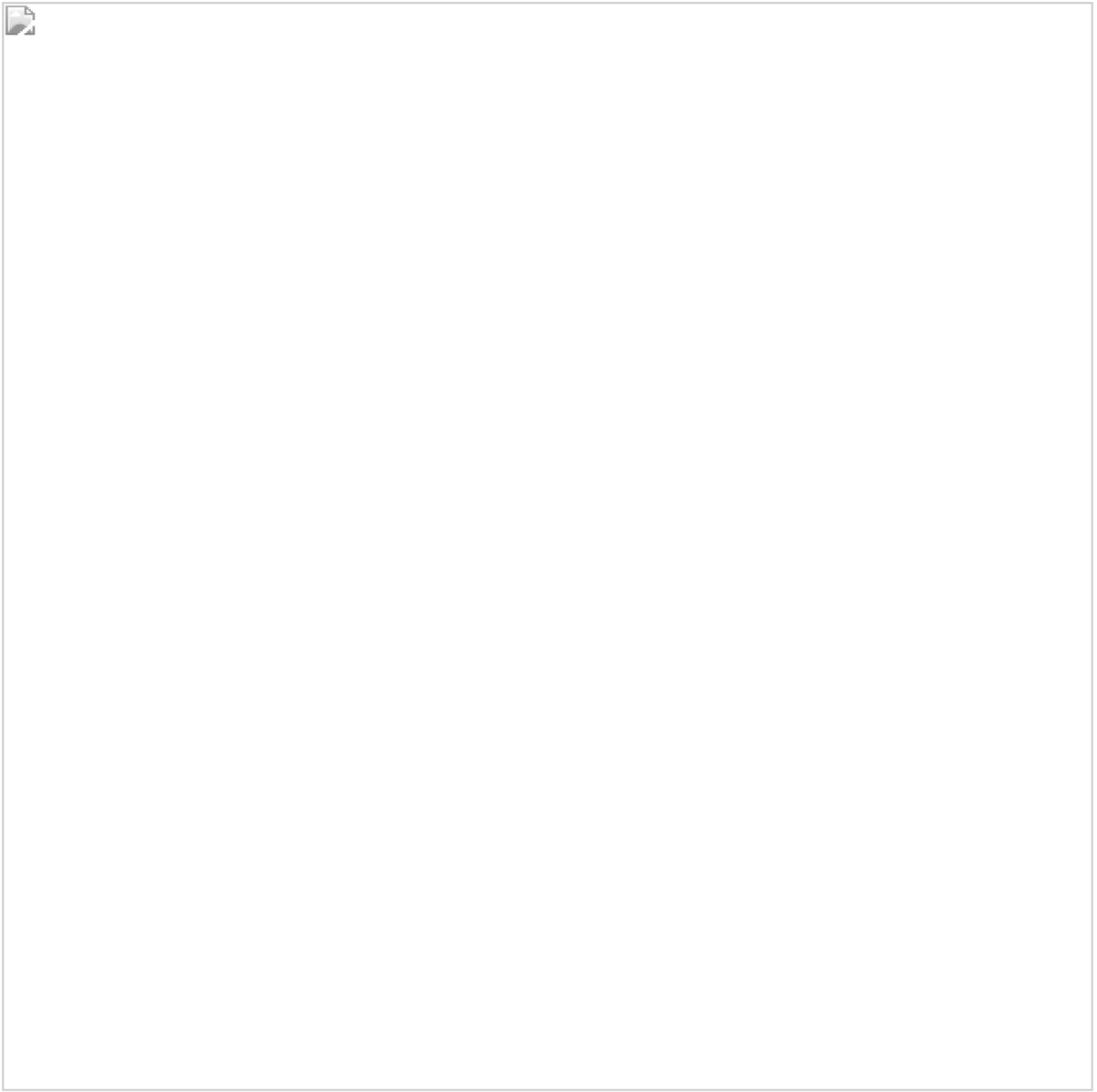
COLORING THE CLASSICS

Heidi

A Girl, Her Grandfather, and the Mountains She Loved

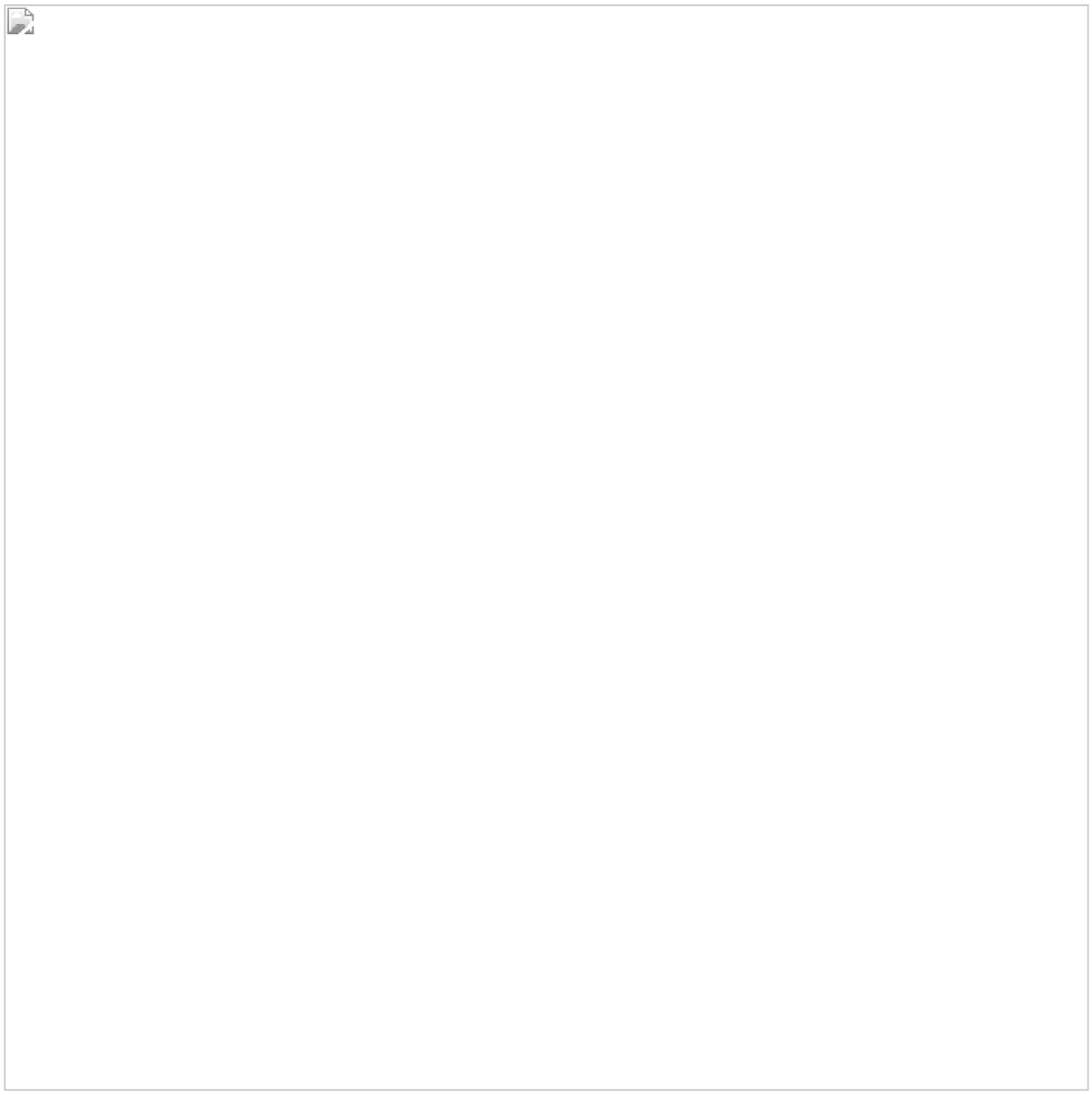


TALK ABOUT IT

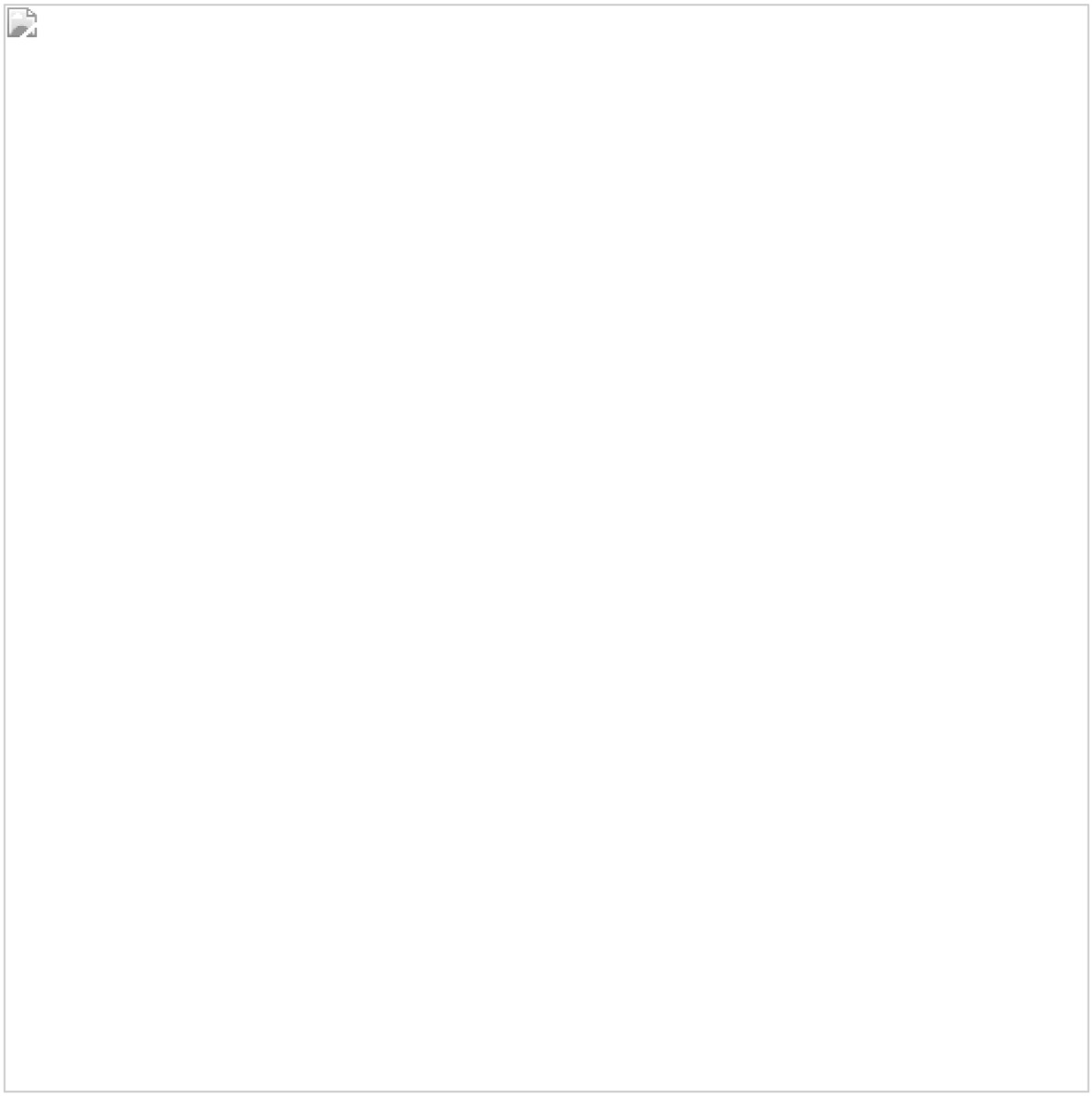
What is a place you love to be? What do you love about it?

This book belongs to _____

Heidi · another picture



Up the Mountain



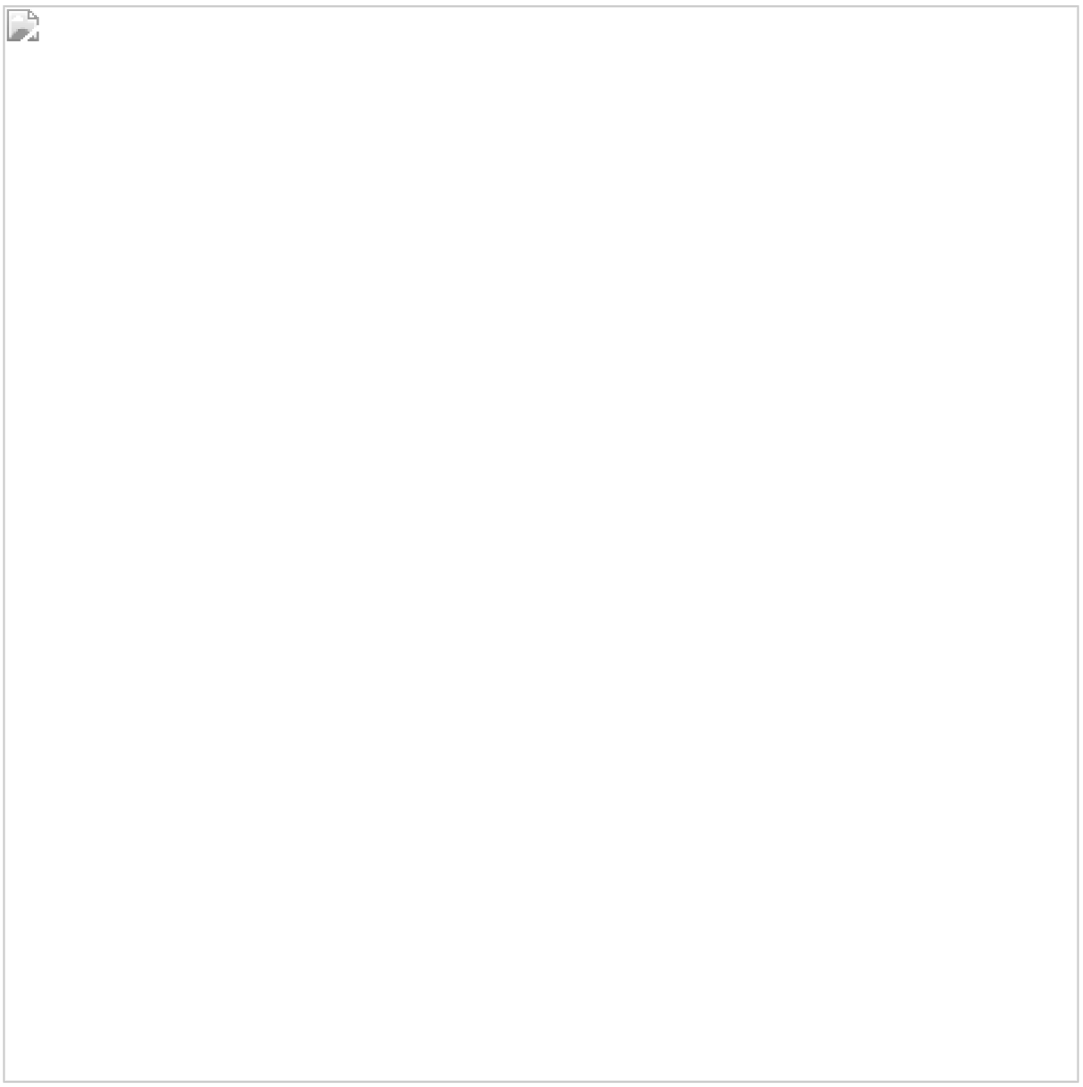
Heidi was a little girl of about five. Her mother and father had died when she was a baby, and her Aunt Deta had looked after her. Now Deta had found work far away in the city.

So one morning Deta led Heidi up a steep path to a little hut high on the Alp, where Heidi's grandfather lived all alone. The village people called him the Alm-Uncle. They said he was grumpy and never spoke to anyone.

Deta left Heidi with him and hurried away. The old man looked at the little girl for a long time. Heidi looked right back at him.

TALK ABOUT IT

How do you think Heidi felt, meeting a grandfather she did not know?



Think about it

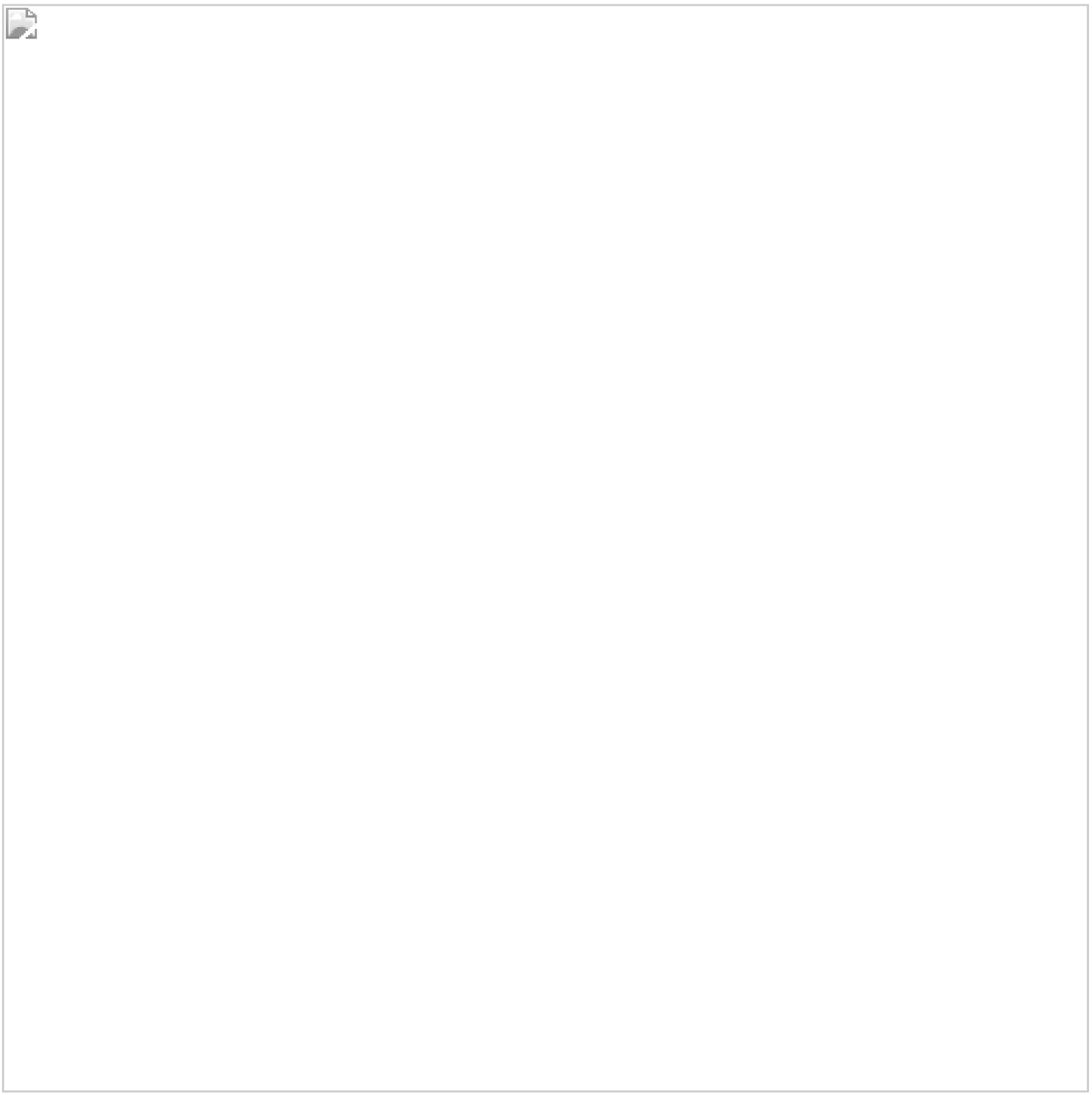
1. Where did Heidi's grandfather live?

- ○ In a hut high on the mountain
- ○ In a big city
- ○ On a boat

2. What did the village people call him?

- ○ The Alm-Uncle
- ○ The King
- ○ Mr. Goat

A Bed in the Hay



Heidi wanted to see everything: the goat shed, and the three old fir trees that roared in the wind. She pulled off her heavy extra clothes. “I want to go about like the light-footed goats!”

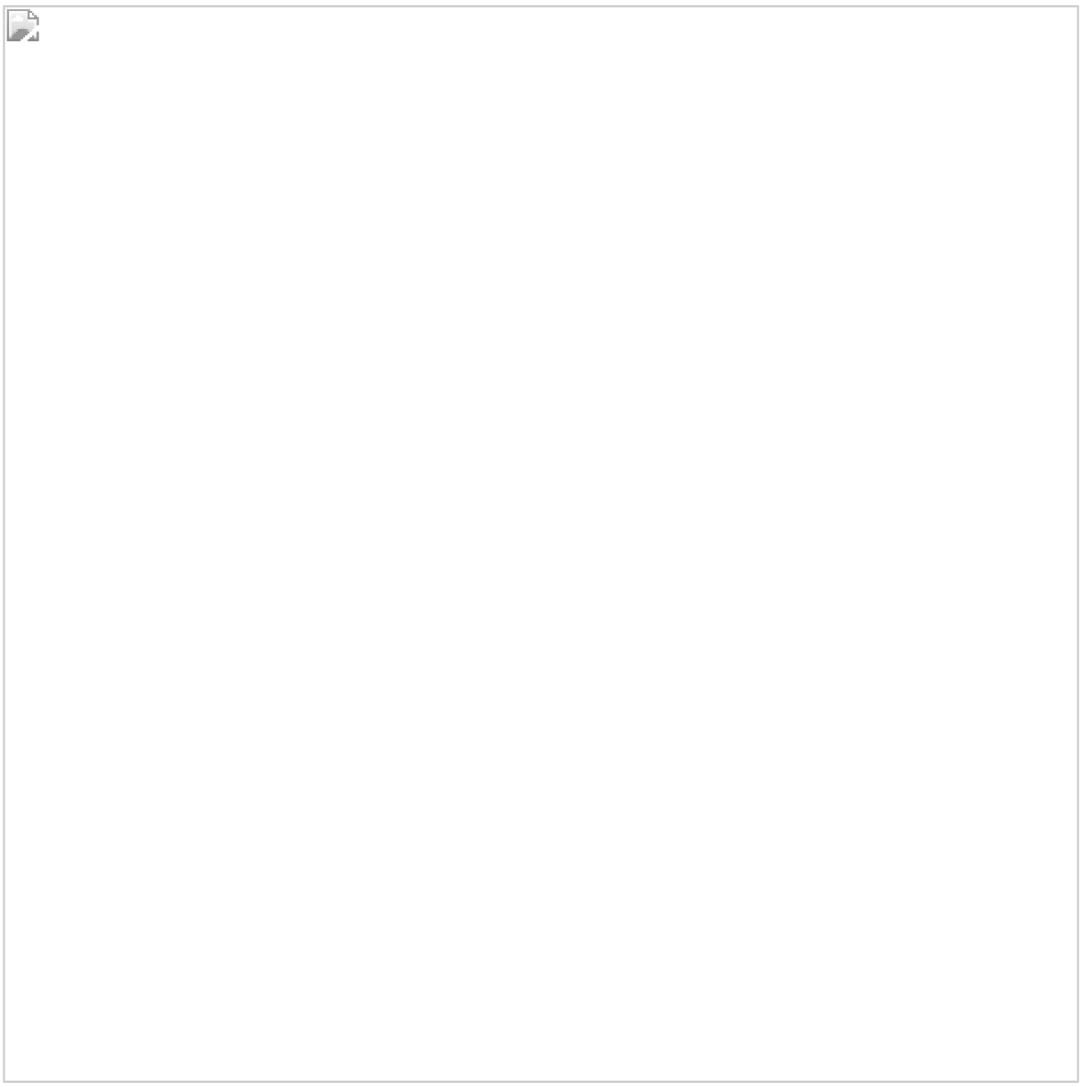
Inside, her grandfather toasted cheese over the fire on a long iron fork, and they ate it on bread with fresh goat’s milk.

Then Heidi climbed the ladder to the hayloft, where a tiny round window looked far down into the valley. She made a bed of sweet-smelling hay, and her grandfather brought a heavy linen sack to cover it. “What a nice bed I have now,” said Heidi.

TALK ABOUT IT

If you could sleep anywhere for one night, where would it be?

A Bed in the Hay · another picture



Think about it

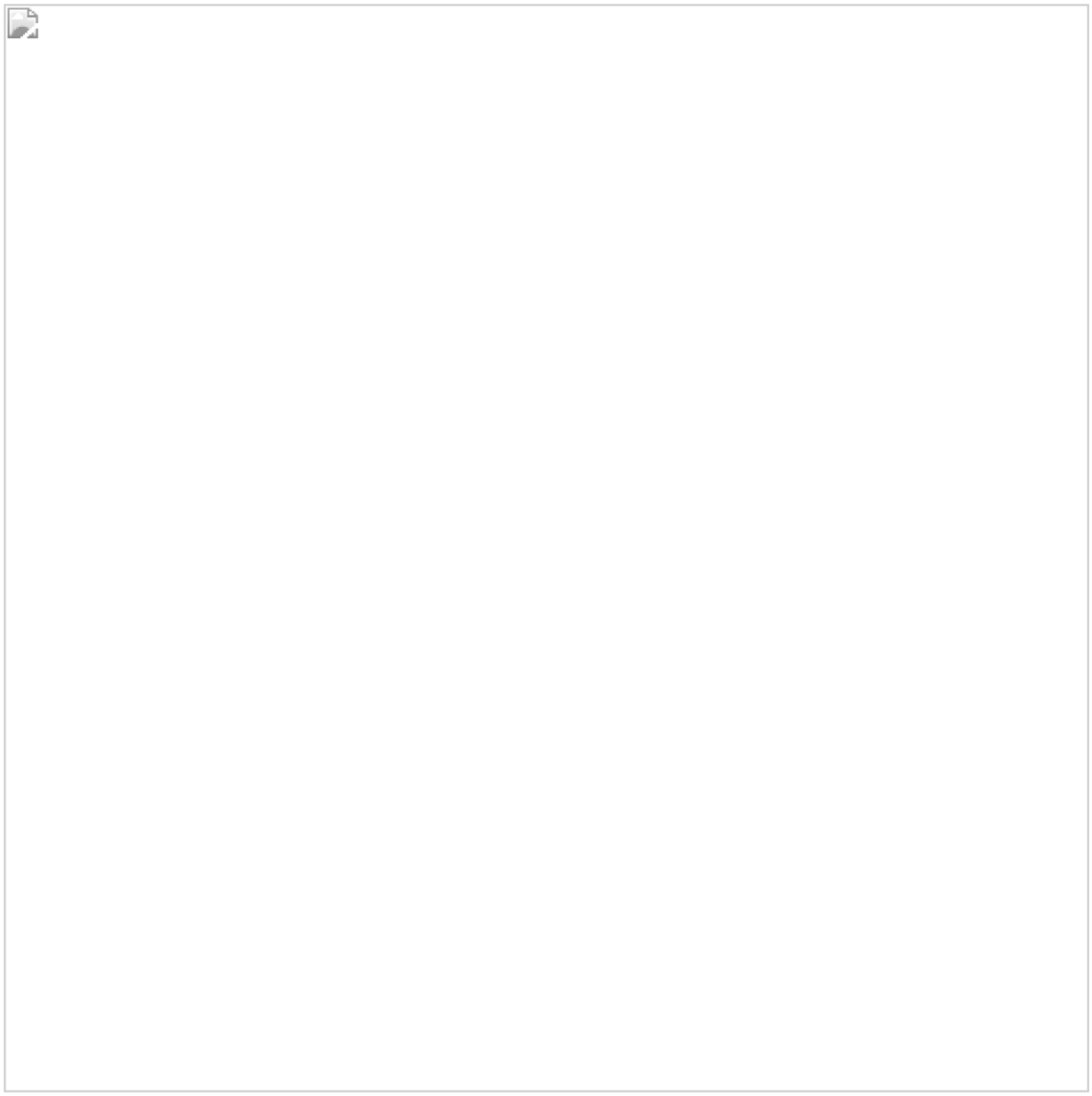
1. Where did Heidi sleep?

- ○ In the hayloft
- ○ In the goat shed
- ○ Under the table

2. What did her grandfather toast over the fire?

- ○ Cheese
- ○ Marshmallows
- ○ Apples

With Peter and the Goats



Every morning Peter the goatherd, who was eleven, took the village goats up the mountain, and Heidi went too. There were her grandfather's goats, Schwaenli and Baerli, and little Snowhopper, and the Big Turk, who liked to butt.

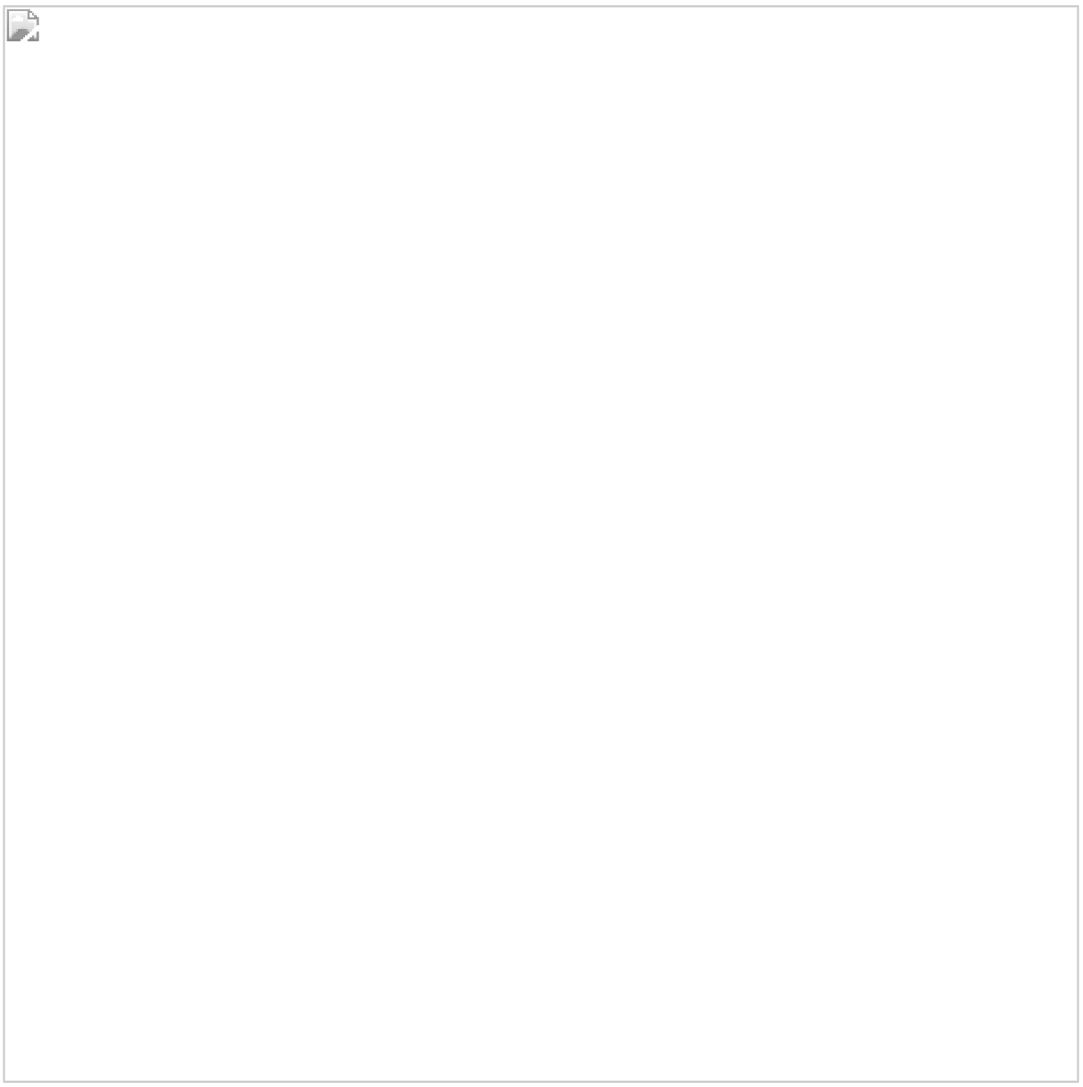
At lunch on the flowery pasture, Heidi saw that Peter was very hungry. She gave him most of her bread and all her cheese. "You can eat that, I have had enough!"

At sunset the snowy peaks glowed pink and gold. "Peter, look!" cried Heidi. "Everything is on fire." Her grandfather told her it was the sun, saying good night to the mountains.

TALK ABOUT IT

Heidi gave Peter most of her lunch. Have you ever shared something you wanted for yourself?

With Peter and the Goats · another picture



Think about it

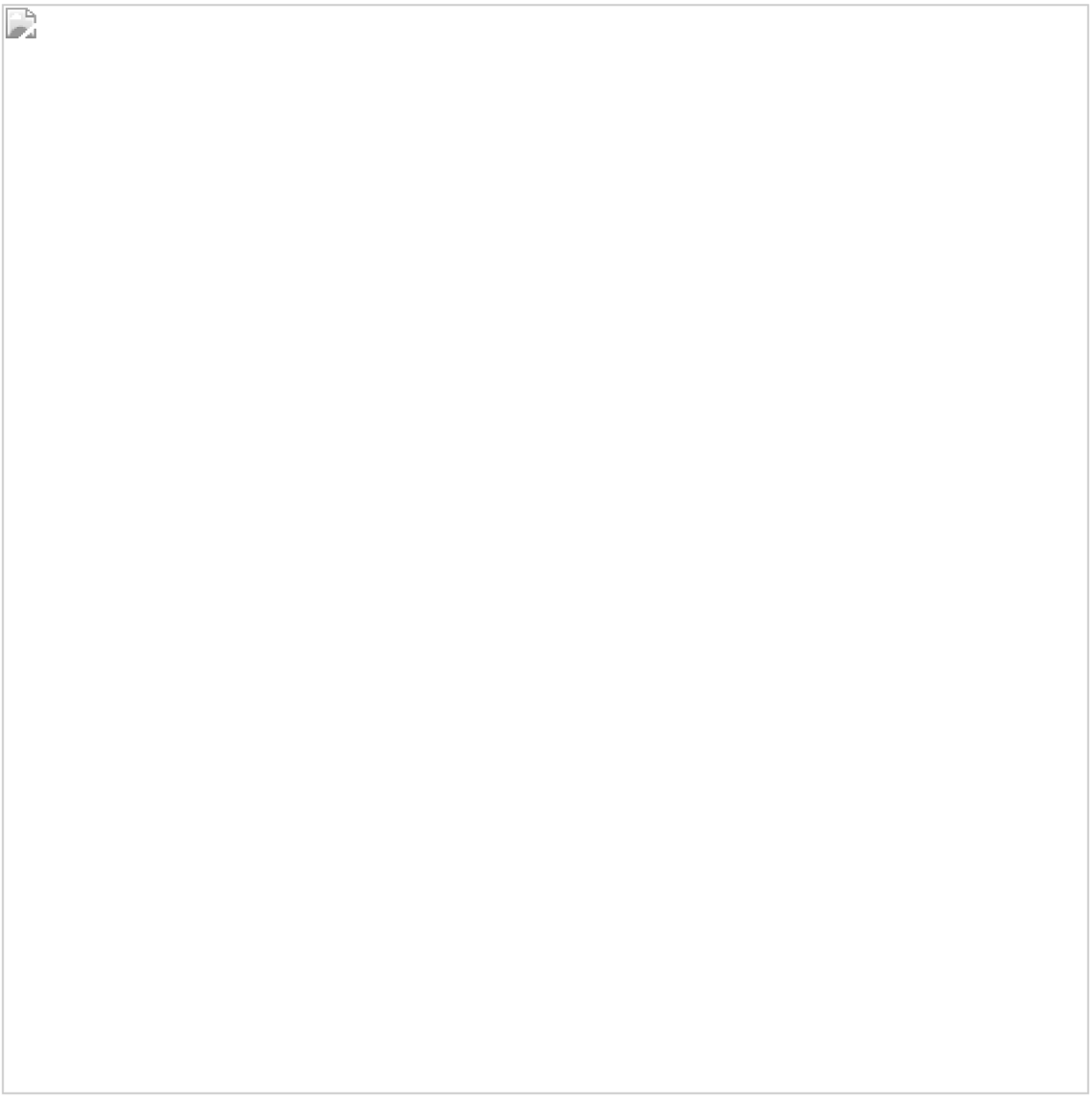
1. What did Heidi give Peter at lunch?

- ○ Most of her bread and all her cheese
- ○ A toy goat
- ○ Nothing at all

2. Why did the mountains look like they were on fire?

- ○ The sun was saying good night to them
- ○ Someone lit a fire
- ○ It was a dream

Peter's Grandmother



Peter lived with his mother and his old grandmother in a little hut lower down the mountain. The grandmother was blind. Her hut was falling apart, and when the wind blew, the shutters banged and the walls creaked.

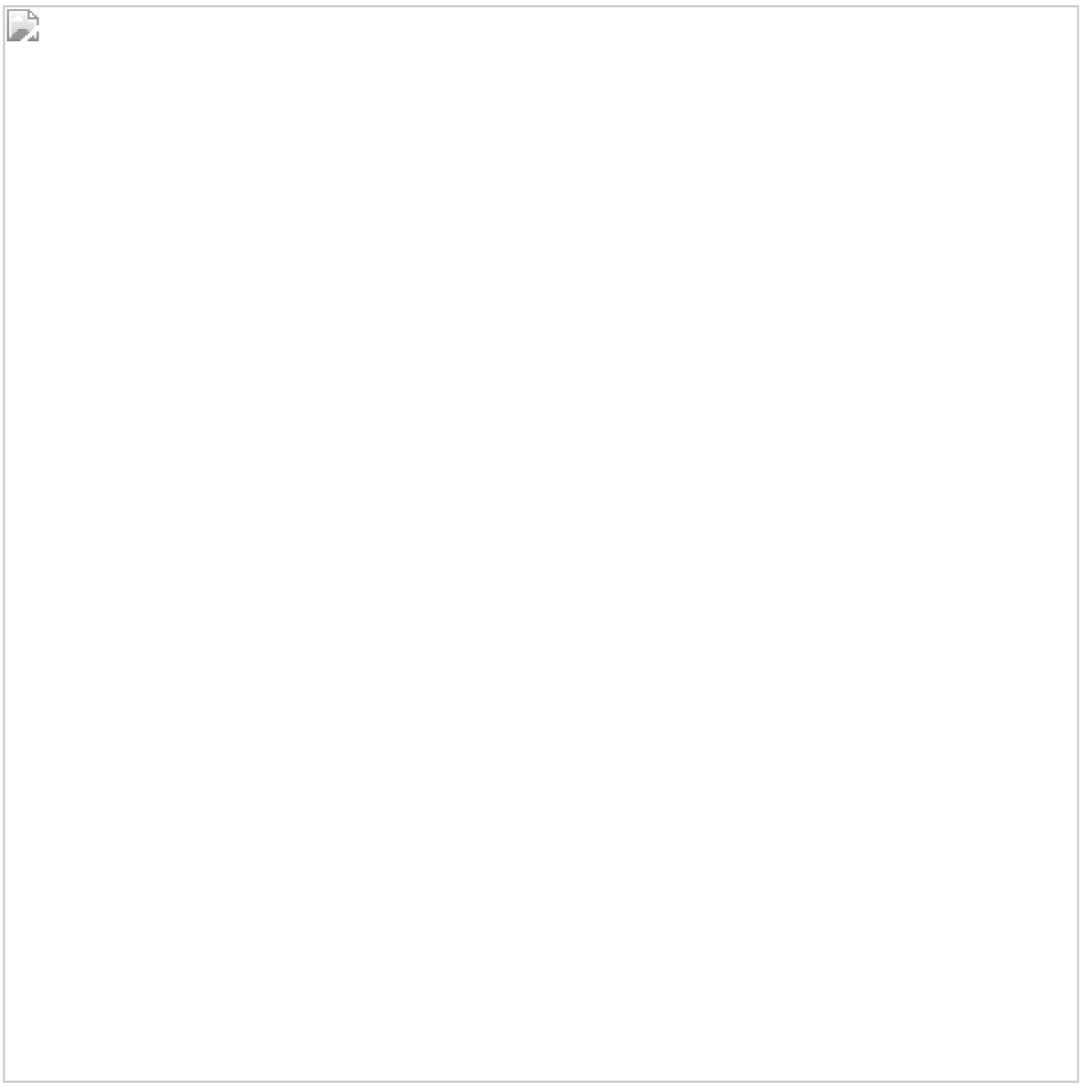
Heidi went to visit her. "Grandmother, look at the shutter over there," she said. "It is hanging loose." "Child, I cannot see anything," said the old woman sadly.

Heidi ran home and begged her grandfather to help. The next day he came down with his hammer and nails and mended the whole hut. All that winter Heidi visited, and the grandmother would cry out, "Thank God, she has come again!"

TALK ABOUT IT

Heidi asked her grandfather to help someone. Who could you ask to help someone you know?

Peter's Grandmother · another picture



Think about it

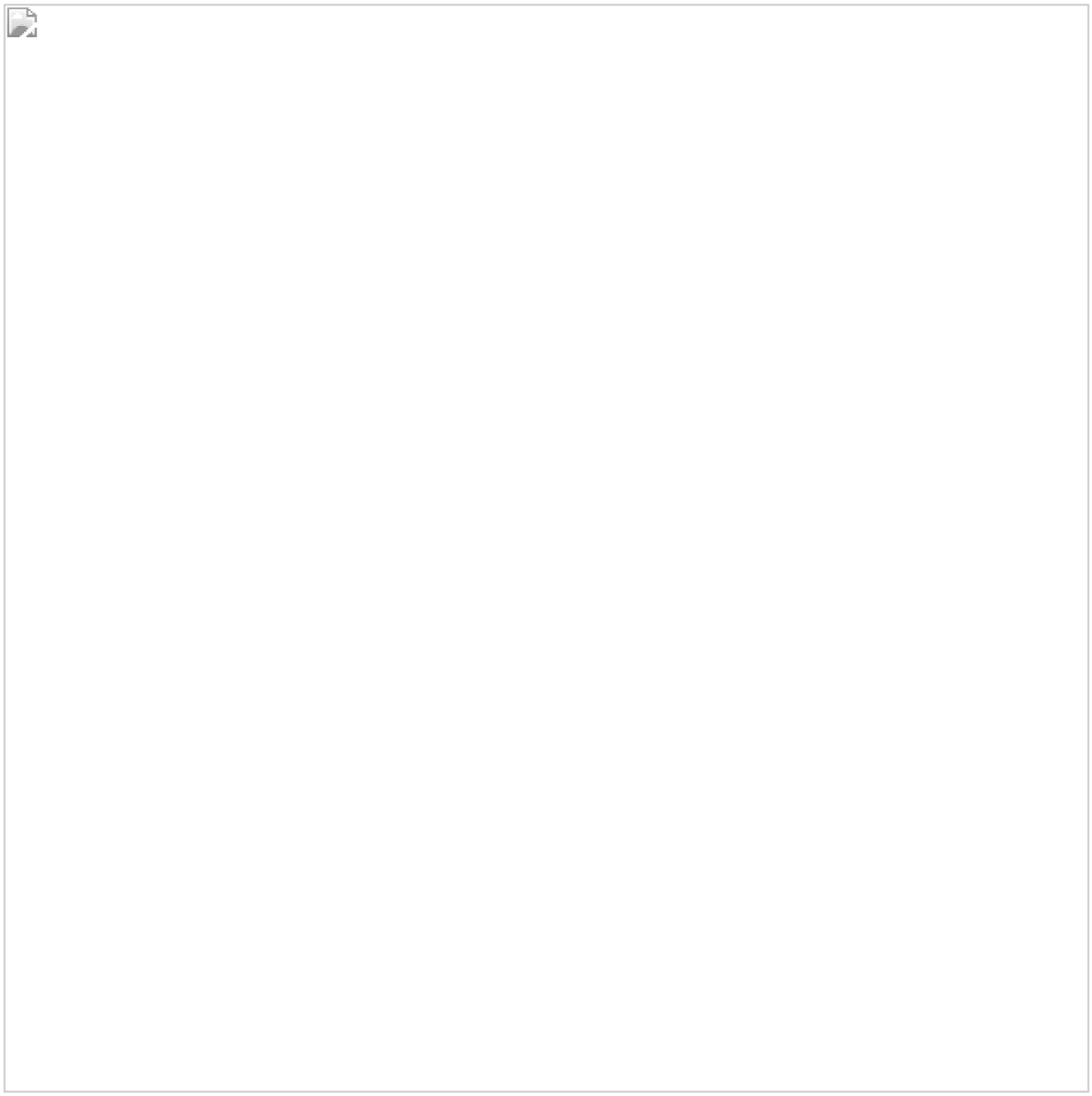
1. Why couldn't Peter's grandmother see the shutter?

- ○ She was blind
- ○ It was too dark
- ○ She was asleep

2. What did Heidi's grandfather do to help?

- ○ He mended the grandmother's hut
- ○ He moved away
- ○ He bought a new hut

Off to the City



Heidi lived with her grandfather for two happy years. Then one day Aunt Deta came back. She wanted to take Heidi to the big city of Frankfurt, to be a companion for a rich girl who could not walk. Her grandfather was angry, but Deta would not listen.

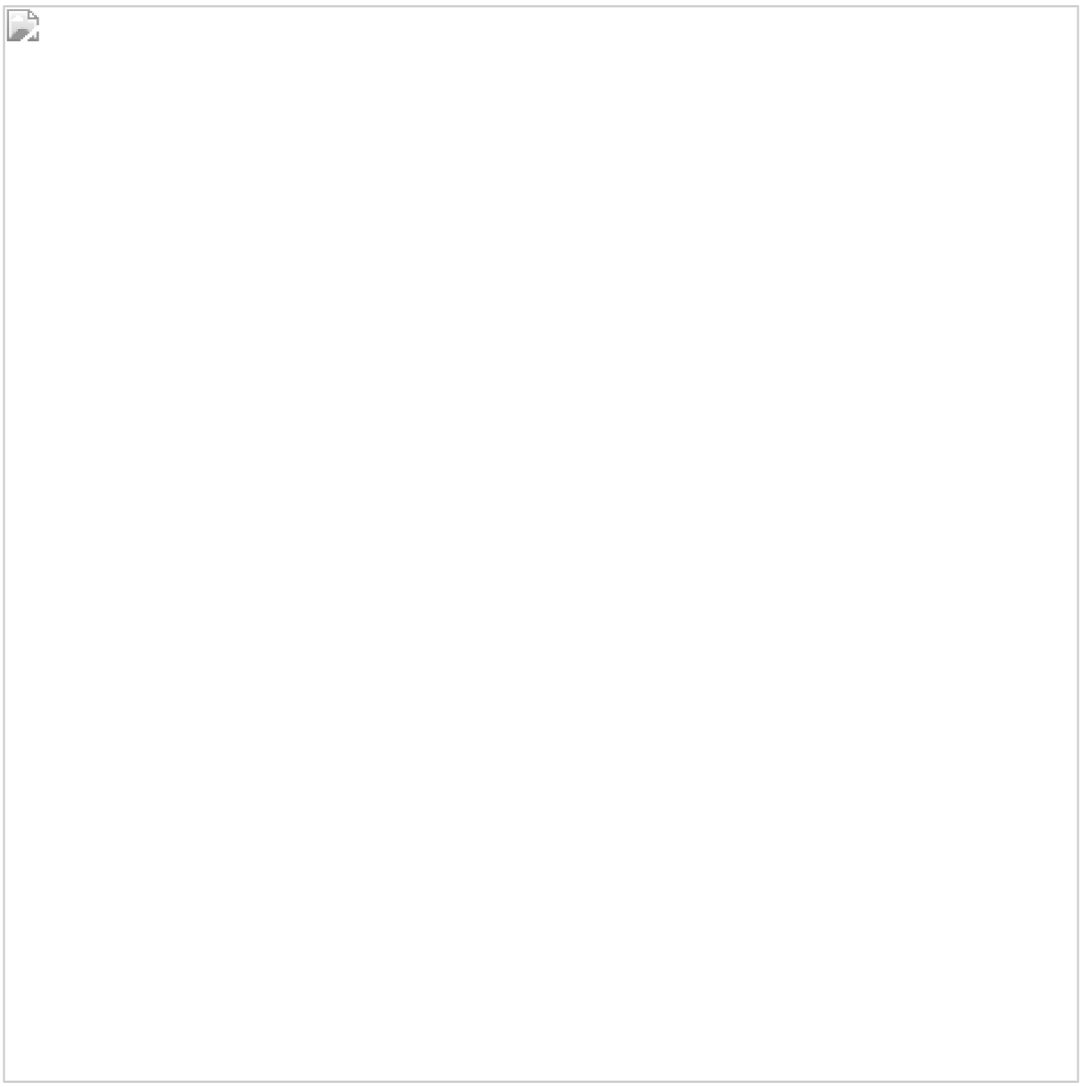
Heidi did not want to go. Deta told her she could come home again whenever she liked, and Heidi thought she could bring soft white rolls back for Peter's grandmother, who could only chew hard black bread. So she went.

But that was not true. Frankfurt was very far away.

TALK ABOUT IT

Deta did not tell Heidi the truth. Why does telling the truth matter?

Off to the City · another picture



Think about it

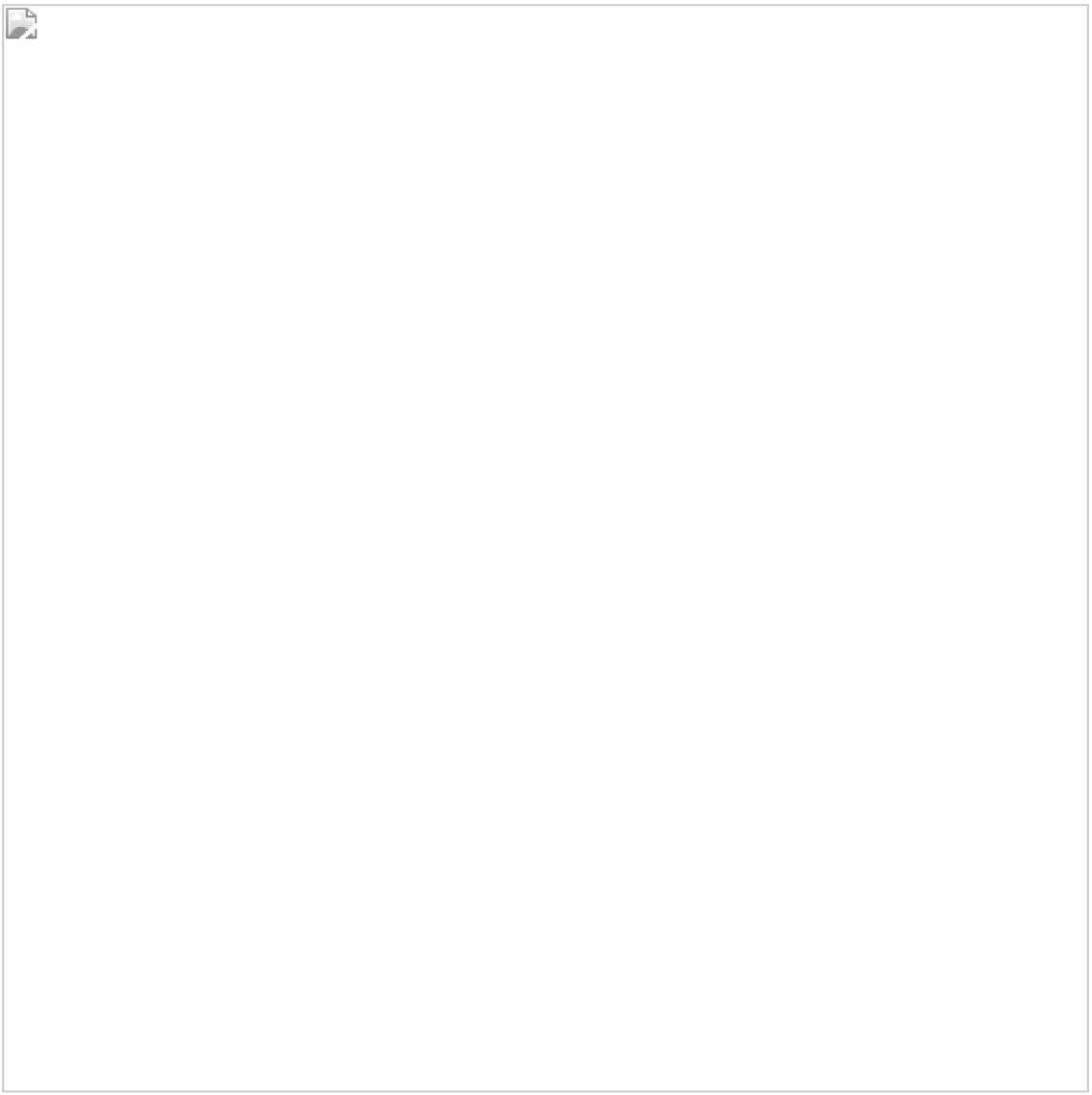
1. Where did Aunt Deta take Heidi?

- ○ To the city of Frankfurt
- ○ To the beach
- ○ To another mountain

2. What did Heidi want to bring back for the grandmother?

- ○ Soft white rolls
- ○ A new hat
- ○ A goat

Clara



In the big city house lived Clara Sesemann. She was nearly twelve, pale and gentle, and she sat all day in a rolling-chair because she could not walk. Clara and Heidi became friends right away.

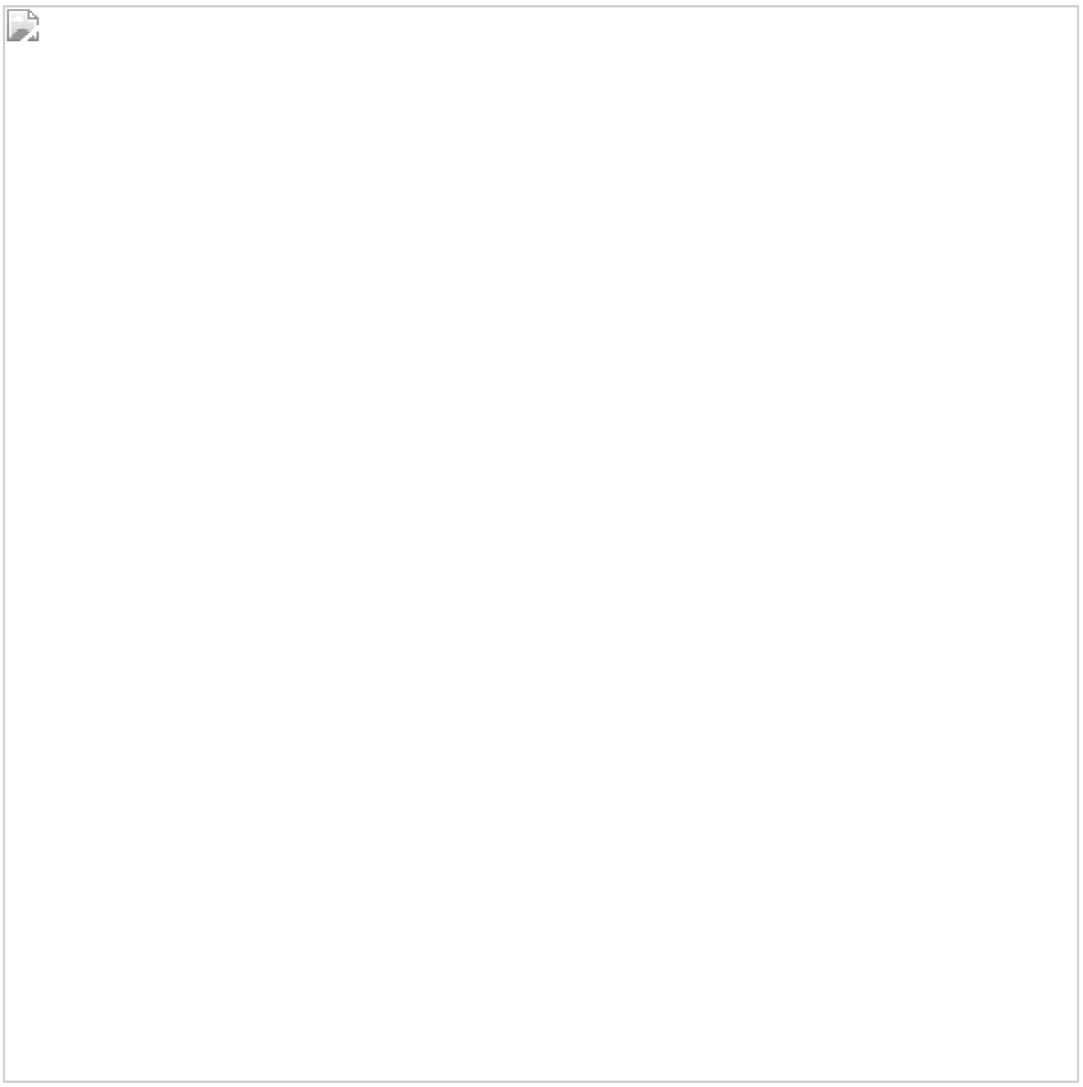
But the house was run by Miss Rottenmeier, who was very strict. Heidi did not know the rules, she could not read her letters, and she could not see the mountains anywhere. When she climbed up to look out of the window, all she saw was “a street of stone.”

Every day Heidi saved the soft white roll from her dinner and hid it in her cupboard for Peter’s grandmother.

TALK ABOUT IT

Heidi missed her home. What would you miss most if you went far away?

Clara · another picture



Think about it

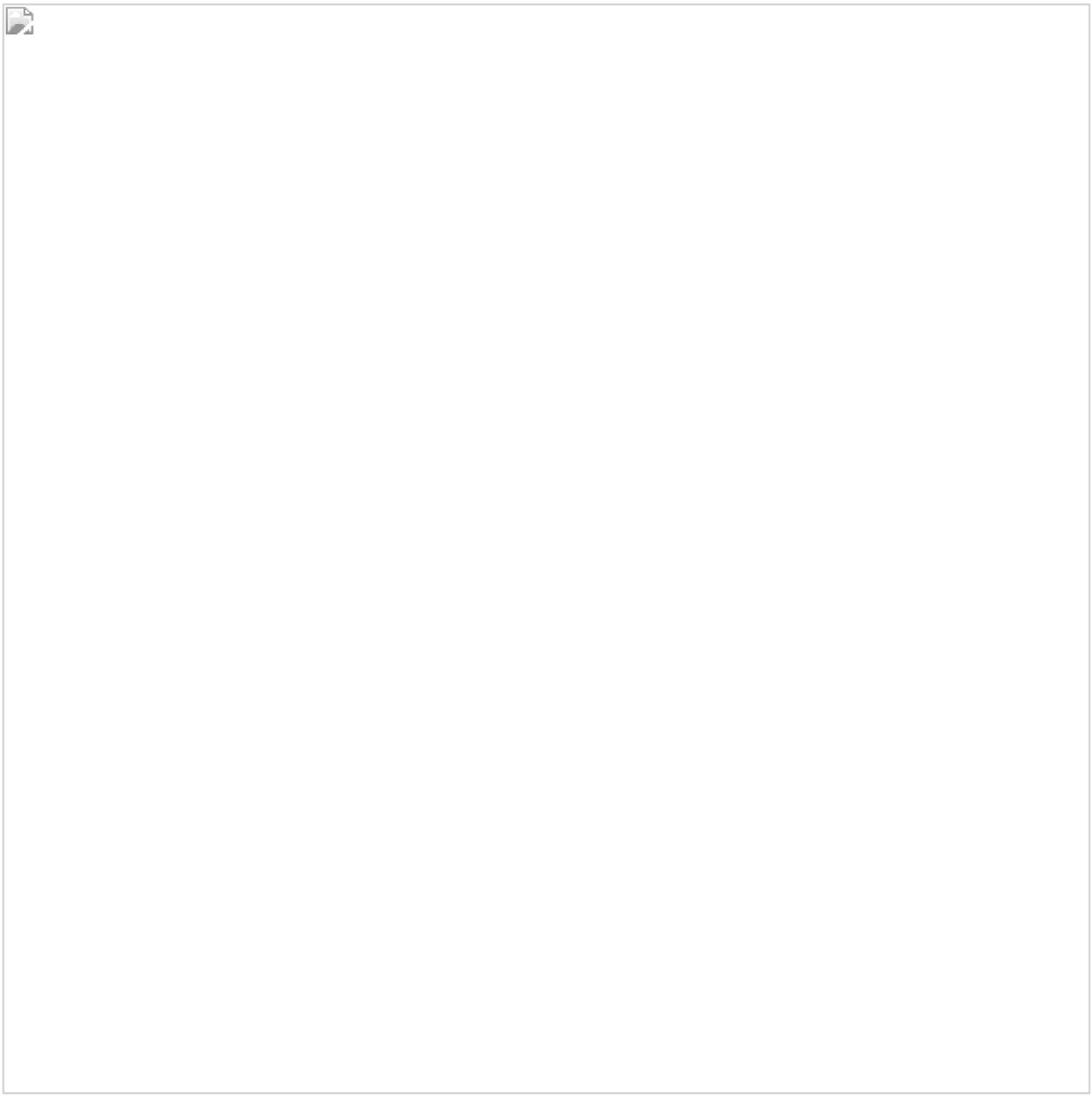
1. Why did Clara sit in a rolling-chair?

- ○ She could not walk
- ○ She was tired
- ○ She liked to roll

2. What did Heidi see from the window?

- ○ A street of stone
- ○ Snowy mountains
- ○ A field of goats

The Rolls Are Taken



One day Miss Rottenmeier found the pile of old rolls in Heidi's cupboard. They had gone stale and hard. She told a maid to throw them away.

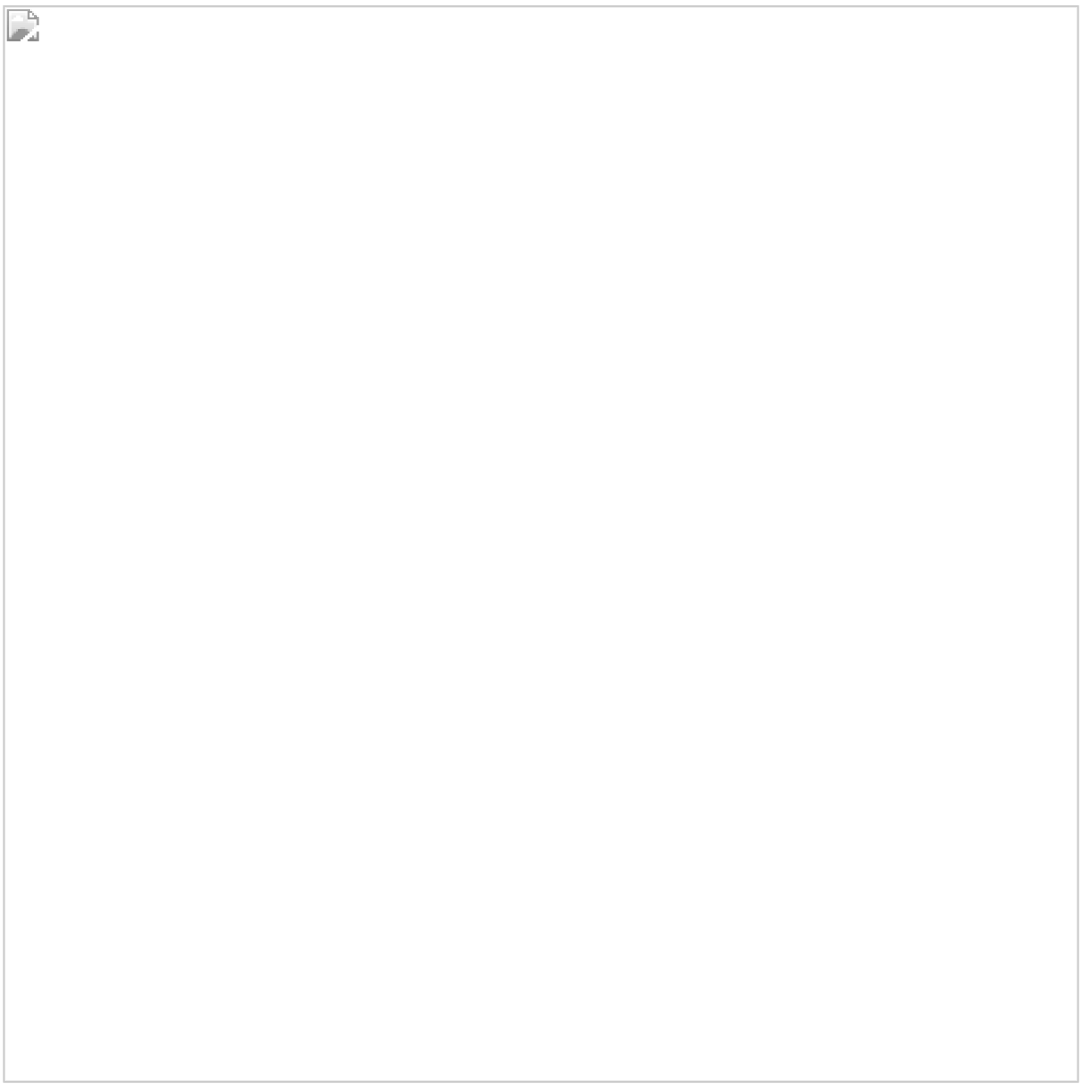
"The bread is for grandmother," cried Heidi. She threw herself down and sobbed. "Now I can't bring grandmother any rolls!"

Clara leaned over to comfort her. "When you go home some day," she promised, "I am going to give you as many rolls as you had, and more."

TALK ABOUT IT

How did Clara help Heidi feel better? What could you say to a friend who is crying?

The Rolls Are Taken · another picture



Think about it

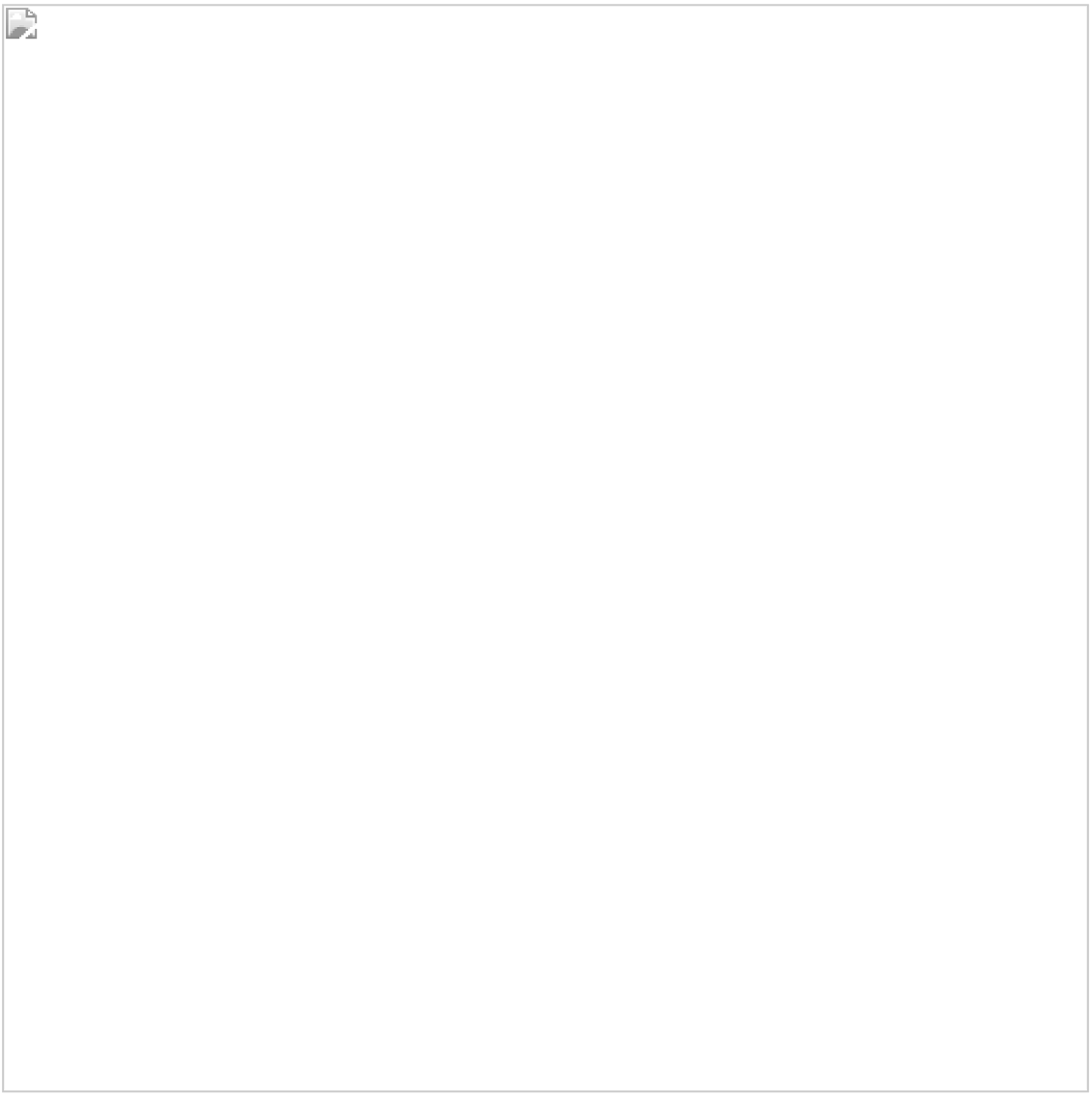
1. Who were Heidi's rolls for?

- ○ Peter's grandmother
- ○ The goats
- ○ Miss Rottenmeier

2. What did Clara promise?

- ○ To give her even more rolls
- ○ To tell on her
- ○ To eat the rolls

Clara's Grandmama



Then Clara's kind, wise grandmama came to stay. She saw that Heidi was sad inside, though Heidi felt it would be ungrateful to say why.

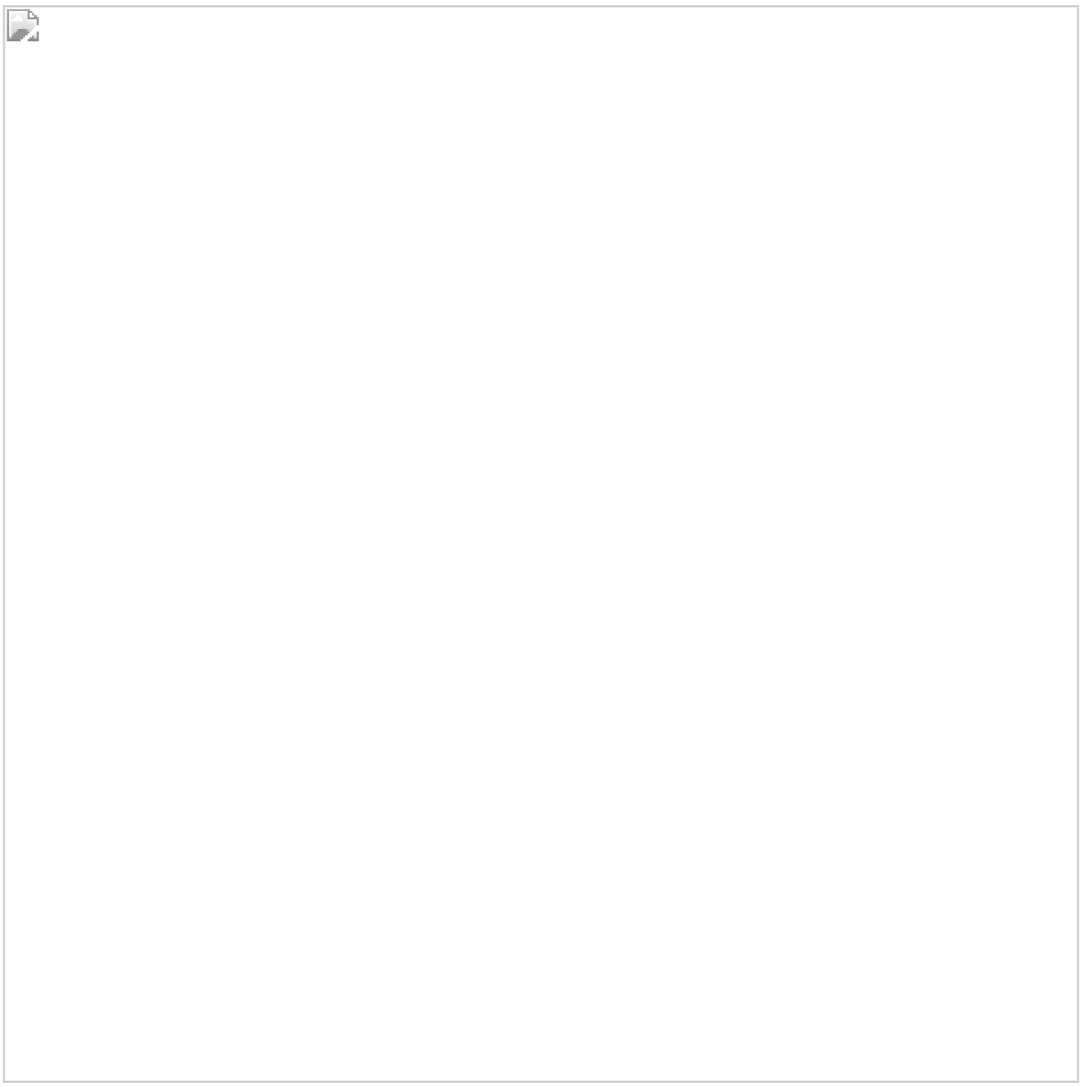
"If you have a sorrow that you cannot tell to anyone," said Grandmama, "you can go to Our Father in Heaven. You can tell Him everything that troubles you." "Can we tell Him everything, everything?" asked Heidi. "Yes, Heidi, everything."

Heidi ran to her room and told God how much she wanted to go home. With Grandmama's picture book, she soon learned to read! Her favorite story was about a shepherd boy who went far from his father, and came home again.

TALK ABOUT IT

Grandmama said you can tell God everything. What would you like to tell Him?

Clara's Grandmama · another picture



Think about it

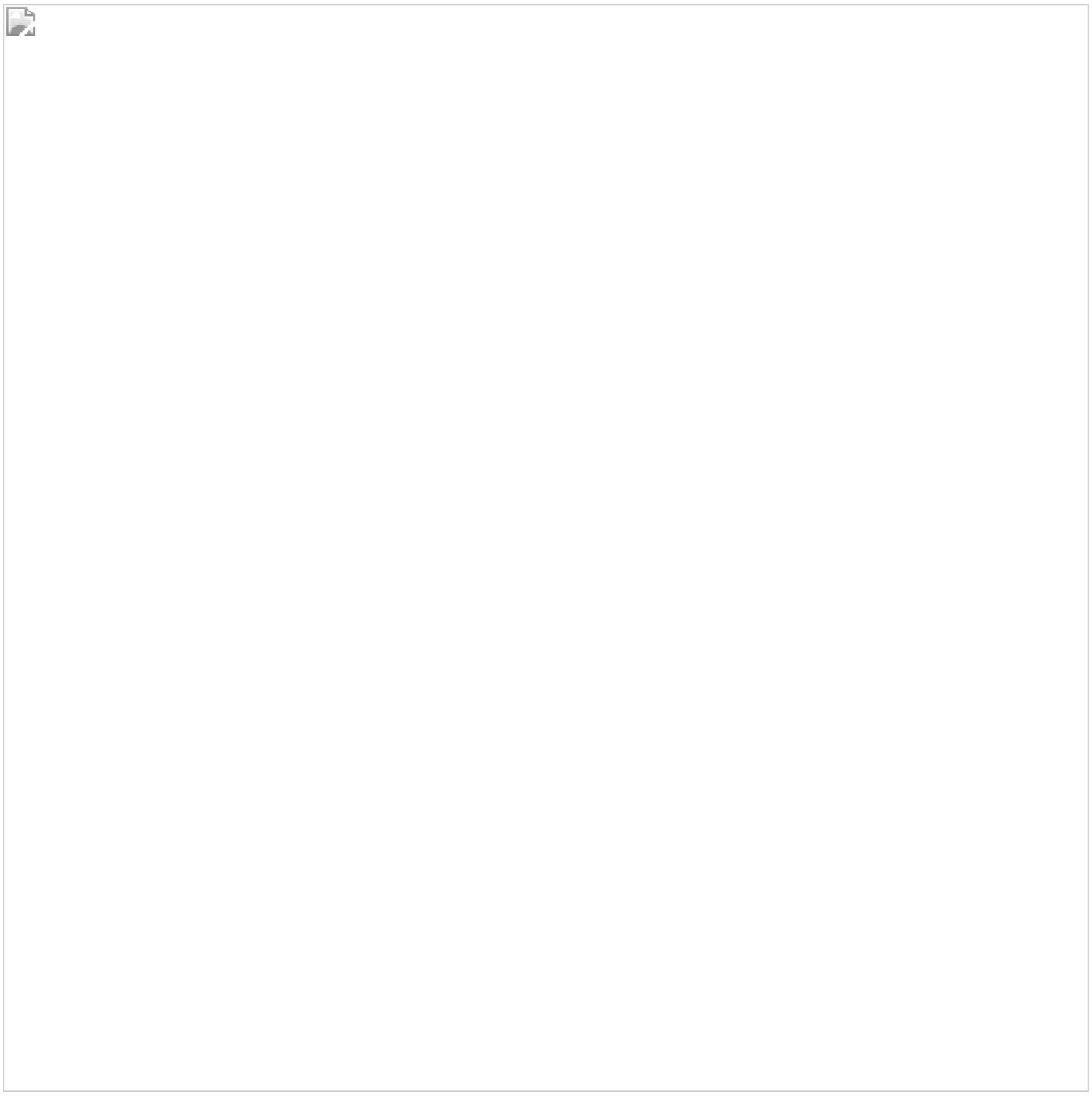
1. What did Grandmama say Heidi could do with her sorrow?

- ○ Tell God everything
- ○ Keep it secret forever
- ○ Forget about it

2. What did Heidi learn to do?

- ○ Read
- ○ Ride a horse
- ○ Bake bread

Something Much Better



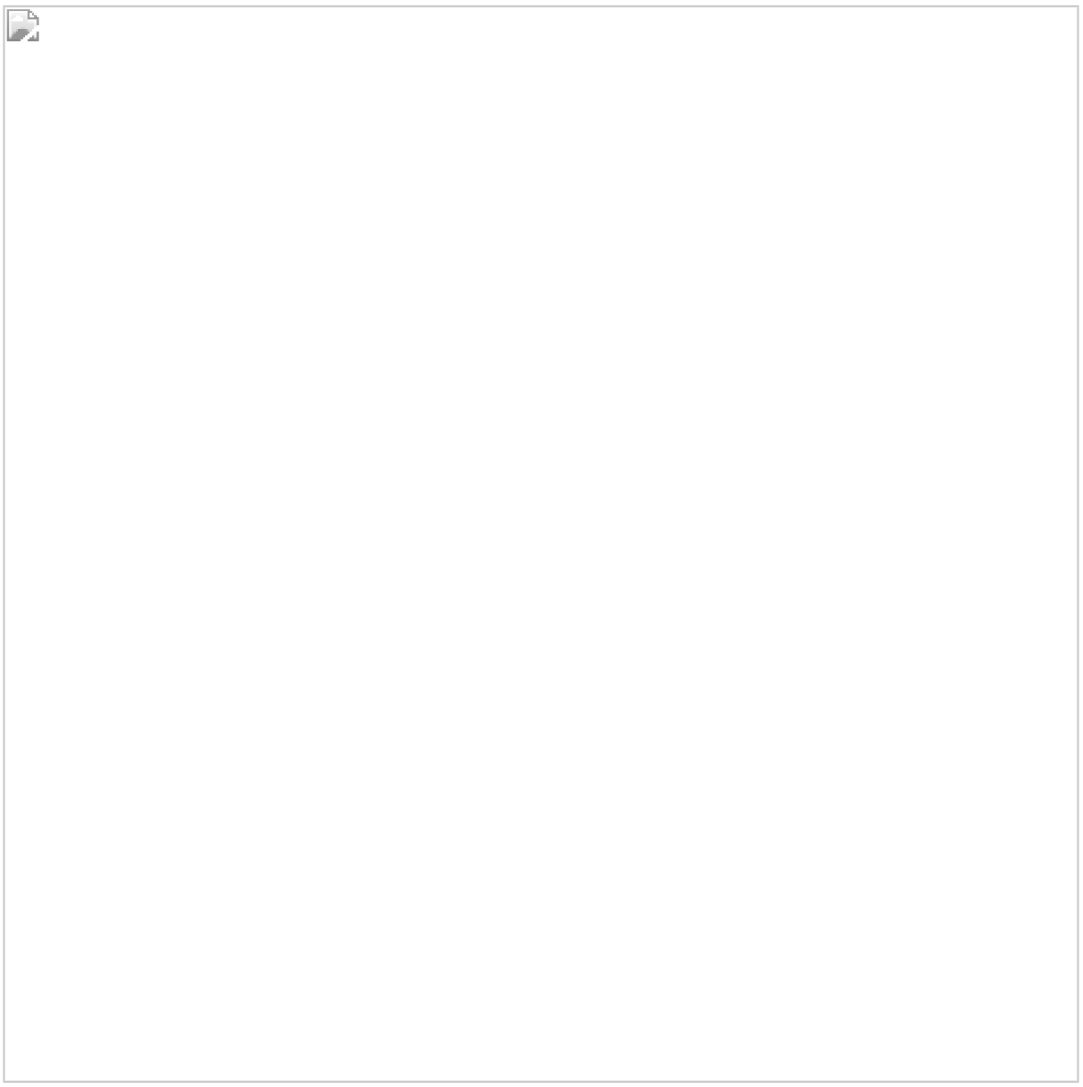
Weeks went by, and Heidi was still in Frankfurt. One day she told Grandmama she did not pray any more. “It does not help, for God has not listened,” she said.

Grandmama held her close. “God in heaven is a good Father to all of us,” she said, “who knows what we need better than we do.” Sometimes, she said, He waits, and then He gives us something much better than what we asked for.

Heidi listened carefully. Then she went back to her room and prayed again, and she asked God to forgive her for giving up.

TALK ABOUT IT

Have you ever had to wait a long time for something? What helped you wait?



Think about it

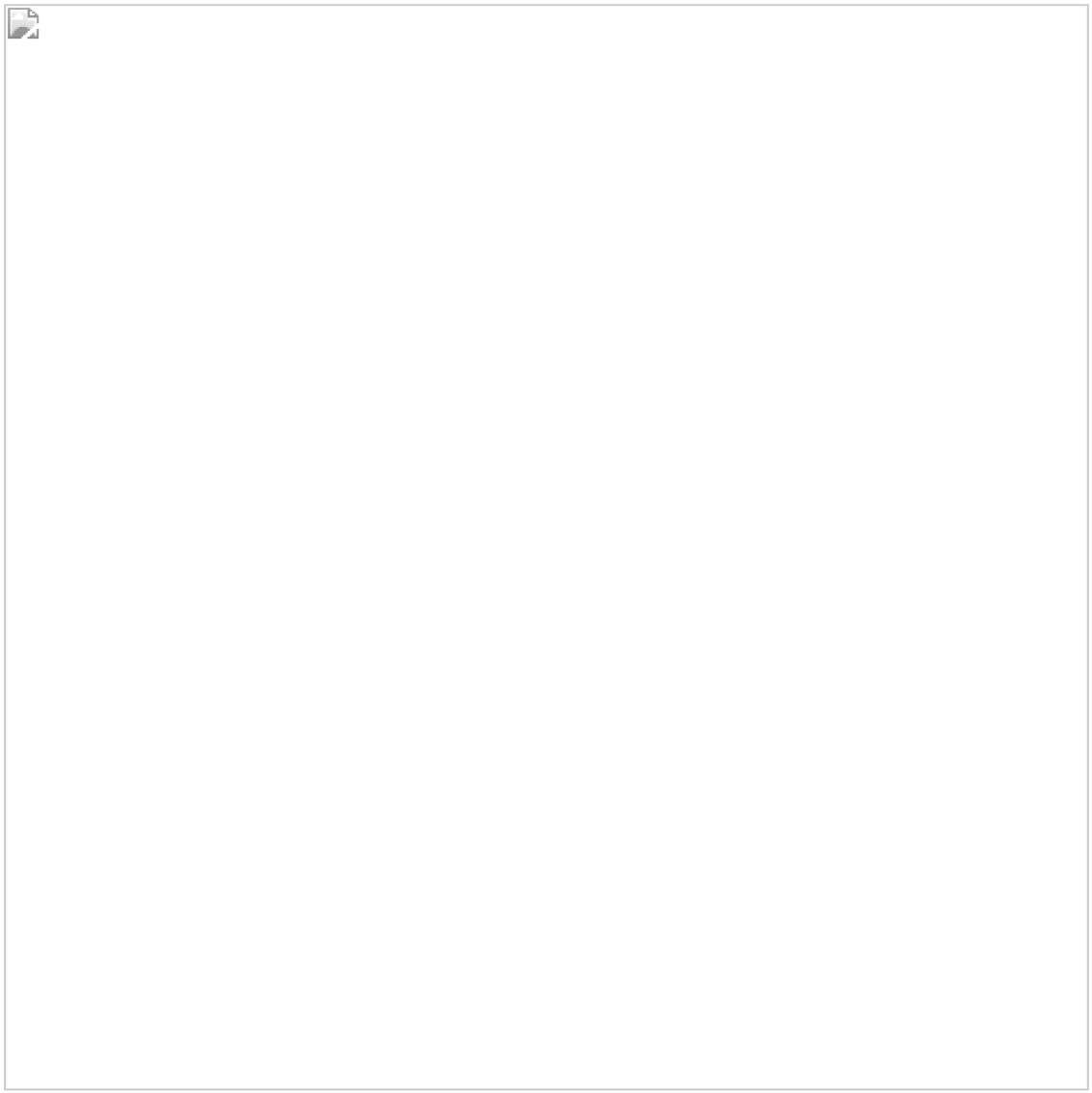
1. Why did Heidi stop praying?

- ○ She thought God was not listening
- ○ She forgot how
- ○ Miss Rottenmeier told her to

2. What did Grandmama say God is like?

- ○ A good Father who knows what we need
- ○ Too busy to hear us
- ○ Far away and cross

The White Figure



Every morning the front door of the big house stood open, and the servants whispered about a white figure on the stairs. A ghost!

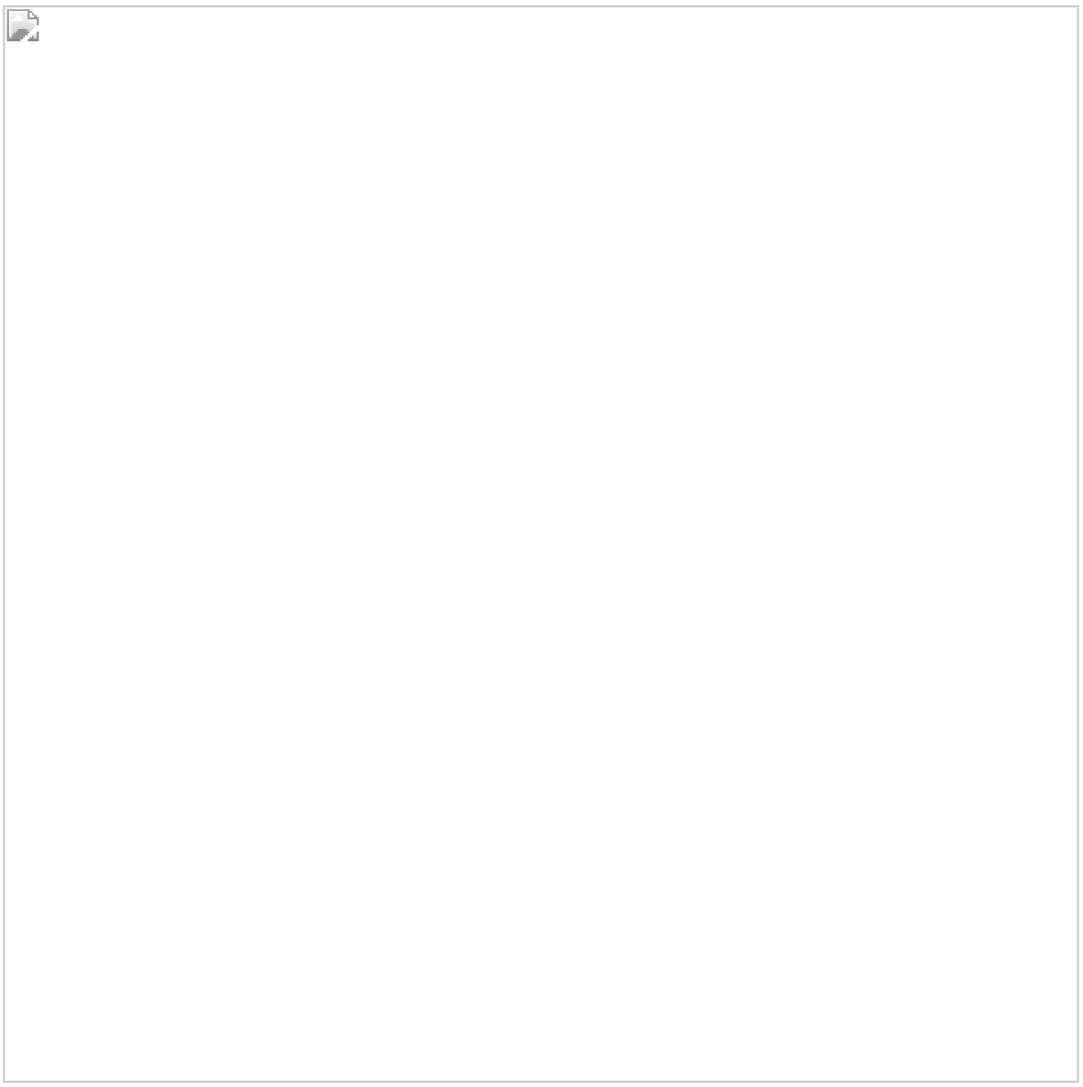
Clara's father and his friend the doctor sat up to watch. At midnight the door opened, and there in the moonlight stood a little girl in a white nightgown, barefoot. It was Heidi, walking in her sleep!

The kind doctor tucked her into bed. "I have the same dream every night," Heidi told him. "I always think I am with my grandfather again and can hear the fir-trees roar." The doctor said she was ill with homesickness, and must go home at once.

TALK ABOUT IT

Heidi had kept her sadness inside. Who could you tell when you feel sad?

The White Figure · another picture



Think about it

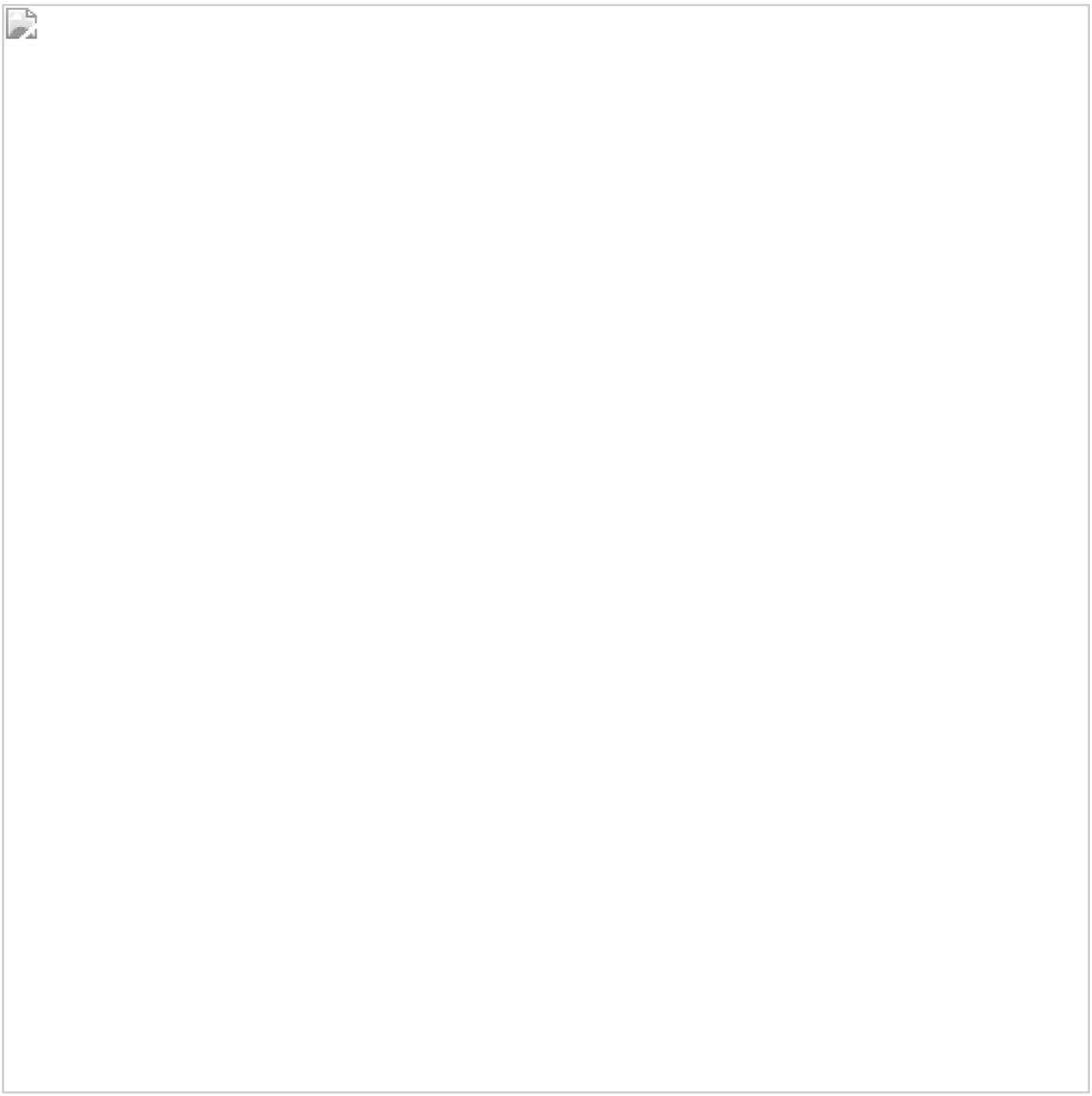
1. Who was the white figure?

- ○ Heidi, walking in her sleep
- ○ A real ghost
- ○ Clara

2. What did the doctor say Heidi needed?

- ○ To go home to the mountains
- ○ More medicine
- ○ A new bed

Home Again



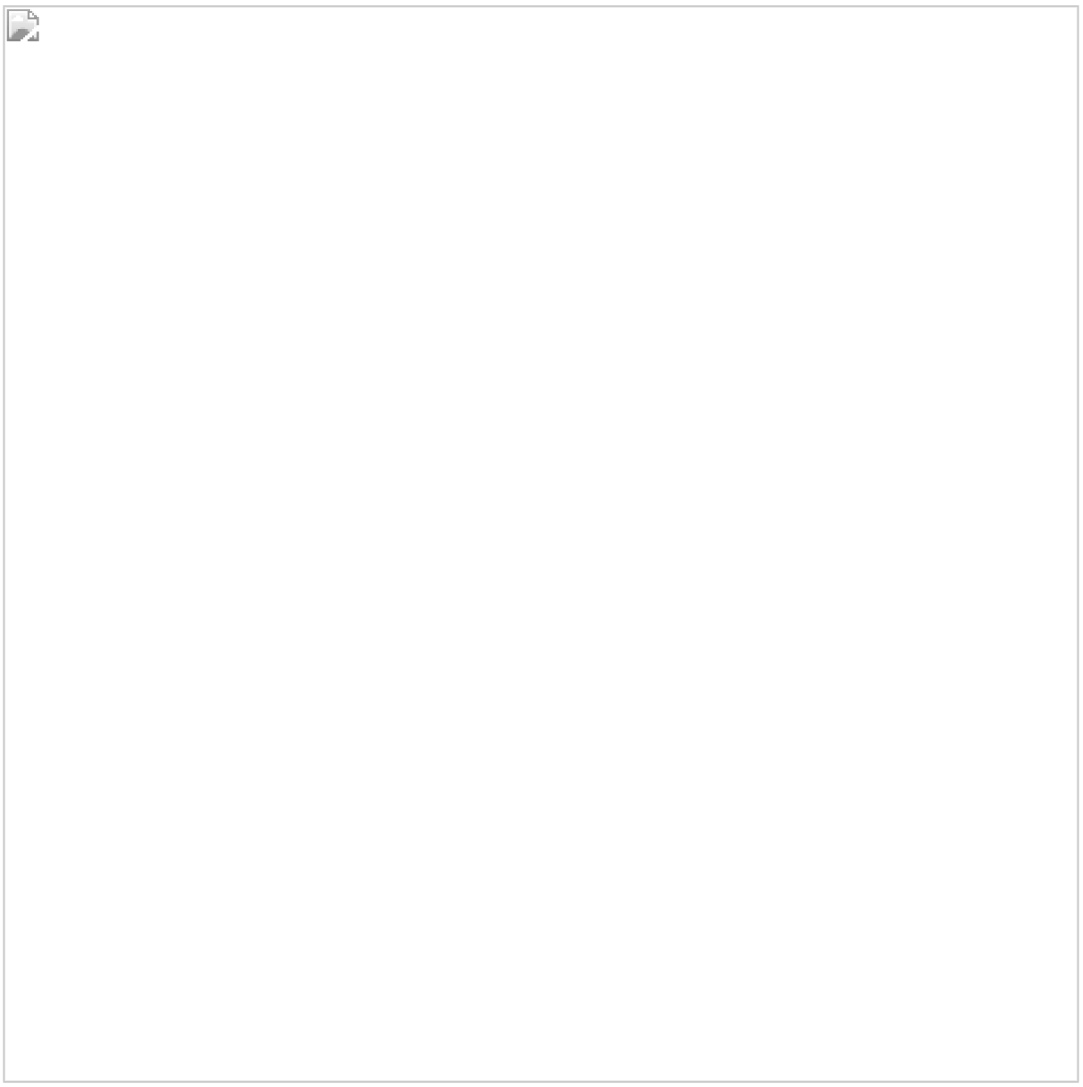
Clara had packed a little basket with twelve round white rolls for Peter's grandmother. Heidi gave the grandmother the rolls first, and the old woman wept for joy.

Then Heidi climbed on up the mountain. Behind her the peaks were glowing gold and pink in the evening light, just like before. Heidi folded her hands and thanked God for bringing her home.

Her grandfather was sitting on his bench. Heidi ran into his arms and hugged him tight, and all she could say was, "Grandfather! grandfather! grandfather!" His eyes were wet with tears.

TALK ABOUT IT

Heidi thanked God when she got home. What would you say thank you for today?



Think about it

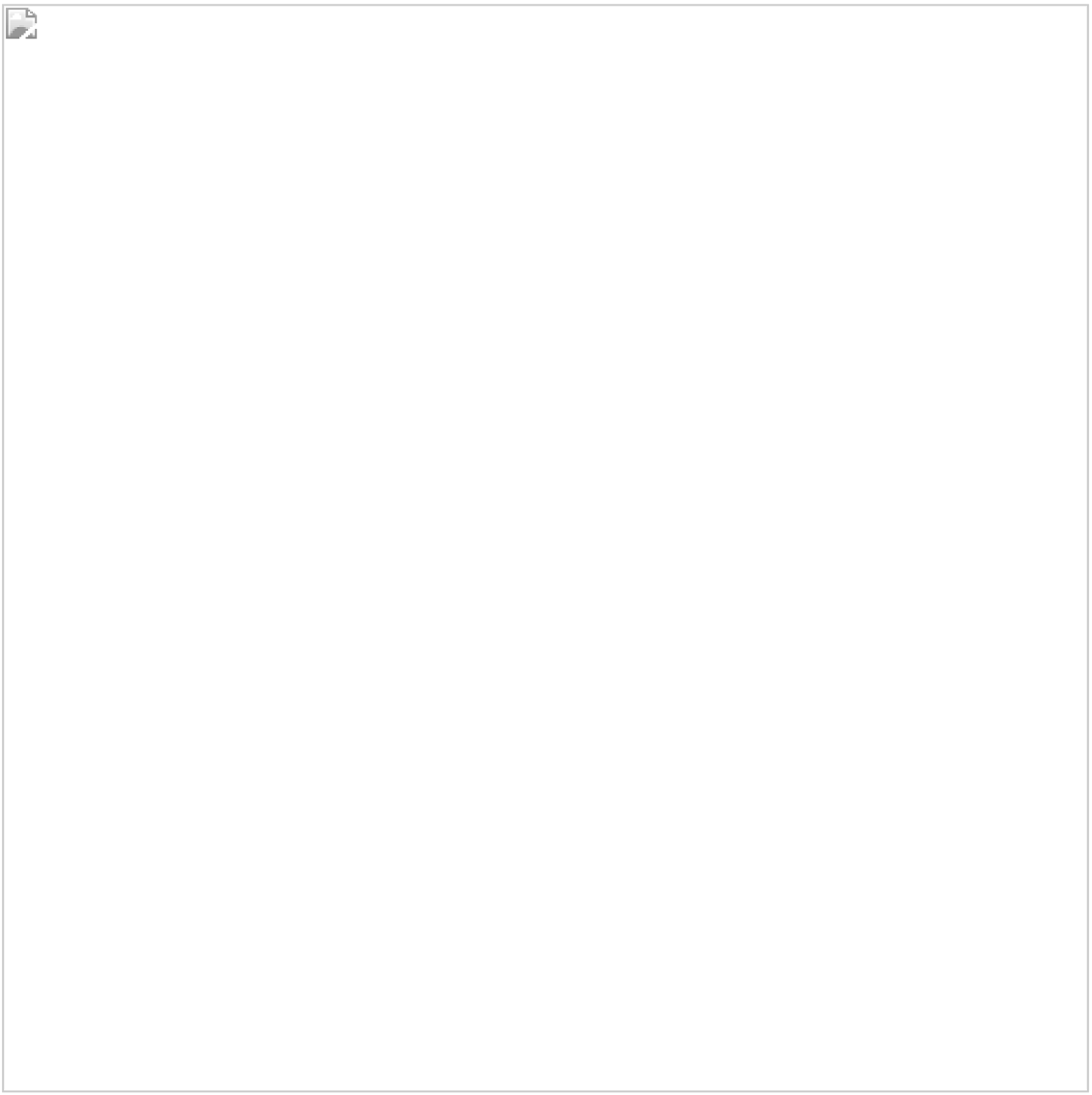
1. Who did Heidi visit first?

- ○ Peter's grandmother, with the rolls
- ○ The goats
- ○ The village shop

2. What did Heidi do when she saw the glowing mountains?

- ○ She thanked God for bringing her home
- ○ She ran away
- ○ She fell asleep

The Lost Son



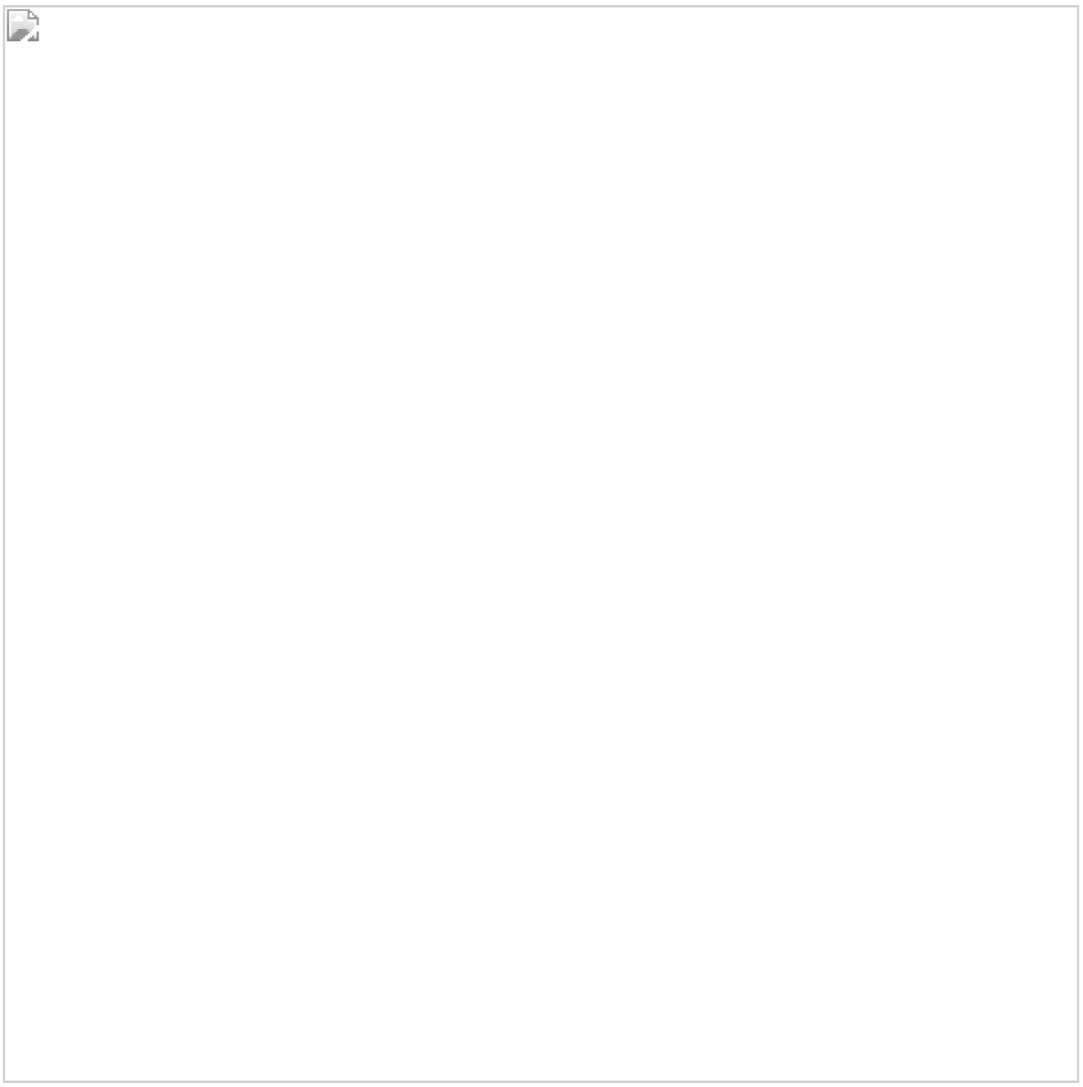
That evening Heidi told her grandfather how God had made things better than she could have dreamed. If she had come home at once, she would never have learned to read.

Her grandfather shook his head. He thought that once a person turned away from God, they could never come back. “But grandfather, everybody can come back to Him,” said Heidi, and she read him her favorite story.

It was the story Jesus told of a son who went far away and wasted everything. When he came home, ragged and sorry, his father ran to meet him, hugged him, and gave a feast. “He was lost, and is found.”

TALK ABOUT IT

In the story, the father ran to hug his son. What does that tell you about how God loves us?



Think about it

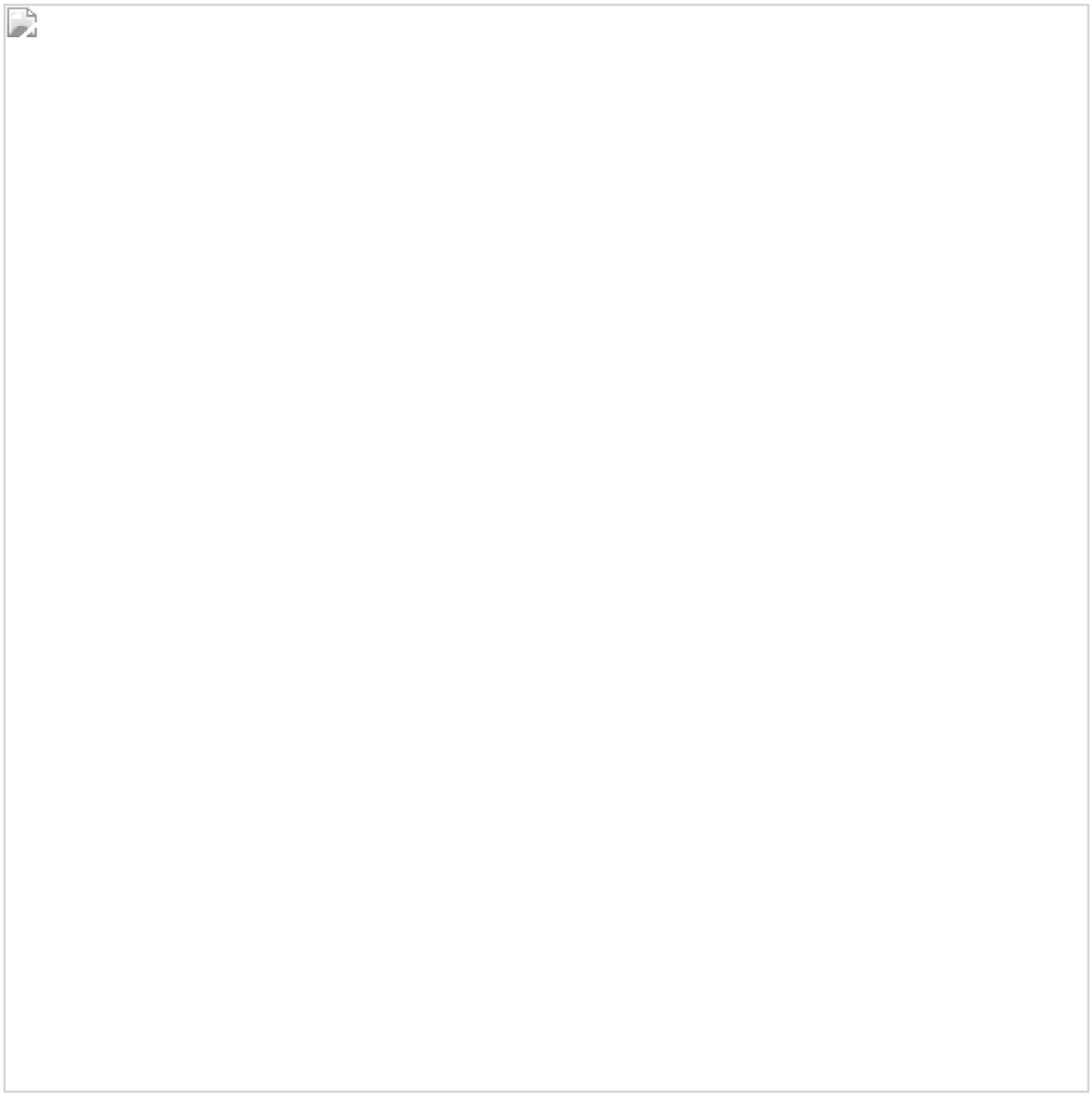
1. What did the father do when his son came home?

- ○ He ran to meet him and hugged him
- ○ He shut the door
- ○ He said “I told you so”

2. What did Heidi say about coming back to God?

- ○ Everybody can come back to Him
- ○ Only good people can
- ○ Nobody can

Sunday Morning



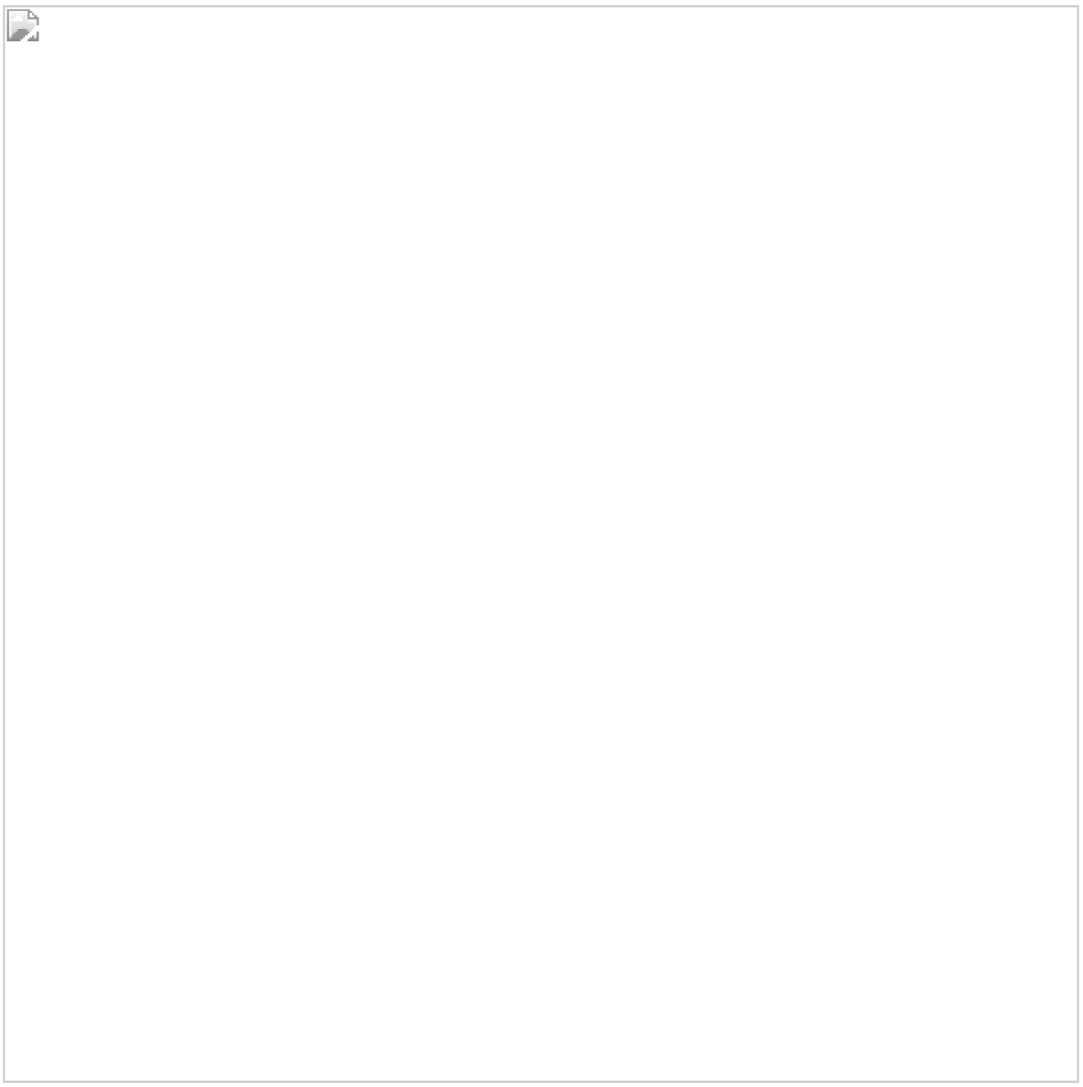
That night her grandfather watched Heidi sleep. Then he folded his hands and, with tears on his cheeks, said, “Father, I have sinned against Heaven and Thee, and am no more worthy to be Thy son!”

In the morning, as the church bells rang, he called, “Put on a pretty dress, for we are going to church!” He wore his Sunday coat with the silver buttons.

After church he said sorry to the pastor, and all the village people came to shake his hand. “Grandfather, you have never looked so beautiful!” said Heidi. “To be at peace with God and men makes one’s heart feel light,” he told her.

TALK ABOUT IT

Heidi’s grandfather said sorry to God and to the pastor. How do you feel after you say sorry?



Think about it

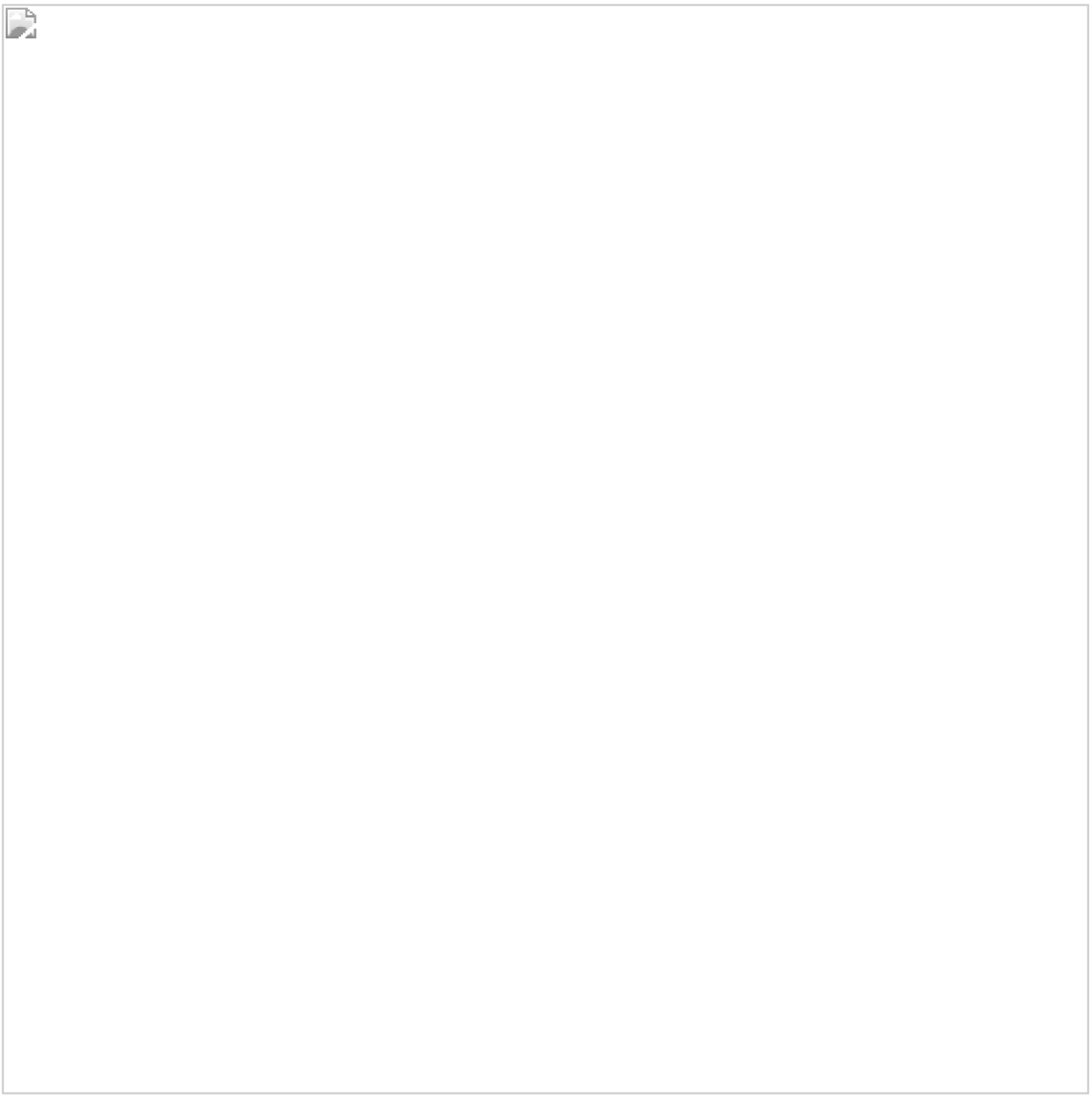
1. Where did Heidi and her grandfather go on Sunday?

- ○ To church in the village
- ○ Up to the pasture
- ○ To Frankfurt

2. Who came to shake the grandfather's hand?

- ○ All the village people
- ○ Nobody
- ○ Only Peter

The Rolling-Chair



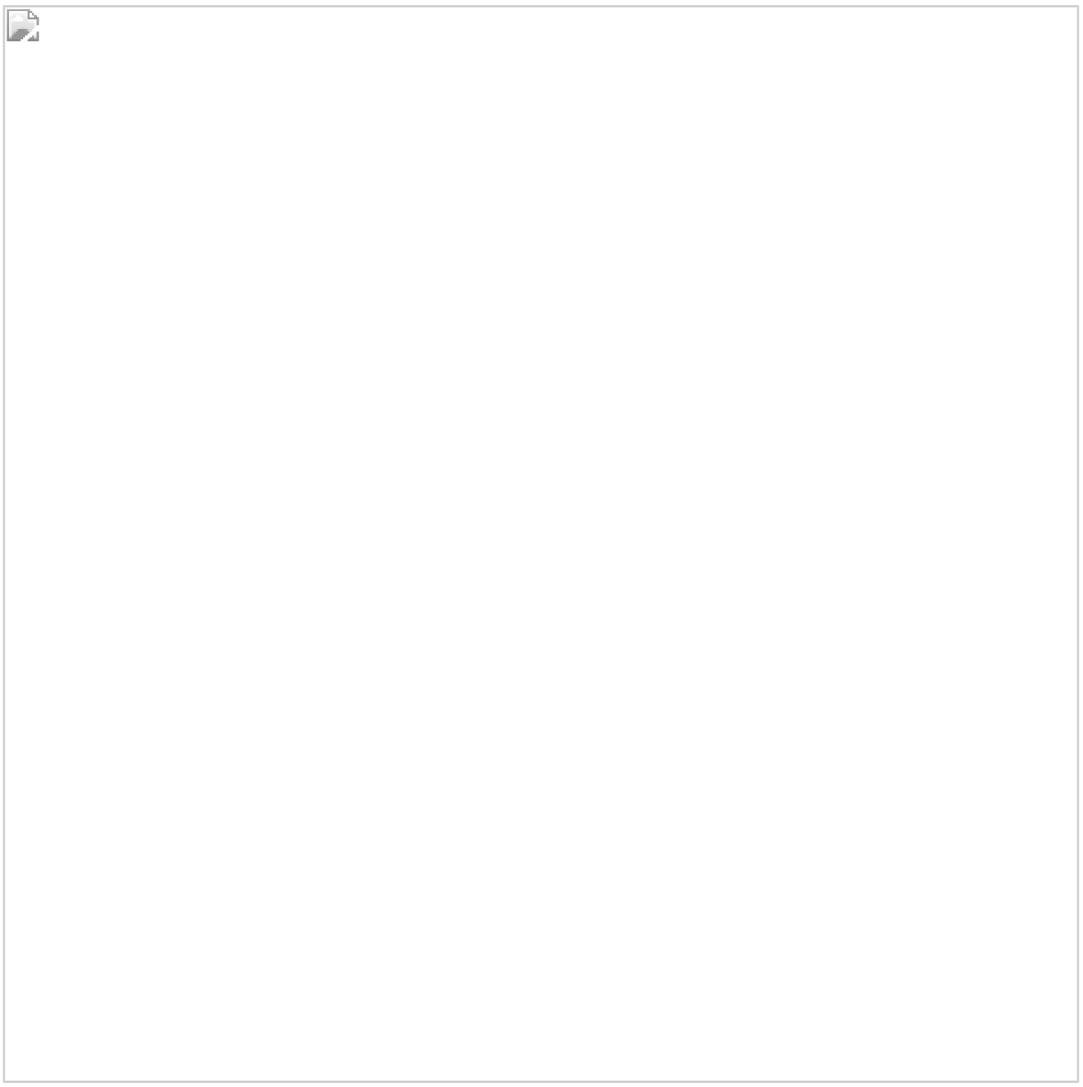
The next summer, Clara came to visit! She stayed on the mountain with Heidi and her grandfather, drinking goat's milk and growing stronger in the sunshine. Heidi spent every day with her.

But Peter felt left out. All summer, Heidi was always with the girl from the city, and never up on the pasture with him. He grew angrier and angrier.

One morning, when nobody was looking, Peter gave Clara's empty rolling-chair a big push. It rolled down the steep mountain, faster and faster, until it crashed and broke into pieces. Right away Peter felt terrible, and he ran away to hide.

TALK ABOUT IT

Peter was jealous and did something wrong. What could he have done with his angry feelings instead?



Think about it

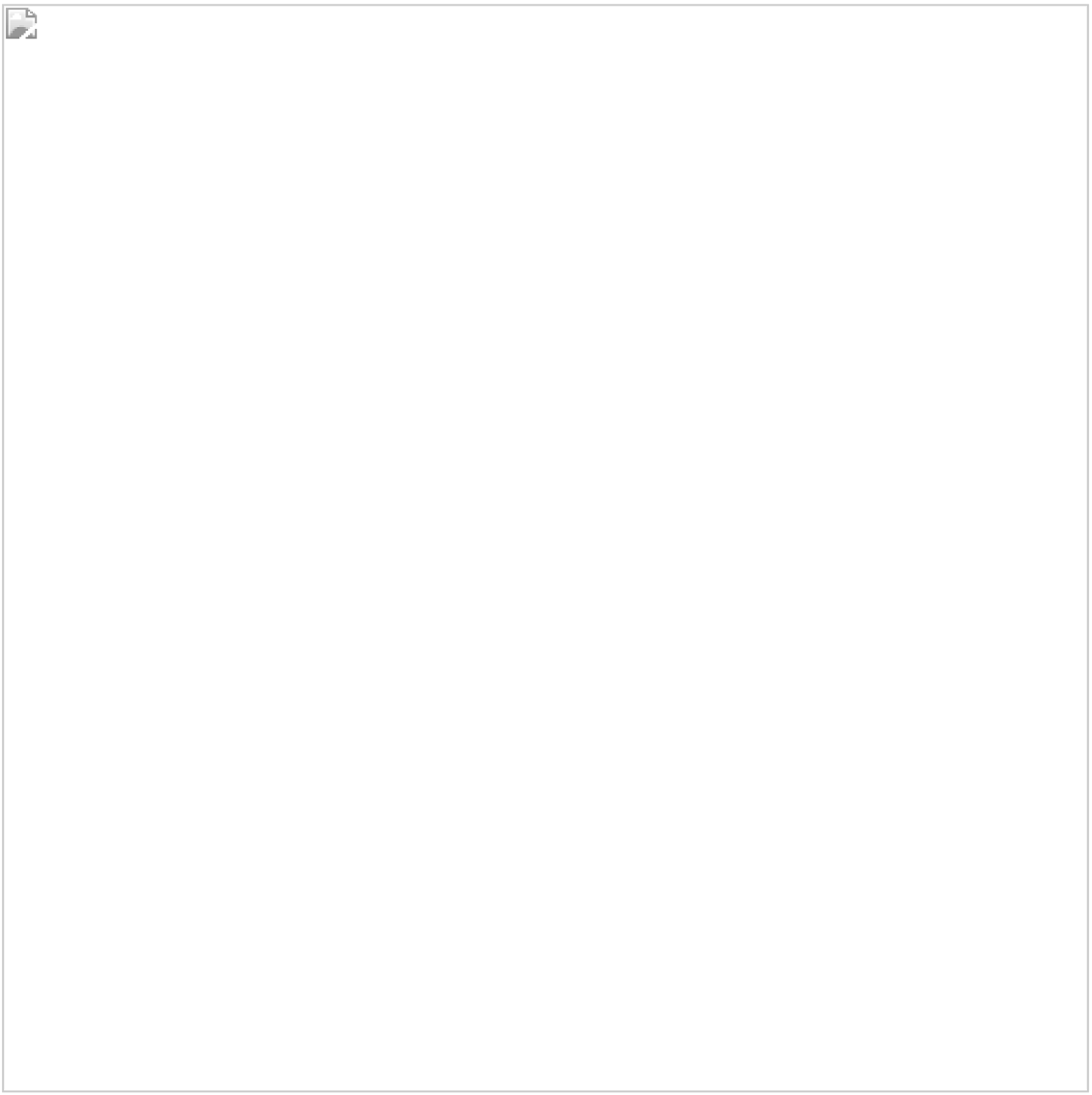
1. Why was Peter angry?

- ○ Heidi was always with Clara instead of him
- ○ The goats ran off
- ○ It was raining

2. What happened to Clara's rolling-chair?

- ○ Peter pushed it down the mountain
- ○ The wind took it
- ○ Clara gave it away

One Step, Then Another



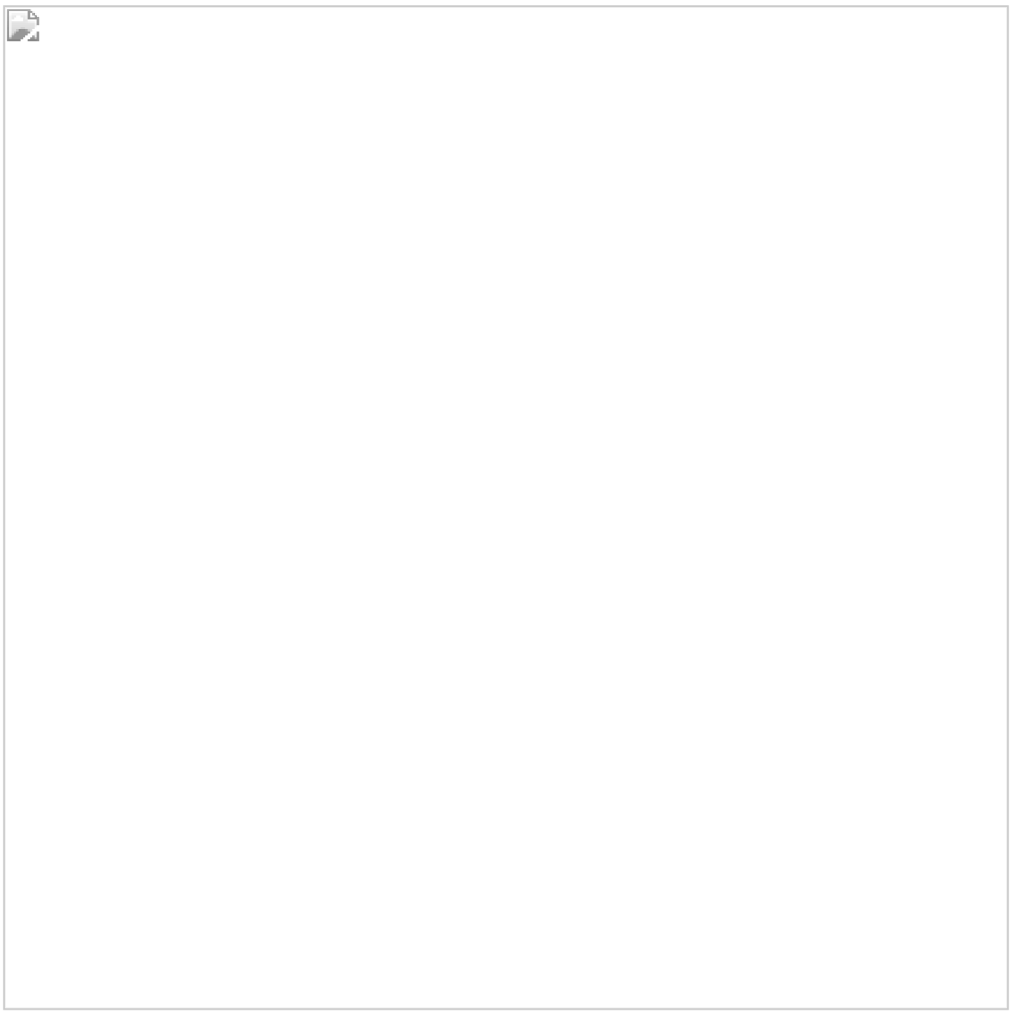
Without the chair, Clara could not reach the flowers. So Heidi and Peter lifted her up and held her on each side. “Press your feet on the ground more,” said Heidi.

Clara took one step, and then another. “Oh, Heidi, I can do it,” she cried. Her grandfather smiled. “So you have risked it? Now we have won.”

When Grandmama and Clara’s father saw her walk, her father’s eyes filled with tears. Peter told the truth about the chair, and Grandmama forgave him. And Peter’s grandmother asked Heidi to read her “a song of thanksgiving and praise.”

TALK ABOUT IT

Clara learned to walk because her friends held her up. Who helps hold you up?



Think about it

1. Who helped Clara take her first steps?

- ○ Heidi and Peter
- ○ Miss Rottenmeier
- ○ The goats

2. What did Grandmama do when Peter told the truth?

- ○ She forgave him
- ○ She sent him away
- ○ She was angry forever

3. Which part of Heidi's mountain would you most like to visit? Why?

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

— Yeshua HaMashiach

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