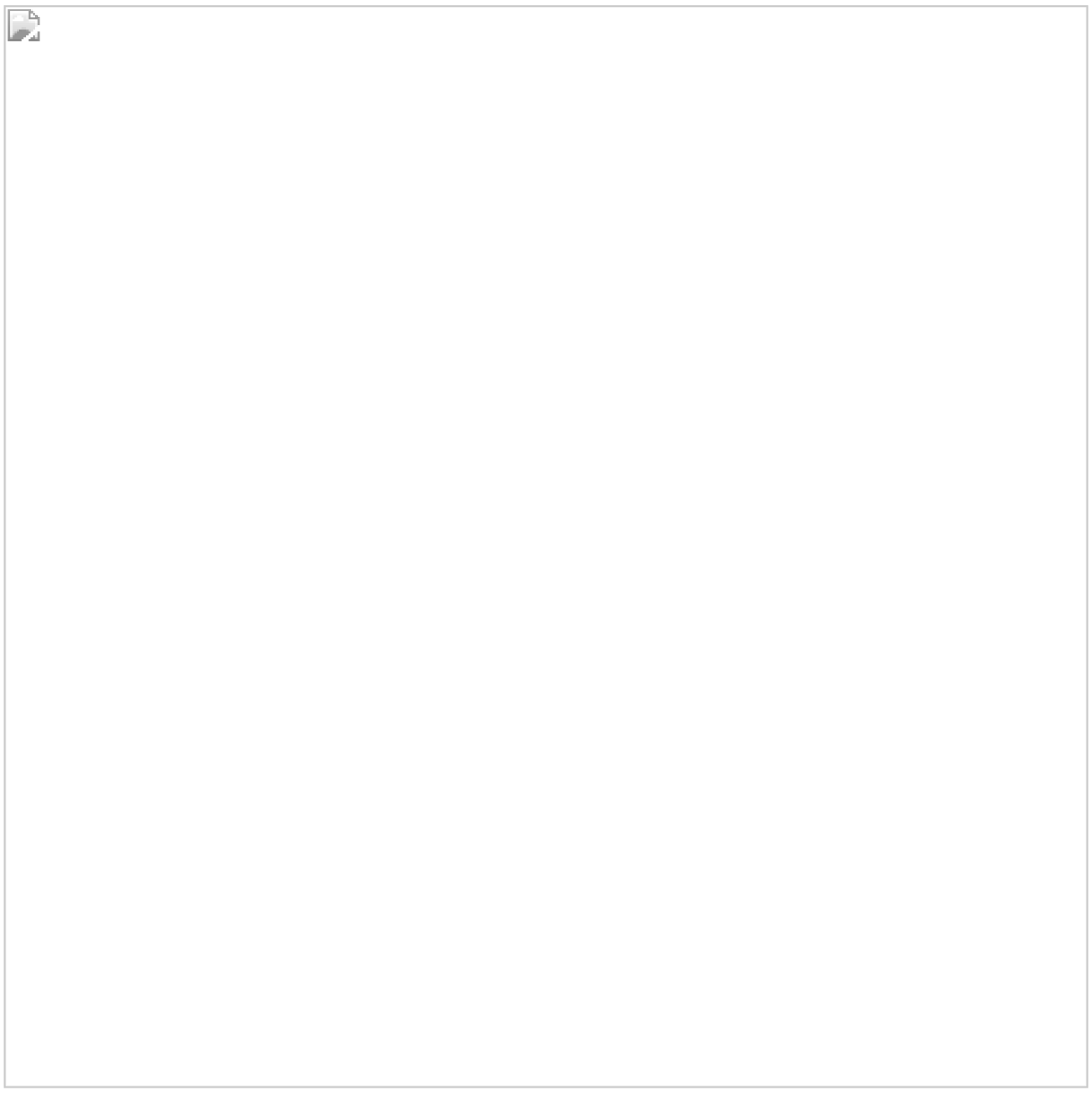
COLORING THE CLASSICS

Havelok

A Hero of England



There was once a King of England named Athelwold. Everyone loved him, for he lifted up the wise and the just, and he put down the robber. A traveler could carry a bag of gold across the whole country and not be afraid.

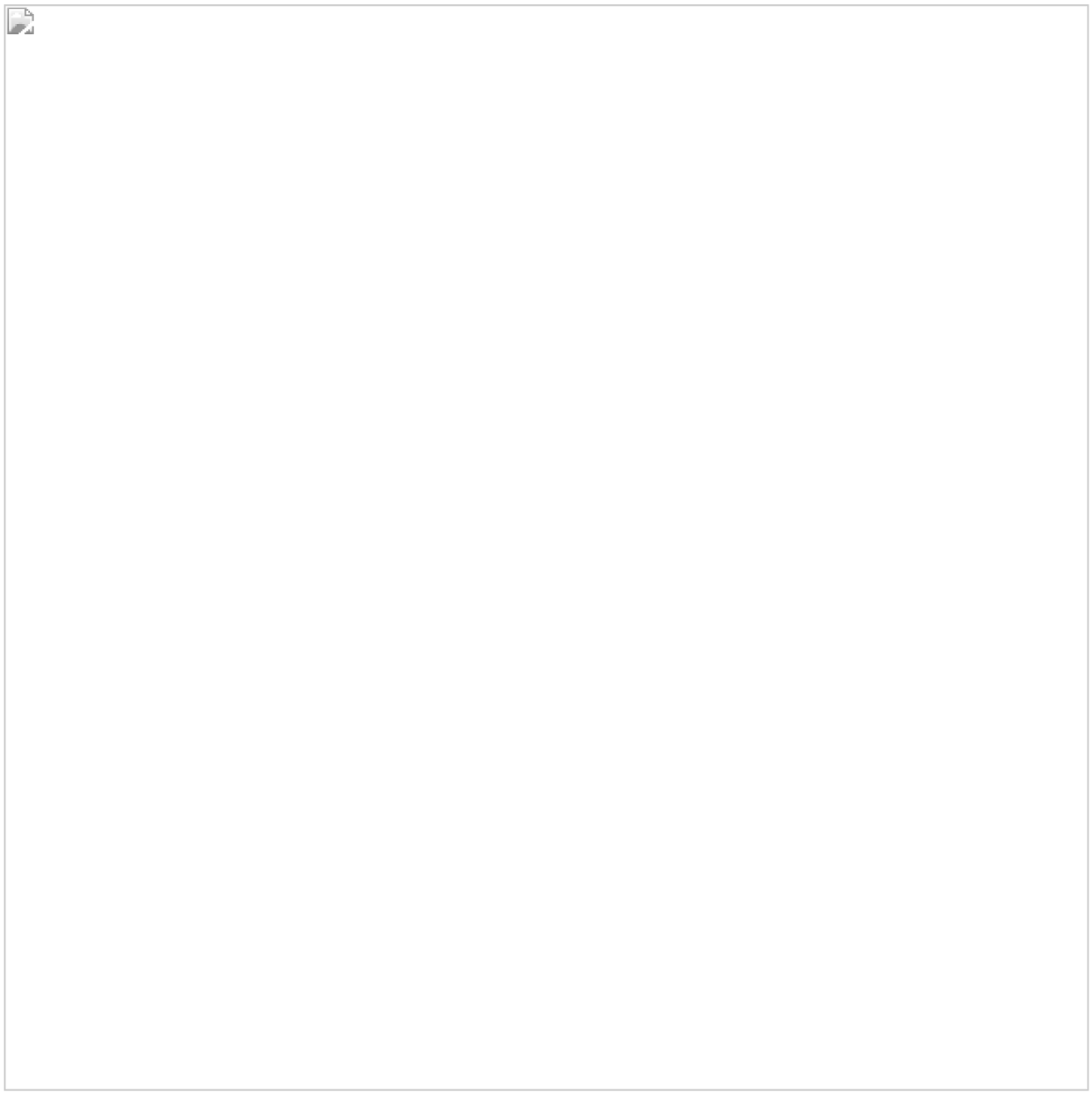
He was kind to the poor, and he never thought the fine bread on his own table too good to give to the hungry.

TALK ABOUT IT

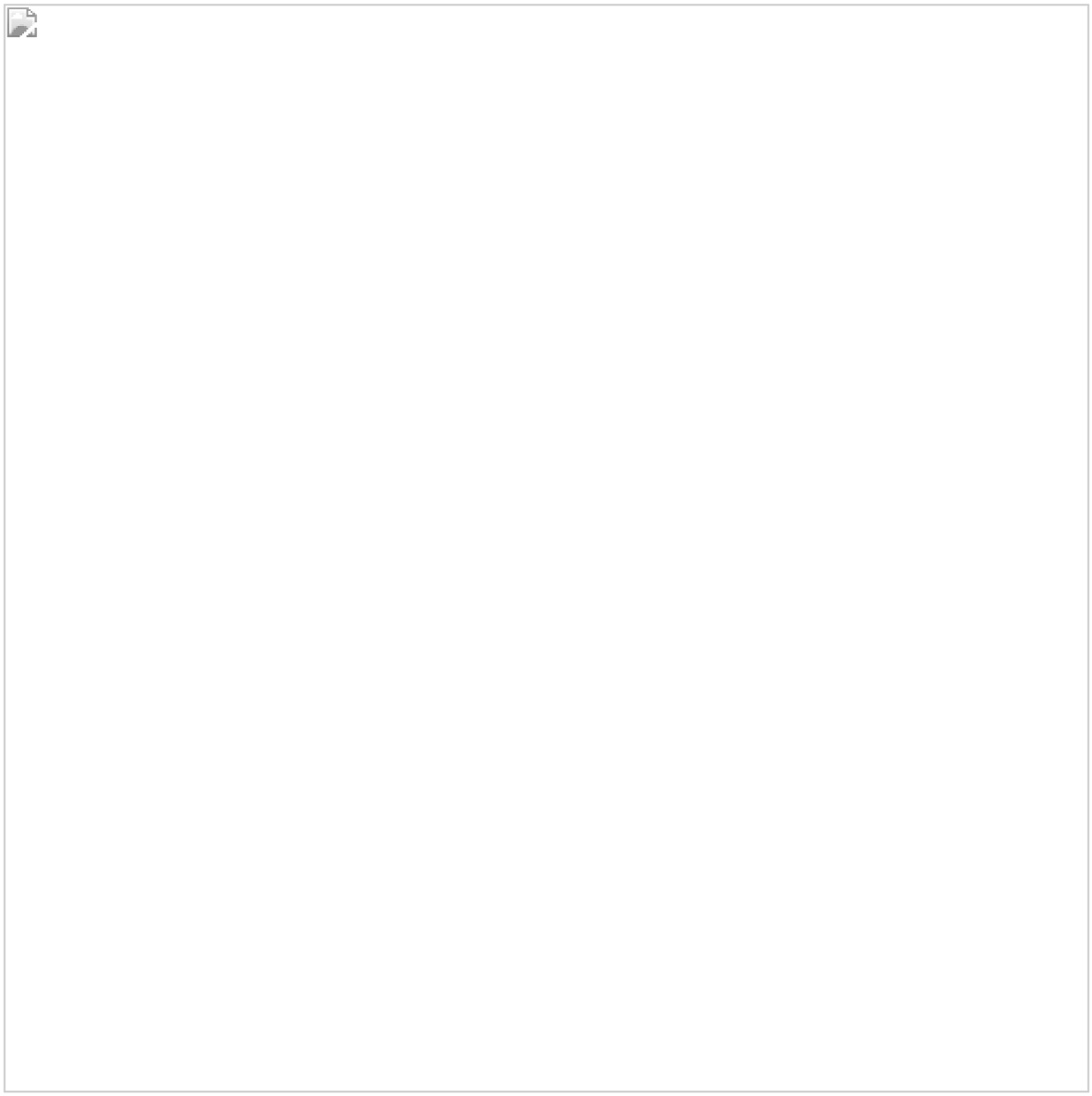
King Athelwold gave bread to the hungry from his own table. Who do you know who shares like that?

This book belongs to _____

Havelok · another picture



A Promise to a Dying King



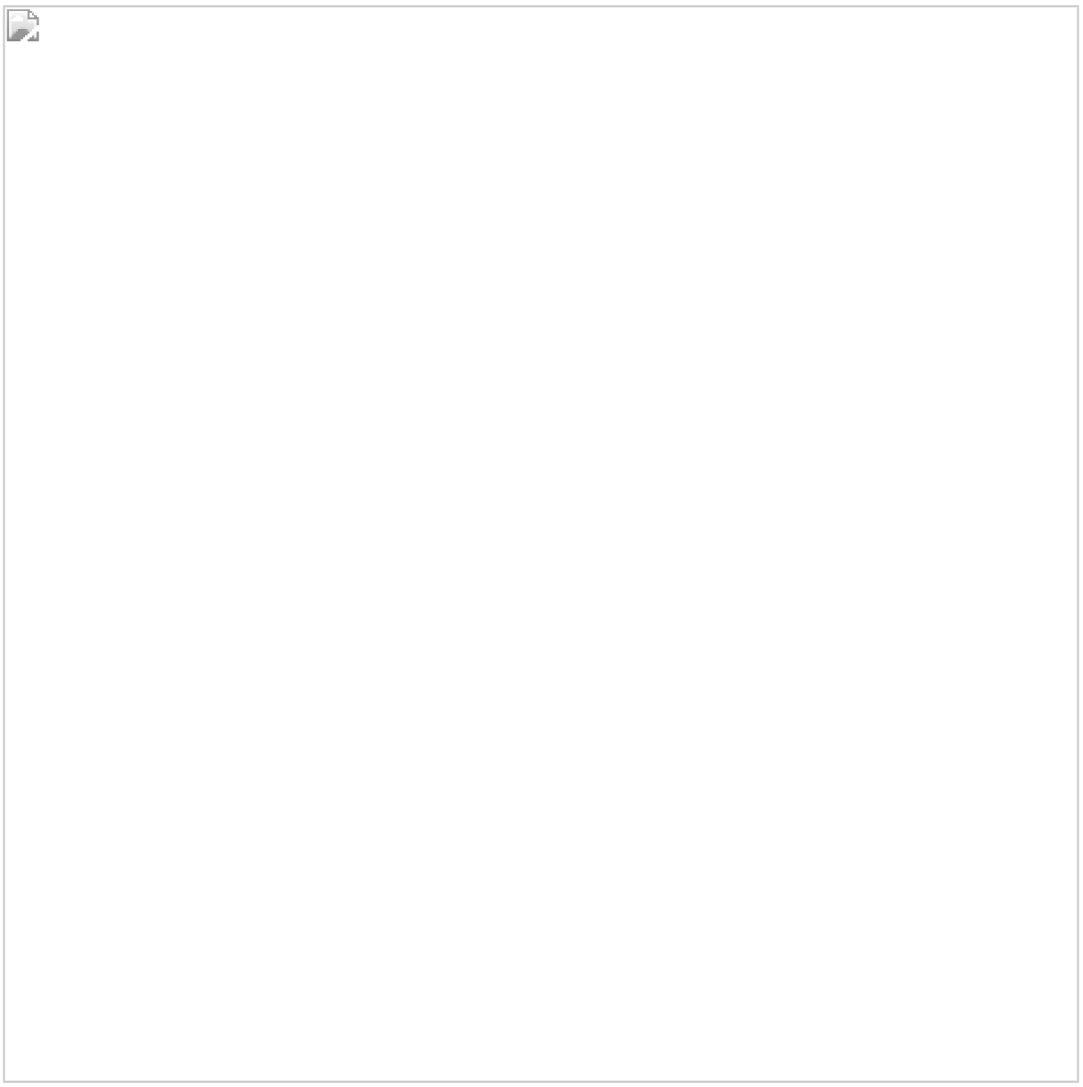
But King Athelwold fell ill, and knew he was dying. It troubled him to leave his little daughter, Goldborough, who was too young even to walk.

The lords chose Earl Godrich of Cornwall to look after her and the kingdom until she was grown. Godrich swore to be true, and one day to give her the kingdom. Then the good king died.

But as the years went by, Godrich grew rich and strong, and he did not want to give it up. He broke his promise. He shut Goldborough away in a castle by the sea at Dover, dressed her in poor clothes, and would not let her friends visit.

TALK ABOUT IT

Godrich made a promise, then broke it. Why do you think a promise is so important?



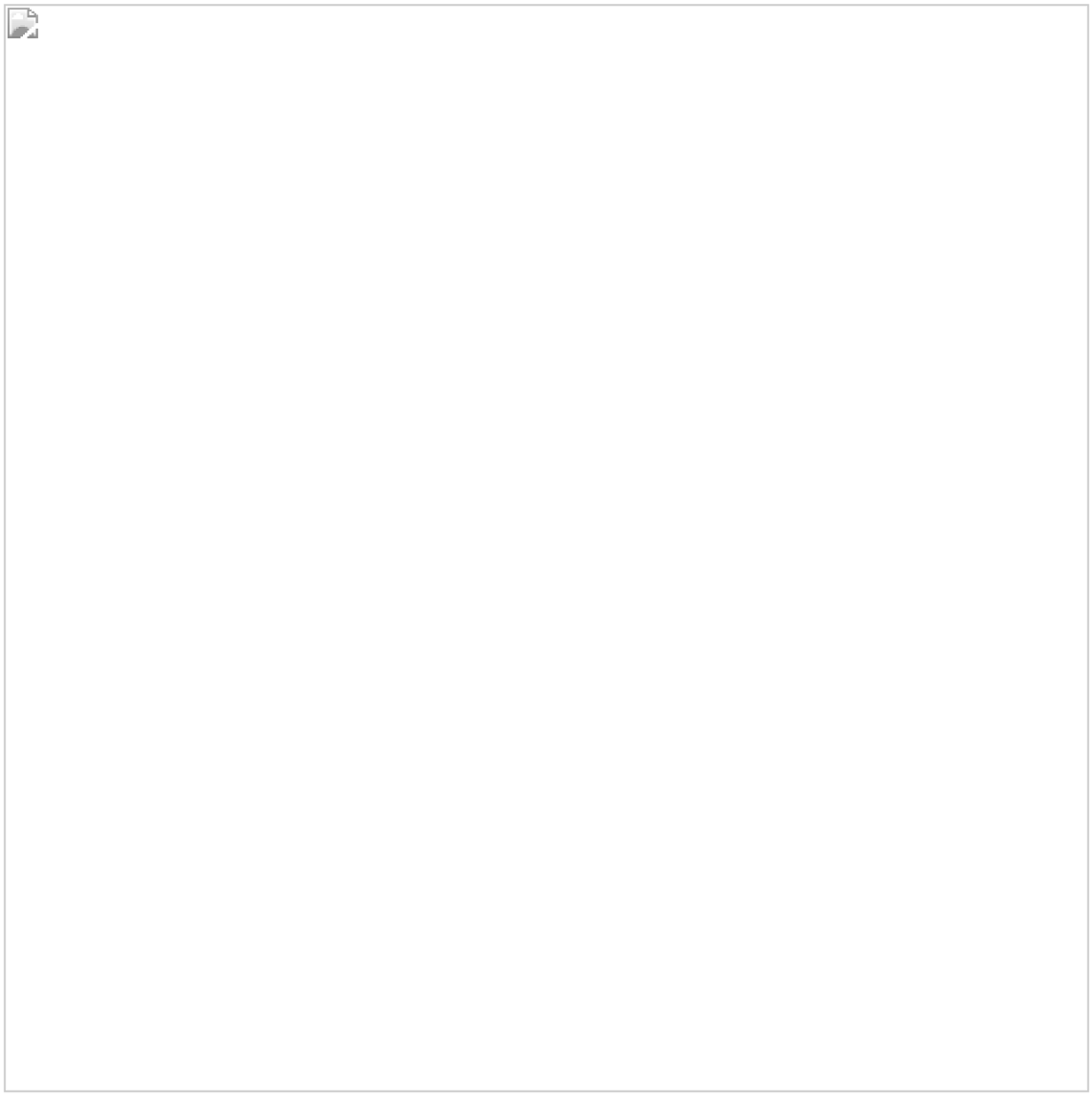
Think about it

1. Who was supposed to look after Goldborough?

- ○ The cook
- ○ Earl Godrich
- ○ A fisherman

2. What should Godrich have done when Goldborough grew up?

Three Little Children in Denmark



Across the sea in Denmark, King Birkabeyn lay dying. He had three children: a boy named Havelok and two little girls. He asked his friend Godard to look after them, and to make Havelok king when he was grown.

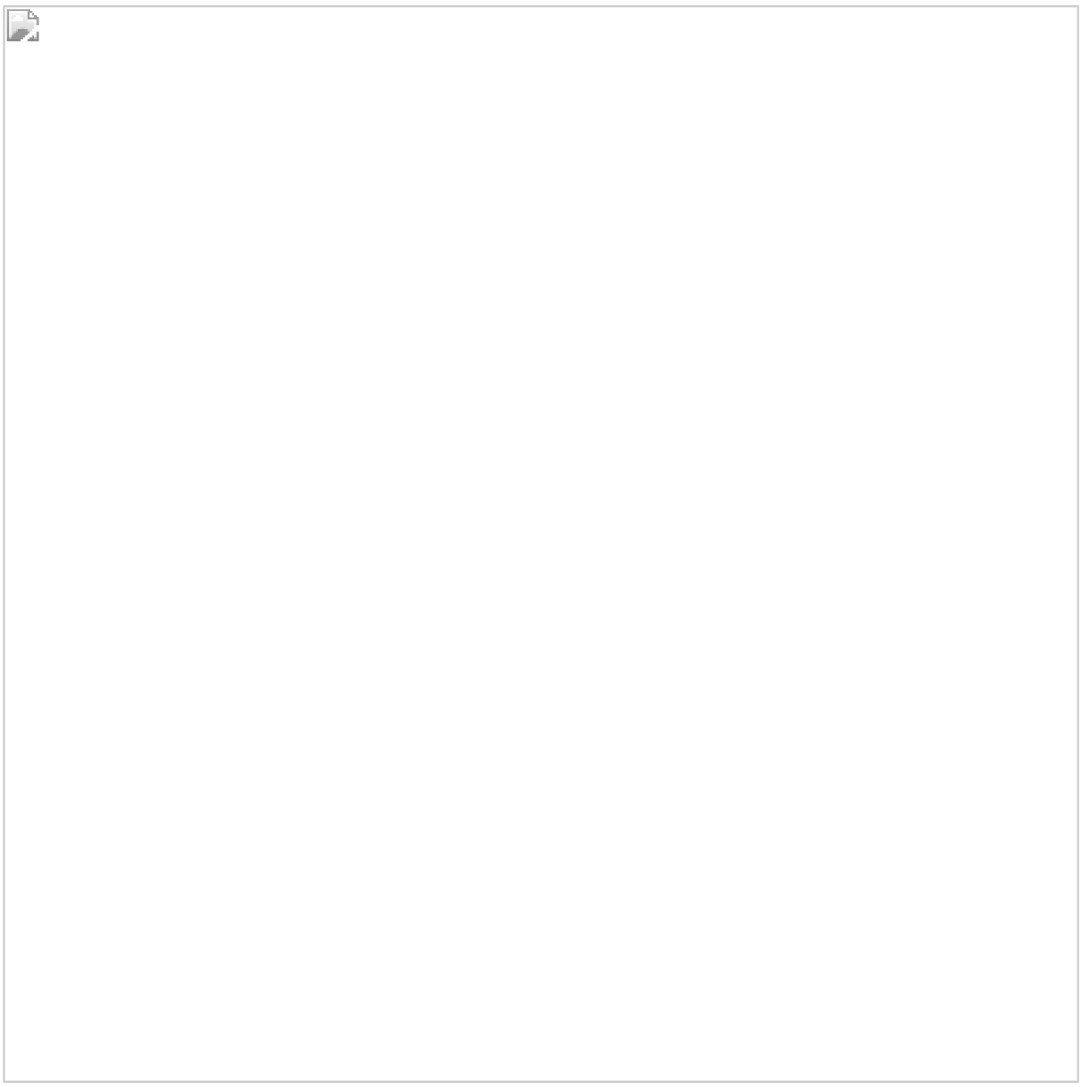
Godard swore he would. But as soon as the king was buried, Godard broke his word. He shut the children up in a castle with barely any clothes. Havelok was not yet three years old.

“We are very hungry,” Havelok told Godard. Godard did a terrible thing to Havelok's two little sisters, and Havelok was left all alone.

TALK ABOUT IT

Havelok was very small, and very sad. How could someone who loves little children help in a time like this?

Three Little Children in Denmark · another picture

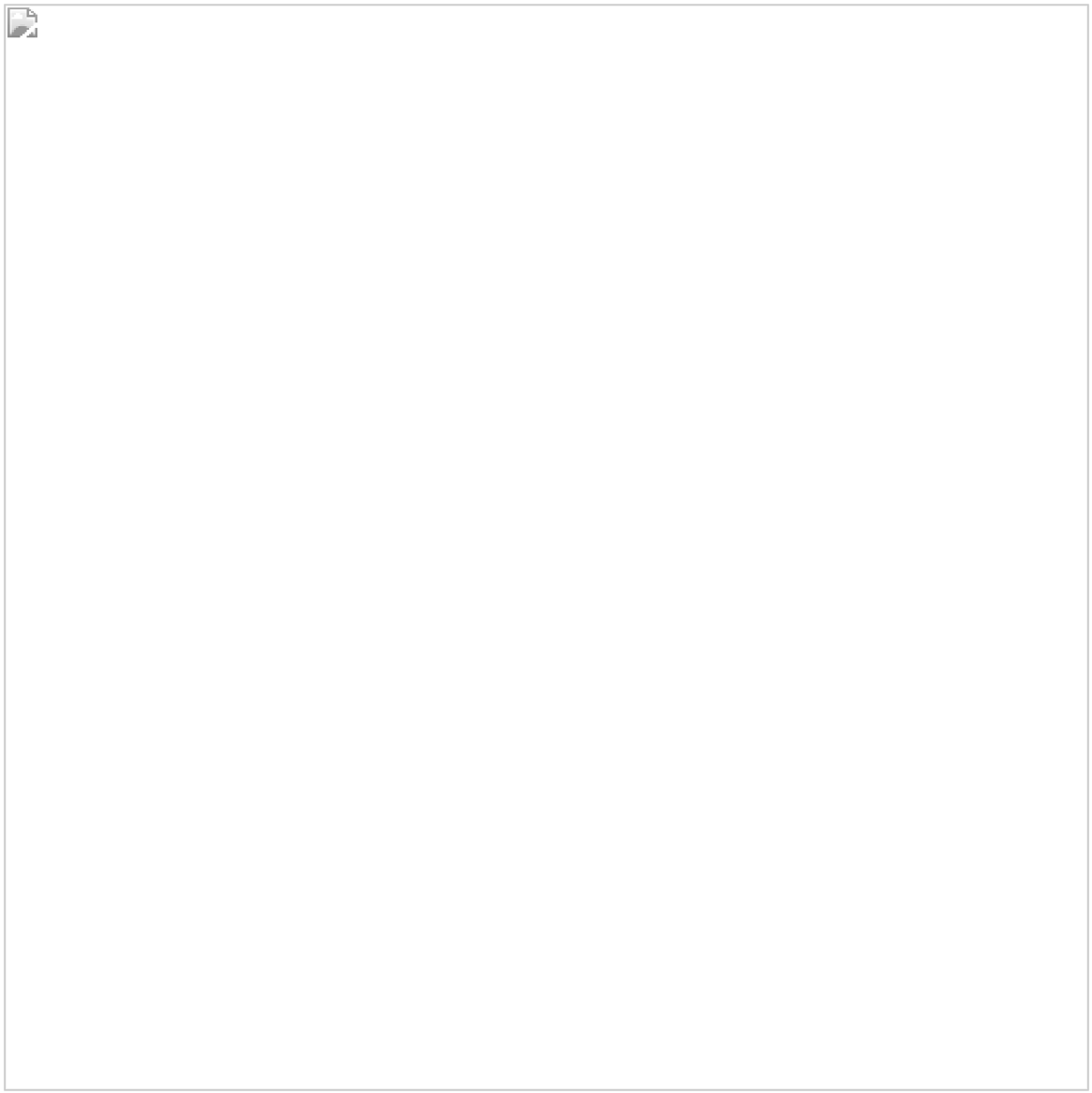


Think about it

1. What did Havelok tell Godard?

- ○ I want to be king.
- ○ Let me go home.
- ○ We are very hungry.

Grim and the Shining Light



Godard told a fisherman named Grim to drown the boy in the sea that night, and Grim would be free and rich.

Grim took the boy home. In the night, his wife saw a light round the boy's head, bright as a sunbeam. On his shoulder they found a king-mark, plain and fair.

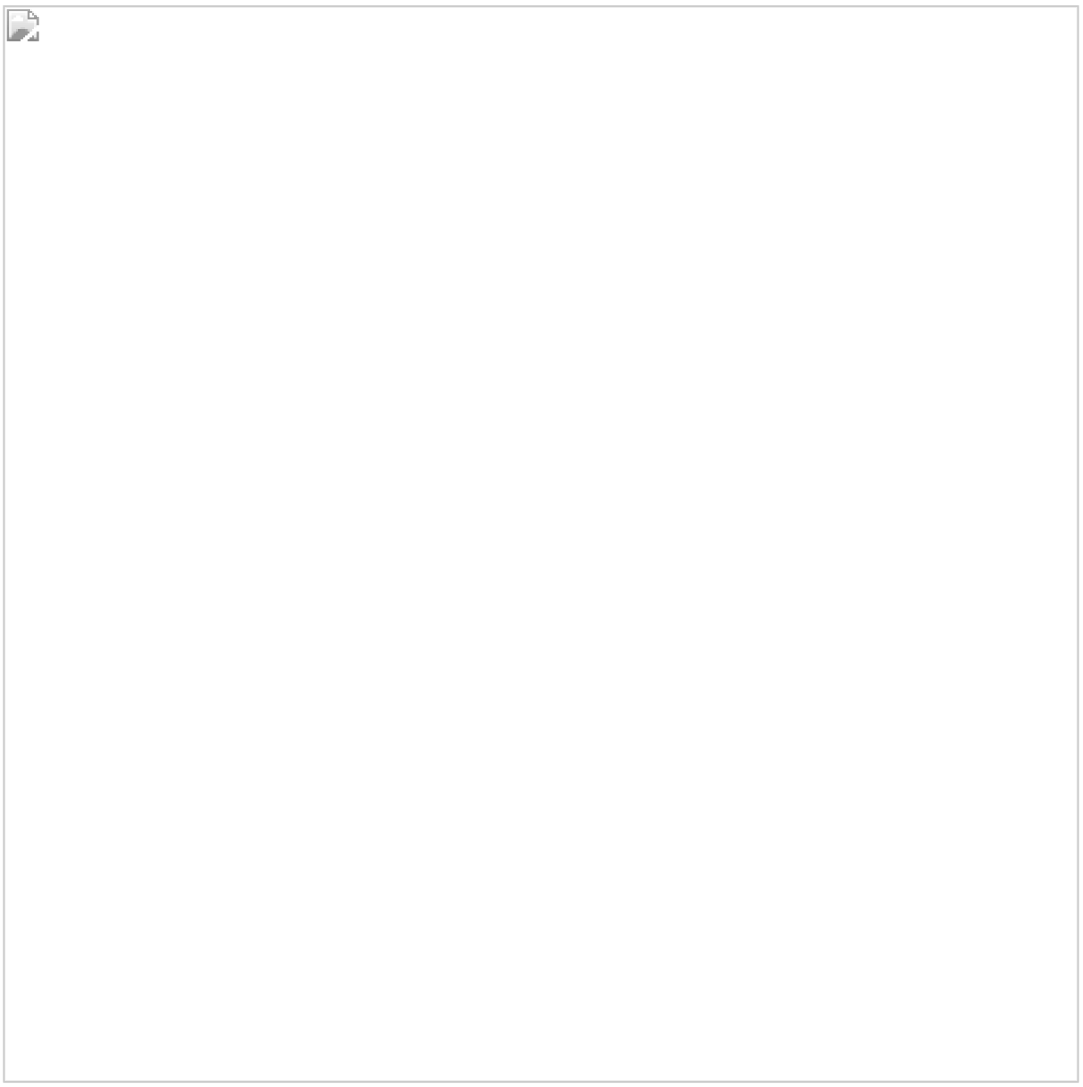
“God help us, wife,” said Grim, “this is surely the heir of Denmark.” He knelt. “Forgive me, my King, that I knew thee not.”

They gave him bread and cheese and milk, and made him a soft bed. “Sleep, my son; sleep fast and sound and have no care, for nought shall harm thee.”

TALK ABOUT IT

Grim could have kept the promised gold. Why do you think he took care of Havelok instead?

Grim and the Shining Light · another picture



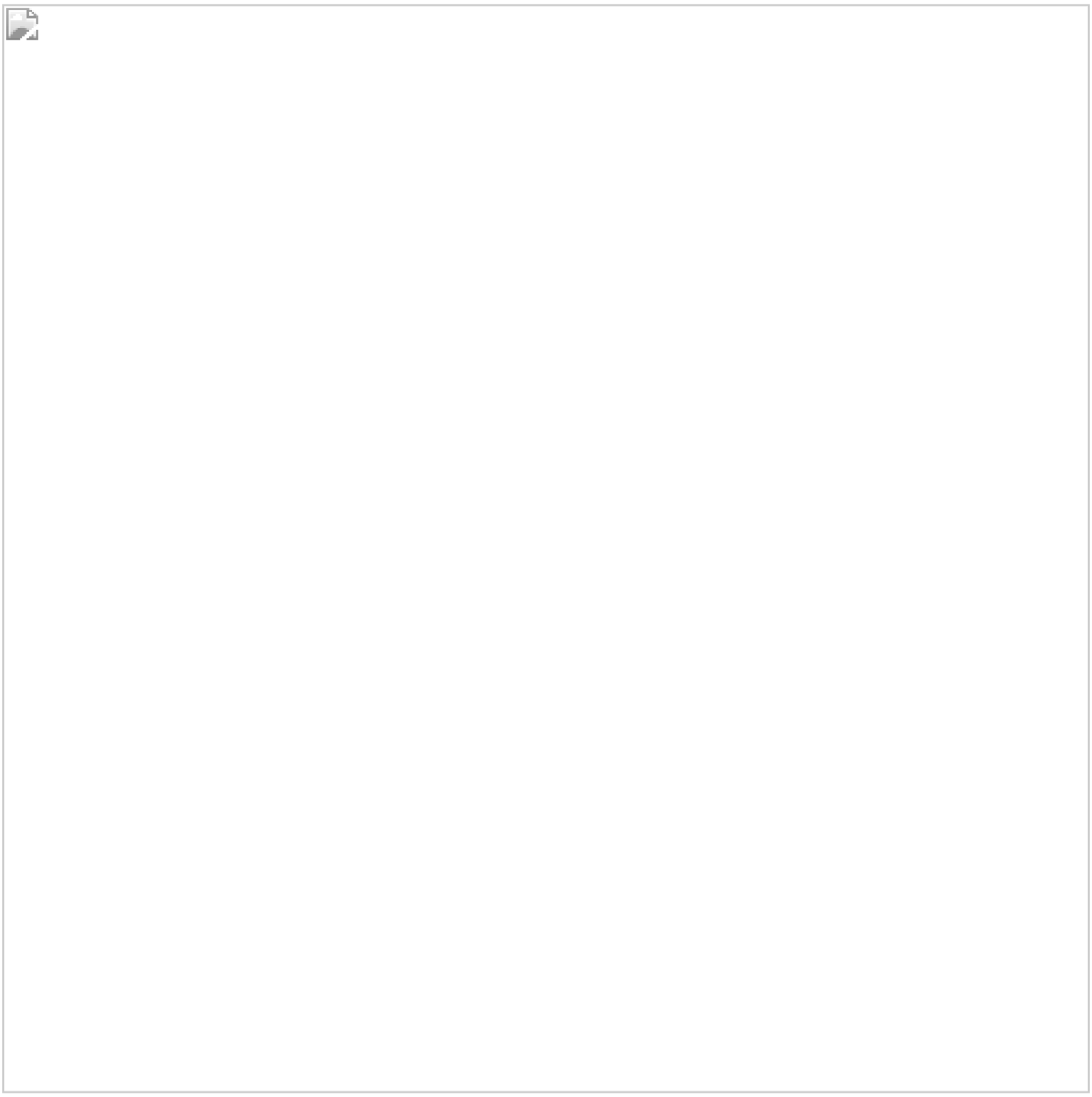
Think about it

1. What did Grim do with the boy?

- ○ He kept him safe and fed him
- ○ He left him in the cold
- ○ He took him back to Godard

2. What was it about Havelok that told Grim he was the king's son?

A New Home at Grimsby



Grim told Godard that the job was done. But Godard was angry and sent him away with nothing. Grim began to fear for himself and for Havelok. So he sold everything he had, got his little ship ready, and sailed away with his wife, his five children, and Havelok.

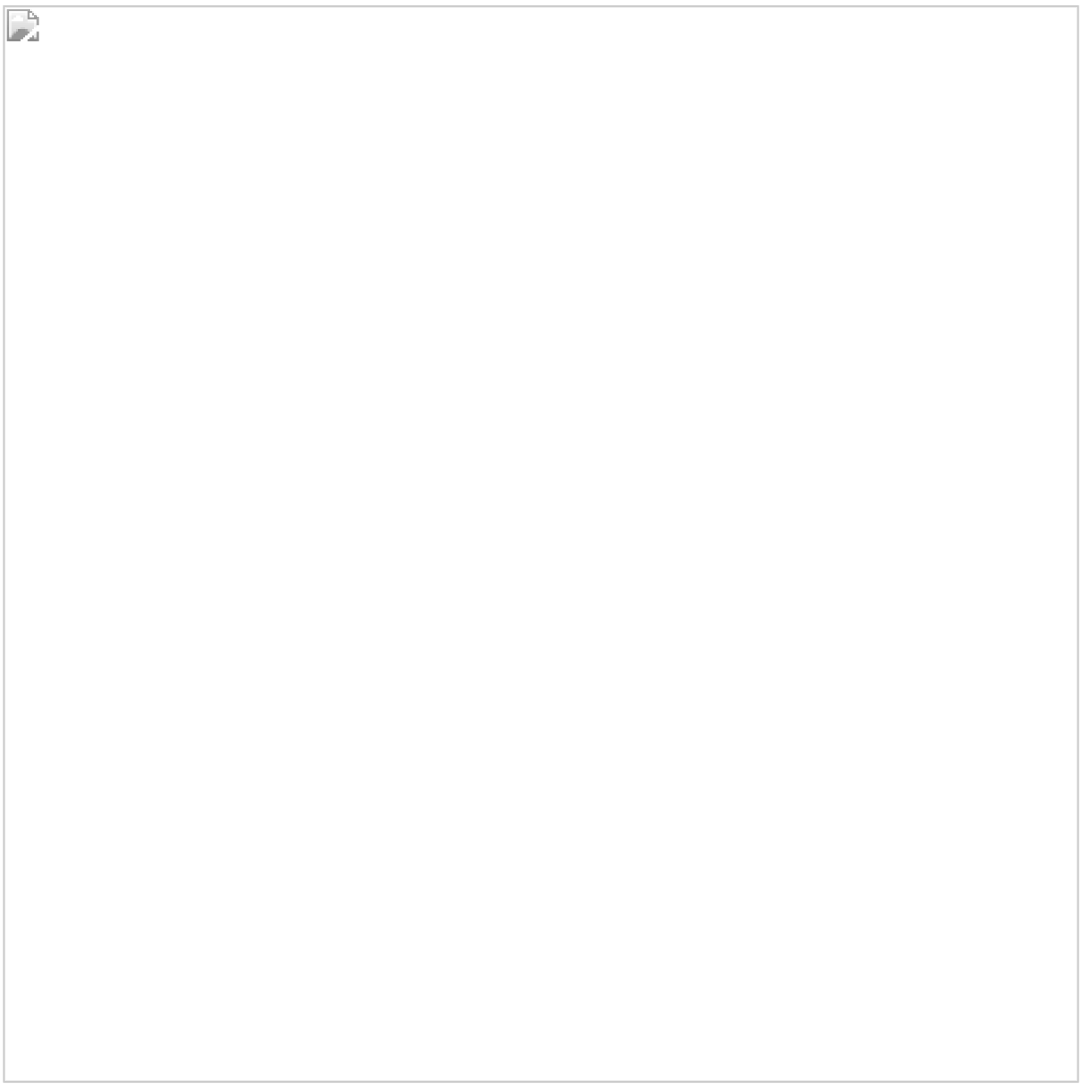
A strong north wind drove them all the way to England, where they landed on the shore. Grim built a house of earth there, and the place was called Grimsby, after him.

Grim was a good fisherman, and for twelve years they lived well on what he caught.

TALK ABOUT IT

Grim gave up everything he owned to keep Havelok safe. Would you give up something big for a friend?

A New Home at Grimsby · another picture

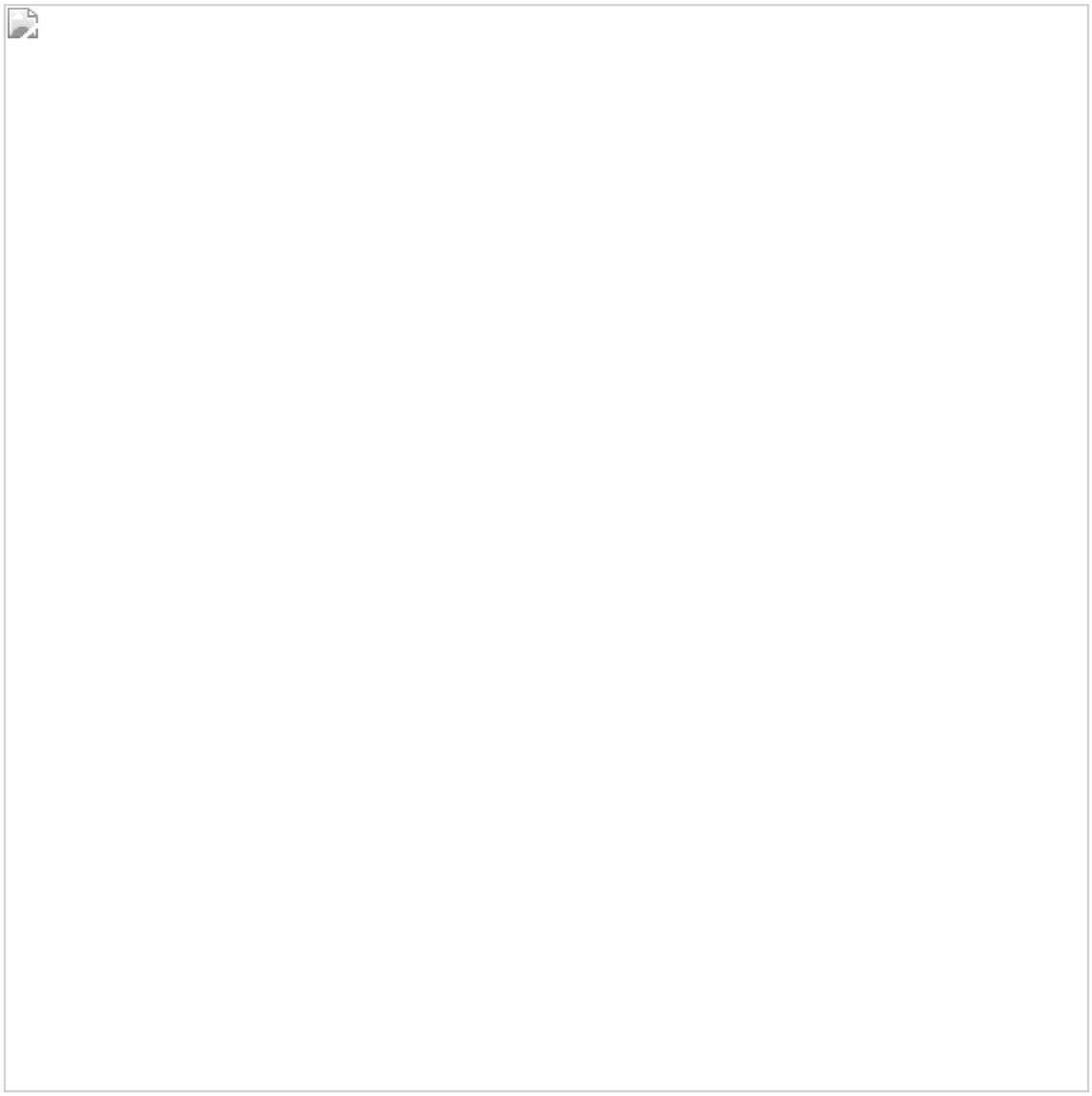


Think about it

1. What is the town they started called?

- ○ Havelock
- ○ Grimsby
- ○ Dover

Havelok Goes to Work



Havelok grew up strong, but he saw how hard Grim worked. He thought that he ate more than Grim and all his five children together, and yet did nothing to earn his bread.

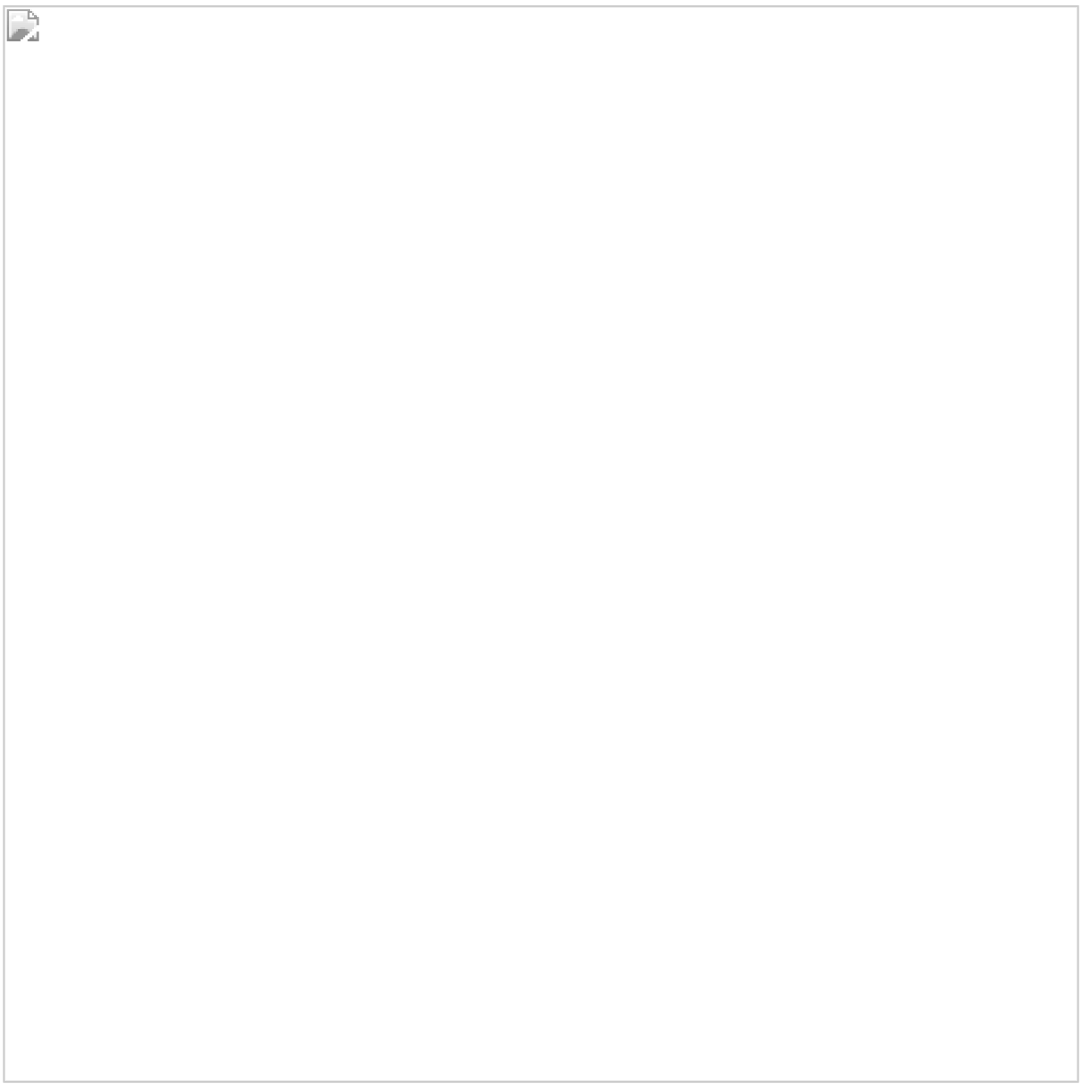
So he asked for a basket like the others. The next day he carried it heaped with fish and sold them well. After that he was never idle.

Then came a year when food was scarce, and Havelok did not want to be a burden to Grim. Grim made him a coat out of an old sail, and Havelok set off to Lincoln barefoot to look for work.

TALK ABOUT IT

Havelok was a king's son, but he worked hard and did not want to be a burden. What do you think of that?

Havelok Goes to Work · another picture

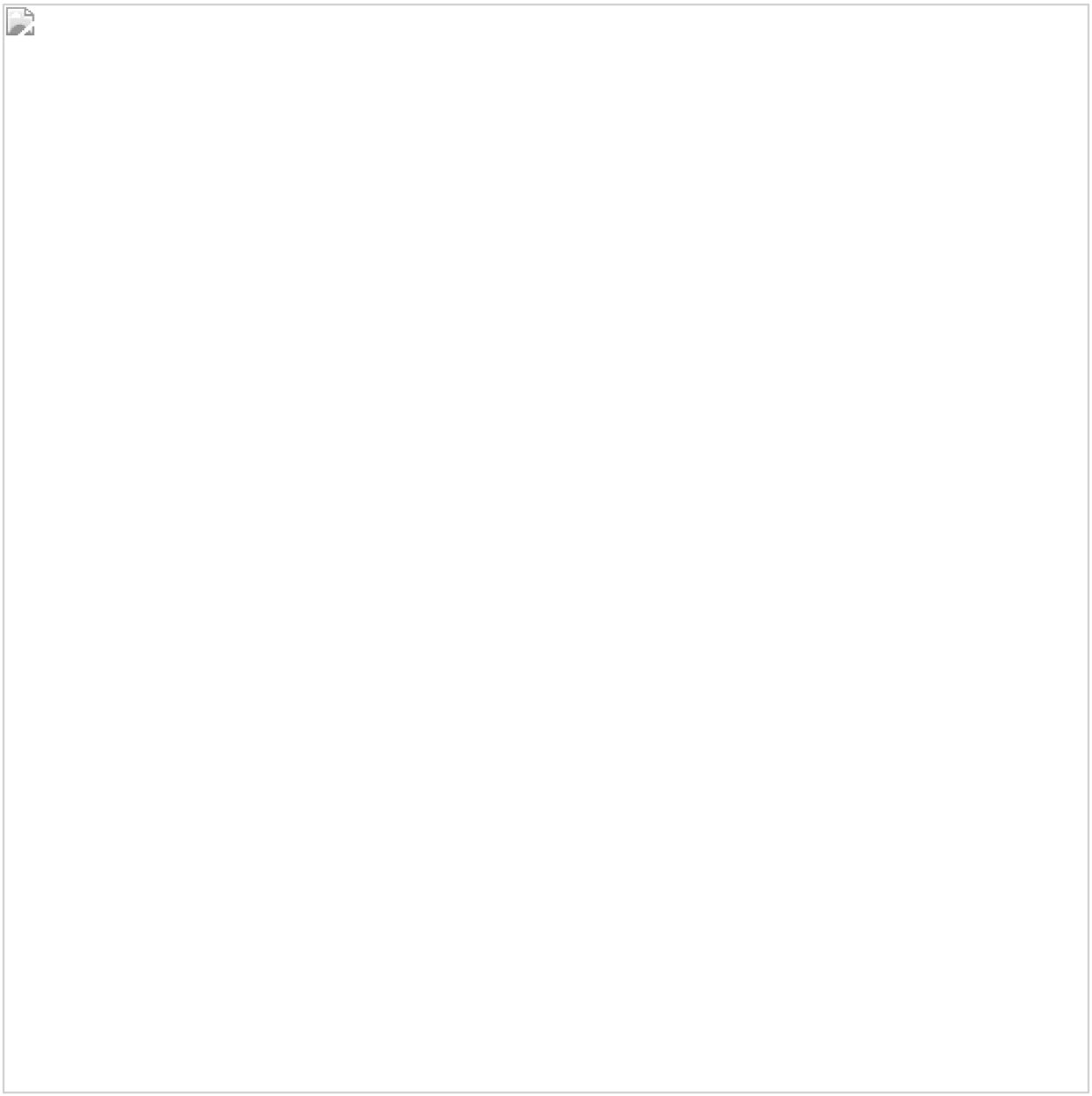


Think about it

1. What did Grim make Havelok to wear?

- ○ A coat from an old sail
- ○ A suit of armor
- ○ A silk robe

The Cook's Helper



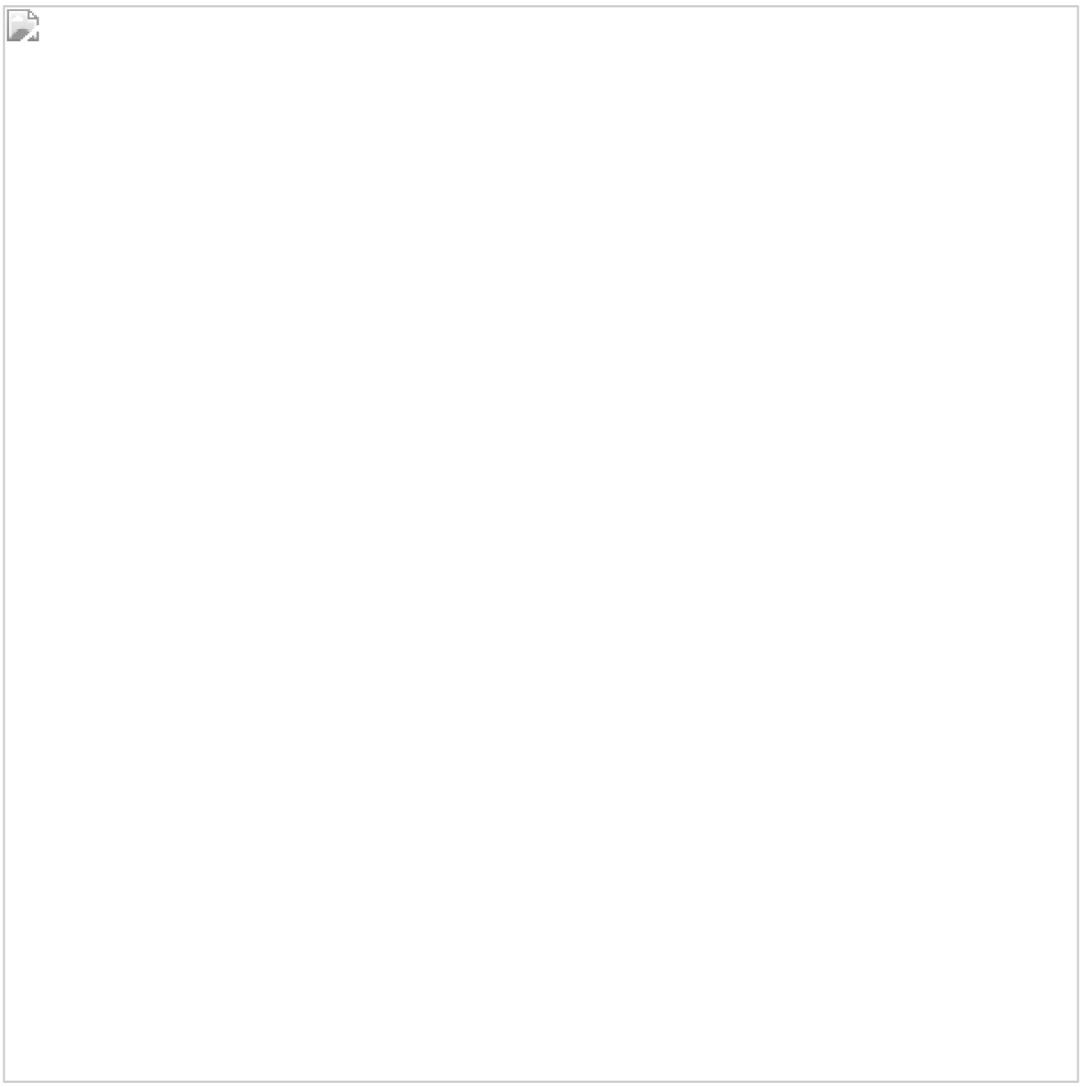
In Lincoln, a cook named Bertram took Havelok on to help in the kitchen. Havelok drew water and chopped wood and carried heavy tubs, and he was always cheerful. Children loved to play with him.

One day at the games, he lifted a huge stone, and threw it twelve feet farther than anyone else. Everyone talked about it.

It came to the ears of Earl Godrich, who was holding the games.

TALK ABOUT IT

How do you think the other people in the kitchen felt about Havelok? What makes someone fun to be around?

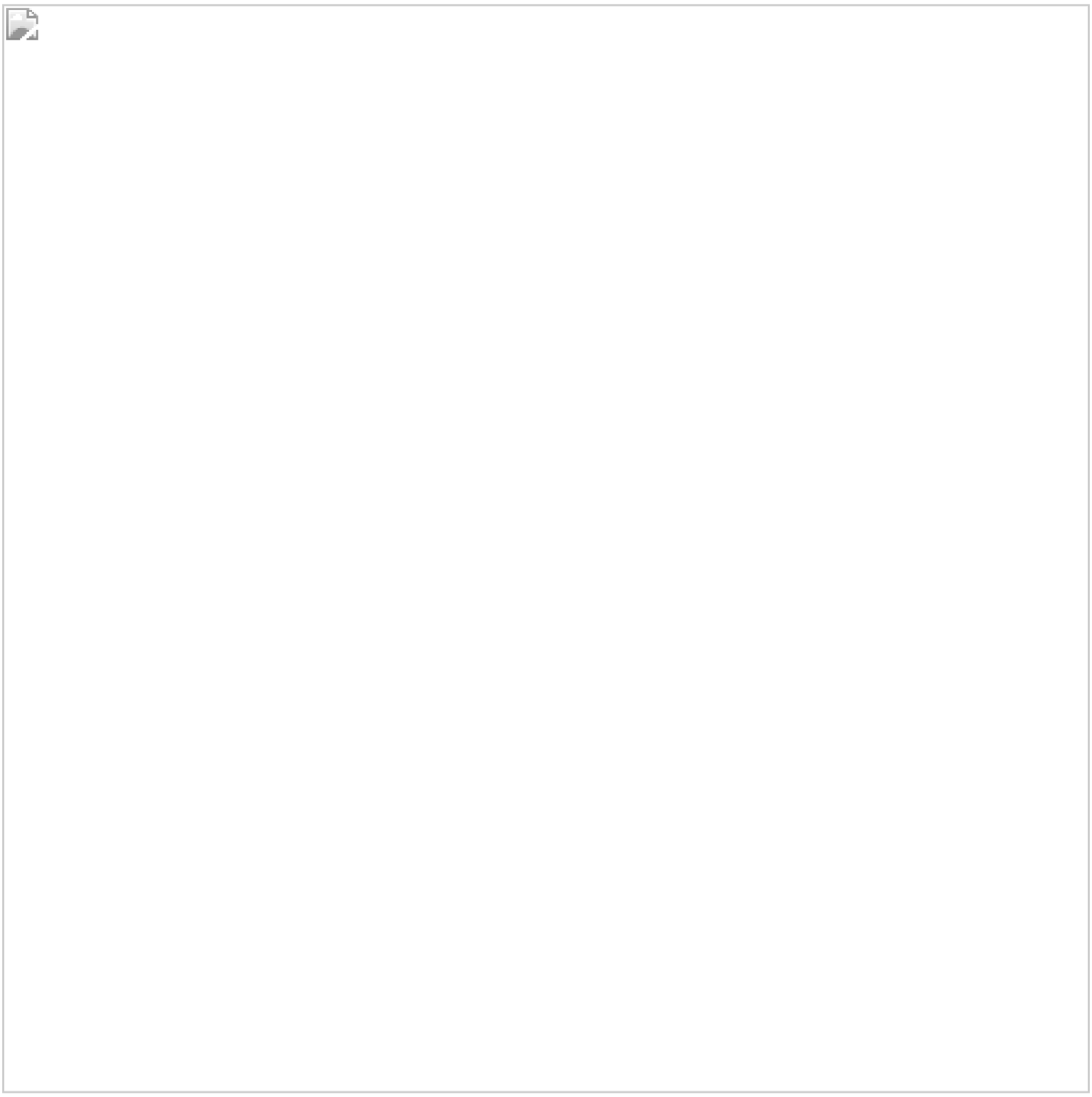


Think about it

1. What did Havelok throw at the games?

- ○ A spear
- ○ A ball
- ○ A heavy stone

A Wedding Nobody Wanted



Godrich remembered that King Athelwold had asked him to marry Goldborough to the strongest man alive. So he made up his mind to marry her to this cook's helper. He thought it would bring her pride down, and she could not trouble him anymore.

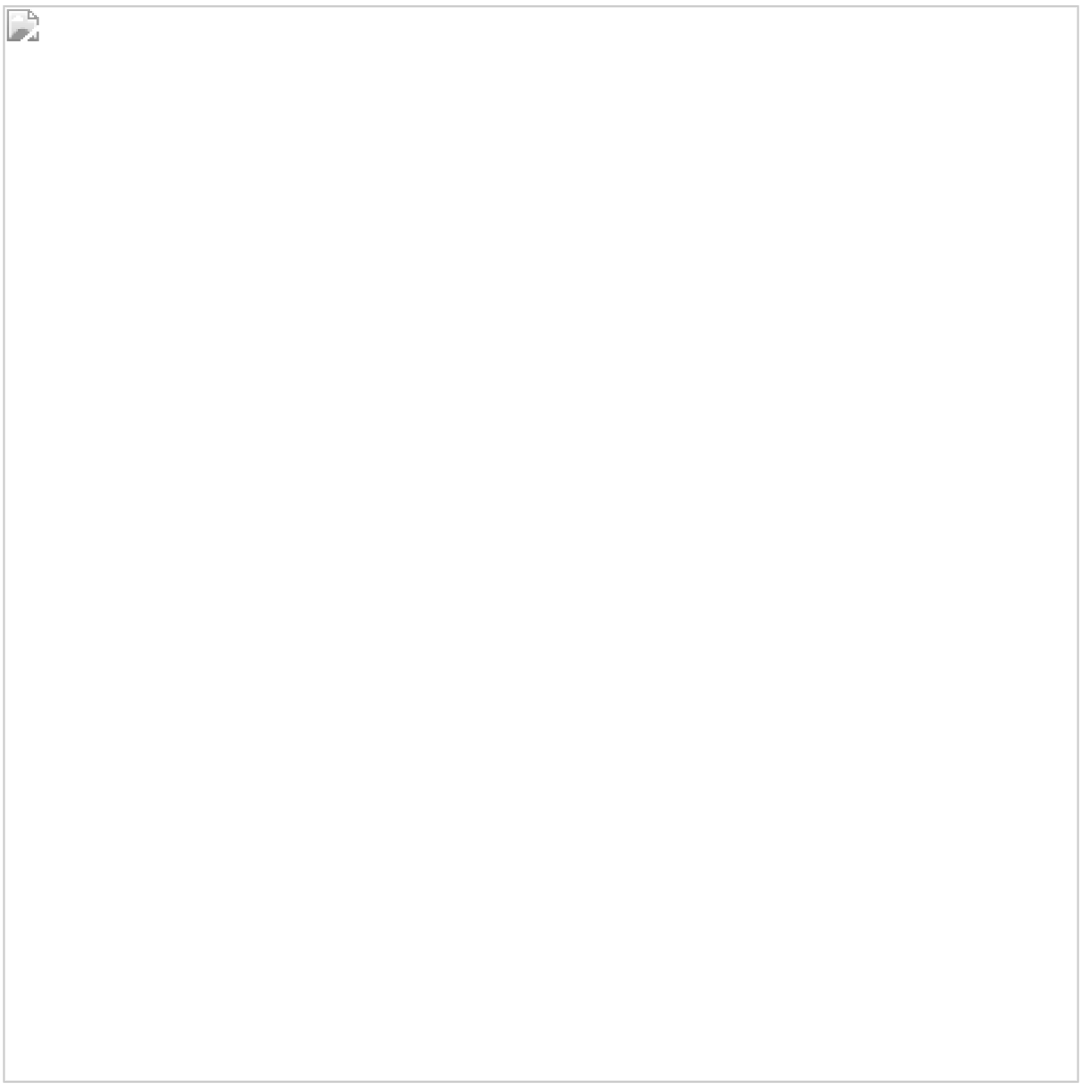
He fetched Goldborough to Lincoln. She said she would marry no one but a king. Then he asked Havelok. “Not I,” said Havelok, “for I cannot feed nor clothe a wife.”

But Godrich would not take no for an answer. So the next day they were married by the Archbishop, with neither of them glad.

TALK ABOUT IT

Neither Havelok nor Goldborough wanted this wedding. Why do you think Godrich arranged it?

A Wedding Nobody Wanted · another picture

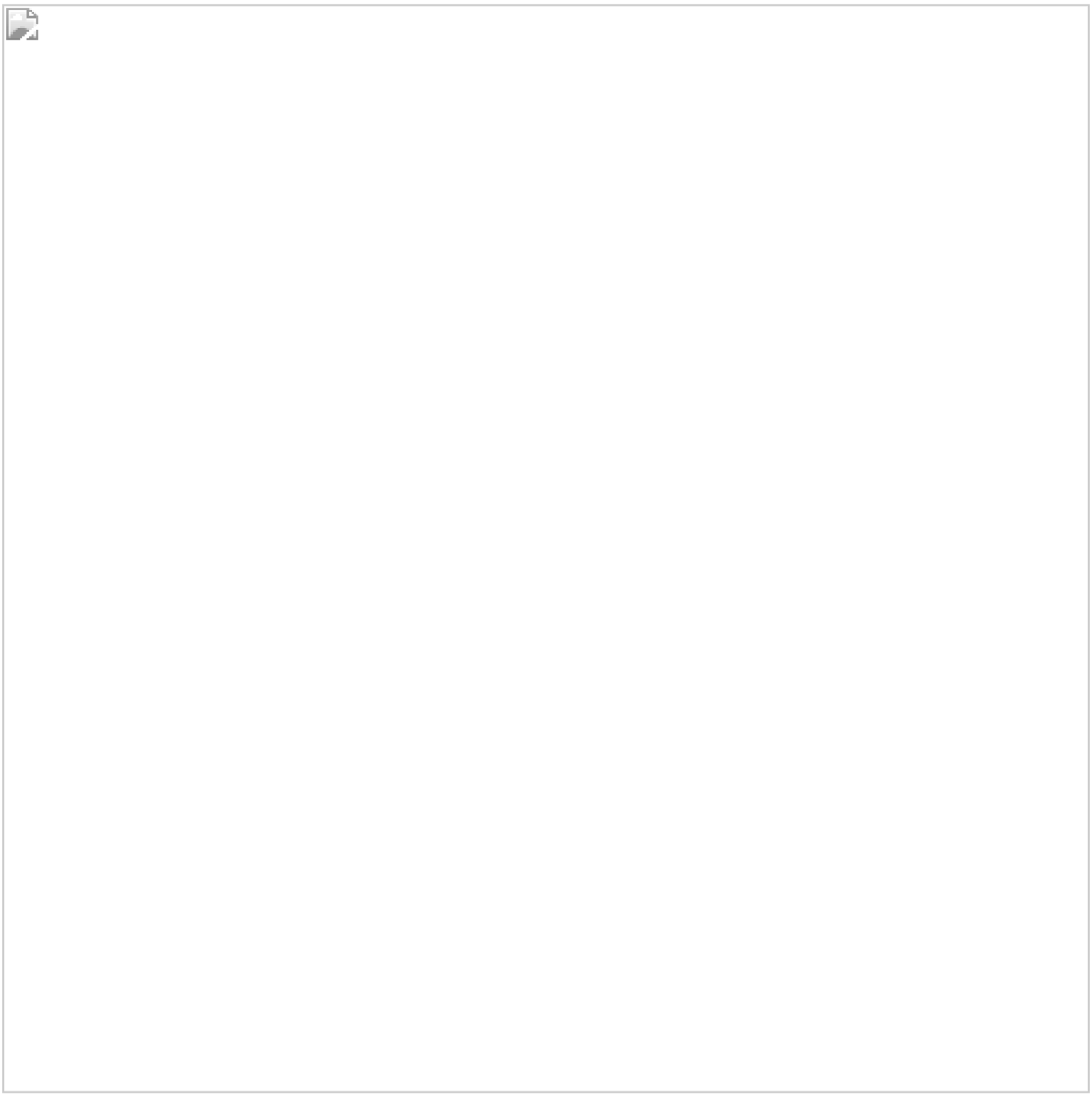


Think about it

1. Why did Havelok say he could not marry?

- ○ He was too old
- ○ He did not like Lincoln
- ○ He could not feed or clothe a wife

A Light in the Night



Havelok took Goldborough back to Grimsby. Grim had died, but his grown children gave them a feast and served them.

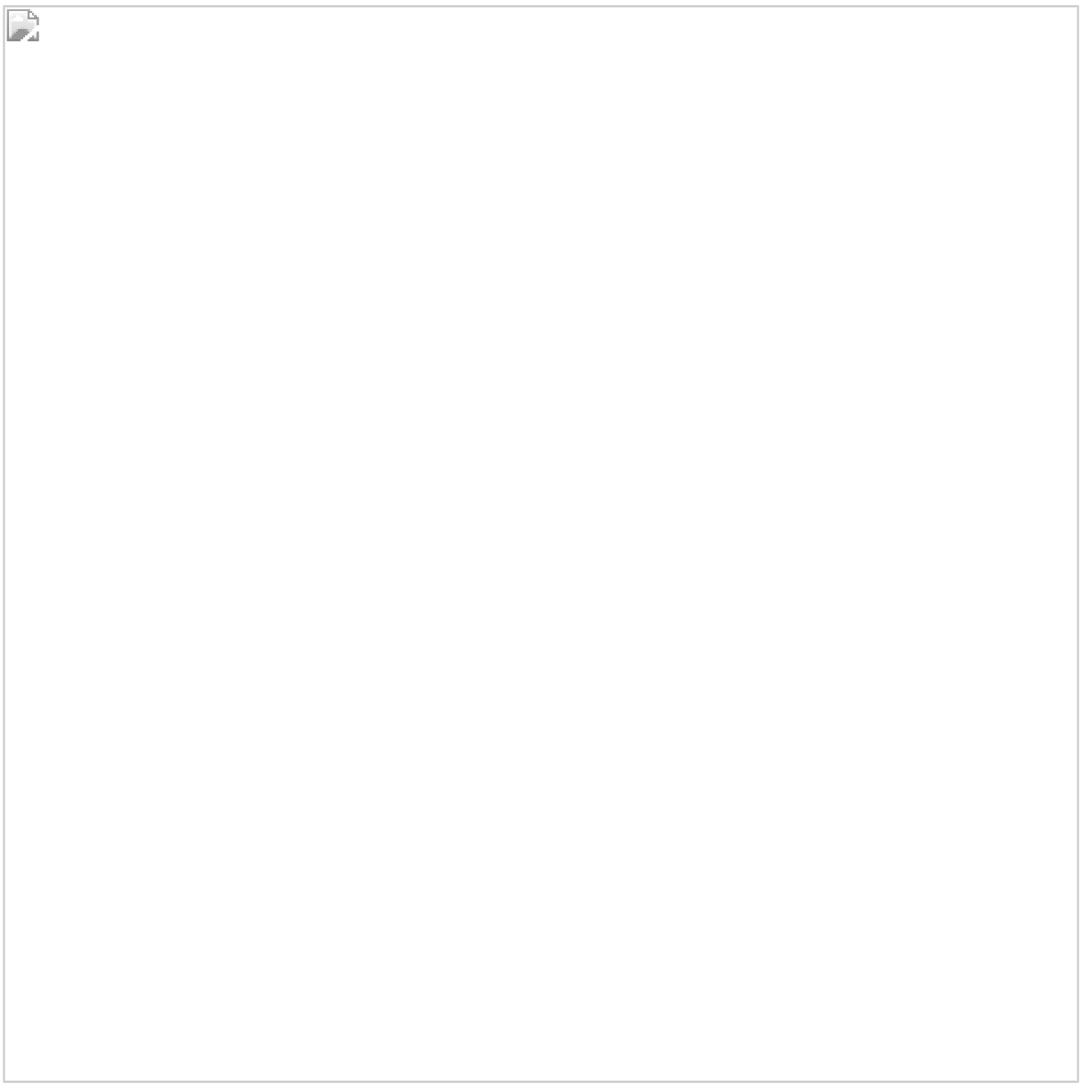
That night Goldborough lay awake, sad to have married a poor man. Then she saw a bright light shining from Havelok as he slept, and on his shoulder the king-mark, like a little red-gold cross. She heard an angel say, “Goldborough, leave sorrowing, for Havelok is a king's son.”

Havelok woke. He had dreamed he stood on a high hill and could see all Denmark, and it was his. “What a good dream is this!” said Goldborough. “Get Grim's sons to go with thee to Denmark.”

TALK ABOUT IT

Goldborough stopped being sad when she learned the truth about Havelok. How do you think she felt about him after that?

A Light in the Night · another picture

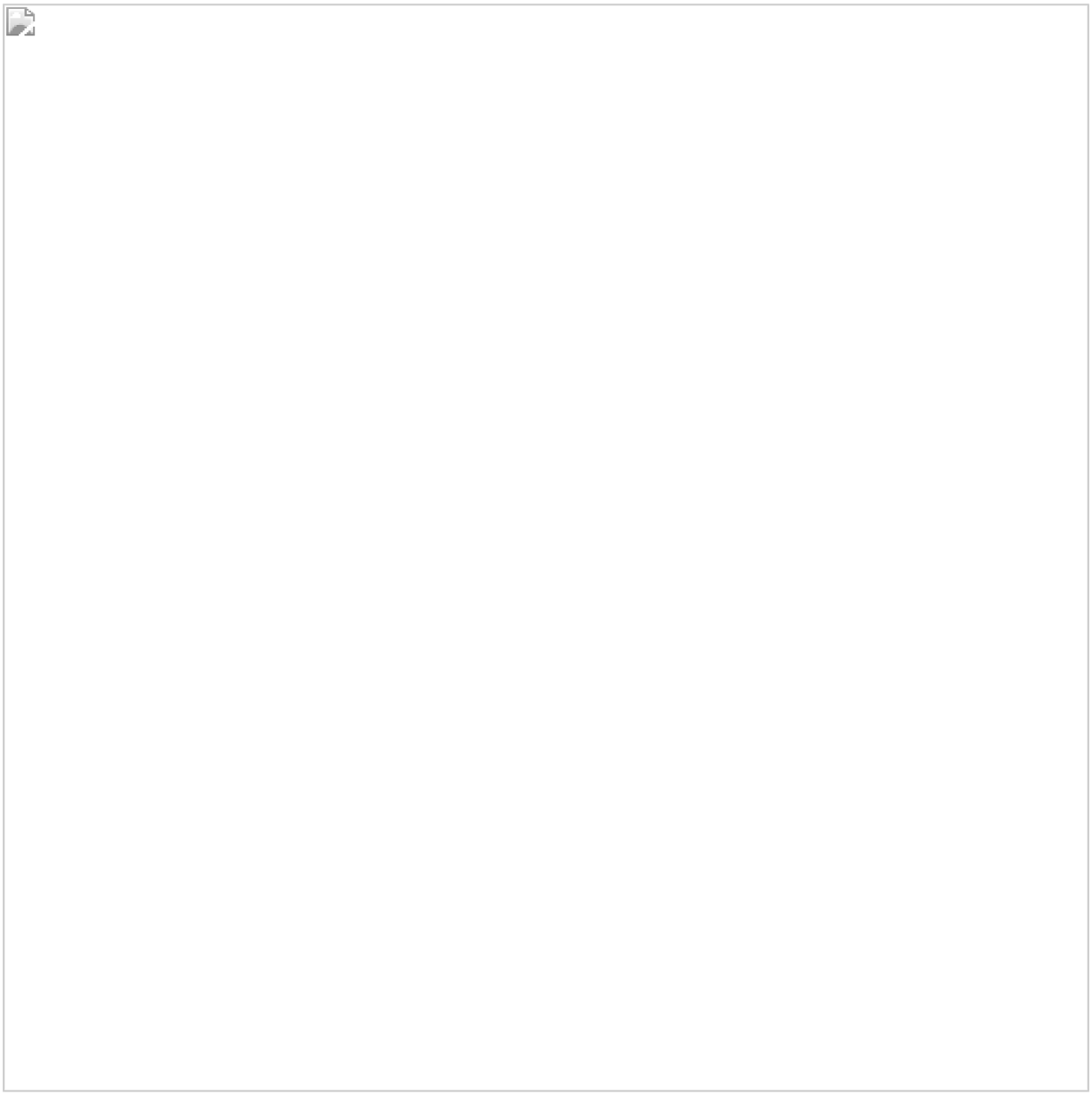


Think about it

1. What did Goldborough see on Havelok's shoulder?

- ○ A scar
- ○ The king-mark
- ○ A feather

Back to Denmark



In the morning Havelok prayed to God in church. Then he told Grim's three sons, Robert the Red, William Wendut and Hugh Raven, who he was and what Godard had done. He promised to make them rich, and they gladly agreed to go.

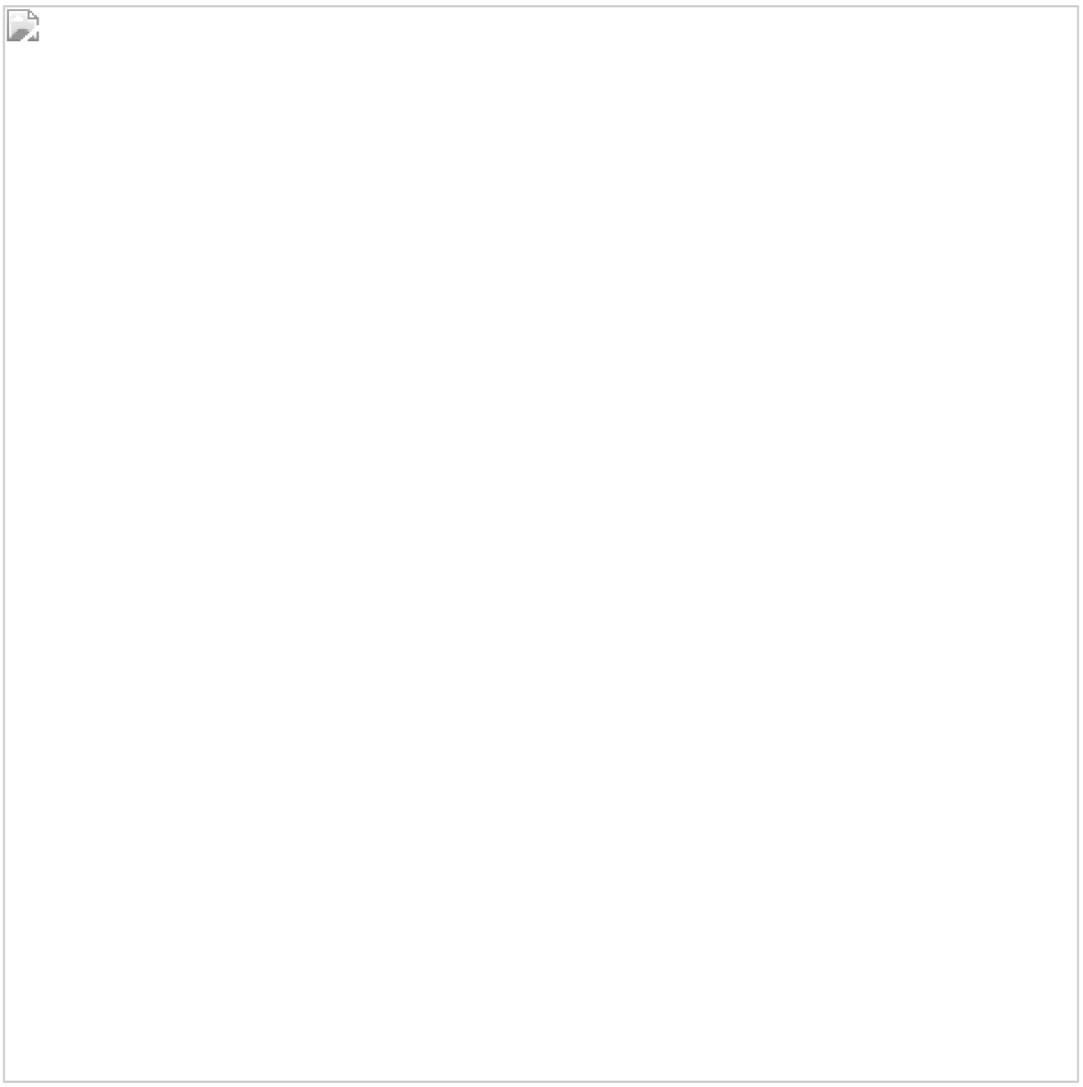
They sailed to Denmark with Goldborough, and landed near the castle of Earl Ubbe, who had been a faithful friend to the old king.

Ubbe saw how tall and strong Havelok was, and thought he was more fit to be a knight than a peddler. He invited Havelok and Goldborough to dine at his table.

TALK ABOUT IT

Grim's sons agreed to go with Havelok right away. Why do you think they did?

Back to Denmark · another picture

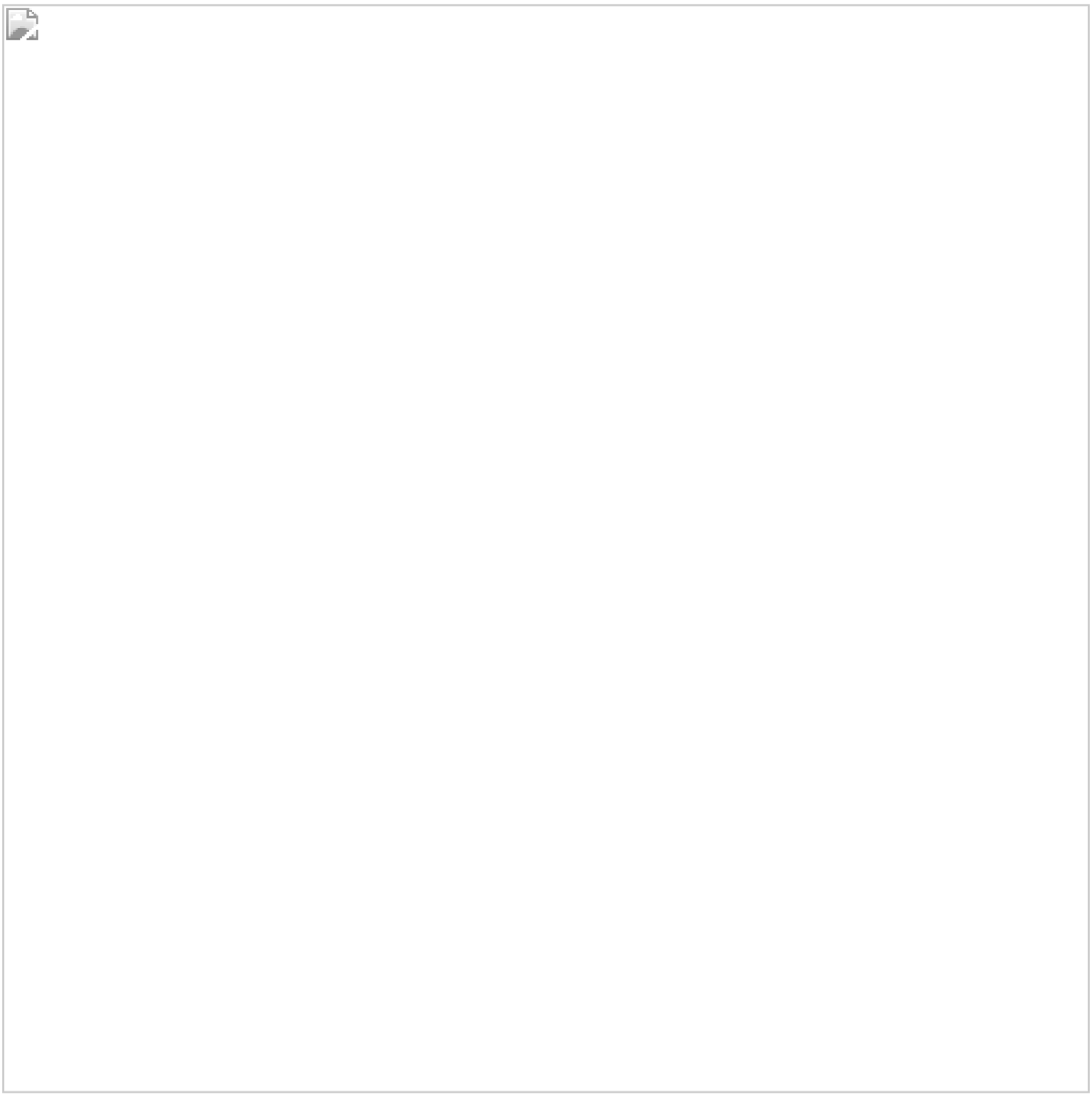


Think about it

1. Who went with Havelok to Denmark?

- ○ Grim's three sons
- ○ The cook
- ○ Earl Godrich

A Night at Bernard's House



That night, Ubbe sent them to sleep at the house of Bernard Brown. In the darkness, sixty-one thieves came with swords and knives and broke down the door.

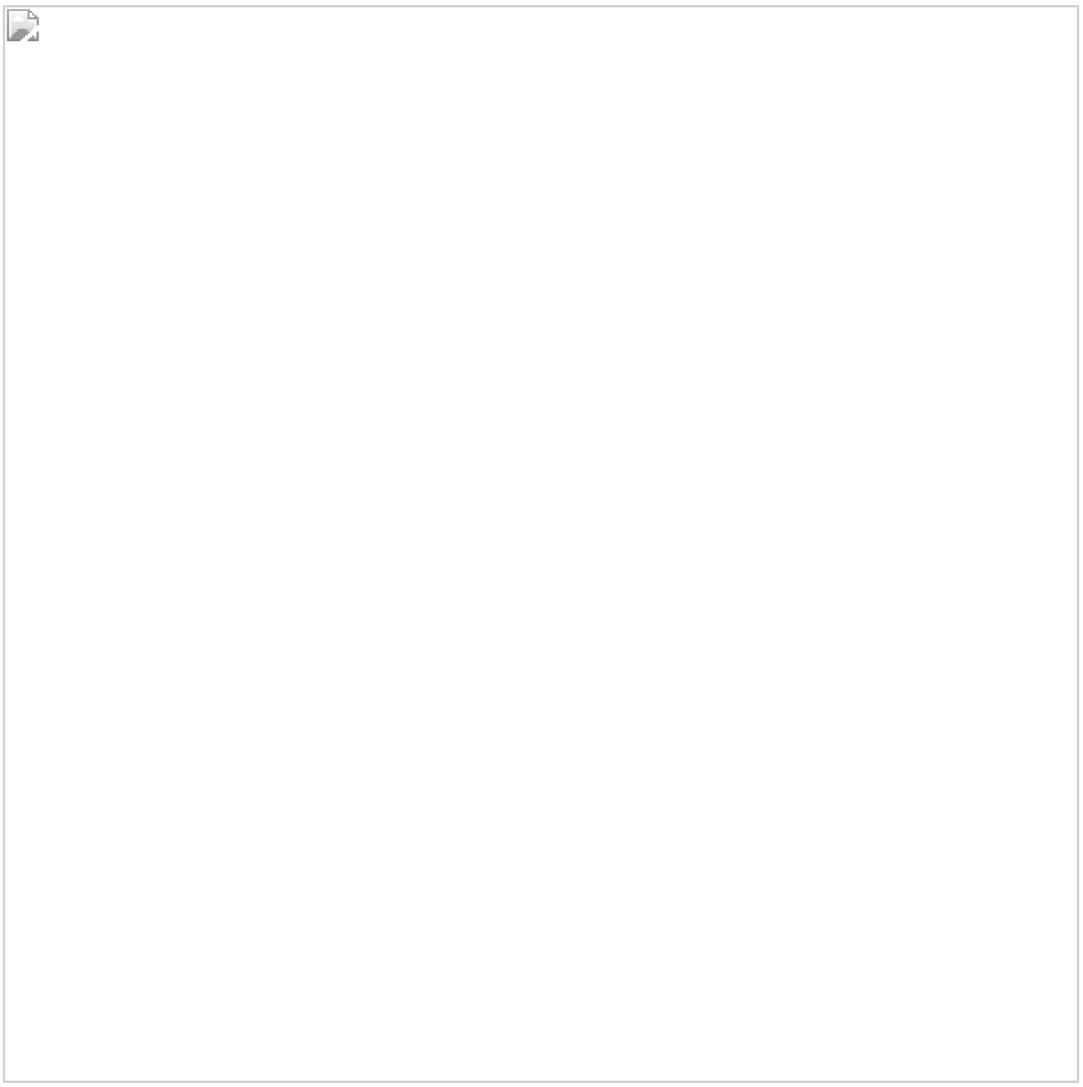
Havelok took the bar from the door and stood in the doorway. “Come in, I am ready for you!” he said. Bernard, Hugh Raven, Robert, and William came running to help. Havelok was wounded, but he did not give way. Together they drove off the whole band, so that no thief was left to trouble anyone.

In the morning Ubbe took Havelok to his castle, and had his wounds tended. “This man,” he said, “is better than a thousand knights.”

TALK ABOUT IT

Havelok was hurt, but he stood in the door to protect his friends. What does it mean to be brave for other people?

A Night at Bernard's House · another picture



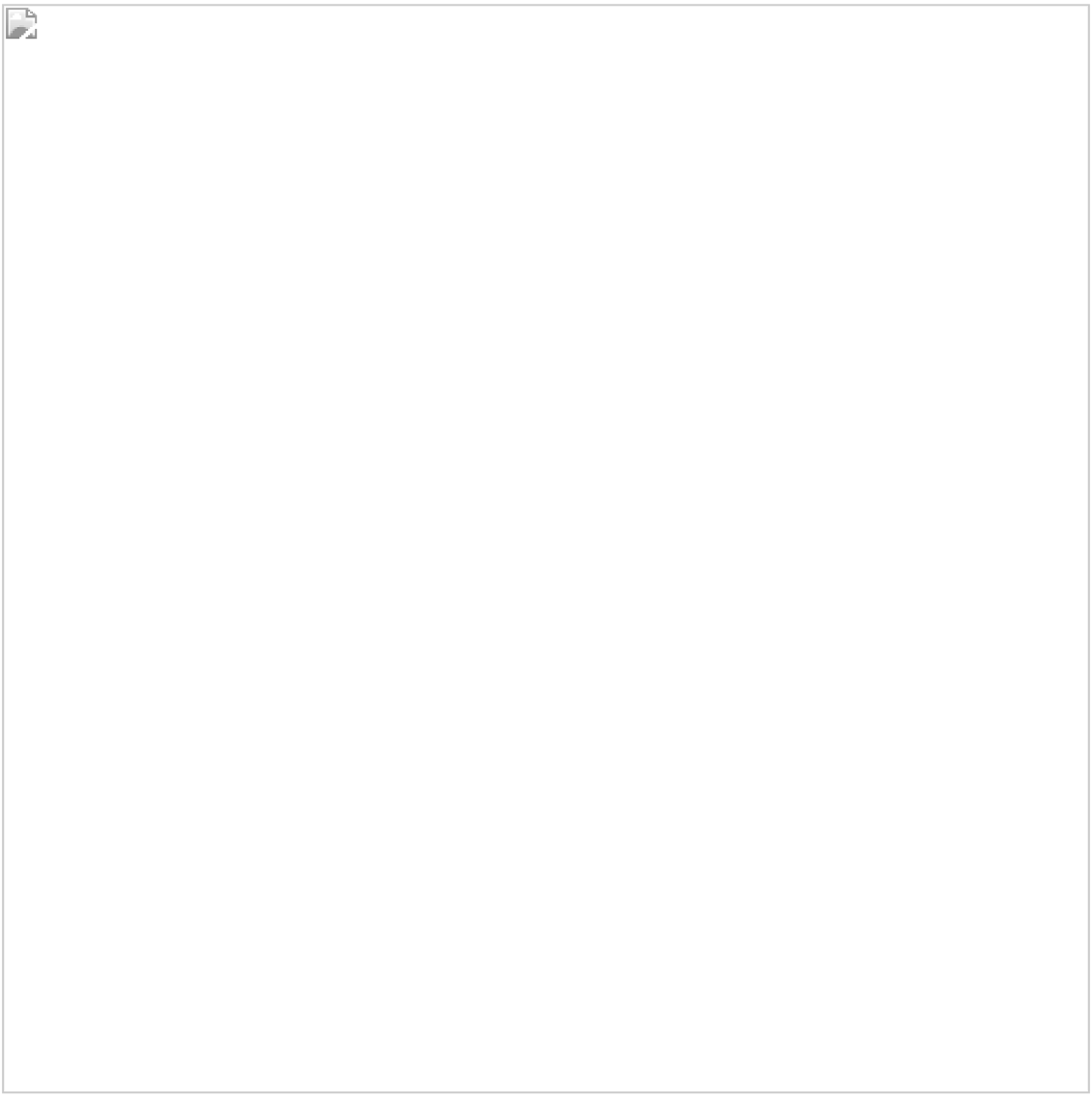
Think about it

1. What did Havelok use as a weapon?

- ○ A sword
- ○ The bar of the door
- ○ A bow

2. Who stood with Havelok, and why does it matter to have friends beside you?

The King Is Found



That night, Ubbe woke and saw a great light from the room where Havelok slept. He called his knights, and they saw it too: a light brighter than a hundred candles, and the king-mark sparkling on Havelok's shoulder.

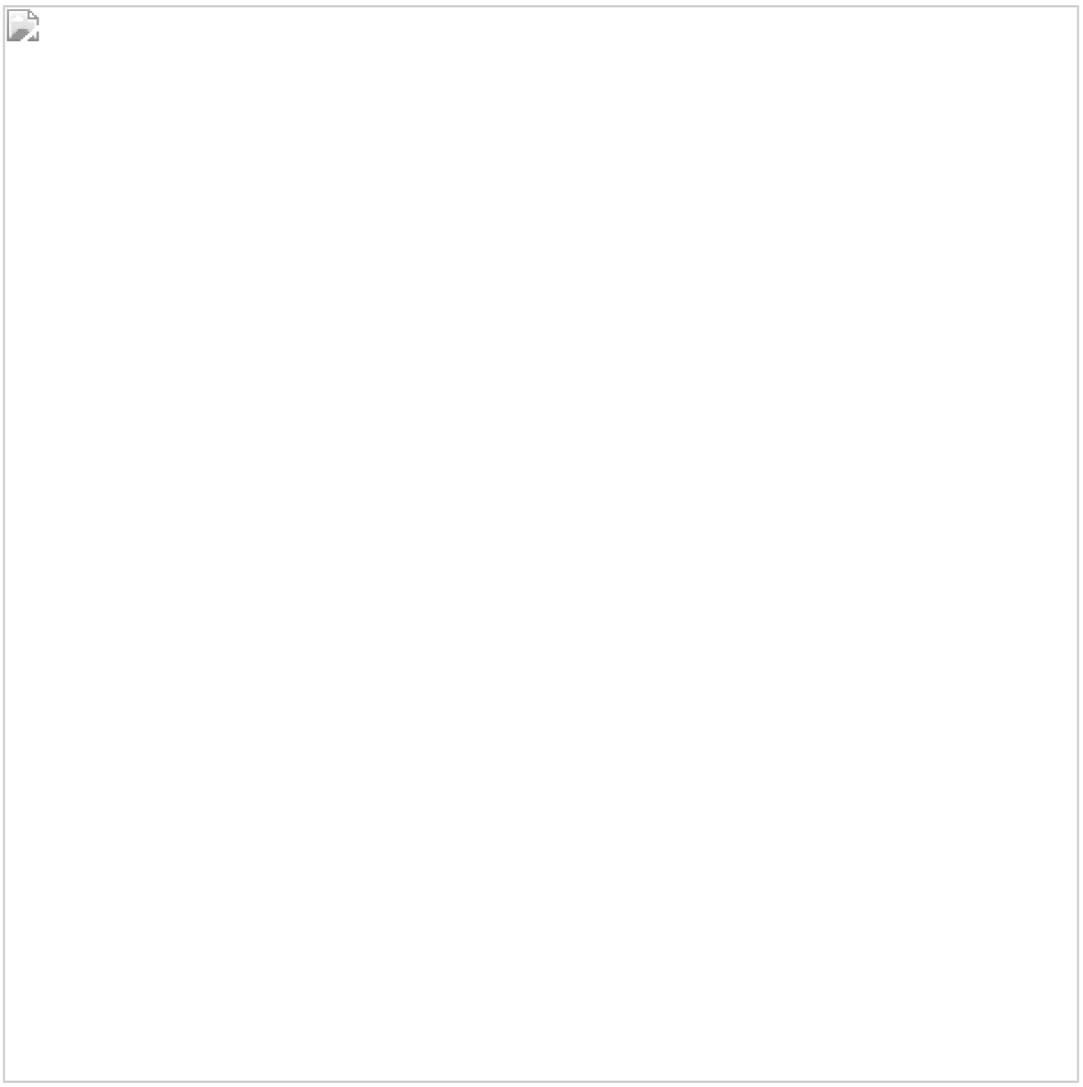
They saw how like he was to old King Birkabeyn, and they wept for joy and knelt to him as their king.

Ubbe told all the lords what Godard had done, and the people shouted for joy. Havelok was crowned, and they feasted for forty days. He made Grim's three sons barons. Godard was brought before the lords, and never had the power to hurt anyone again.

TALK ABOUT IT

The people were glad to have their king back. What does a good king do for his people?

The King Is Found · another picture

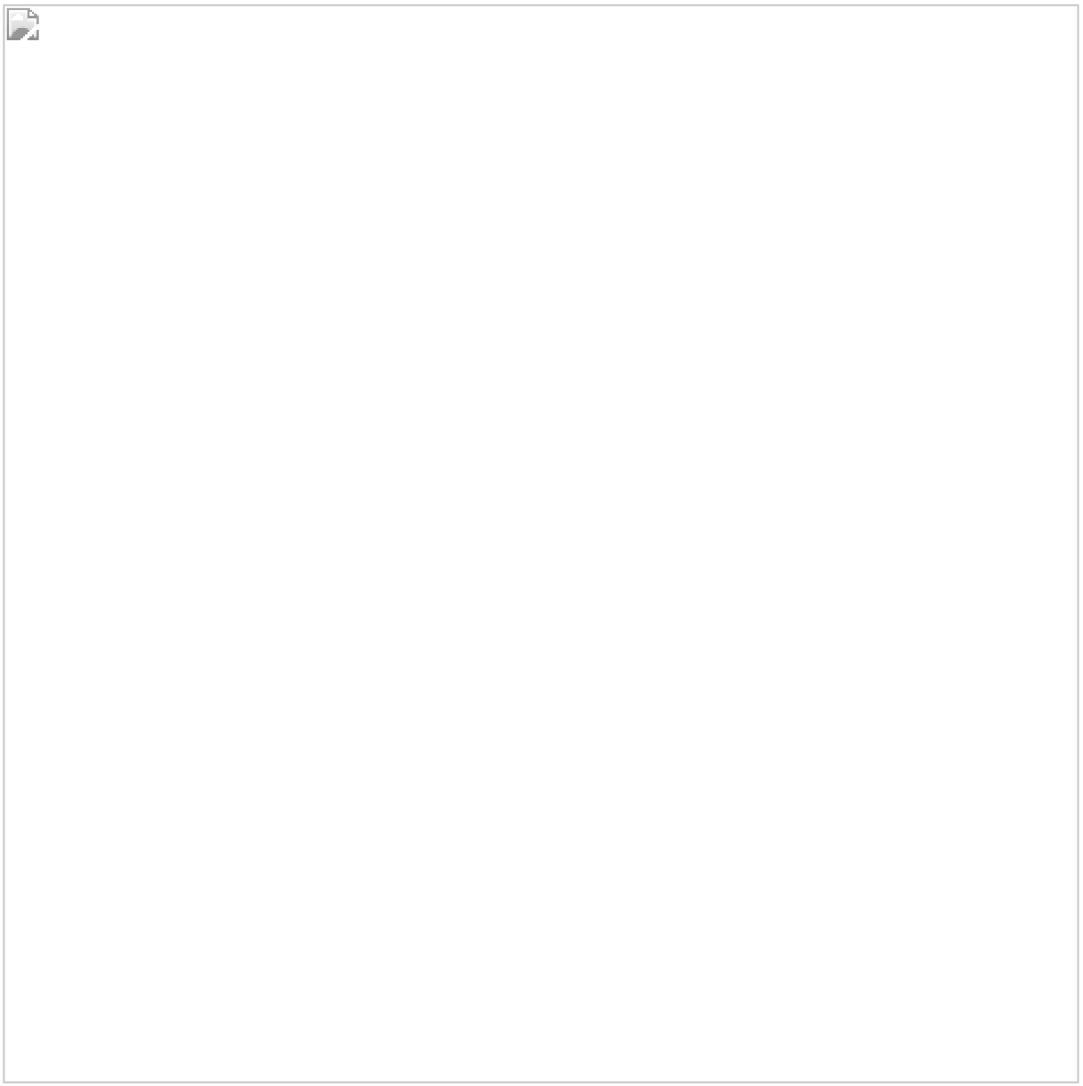


Think about it

1. How did Ubbe know Havelok was the king's son?

- ○ Havelok told him
- ○ He had a crown
- ○ He saw the light and the king-mark

Sixty Years of Love



Havelok left Ubbe to rule Denmark. At Grimsby he built a priory, where monks would pray for good Grim's soul for ever.

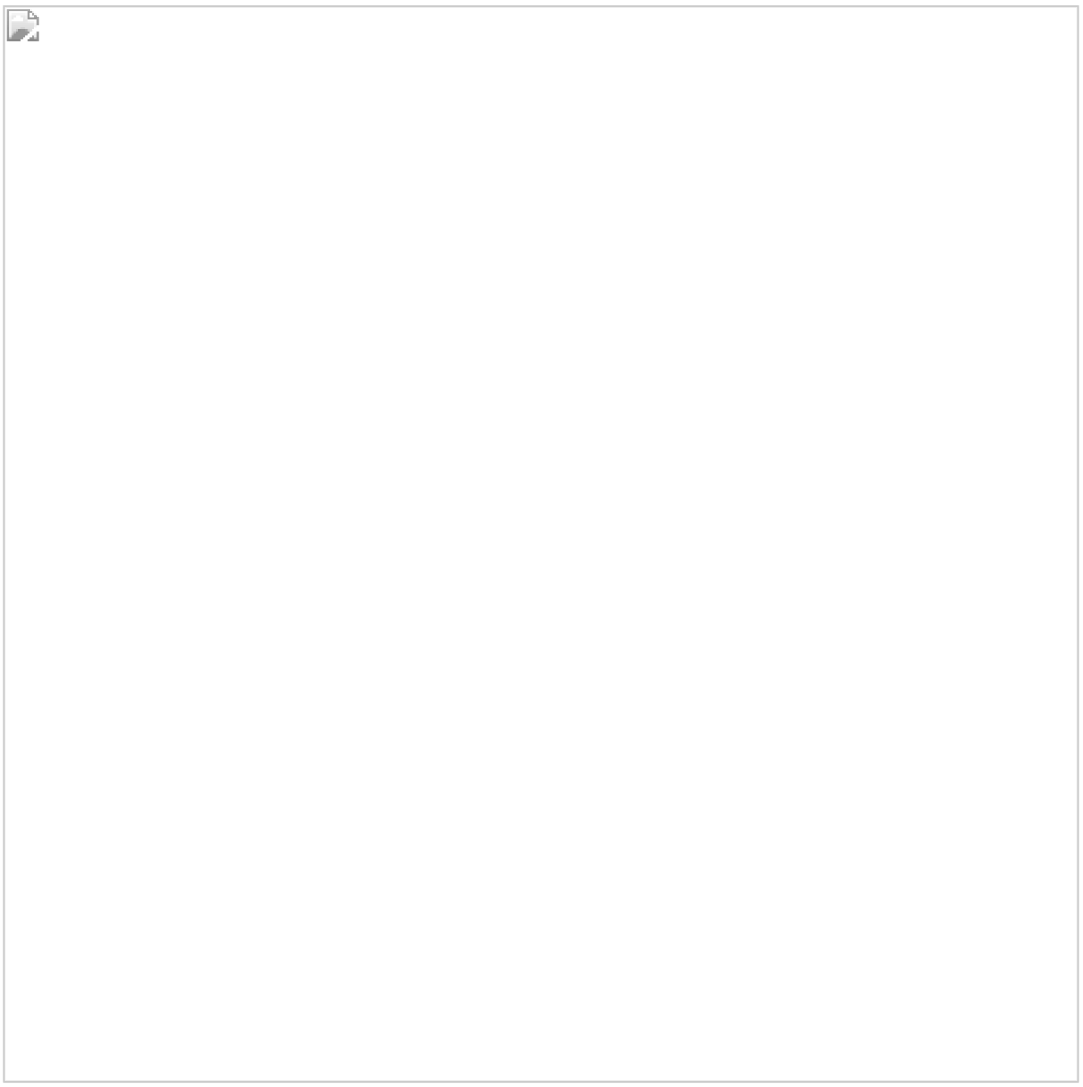
Then Earl Godrich came against him with an army. He would not keep his oath to King Athelwold, so they fought, and Godrich was beaten. When the English learned that Goldborough was the true heir, they asked her pardon.

Havelok was crowned in London, with Goldborough as his queen. He found good husbands for Grim's daughters, and made Bertram the cook an earl.

They reigned for sixty years. All the world spoke of their great love, and not a word of anger passed between them all their lives.

TALK ABOUT IT

Havelok remembered Grim, and Bertram, and Grim's children when he became king. Who would you remember?



Think about it

1. How long did Havelok and Goldborough reign?

- ○ Sixty years
- ○ Six years
- ○ Sixteen years

2. Whom did Havelok thank when he became king, and how?

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

— Yeshua HaMashiach

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