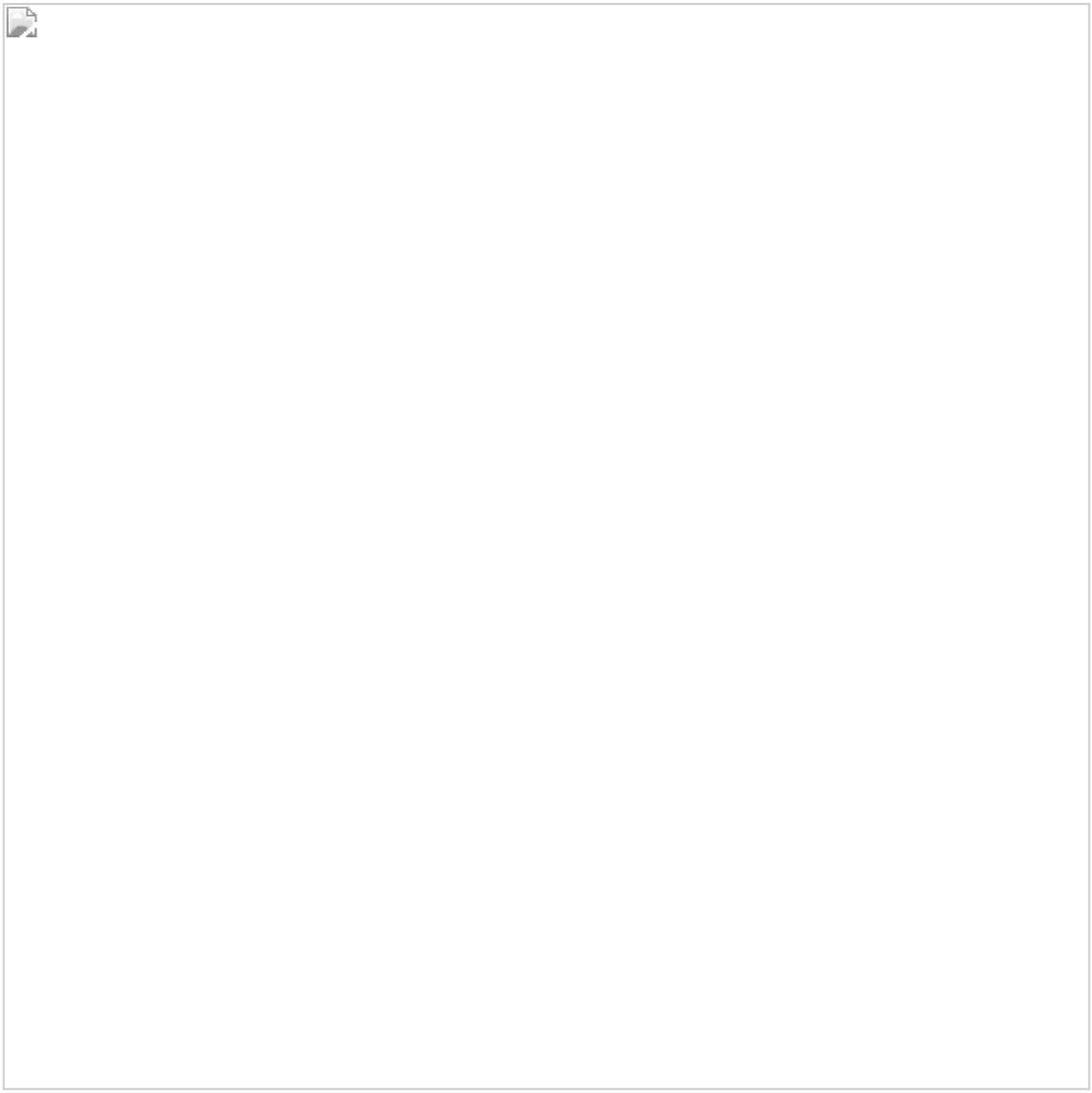
COLORING THE CLASSICS

Anansi the Blind Fisherman

A Tale from West Africa



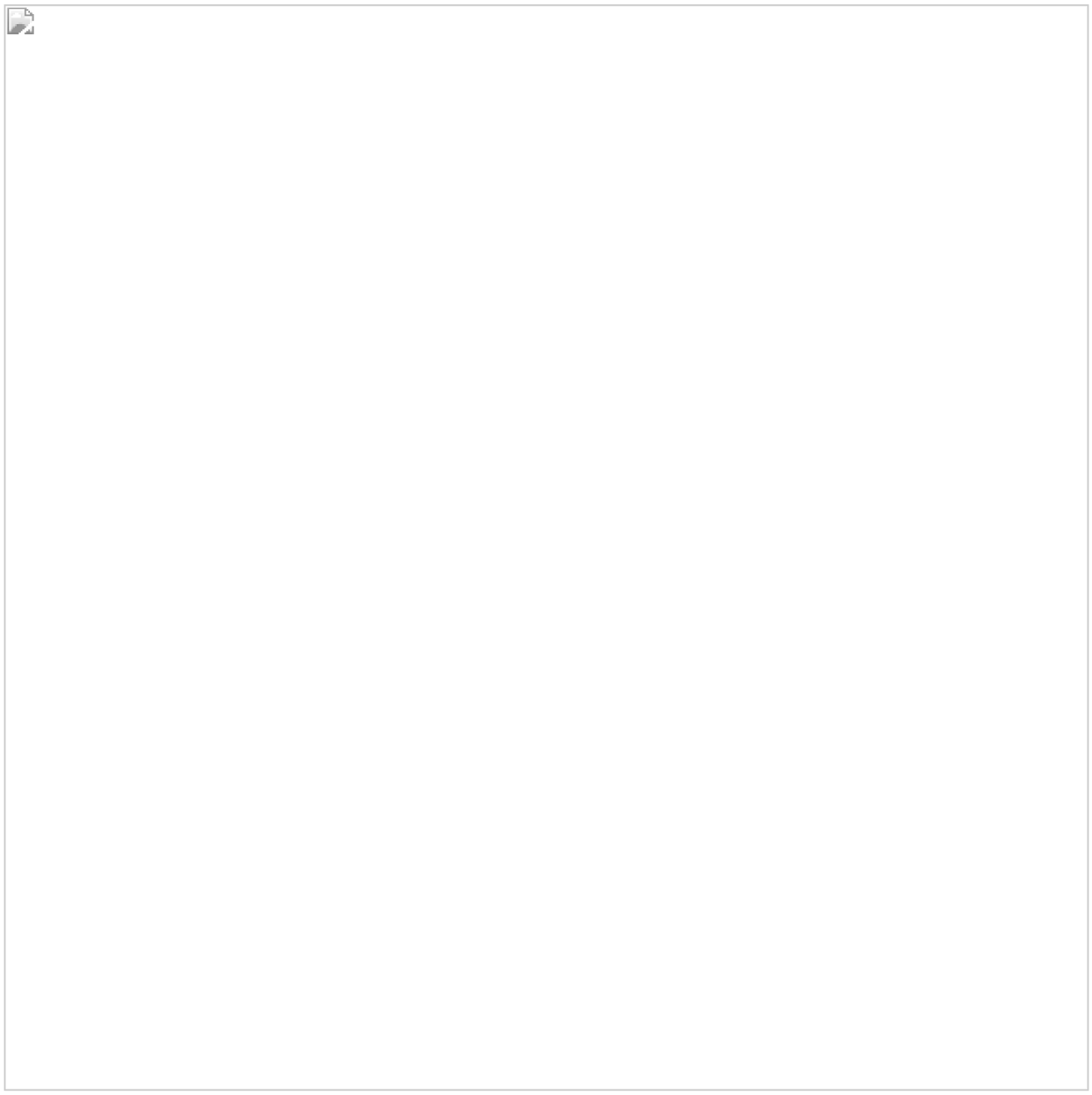
Anansi, in his old age, became a fisherman. Very soon after that his sight began to fail, and in the end he grew quite blind.

TALK ABOUT IT

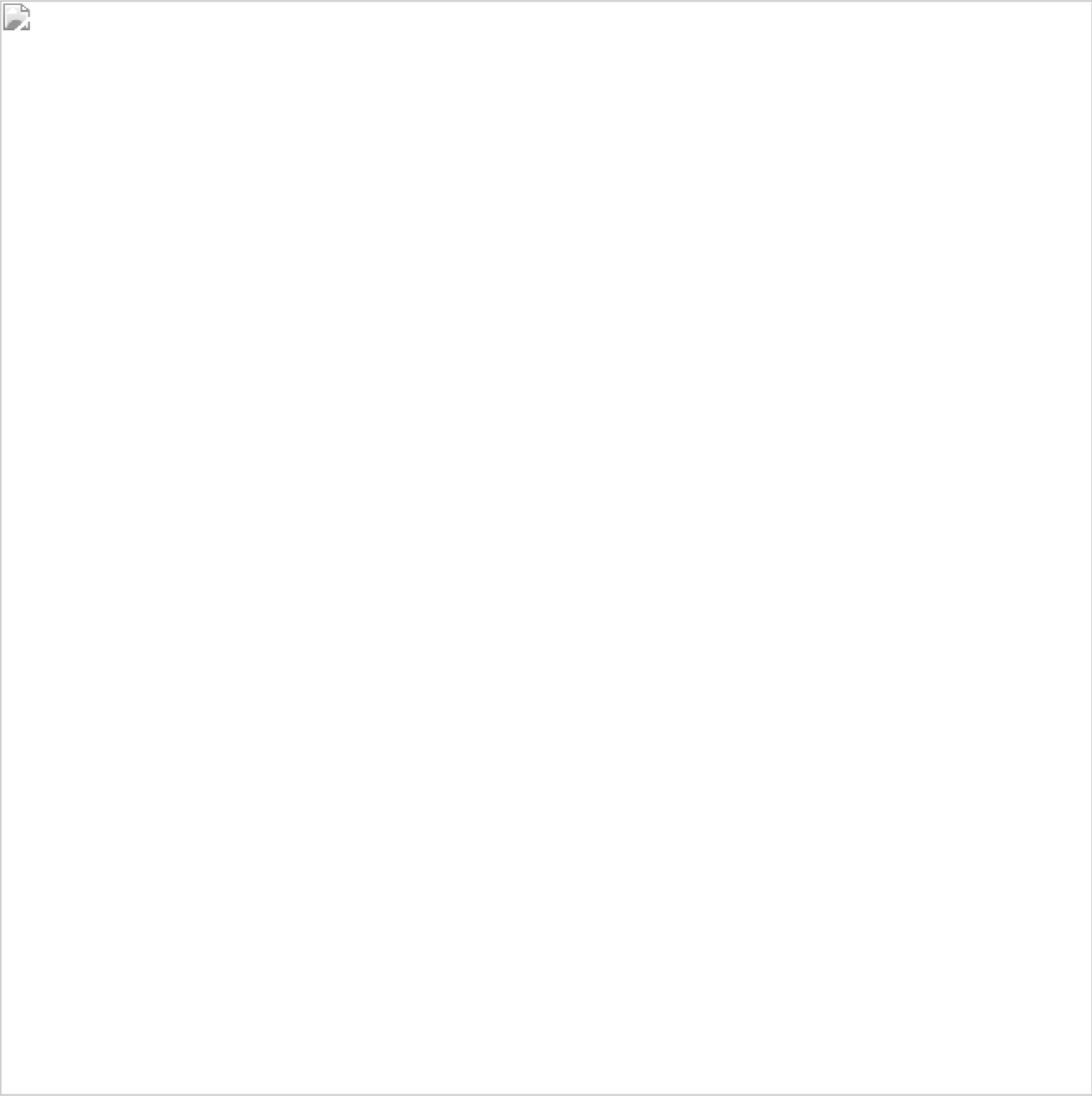
Anansi lost his sight. What is something you need help with sometimes?

This book belongs to _____

Anansi the Blind Fisherman · another picture



Two Kind Helpers

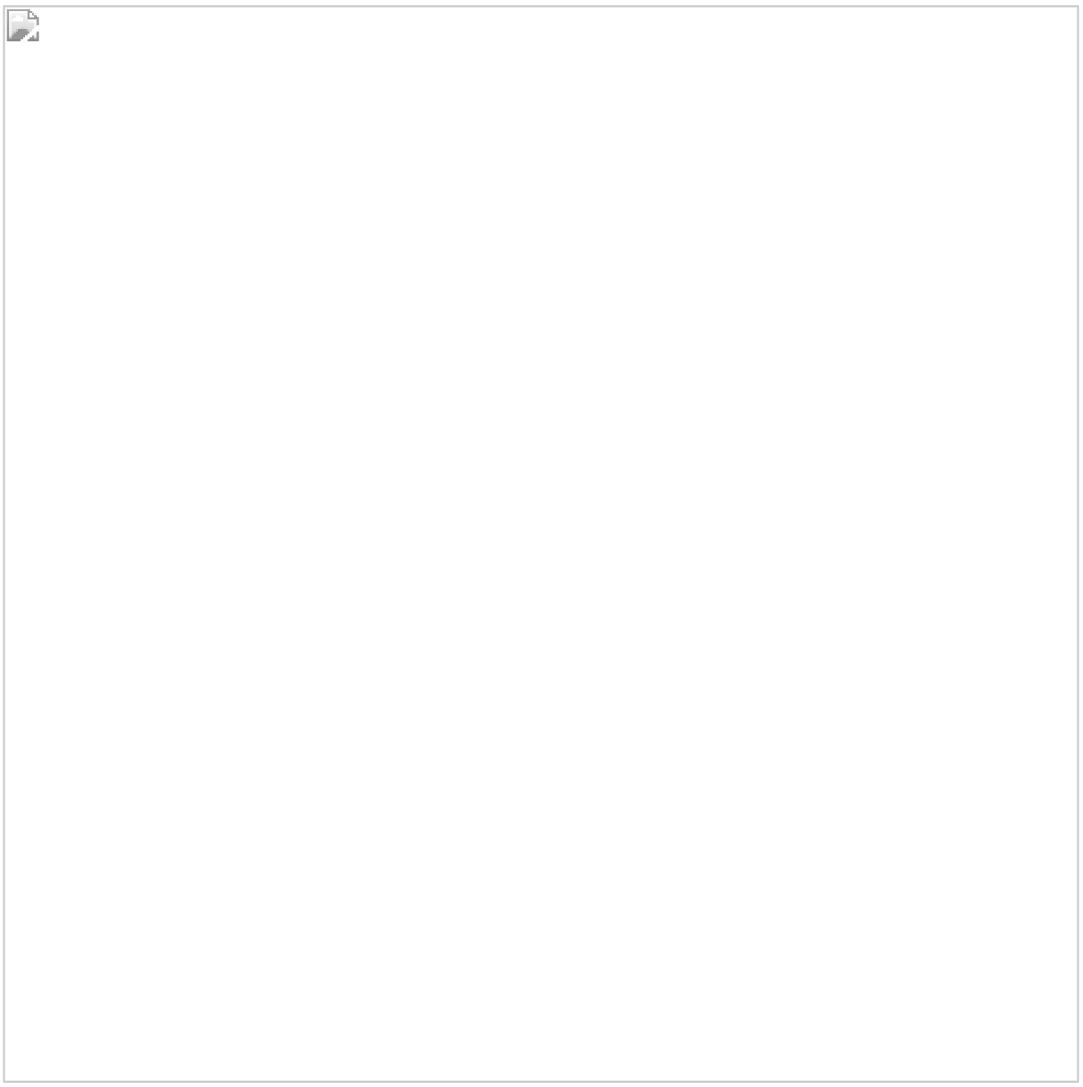


Anansi was still very strong, so he kept on fishing, with the help of two men.

The two men were very kind to him. Each morning they led him to the beach and into the canoe. They told him where to spread his net and when to pull it in.

TALK ABOUT IT

The two men helped Anansi every single day. Who helps you every day?

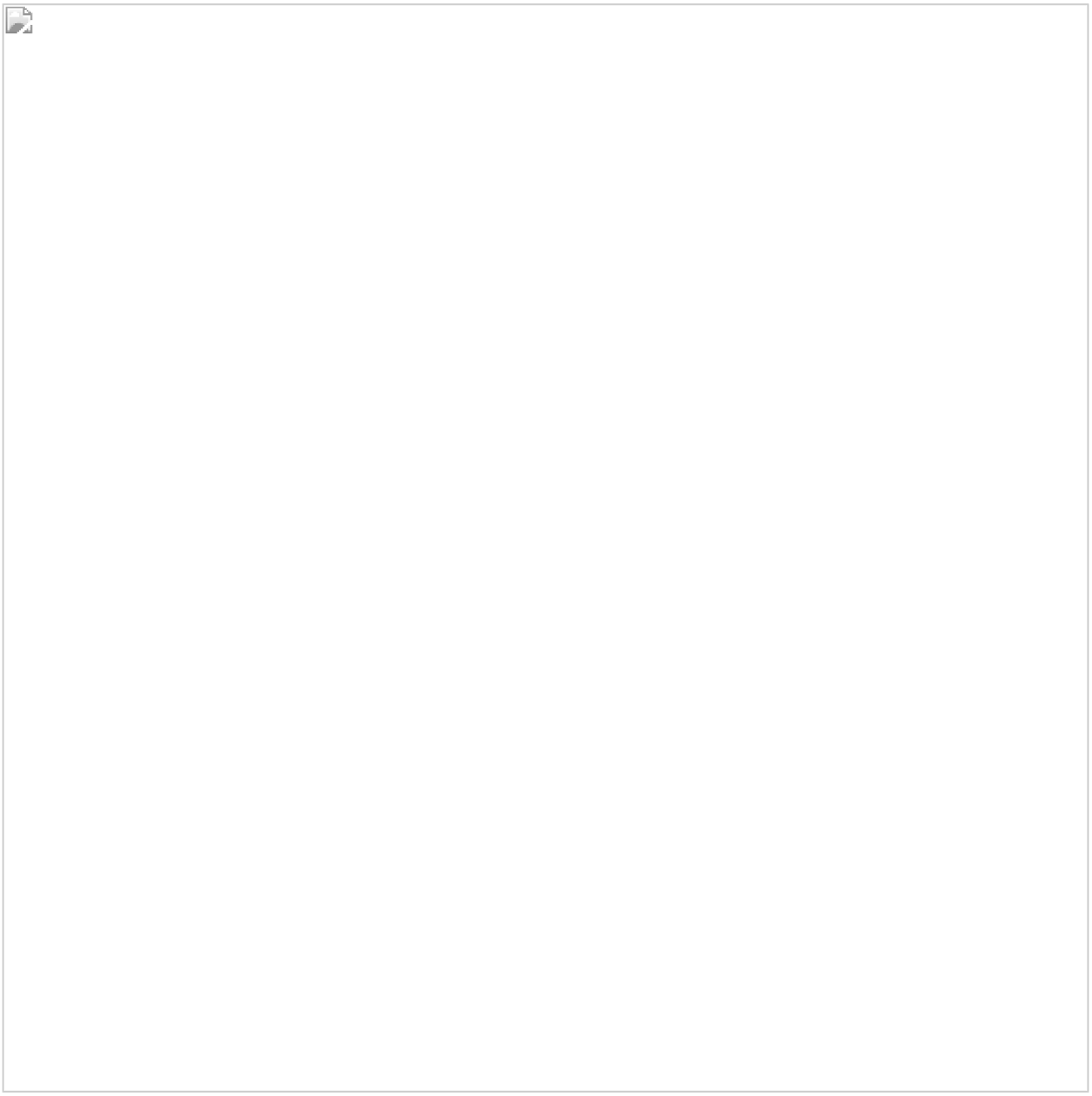


Think about it

1. How many men helped Anansi fish?

- ○ One
- ○ Two
- ○ Three

Not Even Wet



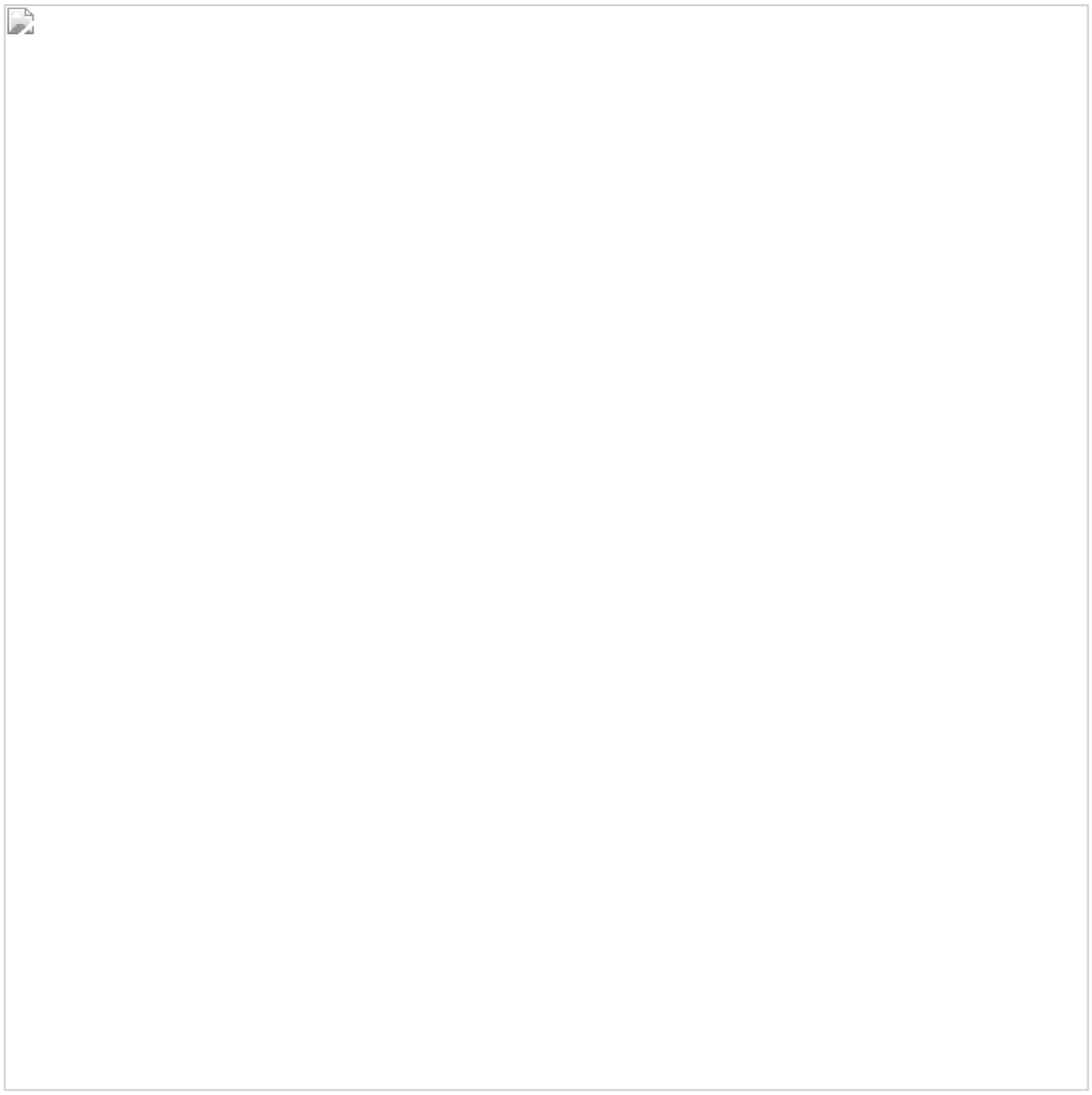
When they came back to land, the men told Anansi just where and when to step out of the canoe. So he did not even get wet.

The helpers did everything they could for him.

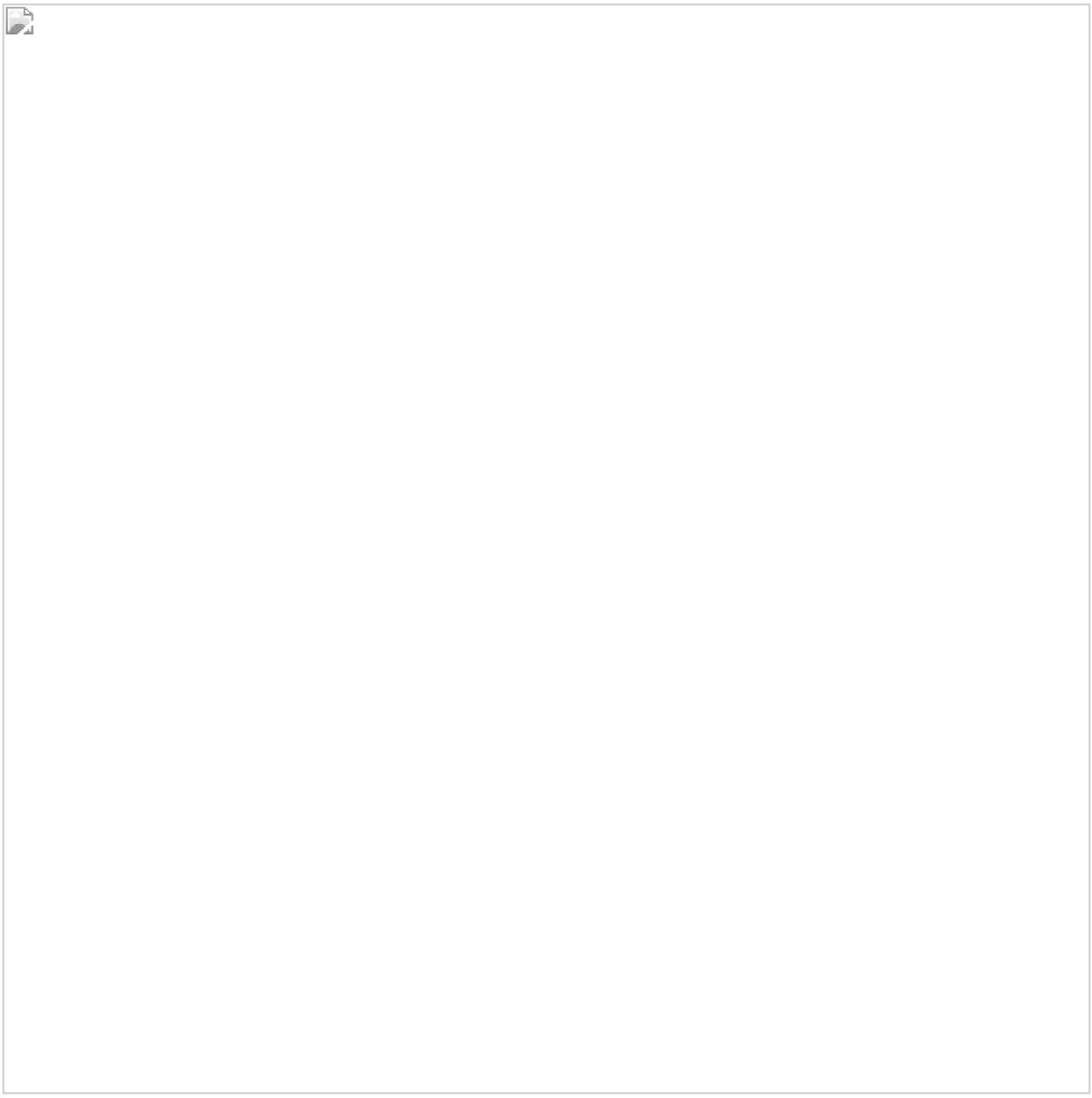
TALK ABOUT IT

How do you think it feels to be helped like that?

Not Even Wet · another picture



Anansi Is Rude



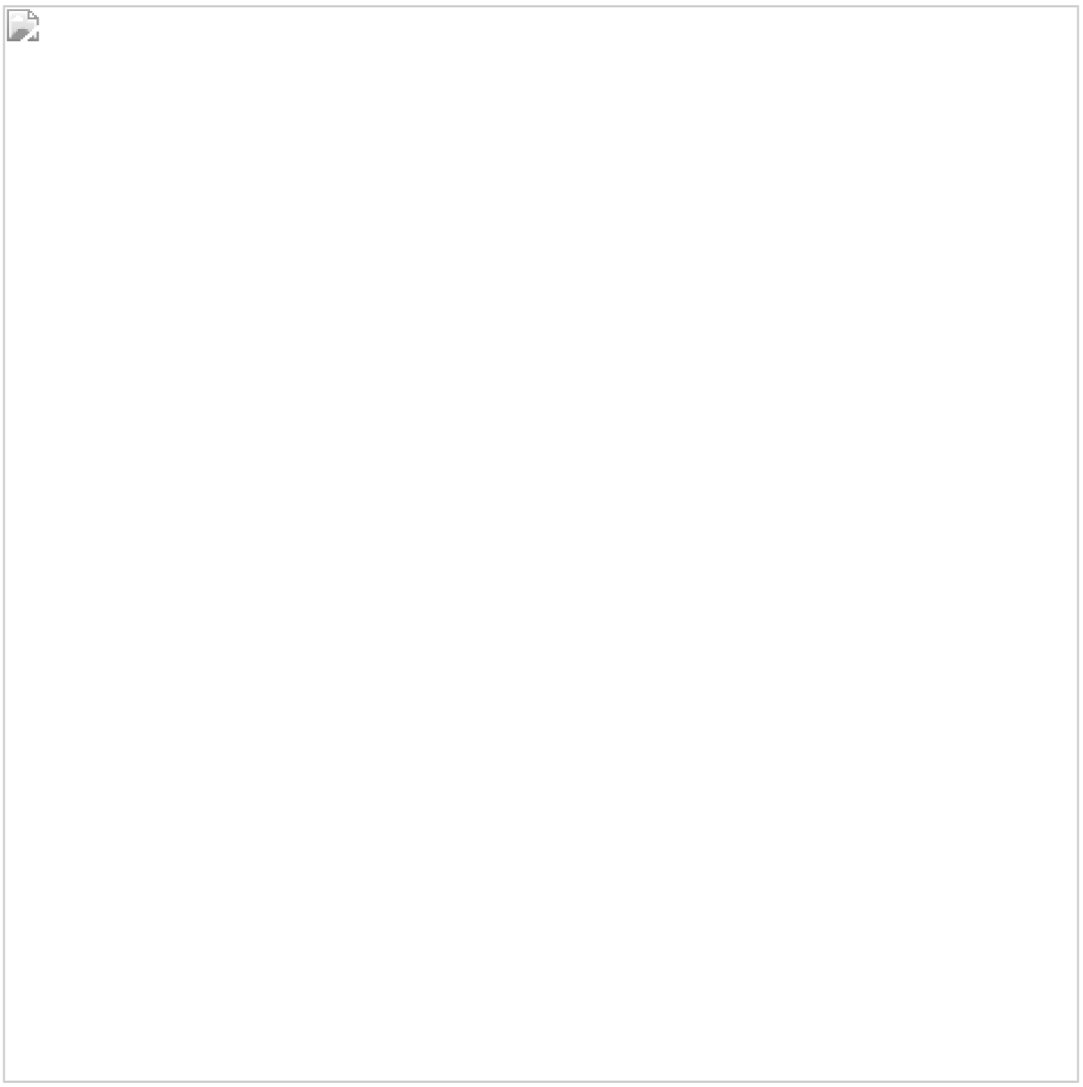
Day after day this went on. But Anansi was not grateful to them. He behaved very badly.

When they told him where to spread his net, he would answer sharply, “I know. I was just about to put it there.”

When they told him to get out of the boat, he would say, “Oh, I know perfectly well we are at the beach. I was just getting ready to step out.”

TALK ABOUT IT

Why do you think Anansi answered this way, when they were only helping him?

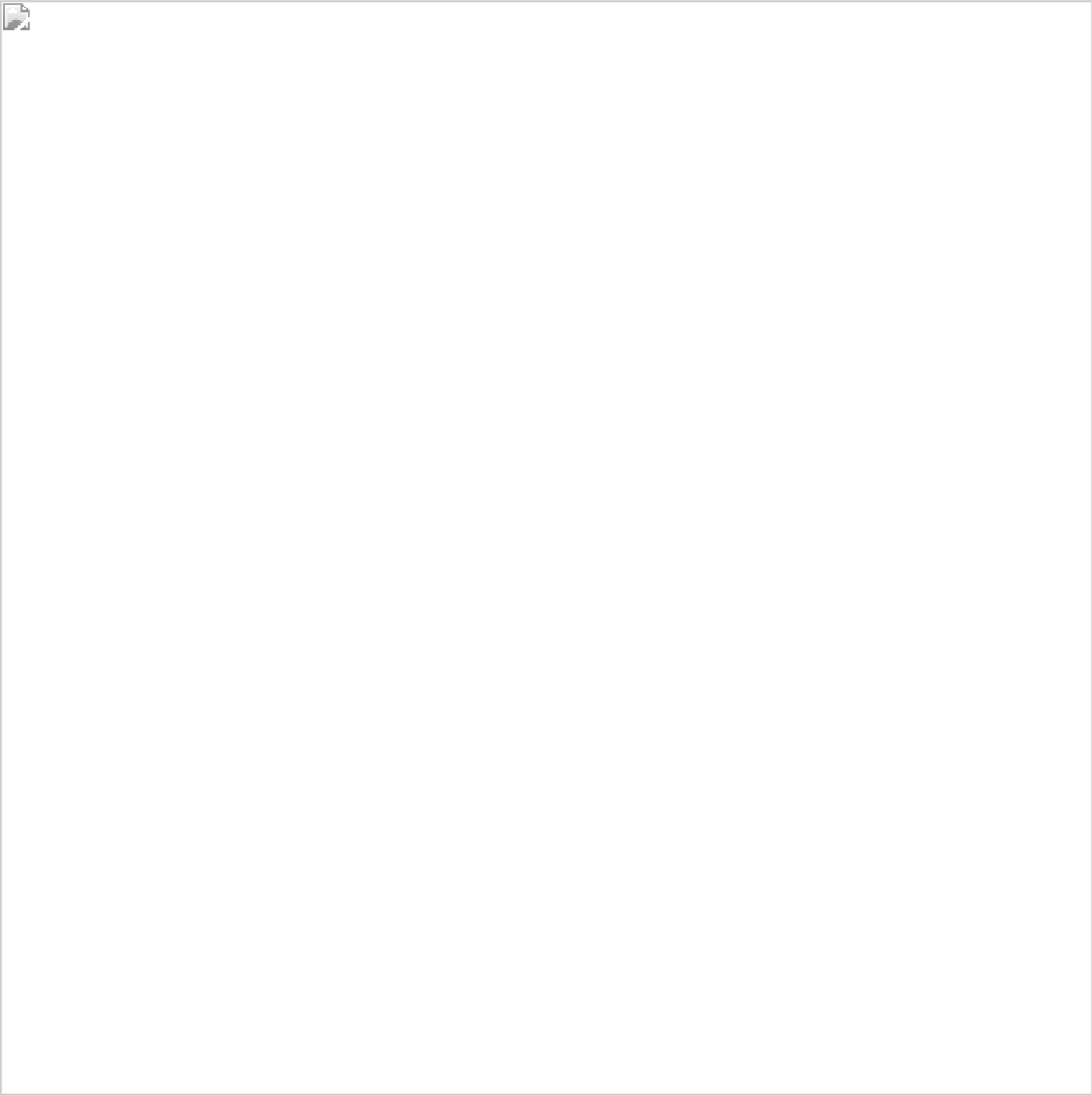


Think about it

1. What did Anansi say when the men told him where to put the net?

- ○ Thank you, friends
- ○ “I know. I was just about to put it there.”
- ○ Please show me again

Enough

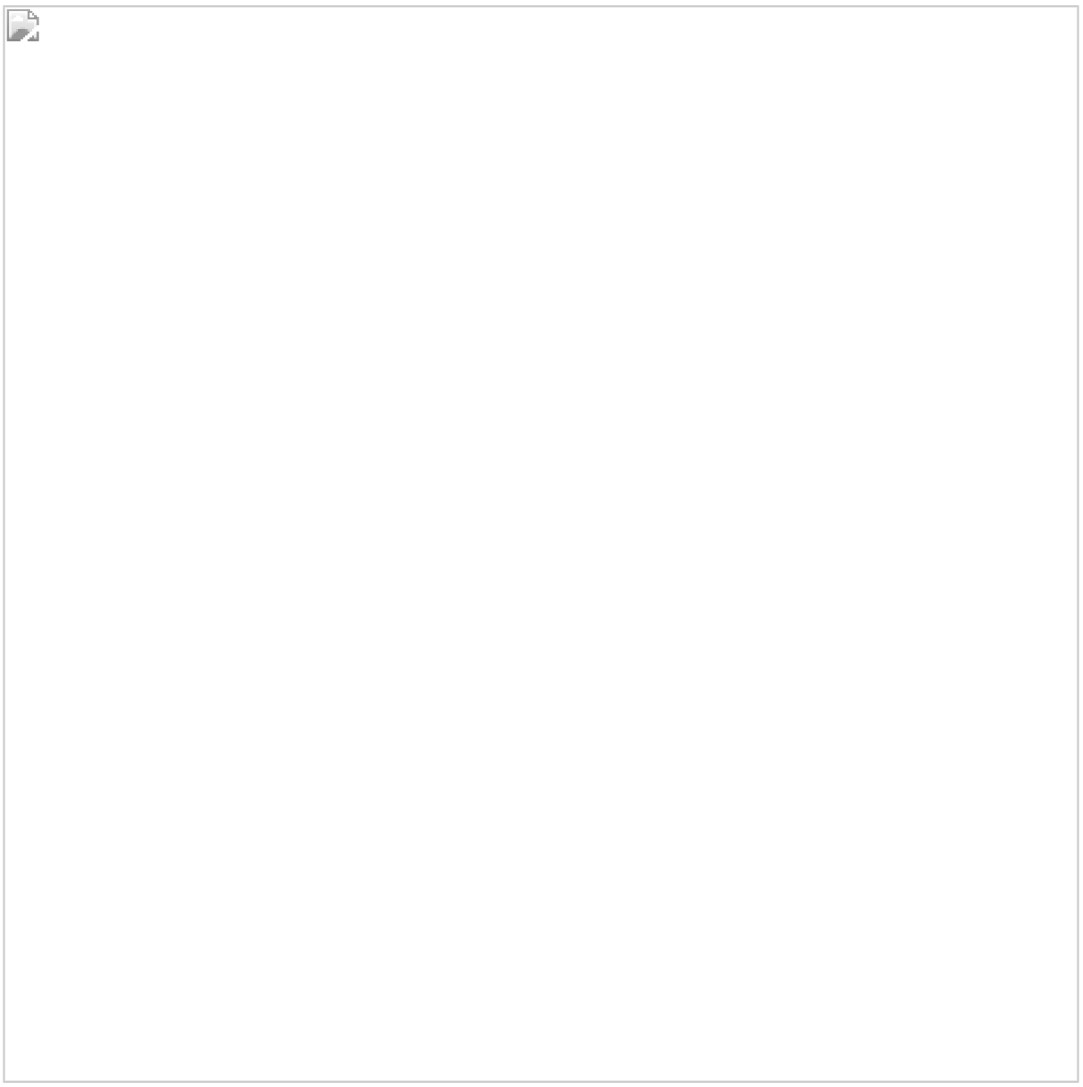


Anansi grew ruder and ruder to his helpers every day. At last they could bear it no longer.

They decided that when they had the chance, they would punish him for his ingratitude.

TALK ABOUT IT

The men were kind for a long time. What do you think of what they decided?

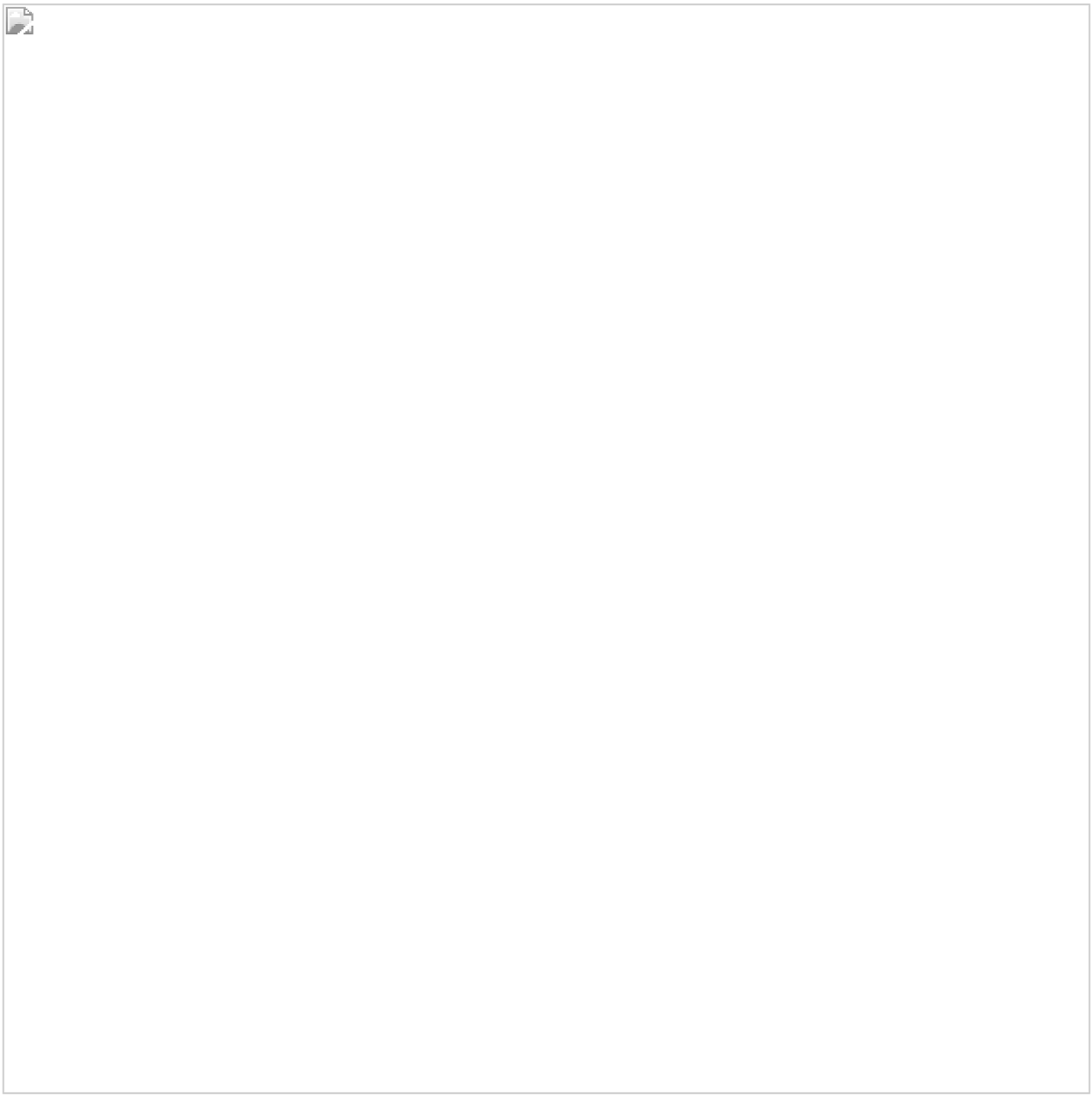


Think about it

1. Why did the men decide to punish Anansi?

- ○ He was late
- ○ He was rude and ungrateful
- ○ He caught too many fish

The Next Day



The next day he came with them to the beach as usual. When the canoe was ready, they told him to step in.

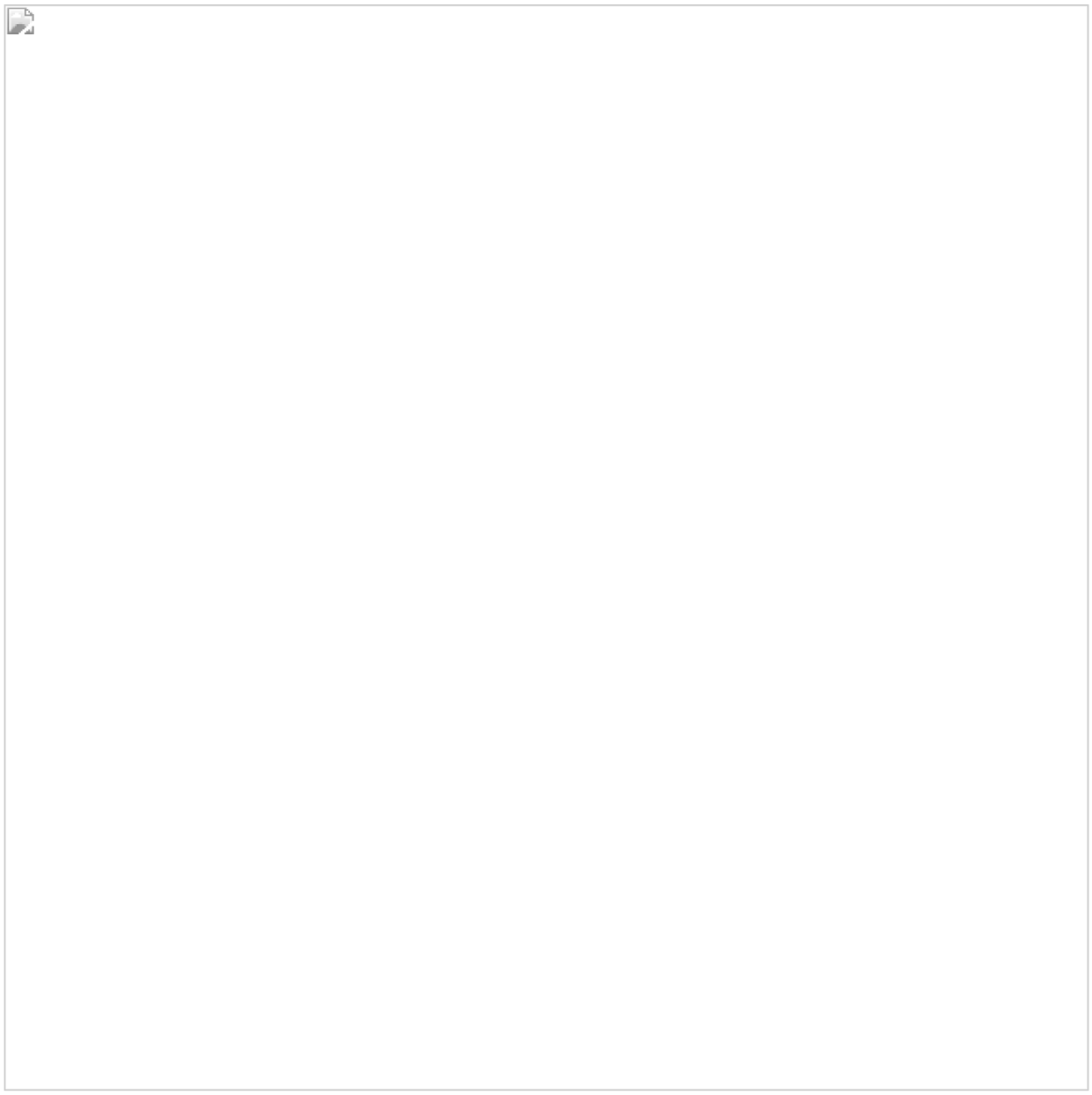
“Do you think I am a fool?” he said. “I know the canoe is there.”

They made no answer. They got in and pulled patiently toward the fishing place. When they told him where to spread his net, he answered with so much abuse that they decided, there and then, to punish him.

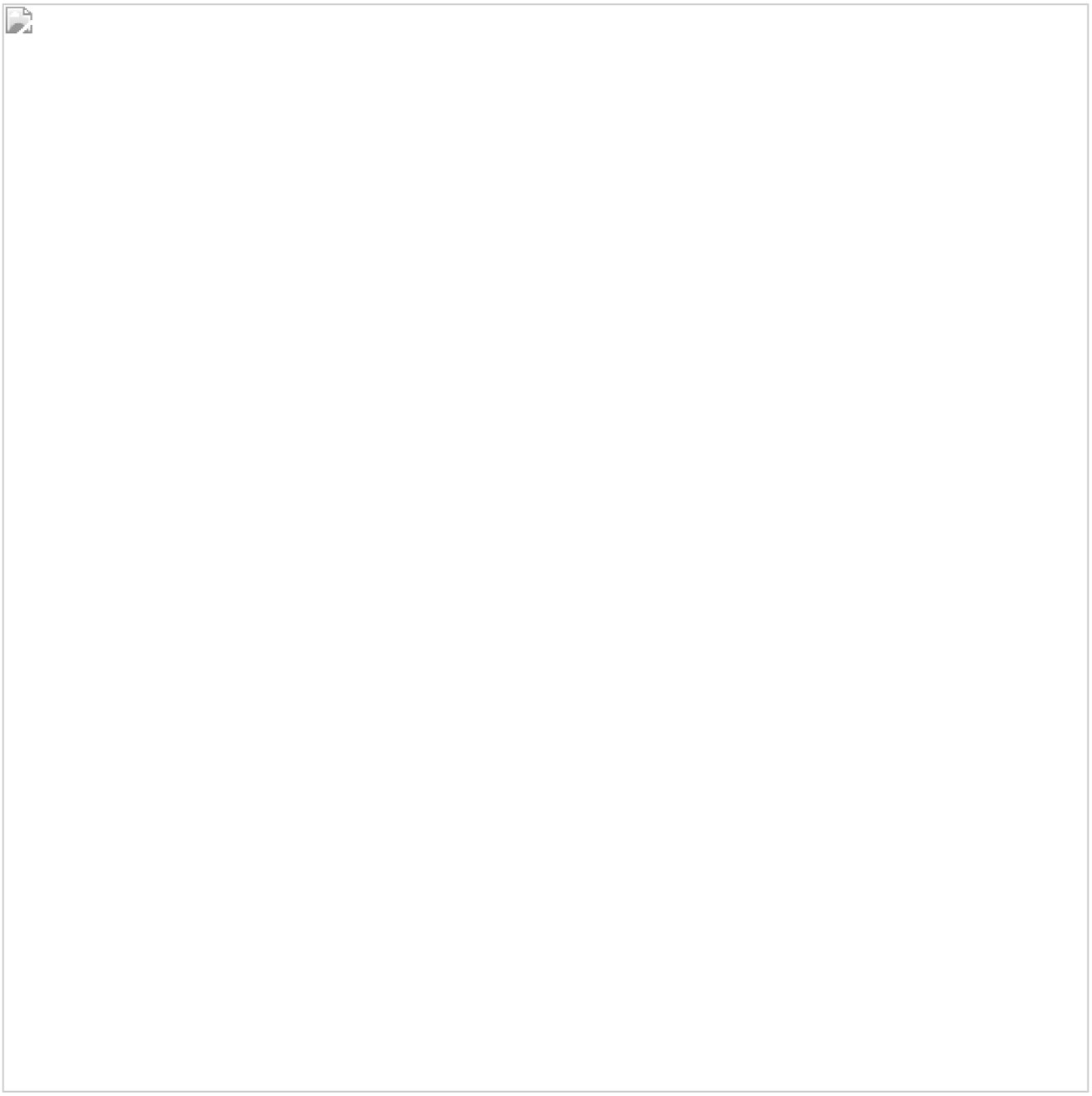
TALK ABOUT IT

The men stayed quiet. What do you do when someone speaks to you in an unkind way?

The Next Day · another picture



Here We Are at the Beach



By this time the canoe was full of fish, so they turned to row home.

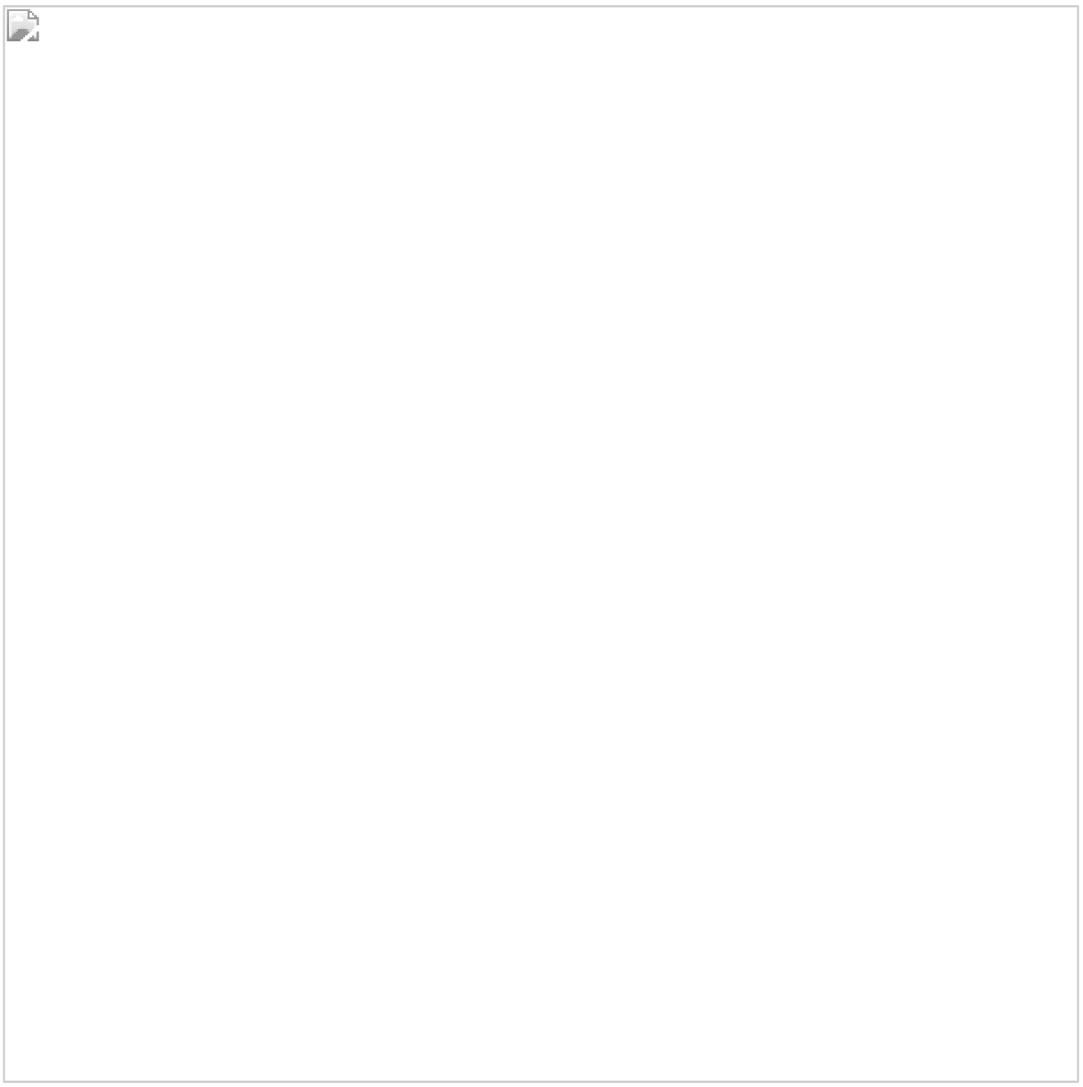
When they had gone a little way, they stopped and said to him, “Here we are at the beach.”

Anansi told them they were very foolish to tell him a thing he knew so well. He added many rude and insulting remarks, which made them thoroughly angry.

TALK ABOUT IT

Were they really at the beach? What do you think the men were doing?

Here We Are at the Beach · another picture

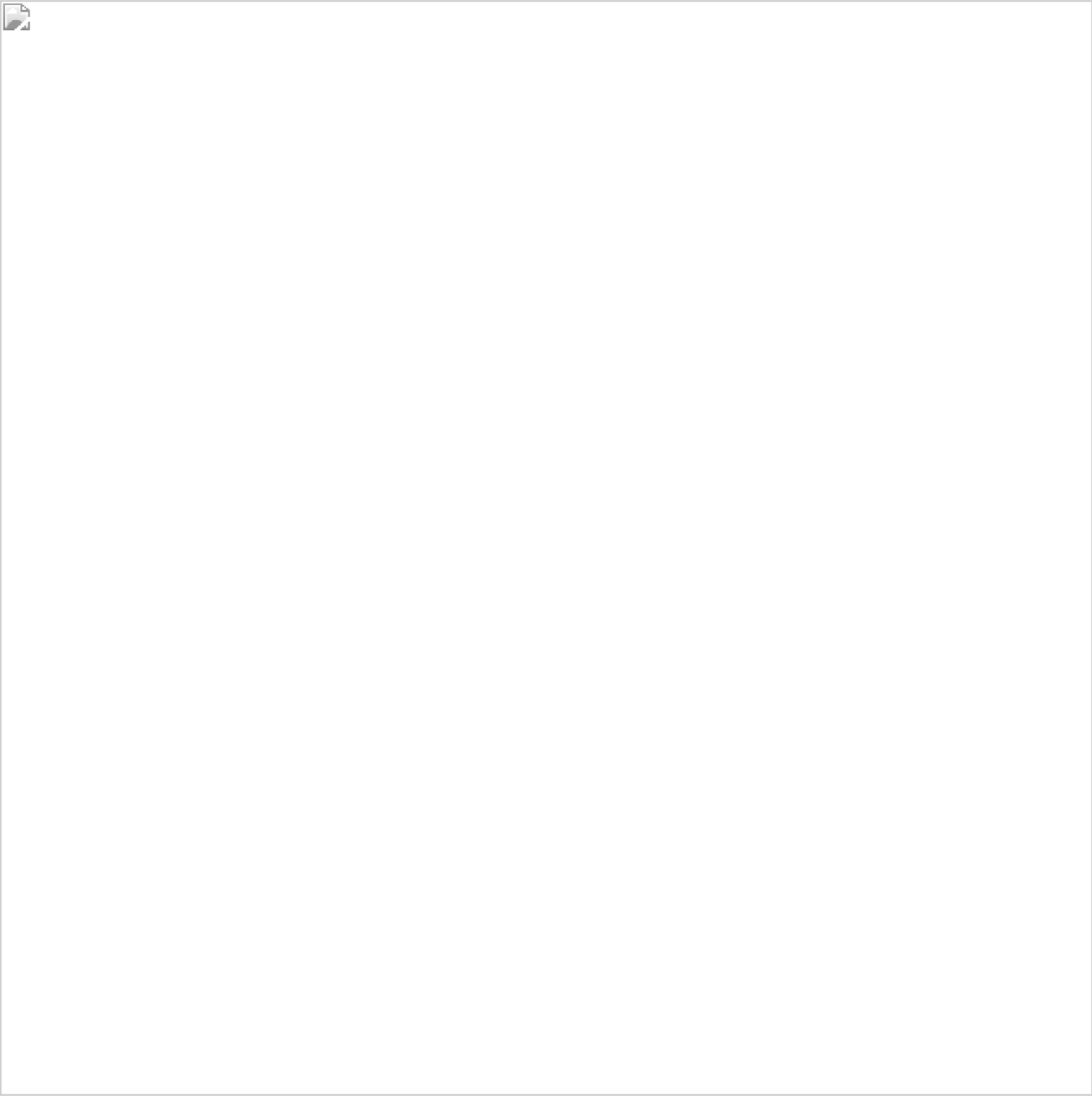


Think about it

1. What did the men say to Anansi?

- ○ “Here we are at the beach.”
- ○ The fish are gone
- ○ We are lost

Deep Water



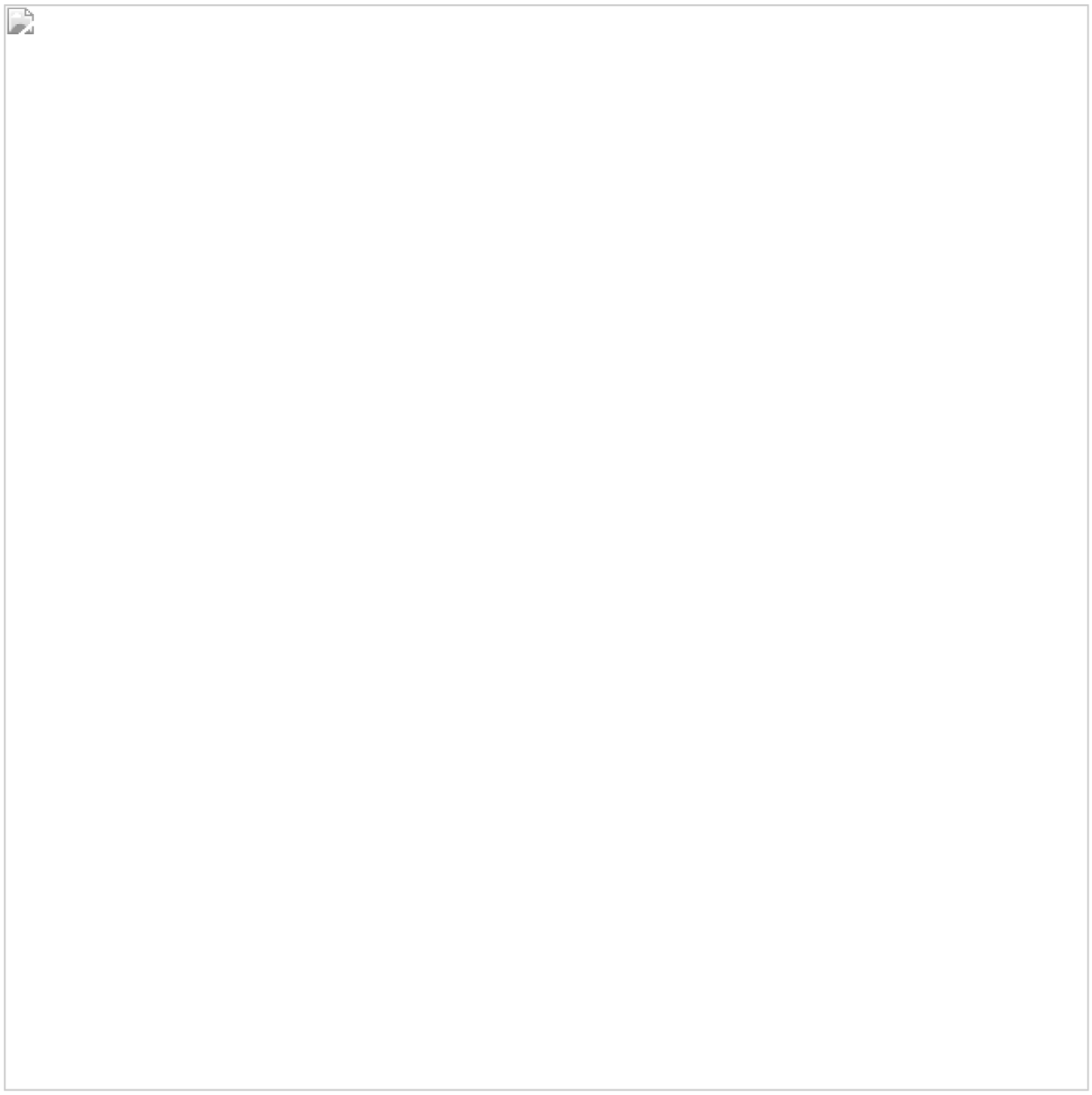
Anansi jumped proudly out, expecting to land on the beach. To his great astonishment he found himself sinking in deep water.

The two men rowed quickly away and left him to struggle.

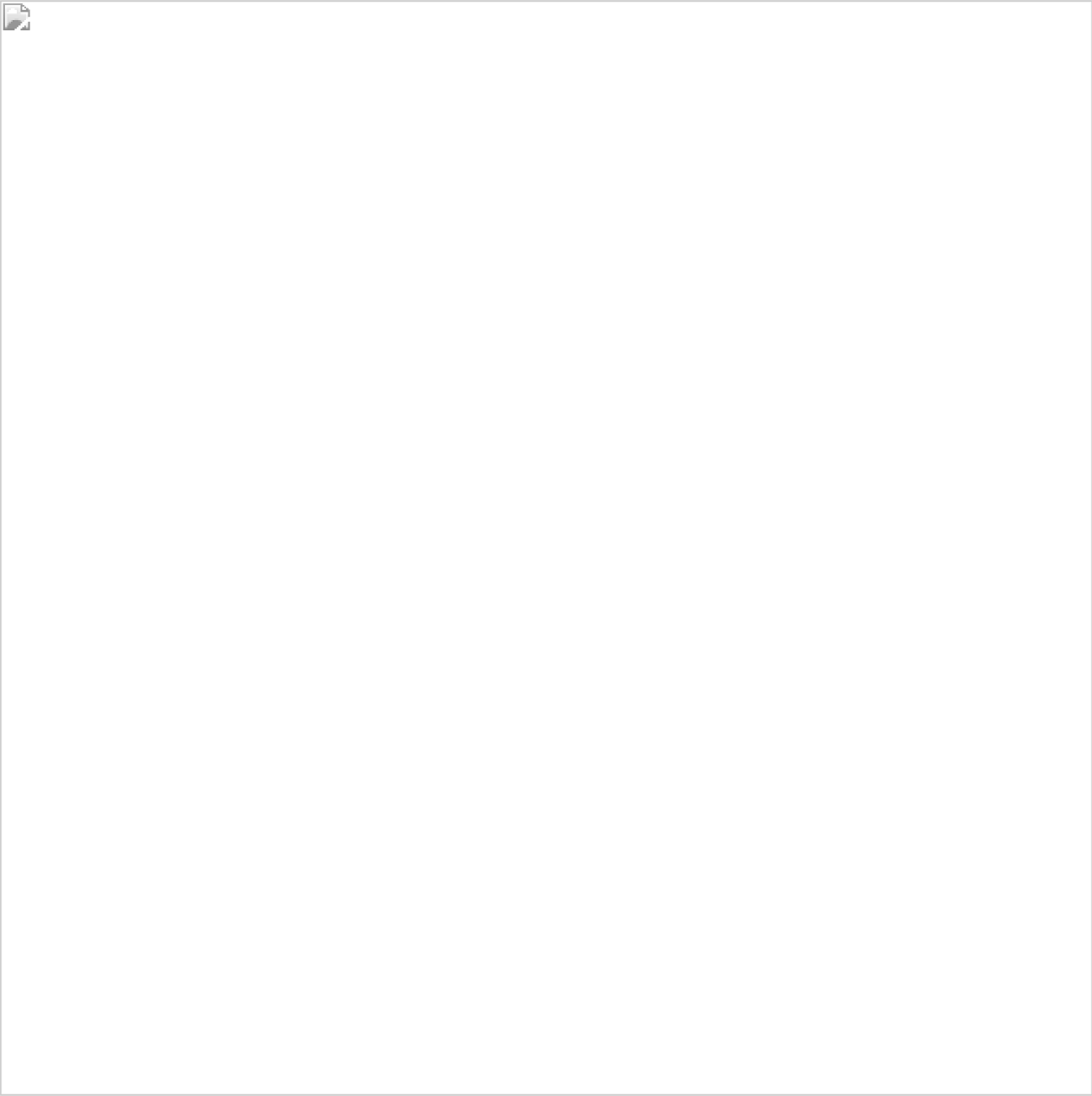
TALK ABOUT IT

Anansi thought he knew everything. What do you think he felt in the water?

Deep Water · another picture



Which Way Was the Land?

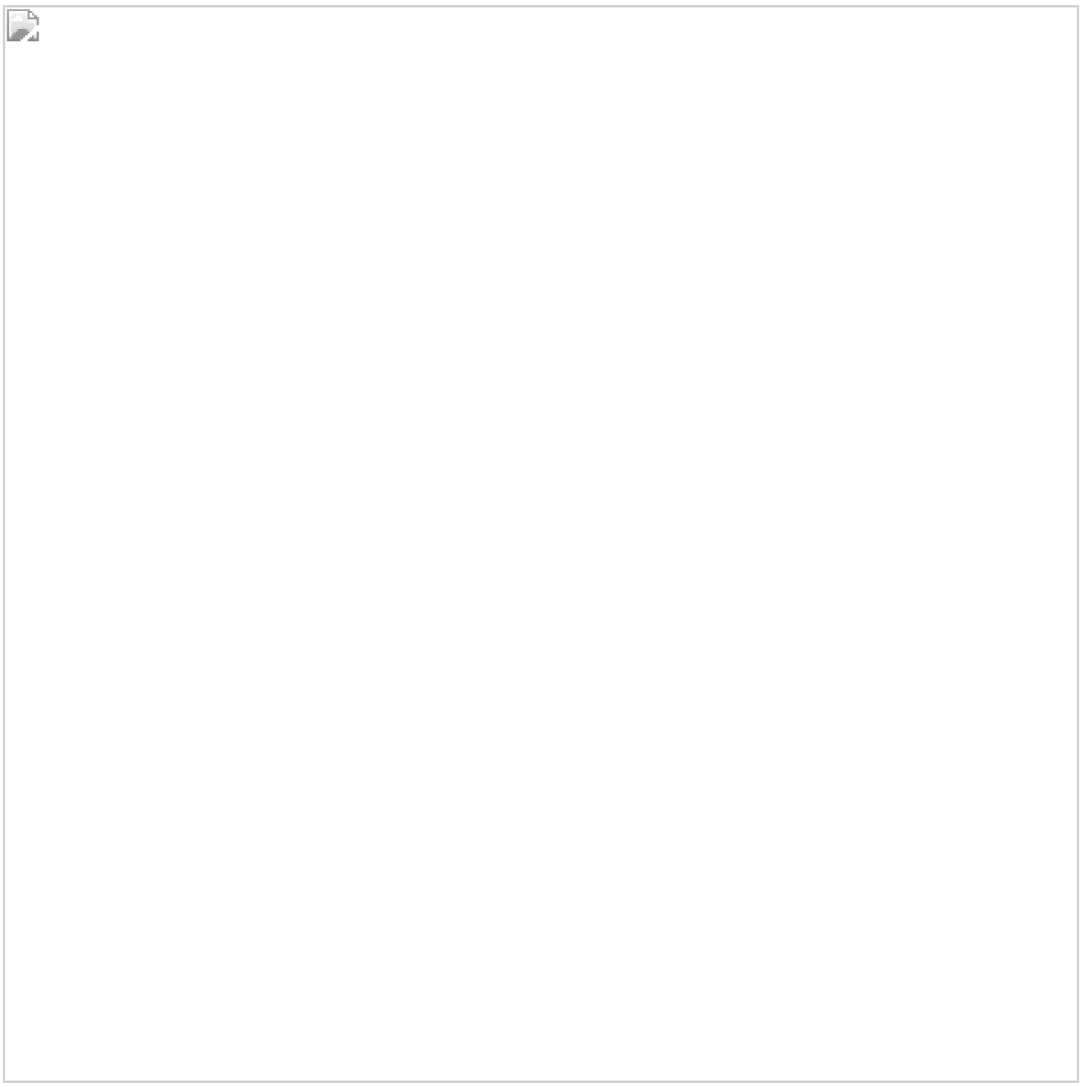


Like all the men of that country, Anansi was a good swimmer. But he was blind, and he could not see where the land lay.

So he swam and swam until he was completely tired out, and the water took him.

TALK ABOUT IT

Do you think the men were fair to Anansi? Why or why not?



Think about it

1. Why could Anansi not find his way to land?

- ○ He could not swim
- ○ He was blind
- ○ It was too dark

2. What could Anansi have said to the men, each morning, instead?

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

— Yeshua HaMashiach

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