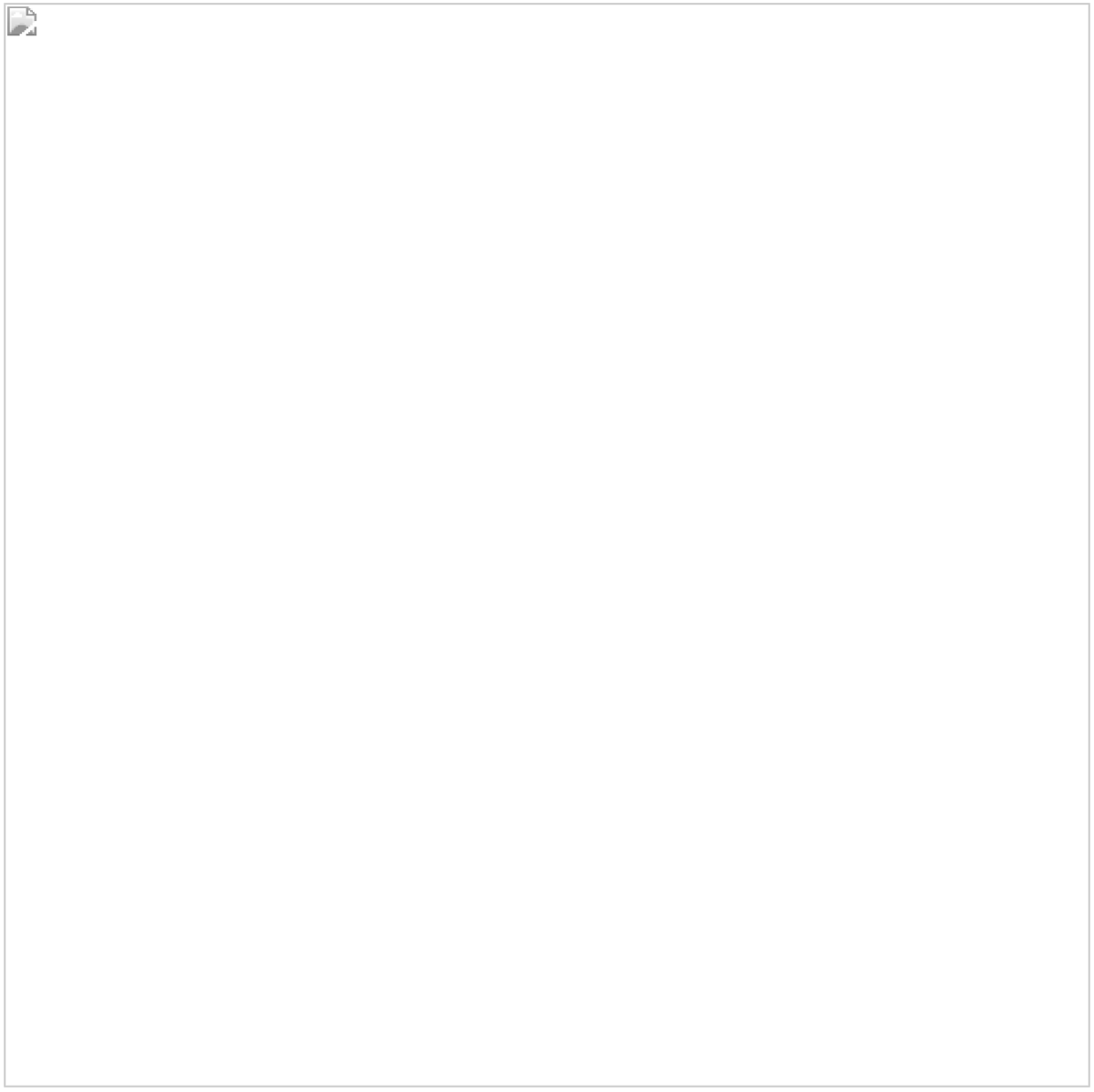
COLORING THE CLASSICS

Two Tales by Hans Christian Andersen

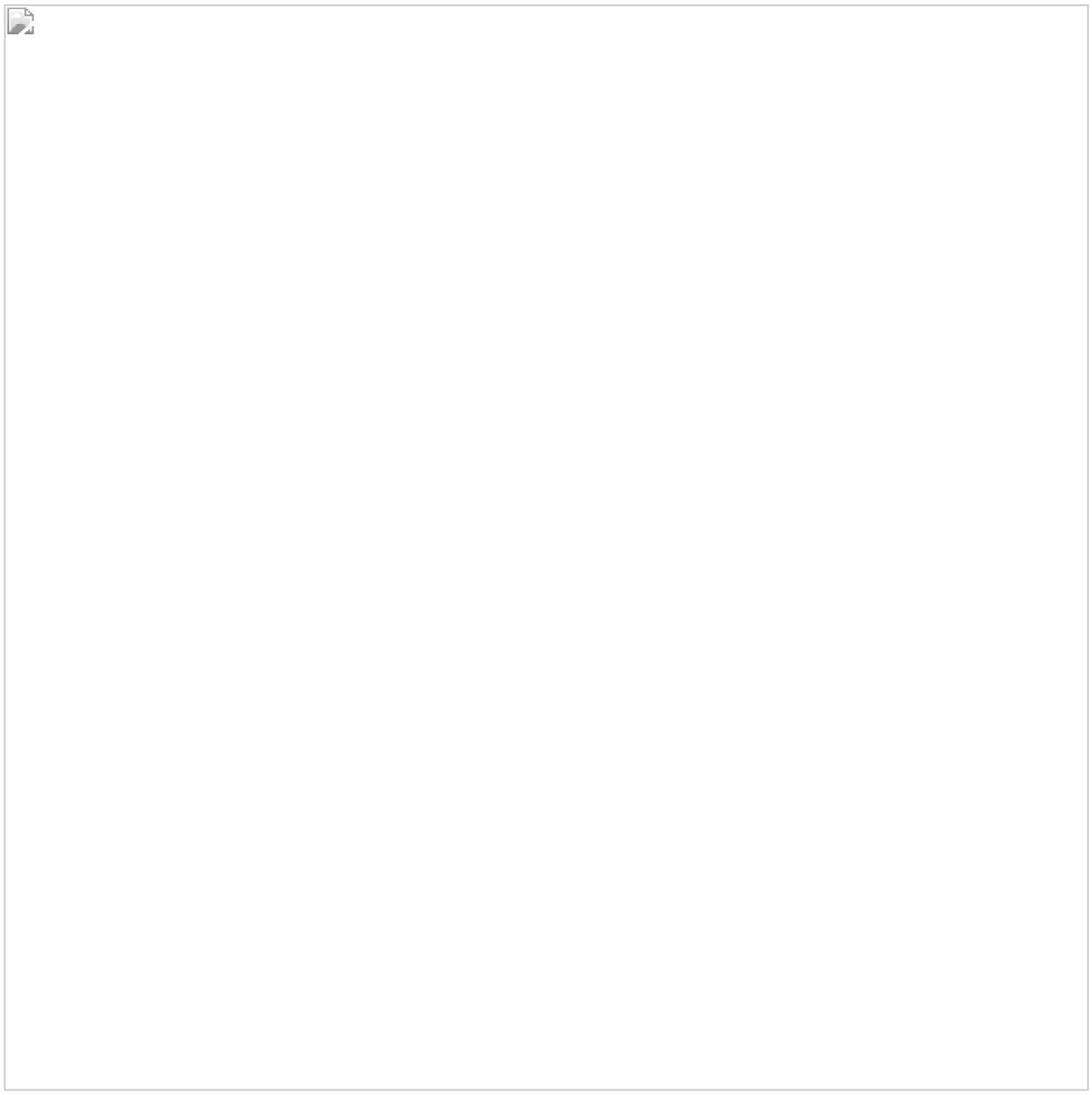
The Steadfast Tin Soldier and The Ugly Duckling



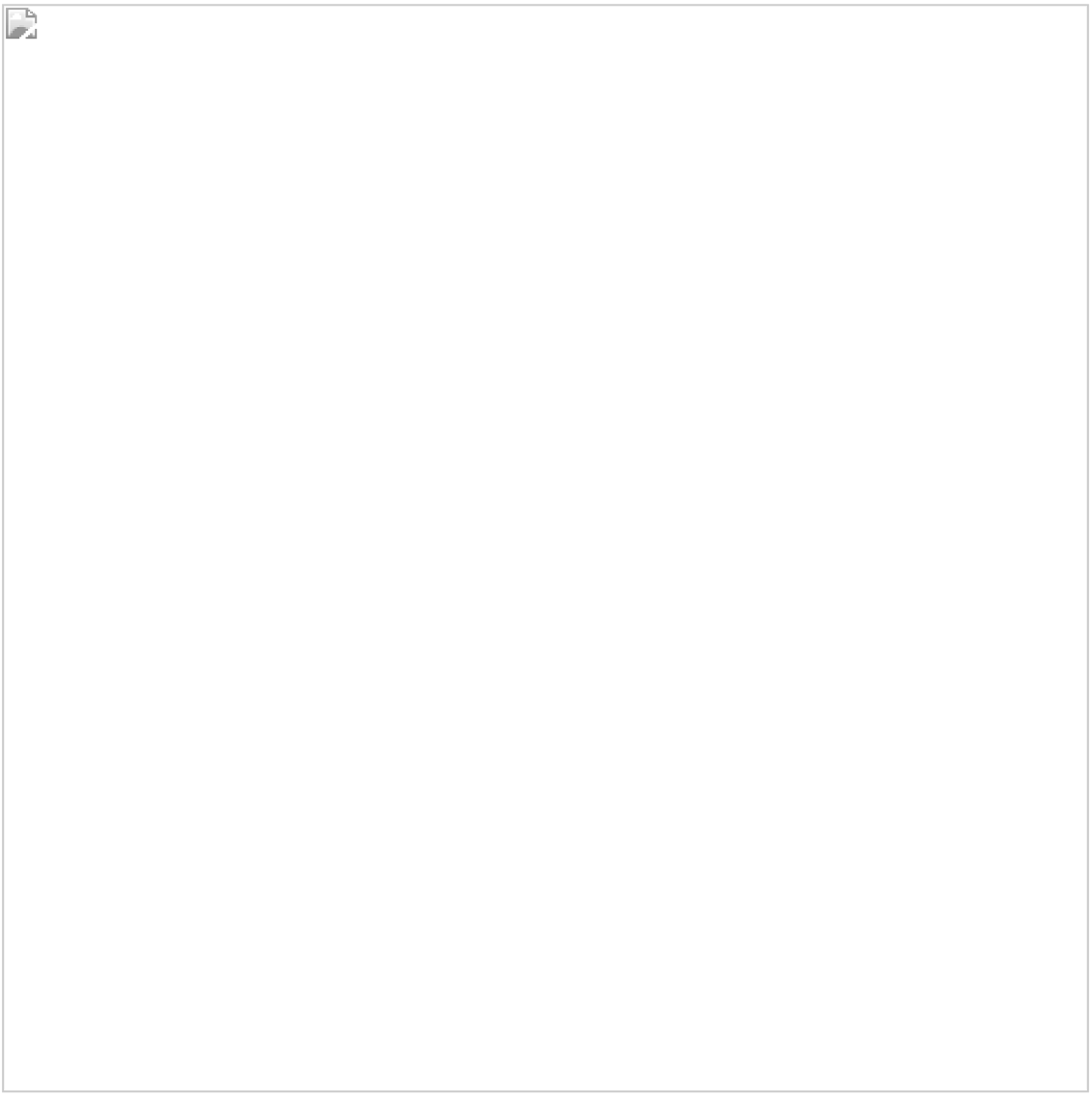
TALK ABOUT IT

Hans Christian Andersen was a poor boy who grew up to write stories loved all over the world. If you wrote a story, what would it be about?

This book belongs to _____



Twenty-Five Brothers



There were once twenty-five tin soldiers. They were brothers, for they had all been made from one old tin spoon.

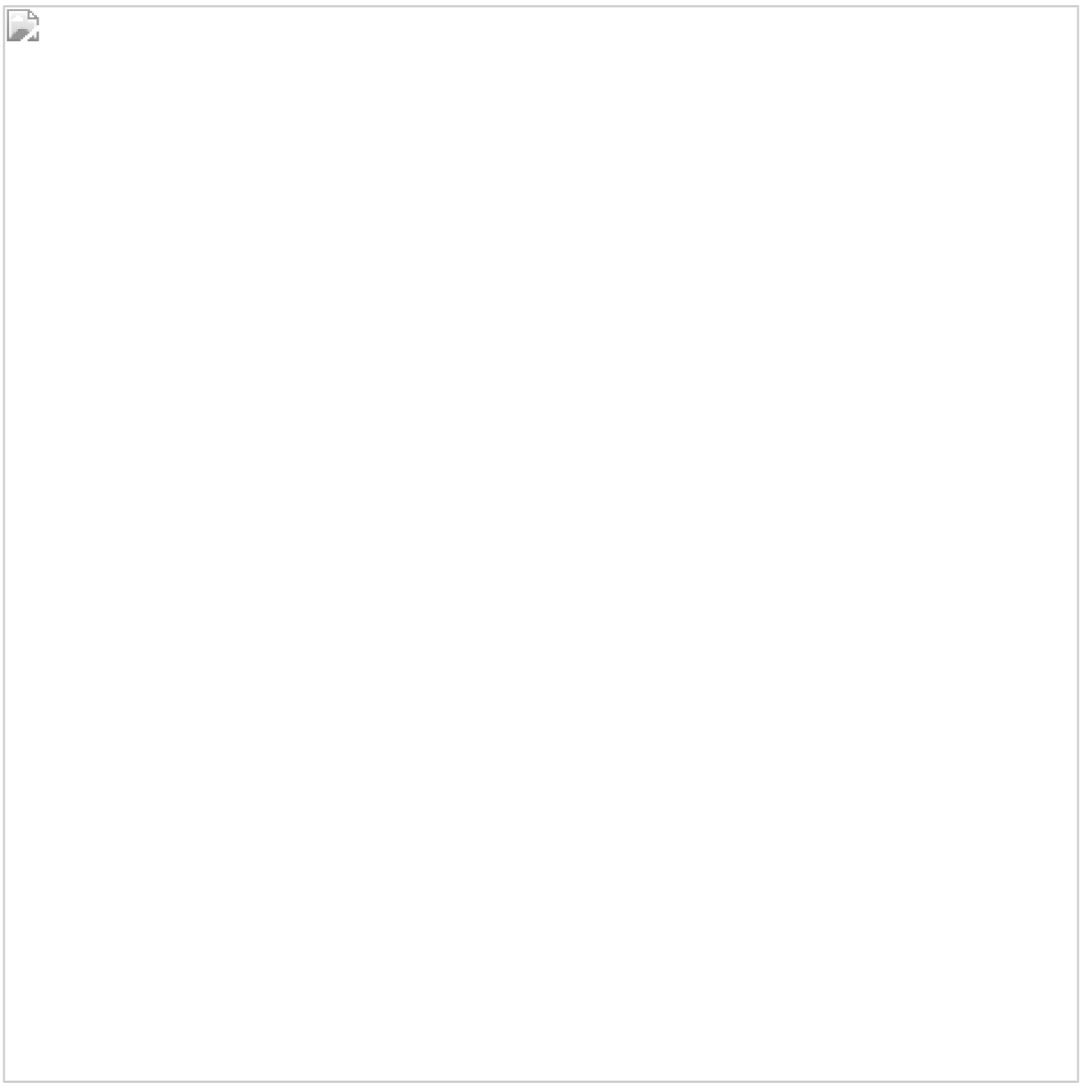
Each one held a musket and looked straight ahead in a red and blue uniform.

A little boy got them for his birthday. He clapped his hands and stood them on the table.

Every soldier looked just like the others, except one. He was made last, and the tin ran out, so he had only one leg. But he stood just as firmly on one leg as the others did on two.

TALK ABOUT IT

The soldier with one leg stood as tall as his brothers. What is something you can do well, even if you do it a different way?



Think about it

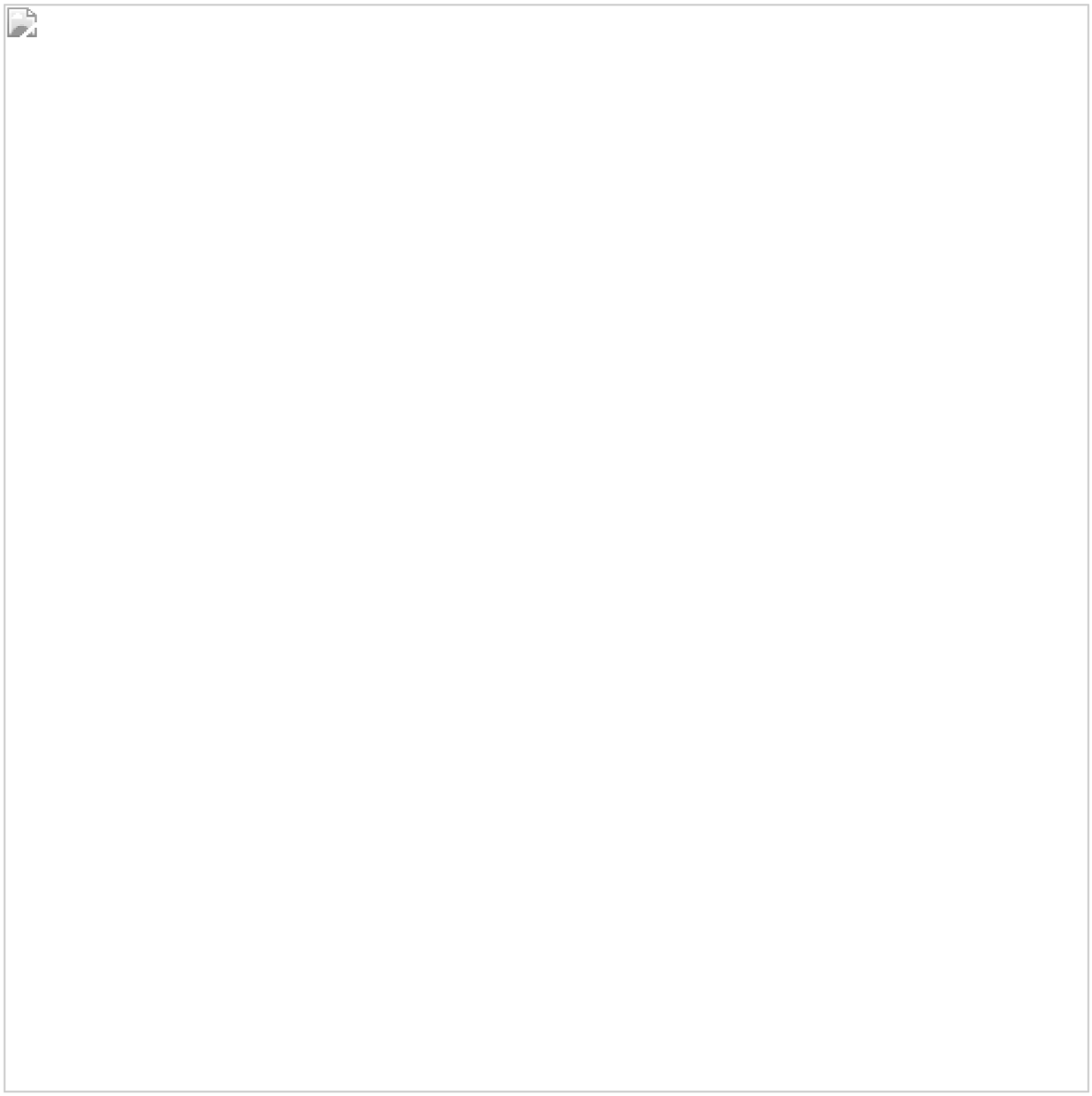
1. What were the tin soldiers made from?

- ○ An old tin spoon
- ○ A tin can
- ○ A pot lid

2. Why did one soldier have only one leg?

- ○ The tin ran out
- ○ He lost it in a battle
- ○ The boy broke it

The Paper Castle



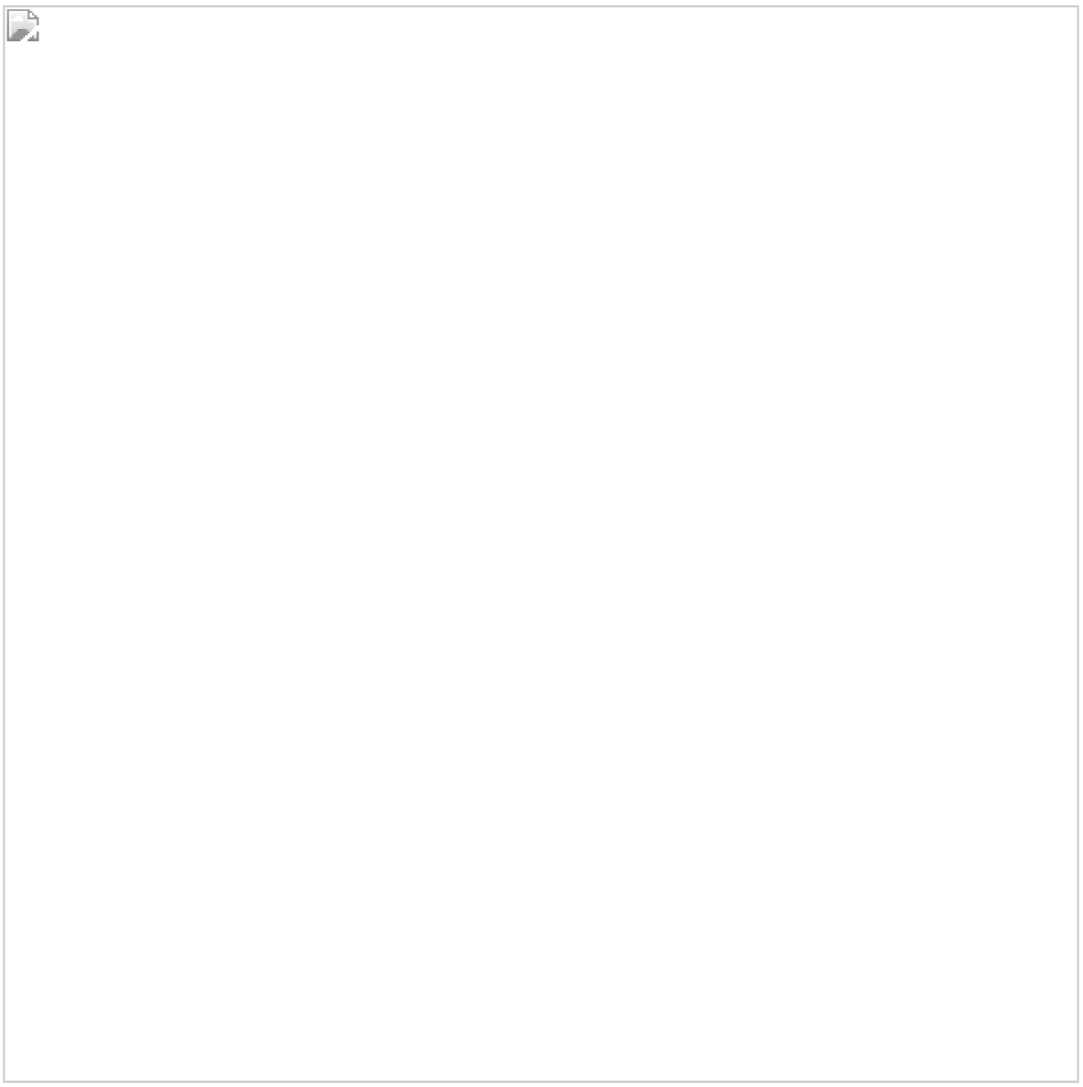
On the same table stood a paper castle, with little windows you could see right through. In front, little trees stood around a mirror that was a lake, with wax swans on it.

In the open doorway stood a little paper lady. She was a dancer, in a dress of thin cloth, with a narrow blue ribbon over her shoulder. On the ribbon shone a tinsel rose as big as her whole face.

She held both arms out and lifted one leg so high behind her that the soldier could not see it. So he thought she had one leg, just like him.

TALK ABOUT IT

What would you put in a castle made of paper?



Think about it

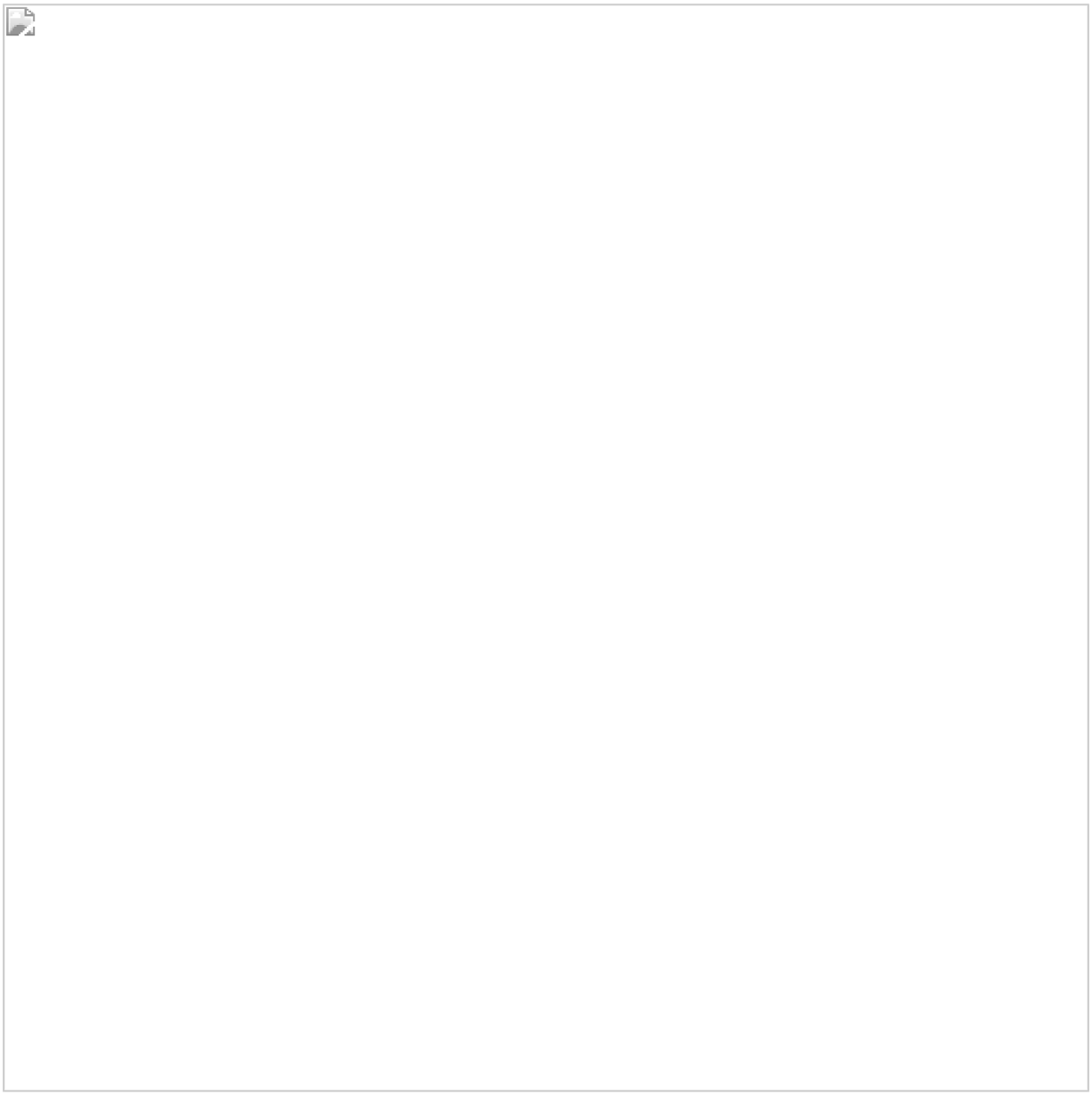
1. What was the lake in front of the castle really?

- ○ A mirror
- ○ A bowl of water
- ○ A blue plate

2. Why did the soldier think the dancer had one leg?

- ○ She held one leg up high behind her
- ○ She told him so
- ○ Her leg was bent under her dress

When the House Was Asleep



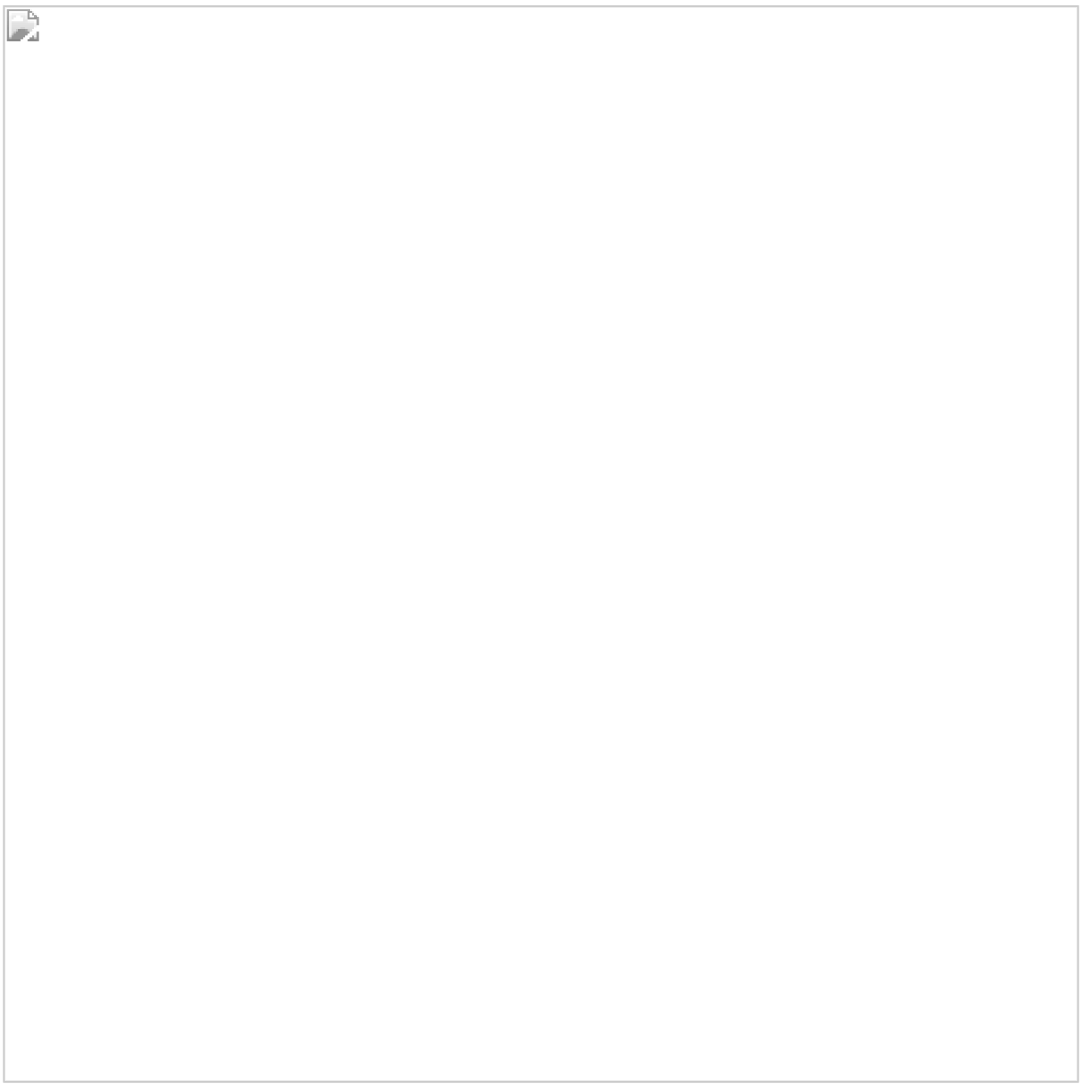
The soldier wished he could meet the dancer. But she lived in a castle, and he lived in a box with twenty-four brothers.

That night, when the people went to bed, the toys began to play. The nutcracker turned somersaults. The pencil scribbled on the slate. Even the canary woke up and sang.

Only two did not move. The dancer stood on her toes with her arms out. The tin soldier stood on his one leg. He never took his eyes off her.

TALK ABOUT IT

If your toys could play at night, what do you think they would do?



Think about it

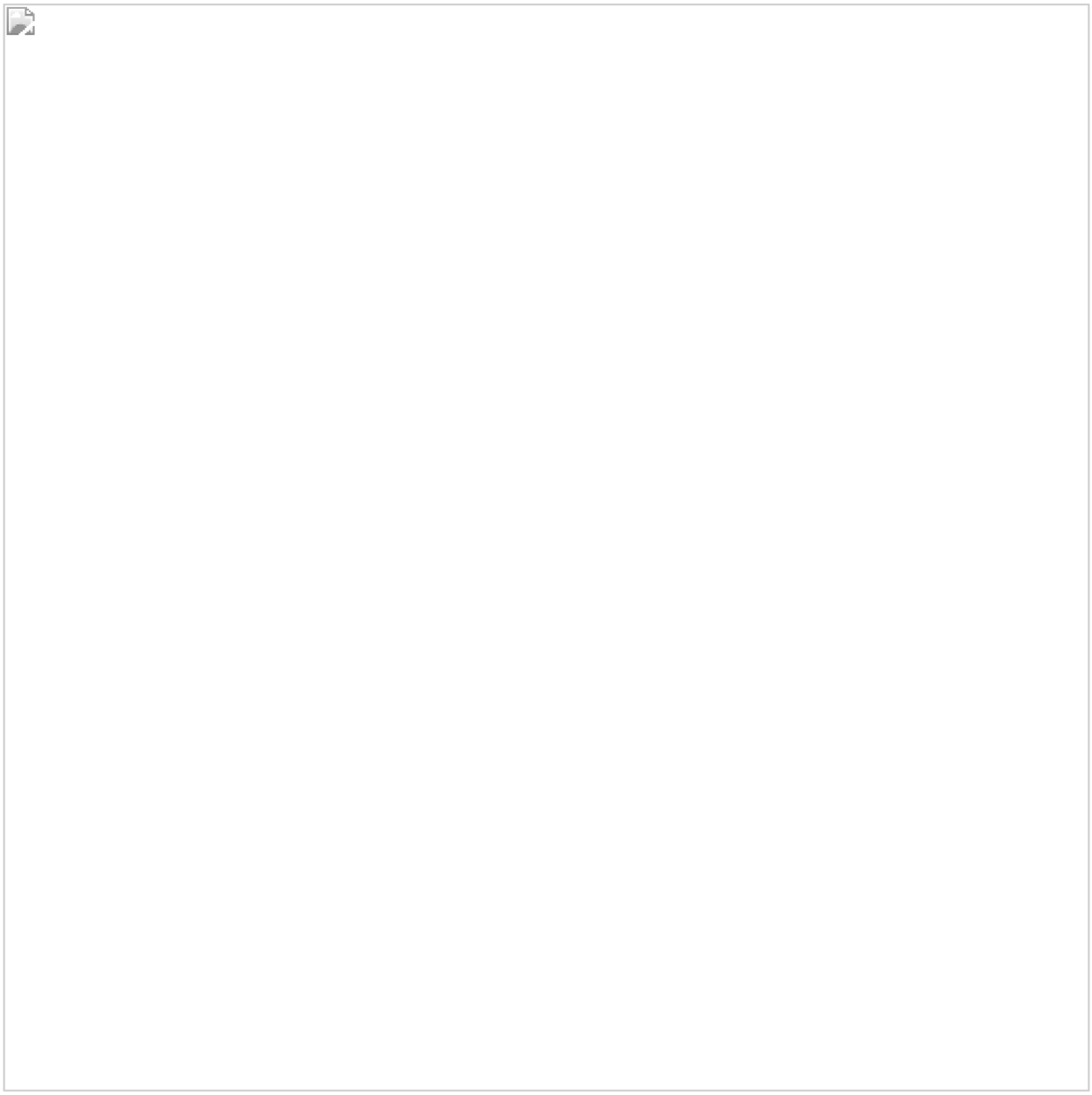
1. Which toy turned somersaults?

- ○ The nutcracker
- ○ The pencil
- ○ The canary

2. Which two did not move while the others played?

- ○ The soldier and the dancer
- ○ The canary and the pencil
- ○ The swans and the trees

Pop!



The clock struck twelve. Pop! Up flew the lid of a little snuff-box on the table.

There was no snuff inside. Out sprang a little black goblin on a spring. It was a jack-in-the-box.

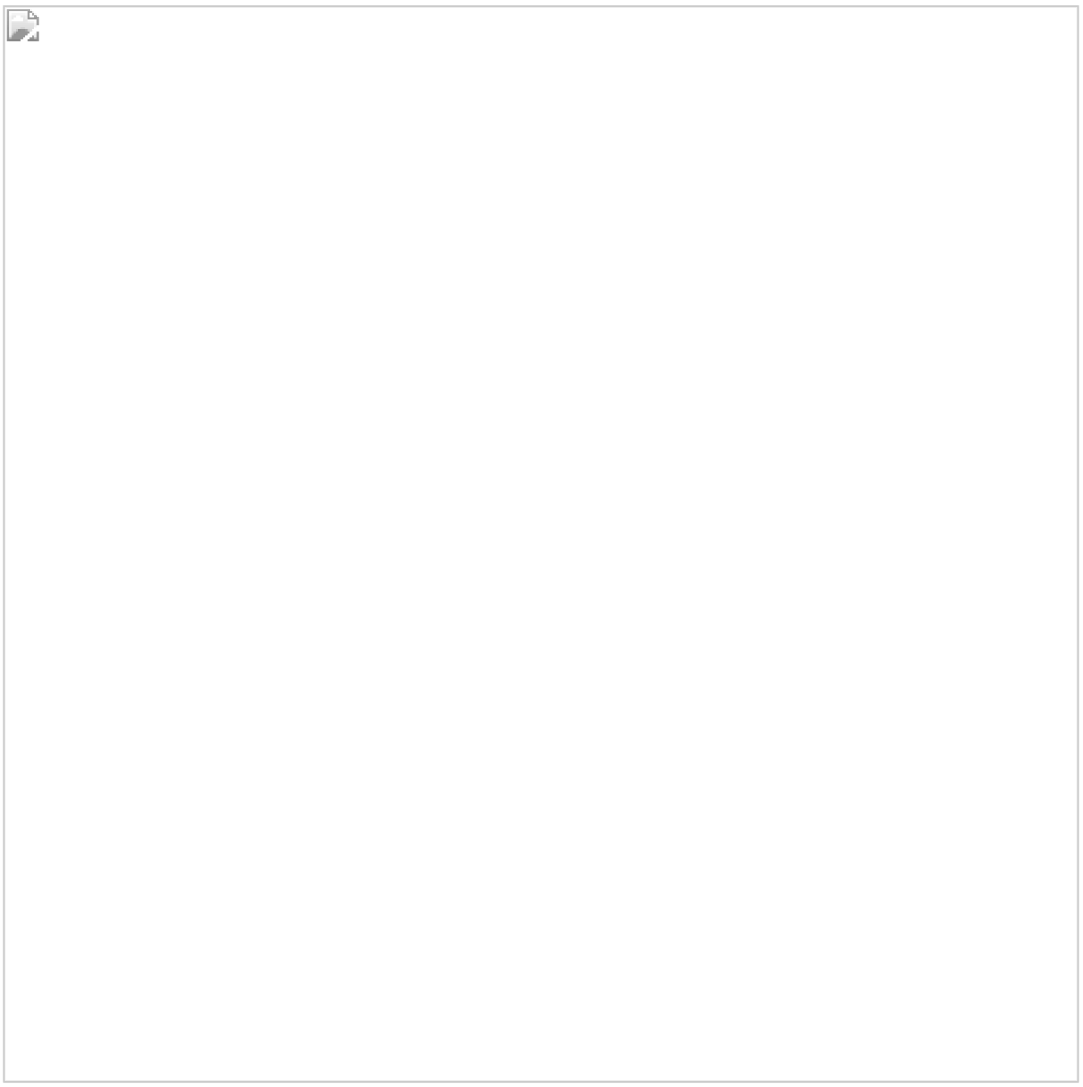
“Tin Soldier!” said the goblin. “Keep your eyes to yourself, will you!”

The soldier acted as if he did not hear.

“Just you wait till tomorrow!” said the goblin.

TALK ABOUT IT

The goblin was bossy. How can you tell when someone is being bossy?



Think about it

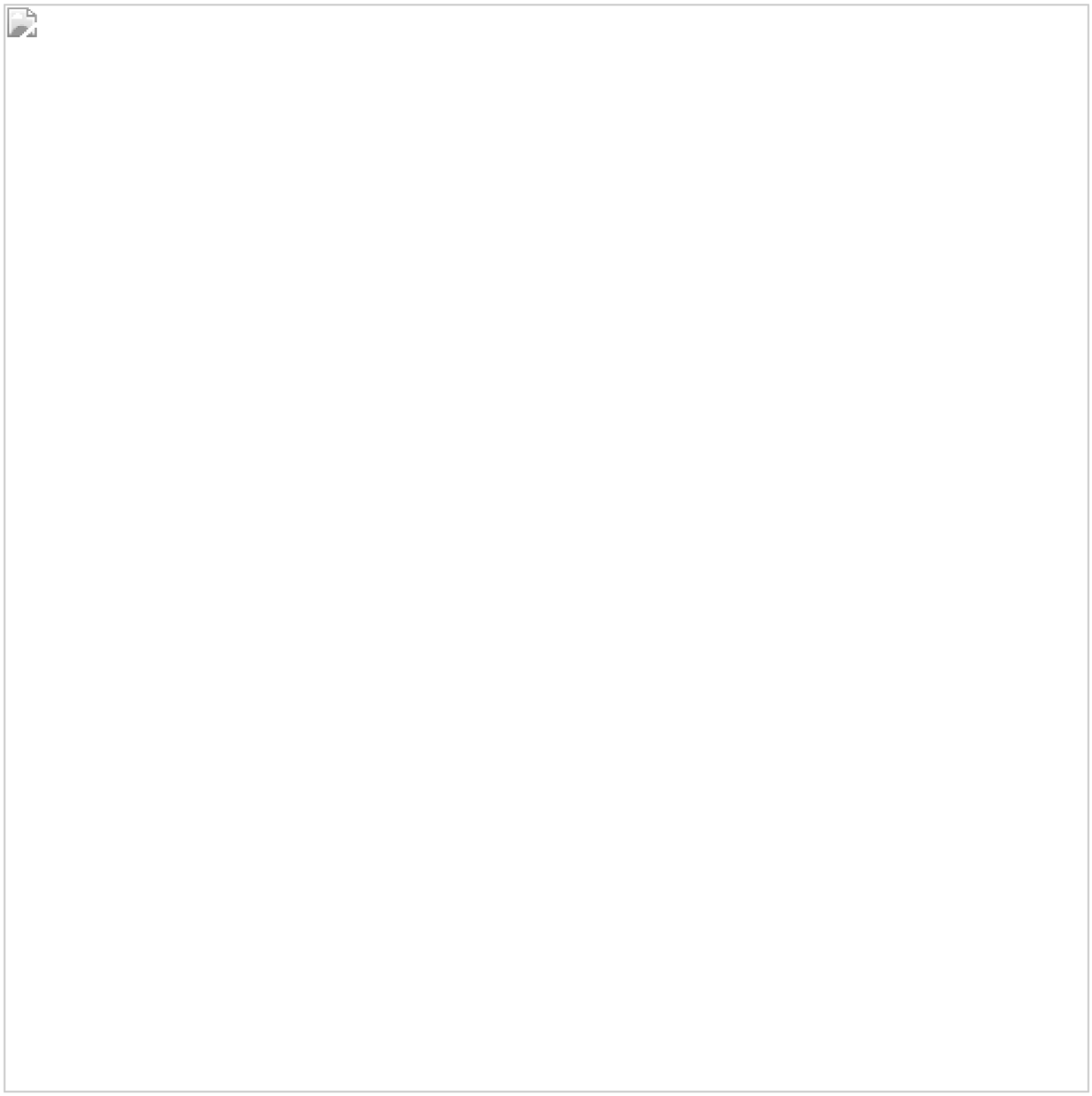
1. What was inside the snuff-box?

- ○ A little black goblin on a spring
- ○ Snuff
- ○ A key

2. What did the soldier do when the goblin shouted at him?

- ○ He acted as if he did not hear
- ○ He shouted back
- ○ He ran away

Out the Window



In the morning, the soldier was set in the window. Maybe it was the goblin, or maybe it was the wind, but the window flew open and the soldier fell, down, down, from the third floor to the street.

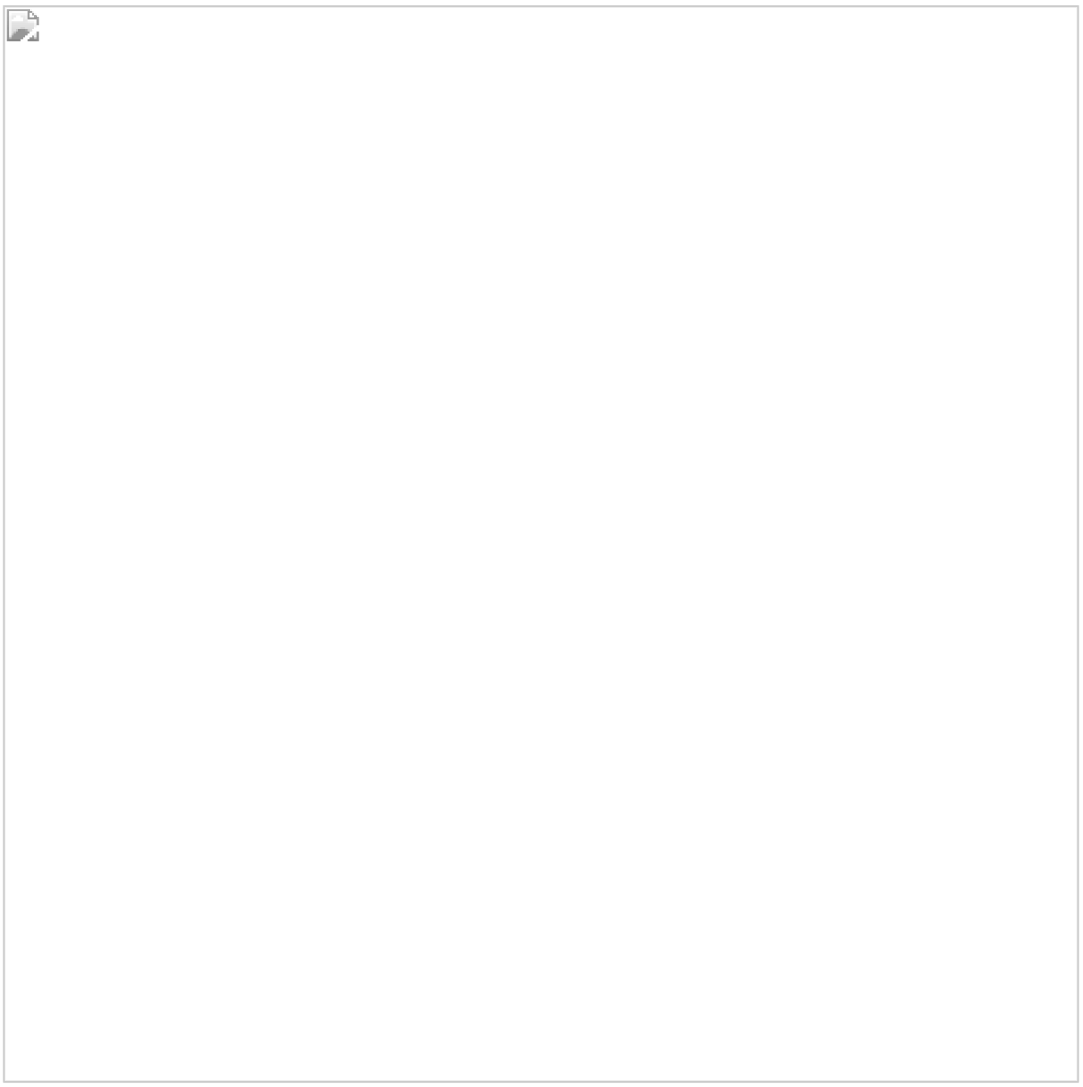
He landed head first, with his leg in the air, his bayonet stuck between the stones.

The servant girl and the little boy ran down to look. They almost stepped on him! If only he had called out, “Here I am!” But he was a soldier in his uniform, and he did not think it proper to shout.

TALK ABOUT IT

The soldier did not call for help. When you need help, how can you let someone know?

Out the Window · another picture



Think about it

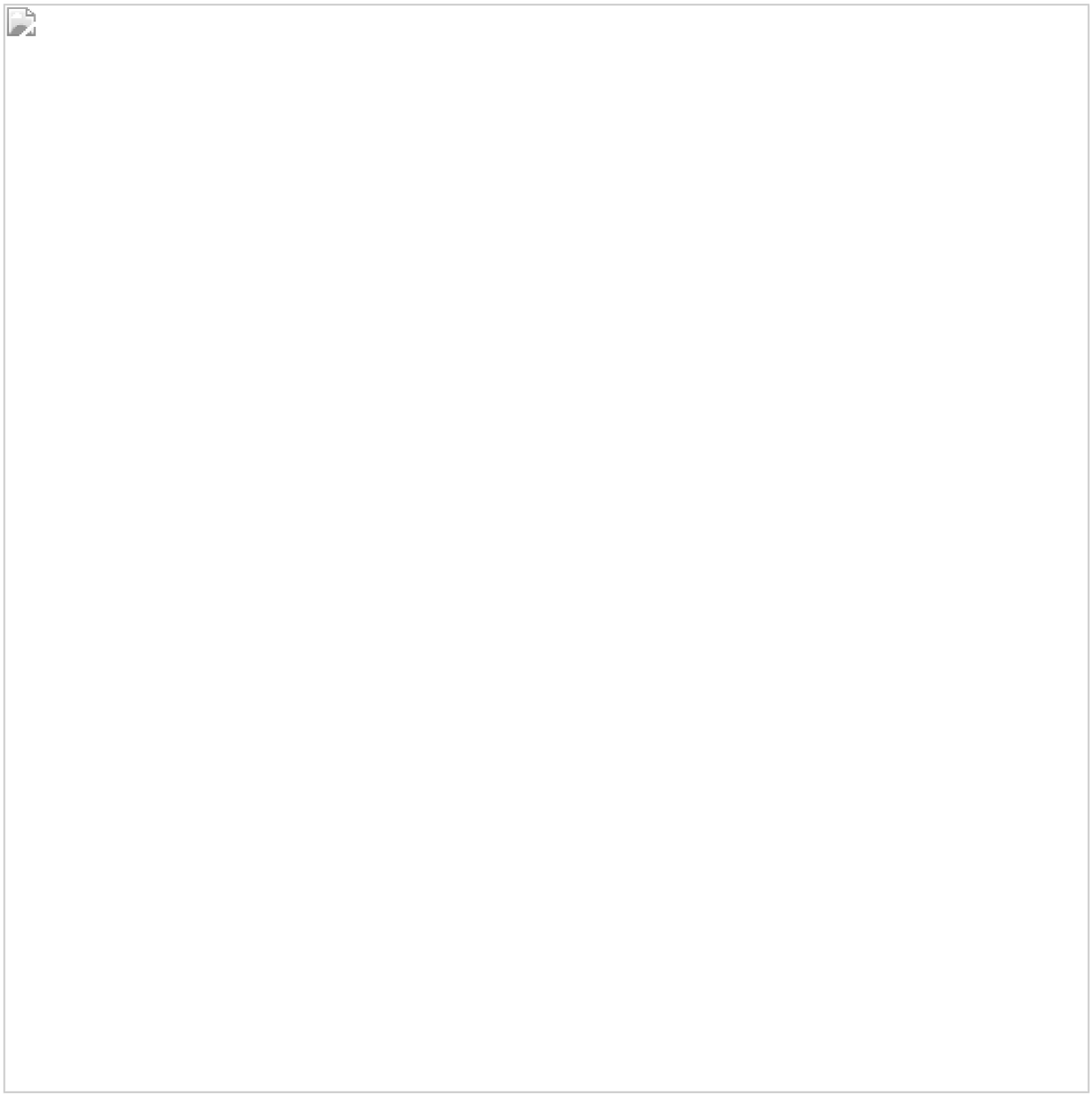
1. How far did the soldier fall?

- ○ From the third floor
- ○ From the table
- ○ From a tree

2. Why didn't the soldier call out, "Here I am!"?

- ○ He did not think a soldier should shout
- ○ He could not see them
- ○ He was asleep

A Paper Boat



Then it began to rain, harder and harder, until it poured.

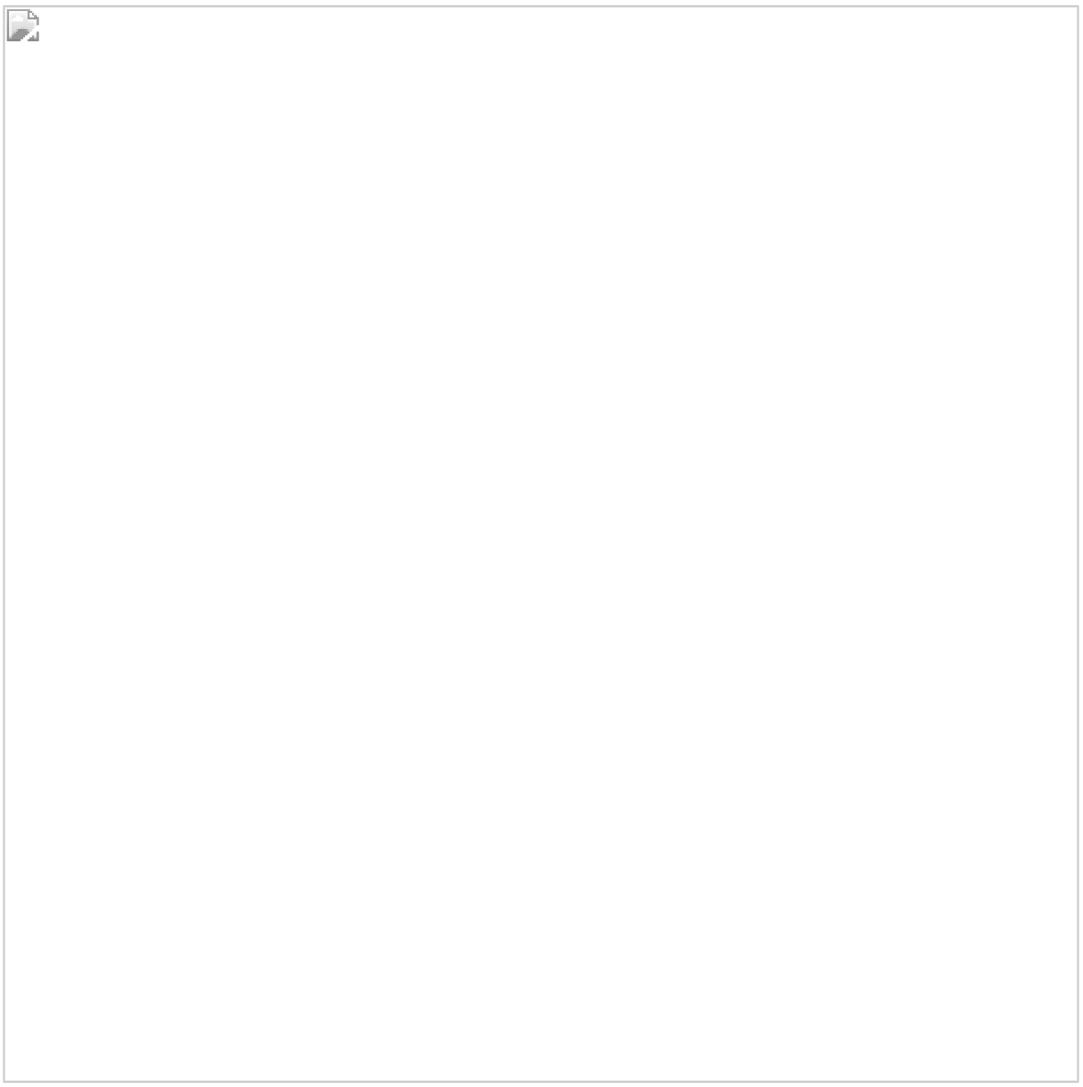
When the rain stopped, two street boys came along. “Look! A tin soldier!” said one. “He must have a boat ride.”

They folded a boat out of newspaper, set the soldier in the middle, and sent him sailing down the gutter. The boys ran beside him, clapping.

The water rushed, and the boat rocked and spun. But the tin soldier stood still and held his musket and looked straight ahead.

TALK ABOUT IT

Have you ever made a paper boat? Where would you sail it?



Think about it

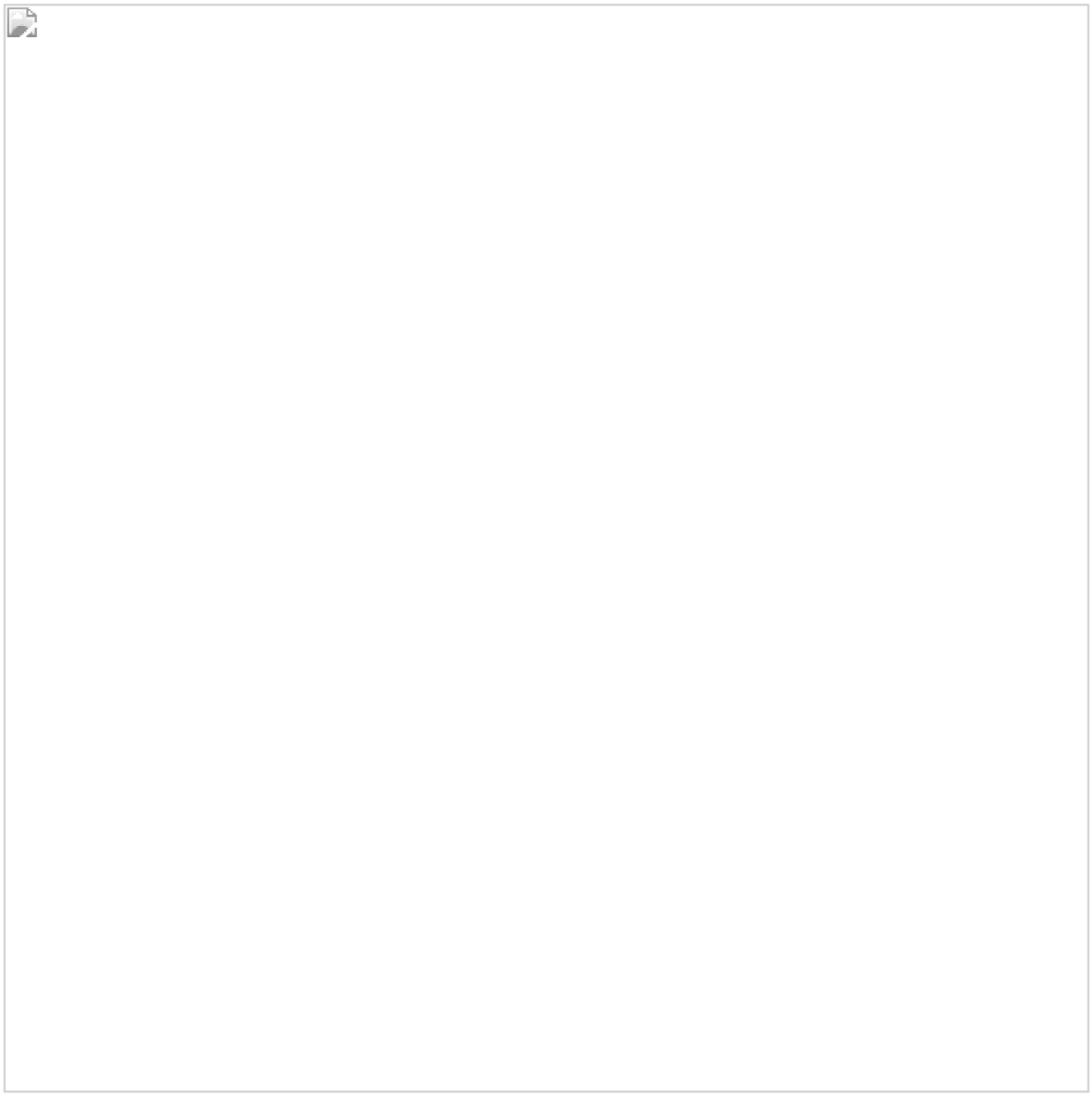
1. What was the boat made of?

- ○ Newspaper
- ○ Wood
- ○ A leaf

2. What did the soldier do while the boat spun?

- ○ He stood still and held his musket
- ○ He jumped out
- ○ He lay down

The Water Rat



The boat sailed into a long, dark drain under the street. It was as dark as his box.

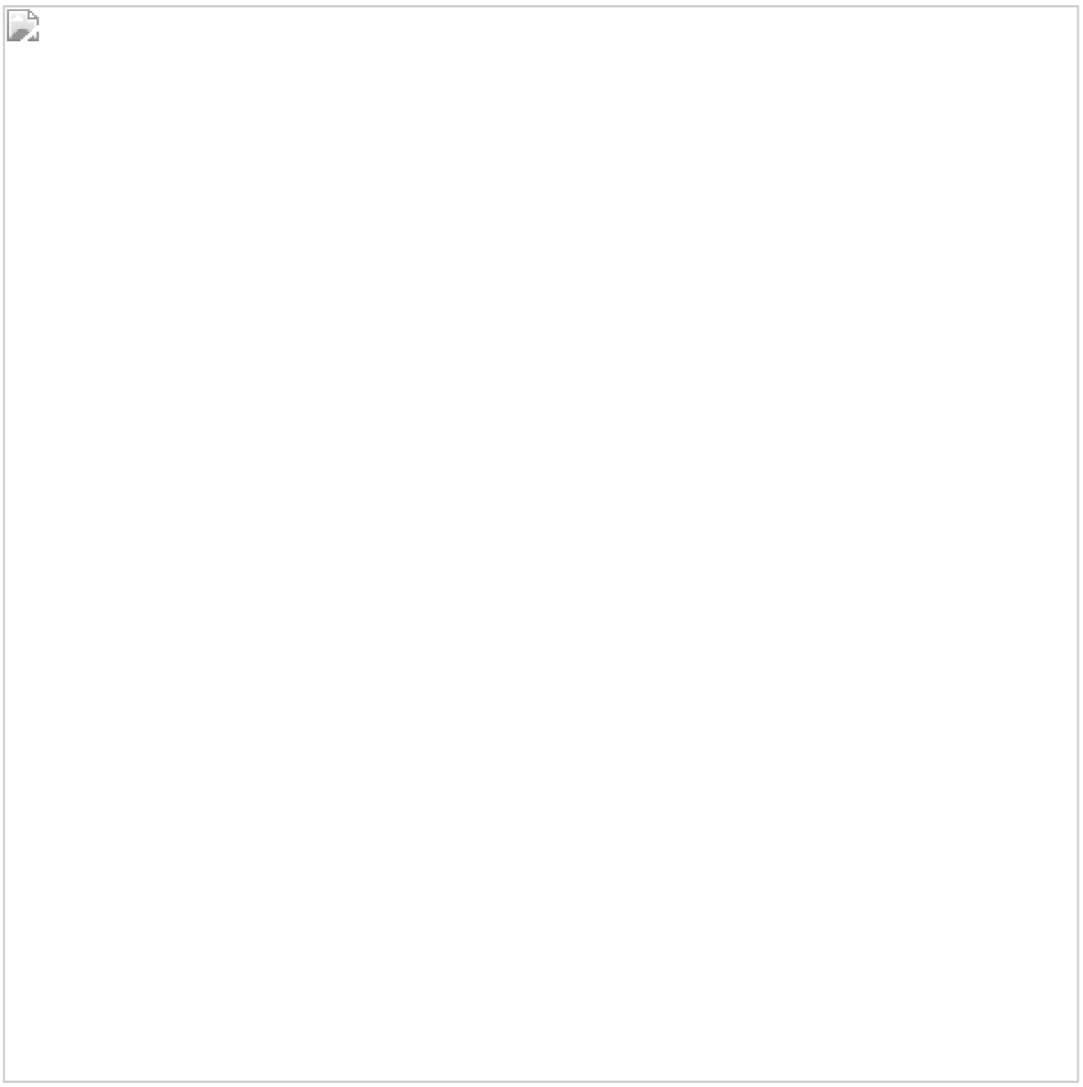
“If only the little dancer were here with me,” the soldier thought.

Out came a big water rat who lived in the drain. “Have you a passport?” asked the rat. “Out with your passport!”

The soldier said nothing and held his musket tighter. The boat sailed on, and the rat chased after it, calling to the bits of straw and wood, “Stop him! Stop him! He hasn’t paid toll!”

TALK ABOUT IT

In the dark drain, the soldier thought of his friend. Who do you think of when you are somewhere new?



Think about it

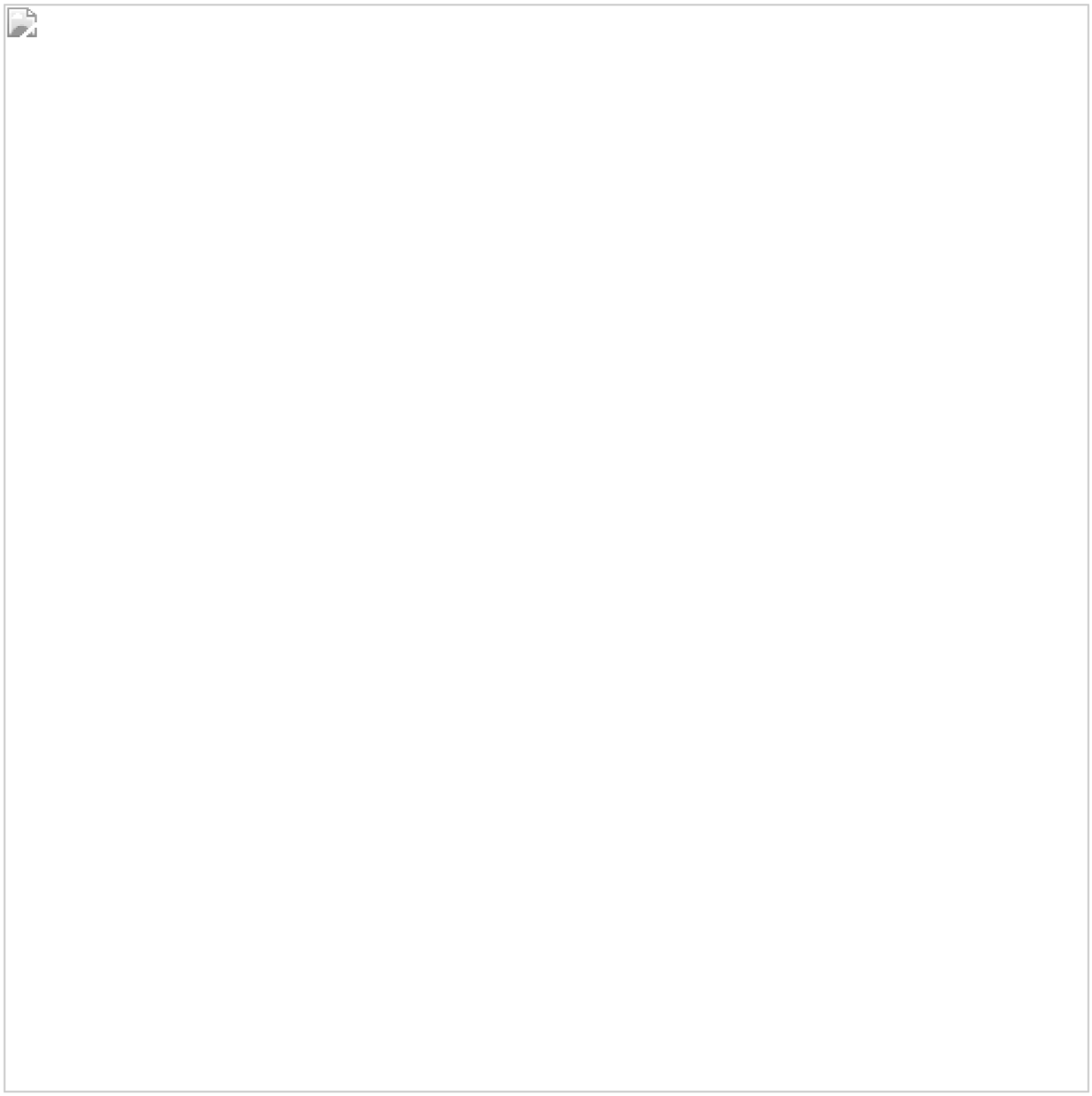
1. What did the rat want to see?

- ○ A passport
- ○ A ticket
- ○ A map

2. Who did the soldier wish was with him in the drain?

- ○ The little dancer
- ○ The goblin
- ○ The little boy

Inside a Fish



At the end of the drain, the water poured into a wide canal. The paper boat spun around three or four times. It filled with water and went soft, and the water closed over the soldier's head.

He thought of the dancer, whom he might never see again.

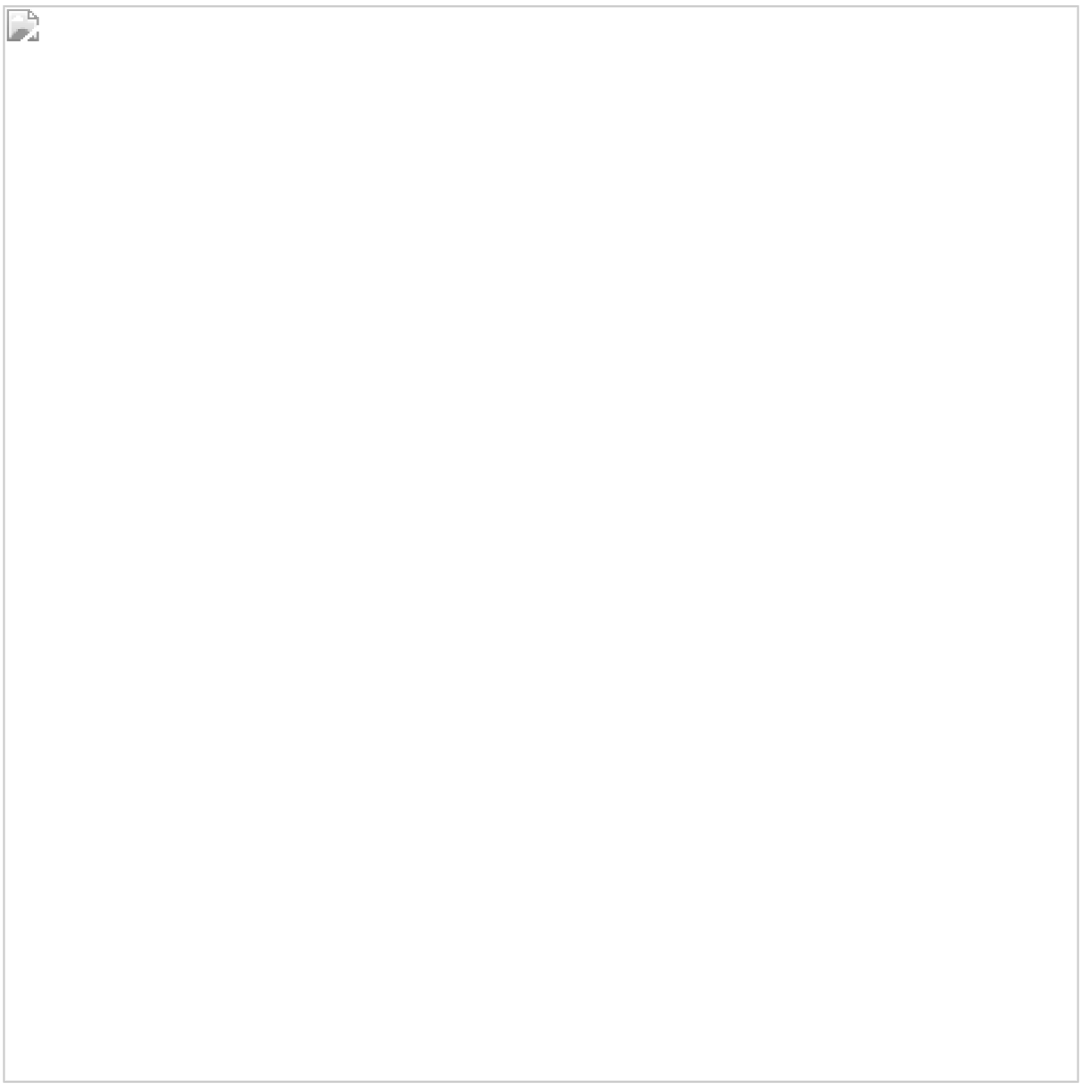
Then the boat came apart, and a big fish swallowed the soldier up!

Inside the fish it was dark and tight. But the tin soldier lay there and held on to his musket.

TALK ABOUT IT

The soldier held on to his musket the whole time. What do you hold on to when things are hard?

Inside a Fish · another picture



Think about it

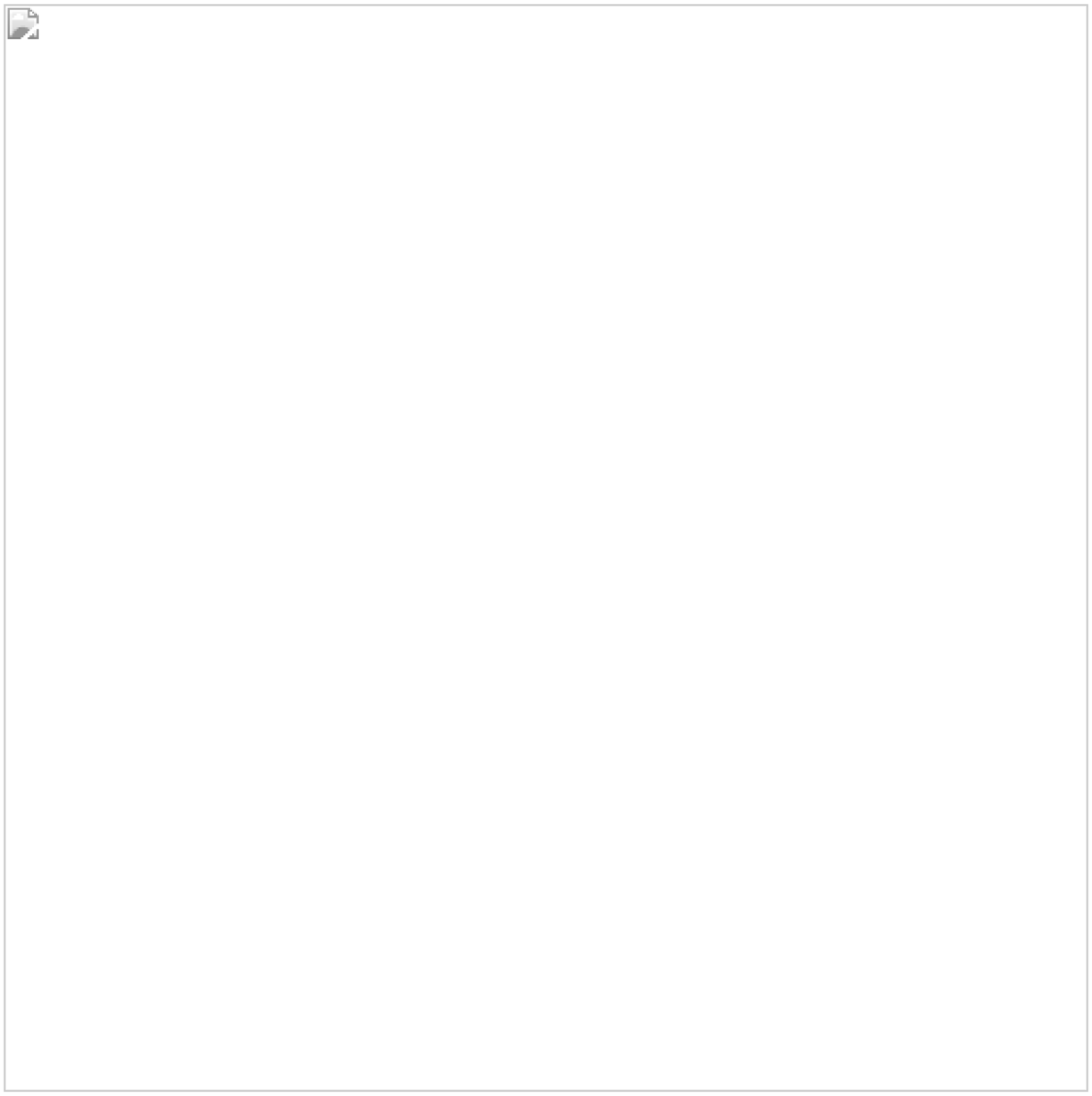
1. What happened to the paper boat in the canal?

- ○ It filled with water and came apart
- ○ It sailed to the sea
- ○ It floated home

2. What swallowed the soldier?

- ○ A big fish
- ○ The water rat
- ○ A duck

Home Again



The fish swam and swam. Then all was still. Suddenly, light flashed in, and someone cried, “The tin soldier!”

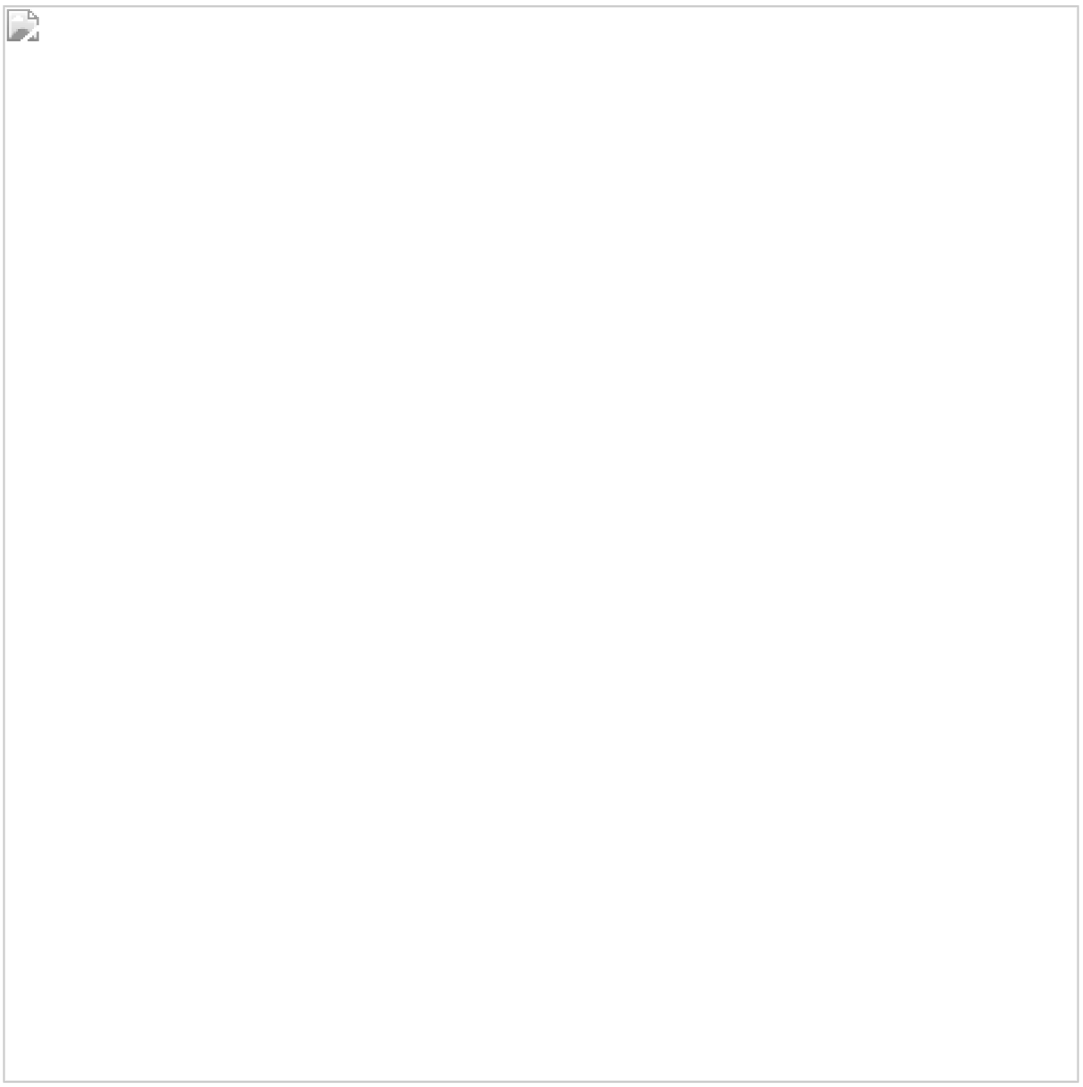
The fish had been caught, sold at the market, and carried to a kitchen. The cook had opened it up, and there he was!

Everyone wanted to see the soldier who had traveled inside a fish. They set him on the table, and he looked around. It was the very same room, with the same children, the same toys, and the same paper castle.

And there was the little dancer, still standing on one leg. They looked at each other, but they said nothing.

TALK ABOUT IT

The soldier came back to the very same room. How would you know you were home?



Think about it

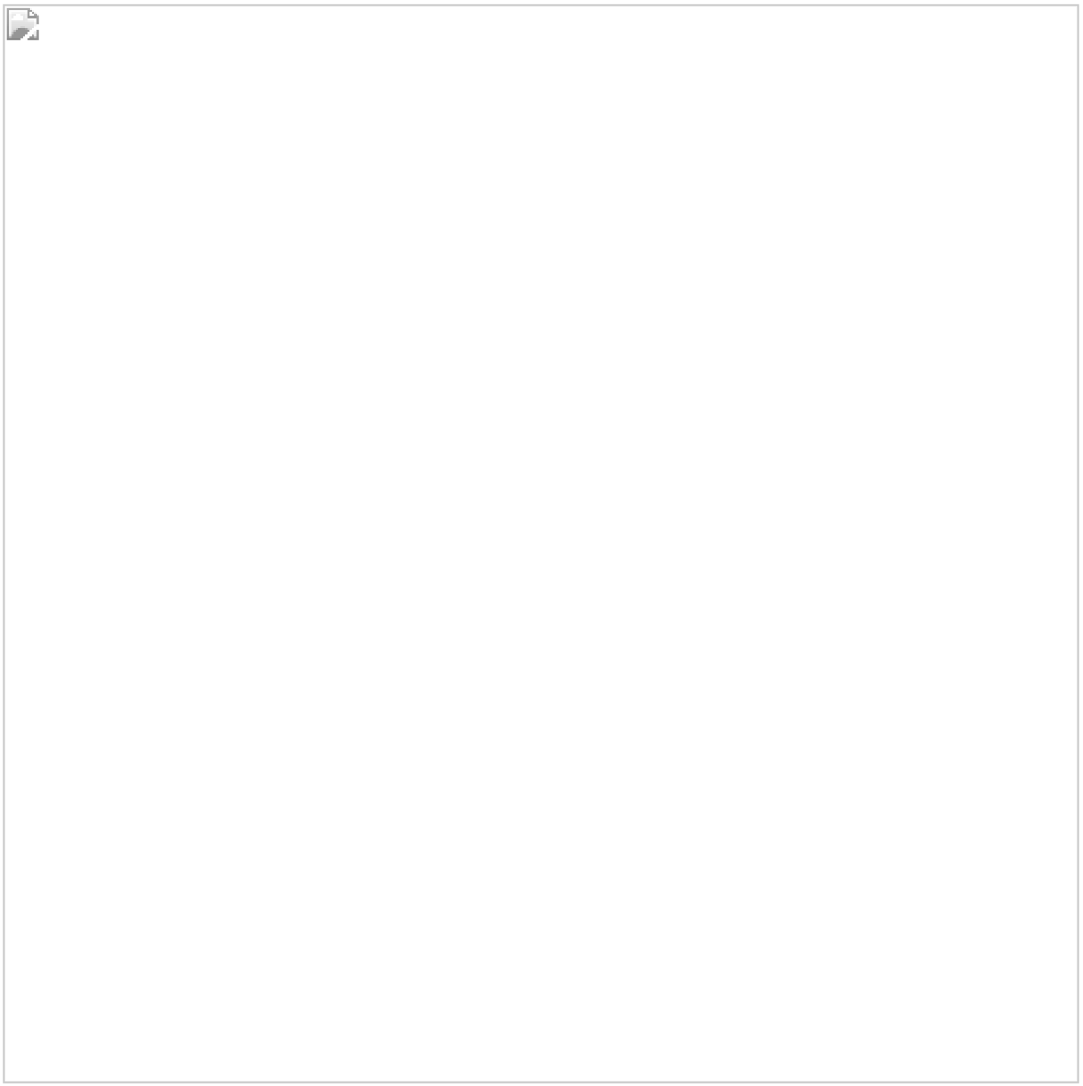
1. Where did the soldier end up after the fish?

- ○ Back in the very same room
- ○ At the bottom of the sea
- ○ In a toy shop

2. Who was still standing on one leg?

- ○ The little dancer
- ○ The goblin
- ○ The cook

A Tin Heart



A little boy threw the soldier into the stove, for no reason at all. Maybe the goblin was to blame.

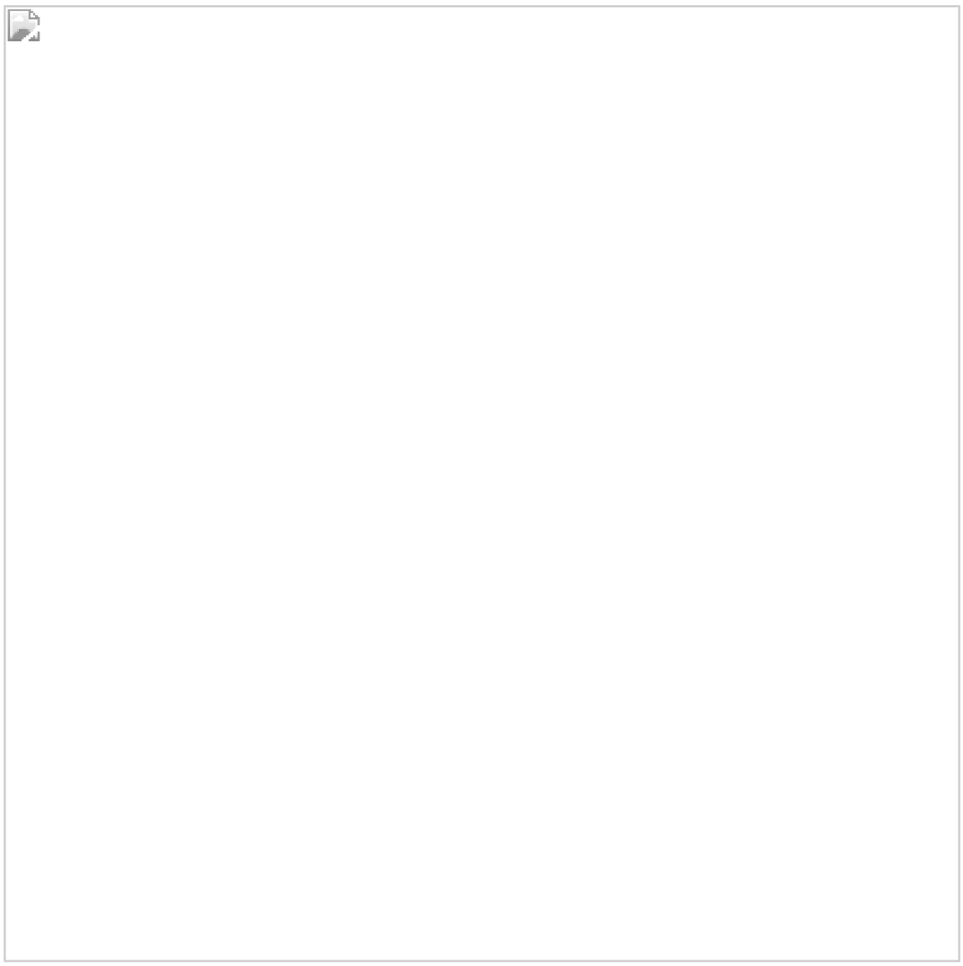
The soldier stood firm in the glow, his colors fading. He felt very hot, and did not know if it was from the fire or from the love inside him. He looked at the dancer, and she looked at him.

The door opened, and the wind blew the dancer into the stove, to her soldier. She was gone in a bright flash.

In the morning the maid found him in the ashes: a little tin heart. Beside it lay the dancer's tinsel rose, burned black as coal.

TALK ABOUT IT

This story has a sad ending, and Andersen wrote it that way. What did the soldier and the dancer keep, all the way to the end?



Think about it

1. What shape was the soldier in when the maid found him?

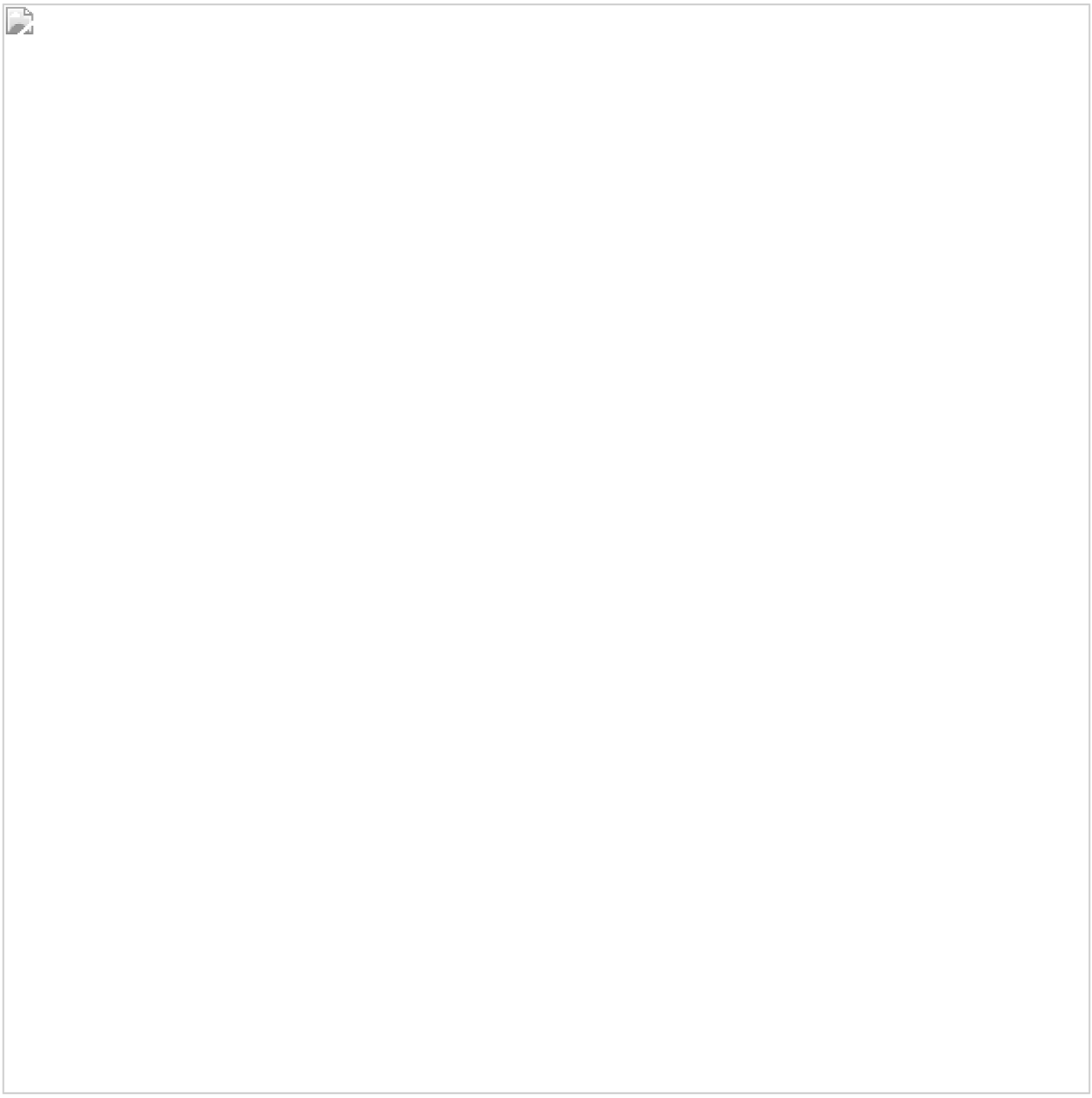
- ○ A little tin heart
- ○ A tin star
- ○ A tin spoon

2. What was left of the dancer?

- ○ Her tinsel rose
- ○ Her blue ribbon
- ○ Her paper shoes

3. The soldier stayed steady from the first page to the last. What does it mean to be steadfast?

Summer on the Farm



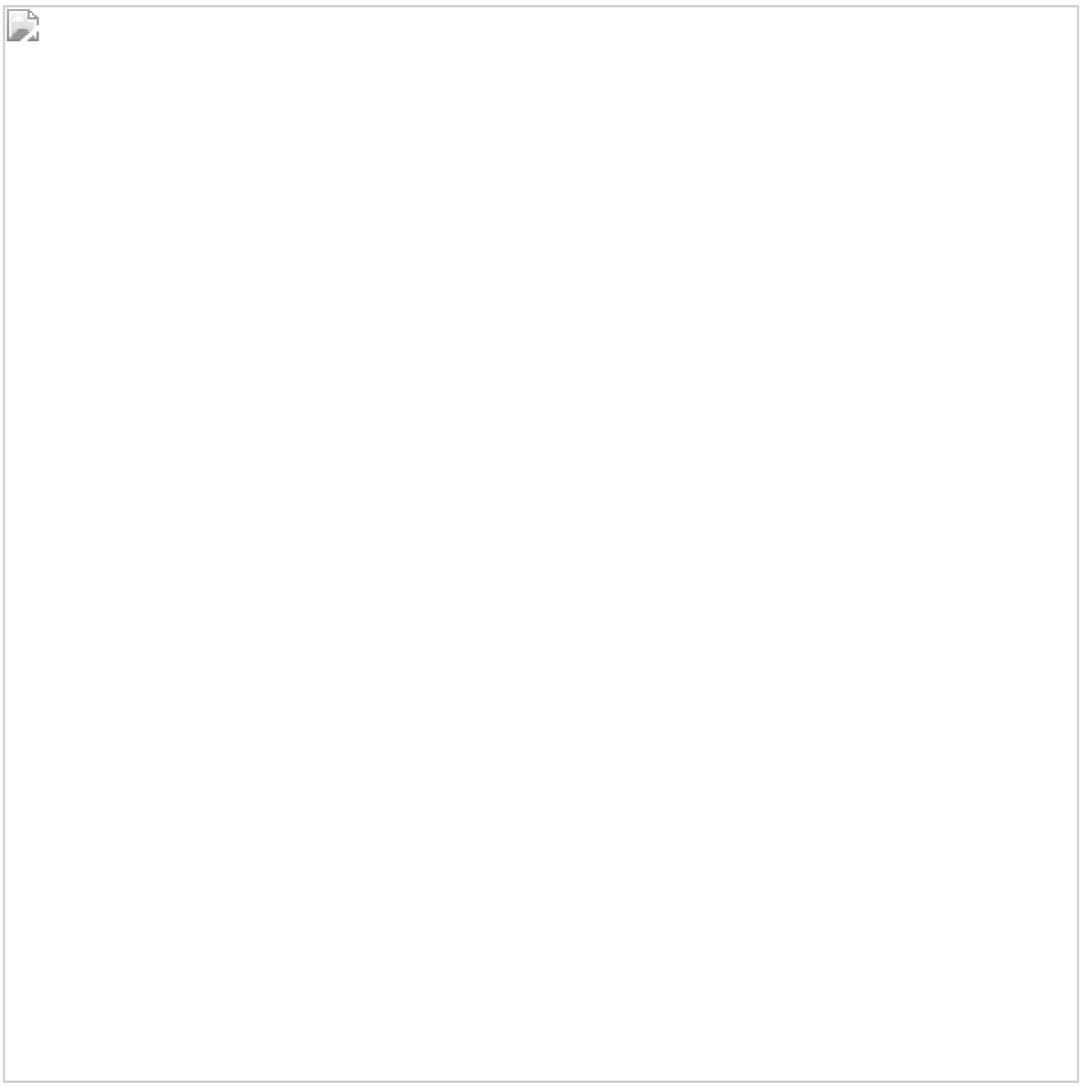
It was summer in the country. The wheat was yellow, the oats were green, and a stork walked about on long red legs.

On an old farm, beside a deep canal, grew burdock leaves so big that little children could stand up under them.

Under those leaves, a mother duck sat on her nest. She had been sitting a long time, waiting for her eggs to hatch.

TALK ABOUT IT

The burdock leaves were taller than a child. What is the biggest leaf you have ever seen?



Think about it

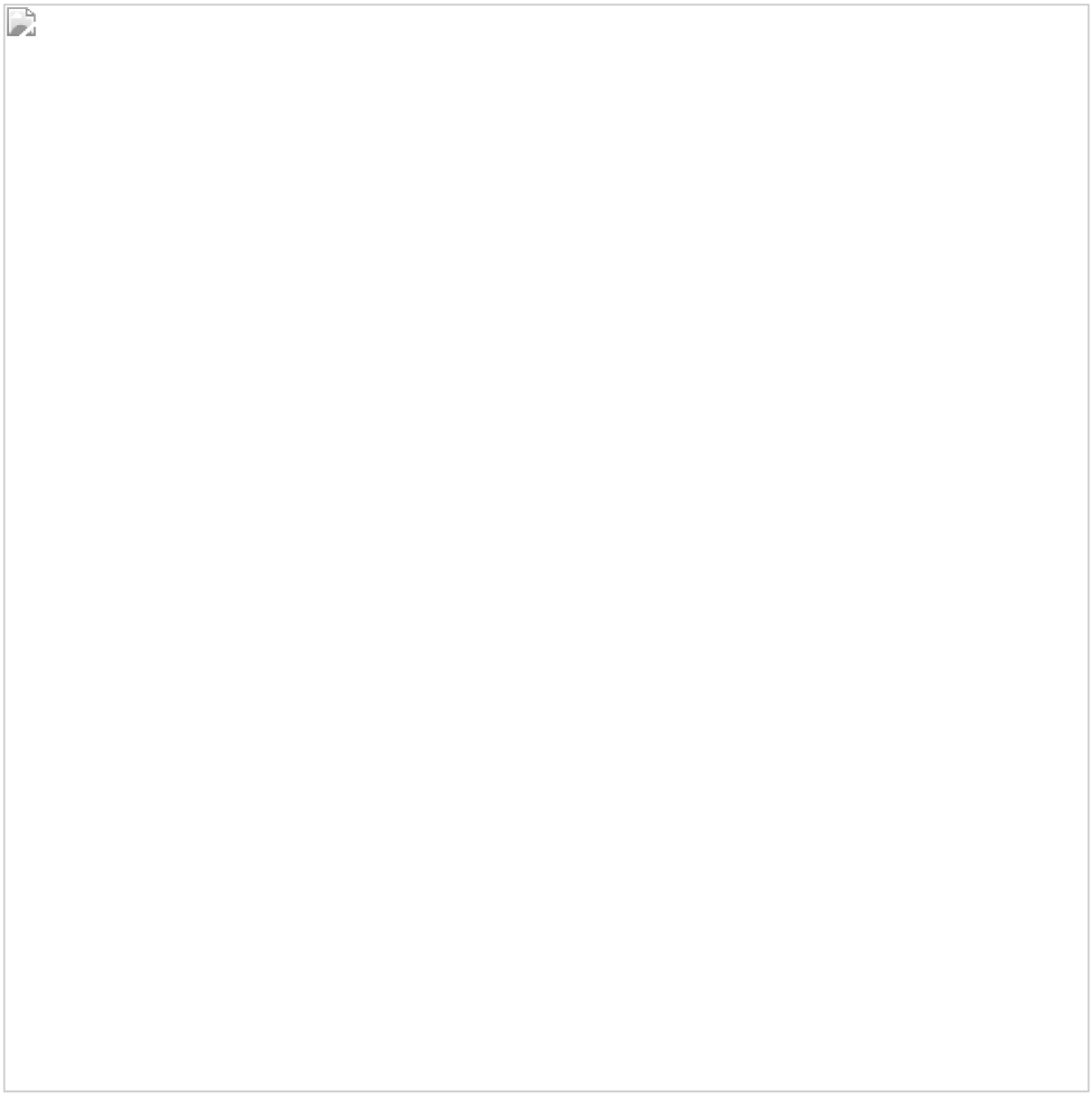
1. What grew so big that children could stand under it?

- ○ Burdock leaves
- ○ Sunflowers
- ○ Corn

2. Who walked about on long red legs?

- ○ A stork
- ○ A turkey
- ○ A goose

Peep! Peep!



Crack, crack! The eggs broke open. “Peep! peep!” Out tumbled the little ducklings.

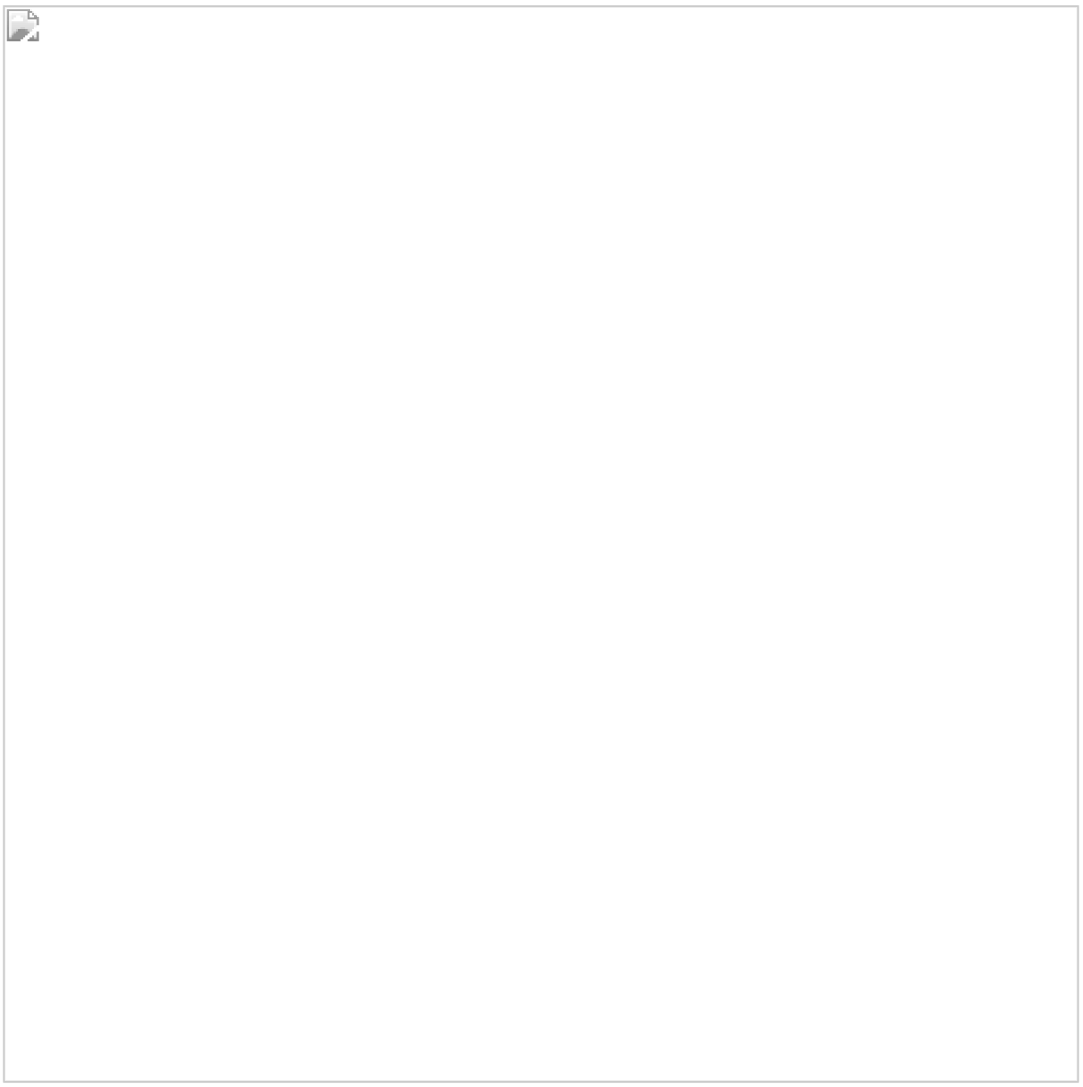
But the biggest egg did not hatch. An old duck came by. “That is a turkey’s egg,” she said. “Leave it.”

“I’ll sit on it a little longer,” said the mother duck.

At last the big egg cracked. Out came the last duckling. He was very big, and gray, and not like the others at all.

TALK ABOUT IT

The mother duck waited a little longer for the last egg. Who waits for you?



Think about it

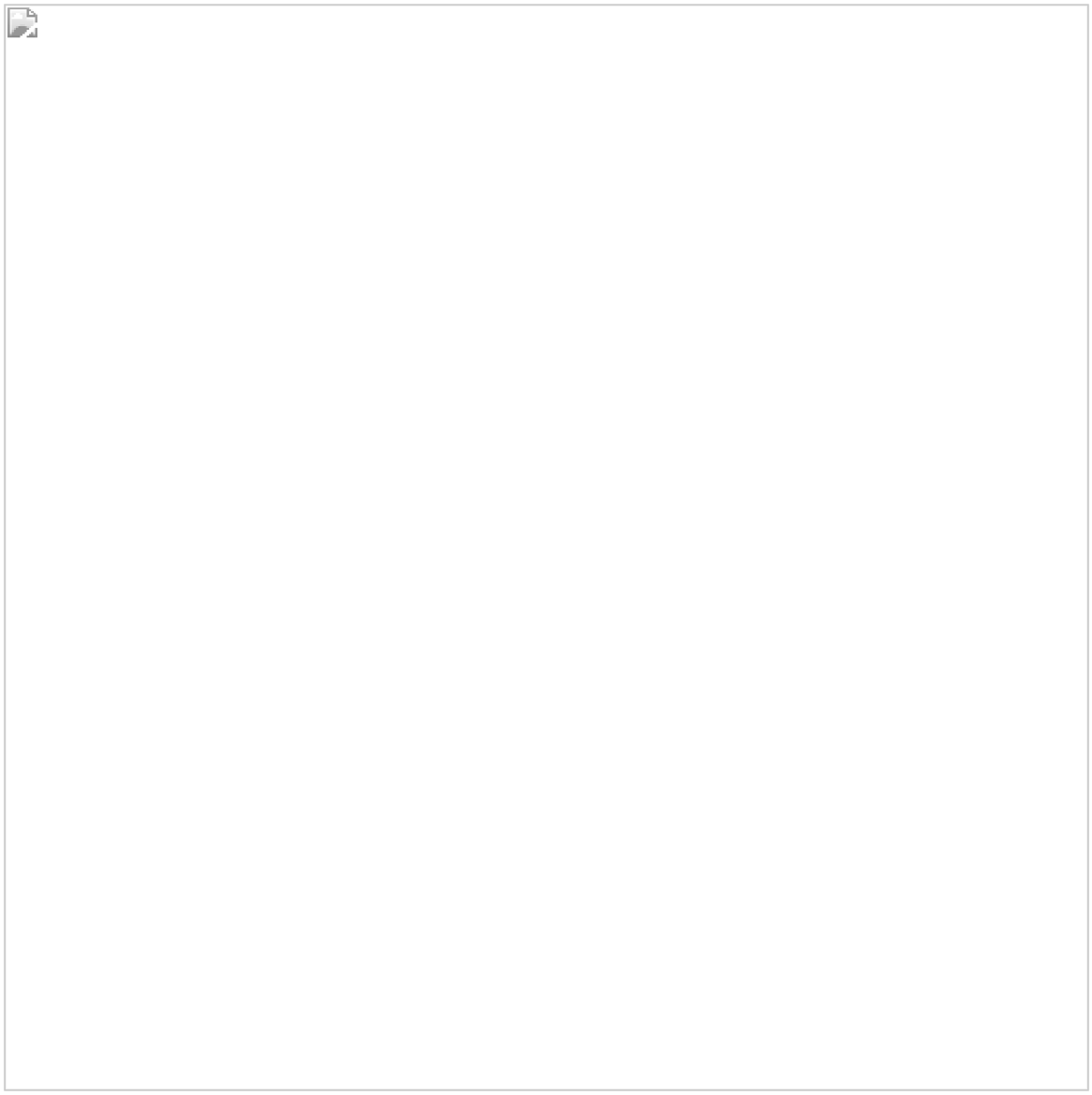
1. What did the old duck say the big egg was?

- ○ A turkey's egg
- ○ A goose egg
- ○ A stone

2. What did the mother duck decide to do?

- ○ Sit on it a little longer
- ○ Leave it
- ○ Roll it away

My Own Child



“Is he a turkey chick?” the mother duck wondered. “We’ll see. He will have to go into the water.”

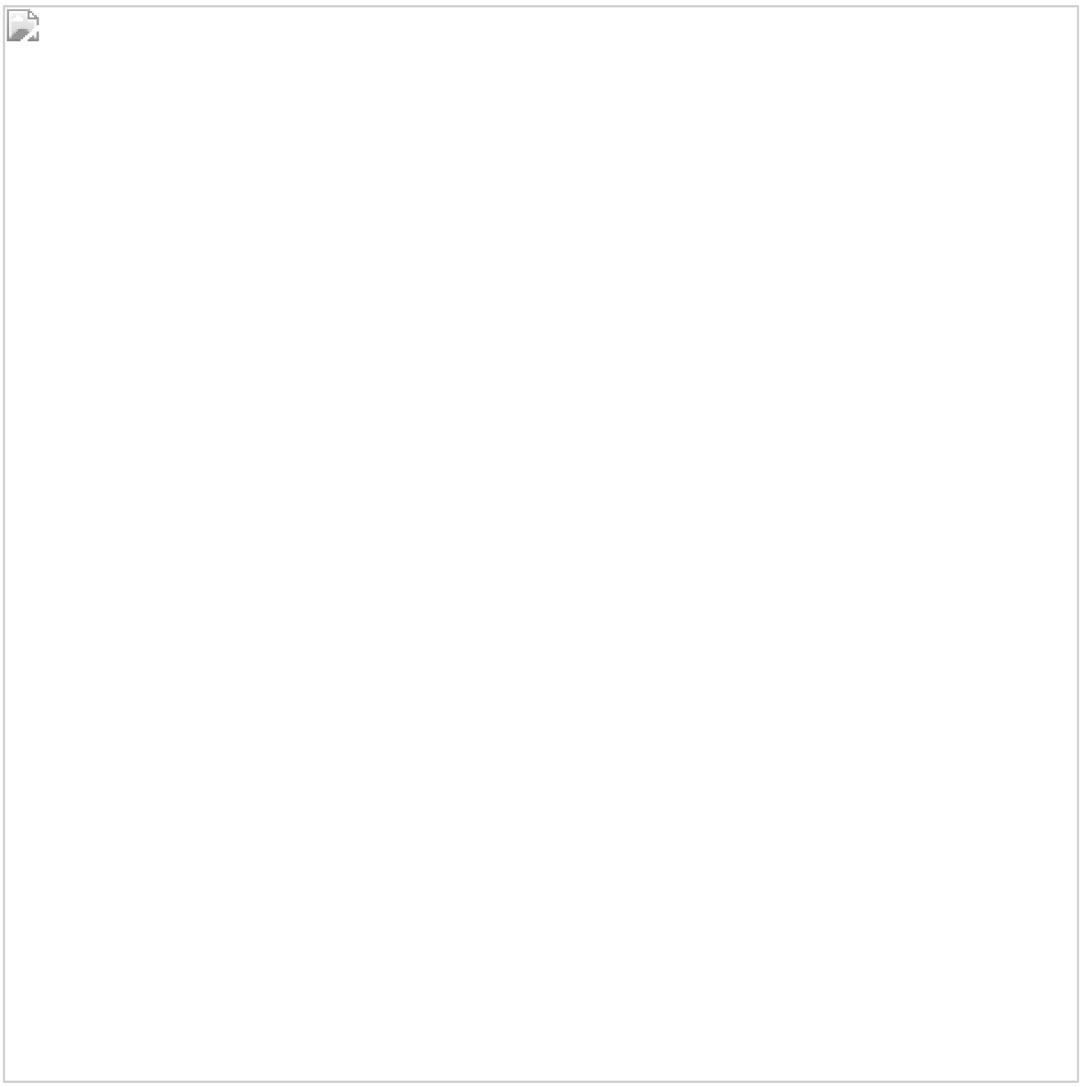
The next day the sun shone on the green leaves, and the whole family went down to the canal. Splash! In jumped the mother, and in jumped the ducklings, one after another.

The big gray duckling swam as well as any of them.

“He is no turkey,” said the mother duck. “See how well he uses his legs! It is my own child!”

TALK ABOUT IT

The mother duck said, “It is my own child!” Who is glad that you are theirs?

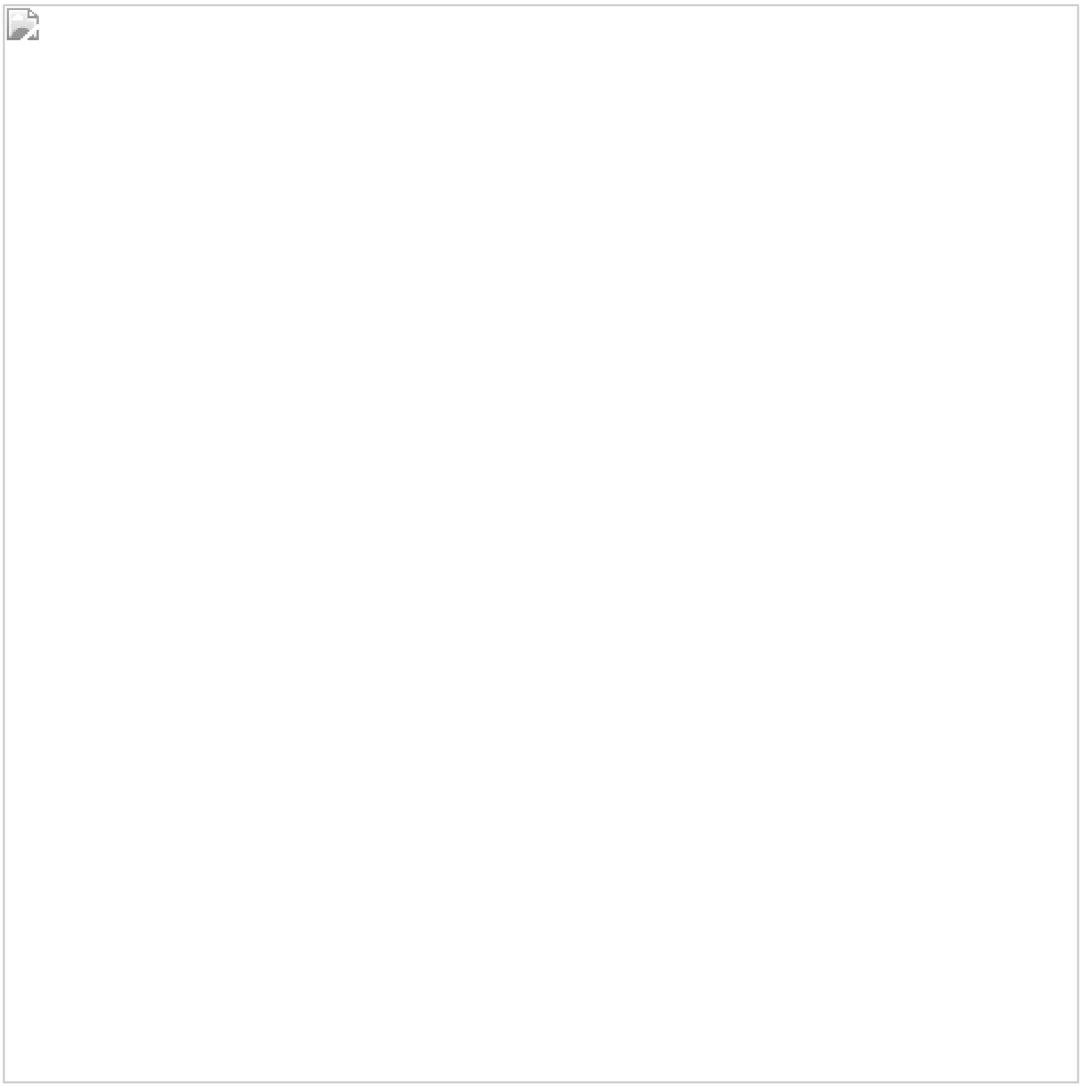


Think about it

1. How did the mother duck find out the big duckling was not a turkey?

- ○ He swam well
- ○ He could fly
- ○ He quacked loudly

The Duck Yard



Their mother took them to the duck yard, where the grandest duck wore a red rag round her leg.

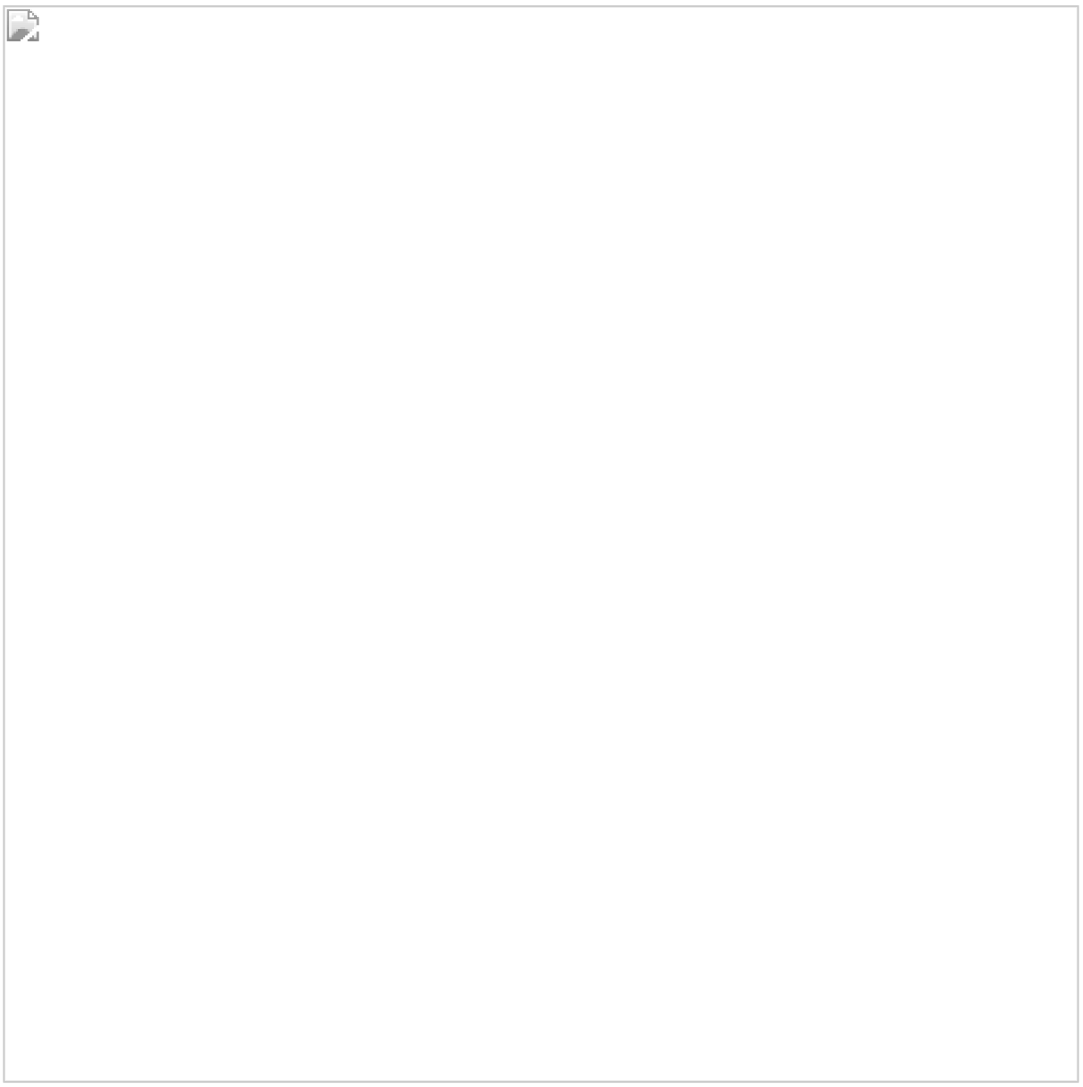
The ducks stared at the big gray duckling. “He is too big and too strange,” said one, and bit him on the neck.

“Let him alone,” said his mother. “He does no harm to anyone. He has a good heart, and he swims as well as any of them.”

Day after day the ducks bit him, the hens pecked him, and the poultry girl kicked him away. A turkey puffed up like a ship in full sail and gobbled at him. Even his brothers and sisters were unkind.

TALK ABOUT IT

The other ducks picked on the duckling because he looked different. What could someone in the duck yard have done to help him?



Think about it

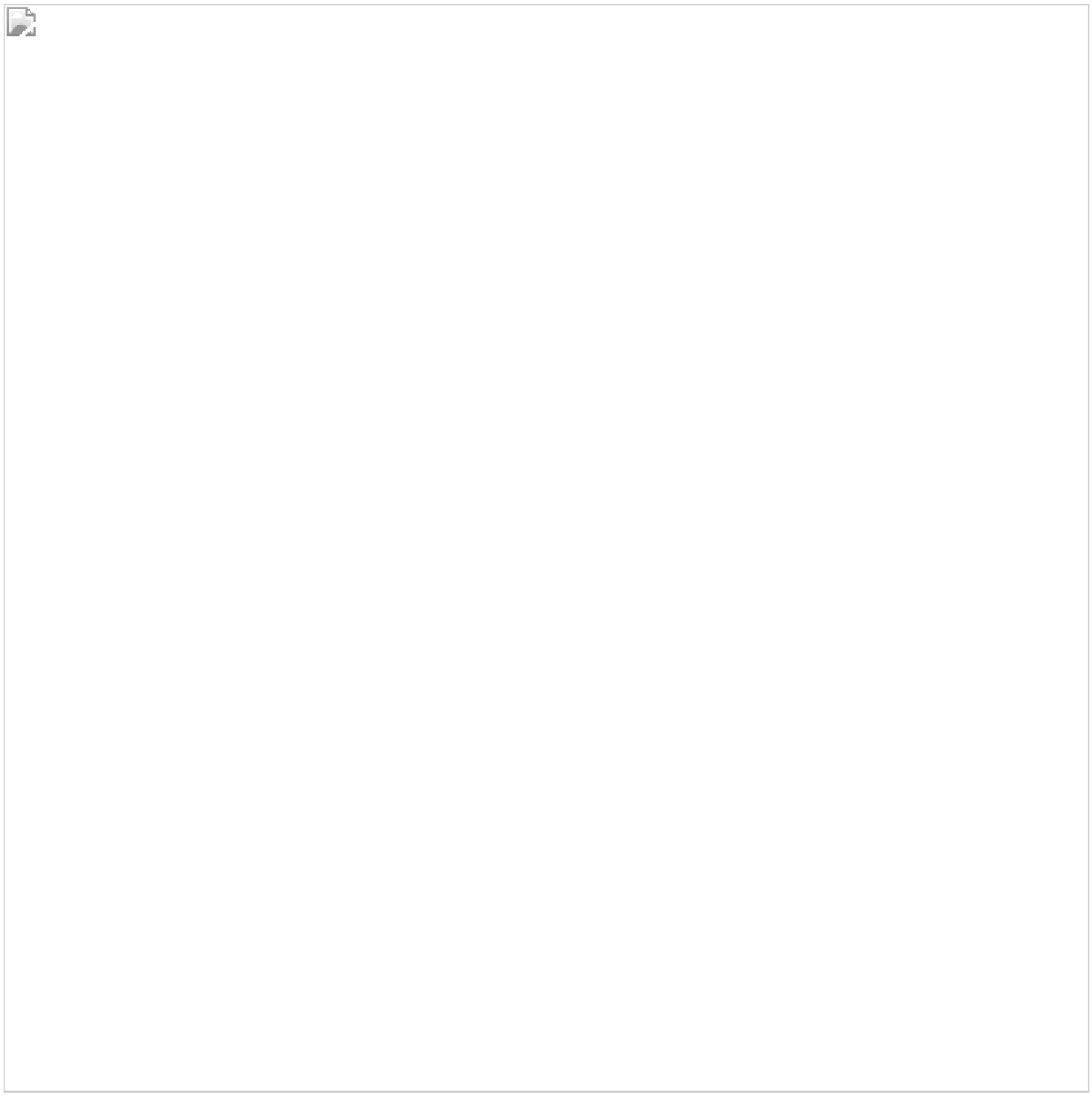
1. What did the grandest duck wear?

- ○ A red rag round her leg
- ○ A crown
- ○ A blue bow

2. What did the mother duck say when the duckling was bitten?

- ○ “Let him alone. He does no harm to anyone.”
- ○ “Bite him back.”
- ○ “Go away.”

Over the Hedge



It got so bad that even his mother sighed, “I wish you were far away!”

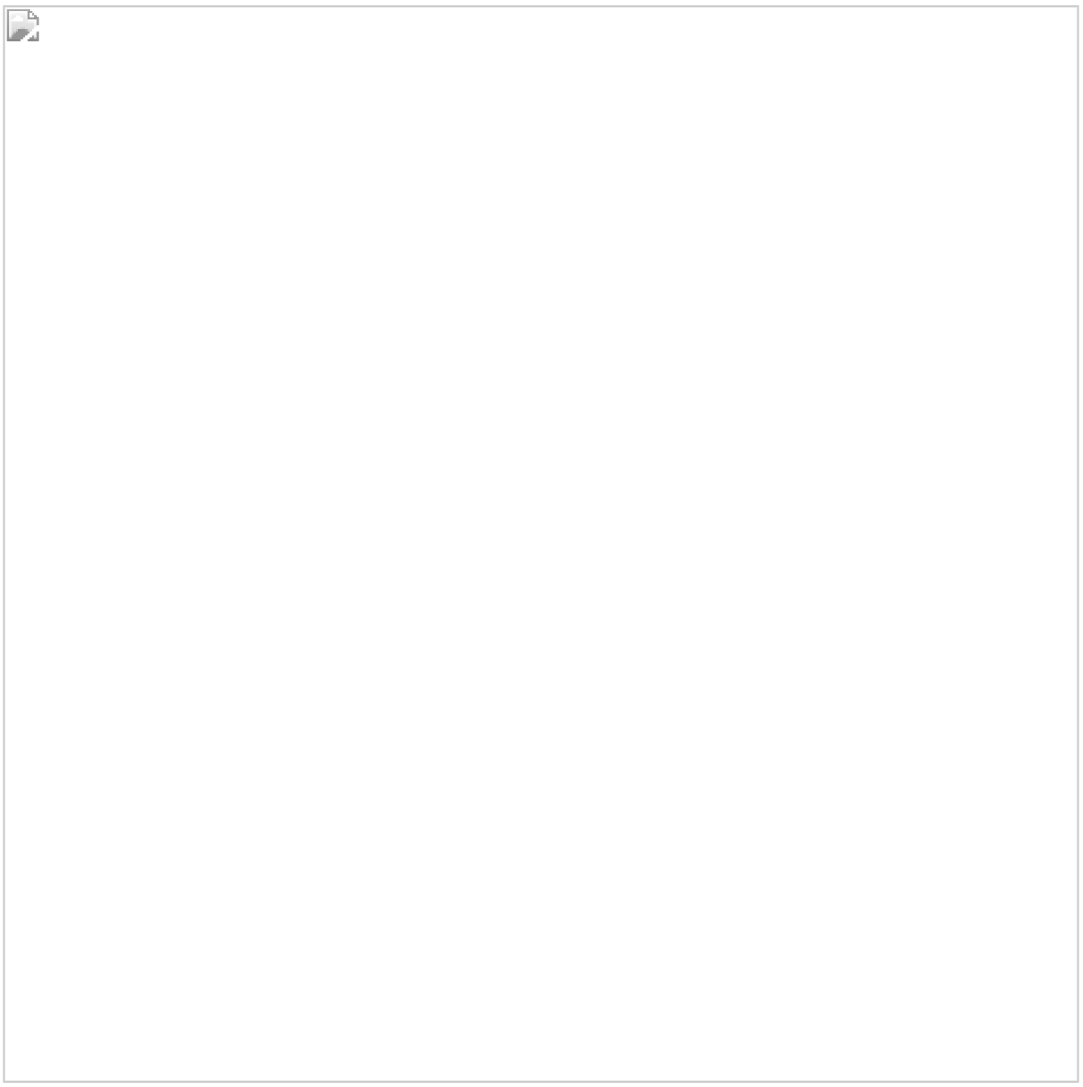
So the duckling ran. He flew over the hedge, and the little birds in the bushes flew up in fright. “That is because I am so ugly,” the duckling thought.

He ran on until he came to a wide marsh where wild ducks lived. He lay all night among the reeds.

“You are very ugly,” said the wild ducks. But they let him stay, and he only wanted to rest in the reeds and drink the marsh water.

TALK ABOUT IT

The duckling needed a safe place to rest. Where is a safe place for you?



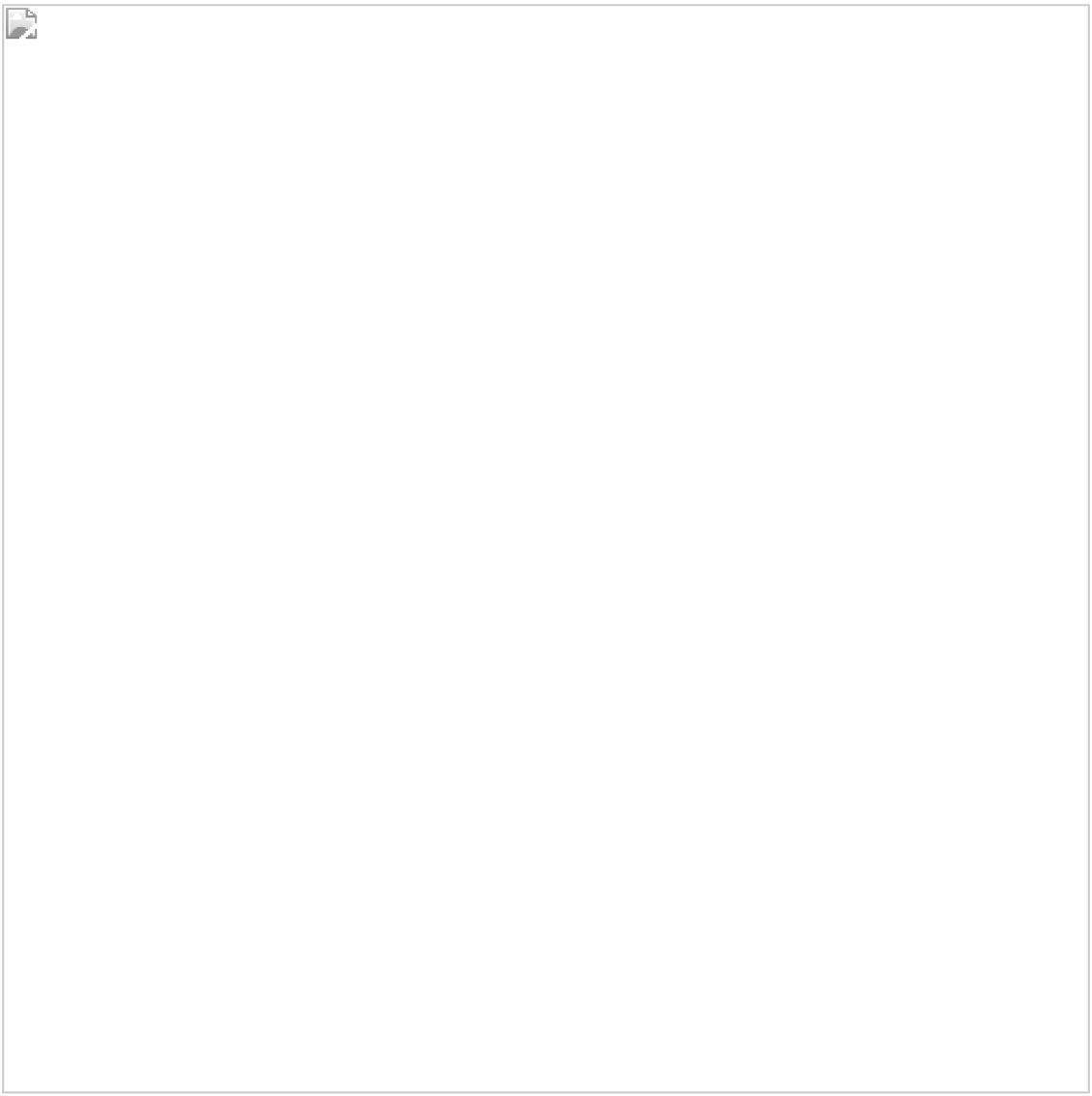
Think about it

1. Where did the duckling go when he ran away?

- ○ To a wide marsh
- ○ To the city
- ○ Back to his egg

2. The duckling thought the birds flew away because he was ugly. Is that the only reason birds might fly away?

Hunters in the Marsh



Two young wild geese came along. “Come with us!” they said. But just then — bang! bang! — hunters were all around the marsh. The two young geese never flew again.

Blue smoke drifted over the water. Hunting dogs splashed through the reeds.

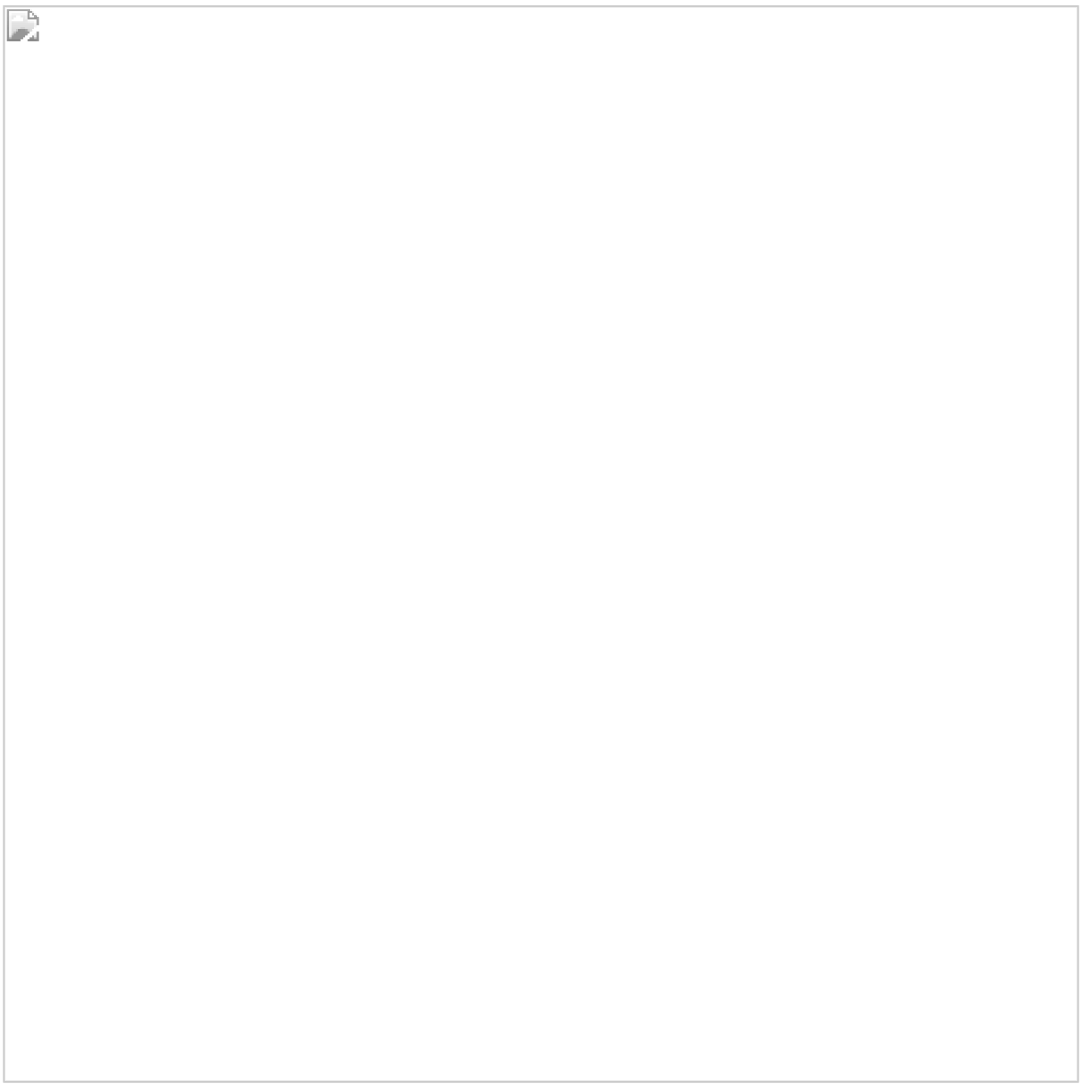
A big dog came right up to the duckling, with his tongue hanging out and his sharp teeth showing. He sniffed. Then he splashed away.

“I am so ugly that even the dog does not care to bite me!” thought the duckling. He lay very still for hours, until the marsh was quiet. Then he hurried away.

TALK ABOUT IT

The duckling lay very still until it was safe. What do you do when you need to wait for something to be over?

Hunters in the Marsh · another picture



Think about it

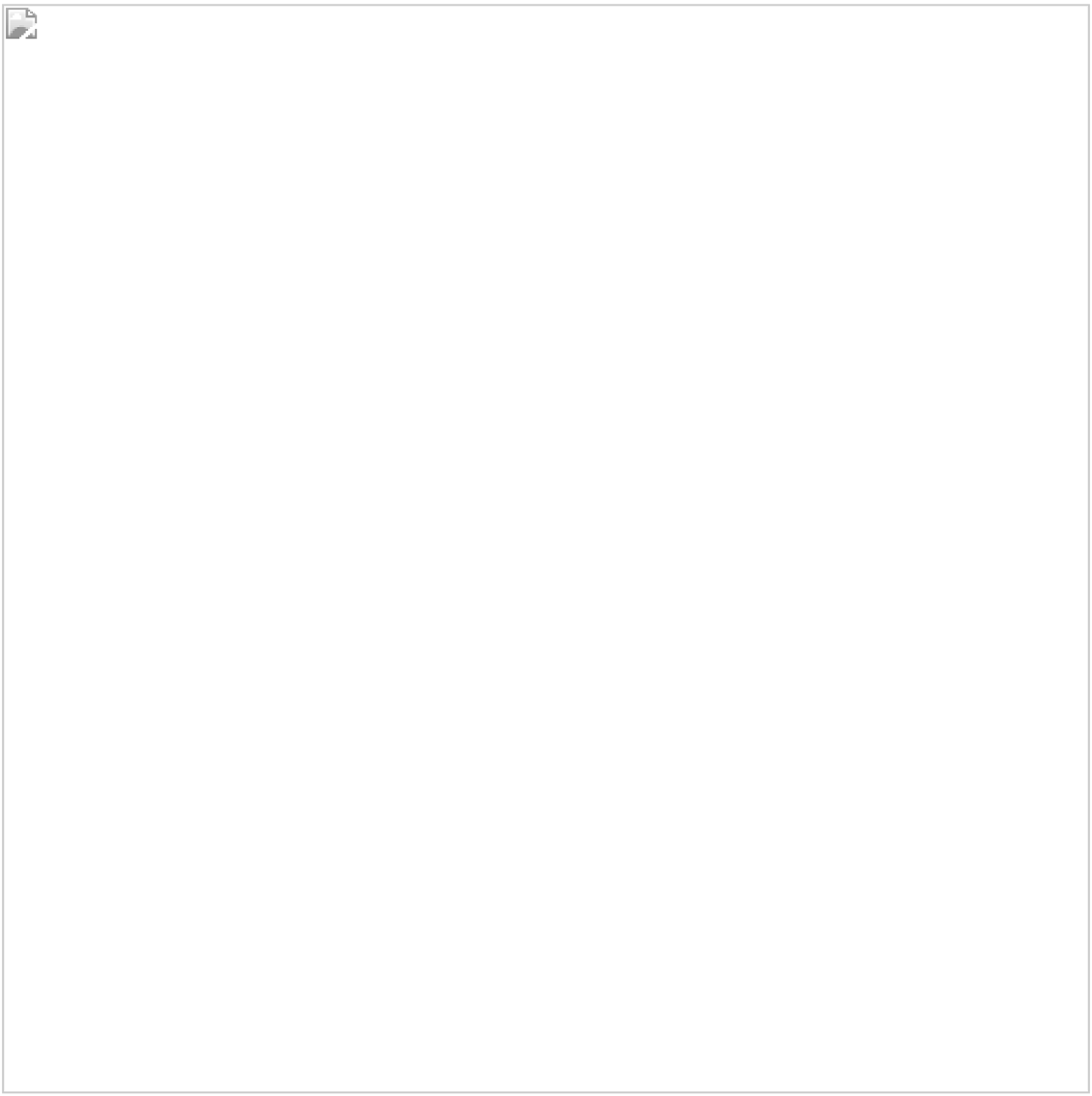
1. What did the big dog do?

- ○ Sniffed him and went away
- ○ Carried him home
- ○ Barked at him all night

2. Why did the duckling wait hours before leaving?

- ○ To be sure the hunters were gone
- ○ He was asleep
- ○ He was waiting for his mother

The Cat and the Hen



That evening he slipped into an old hut through a broken door.

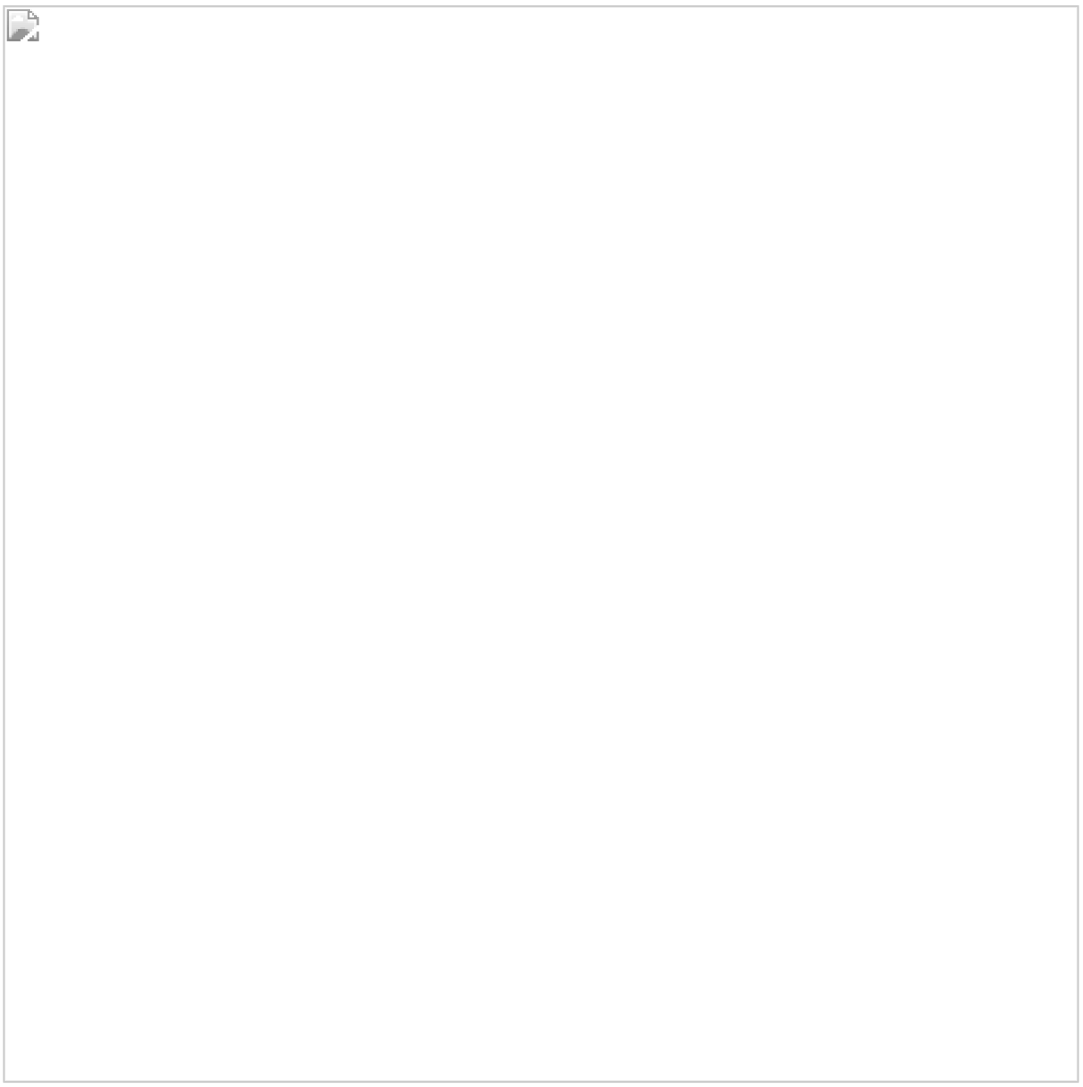
An old woman lived there with a cat who could purr and a hen with short legs who laid good eggs.

“Can you lay eggs?” asked the hen. “No.” “Can you arch your back and purr?” asked the cat. “No.” “Then you cannot have any opinion of your own,” they said.

“But it is so charming to swim on the water,” said the duckling, “and to dive down to the bottom.” The hen thought that silly. “I think I will go out into the wide world,” he said. “Yes, do go,” said the hen.

TALK ABOUT IT

The cat and the hen thought everyone should be just like them. What is something you love that your friends might not?



Think about it

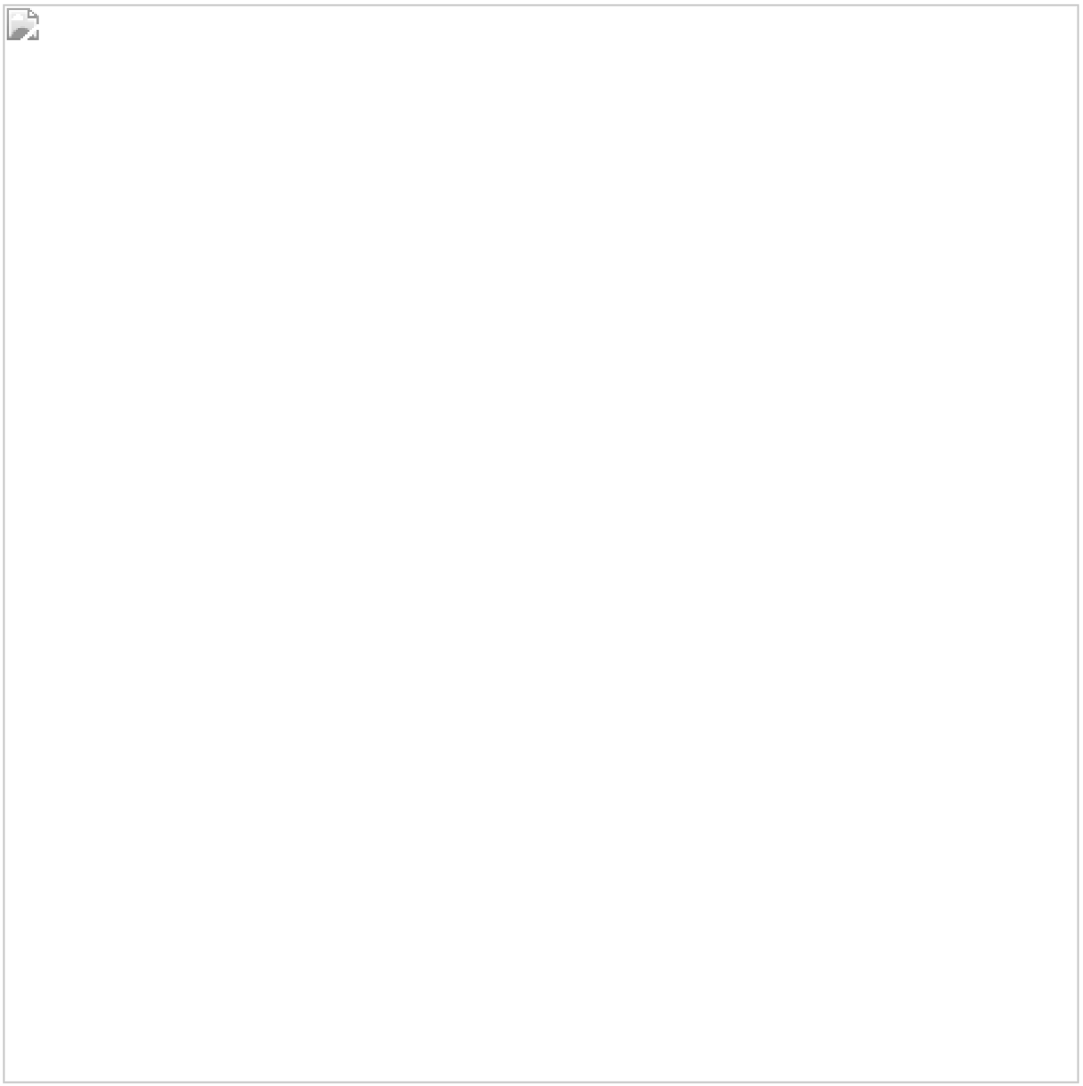
1. What could the hen do?

- ○ Lay eggs
- ○ Swim
- ○ Purr

2. What did the duckling love that the cat and hen did not understand?

- ○ Swimming and diving
- ○ Laying eggs
- ○ Purring

Birds in the Sunset



Autumn came. The leaves turned yellow and brown, and the clouds hung low with snow. A raven sat on the fence and called, “Caw! caw!”

One evening, as the sun went down, a flock of beautiful birds flew up out of the bushes. They were dazzling white, with long, curving necks. They spread their wide wings and flew away to warmer lands.

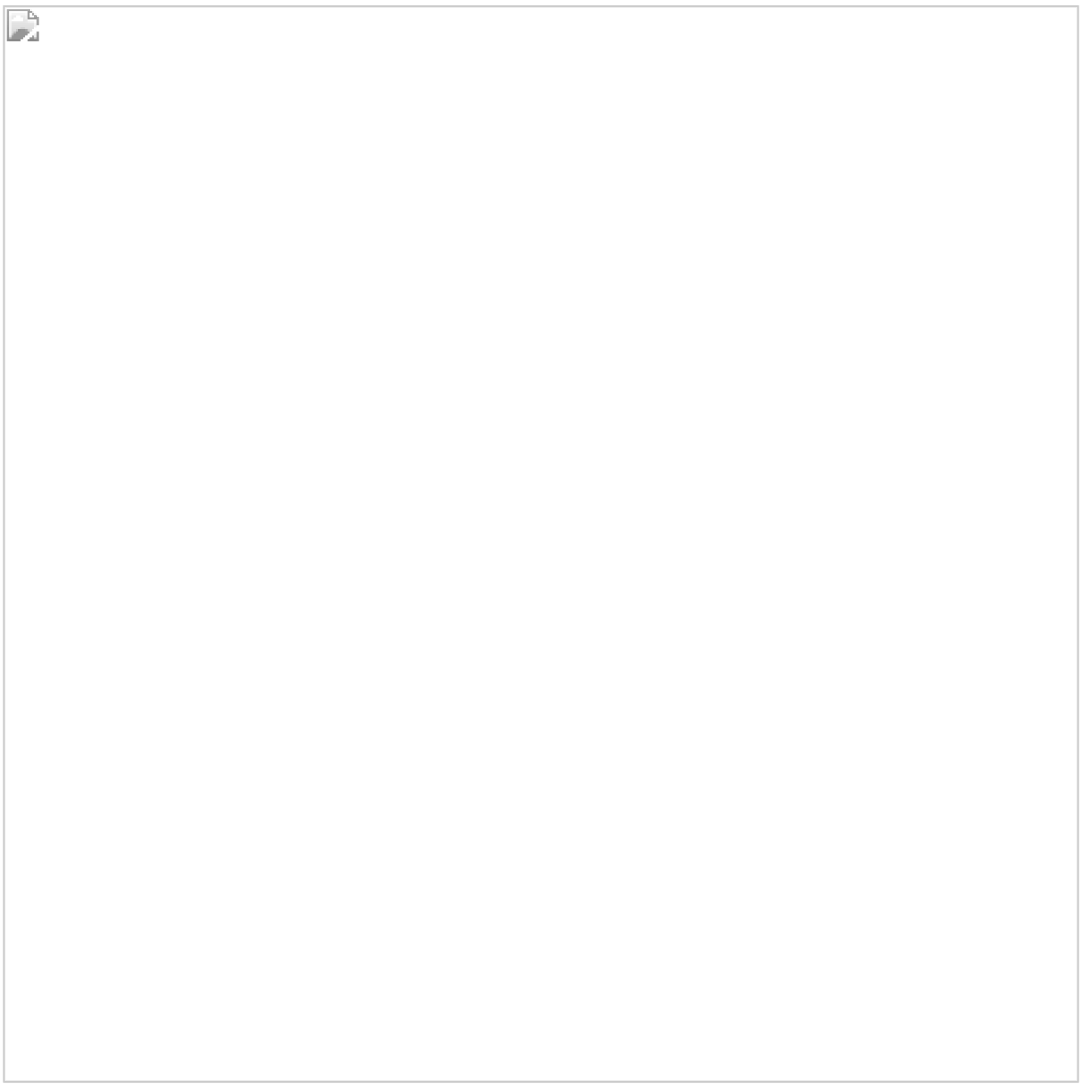
The duckling turned round and round in the water, stretched his neck after them, and gave a strange cry.

He did not know their name or where they were going. But he loved them as he had never loved anyone before.

TALK ABOUT IT

The duckling saw something so beautiful he could not stop looking. What is the most beautiful thing you have ever seen?

Birds in the Sunset · another picture



Think about it

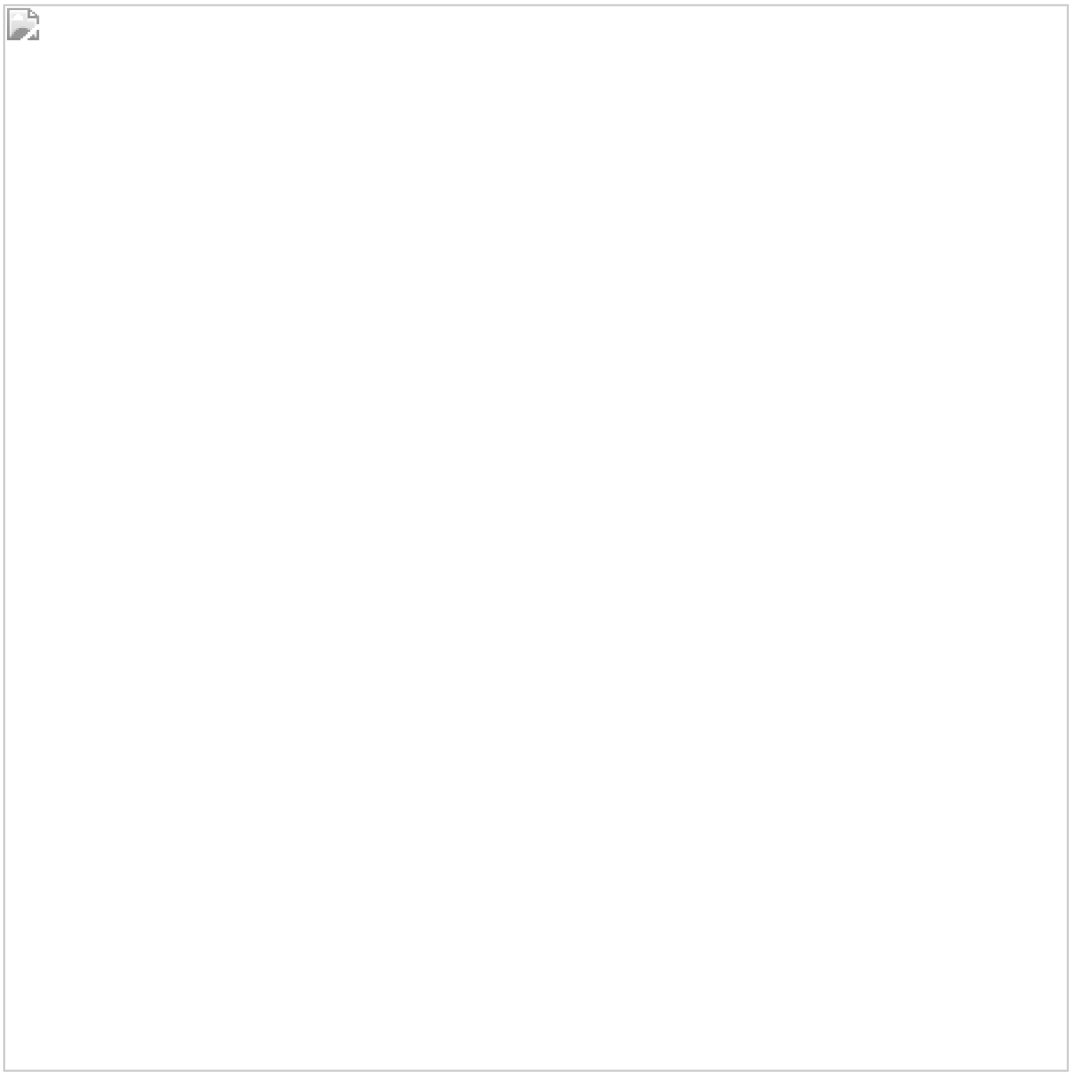
1. What color were the birds in the sunset?

- ○ Dazzling white
- ○ Gray
- ○ Black

2. Where were the white birds going?

- ○ To warmer lands
- ○ To the duck yard
- ○ To the hut

A Long, Cold Winter



Winter grew bitter cold. The duckling swam round and round, but his pool grew smaller each night, until he froze fast in the ice.

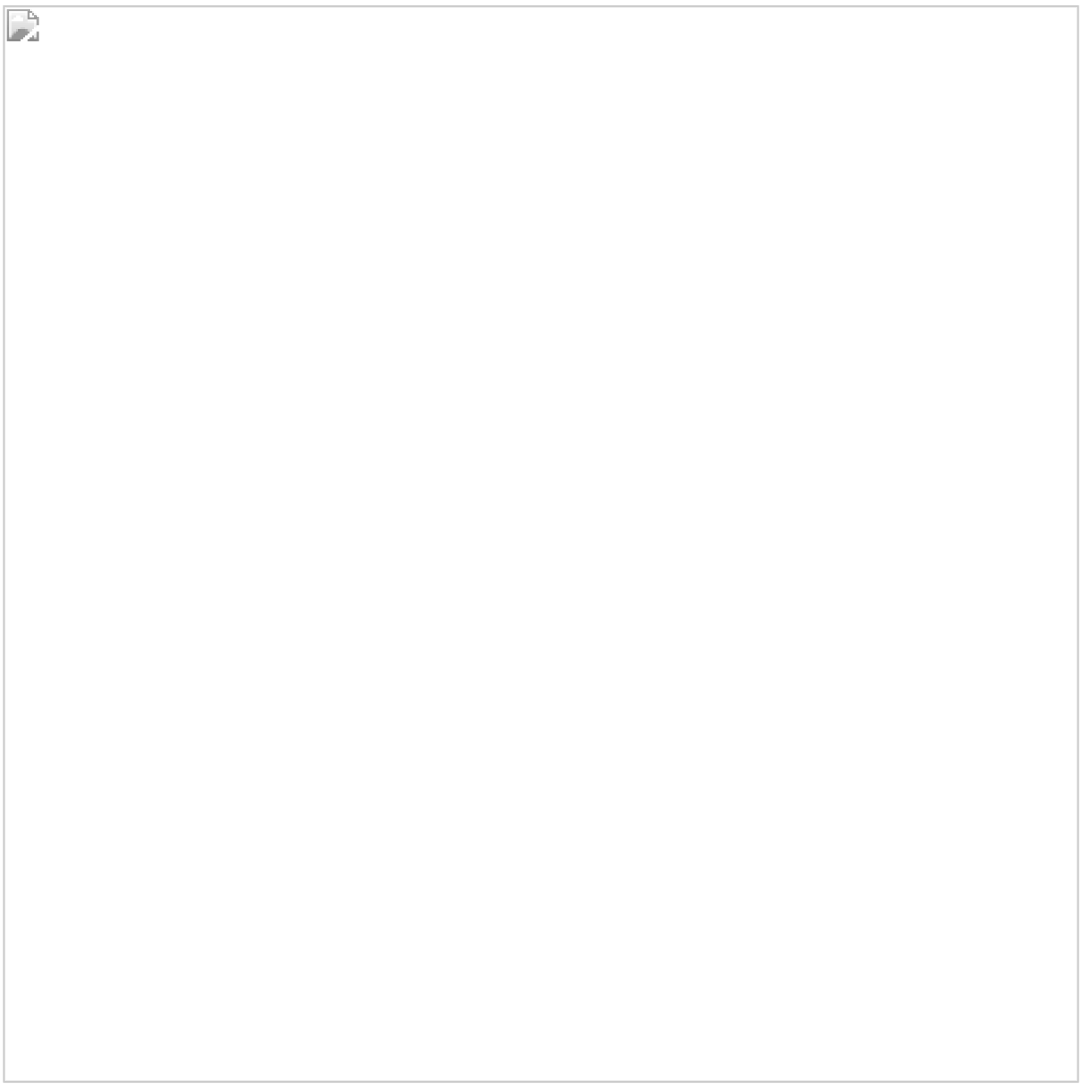
In the morning a farmer broke the ice with his wooden shoe and carried the duckling home to his wife.

The children wanted to play, but he thought they would hurt him. He flew into the milk pan, then the butter tub, then the flour barrel! The woman swung the fire tongs at him, and the children laughed and tumbled over each other trying to catch him.

Out the open door he flew, into the snow. The rest of that winter was long and hard.

TALK ABOUT IT

The farmer helped, but the duckling was afraid. How can you help someone who is scared?



Think about it

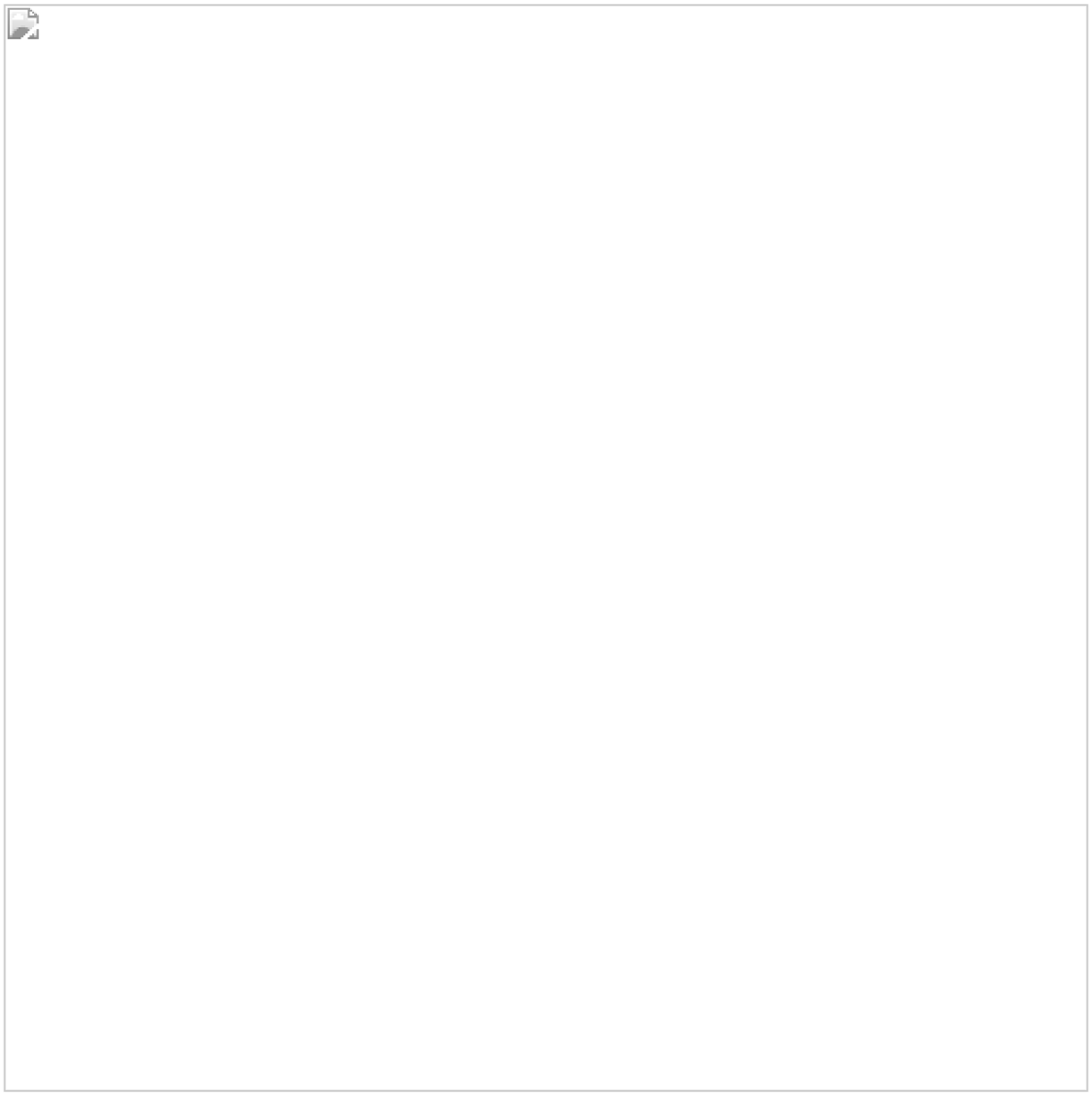
1. How did the farmer break the ice?

- ○ With his wooden shoe
- ○ With a hammer
- ○ With his hands

2. Where did the duckling land in the house?

- ○ In the milk pan, the butter tub, and the flour barrel
- ○ In a bed
- ○ In the fireplace

In the Clear Water



At last the sun grew warm, and the larks sang. It was spring! The duckling's wings were strong now, and they carried him up and away to a big garden.

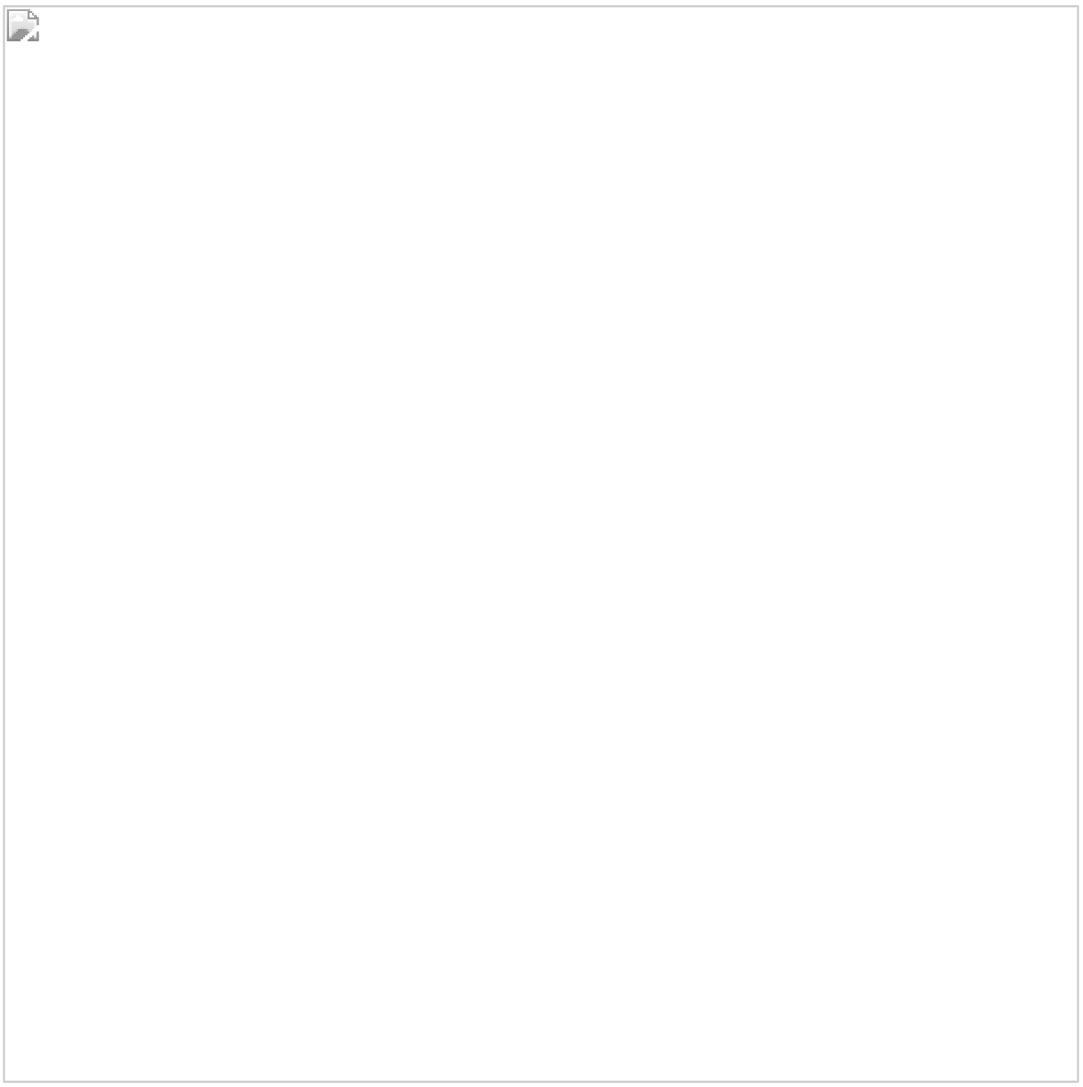
Apple trees bloomed, and sweet lilacs hung over the stream. Out from the bushes came three beautiful white swans.

"I will swim to them," said the duckling. "They may chase me away because I am so ugly. But I would rather go to them." He swam toward them and bowed his head low to the water.

And there, in the clear water, he saw himself. He was not a gray, clumsy bird anymore. He was a swan!

TALK ABOUT IT

The duckling grew all winter, even when he did not know it. How have you grown this year?



Think about it

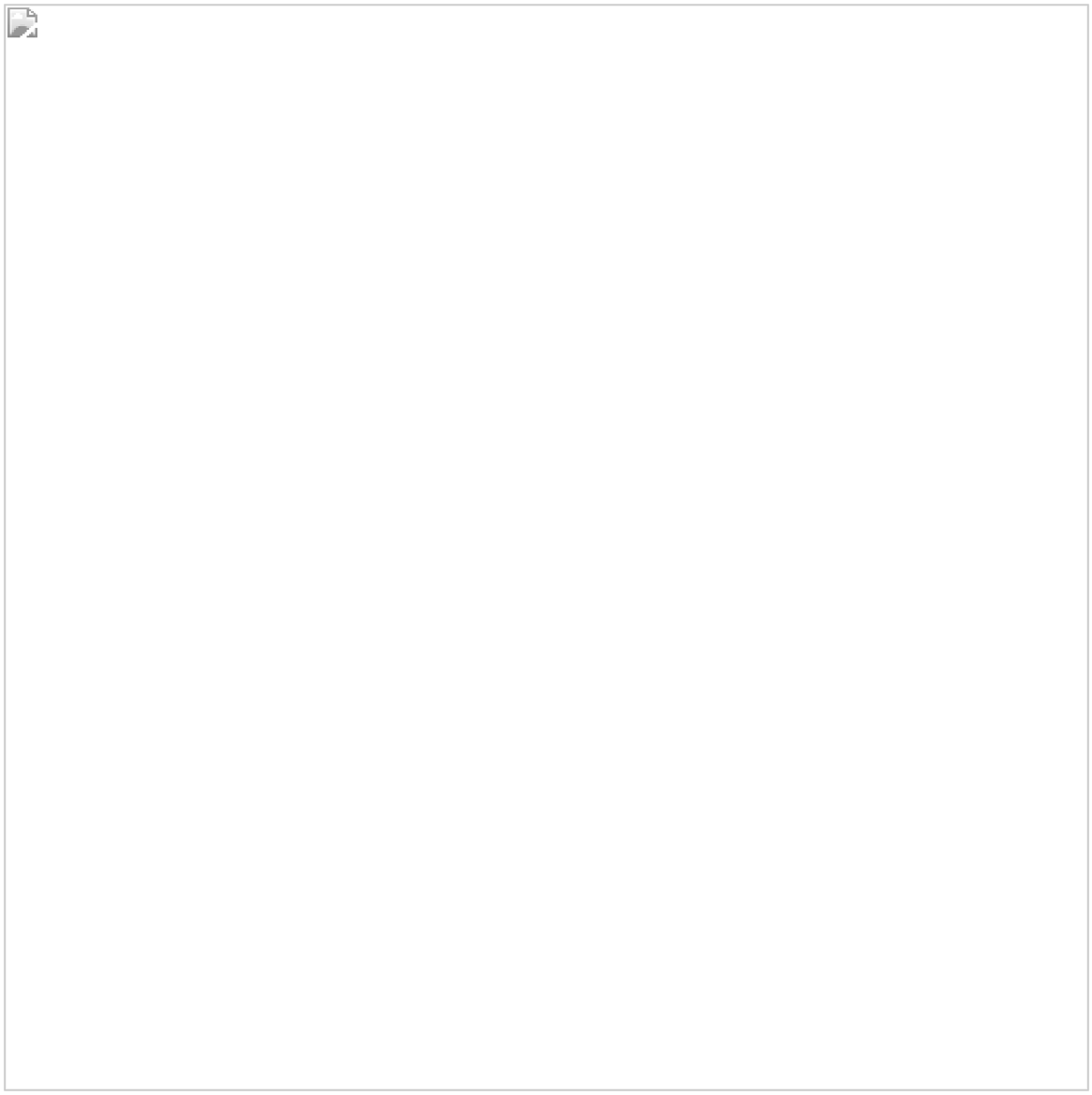
1. What did the duckling see when he bowed his head?

- ○ That he was a swan
- ○ A fish
- ○ His mother

2. What season was it when he found the swans?

- ○ Spring
- ○ Winter
- ○ Autumn

The New One



The big swans swam all around him and stroked him with their bills.

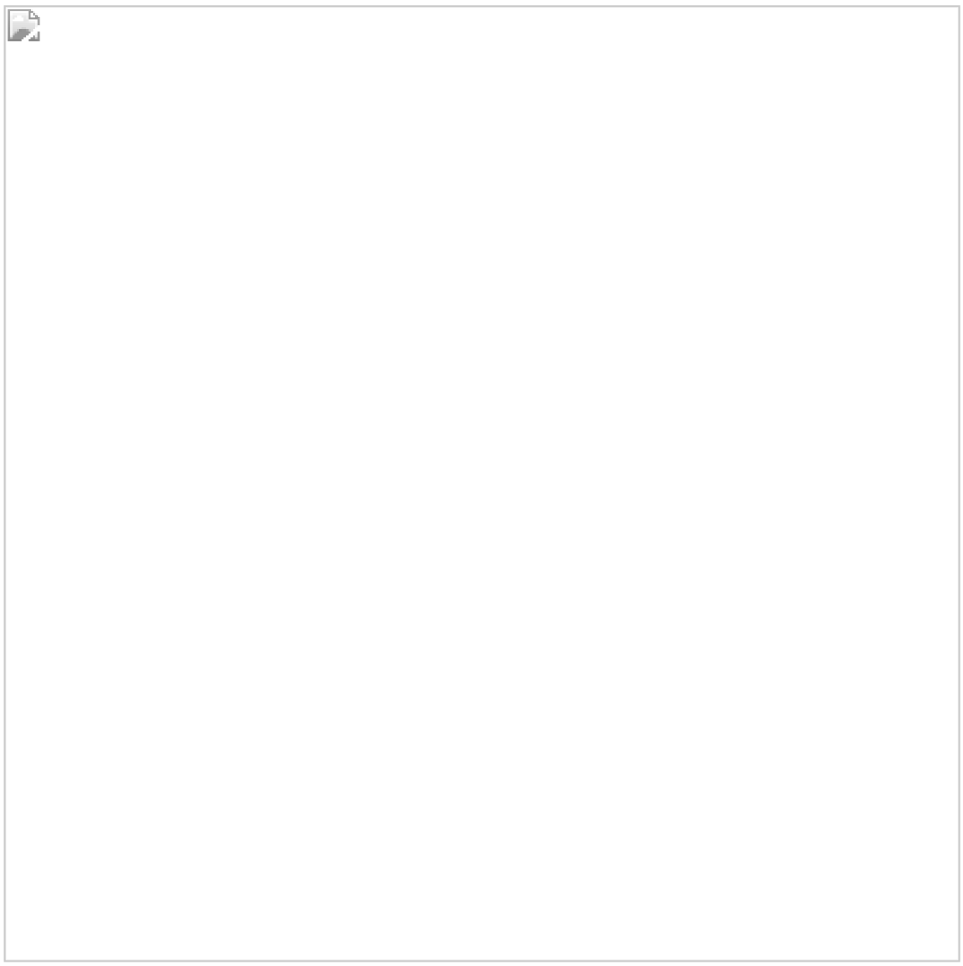
Some children came to the garden and threw bread into the water. “There is a new one!” cried the youngest. “The new one is the most beautiful of all!” said the others.

The young swan tucked his head under his wing. He was very happy, but not at all proud, for a good heart is never proud.

He lifted his long neck and said, “I never dreamed of such happiness when I was still the Ugly Duckling!”

TALK ABOUT IT

The swan was happy but not proud. What is the difference?



Think about it

1. What did the big swans do?

- ○ Stroked him with their bills
- ○ Chased him away
- ○ Flew off

2. What did the young swan do when the children praised him?

- ○ Tucked his head under his wing
- ○ Showed off
- ○ Flew away

3. The duckling was the same bird all along. What would you say to someone who is picked on for being different?

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

— Yeshua HaMashiach

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