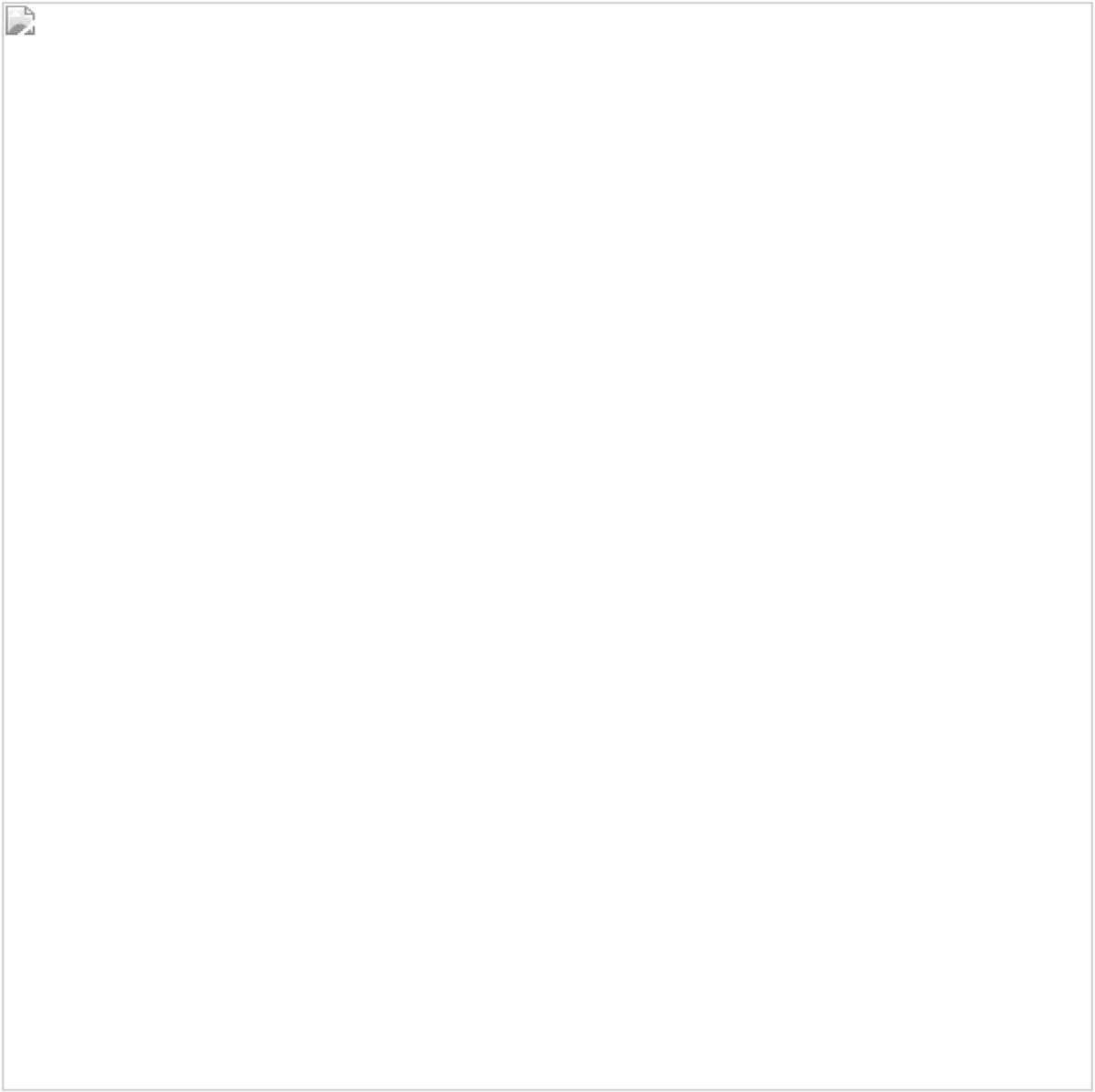
COLORING THE CLASSICS

Cadmus

A Myth of Greece and Rome



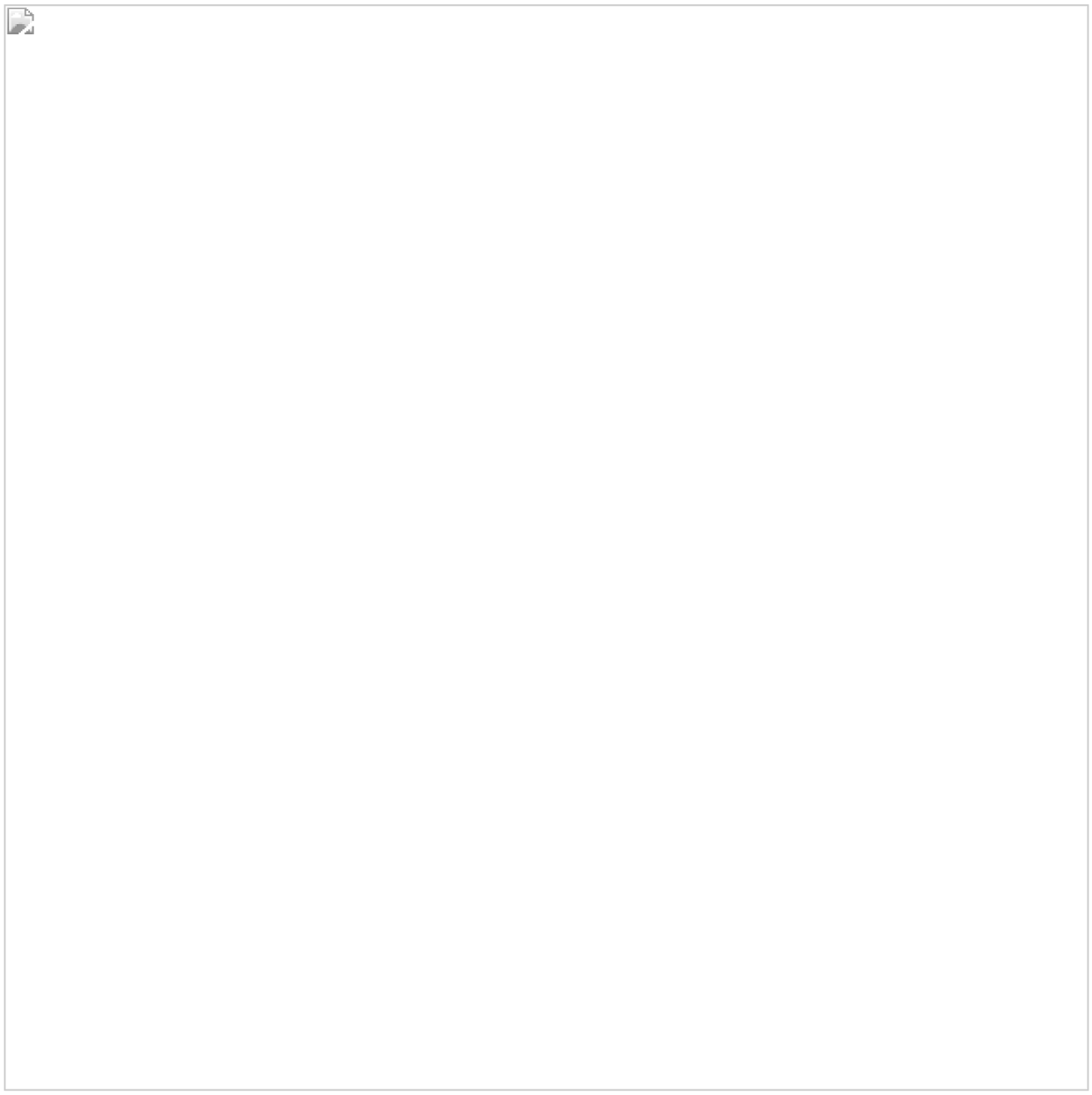
Cadmus, Phoenix and Cilix, the three sons of King Agenor, were playing in a green field by the sea. Their little sister Europa was with them, and the waves sparkled in the sunshine.

TALK ABOUT IT

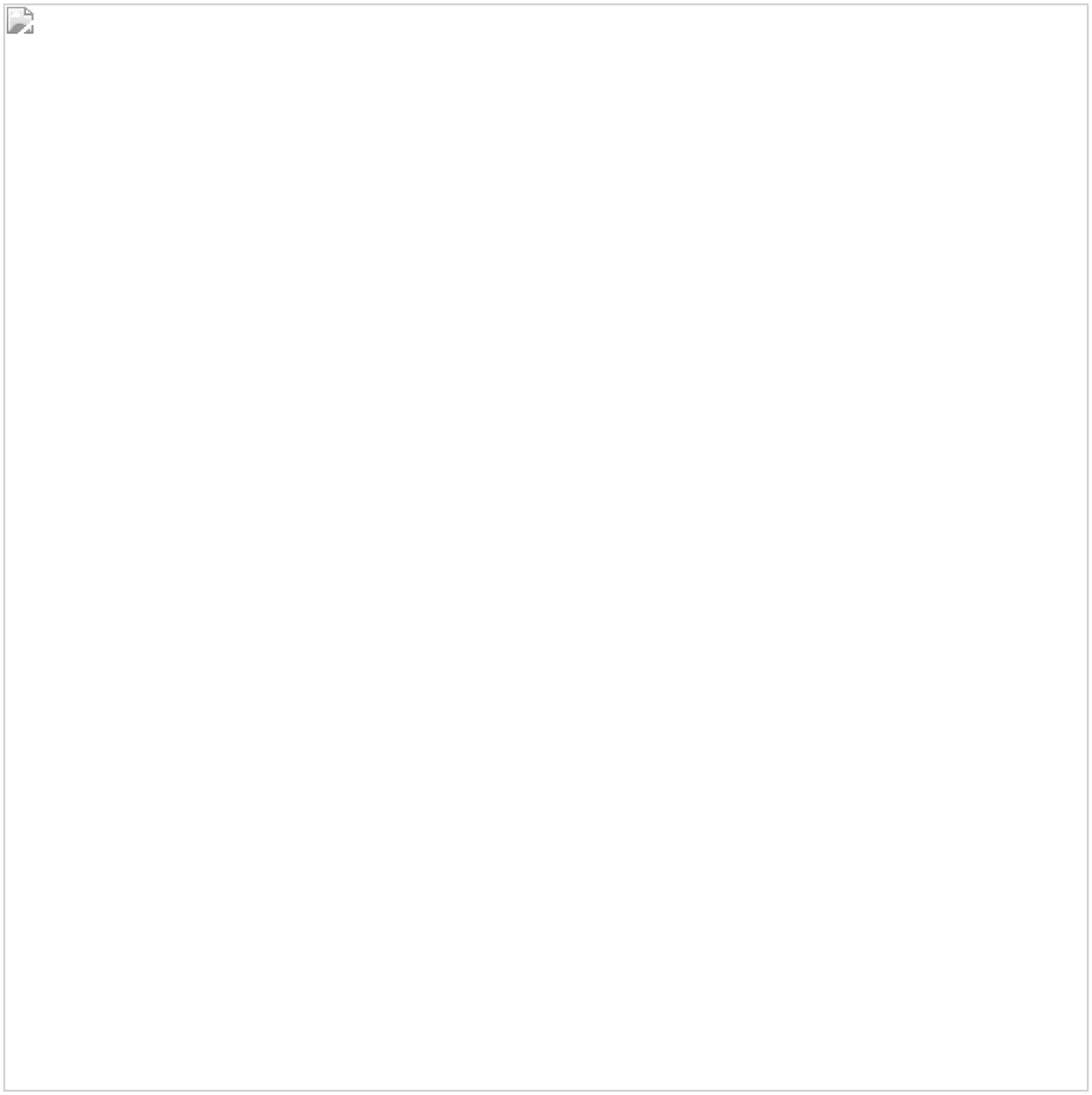
The brothers were busy making wreaths for their little sister. What is something you like to do with your brothers, sisters or friends?

This book belongs to _____

Cadmus · another picture



Wreaths for Europa



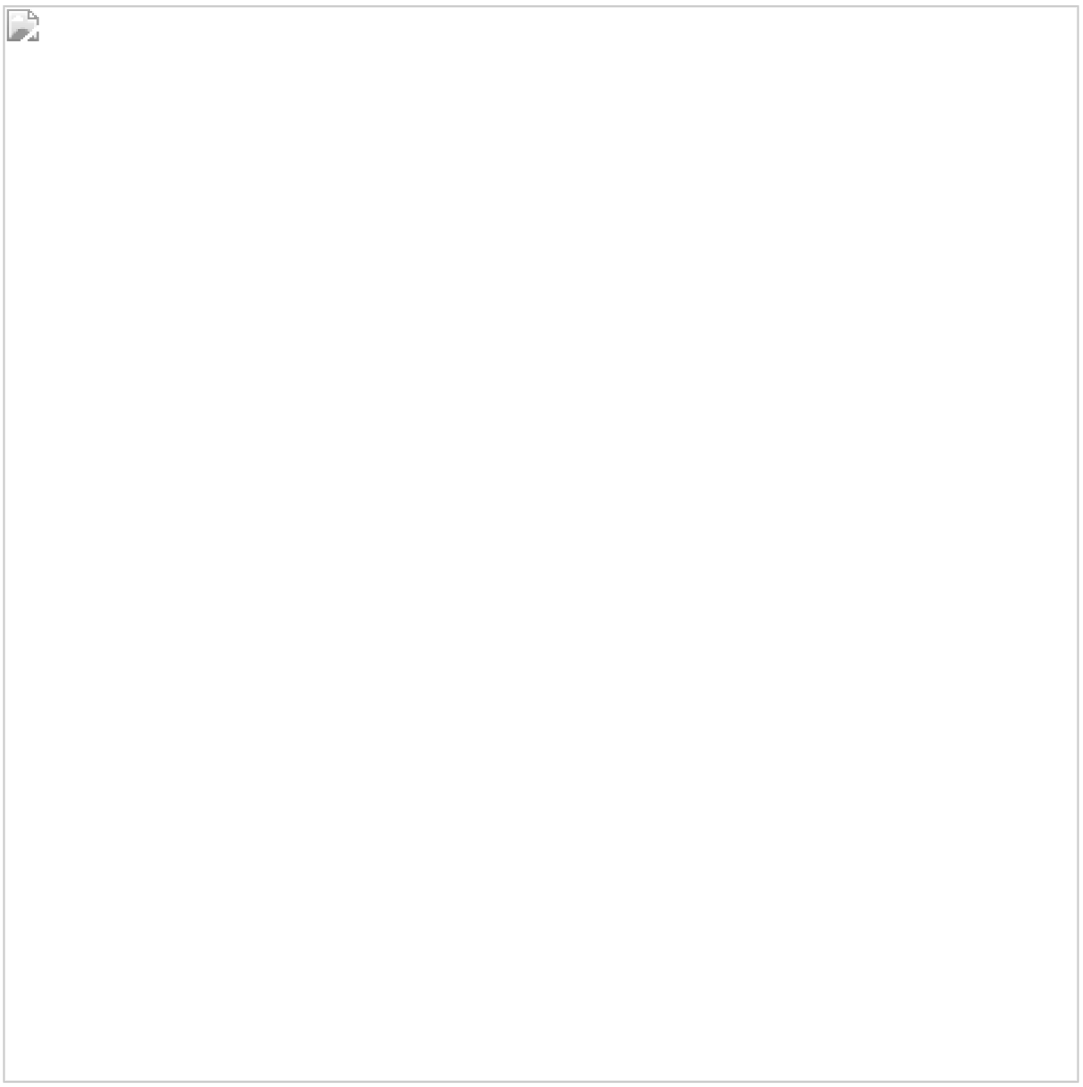
The three boys picked flowers and made wreaths for her. She was almost hidden under the flowers and leaves, with her rosy face peeping out. She was the prettiest flower of them all.

Then a beautiful butterfly flew past. The boys cried out that it was a flower with wings, and ran off to catch it. Europa was a little tired, so she stayed on the grass.

TALK ABOUT IT

The brothers made wreaths to make their sister happy. What is something kind you have made for someone?

Wreaths for Europa · another picture

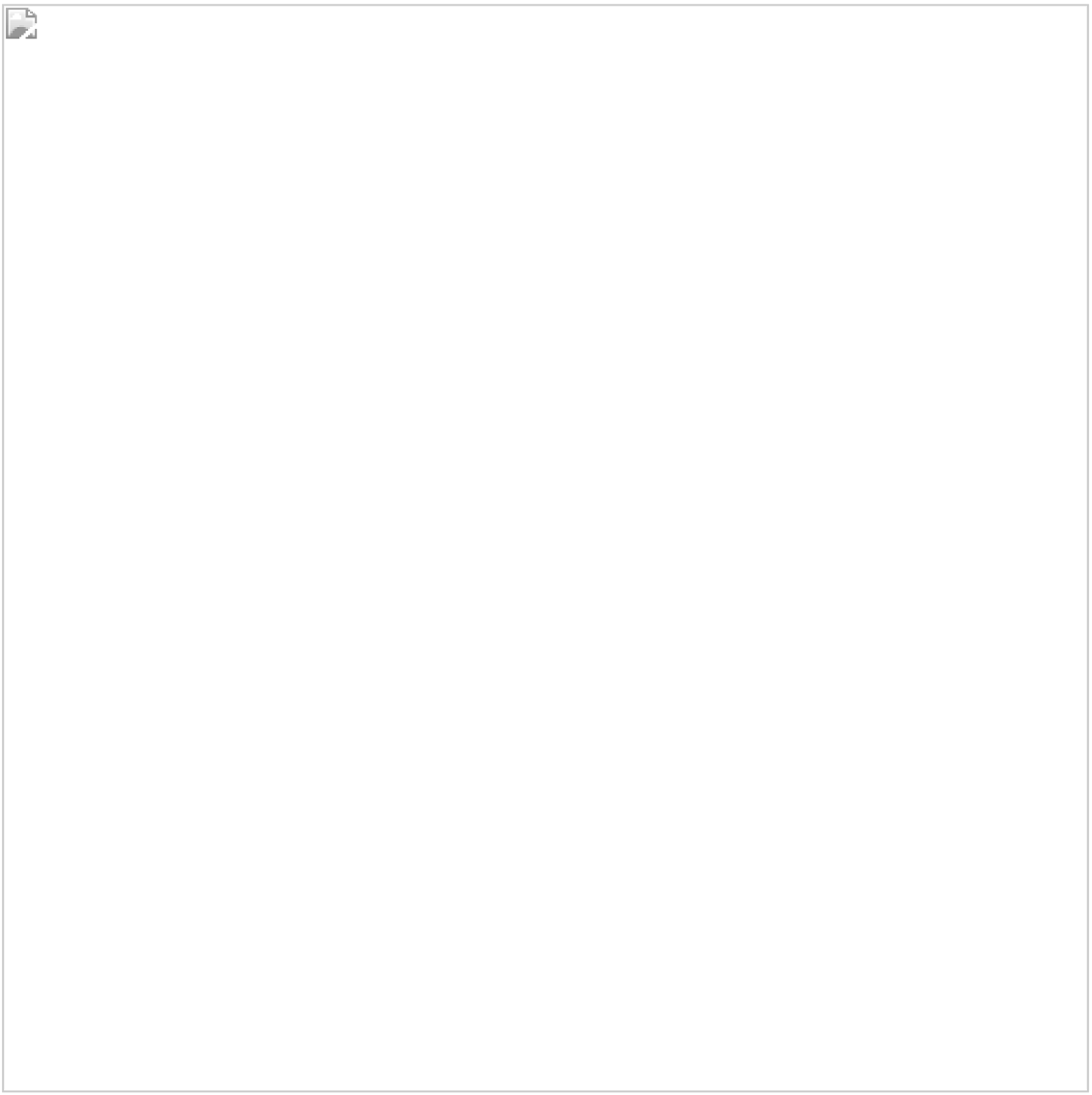


Think about it

1. What did the brothers do for Europa in the field?

- ○ They built a boat
- ○ They made her wreaths of flowers
- ○ They sang her a song

The White Bull



Europa listened to the sea. It sounded just like a voice saying, “Hush, hush,” telling her to go to sleep.

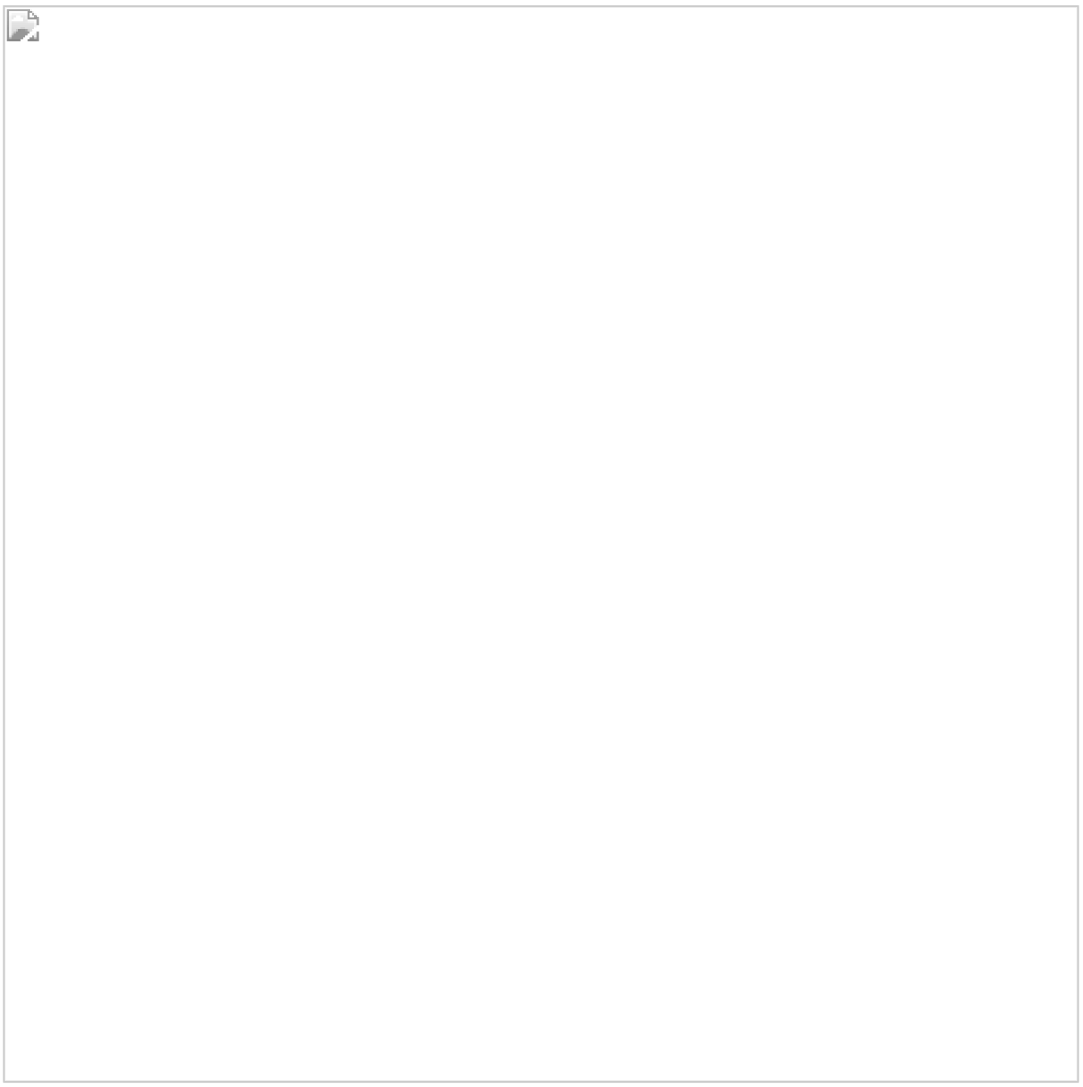
Then she heard tramping on the grass, and there was a snow-white bull, quite close!

Europa was frightened and called, “Cadmus, brother Cadmus, where are you? Come and drive this bull away.” But her brothers were too far off to hear.

The bull did not touch her. He had soft brown eyes and smooth horns as white as ivory. He ran little races around her and let her hang wreaths on his horns.

TALK ABOUT IT

Europa was afraid at first, and then she was not. What do you think made her change her mind?

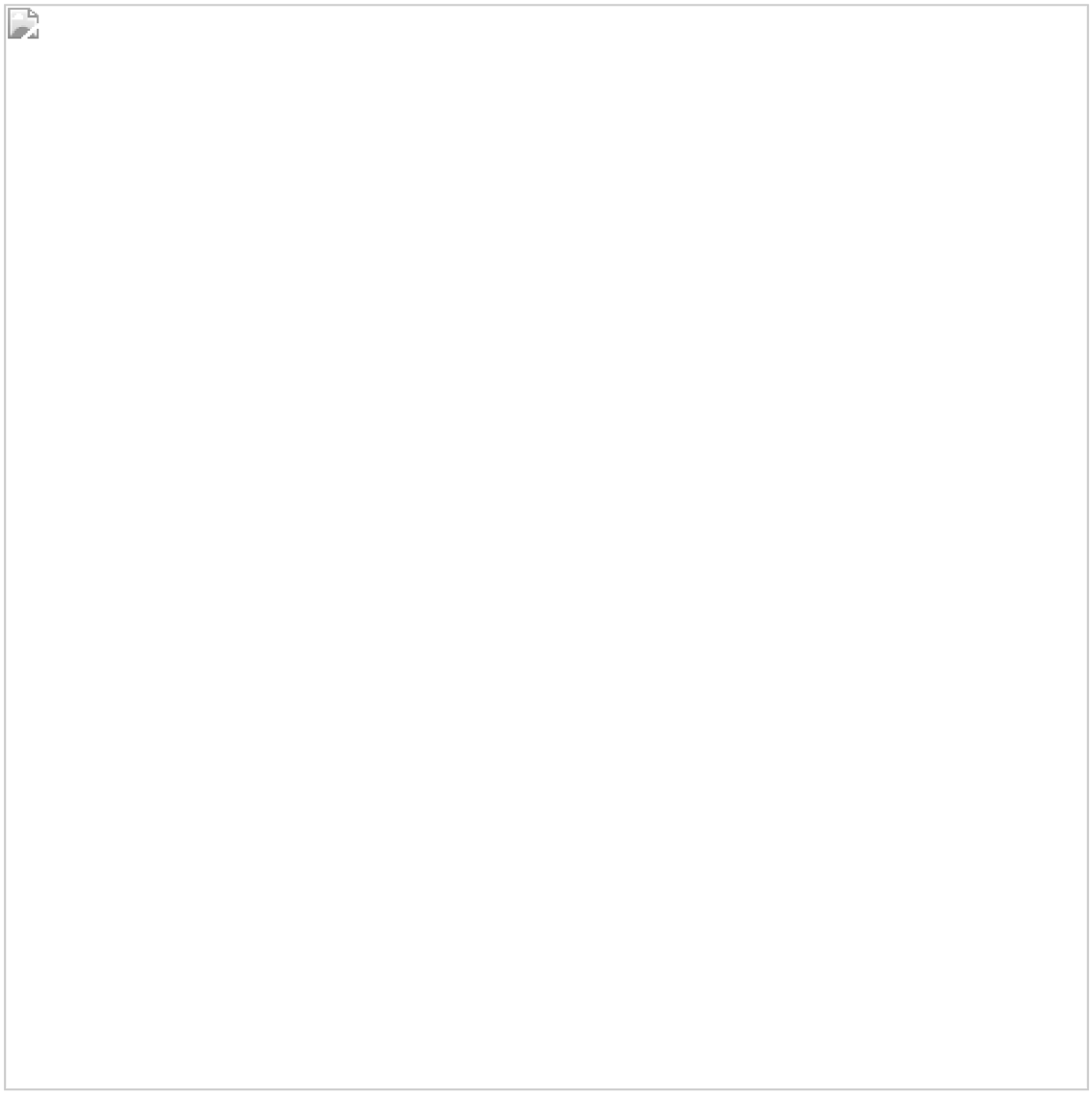


Think about it

1. What color was the bull?

- ○ Black
- ○ Brown
- ○ Snow-white

Just One Ride



The bull knelt down at Europa's feet, as if inviting her to climb on his back.

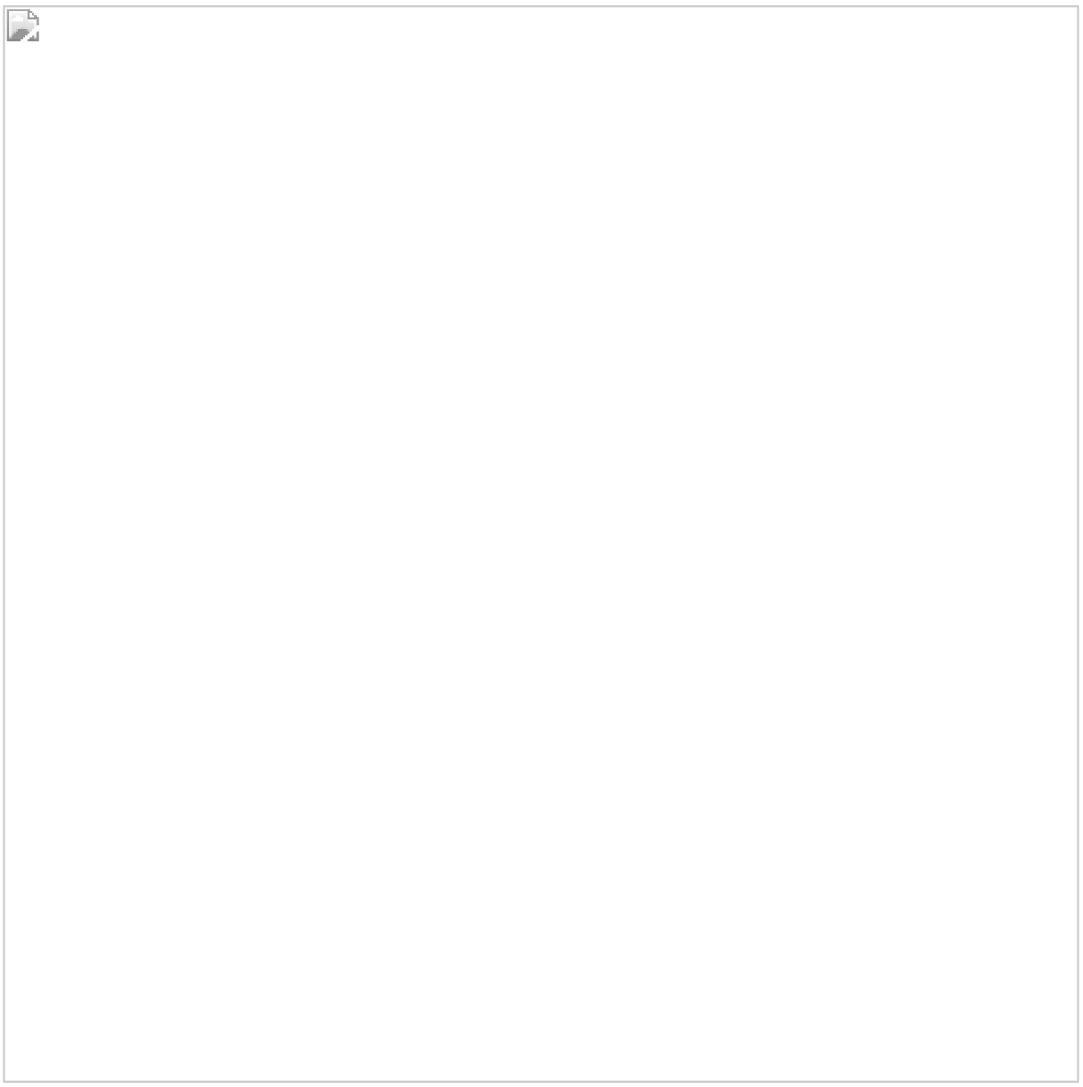
She thought there could surely be no danger in just one ride on such a gentle animal. And what fun it would be to surprise her brothers!

“Go very gently, good bull,” she said, and she sprang up, holding an ivory horn in each hand.

He raced across the field to where the brothers had just caught the butterfly. They were amazed. Europa waved and called “Good-by,” as if she were off on a journey, and the boys called “Good-by” back. They all thought it such good fun.

TALK ABOUT IT

Europa thought one little ride could do no harm. Have you ever thought that about something? What happened?

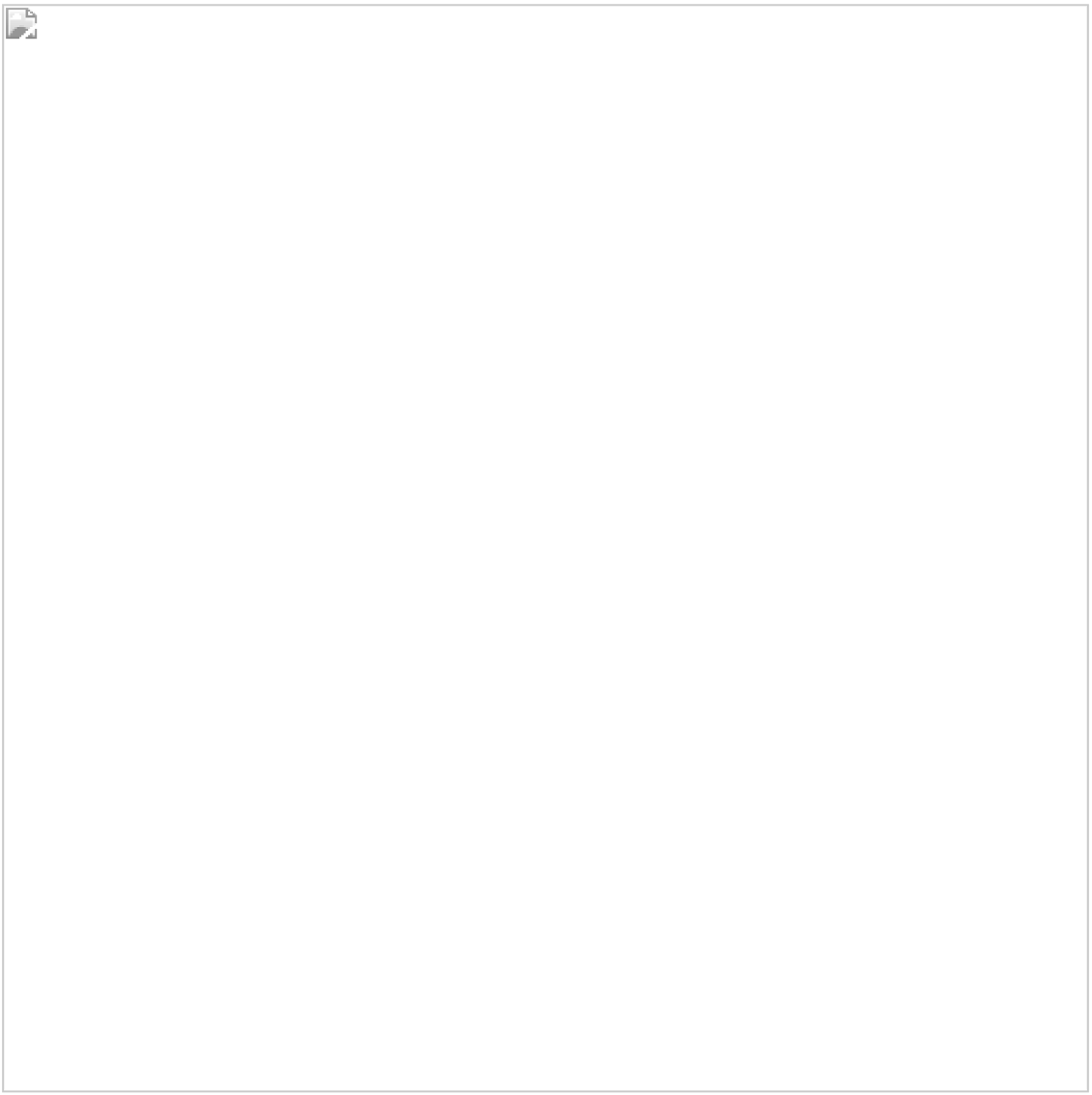


Think about it

1. What did Europa say to the bull before they went?

- ○ “Go very gently, good bull”
- ○ “Fly away!”
- ○ “Take me home”

Into the Waves



And then the white bull set off straight down to the seashore. He leaped right into the waves. The spray rose all around, and Europa screamed.

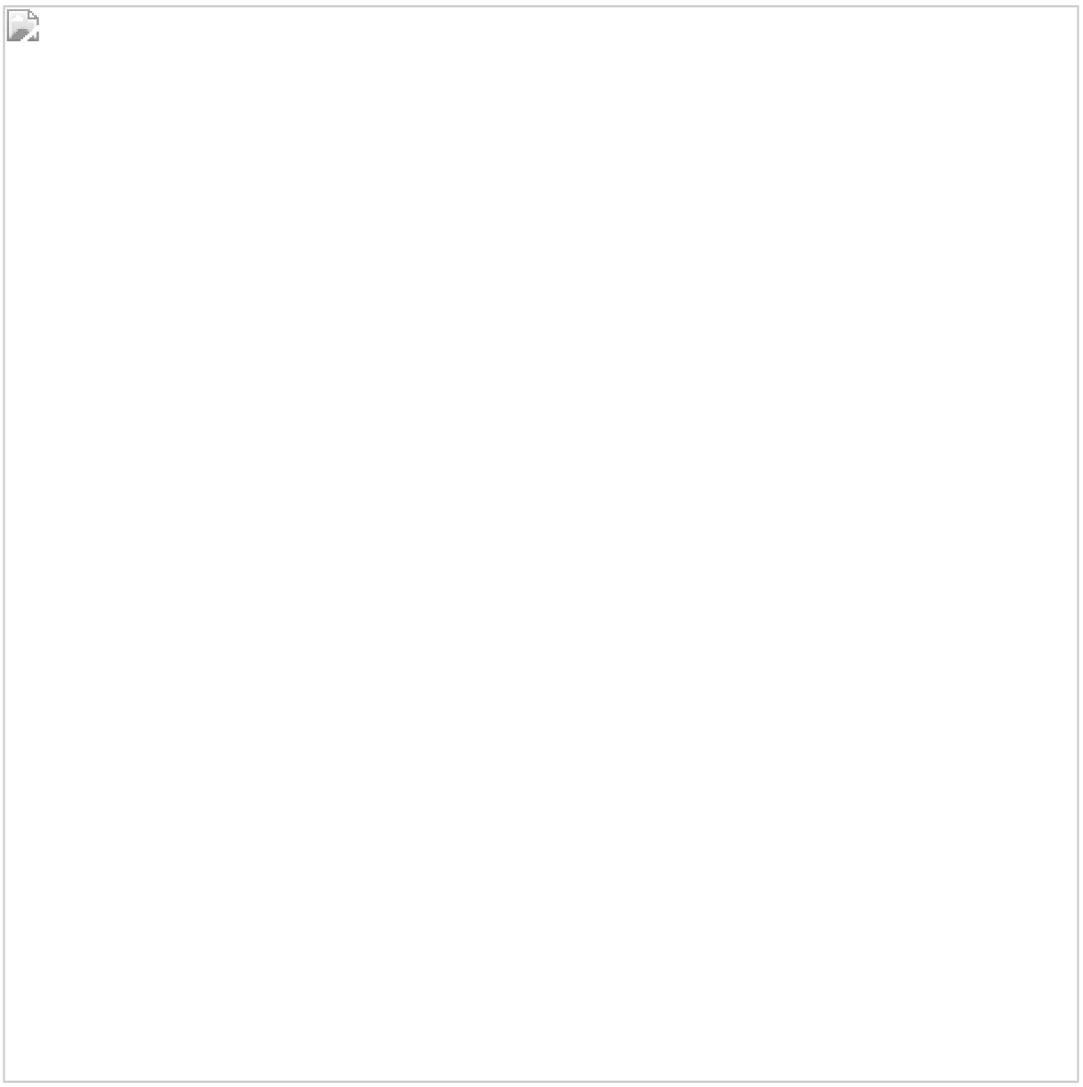
The brothers ran as fast as they could to the water's edge, but it was too late.

The bull swam very fast, and soon was far away in the wide blue sea, with only his snowy head showing. Europa held on with one hand and stretched the other back toward her brothers.

The three boys stood there crying until they could no longer see the white head among the sparkling waves.

TALK ABOUT IT

How do you think the brothers felt, standing on the shore? What would you have wanted to do?

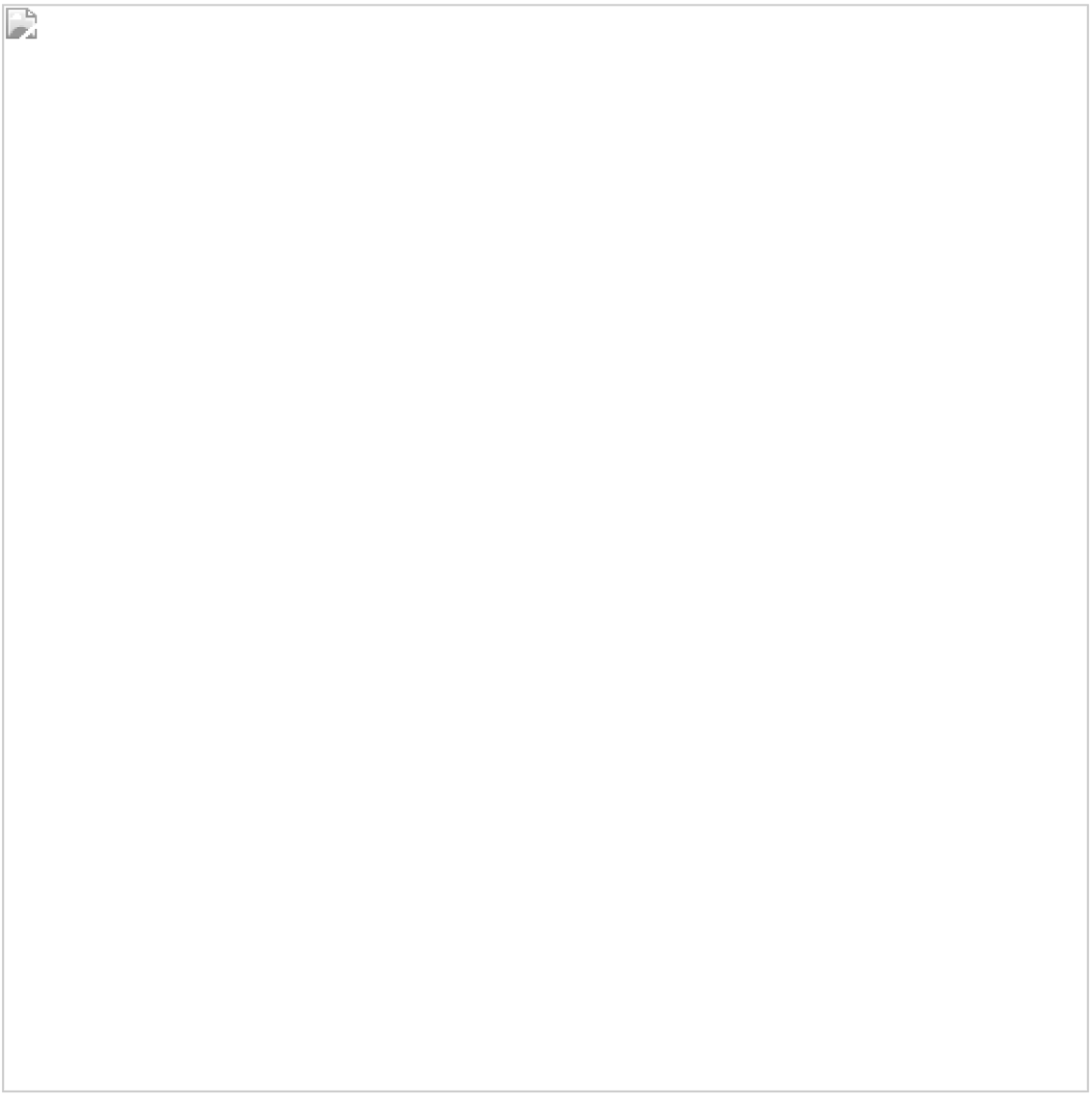


Think about it

1. Where did the white bull take Europa?

- ○ Up a mountain
- ○ Into the sea
- ○ Back to the palace

A Sad Telling



It was a sad tale to carry home. King Agenor loved his little girl more than his kingdom or anything in the world.

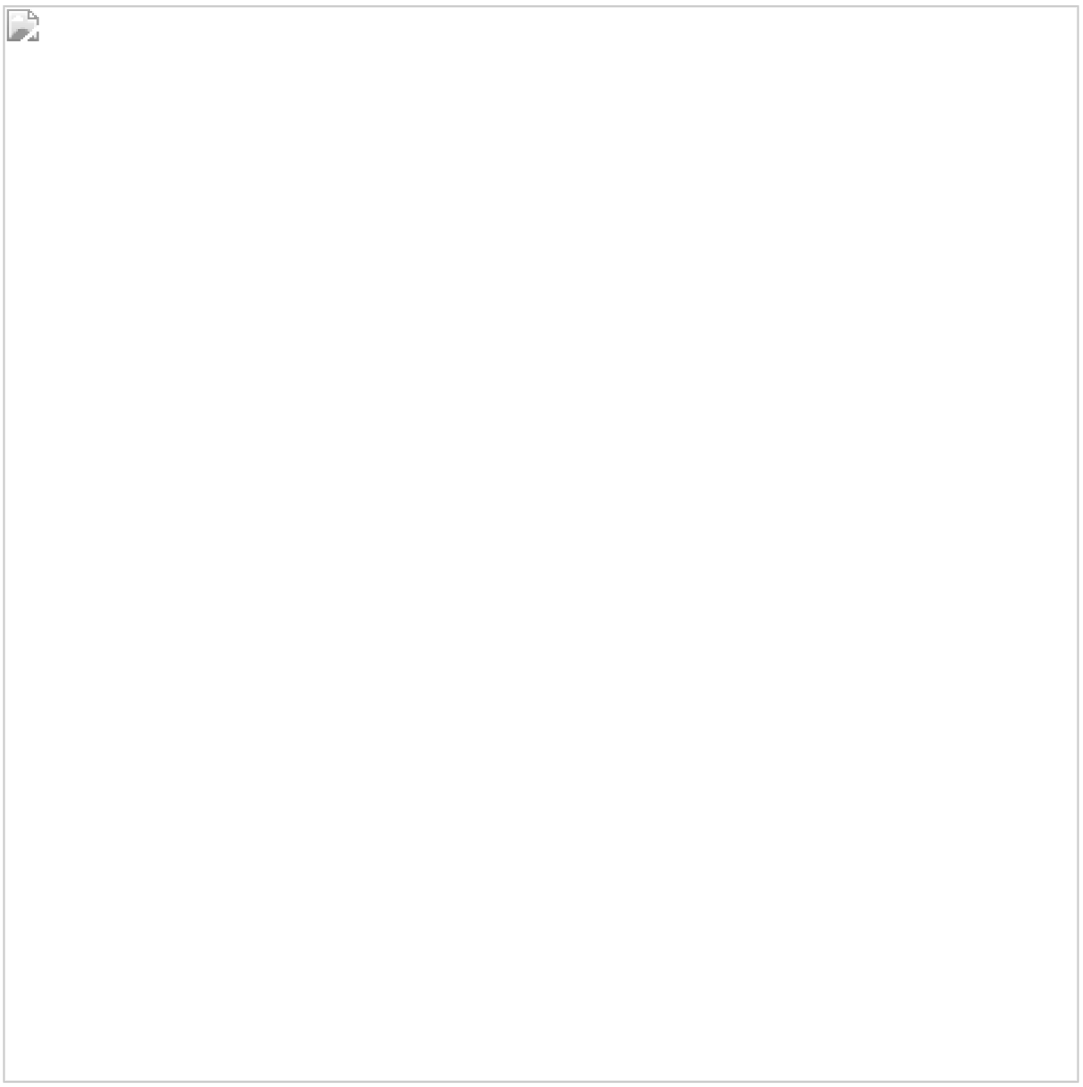
When Cadmus came home crying and told how a white bull had carried her off, the king was full of grief and very angry.

“You shall never see my face again,” he cried, “unless you bring back my little Europa.”

The boys did not even wait for supper. They crept out of the palace, wondering where to go first.

TALK ABOUT IT

The king was so full of grief that he sent his sons away. What do you think he might have said if he were calmer?

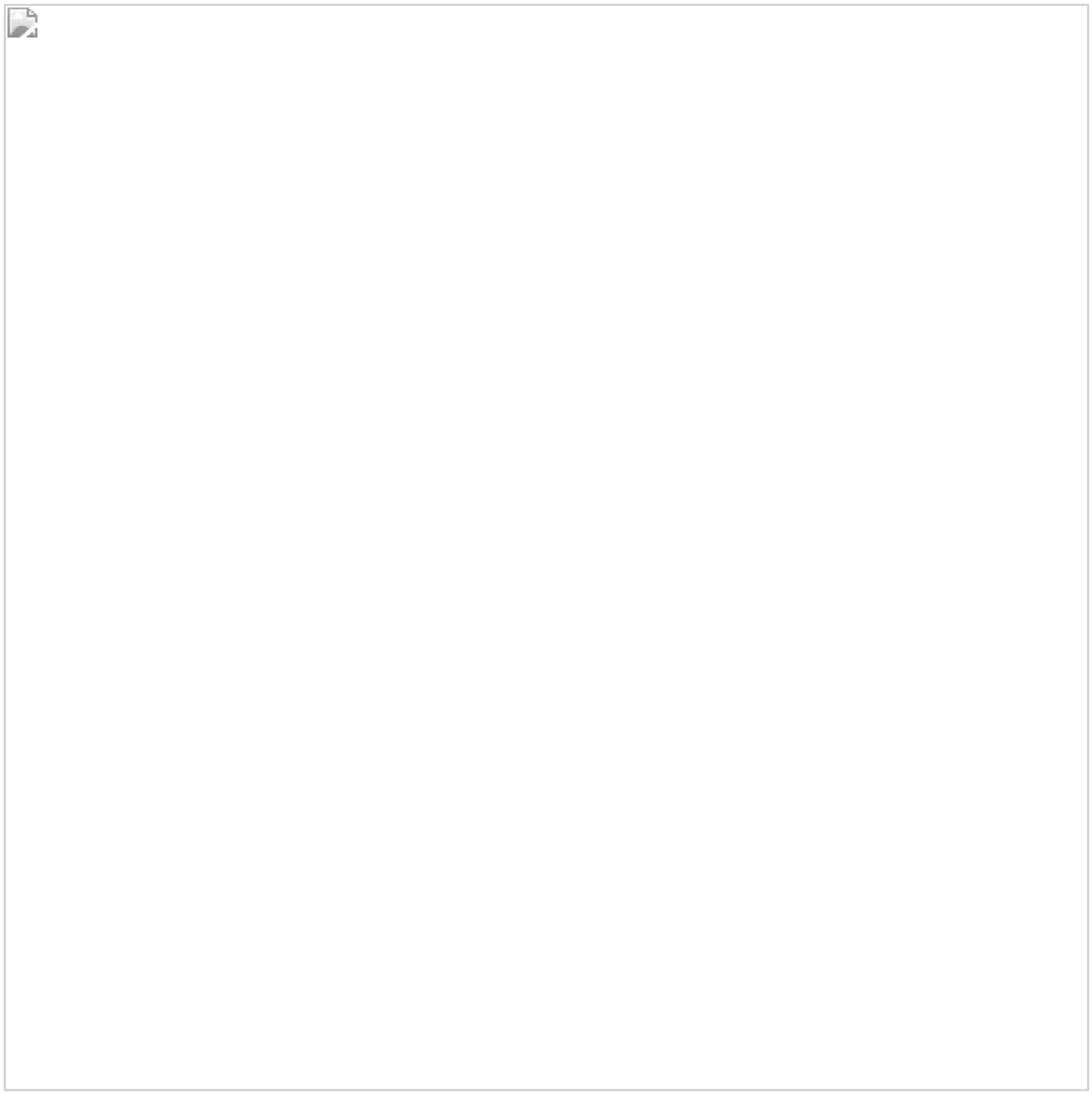


Think about it

1. What did King Agenor tell his sons?

- ○ Do not come back without Europa
- ○ Stay home and rest
- ○ Send a messenger

The Queen Comes Too



At the gate, the queen came hurrying after them. “Dear children,” she said, “I will come with you.”

The boys said it was a dark night, and they did not know what troubles they might meet. They thought they had better go alone.

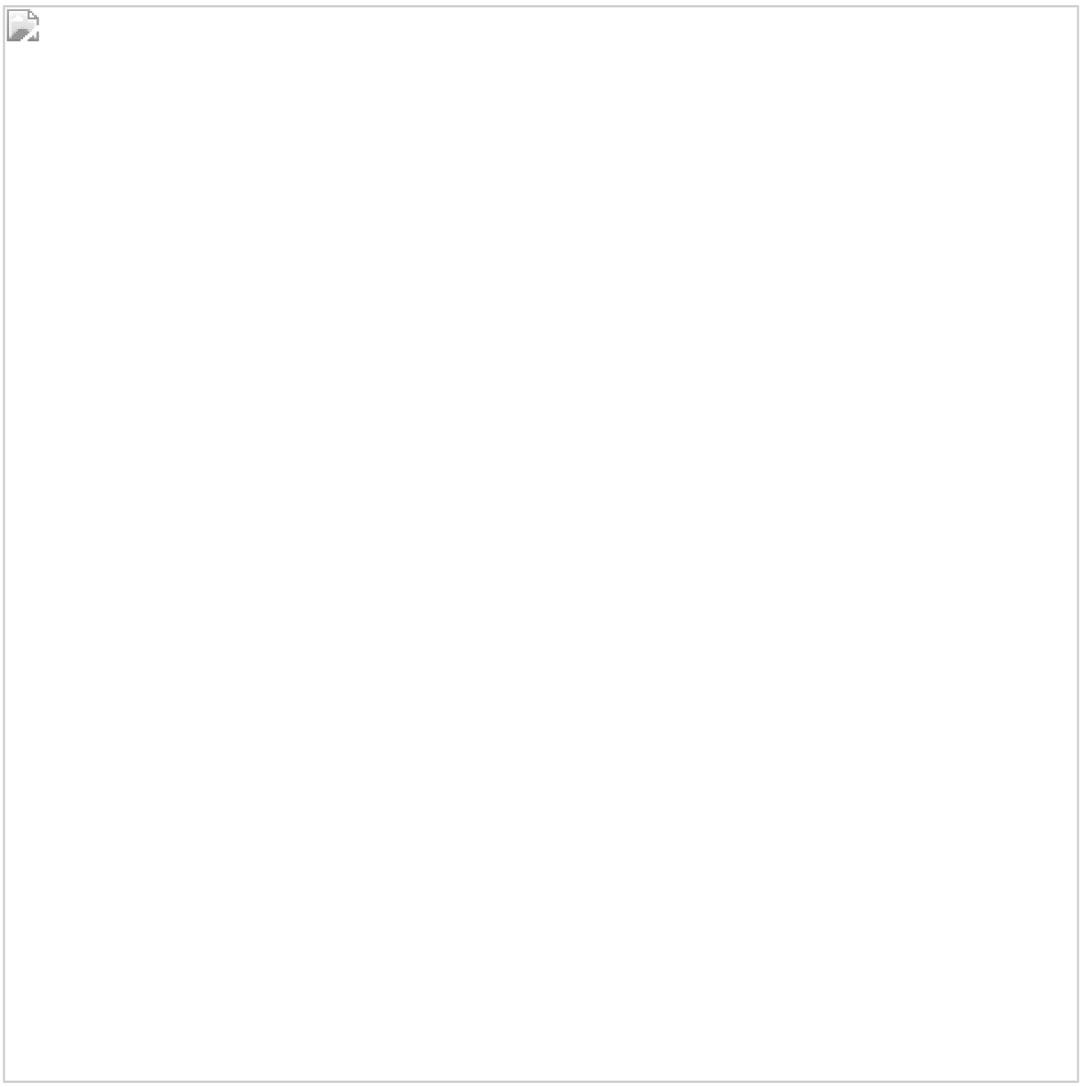
But the queen wept. “Europa is lost,” she said, “and if I should lose my three sons as well, what would become of me? I must go with my children.”

Their playfellow Theseus came running too. He loved Europa and longed to search for her. So five set off together.

TALK ABOUT IT

The queen left her palace to be with her children. What does that tell you about her?

The Queen Comes Too · another picture

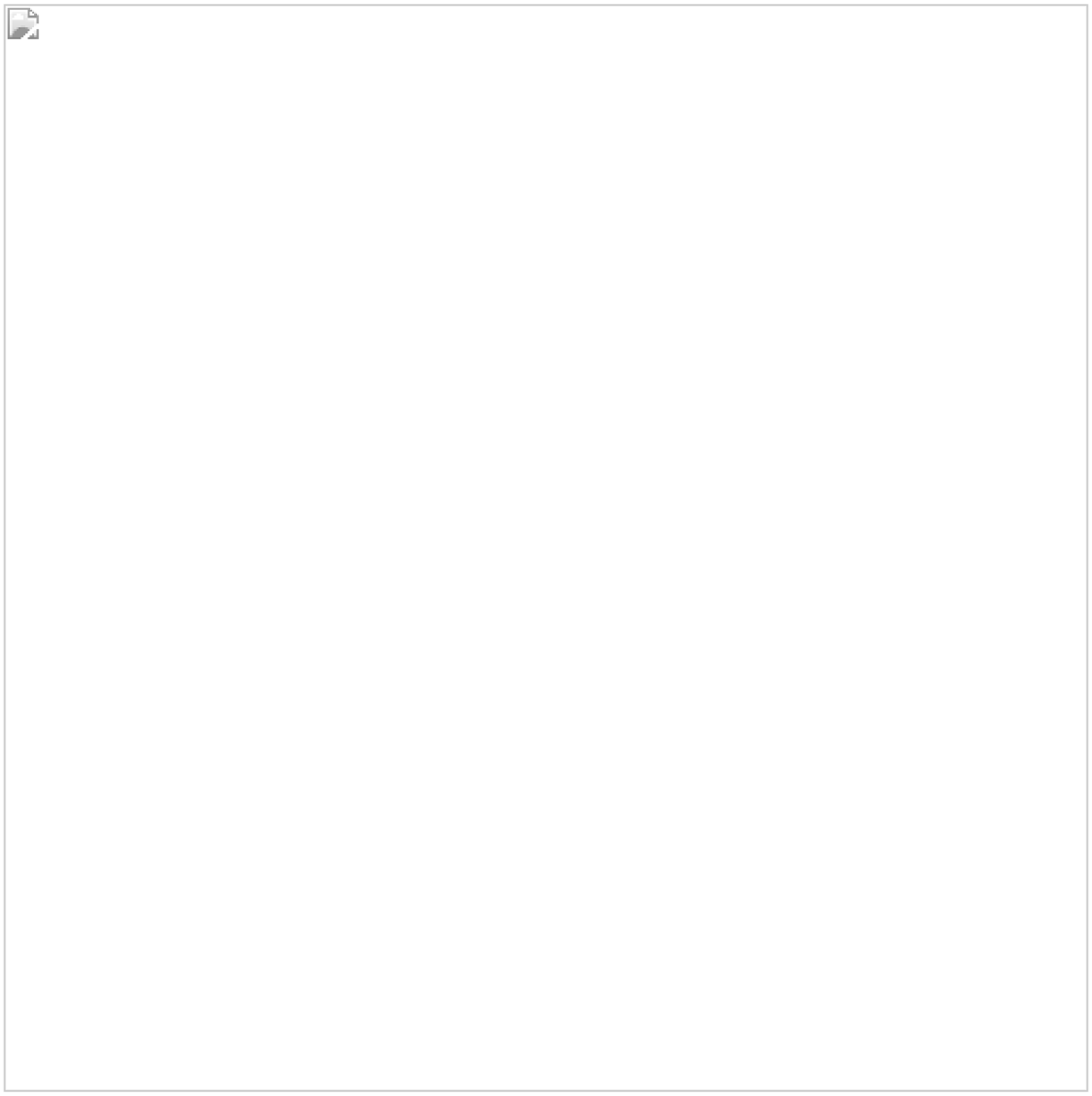


Think about it

1. Who came with the three brothers?

- ○ A shepherd
- ○ A talking bird
- ○ Their mother the queen, and their friend Theseus

Years of Looking



They traveled many weary miles. The days grew to months and the months to years, and they never found a trace of Europa.

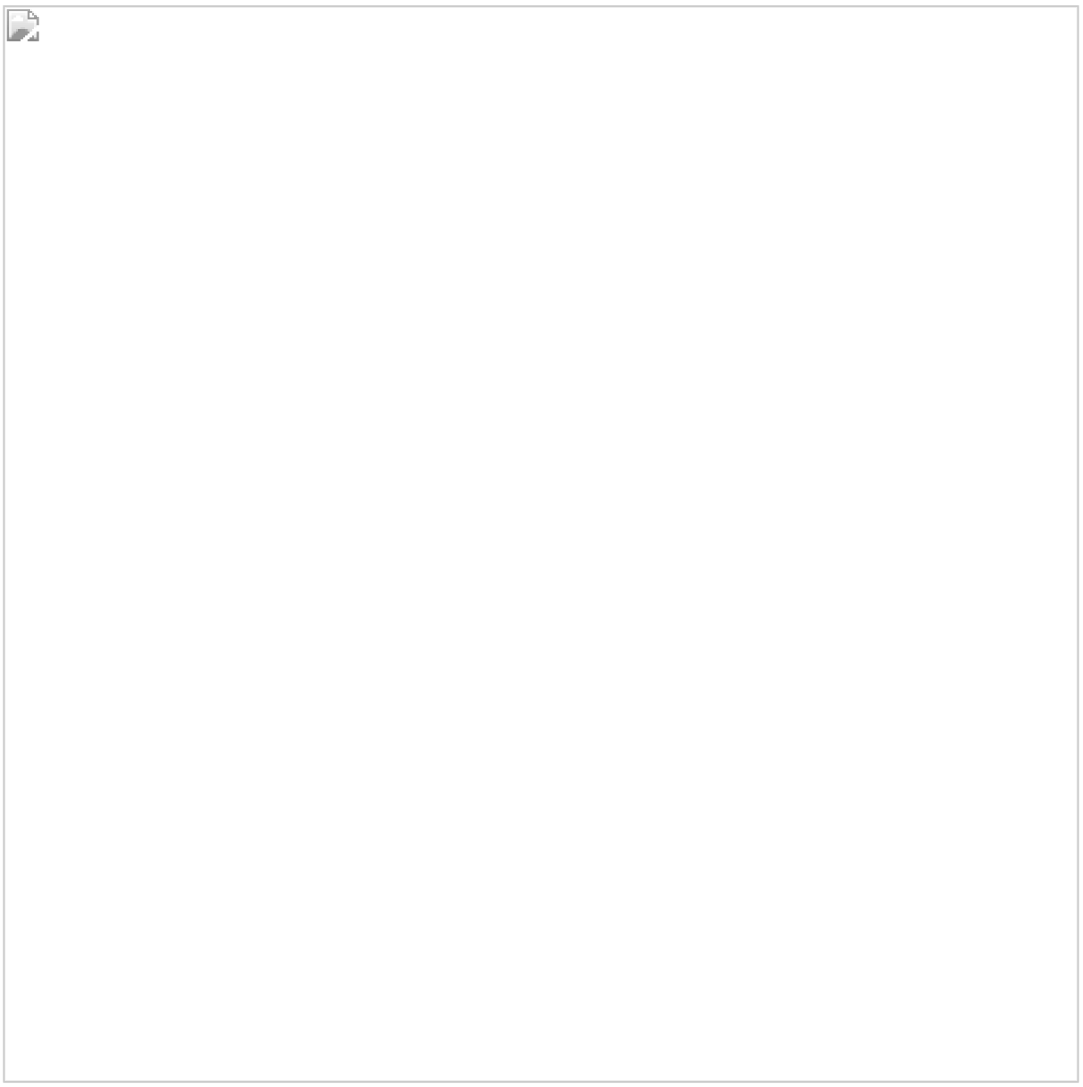
Their clothes grew worn and shabby. They asked every farmer and shepherd about a white bull with a little princess on its back, but no one had seen such a sight.

At last Phoenix grew weary. “I do not believe Europa will ever be found, and I shall stay here,” he said. The others helped him build a little hut.

Then Cilix grew tired too, and they built him a hut. Theseus broke his ankle and had to stay behind. Only the queen and Cadmus walked on.

TALK ABOUT IT

Phoenix and Cilix stopped, but Cadmus kept going. Why do you think Cadmus did not stop?

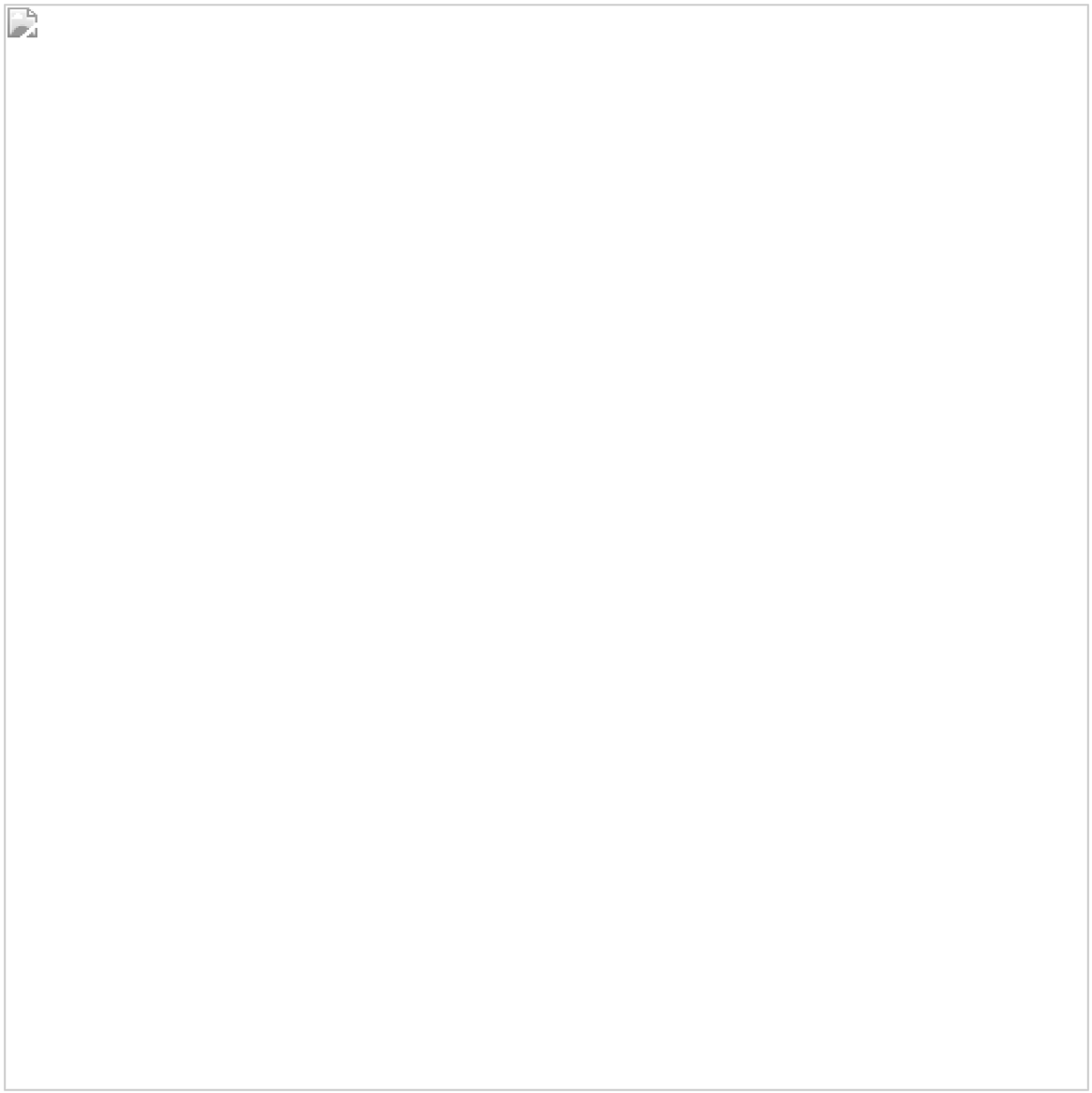


Think about it

1. Who was left walking when the others stopped?

- ○ Phoenix and Cilix
- ○ Only Theseus
- ○ Cadmus and the queen

A Long Rest



The queen grew worn and sad, and she leaned heavily on her son's arm. “Cadmus,” she said one day, “I must stay and rest.”

“Why, yes, mother, of course you shall,” said Cadmus. “A long, long rest you must have, and I will sit beside you and watch.”

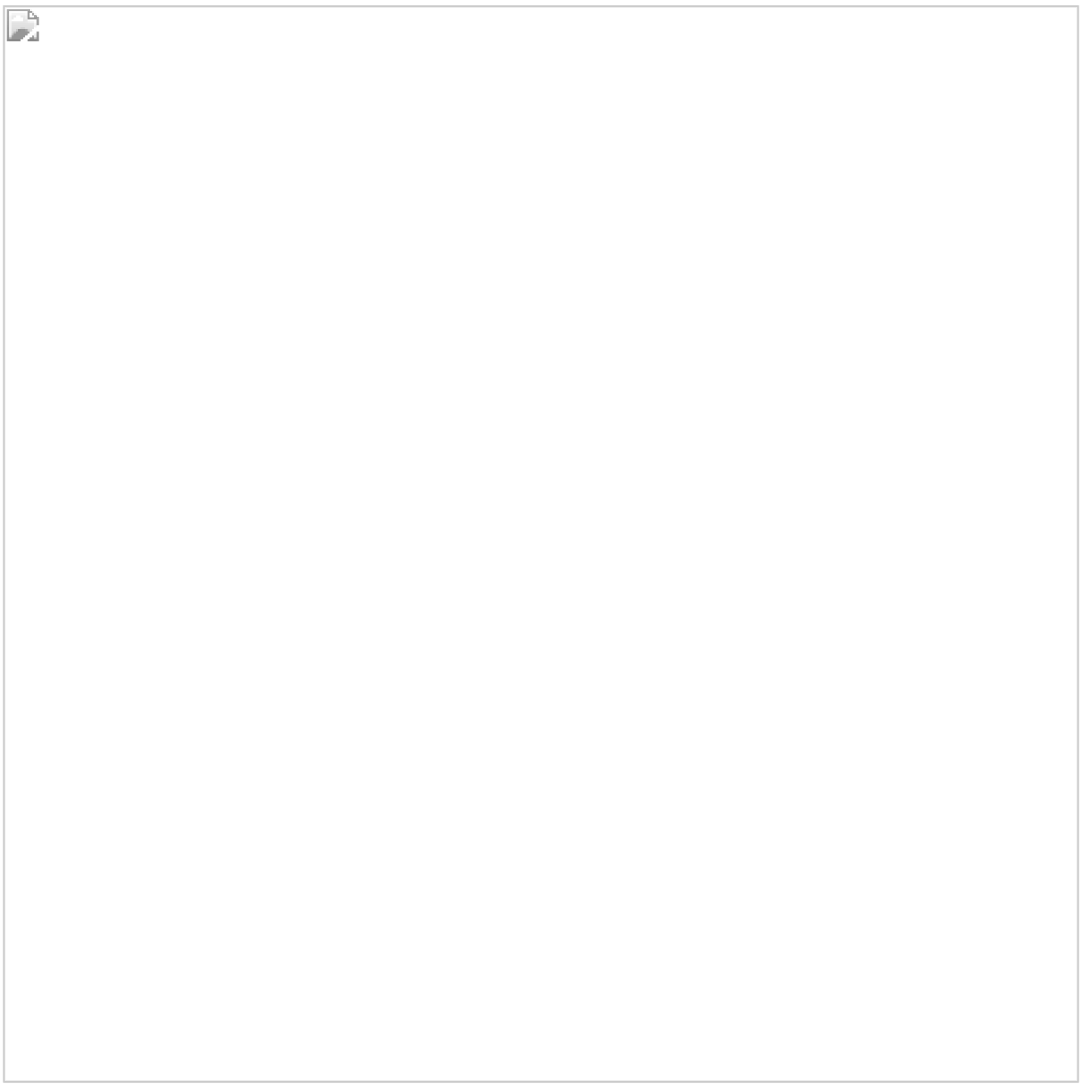
But she knew she could go no further. She asked him to go to the wise woman at Delphi and ask what to do next. “Promise me you will go!” she said.

Cadmus promised. The tired queen lay down to rest, and in the morning she did not wake. Cadmus had to journey on alone.

TALK ABOUT IT

Cadmus stayed beside his mother until the end. What do you think that meant to her?

A Long Rest · another picture



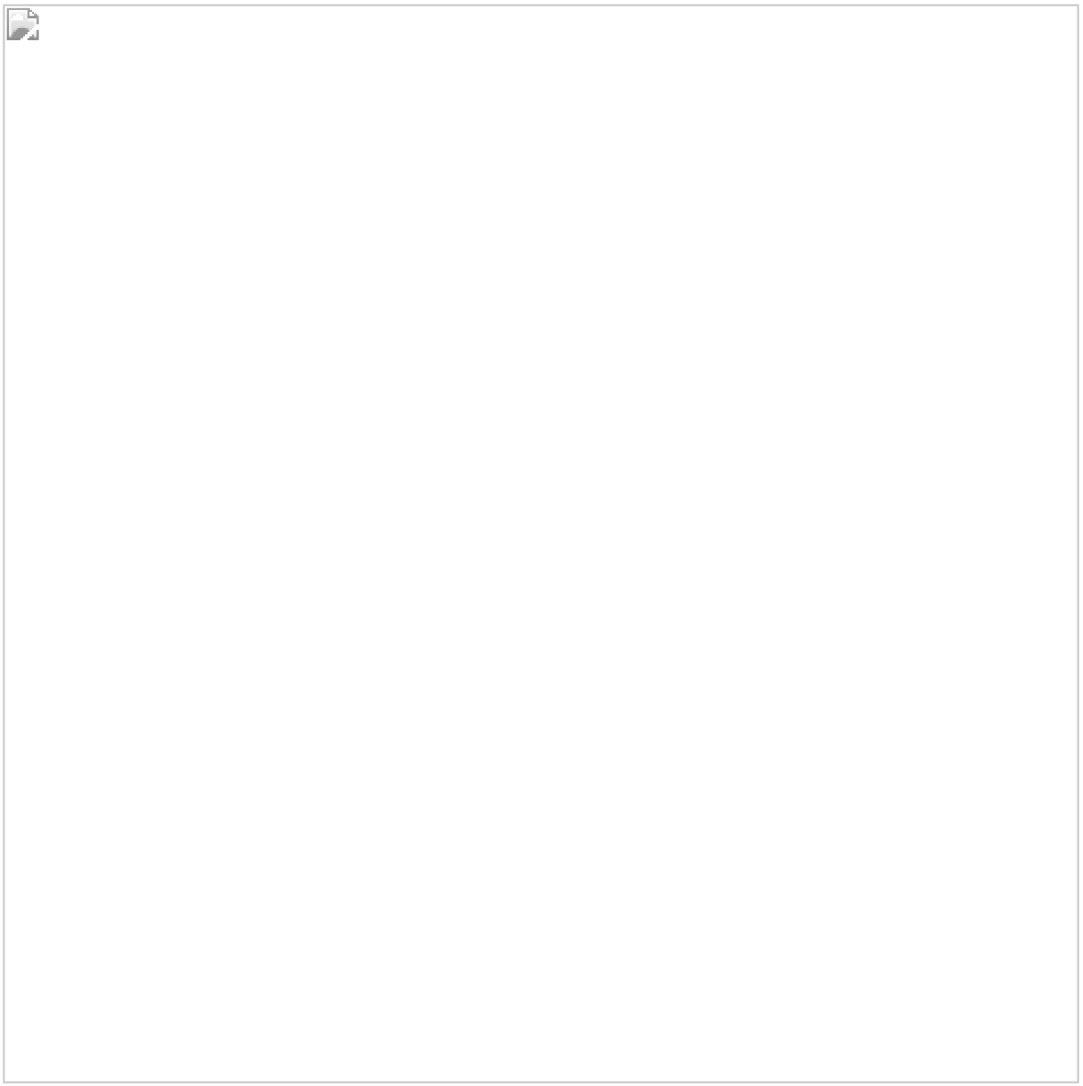
Think about it

1. What did the queen ask Cadmus to promise?

- ○ To go home
- ○ To go to the wise woman at Delphi
- ○ To give up looking

2. Who is someone who stays beside you when things are hard?

The Wise Woman



Cadmus climbed the steep mountain of Parnassus, where the famous city of Delphi stood. The wise woman lived high up in a low cave, with a hole in the wall through which a strong wind blew.

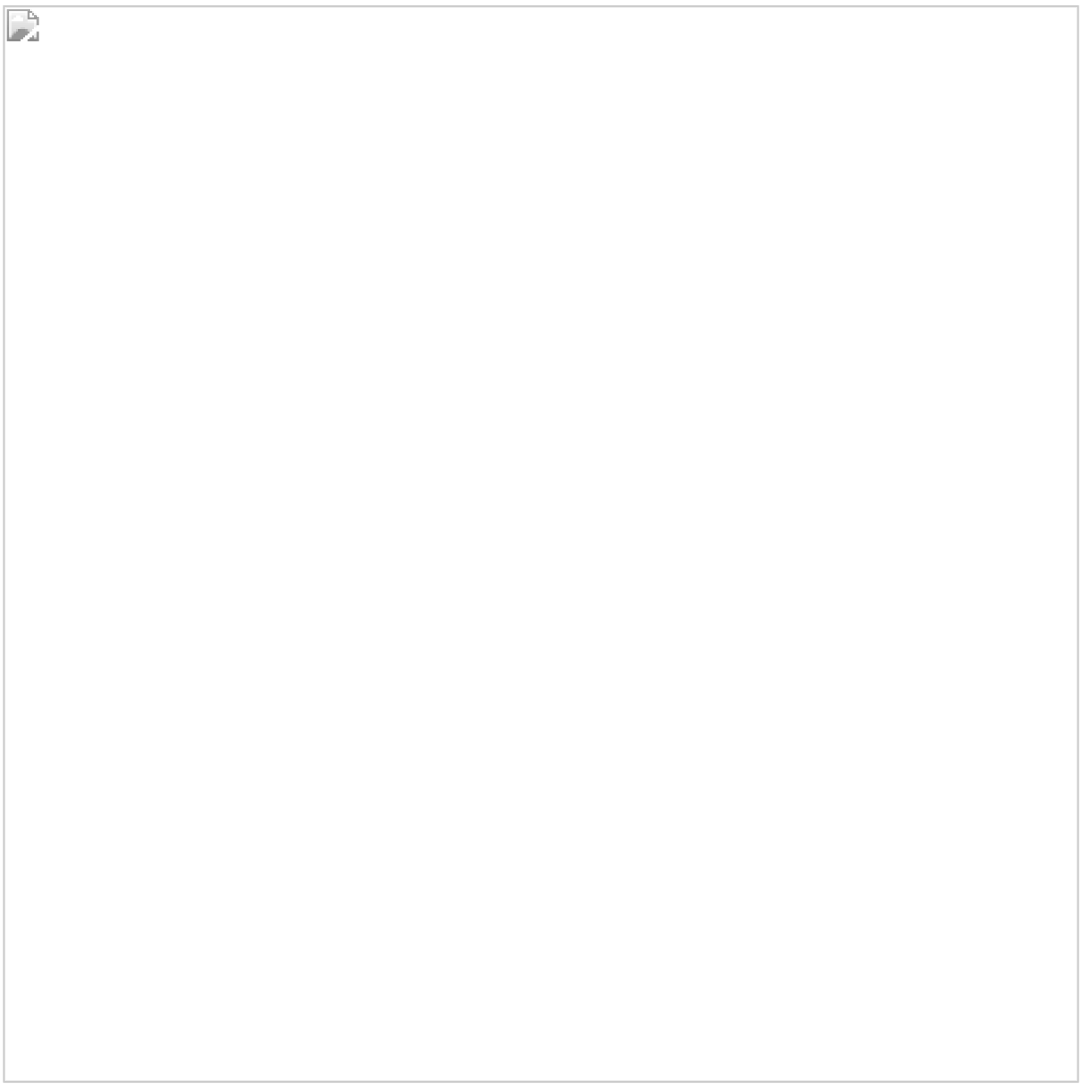
He put his mouth to the hole and asked where he must look now for his sister.

At first there was no answer. Then a voice said softly, three times, “Seek her no more.”

“What shall I do, then?” asked Cadmus. The voice answered, “Follow the cow.” And then: “Where the stray cow lies down, there is your home.” Then there was silence.

TALK ABOUT IT

Cadmus had searched for years, and the voice said to stop. Why might that have been hard to hear?

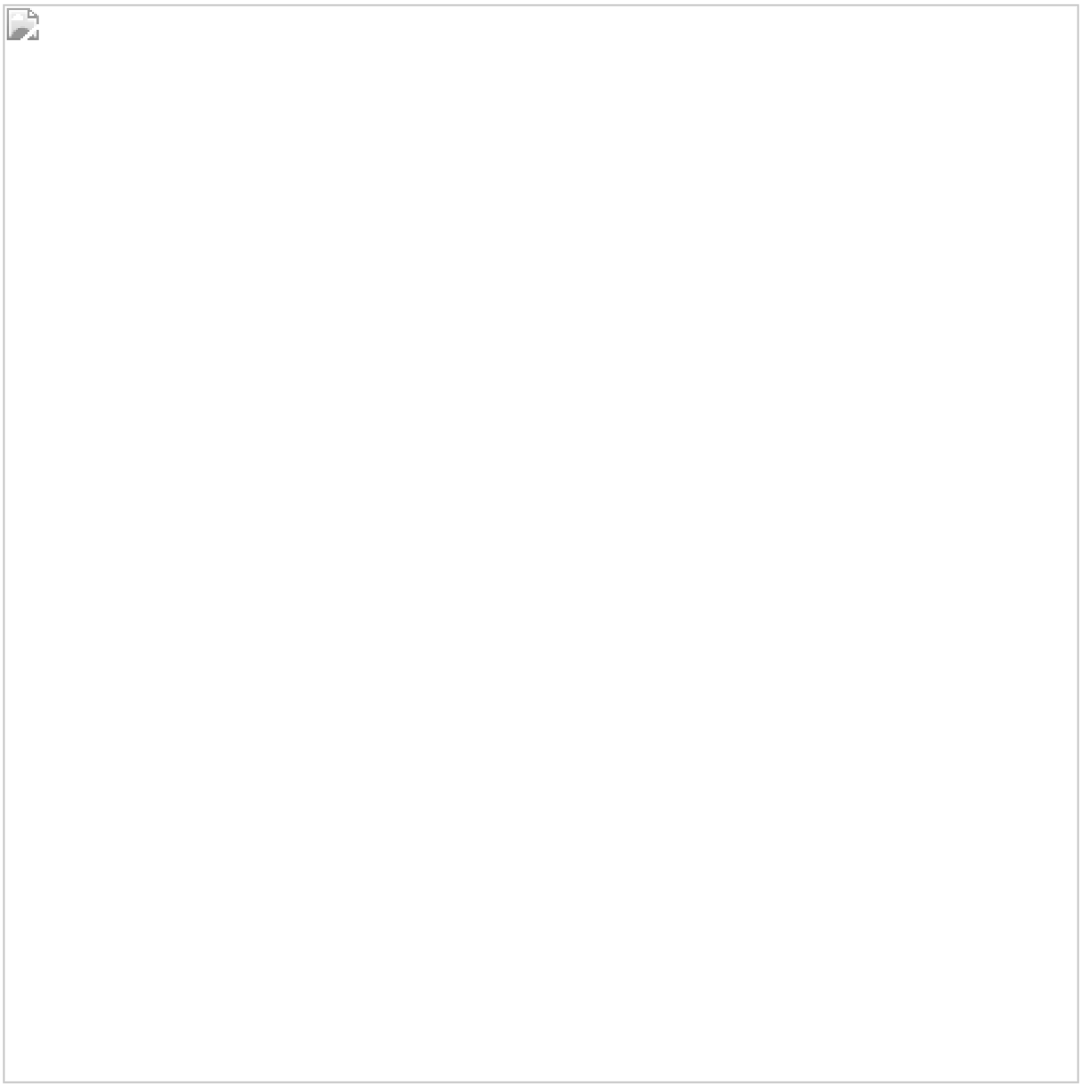


Think about it

1. What did the voice tell Cadmus to follow?

- ○ A cow
- ○ A bird
- ○ A river

Follow the Cow



Not far on, Cadmus saw a brindled cow lying by the wayside. As he came near, she got up and walked slowly along, stopping now and then to crop a mouthful of grass.

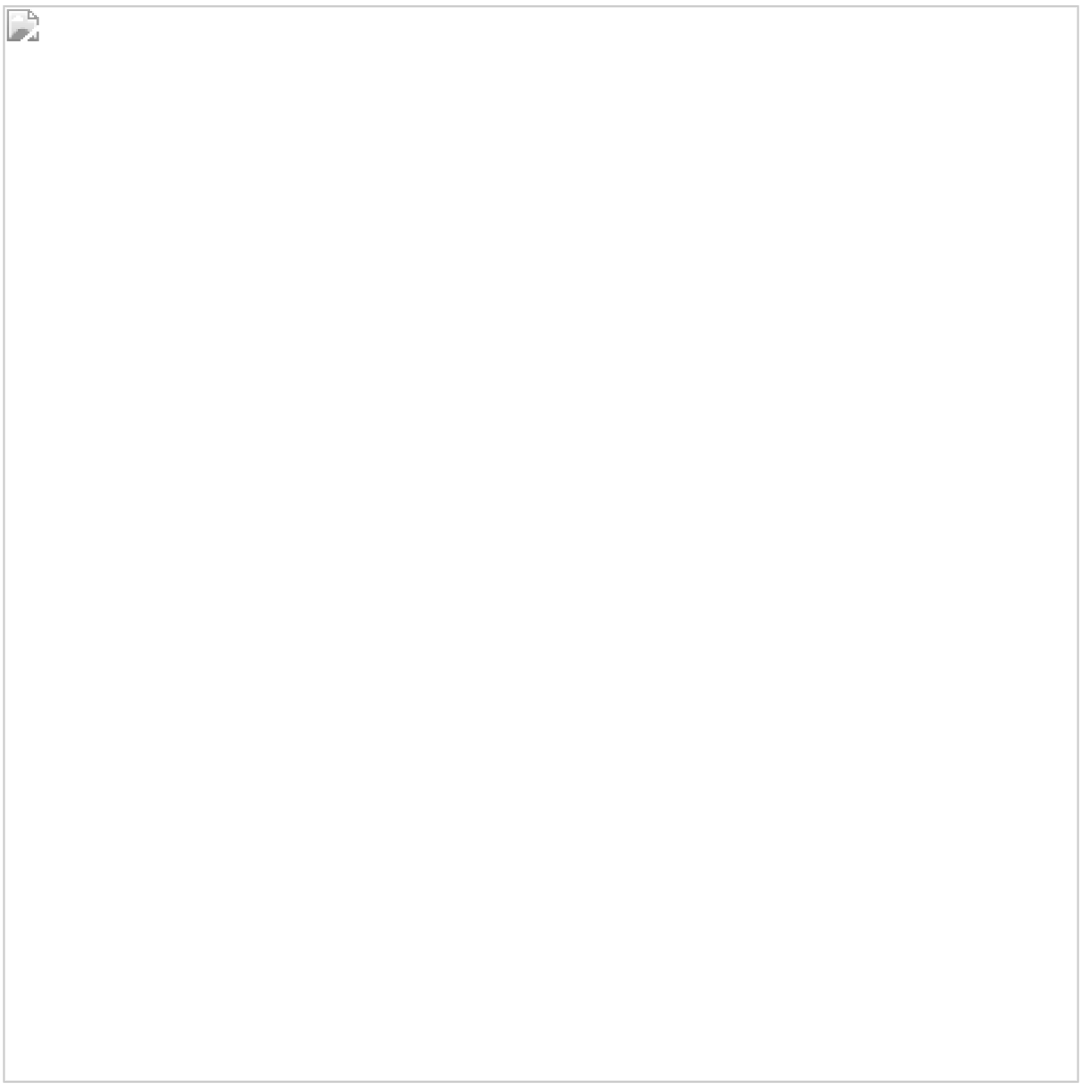
He walked faster, and so did the cow. He ran, and so did she! He could not catch her.

“Any way, I may as well follow her,” he thought, “and surely she will lie down somewhere.”

On and on they went. Other people who had heard the story began to follow too. At last, very far from home, the cow lay down.

TALK ABOUT IT

Cadmus followed the cow even though he did not understand why. What do you think of that?

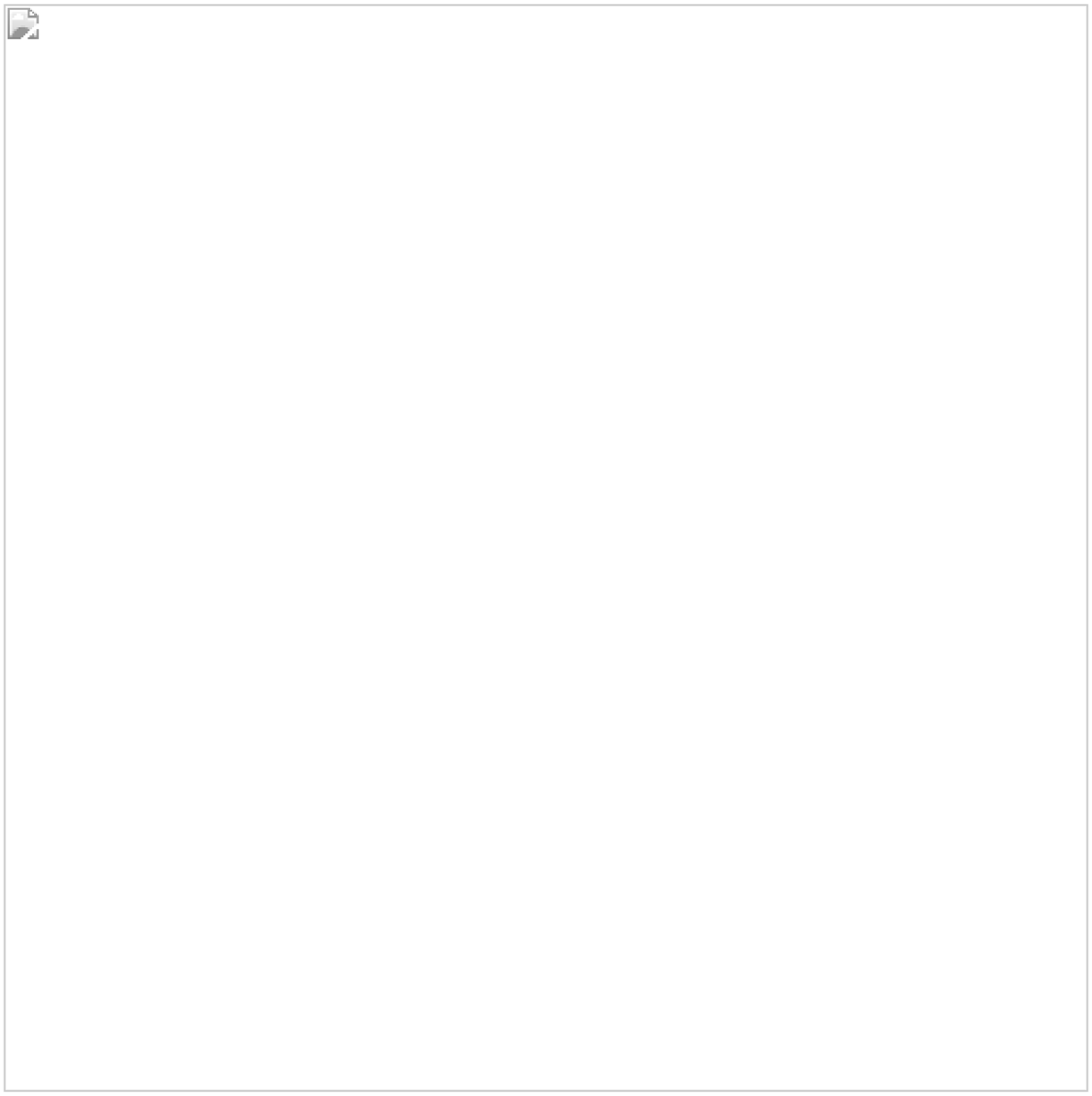


Think about it

1. What did the cow do when Cadmus ran after her?

- ○ She stood still
- ○ She ran too, so he couldn't catch her
- ○ She went to sleep

The Dragon's Teeth



Cadmus's helpers went to a stream for water, but a dragon had guarded it for a hundred years, and they did not come back.

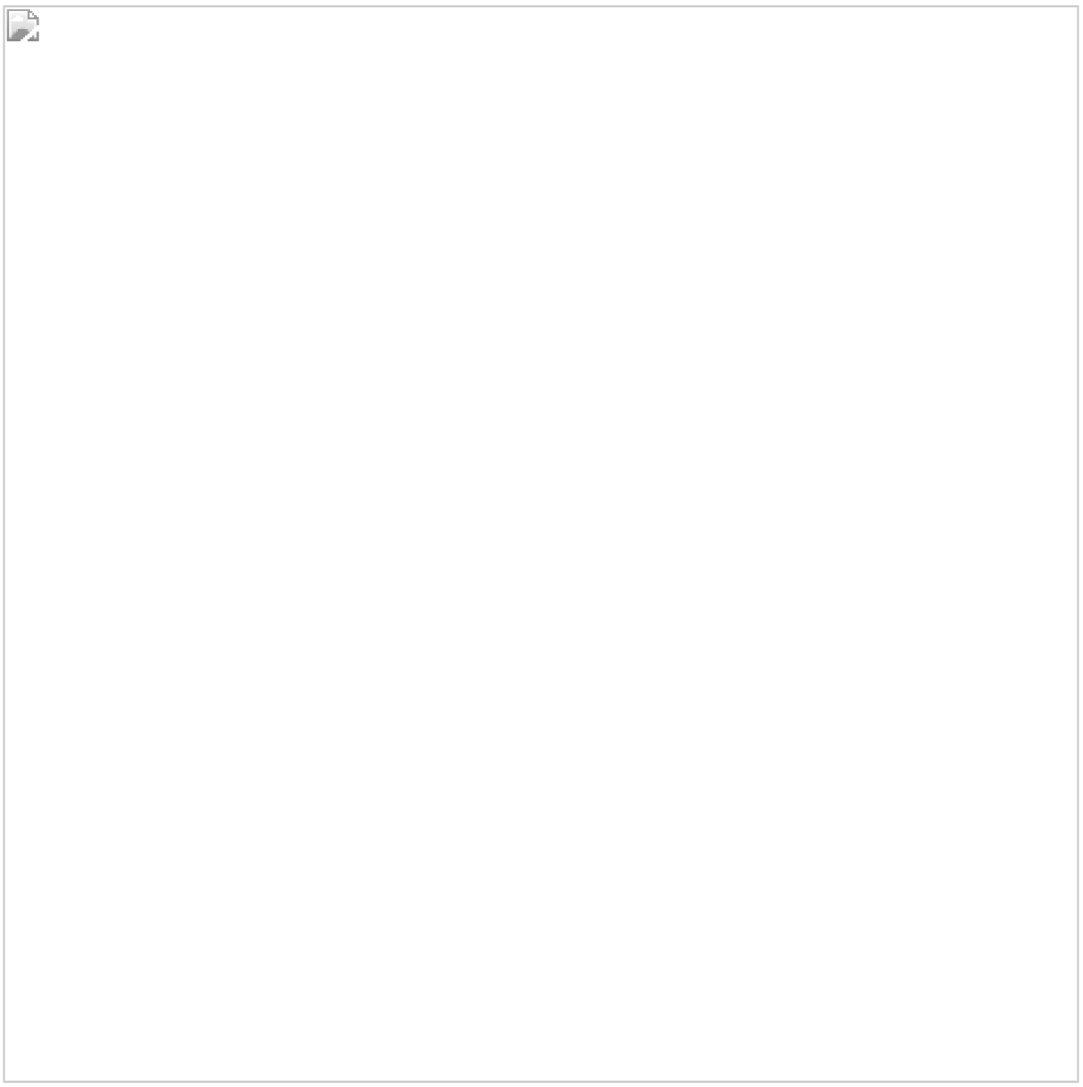
In grief and anger, Cadmus drew his sword and fought the dragon until it lay dead.

“What shall I do now?” he said aloud, and a voice answered, “pluck out the dragon's teeth and plant them in the earth.”

He did, and up sprang rows of silent armed men. “Throw a stone among these men,” said the voice. When he did, they fought each other until only five were left. Cadmus told them to stop, and they put away their swords.

TALK ABOUT IT

Cadmus lost his helpers and was alone again. What do you think he needed most just then?

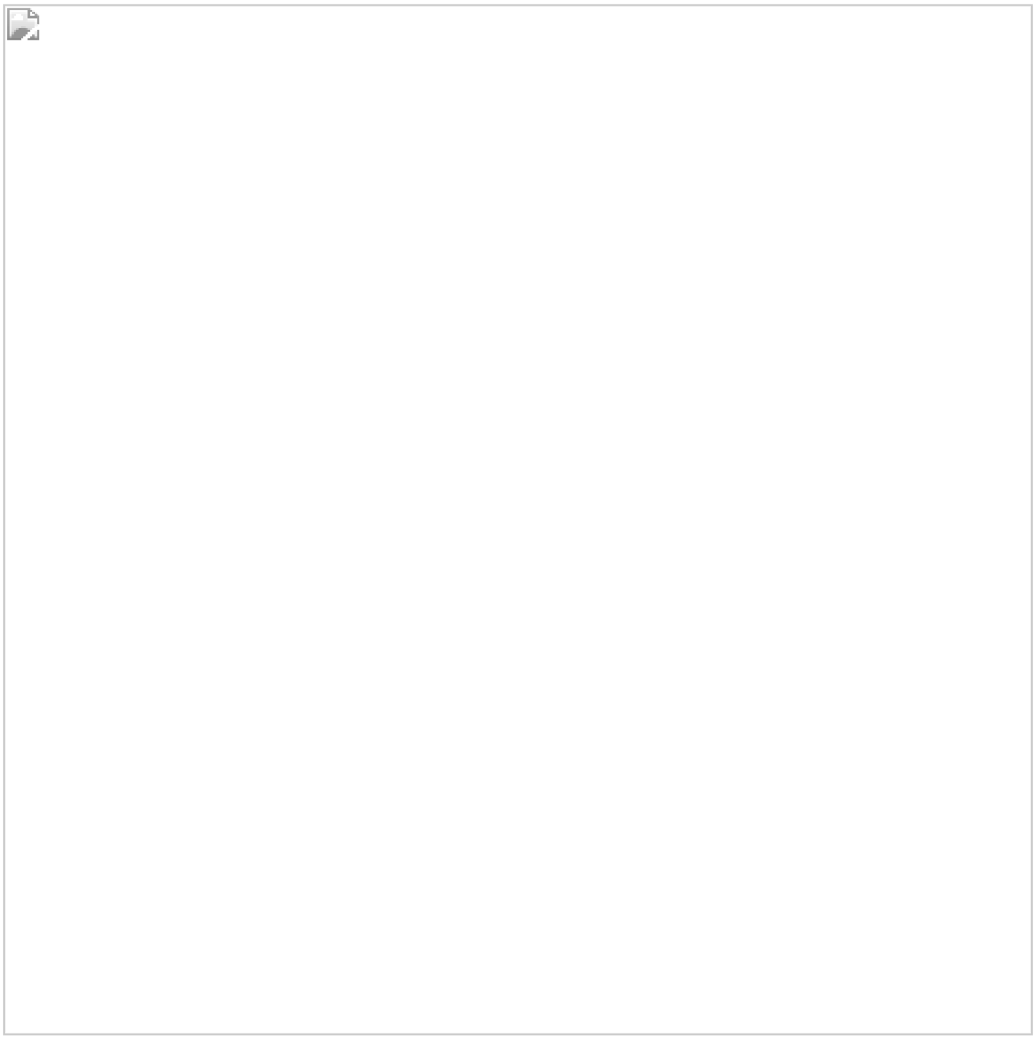


Think about it

1. How many of the armed men were left?

- ○ Fifty
- ○ One
- ○ Five

A Home at Last



The five men stopped fighting and built a marble palace for Cadmus, with a high tower.

In its great hall, a lovely lady in a robe like sunbeams came toward him. Could this be Europa at last?

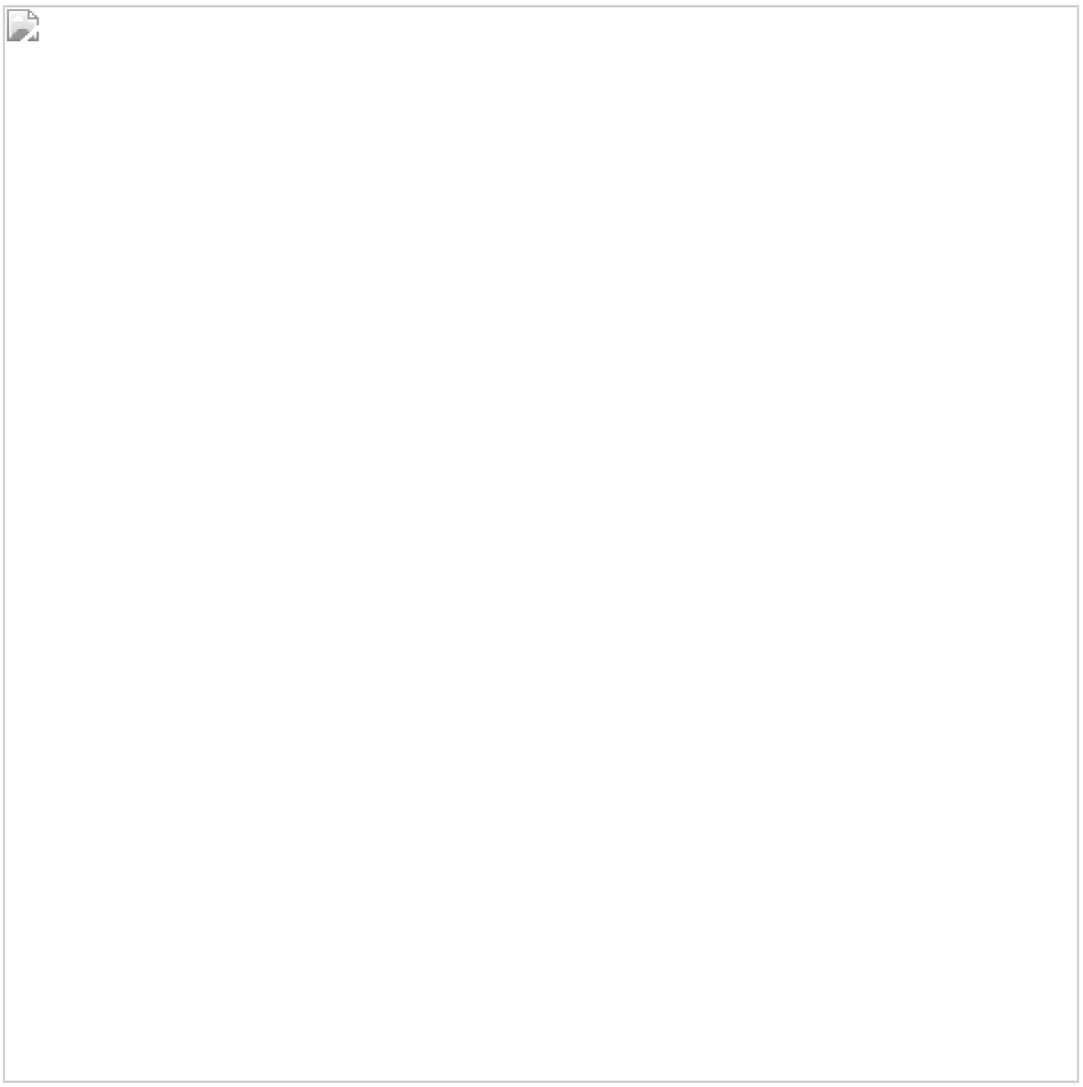
"This is not your dear sister," said the voice, "whom you have sought so faithfully all over the wide world. This is Harmonia, a daughter of the sky, who is given to you instead of sister and brother, and friend and mother."

Soon rosy little children were running down the marble steps to meet King Cadmus, and the five old soldiers taught them to play with wooden swords and drums.

TALK ABOUT IT

Cadmus never found Europa, but he kept looking for a very long time. What does it say about him that he never stopped caring?

A Home at Last · another picture



Think about it

1. Who was the lady in the palace?

- ○ Harmonia, a daughter of the sky
- ○ His sister Europa
- ○ The wise woman

2. Who was good to Cadmus on his long walk, and how?

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

— Yeshua HaMashiach

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