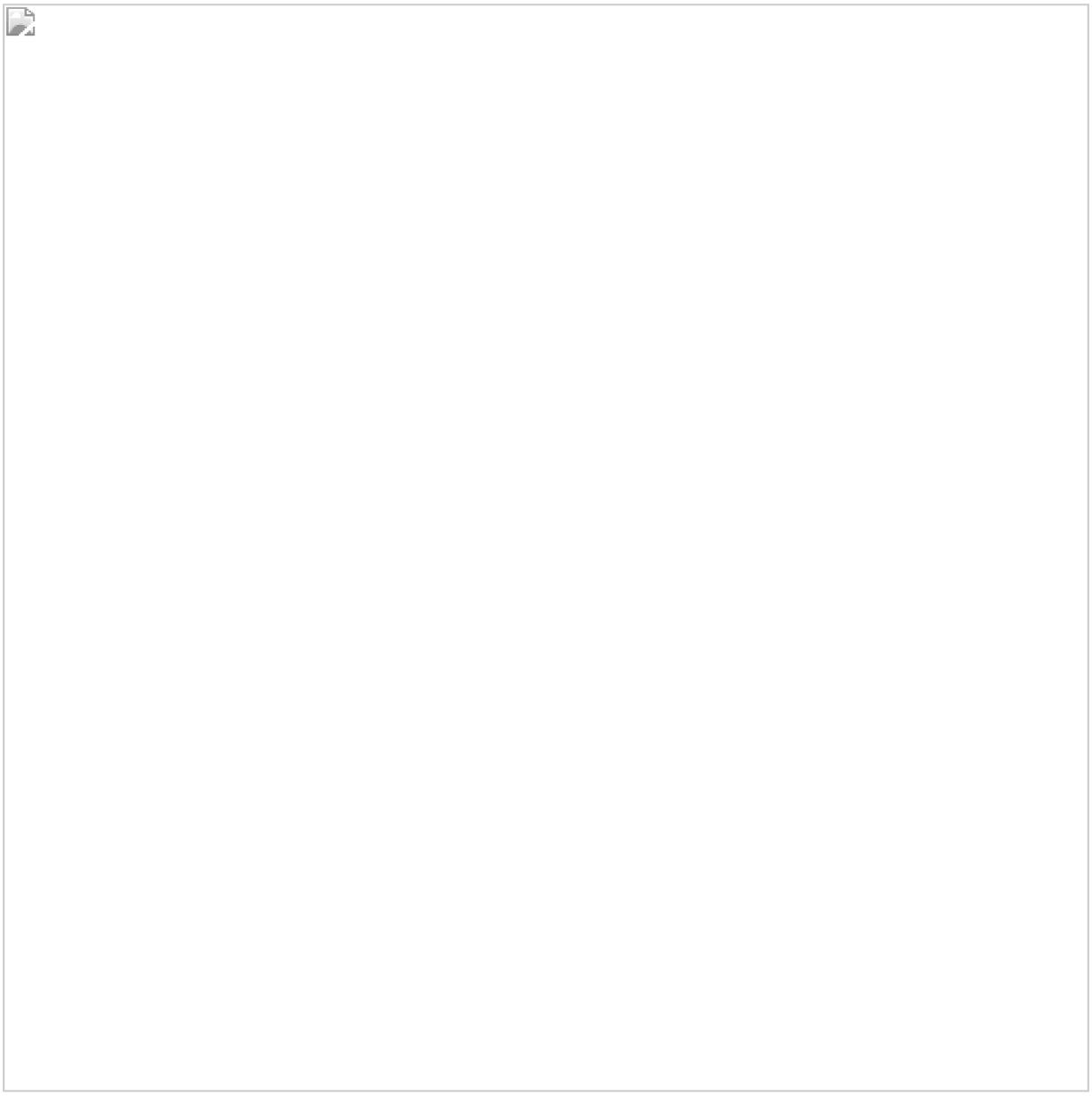


Think about it

1. Who did Aeneas dream about?

- ○ A giant
- ○ Hector
- ○ A sea-god

A Father Who Would Not Go



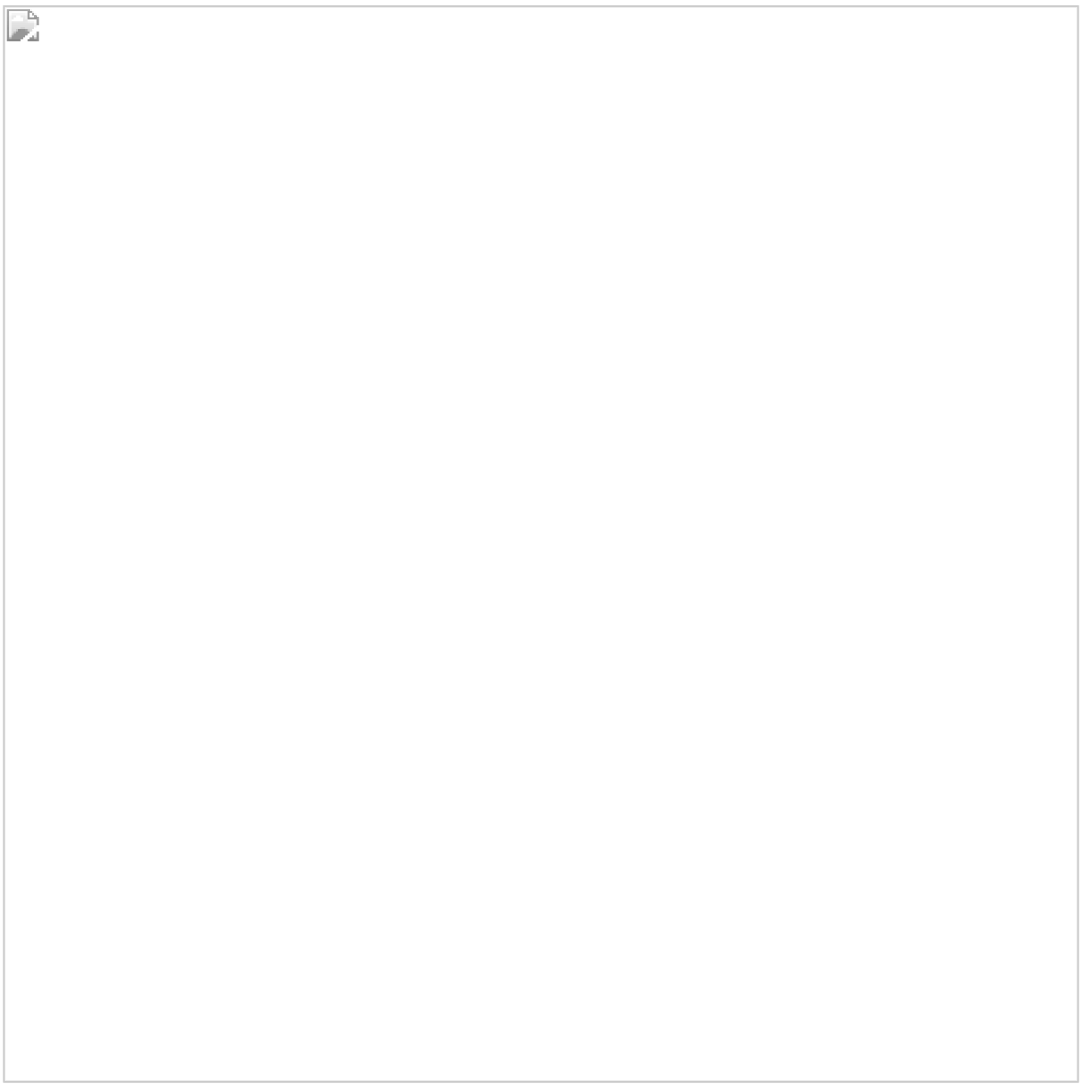
Aeneas hurried home. He told his family to get ready to leave. But his old father, Anchises, would not move a step.

“Let me die here,” Anchises said. He thought he was too old to go into exile.

Aeneas pleaded, and he would not go without his father. Then something strange happened: the little boy Ascanius's hair burst into flames. A clap of thunder rolled, and a star flashed across the sky and disappeared among the woods on Mount Ida.

TALK ABOUT IT

Aeneas would not leave his father behind. What does that tell you about him?

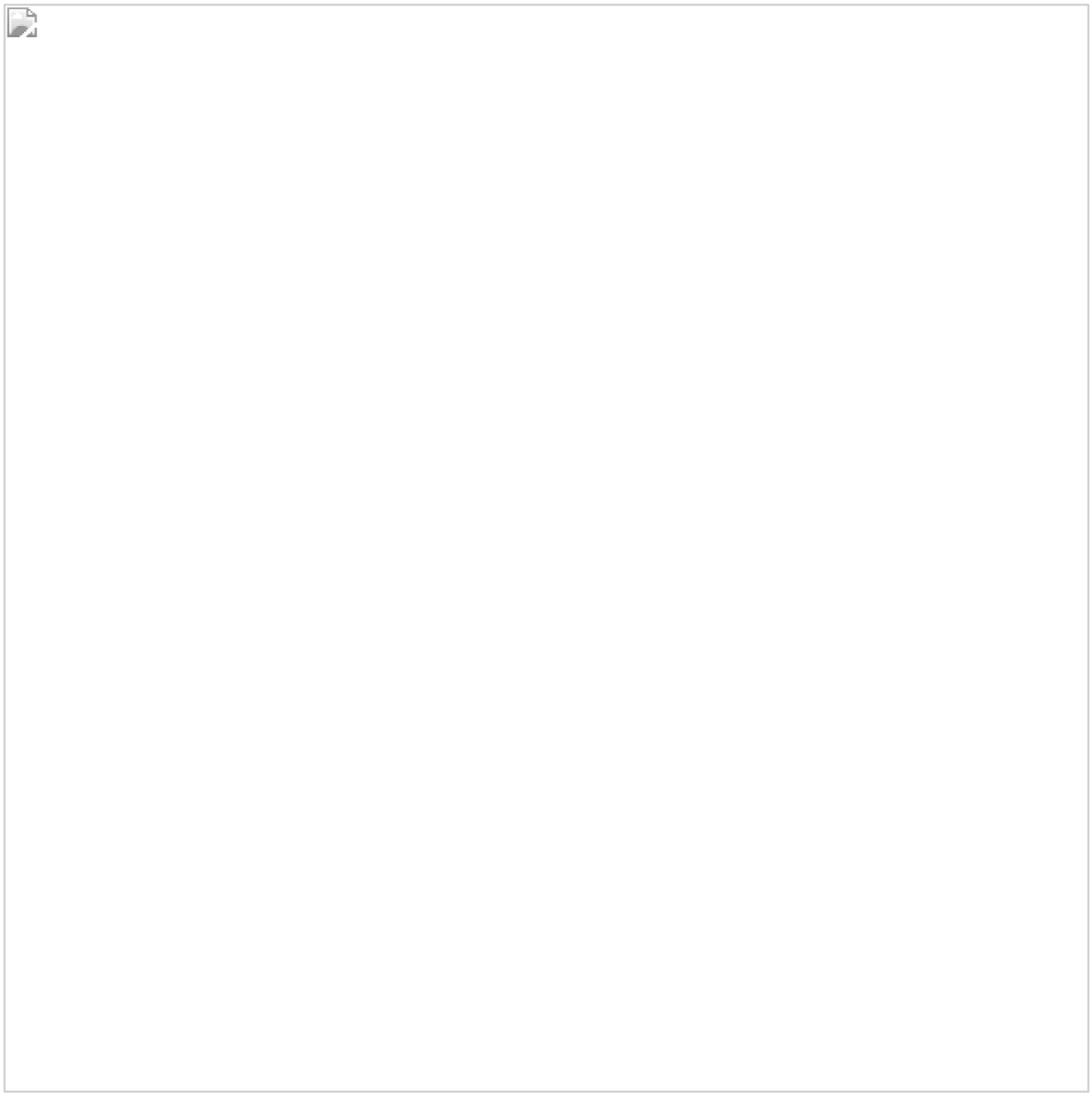


Think about it

1. Why did Aeneas stay and argue with his father?

- ○ He wanted to fight
- ○ He was lost
- ○ He would not leave without him

On His Back



At last Anchises saw that it was a sign from heaven. “Delay no more!” he cried. “I will accompany you.”

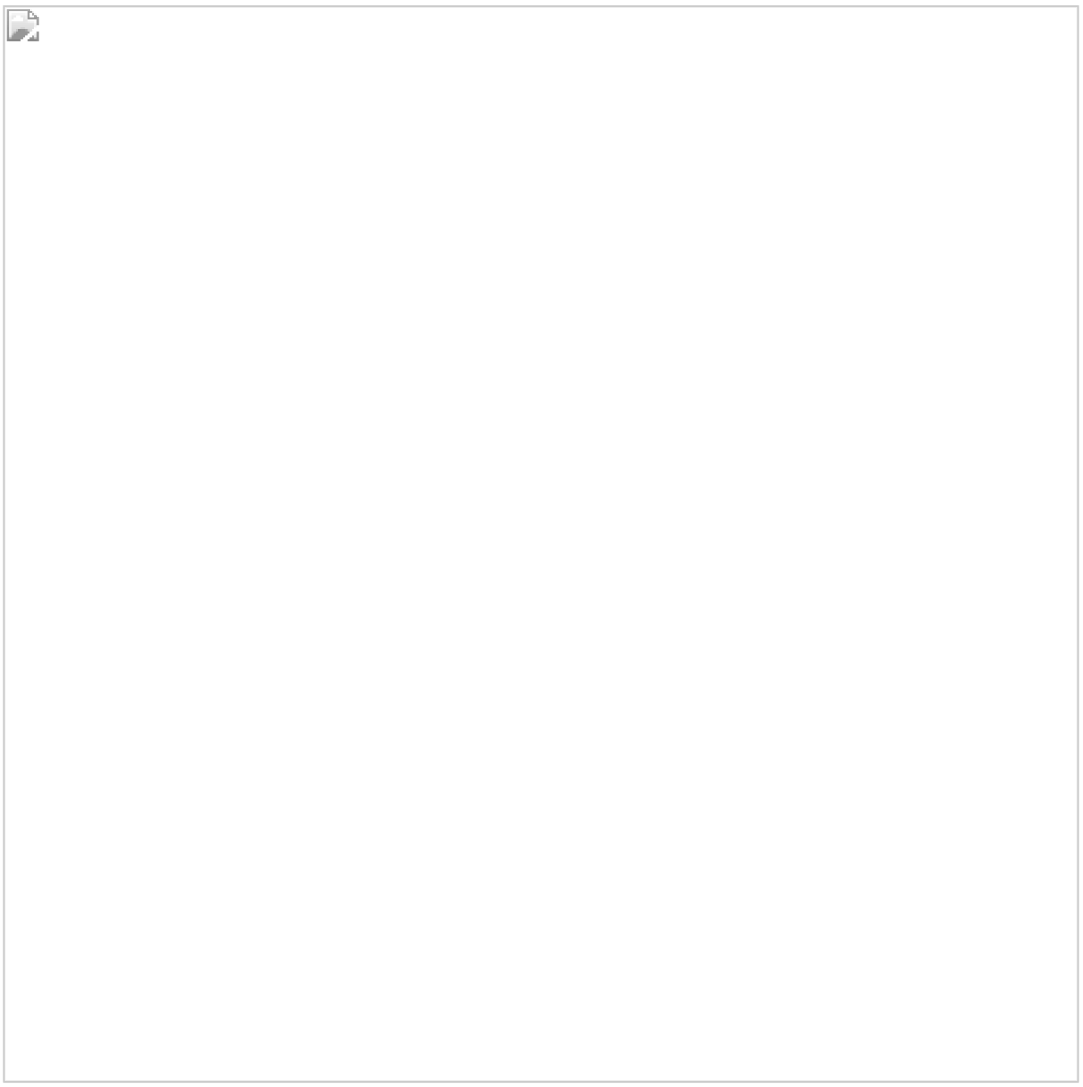
“Come then, father!” cried Aeneas joyfully. “Let me take you on my back,” for his father's old legs would move too slowly.

So Aeneas carried his old father on his back, and Anchises held the images of the gods. Little Ascanius held his father's hand, and Creusa, his wife, followed closely behind. They felt their way through the city by the light of the burning houses.

TALK ABOUT IT

“Honour thy father and thy mother” (Exodus 20:12). How did Aeneas honor his father?

On His Back · another picture

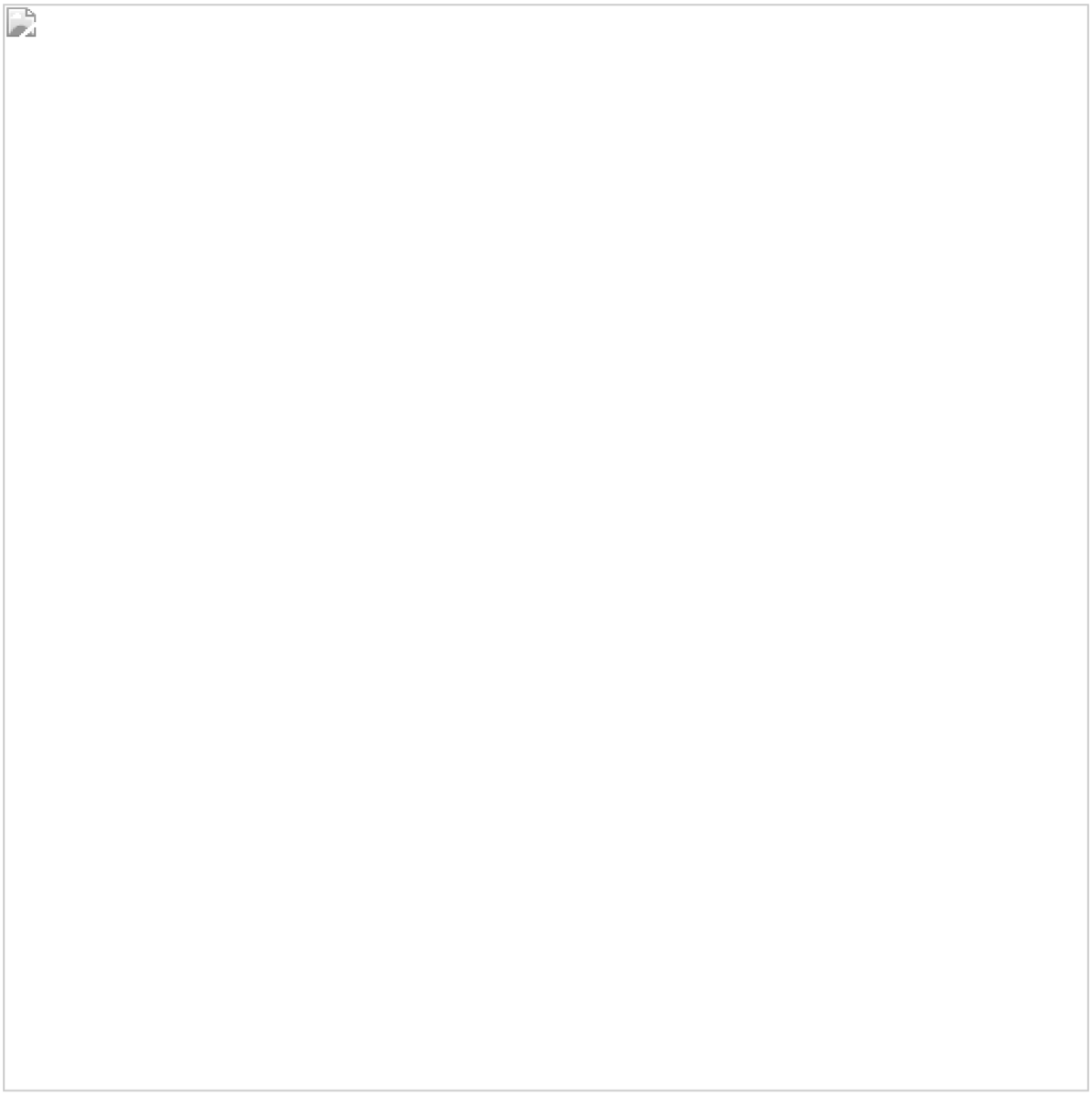


Think about it

1. How did Aeneas get his father out of the city?

- ○ He carried him on his back
- ○ He pushed him in a cart
- ○ He used a boat

Creusa



They passed through the city and reached the temple of Ceres, just outside. Then Aeneas saw that Creusa was missing.

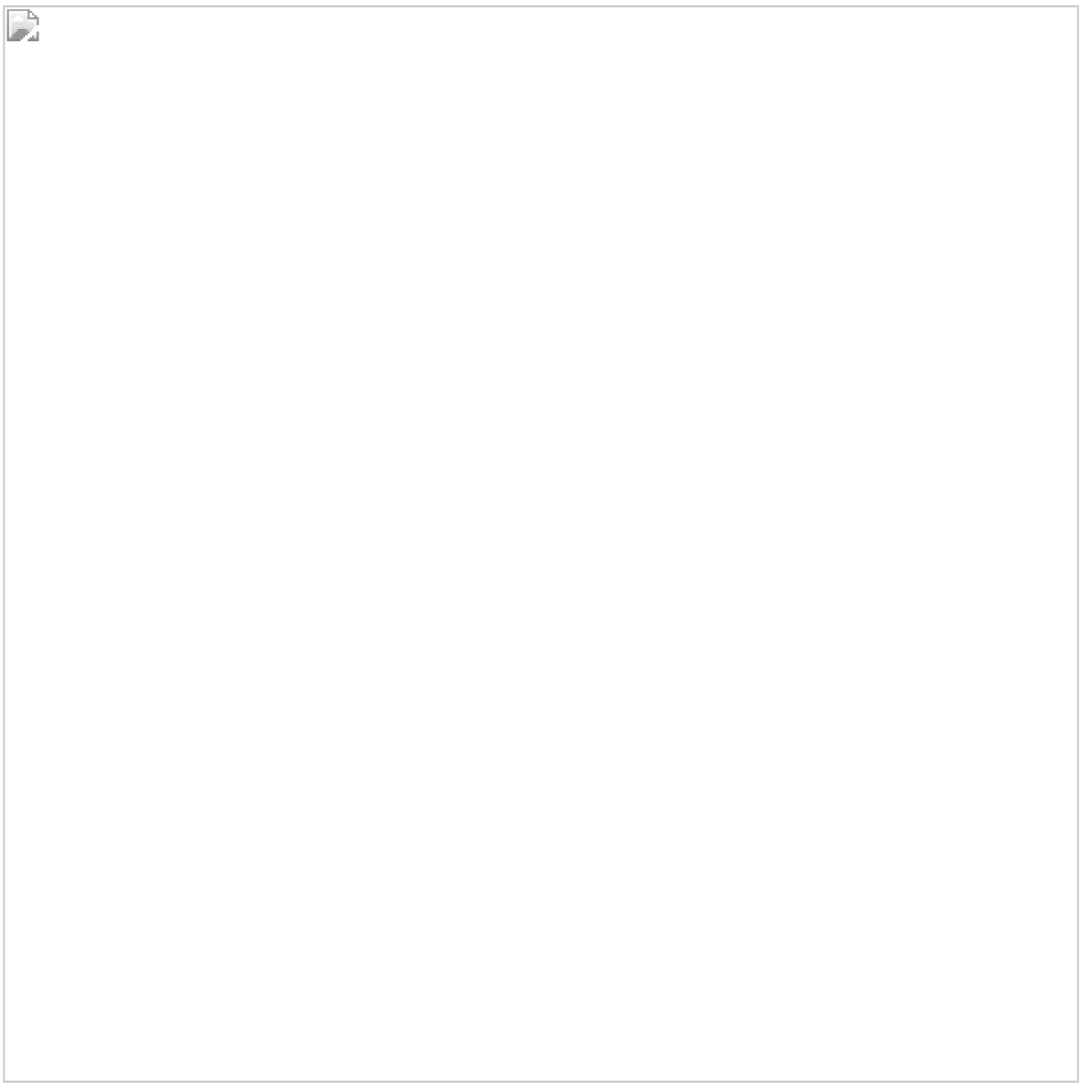
He rushed back into the burning city and looked everywhere. He could not find her anywhere. Then he saw her shape in front of him. It was her ghost.

She spoke softly. Many long journeys and stormy seas were ahead of him, she said, and he must not mourn for her. Aeneas tried to hold her, but he held only empty air.

TALK ABOUT IT

Aeneas had to say goodbye to someone he loved. What do you think it was like for him to go on without her?

Creusa · another picture

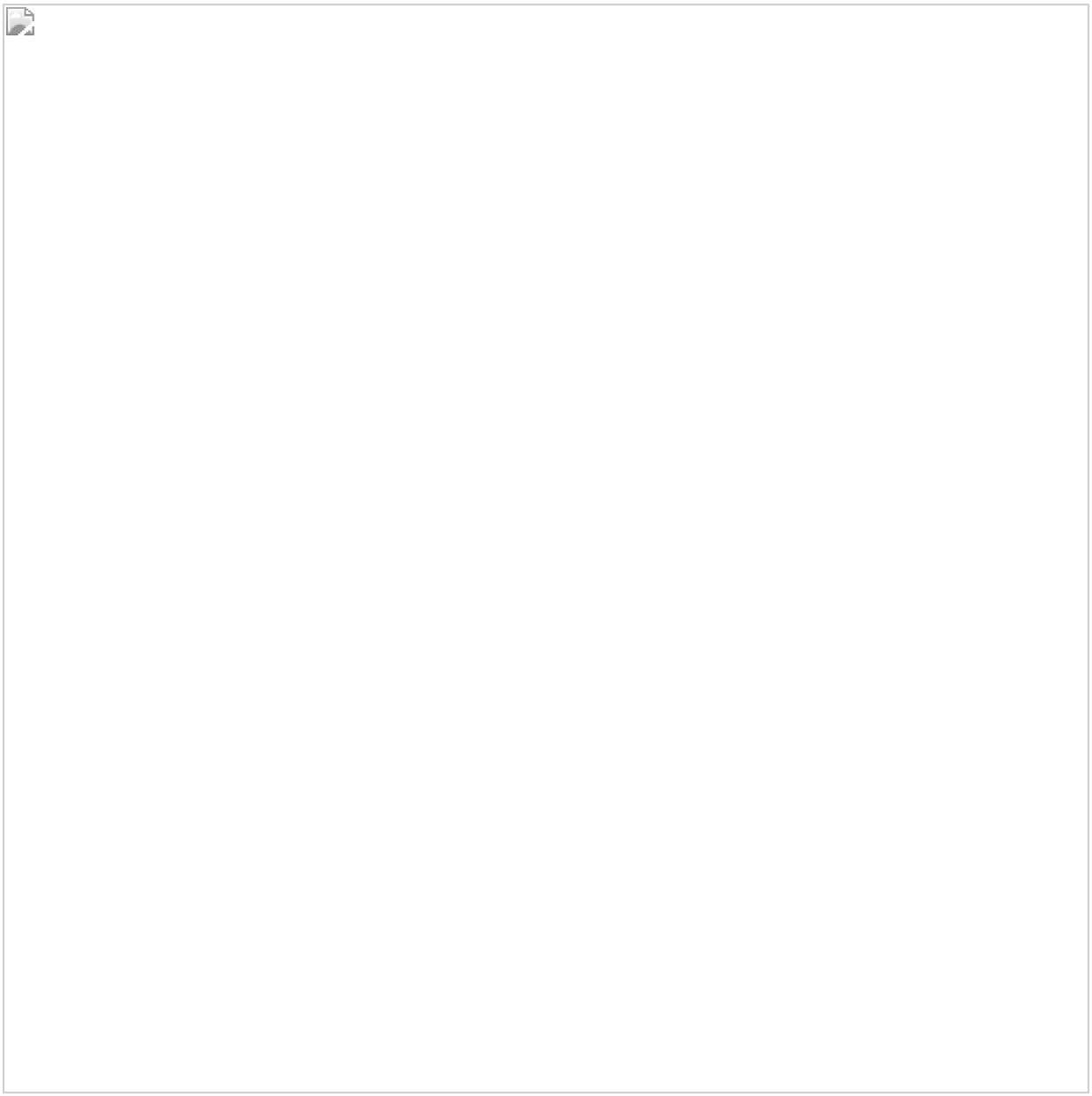


Think about it

1. Where did Aeneas find Creusa's ghost?

- ○ At the temple
- ○ Back in the city
- ○ On the ship

Building the Ships



A group of Trojans who had escaped were waiting at the temple of Ceres, and they were glad to join Aeneas. At sunrise, they turned their backs on Troy and walked toward the new hope.

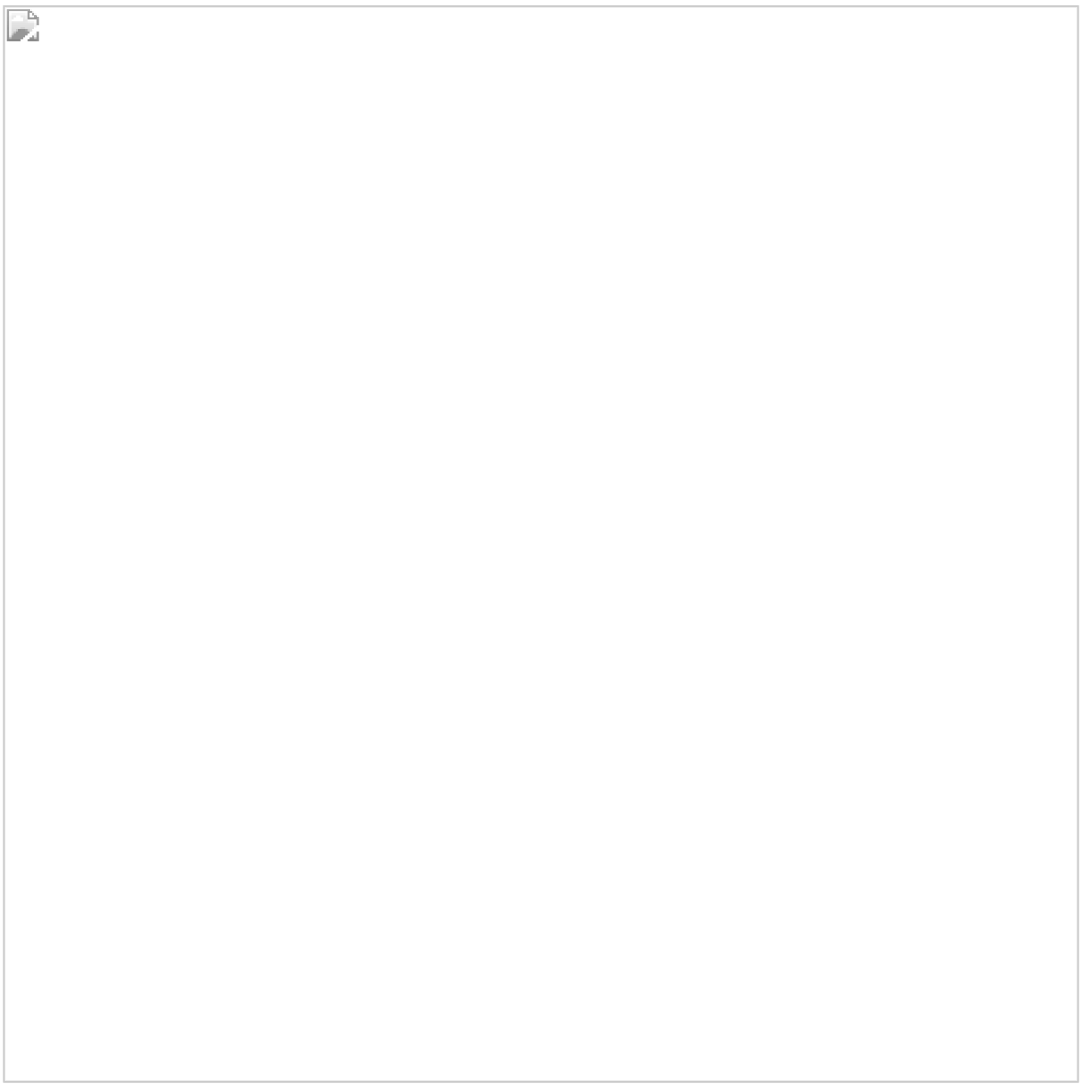
For months they lived in the hills of Mount Ida, and more refugees came. All winter they cut down trees and built ships.

When spring came, the little fleet set sail, with no idea where they were going.

TALK ABOUT IT

They had no home and no map, but they built ships together. What do you think helped them keep working?

Building the Ships · another picture

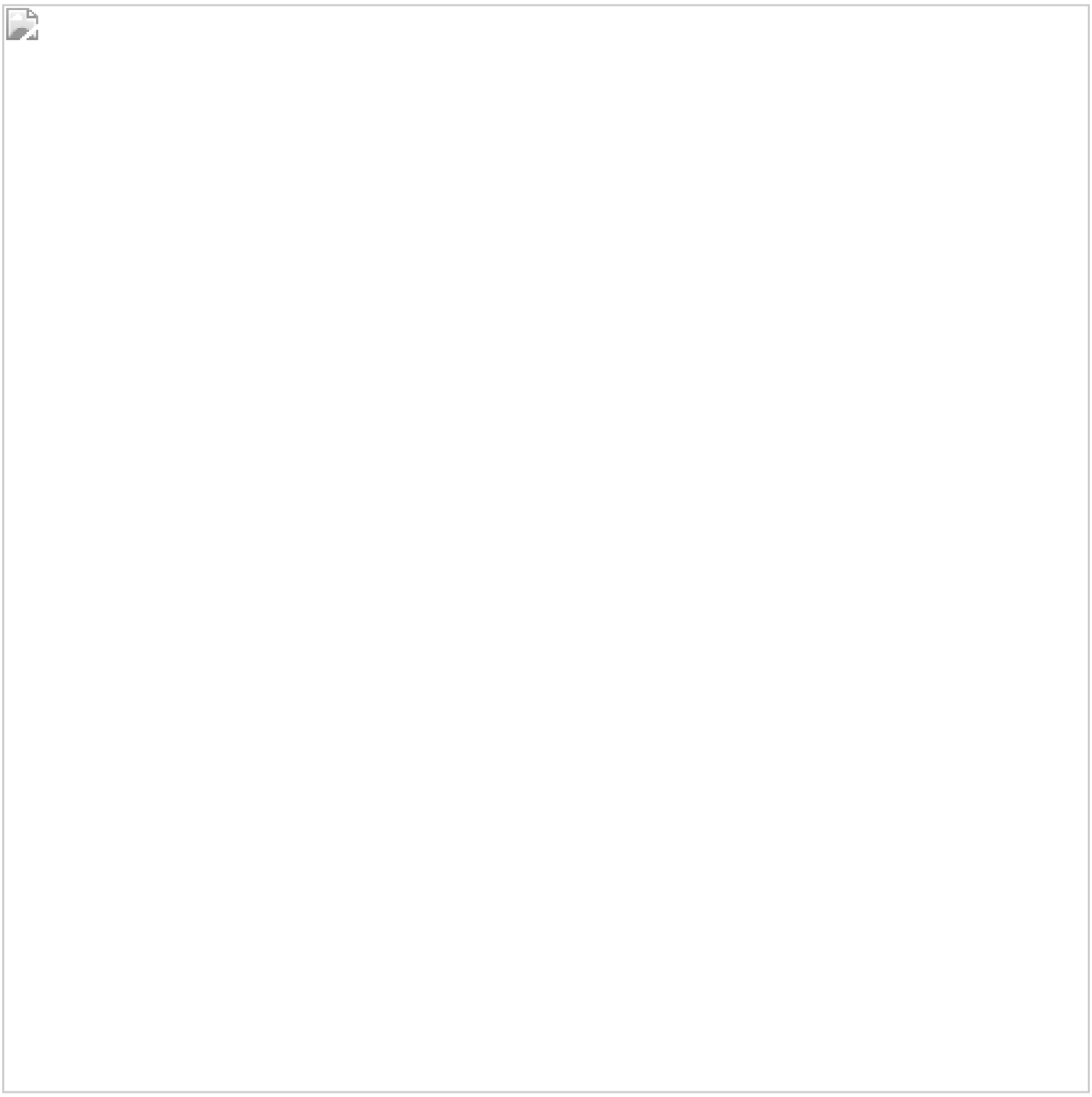


Think about it

1. What did the Trojans do all winter?

- ○ Built ships
- ○ Fought battles
- ○ Slept

Where Is Home?



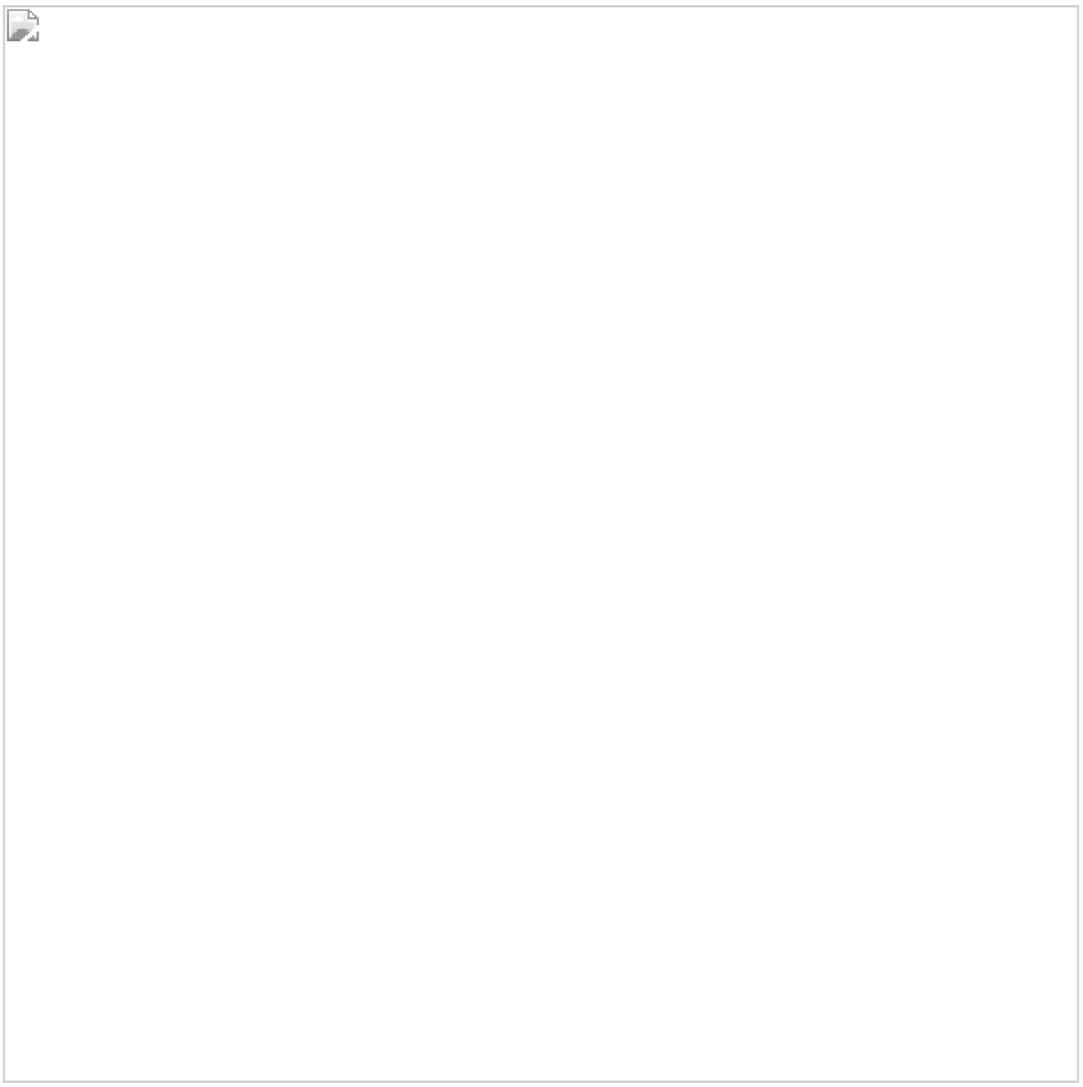
On the island of Delos, Aeneas prayed in the temple of Apollo: “Grant us a home, Apollo, grant us an abiding city.” A voice answered: go back to the land of your ancient mothers and fathers.

Anchises said it must be Crete. They sailed there and began a new city. But the crops sickened, and so did the men.

That night Aeneas dreamed that the little Trojan gods spoke to him. Crete was not the place. “Far to the west lies the land which the Greeks called Hesperia.” That land was Italy. So they pulled their ships down to the sea and left the new walls behind.

TALK ABOUT IT

They had worked so hard on the city in Crete, and then they had to leave. How do you think that felt? What would you do?

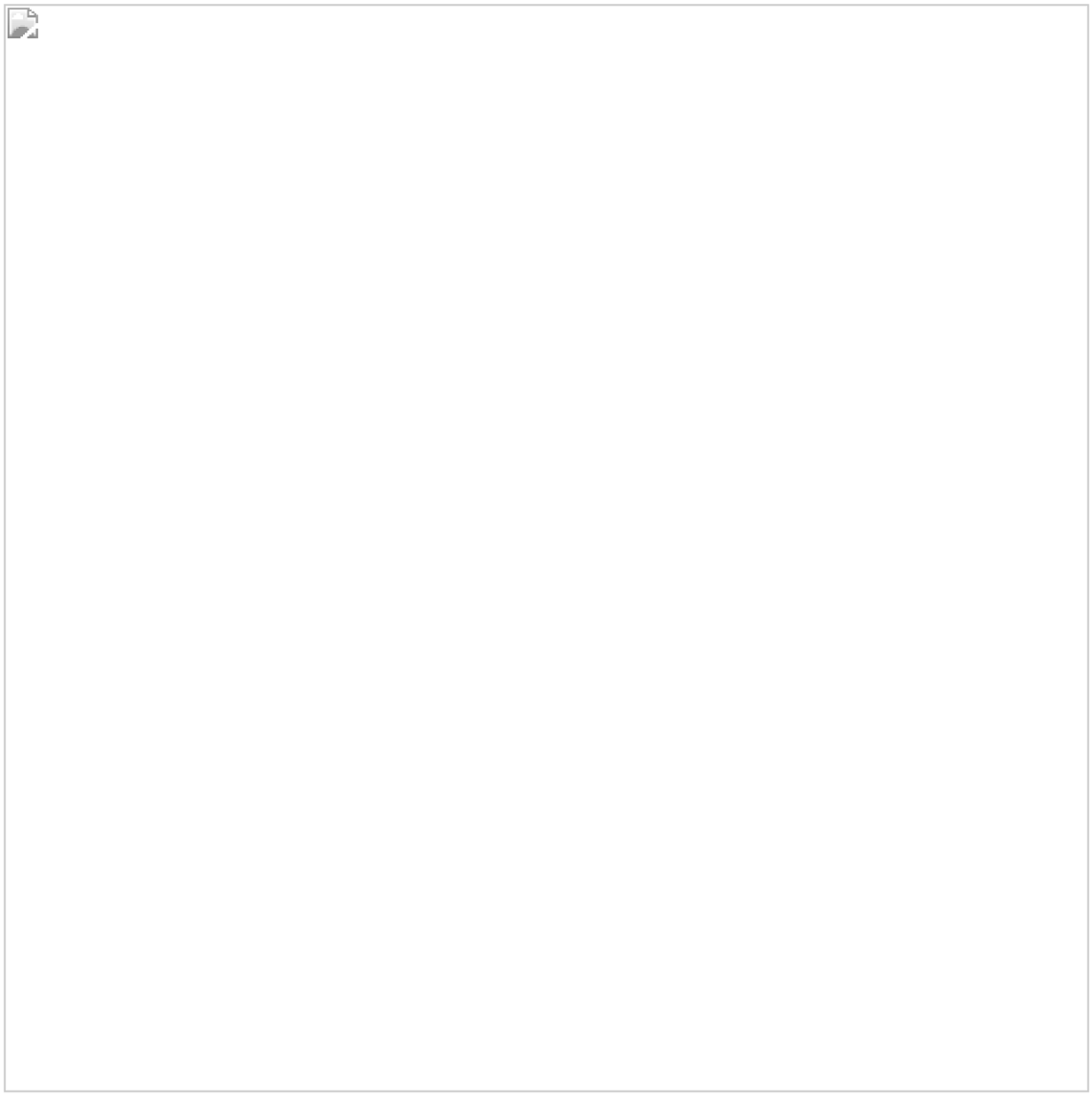


Think about it

1. Where did the gods say their true home was?

- ○ Crete
- ○ Delos
- ○ Italy

A Storm and the Harpies



A storm drove them off course for three days and nights, in such thick darkness that the helmsman could not tell night from day.

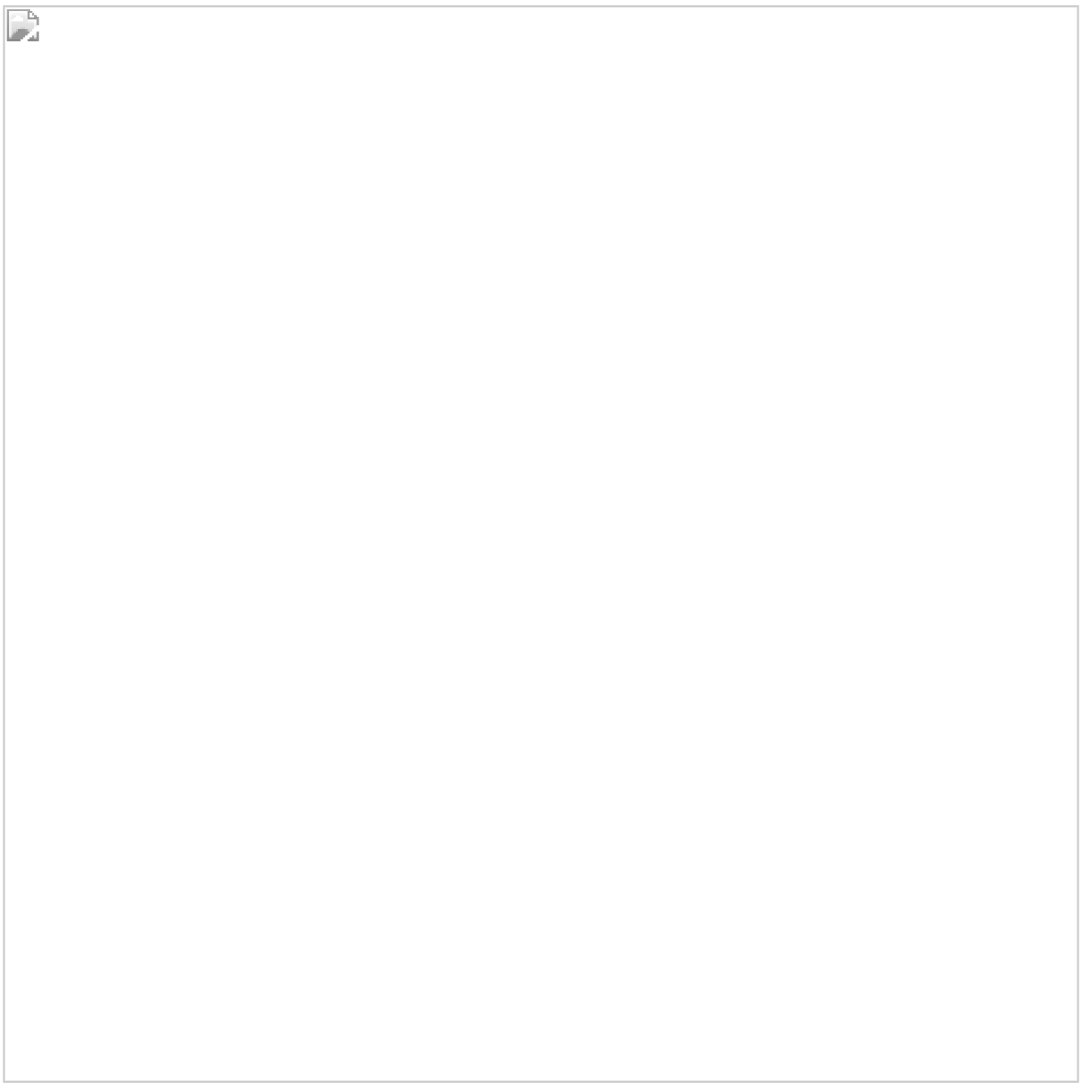
At last they landed on a quiet shore where cattle and goats were grazing, and they began to make supper. Suddenly Harpies came swooping down: half bird and half woman, with long claws. They snatched up the food.

The Trojans swung their swords, but the Harpies flew out of reach. Their leader perched on a rock and sang a warning, and the Trojans went back to their ships, with sinking hearts.

TALK ABOUT IT

How do you think the Trojans felt when the Harpies took their supper? What would you have done?

A Storm and the Harpies · another picture

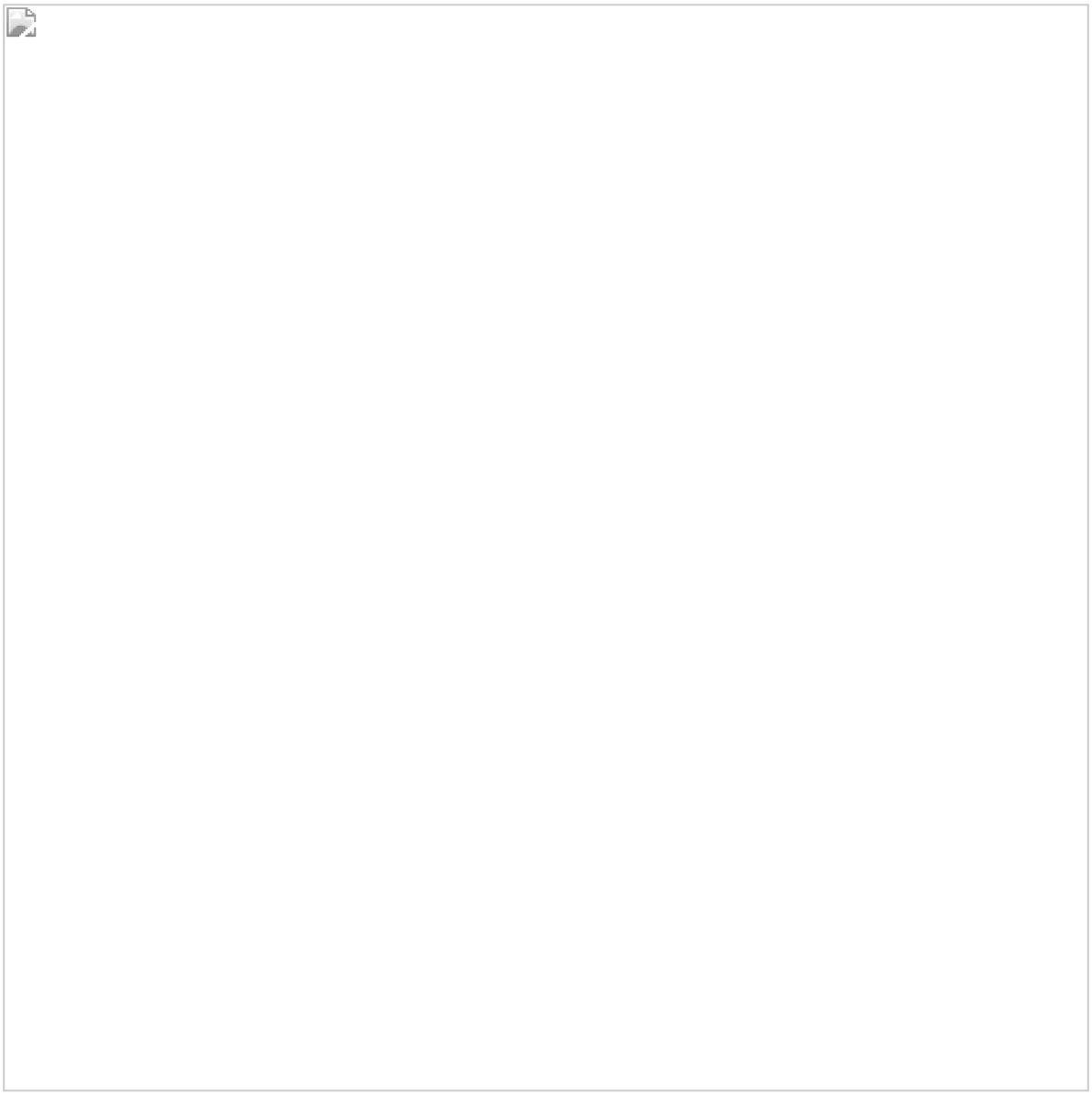


Think about it

1. What did the Harpies do?

- ○ Sang a lullaby
- ○ Sank the ships
- ○ Carried off the food

A Kinsman and a Sign



They sailed along the coast of Greece, quietly slipping past the island of Ithaca, home of Ulysses the wily. At last they landed in Epirus, where they were surprised to find Helenus, a son of King Priam, ruling there.

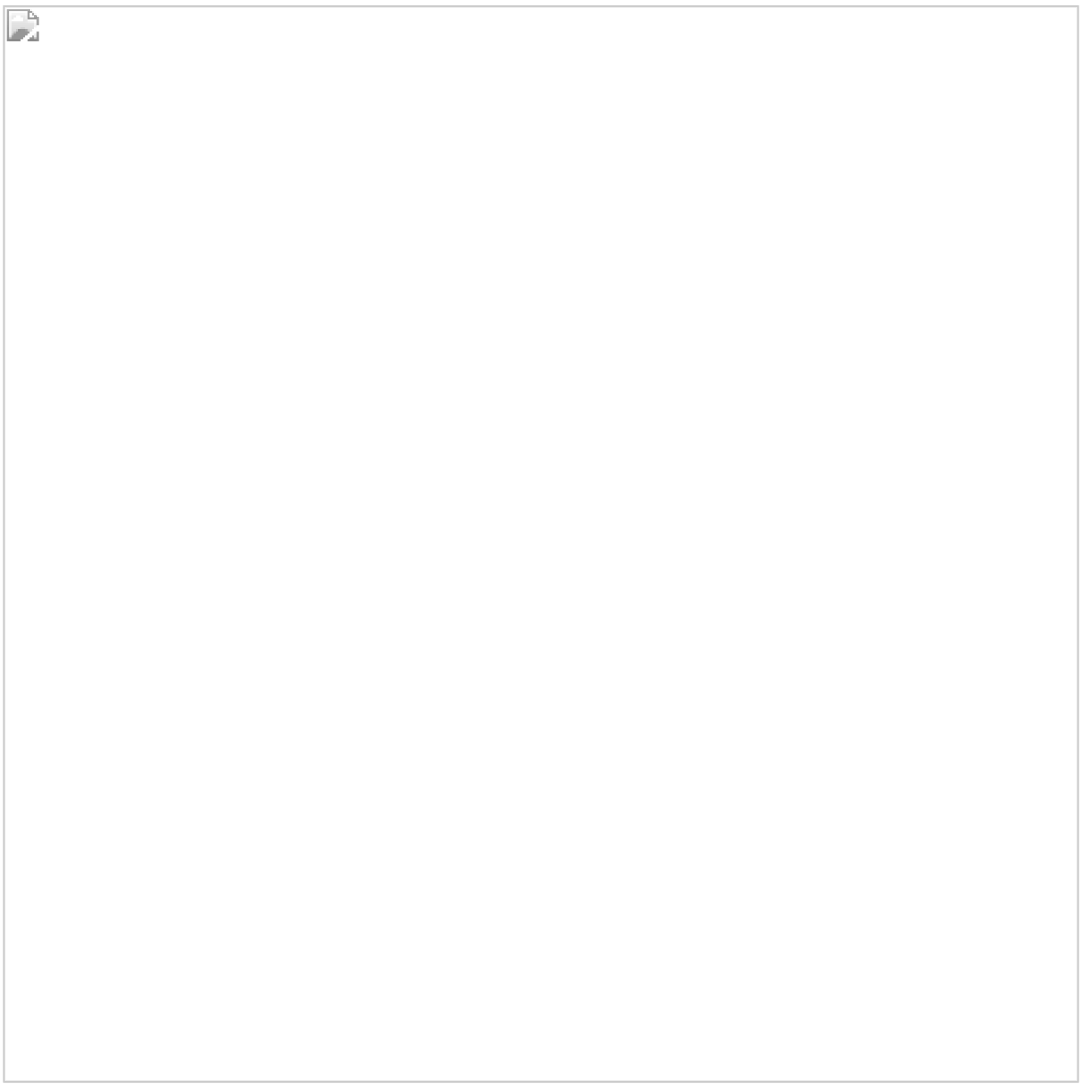
He welcomed Aeneas and gave him a sign to look for. When you see “a huge white sow with her thirty young ones,” he said, beside a quiet stream, you will have reached the end of your wanderings.

He told them how to avoid dangerous waters, and sent them on their way.

TALK ABOUT IT

Helenus gave Aeneas a sign to look for. What do you think it would be like to travel with only a sign to guide you?

A Kinsman and a Sign · another picture

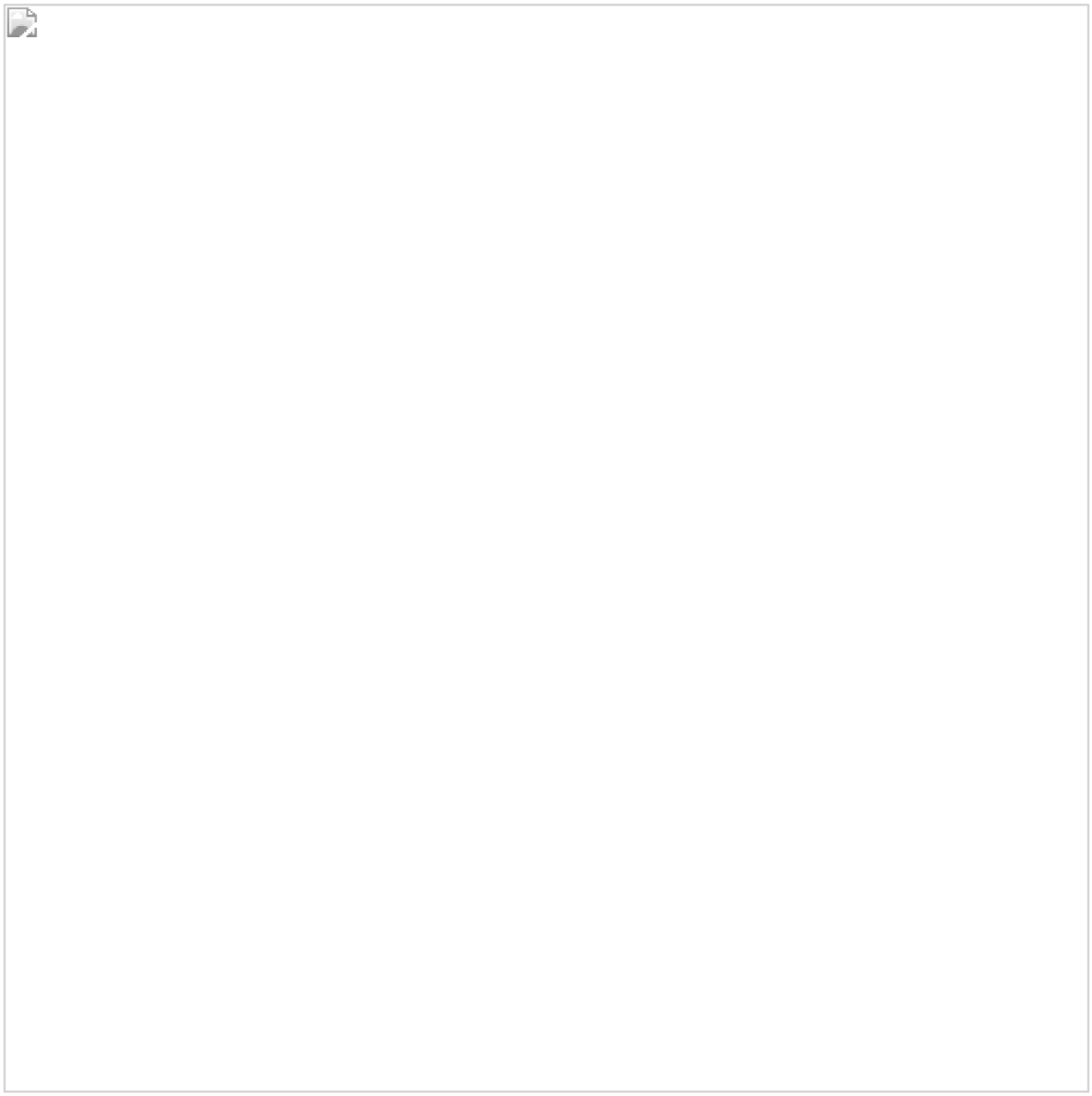


Think about it

1. What was the sign of the place where they should stop?

- ○ A golden tree
- ○ A white sow with thirty young ones
- ○ A blue horse

The Man Who Ran from the Woods



Near the mountain of Etna, a ragged, half-starved man ran out of the woods, calling to Aeneas for help. He was a Greek, left behind by the ship of Ulysses, and the Greeks were the enemies of Troy.

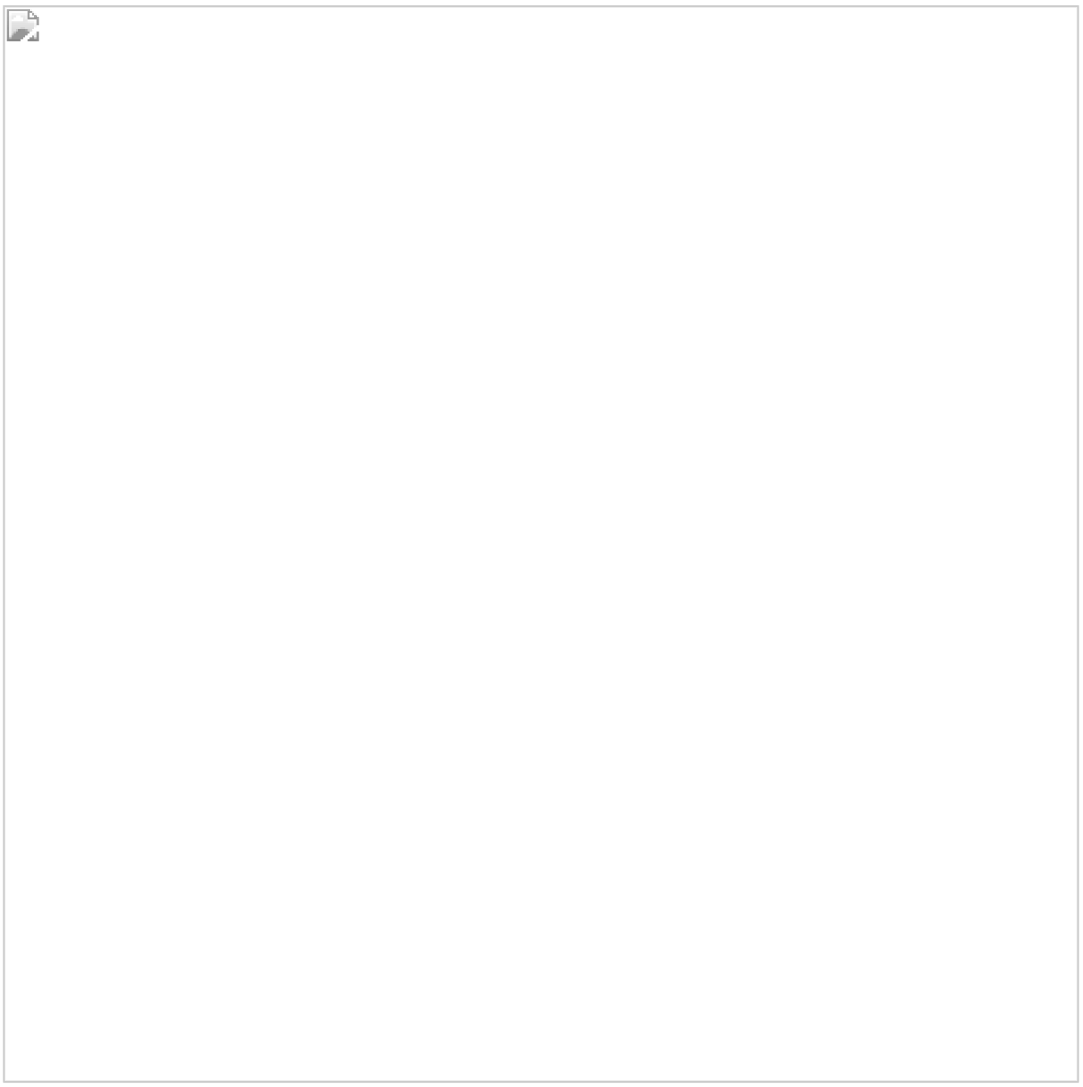
Aeneas was moved to pity. Even though the man was an enemy, he took him on board and gave him food.

Soon they saw a blind giant, Polyphemus, coming down to the sea with his sheep. The Trojans quickly slipped away over the waves before the giant's brothers could catch them.

TALK ABOUT IT

The Greek was an enemy, but Aeneas helped him. Who might you help even if it is hard?

The Man Who Ran from the Woods · another picture

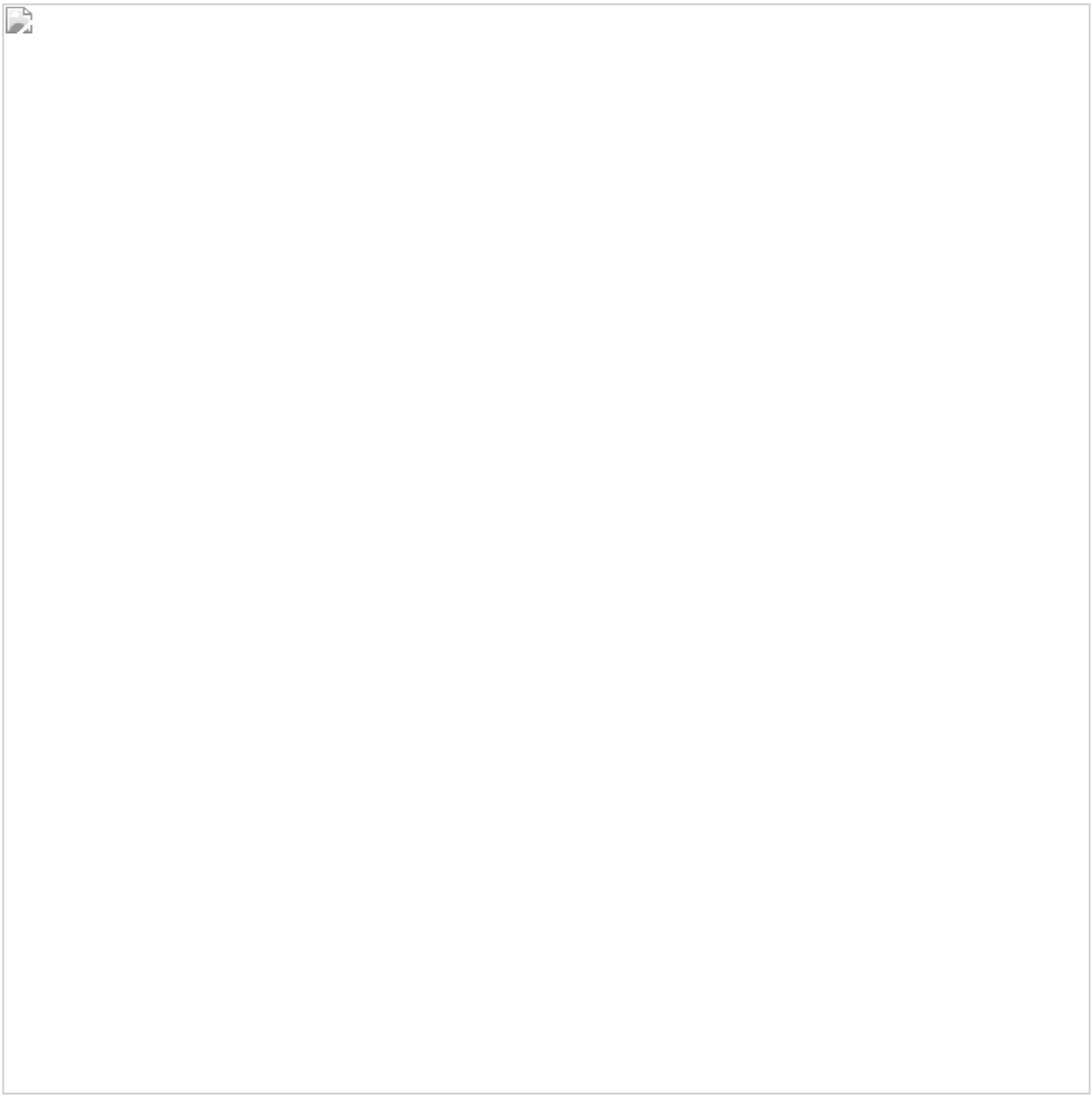


Think about it

1. What did Aeneas do for the Greek man?

- ○ Took him on board and fed him
- ○ Left him there
- ○ Fought him

A Sorrow No One Foretold



They sailed around Sicily, and came to a harbor on the western tip. There a sorrow met Aeneas that no one had warned him about.

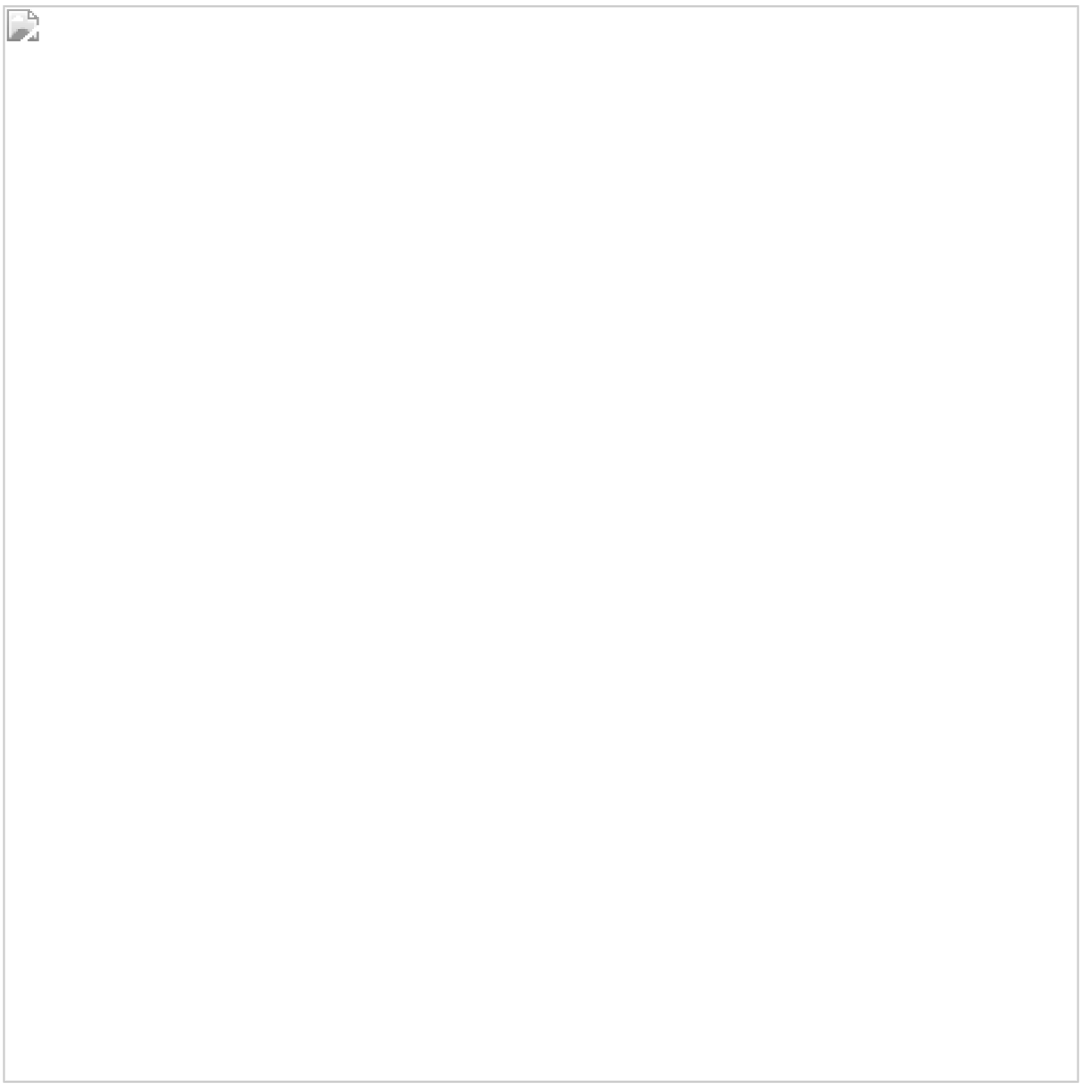
Anchises, tired from the long wandering and the long waiting, fell ill and died.

Sadly, Aeneas sailed away without his father, his trusted friend and counselor.

TALK ABOUT IT

Aeneas had carried his father out of Troy and across the sea. What do you think he remembered as he sailed on?

A Sorrow No One Foretold · another picture

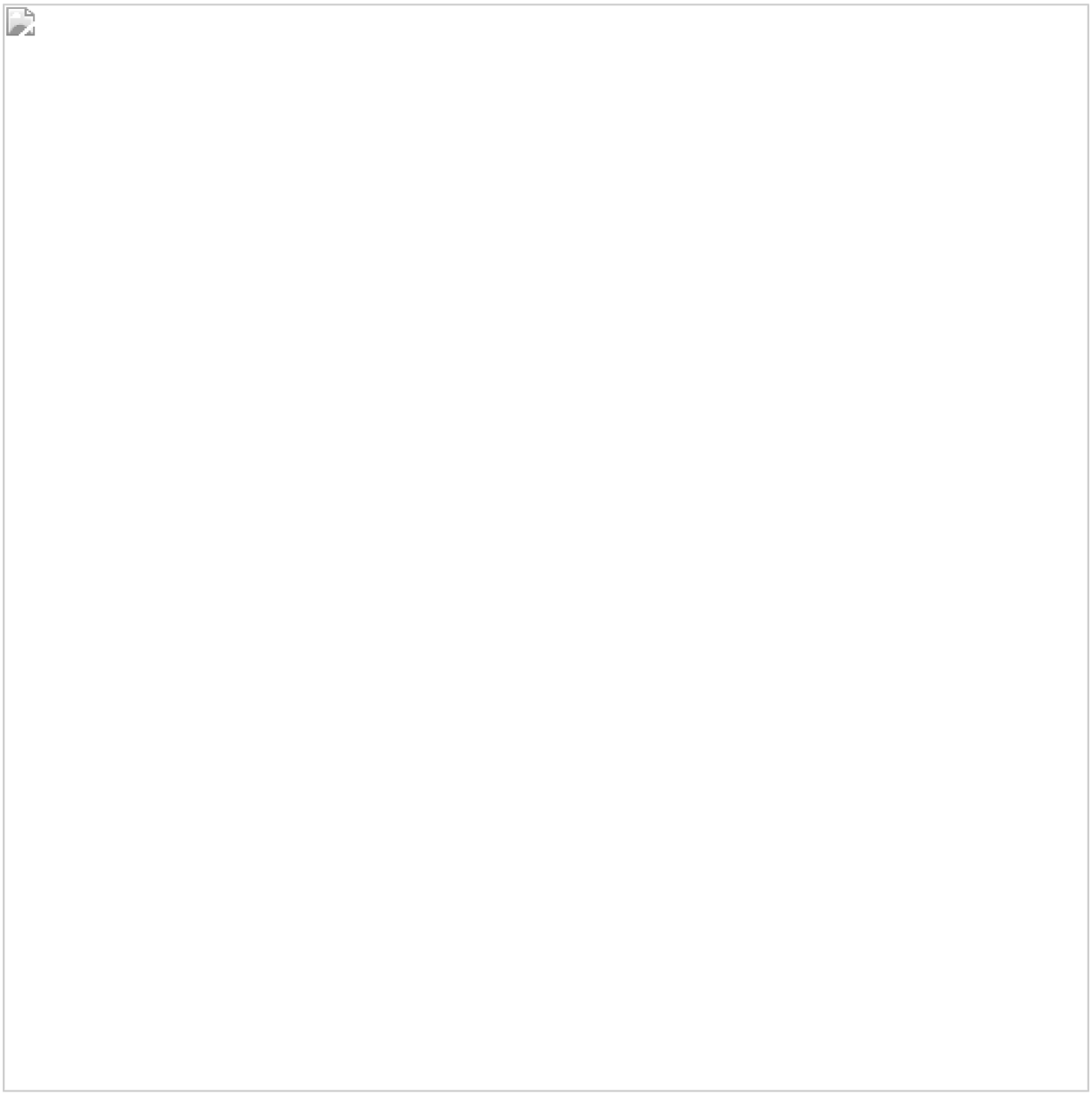


Think about it

1. Who did Aeneas lose in Sicily?

- ○ His son
- ○ His father Anchises
- ○ His ship

Juno's Storm



Juno, the queen of heaven, had never forgiven Troy. She went to Aeolus, the king of the winds, and asked him to scatter the Trojan ships. He opened the rocky prison where he kept the winds, and they rushed out.

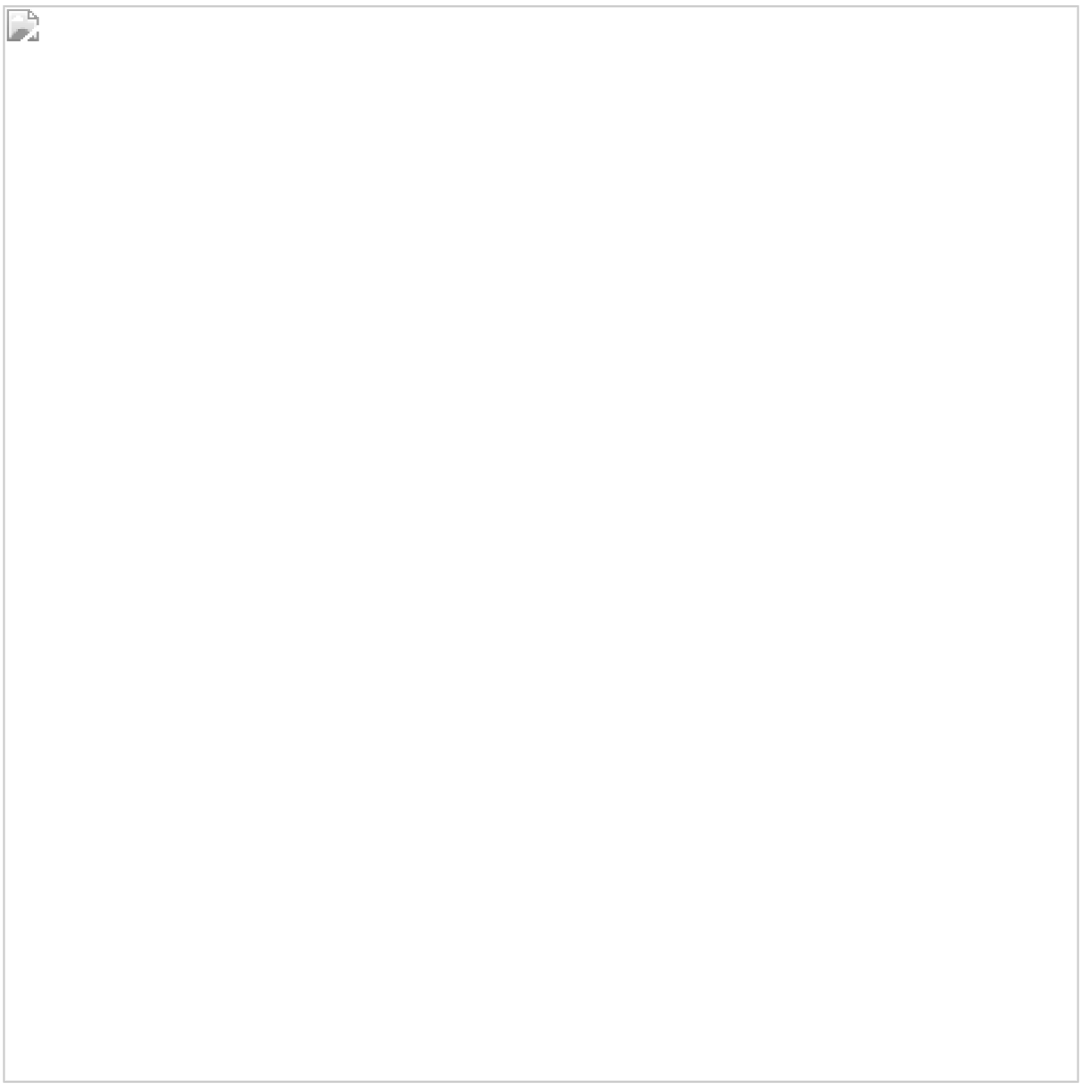
Black clouds blotted out the sky, thunder roared and lightning flashed. The waves broke the oars and sucked down ships. Even Aeneas lost heart.

But Neptune, who ruled the sea, saw what was happening. He scolded the winds and sent them back. He put the clouds to flight, and the sun came out.

TALK ABOUT IT

Even Aeneas lost heart. When is it hardest for you to keep hoping?

Juno's Storm · another picture

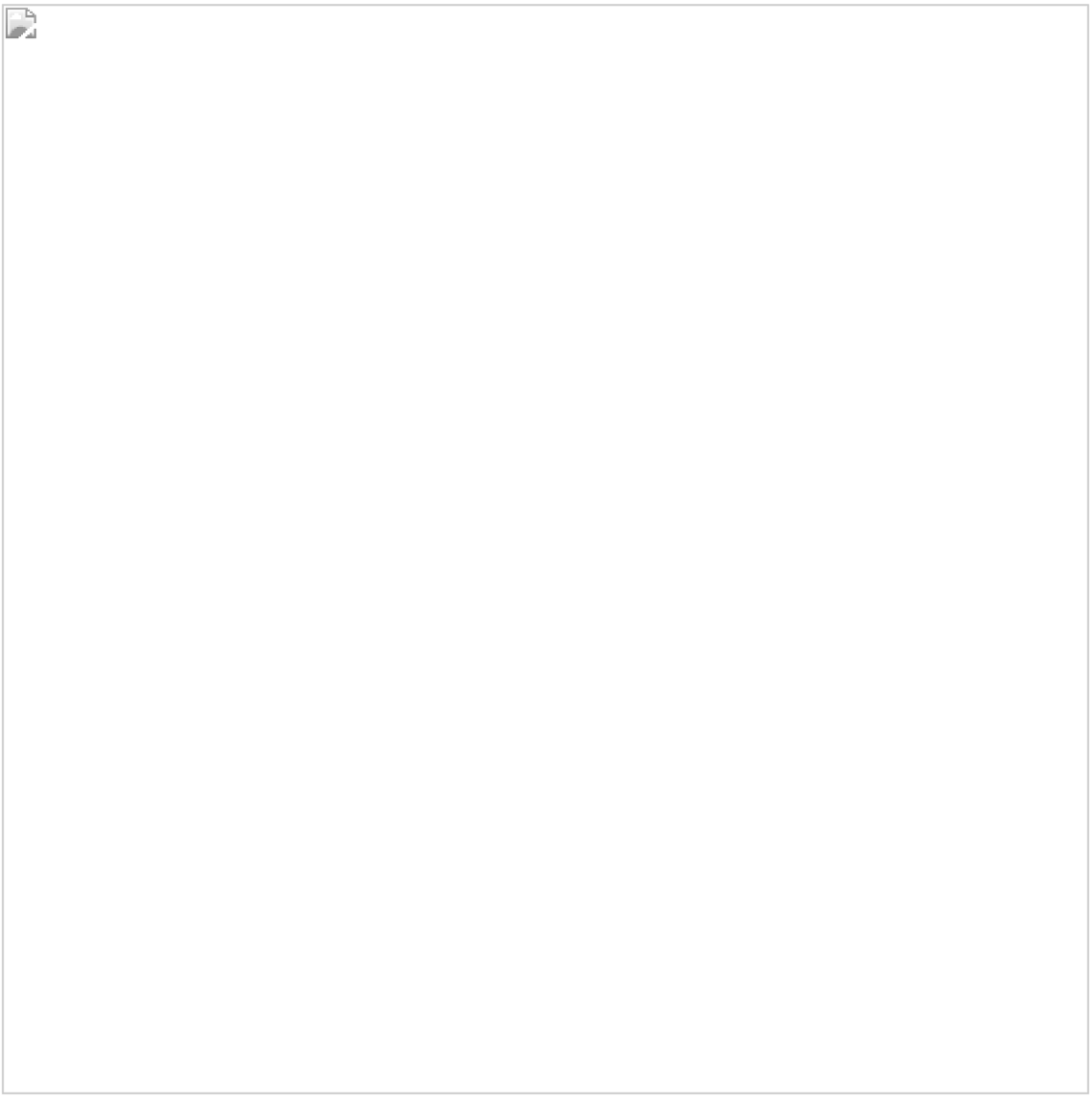


Think about it

1. Who stopped the storm?

- ○ Juno
- ○ Hector
- ○ Neptune

Hold Out a Little While



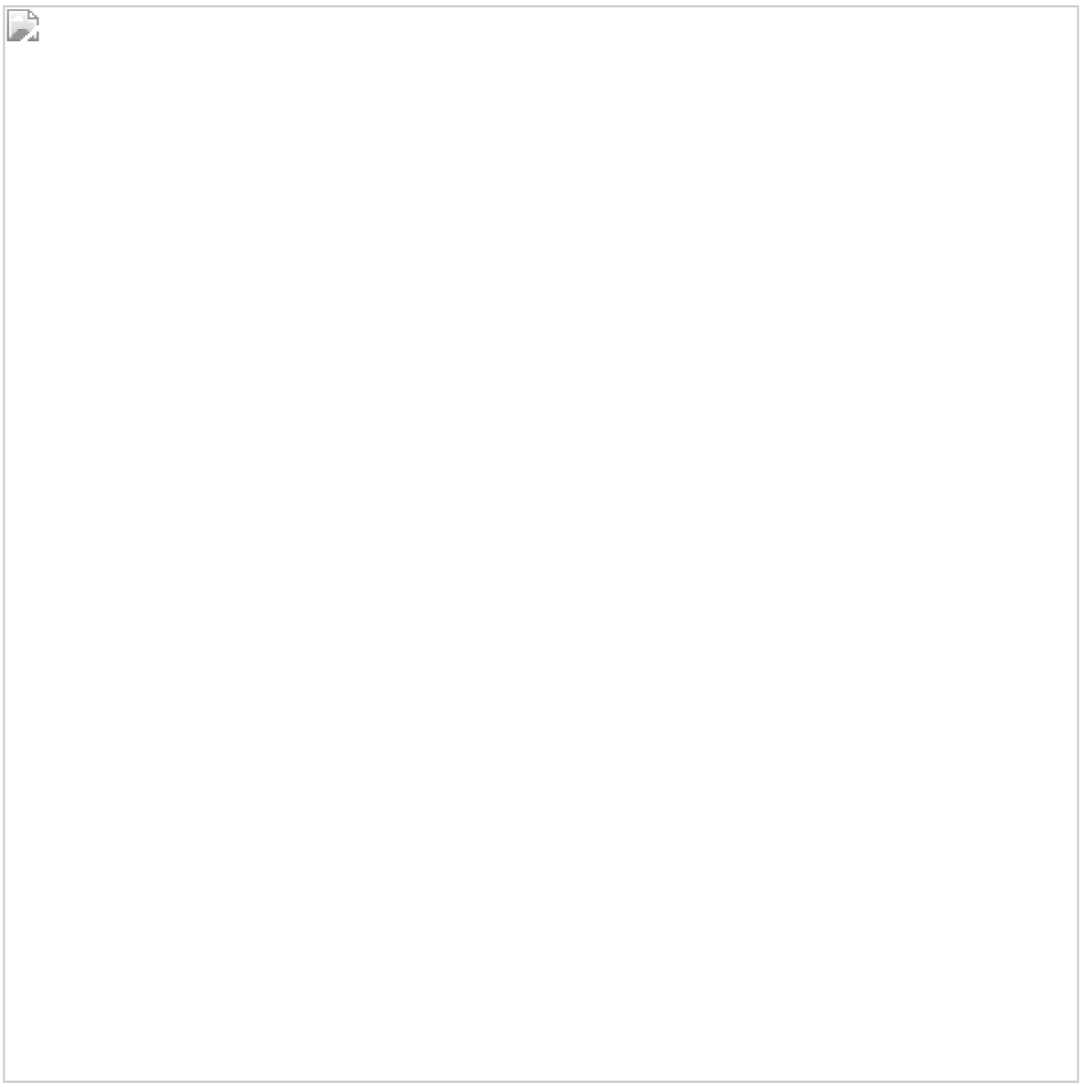
The tired ships found a quiet harbor and the sailors lay down on dry land. They kindled a fire and dried their wet corn for a small meal.

Aeneas climbed a hill to look for the ships that were missing, and he saw none. But he found deer in the valley. He shot them and brought food back to share with his friends.

As they ate, he tried to hearten them. “Endure a little longer,” he urged. They were making their way through toils and hardships to a home the gods had promised. “Hold out a little while, and wait for the happy days in store.”

TALK ABOUT IT

Aeneas cared for his friends and gave them hope. How can you cheer up a friend who feels tired and sad?



Think about it

1. What did Aeneas tell his friends?

- ○ Endure a little longer
- ○ Give up
- ○ Go back to Troy

2. Aeneas carried his father, helped an enemy and cheered his friends. Which of these would you want to do?

“There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

— Yeshua HaMashiach

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