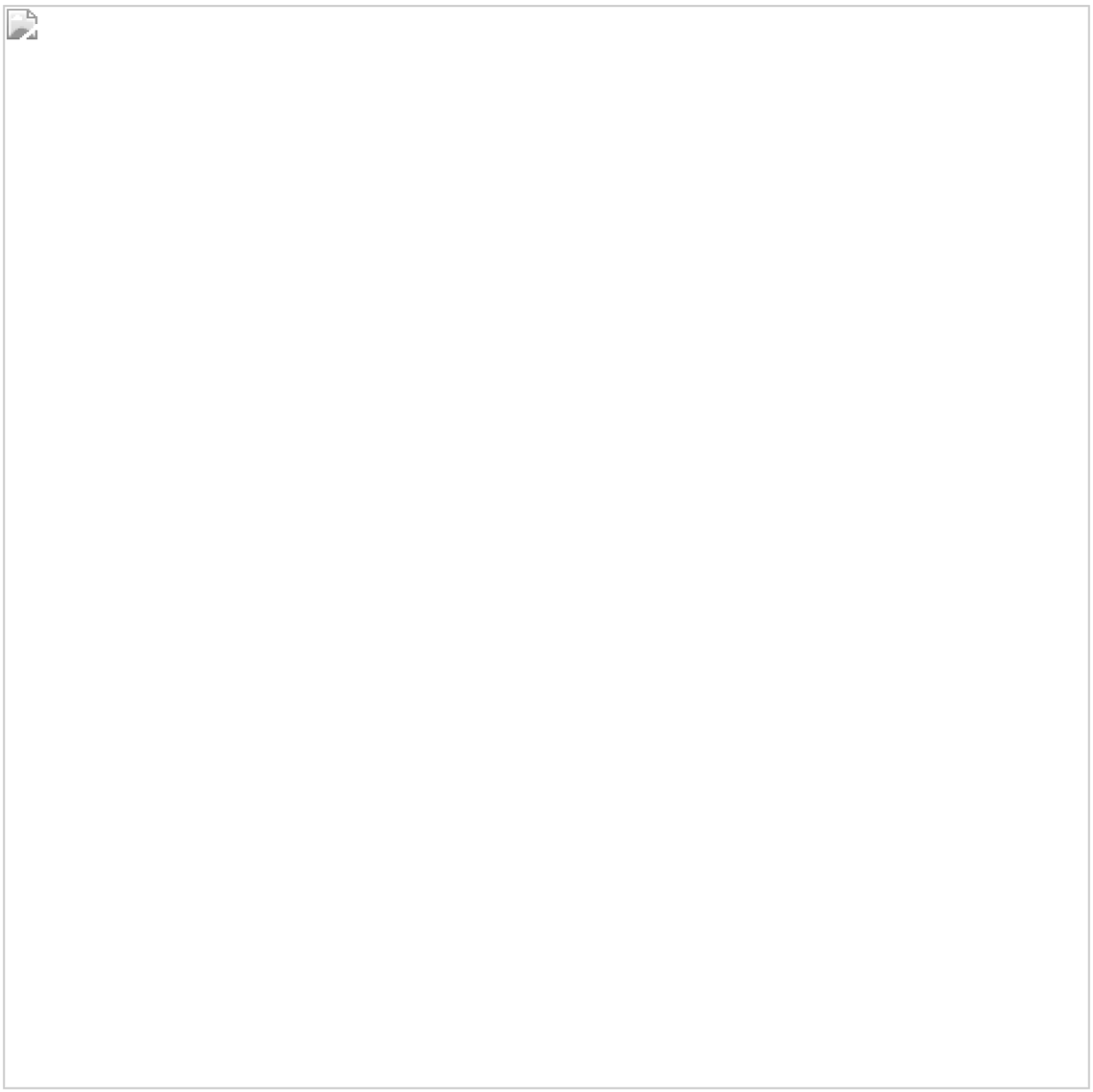
COLORING THE CLASSICS

As You Like It

A Play by Shakespeare



Long ago, a duke was sent away from his own land by his younger brother, who took his place. The old Duke went to live in the Forest of Arden with his friends.

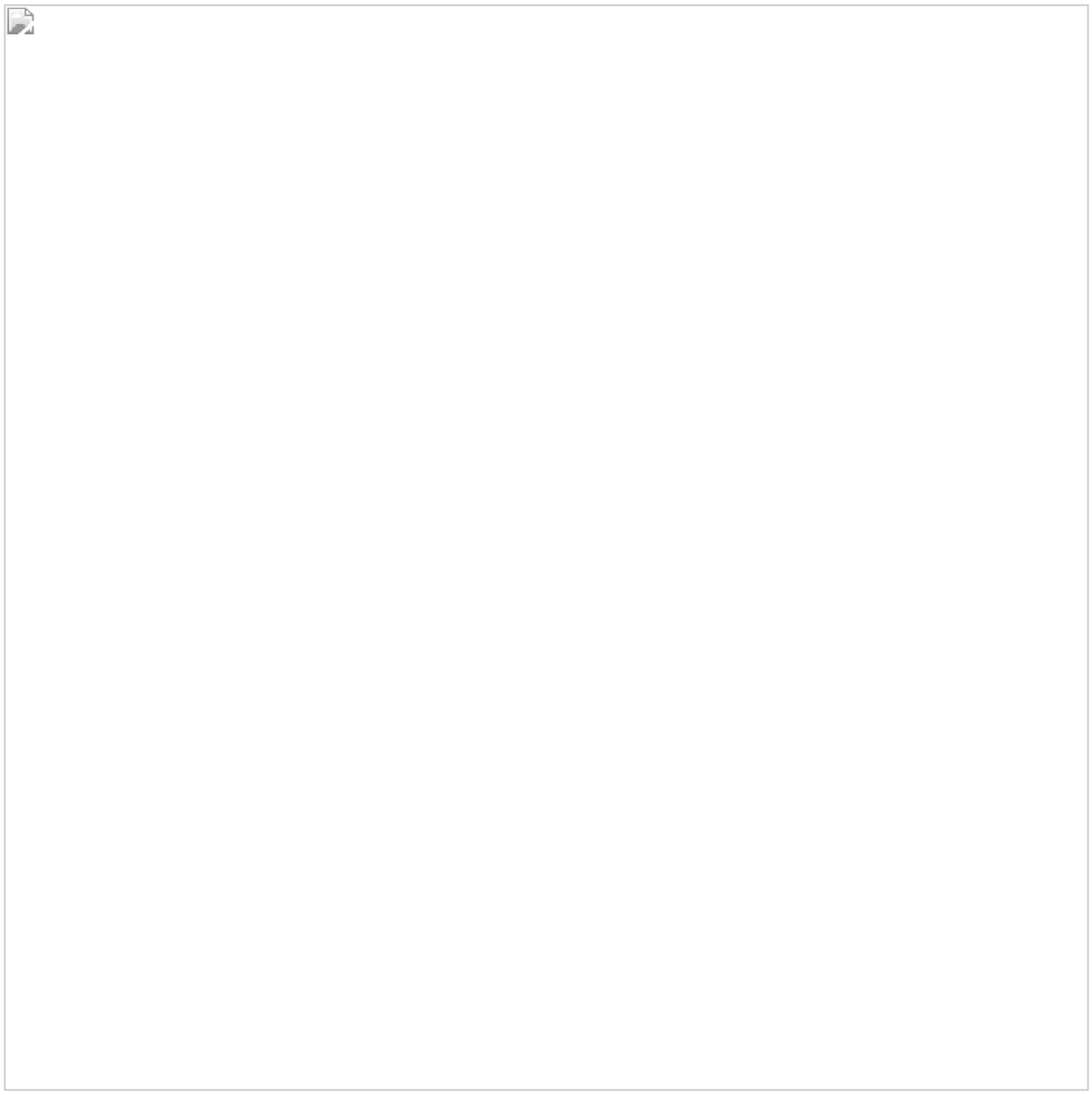
His daughter Rosalind stayed behind at the new Duke's court, with her cousin Celia. A wrestler said of the two girls, "never two ladies loved as they do."

TALK ABOUT IT

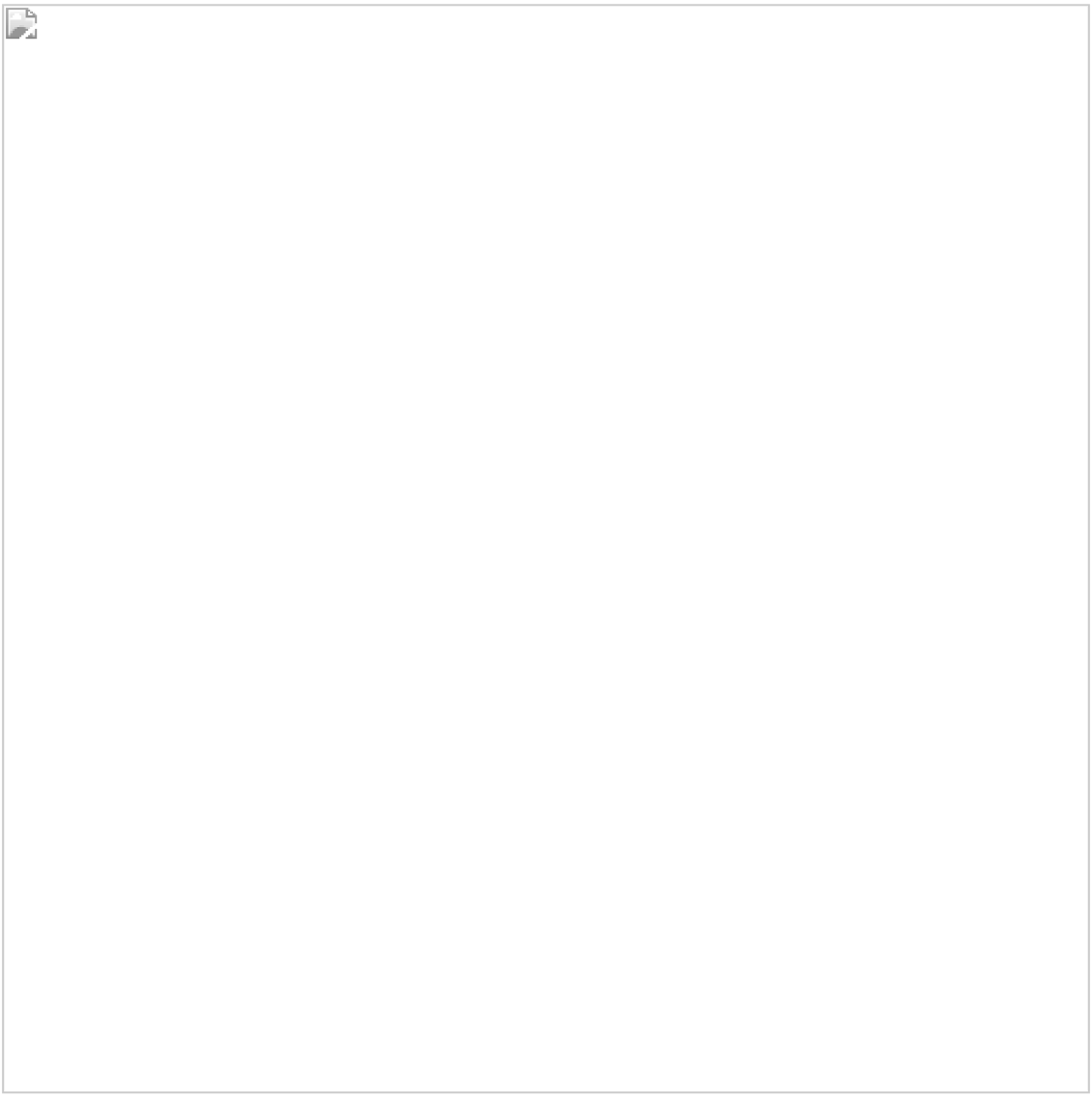
Rosalind and Celia are cousins who are very close. What do you like to do with someone you are close to?

This book belongs to _____

As You Like It · another picture



Two Brothers



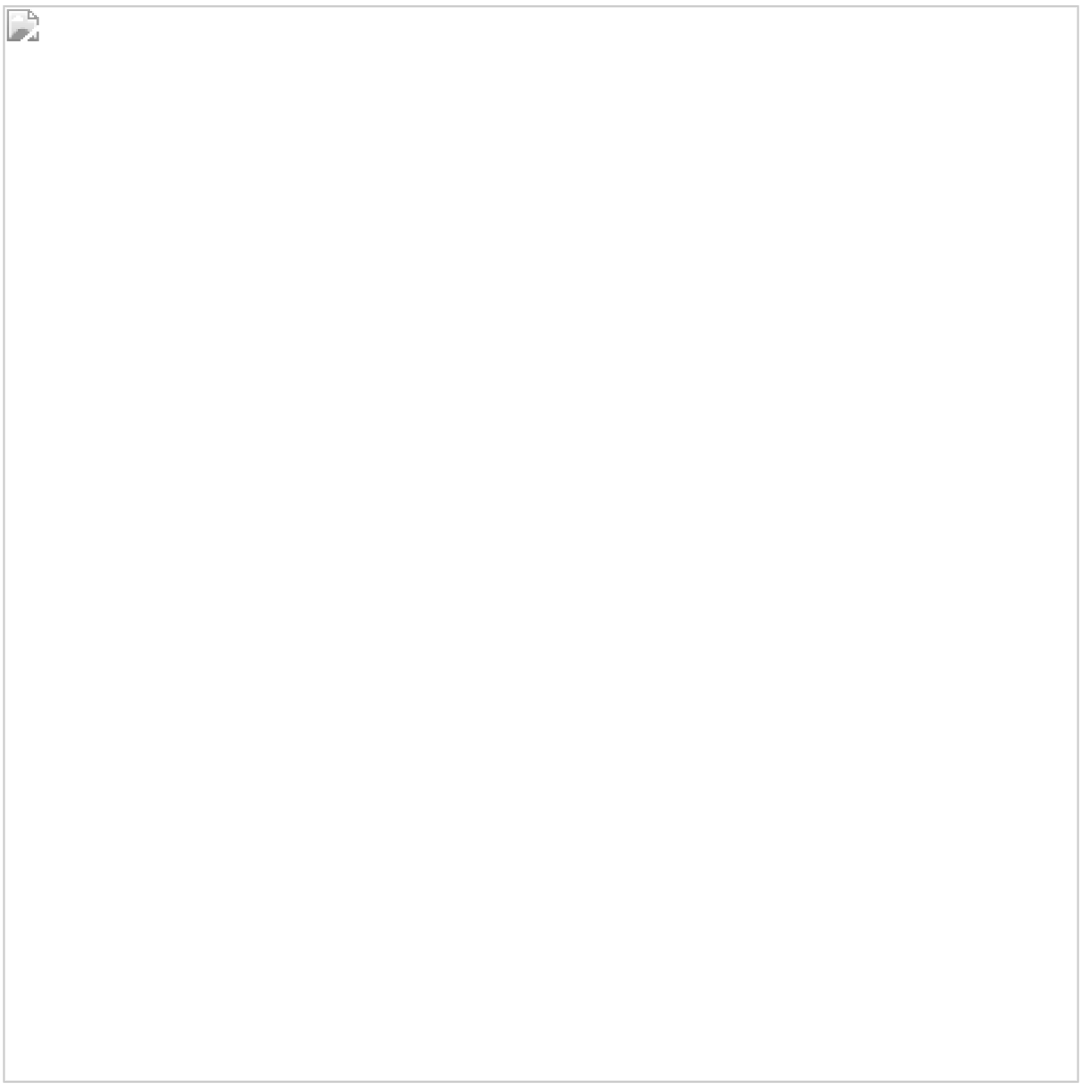
A young man named Orlando lived at his older brother Oliver's house. Before their father, Sir Rowland, died, he asked Oliver to take care of Orlando and give him a good education. But Oliver did not.

Orlando spoke up. "I am the youngest son of Sir Rowland de Boys," he said, and he asked to be treated like the gentleman he was. Oliver was angry, and old Adam, the family's servant, begged the two of them to be at peace.

Oliver wanted to get rid of Orlando. He heard that Orlando meant to wrestle Charles, the Duke's strong champion, and he hoped Charles would win, and win roughly.

TALK ABOUT IT

Orlando asked to be treated fairly. What is a kind way to ask for something that is fair?

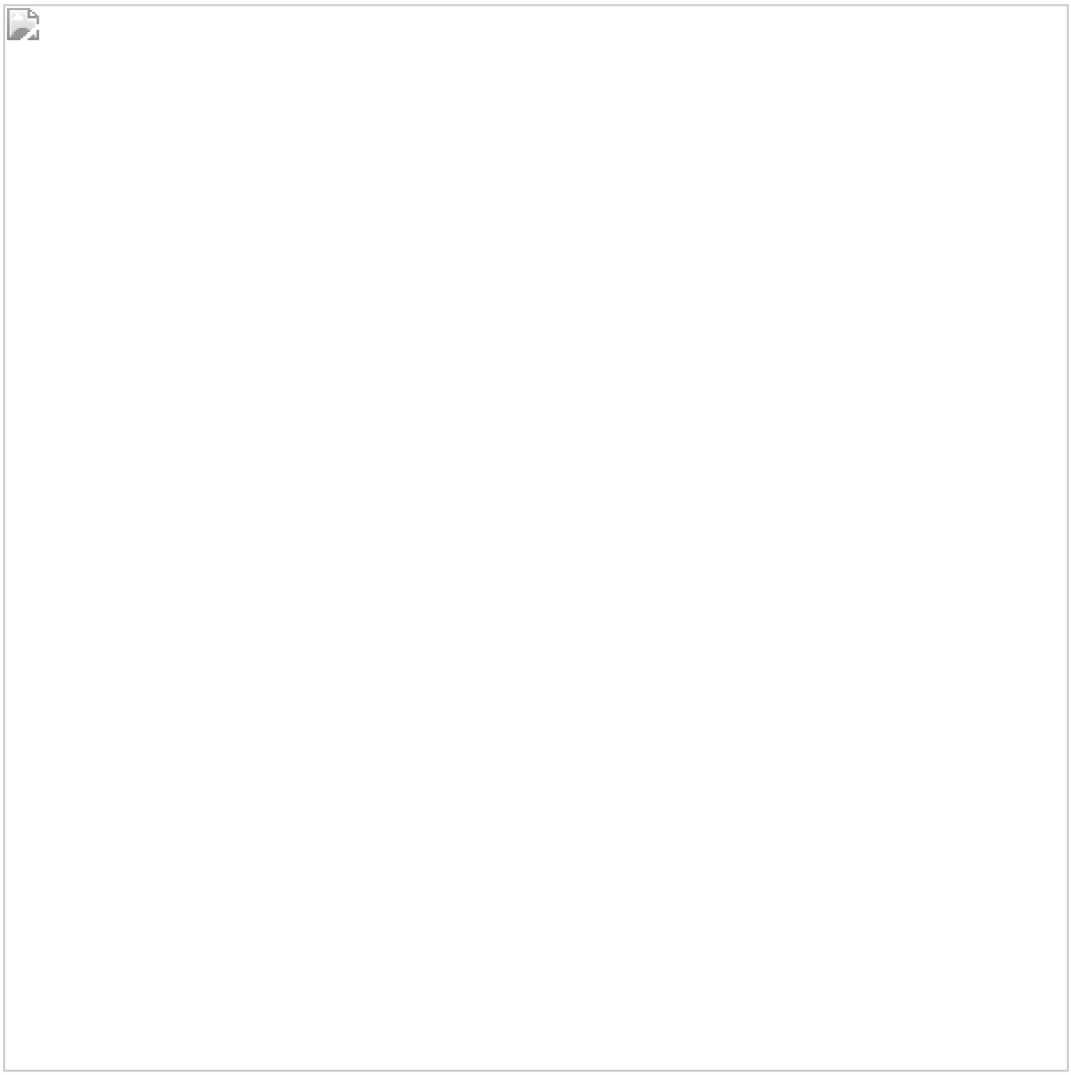


Think about it

1. Who did Orlando live with?

- ○ His older brother Oliver
- ○ The old Duke
- ○ A shepherd

The Wrestling



Rosalind and Celia came to watch the wrestling. They begged him not to try, but he would not change his mind. “The little strength that I have, I would it were with you,” said Rosalind.

Then Orlando wrestled Charles, and Orlando won! “O excellent young man!” cried Rosalind.

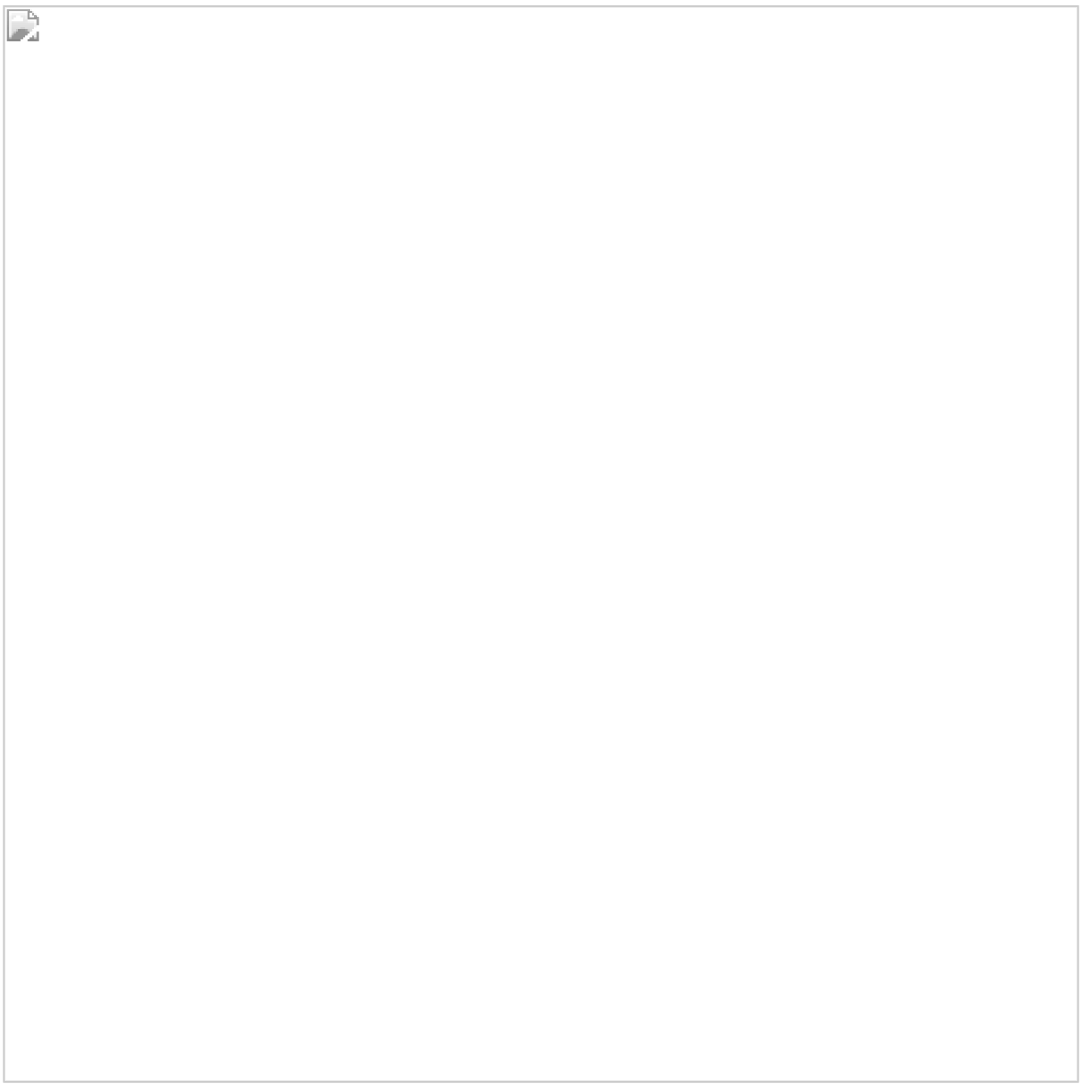
Duke Frederick asked who Orlando’s father was. It was Sir Rowland, the Duke’s old enemy. “I would thou hadst been son to some man else,” said the Duke, and he walked away without a kind word.

Rosalind gave Orlando the chain from her own neck. “Wear this for me.” Orlando could hardly speak. He had lost his heart to her.

TALK ABOUT IT

Rosalind and Celia tried to keep Orlando safe. What would you have said to him?

The Wrestling · another picture

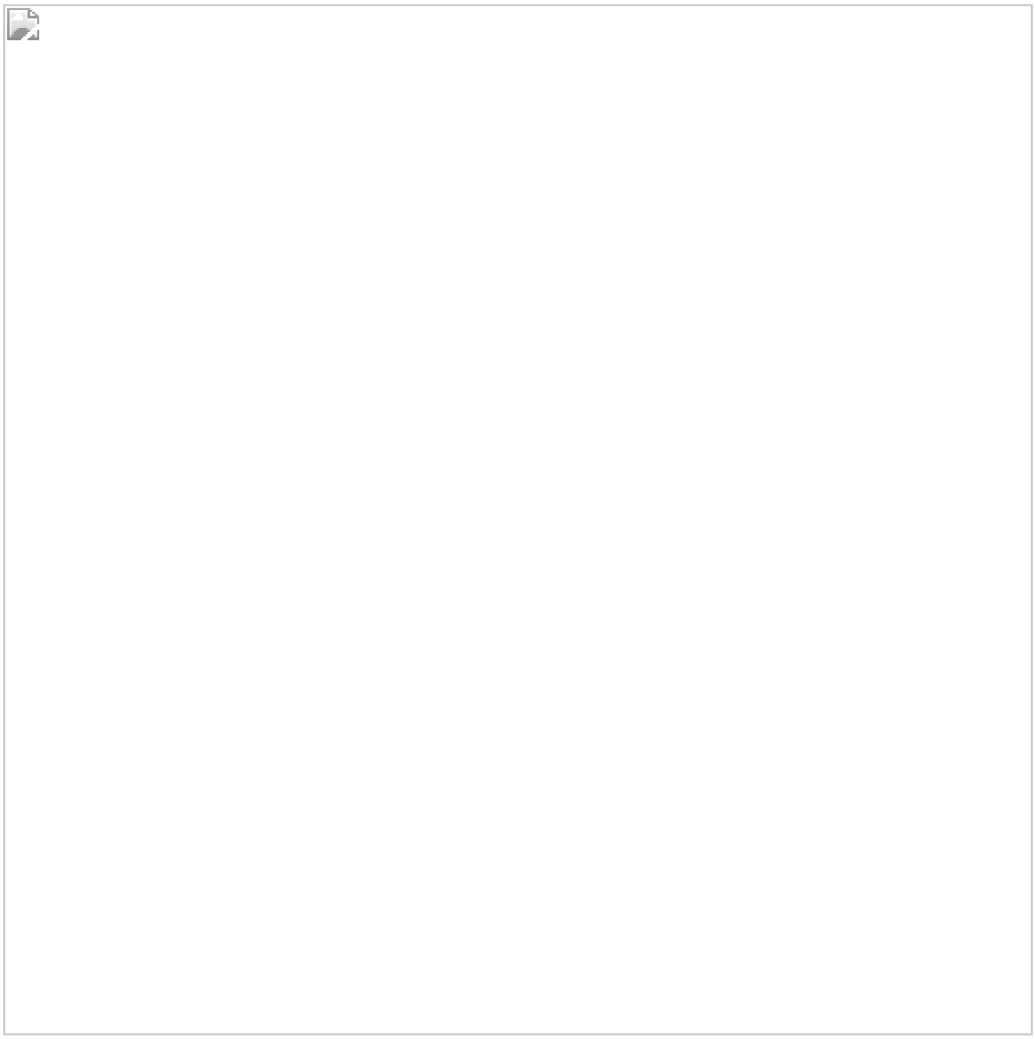


Think about it

1. What did Rosalind give Orlando?

- ○ A chain from her neck
- ○ A sword
- ○ A book

Sent Away



Now Duke Frederick turned on Rosalind: “Thou art thy father’s daughter, there’s enough.” He told her to leave his court at once.

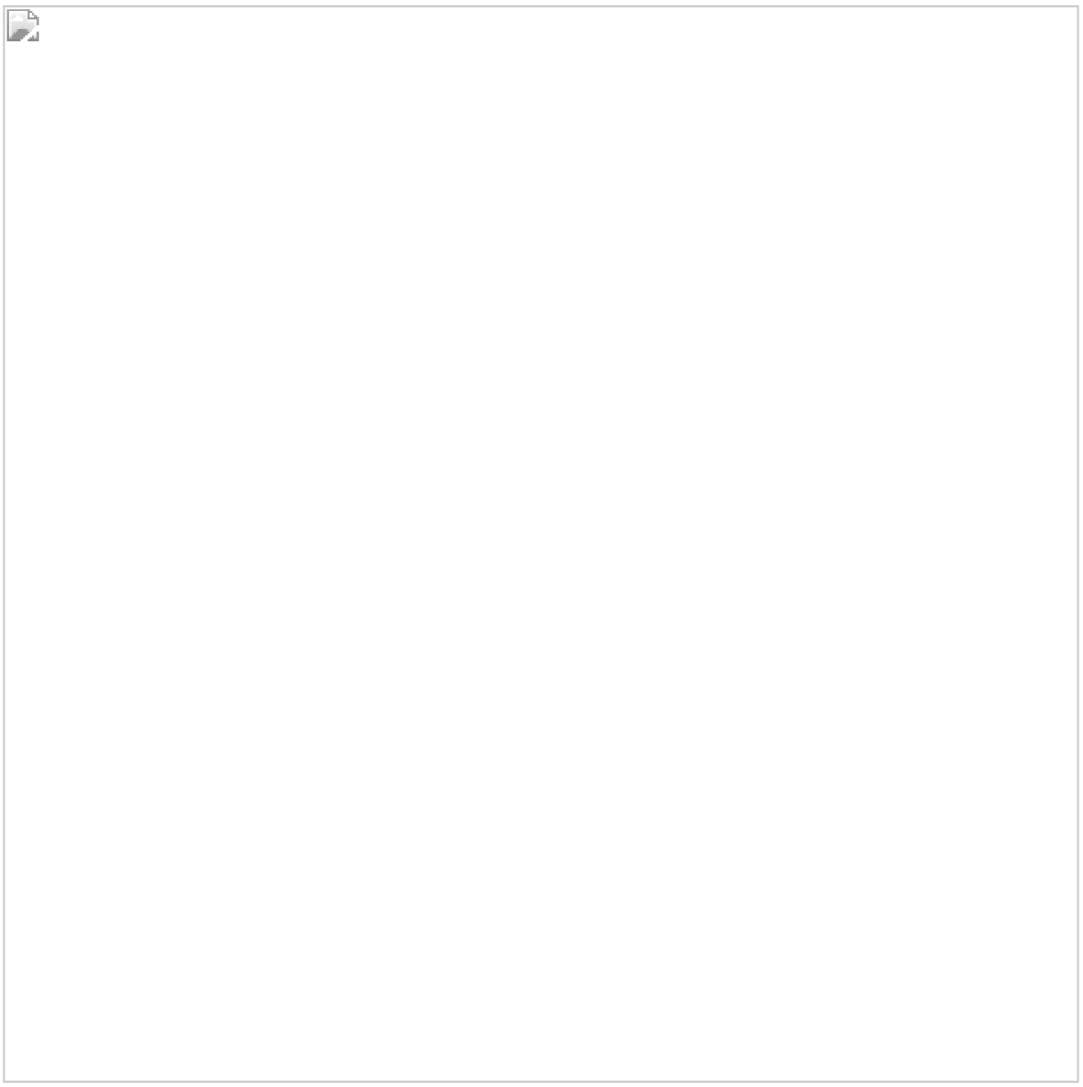
“Treason is not inherited, my lord,” Rosalind answered bravely. But the Duke would not listen.

Celia would not let her cousin go alone. “I cannot live out of her company,” she told her father. And to Rosalind: “Therefore devise with me how we may fly.”

They would find Rosalind’s father in the Forest of Arden. To be safe on the road, Rosalind dressed as a young man called Ganymede, and Celia called herself Aliena. Touchstone the jester came too. They were going “To liberty, and not to banishment.”

TALK ABOUT IT

Celia chose to leave her home so her cousin would not be alone. Have you ever stayed beside someone who needed a friend?

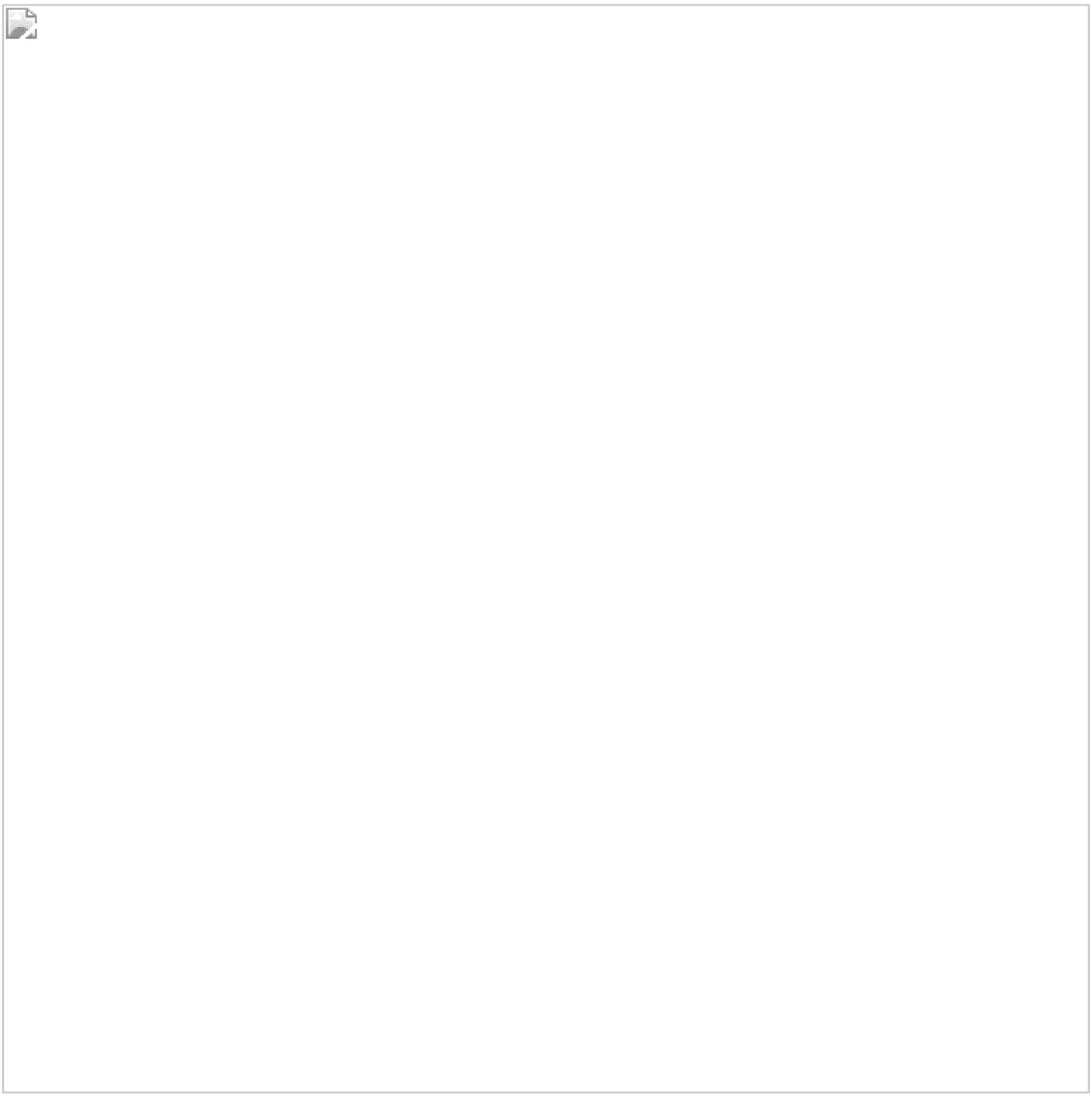


Think about it

1. Who went with Rosalind to the forest?

- ○ Celia and Touchstone
- ○ Orlando and Adam
- ○ Oliver

Adam's Gift



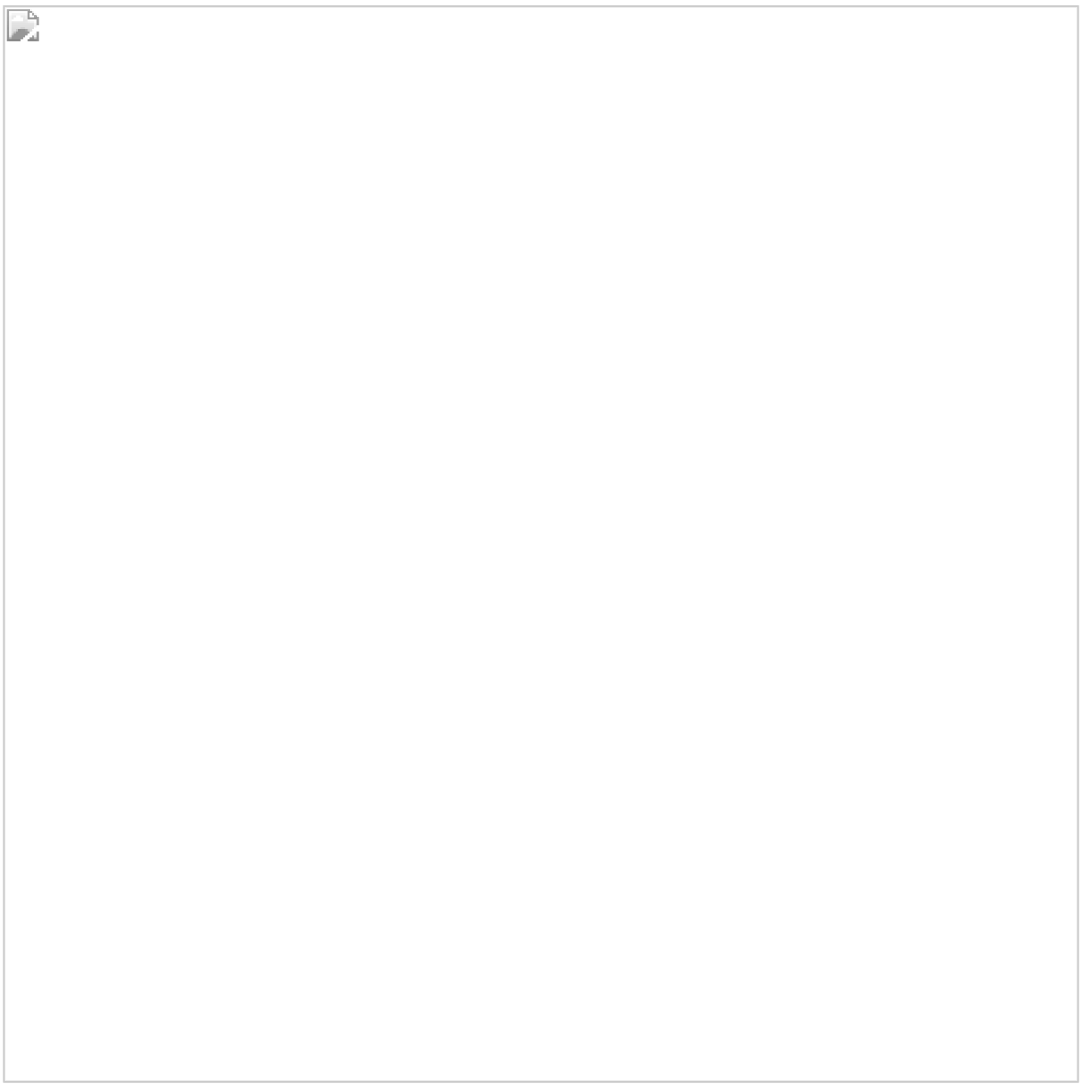
Orlando was not safe either. Old Adam ran to meet him. "Come not within these doors!" he cried. He had overheard Oliver planning to set fire to the lodging where Orlando slept.

Orlando had no money and nowhere to go. But Adam had saved five hundred crowns, all his savings, all his life. He gave every coin to Orlando. "Let me be your servant," said Adam. Though he was old, he said he was strong, and he promised to work as hard as a younger man.

"O good old man," said Orlando. And the two of them set out together for the Forest of Arden.

TALK ABOUT IT

Adam gave away everything he had saved. Why do you think he did that?

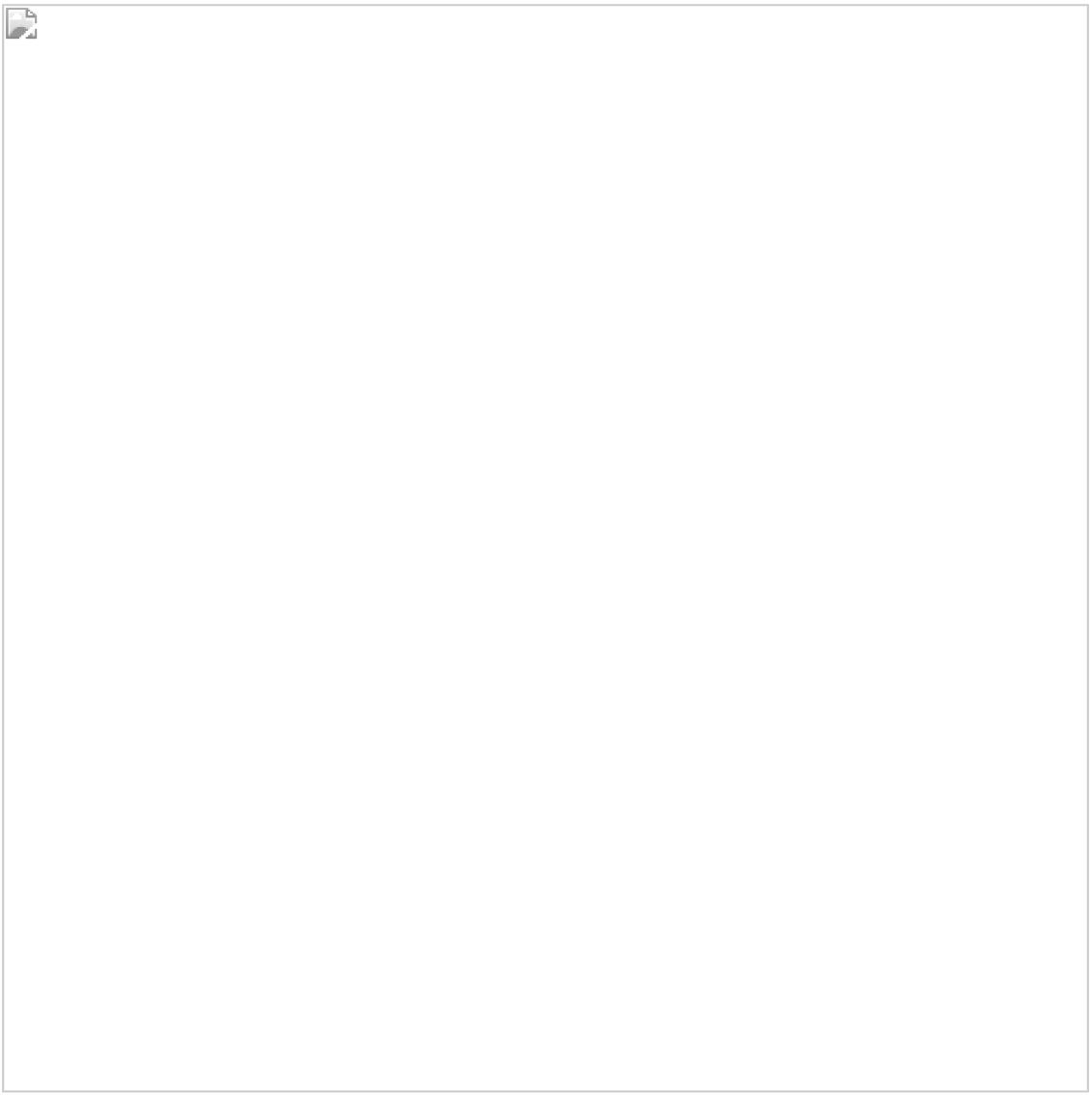


Think about it

1. What did Adam give Orlando?

- ○ His savings
- ○ His horse
- ○ His sword

The Forest of Arden



In the forest, the old Duke, Duke Senior, lived with his friends under the trees. He found good even in hard days. His forest life, he said, “Finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks, Sermons in stones, and good in everything.”

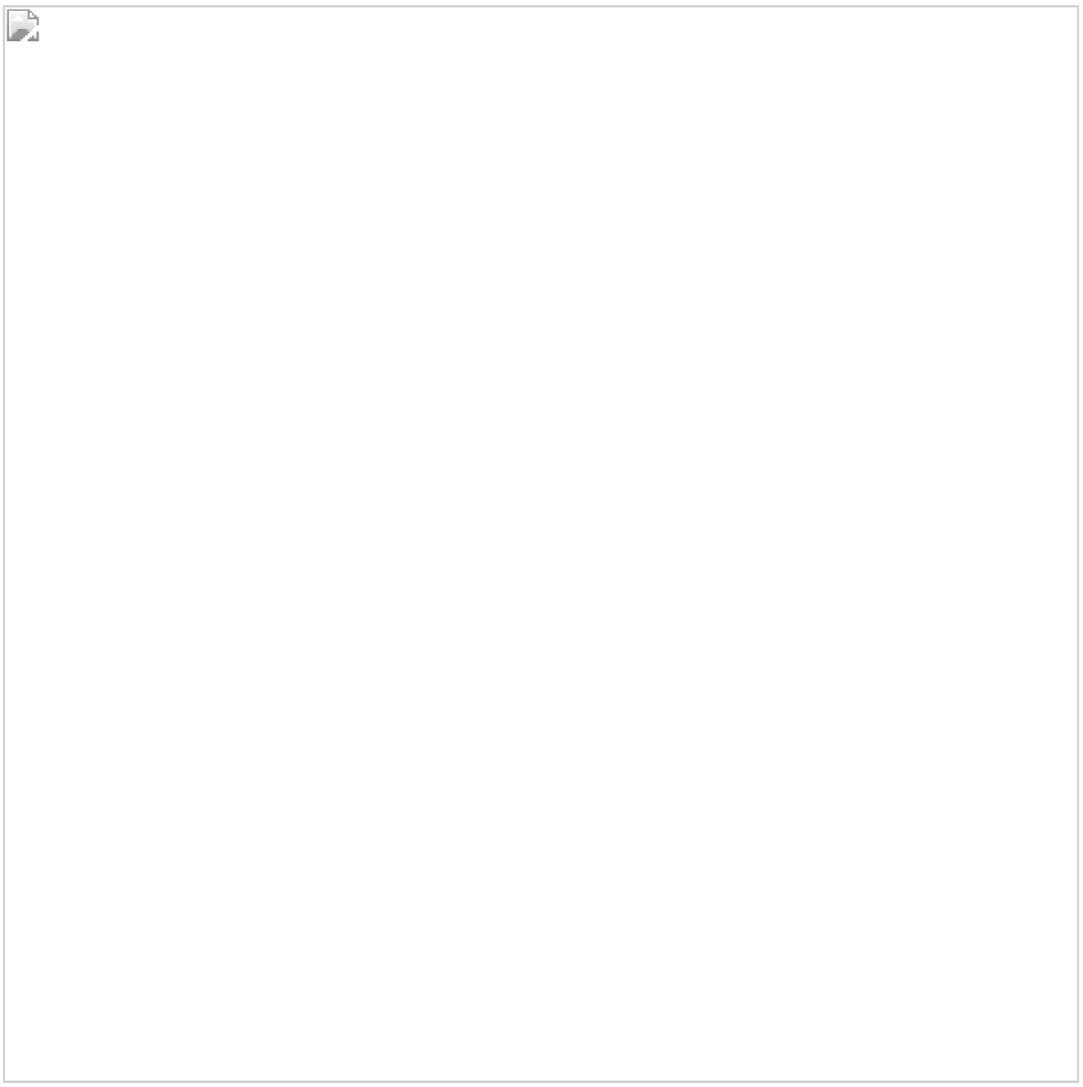
Rosalind, Celia and Touchstone arrived very tired. “O Jupiter, how weary are my spirits!” said Rosalind. Touchstone grumbled, “Ay, now am I in Arden, the more fool I!”

They met a kind shepherd named Corin. “Fair sir, I pity her,” he said, when he saw how tired Celia was. He helped them buy a little cottage and a flock of sheep, and they stayed.

TALK ABOUT IT

The Duke found good things even in the woods. What good things can you find outside?

The Forest of Arden · another picture

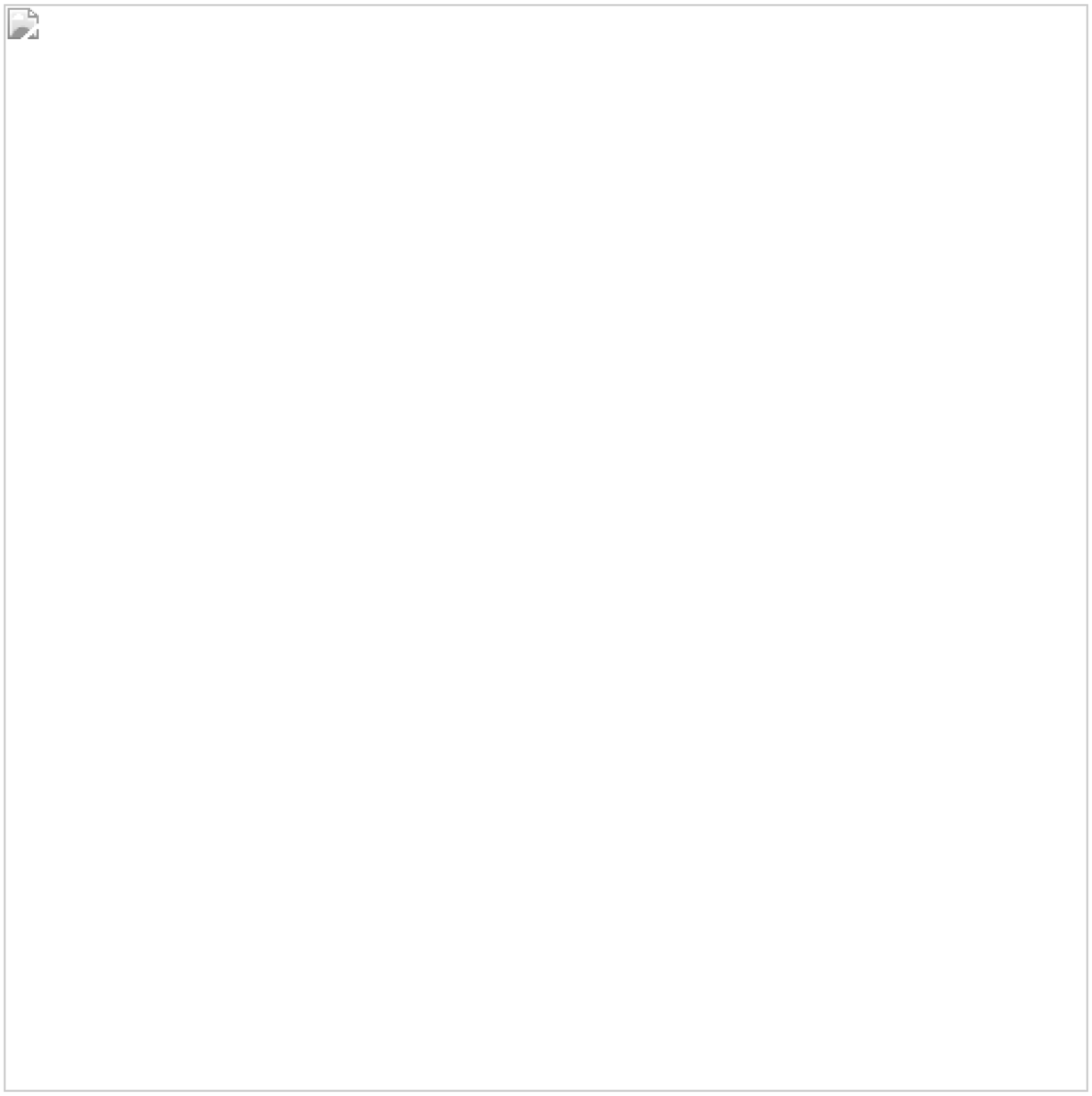


Think about it

1. Who helped Rosalind and Celia find a home?

- ○ Corin the shepherd
- ○ Charles the wrestler
- ○ Adam

The Forest Feast



Orlando and Adam were starving. Orlando burst in on the Duke's supper with his sword drawn. "Forbear, and eat no more."

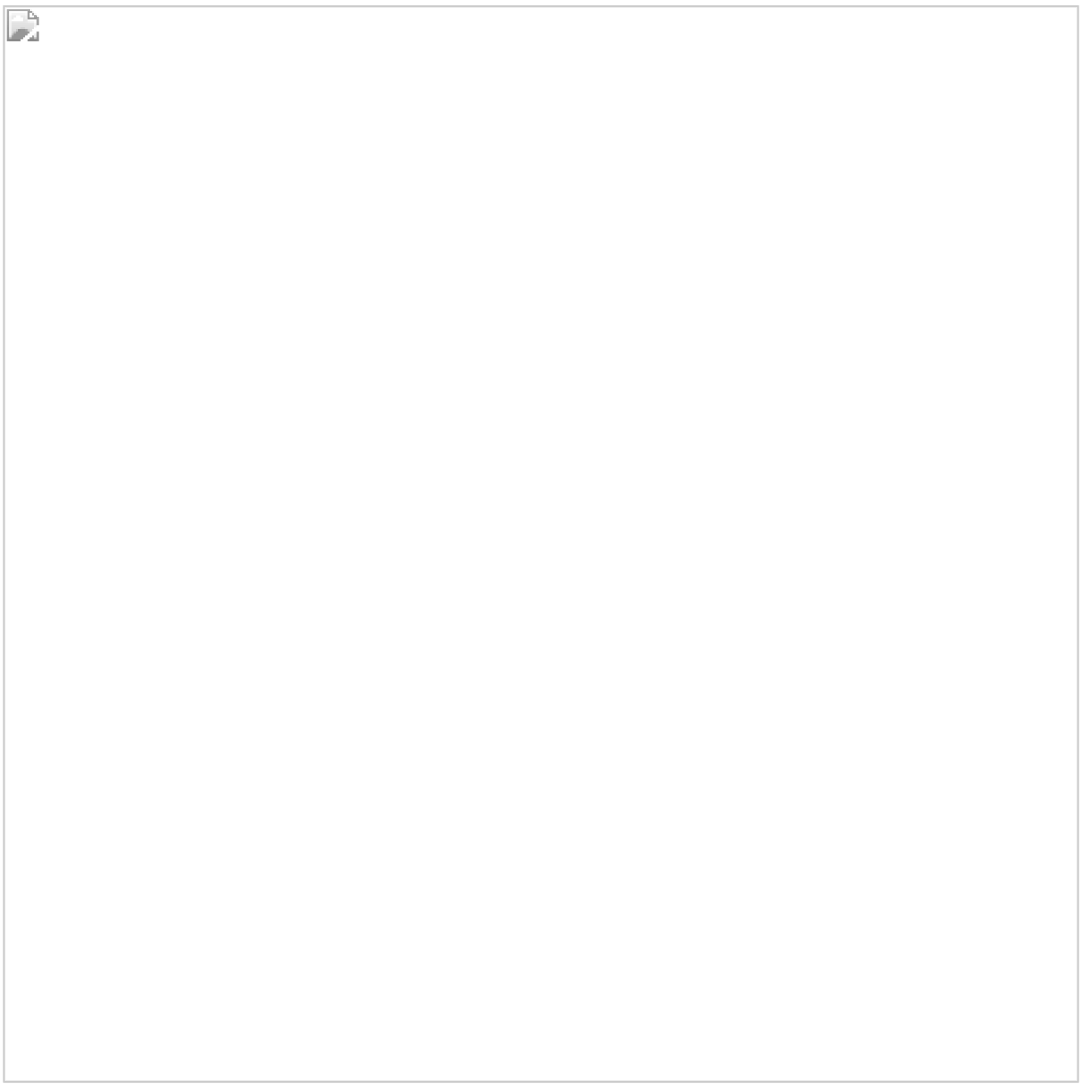
But the Duke was gentle. "Sit down and feed, and welcome to our table." Ashamed, Orlando put his sword away. "I will not touch a bit," he said, until old Adam was fed.

While he fetched Adam, the sad lord Jaques said, "All the world's a stage, And all the men and women merely players; And one man in his time plays many parts."

Orlando came back carrying Adam. When the Duke learned who his father was, he said, "I am the Duke That loved your father."

TALK ABOUT IT

Orlando came in with a sword, but the Duke answered gently. What can a gentle answer do?



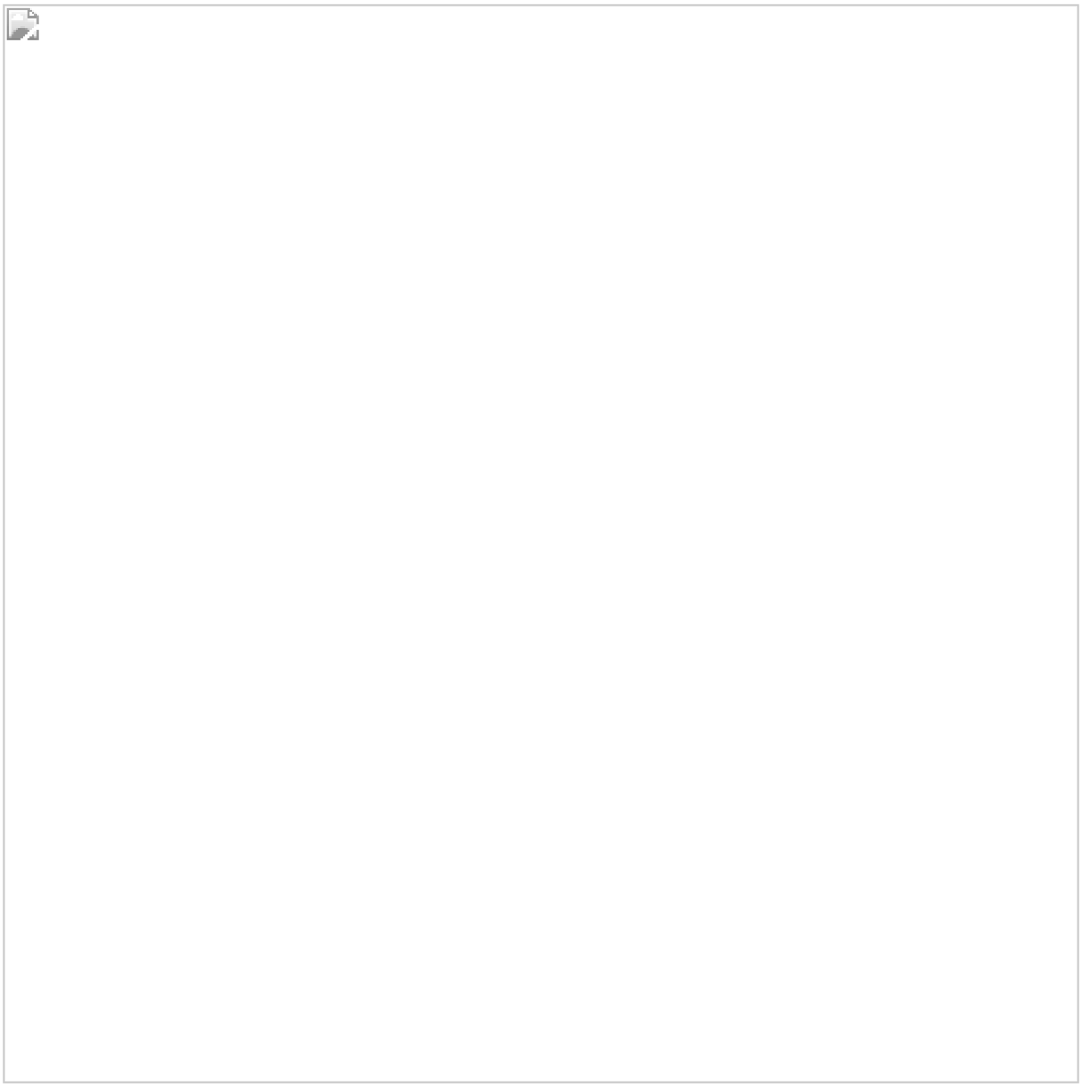
Think about it

1. Why did Orlando not eat right away?

- ○ He wanted to feed Adam first
- ○ He was not hungry
- ○ He was afraid

2. Jaques said everyone "plays many parts." Which parts do you play, at home or with friends?

Poems on the Trees



Orlando hung poems about Rosalind on the trees. “Hang there, my verse, in witness of my love.”

Celia told Rosalind who wrote them: the young man who “tripped up the wrestler’s heels and your heart both in an instant.”

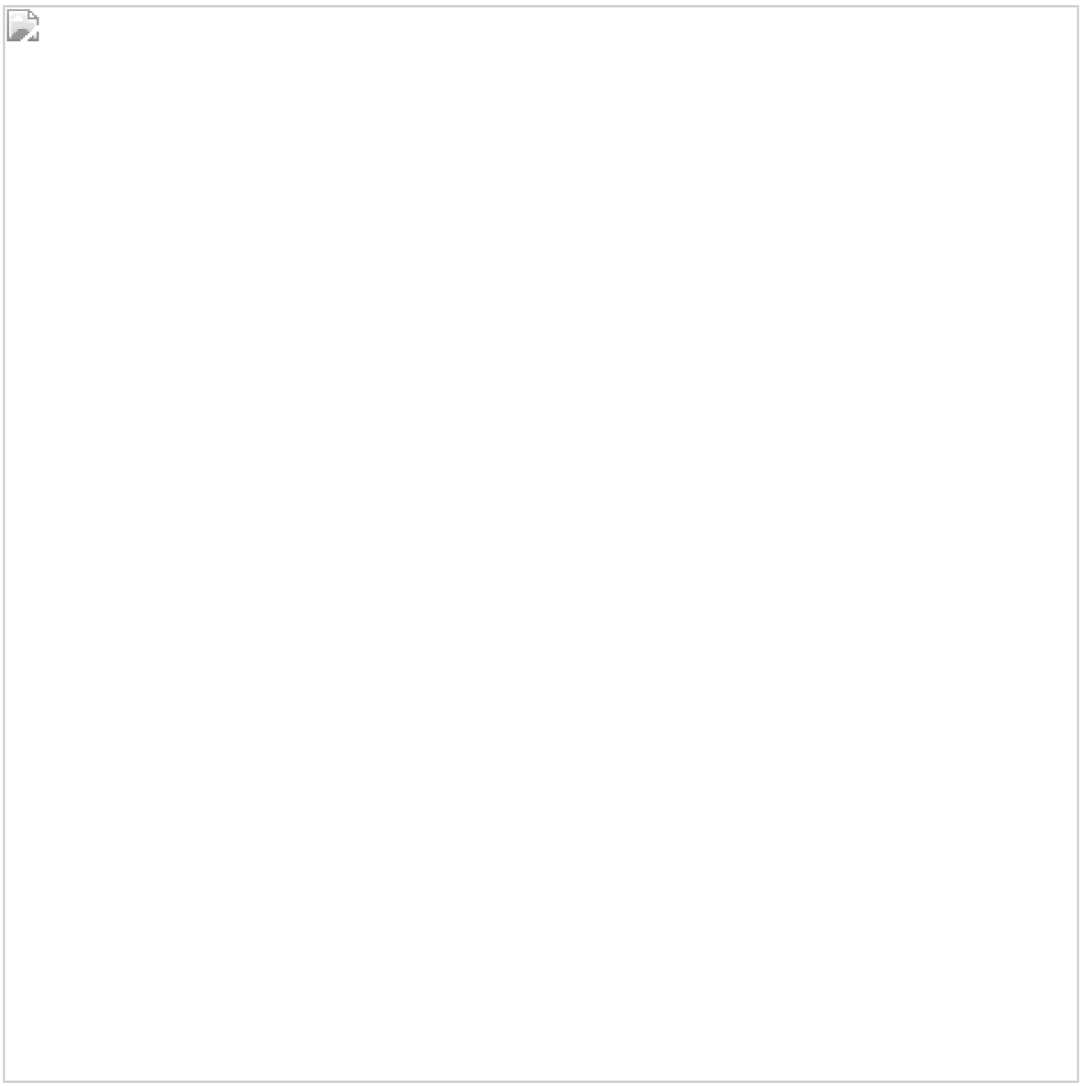
Still dressed as Ganymede, Rosalind met Orlando, who did not know her. If he would call her Rosalind and visit every day, she said, she would cure him of love. “I would not be cured, youth,” said Orlando, but he came.

Then they played at a wedding, with Celia as the priest. “I take thee, Rosalind, for wife,” said Orlando. For him it was a game; for Rosalind, it was more.

TALK ABOUT IT

Rosalind kept her secret and played a game with Orlando. What do you think might happen when he learns the truth?

Poems on the Trees · another picture

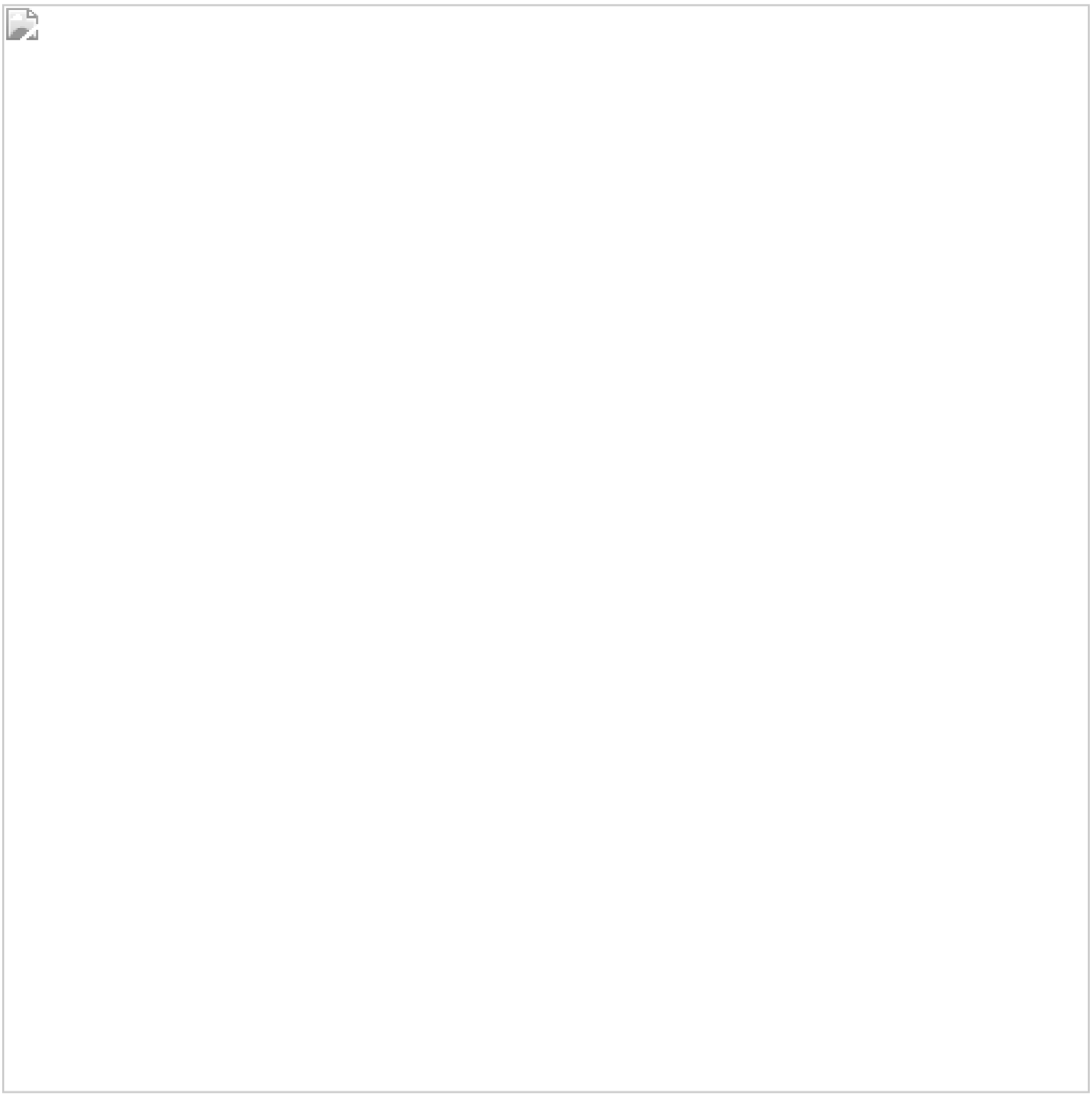


Think about it

1. Where did Orlando hang his poems?

- ○ On the trees
- ○ At the palace
- ○ In the cottage

More Hearts in the Forest



A young shepherd named Silvius loved a shepherdess named Phoebe, but she would not love him back. Rosalind, still Ganymede, told Phoebe not to be so proud: “Cry the man mercy, love him, take his offer.”

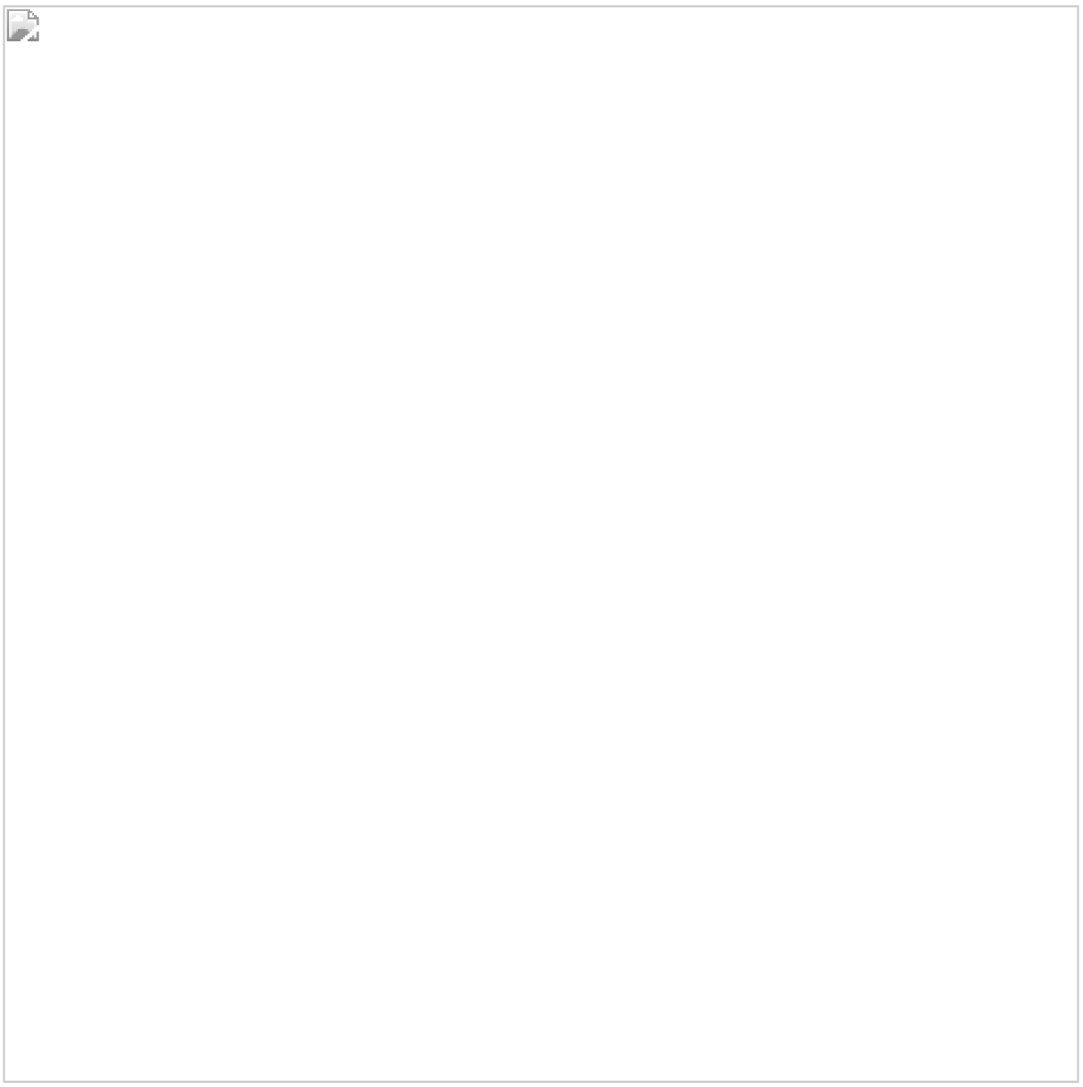
But that went wrong! Phoebe fell in love with Ganymede instead. “Who ever loved that loved not at first sight?” She wrote Ganymede a letter, and poor Silvius had to carry it.

Touchstone the jester wanted to marry a country girl named Audrey. A young man named William loved her too, but Touchstone talked at him in such long, strange words that William ran away.

TALK ABOUT IT

Silvius carried a letter that was meant for someone else. What is hard about carrying a message like that?

More Hearts in the Forest · another picture

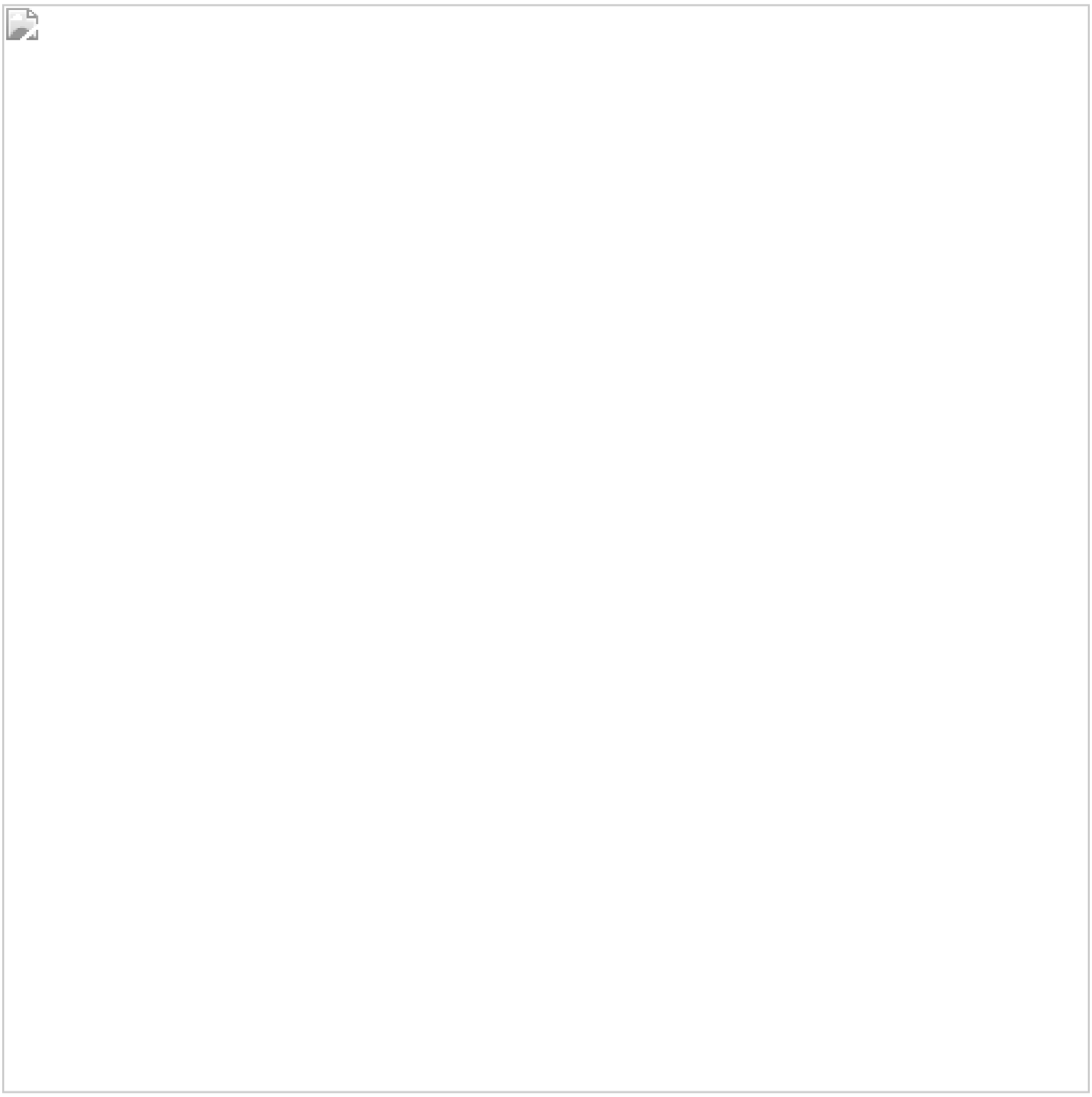


Think about it

1. Who did Phoebe fall in love with?

- ○ Ganymede, who was really Rosalind
- ○ Silvius
- ○ Orlando

The Lioness



Duke Frederick had turned on Oliver, taken his lands, and sent him to find Orlando. Oliver, ragged and tired, wandered into the forest and fell asleep under an oak. A snake was coiled near him, and a hungry lioness crouched in a bush close by.

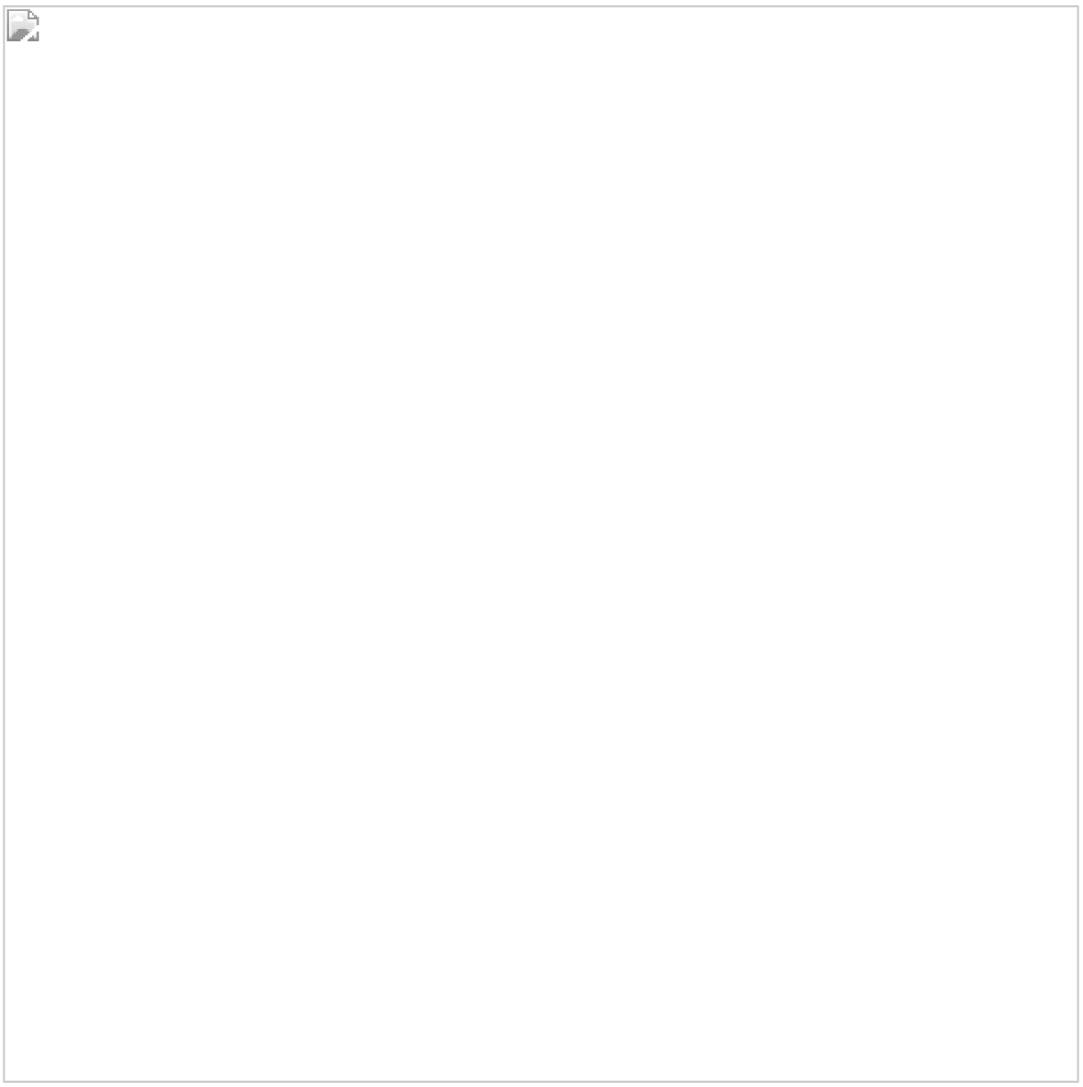
Orlando found him there. It was his own brother, who had been so unkind to him! For a moment he thought of walking away. But then "kindness, nobler ever than revenge," won. Orlando fought the lioness, and the lioness fell.

The lioness had hurt Orlando's arm badly, and it bled. He had saved his brother's life.

TALK ABOUT IT

Orlando could have walked away, but he helped. What do you think he was thinking when he chose?

The Lioness · another picture

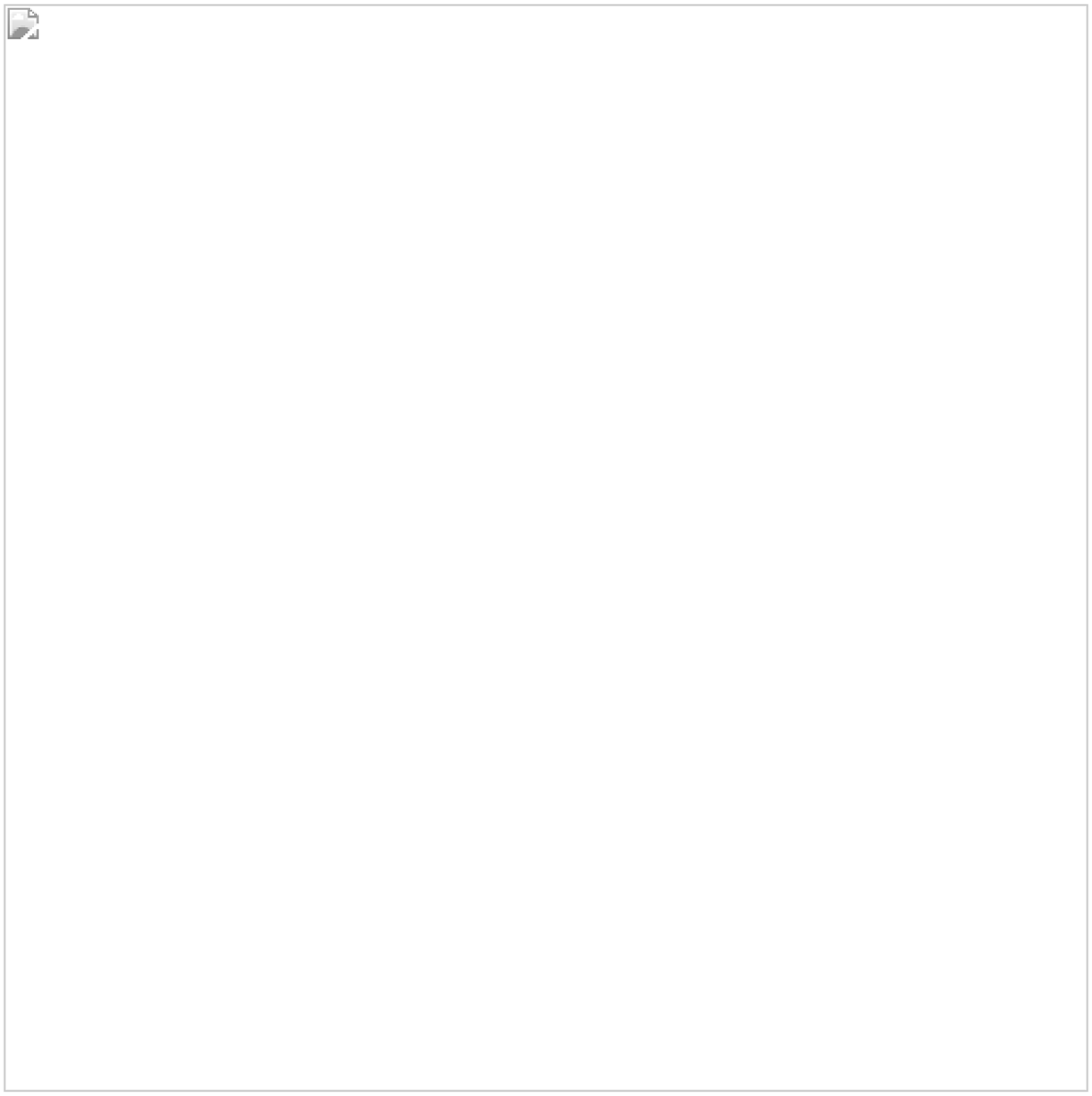


Think about it

1. Who did Orlando save?

- ○ His brother Oliver
- ○ The Duke
- ○ Adam

A Changed Heart



When Oliver woke, he was a different man. "'Twas I; but 'tis not I," he said. He was sorry for how he had treated his brother.

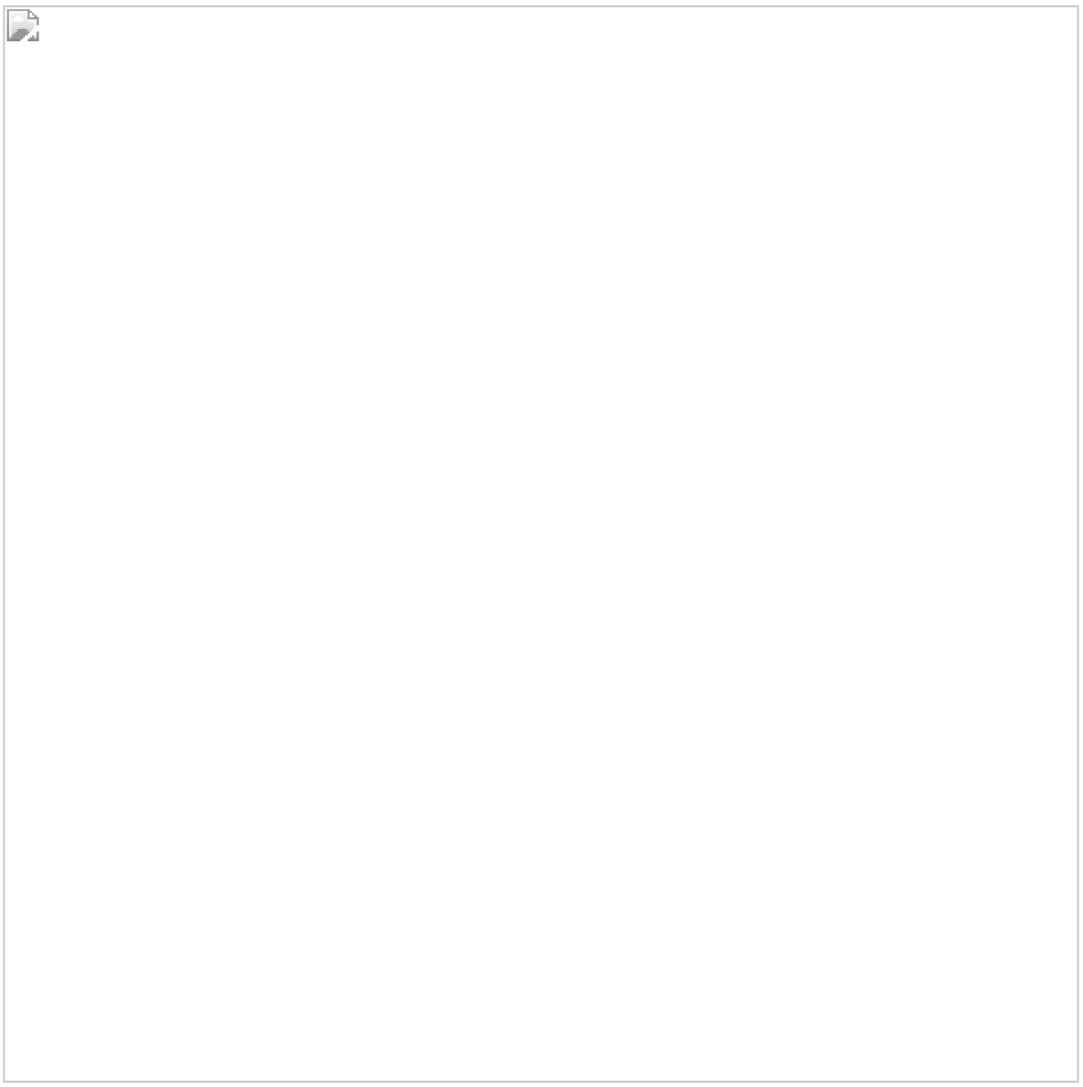
Orlando's arm was bleeding, and he fainted. Oliver bound up the wound and came to tell Rosalind and Celia. When Rosalind saw the bloody cloth, she fainted too!

Oliver and Celia fell in love right away. "I love Aliena," he said. He gave Orlando their father's house and lands, and said he would stay and be a shepherd.

Rosalind said she knew a magician who could help. "Tomorrow meet me all together," she told them, and she promised that everyone would be married.

TALK ABOUT IT
Oliver changed after Orlando saved him. What helps a person change?

A Changed Heart · another picture

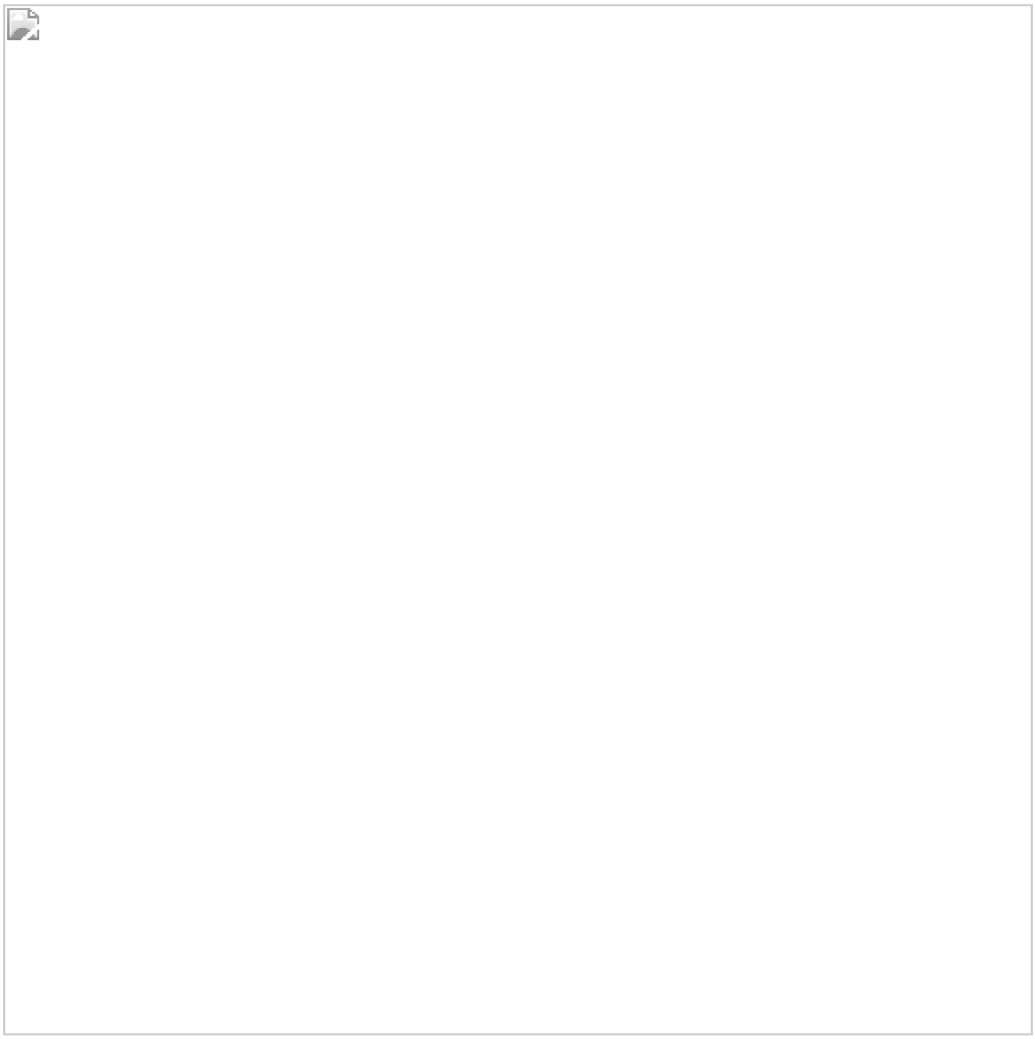


Think about it

1. What did Oliver give back to Orlando?

- ○ Their father's house and lands
- ○ The chain
- ○ His sword

Four Weddings



The next day, everyone met before Duke Senior.

Then Hymen, the god of marriage, came in, leading Rosalind in woman's clothes. Everyone could see who she was at last.

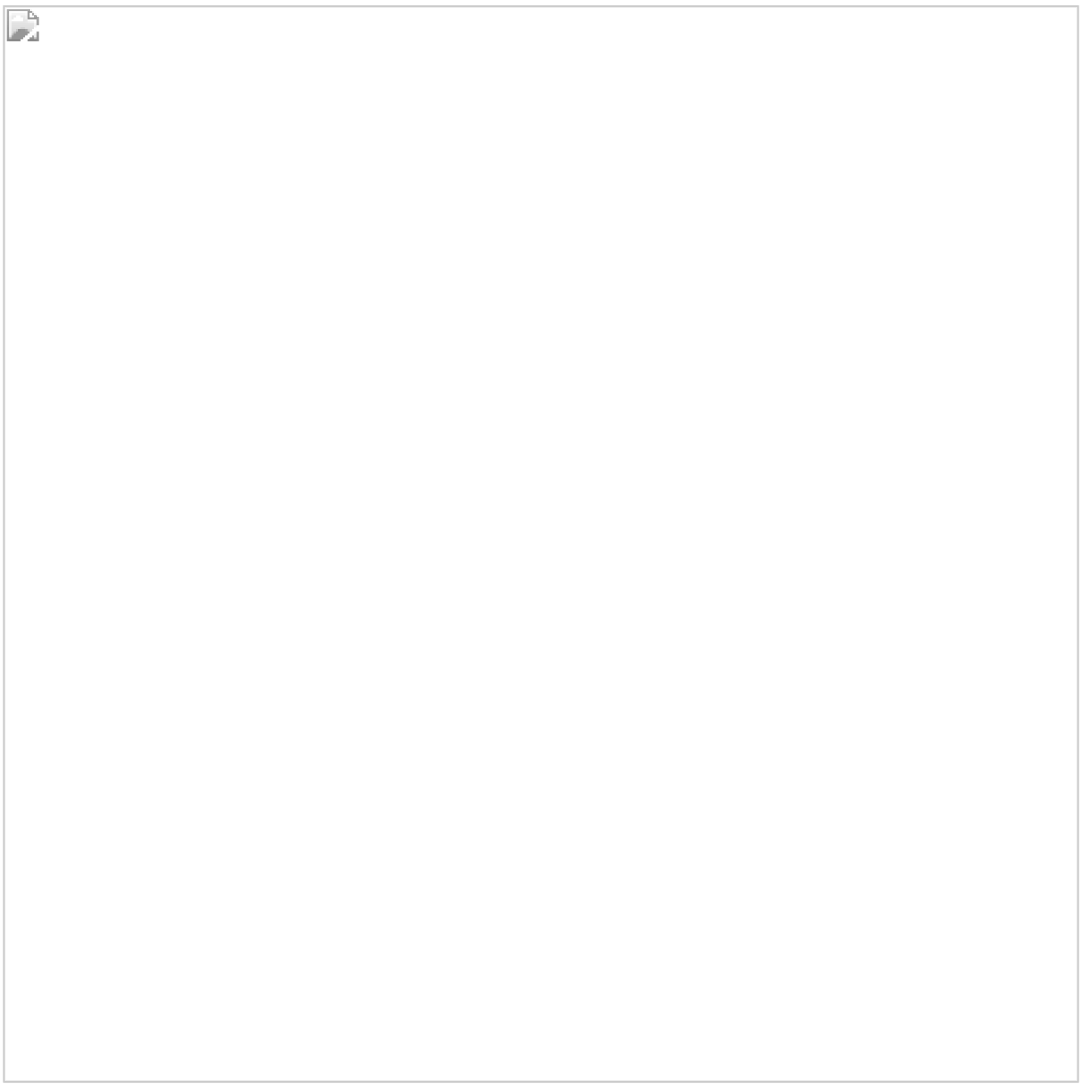
"If there be truth in sight, you are my daughter," said the Duke. "If there be truth in sight, you are my Rosalind," said Orlando. Rosalind said to each of them, "To you I give myself, for I am yours." Phoebe saw that Ganymede was Rosalind, and she took faithful Silvius.

Hymen blessed them: "You and you no cross shall part." Four couples were married: Rosalind and Orlando, Celia and Oliver, Phoebe and Silvius, and Touchstone and Audrey.

TALK ABOUT IT

Rosalind told her secret at last. Why is it good to tell the truth, even when the secret has been fun?

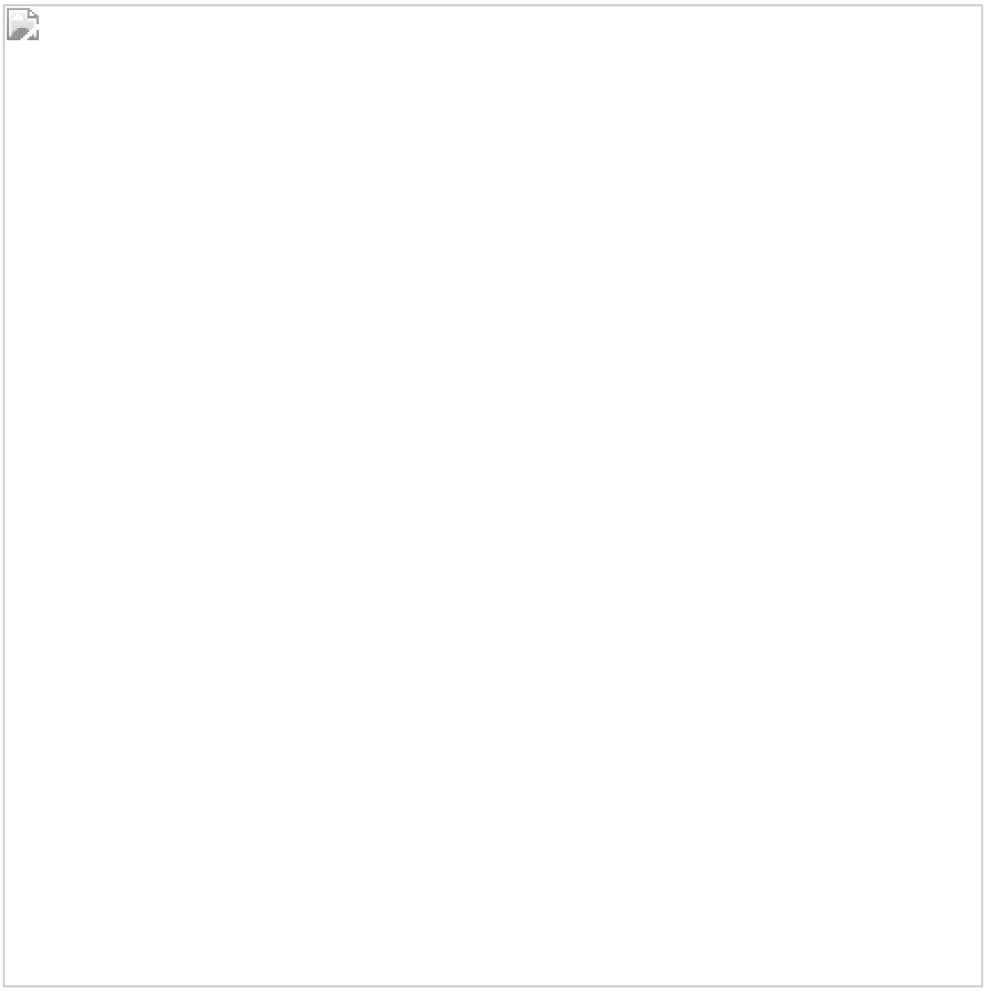
Four Weddings · another picture



Think about it

1. How many couples were married?
    - ○ Two
    - ○ Four
    - ○ Six

Good News and Goodbye



Jaques de Boys, the middle brother of Oliver and Orlando, came with great news. Duke Frederick had marched on the forest with an army. But on the way he met "an old religious man," and his heart was changed. He gave the crown back to "his banished brother."

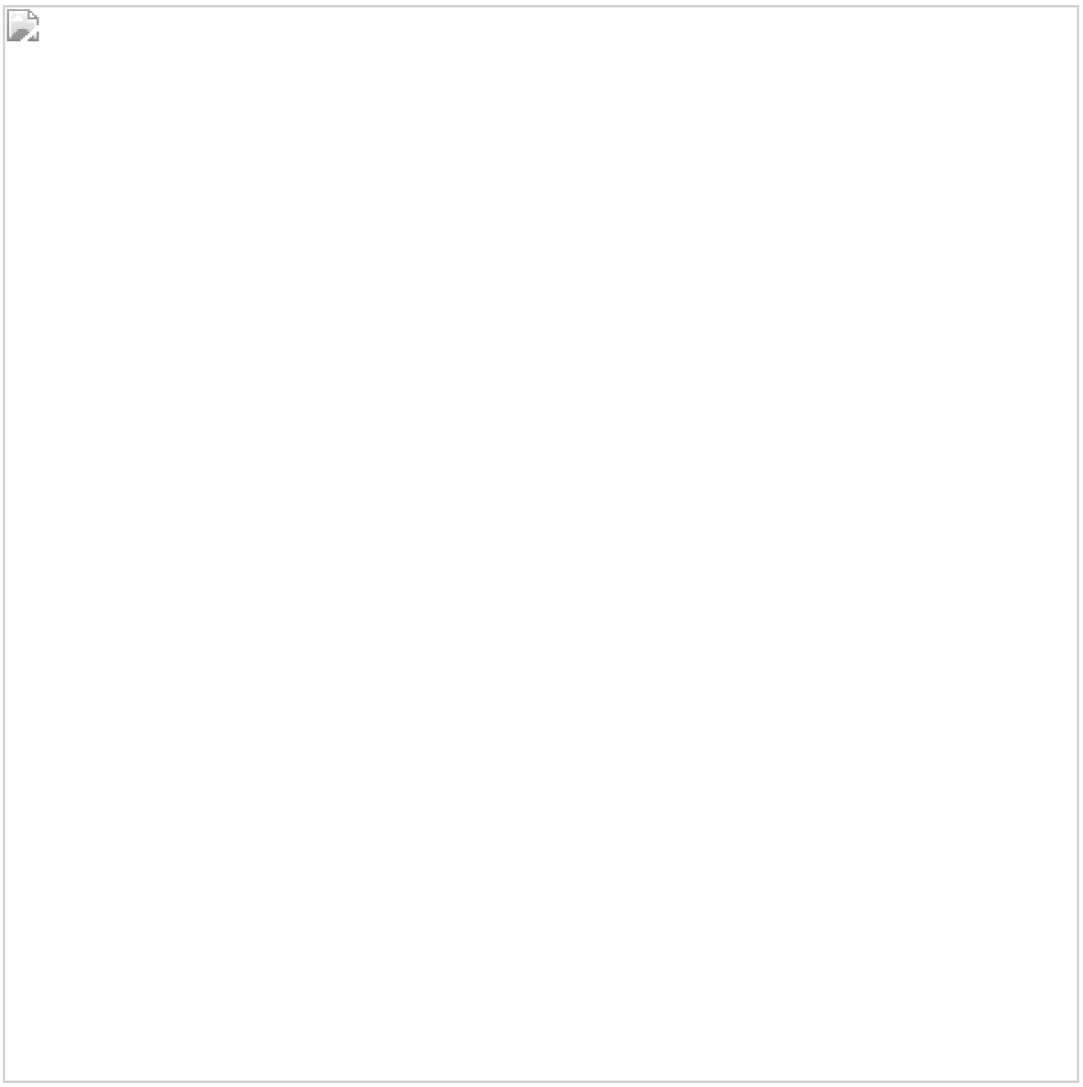
Duke Senior had his dukedom back. "Play, music!" he said, and everyone danced.

Only the sad Jaques did not stay. "I am for other than for dancing measures," he said.

Then Rosalind came forward alone. "A good play needs no epilogue," she said, and asked everyone watching "to like as much of this play as please you." And the play was over.

TALK ABOUT IT

The Duke who took the dukedom gave it back. What can help a person who has done wrong to put it right?



Think about it

1. What did Duke Frederick do after meeting the old religious man?

- ○ He gave the dukedom back
- ○ He chased his brother away
- ○ He went to the wedding

2. Rosalind ends the play by asking us to like it. What part would you tell a friend about?

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

— Yeshua HaMashiach

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