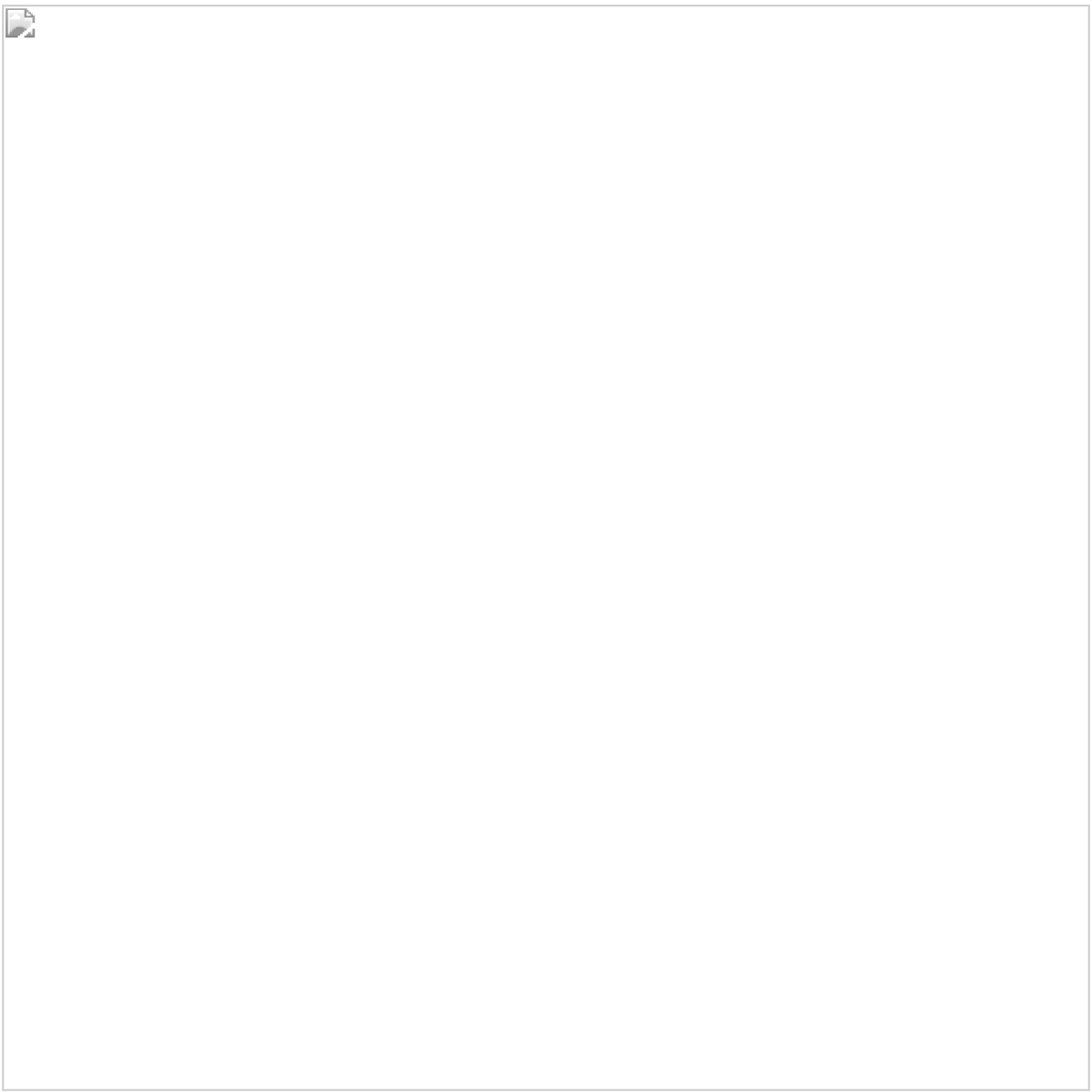
COLORING THE CLASSICS

Pandora

A Myth of Greece and Rome



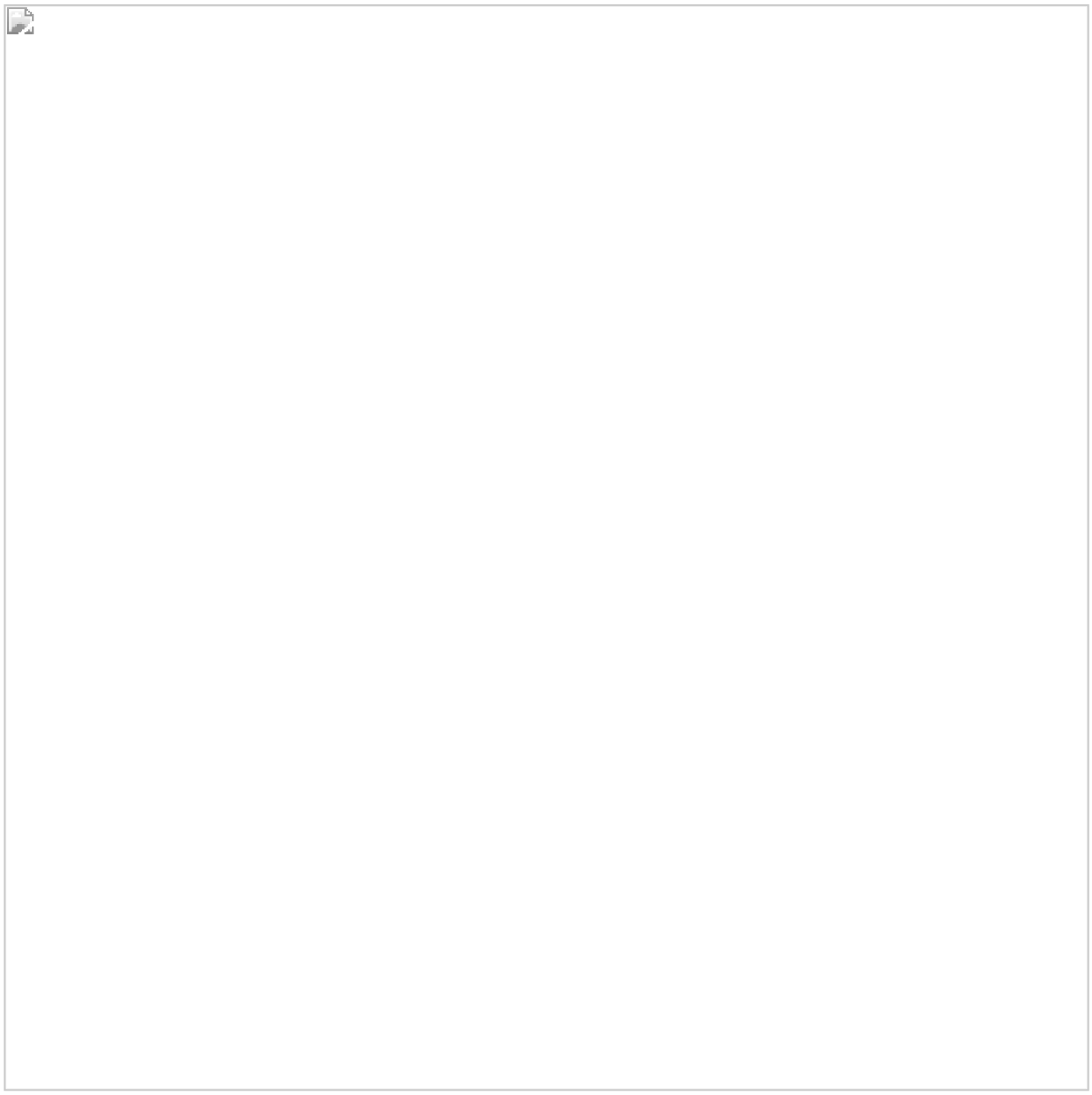
Long, long ago, when the world was still very young, a boy named Epimetheus lived in a little cottage. He had no mother and no father. One day a little girl came from a far country to be his playfellow.

TALK ABOUT IT

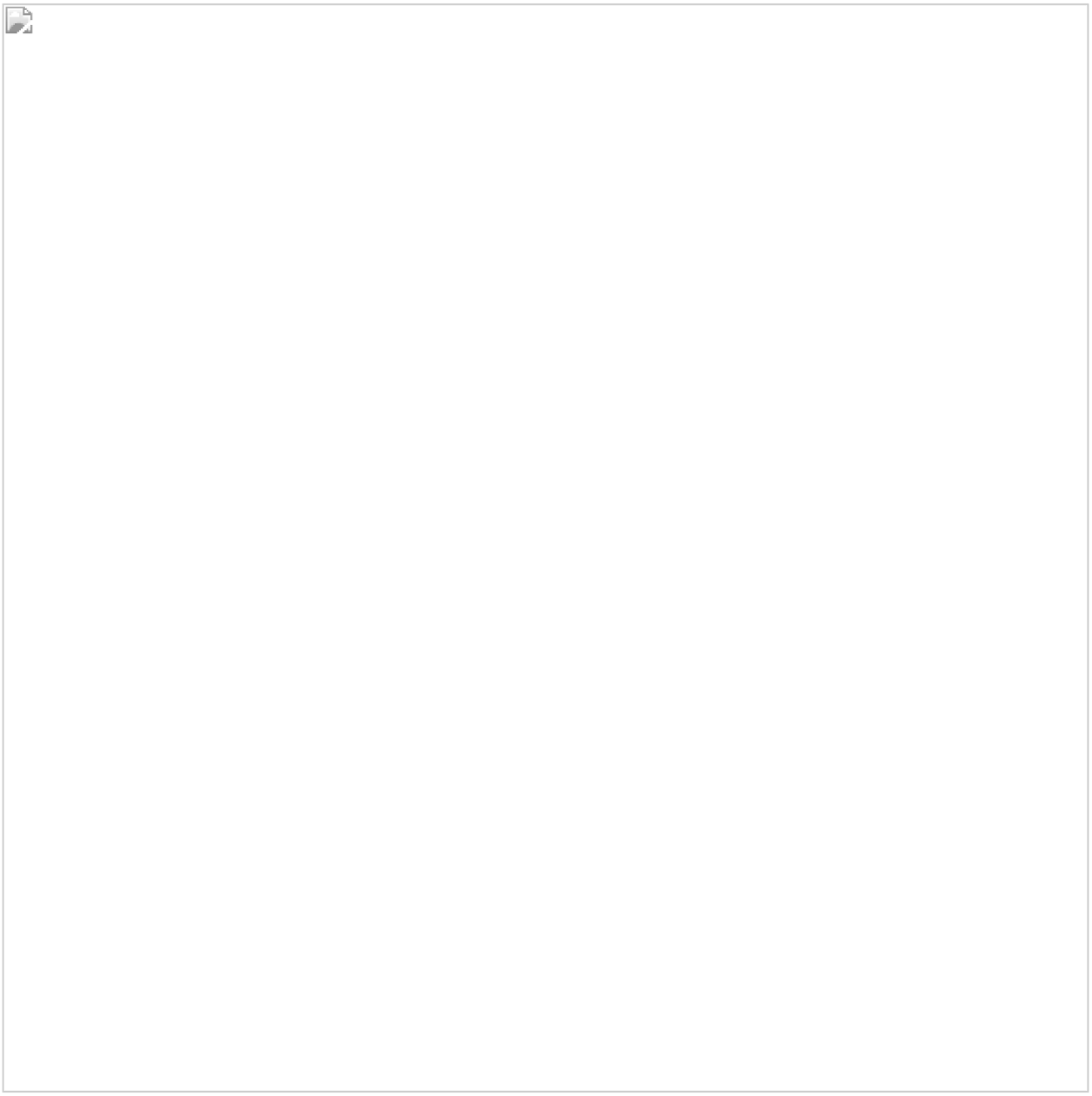
A new friend has come to live with Epimetheus. What would you do to welcome a new friend?

This book belongs to _____

Pandora · another picture



A New Playmate



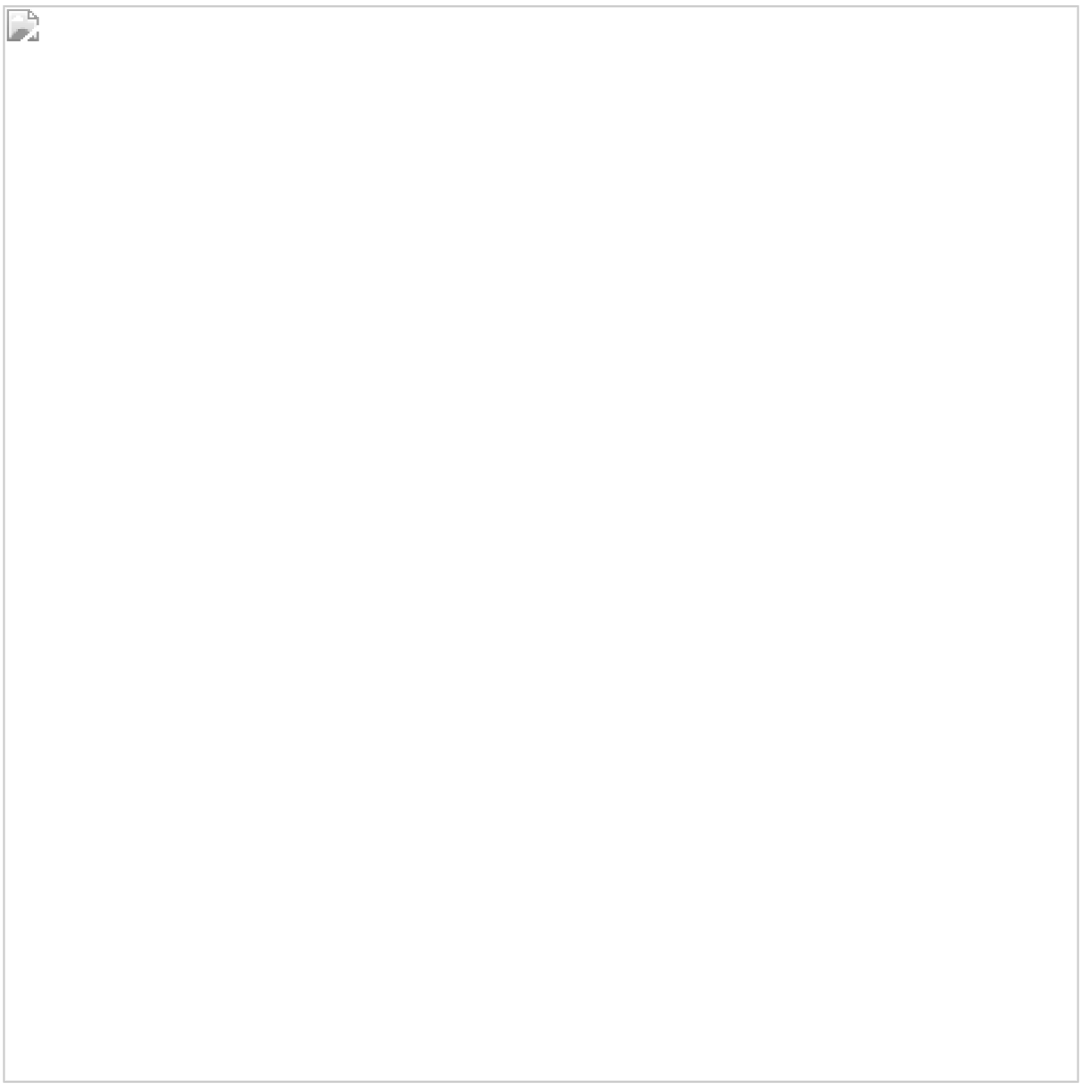
The little girl's name was Pandora. She had no mother or father either.

In those days everyone in the world was happy. No one had ever been ill, or lonely, or miserable. The world was new and beautiful, and nobody knew what trouble was.

TALK ABOUT IT

Epimetheus and Pandora had each other. What is something good about having a friend to play with?

A New Playmate · another picture

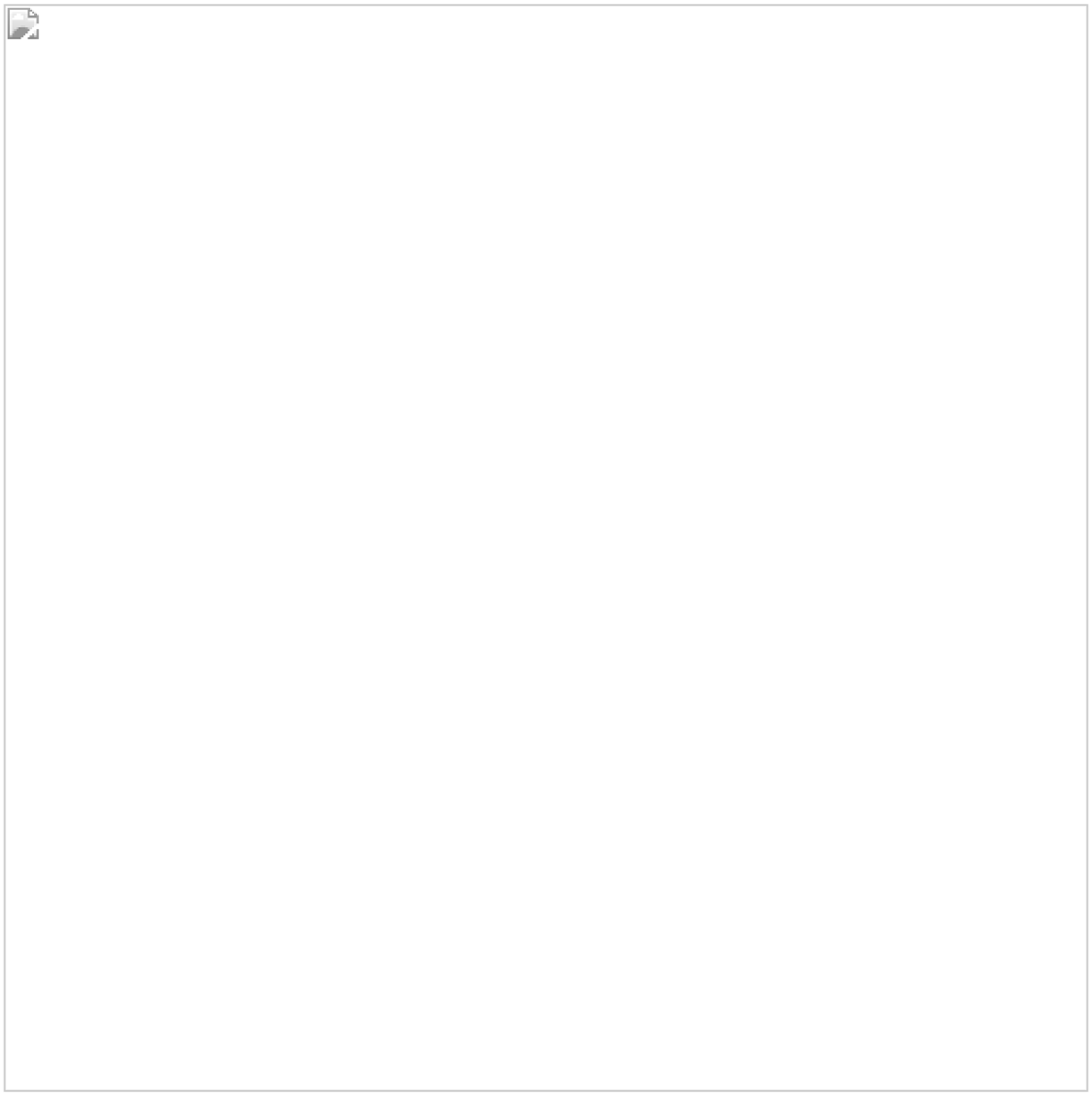


Think about it

1. Who was sent to be Epimetheus's playfellow?

- ○ A little girl named Pandora
- ○ A little dog
- ○ A wise old woman

The Great Wooden Box



The first thing Pandora saw in the cottage was a great wooden box. “What have you in that box, Epimetheus?” she asked.

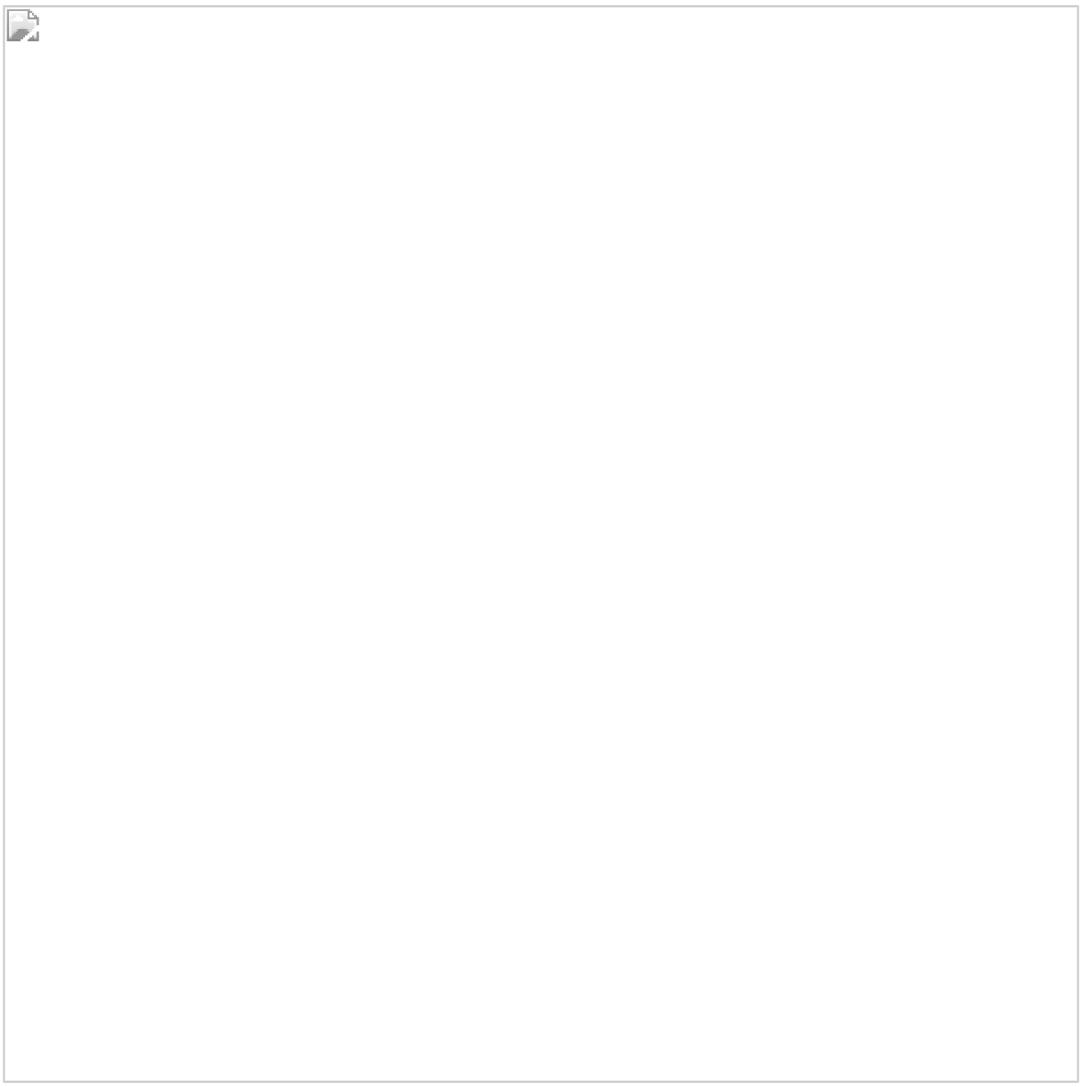
“That is a secret,” he said. The box had been left there to keep safe, and he did not know what was inside.

A strange person with winged cap and a staff of two twisted snakes had left it at the door. Pandora knew him. It was Mercury, and he had brought her to the cottage too.

Epimetheus said that until Mercury came back and told them they could open it, neither of them had any right to lift the lid.

TALK ABOUT IT

Why do you think Epimetheus said they had no right to open a box that was not theirs?

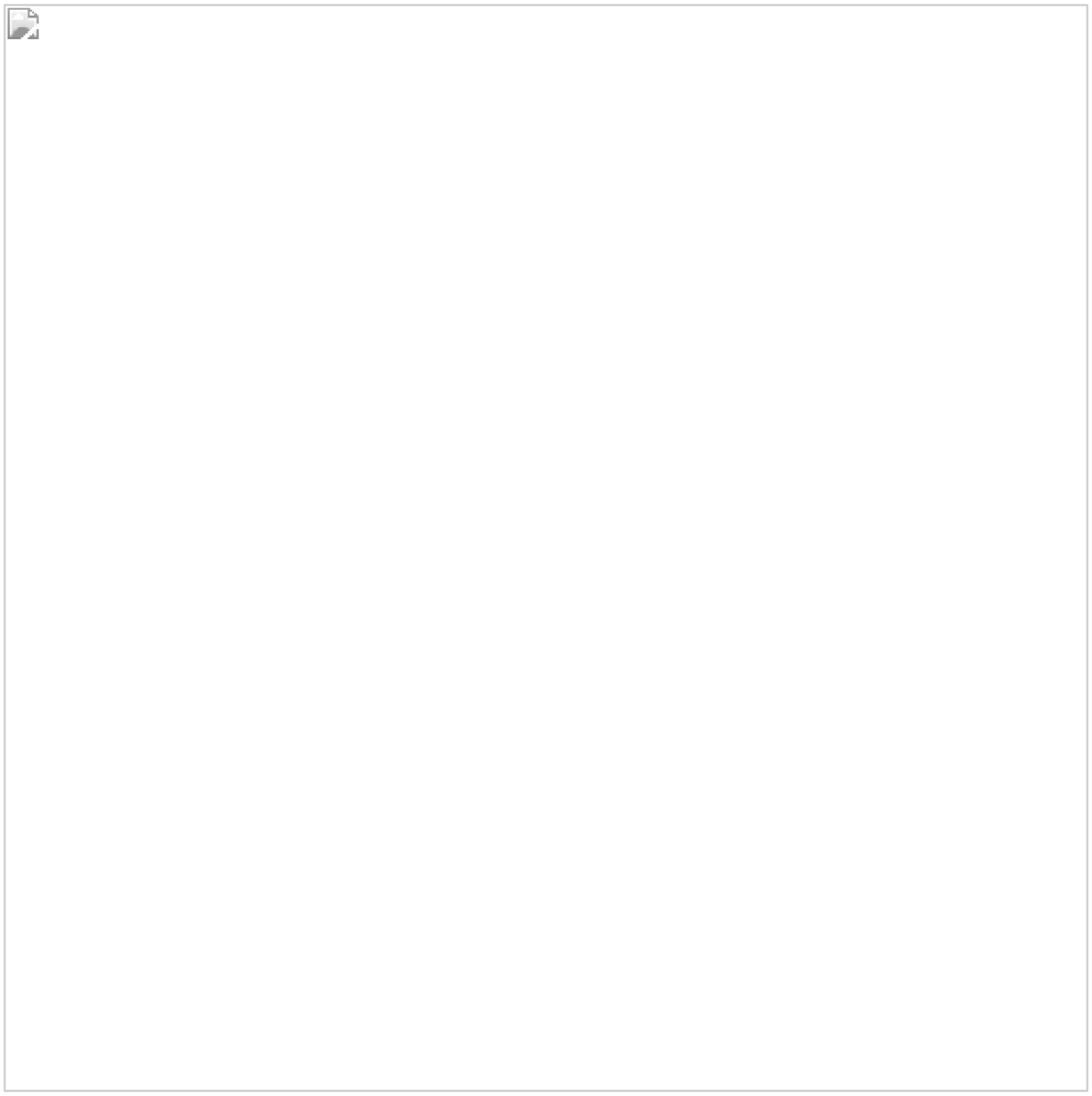


Think about it

1. Who left the box at the door?

- ○ Mercury
- ○ A farmer
- ○ Pandora's mother

The Carved Faces



It was really a very handsome box, made of dark wood so polished that Pandora could see her face in it.

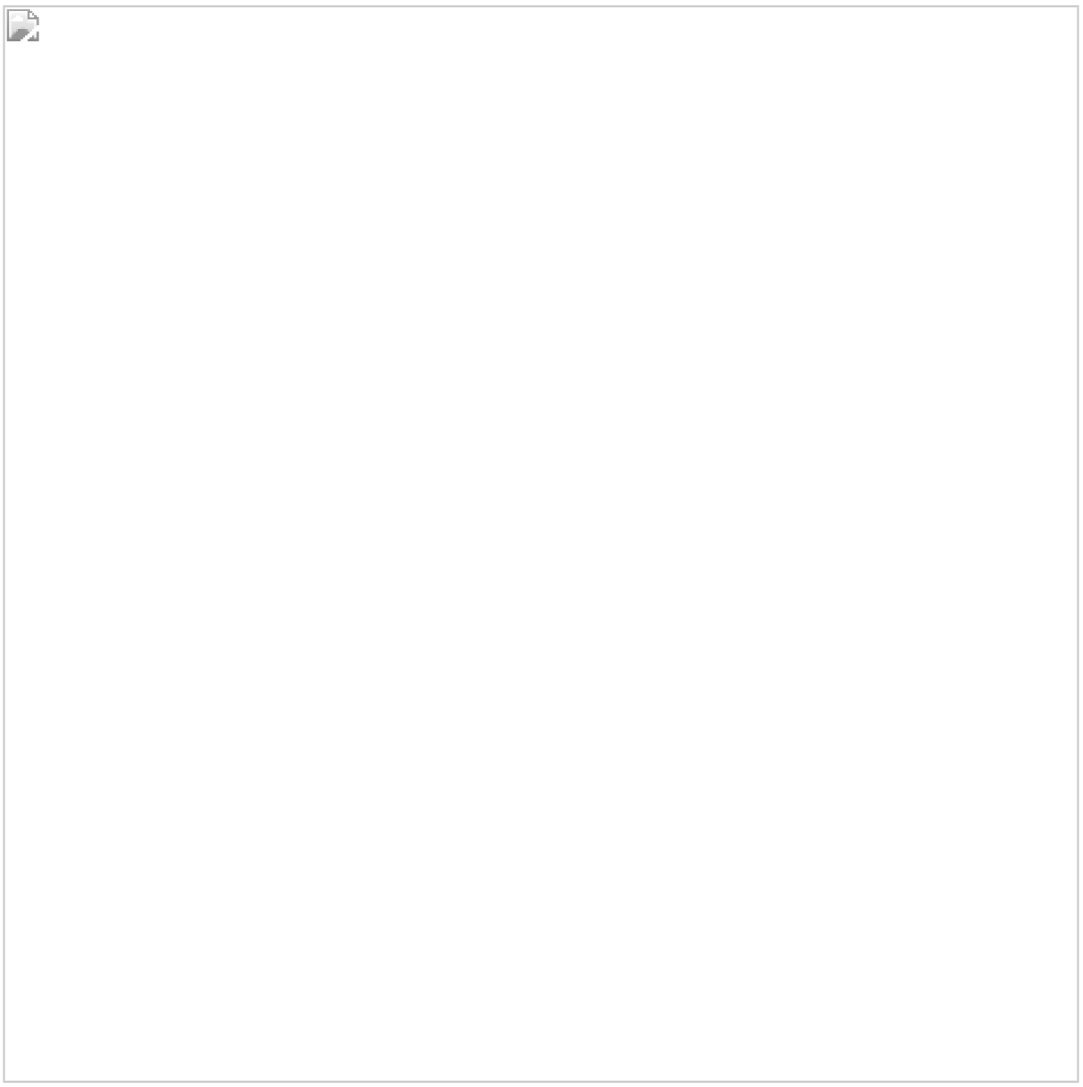
Around the edges and corners were carved faces of lovely women and pretty children, playing among leaves and flowers. The most beautiful face of all wore a wreath of flowers on its brow.

Some days Pandora thought that face was laughing at her. Other days it looked so grave that she was a little afraid.

The box had no lock. It was tied with a knot of gold cord, twisted with so many ins and outs that it seemed to have no beginning and no end.

TALK ABOUT IT

What do you think the carved face with the flower wreath might be saying to Pandora?

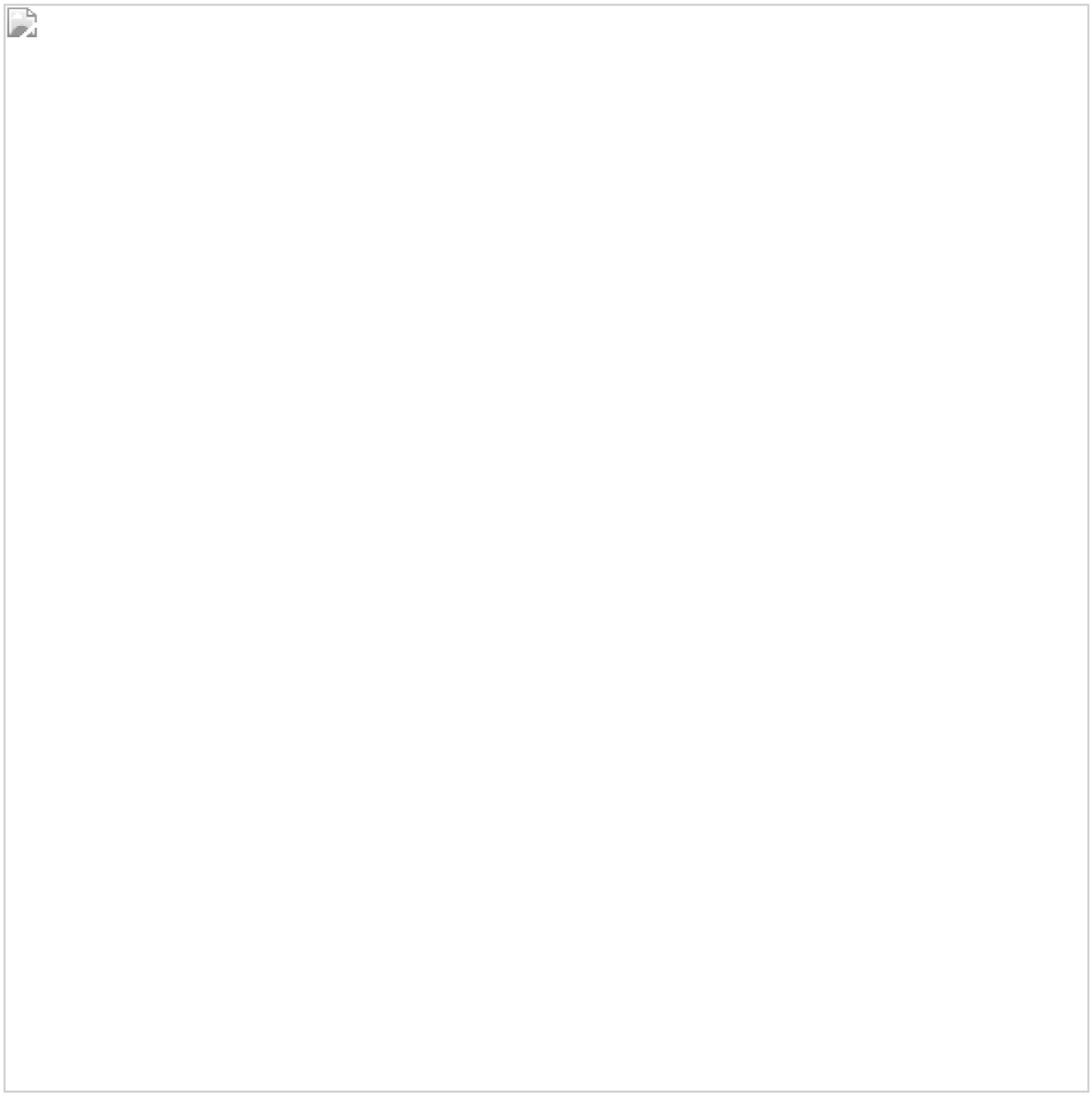


Think about it

1. What held the lid of the box shut?

- ○ A lock and key
- ○ A knot of gold cord
- ○ A heavy stone

Just One Little Try



Pandora looked at the knot for a long time. “I need not open the box even if I undo the knot,” she told herself. “There could be no harm in that.”

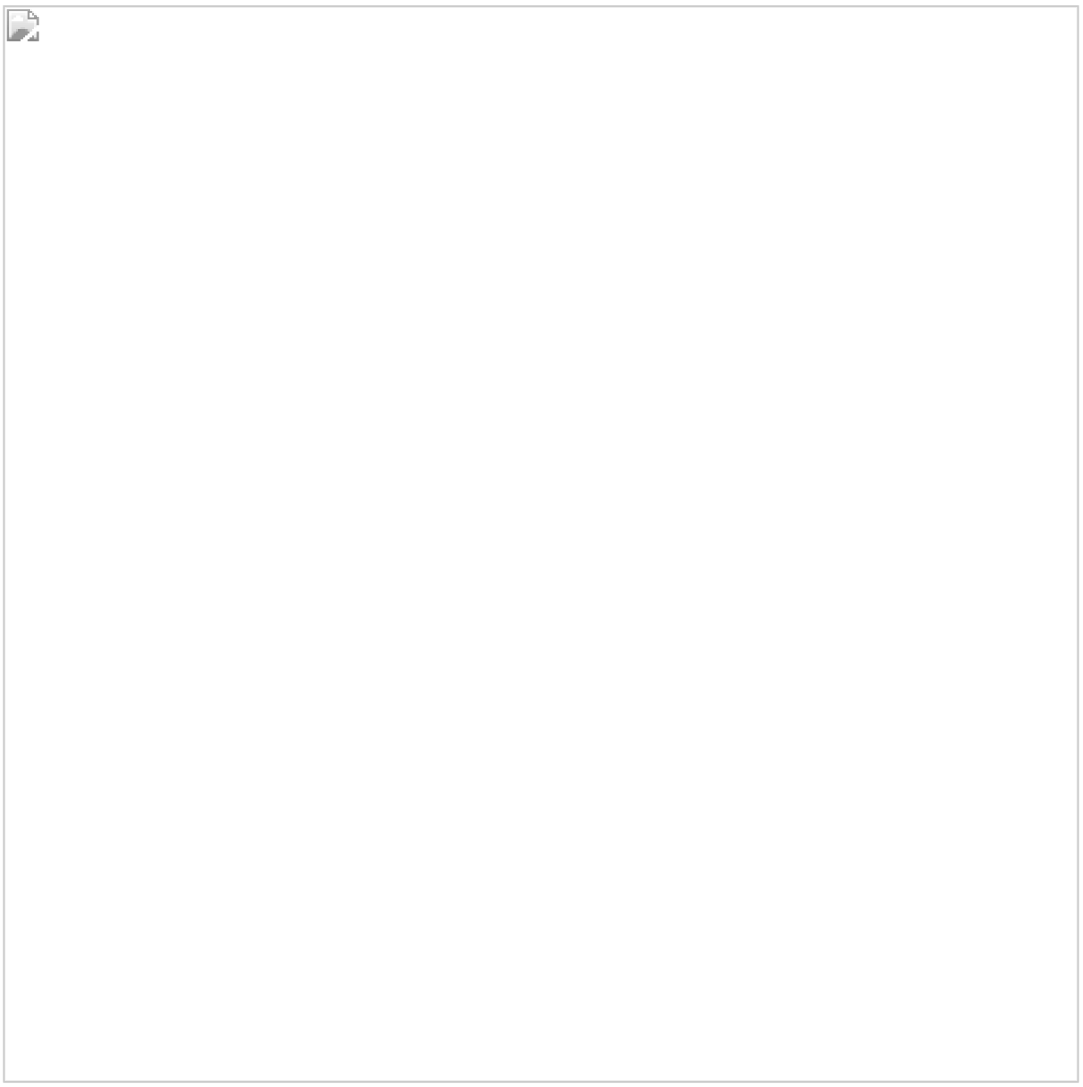
And the longer she looked, the more she wanted to try.

Then she gave the knot a little shake, and the gold cord untwisted all by itself! She could not remember how it had been tied, so she could not tie it up again.

“What will Epimetheus say?” she thought. And a naughty thought crept in: he would think she had looked anyway, so why not have a little peep?

TALK ABOUT IT

Pandora told herself a small step would do no harm. What could she have done instead, when the knot came loose?

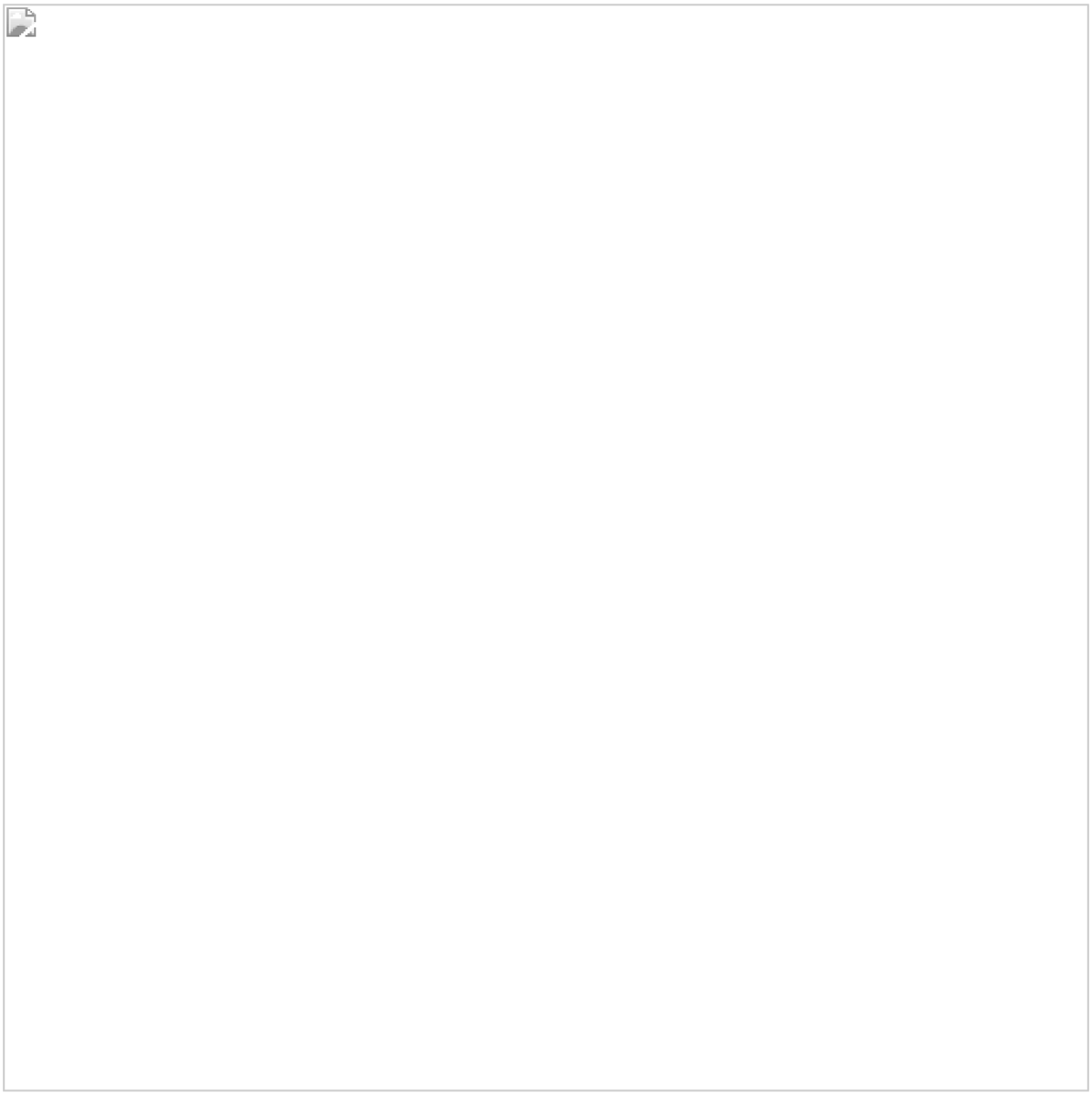


Think about it

1. What happened when Pandora shook the knot?

- ○ It came undone by itself
- ○ It turned into a snake
- ○ Nothing at all

Tiny Voices



Pandora looked again at the face with the wreath of flowers. It seemed to smile at her, as if to say, “What harm can there possibly be in raising the lid for a moment?”

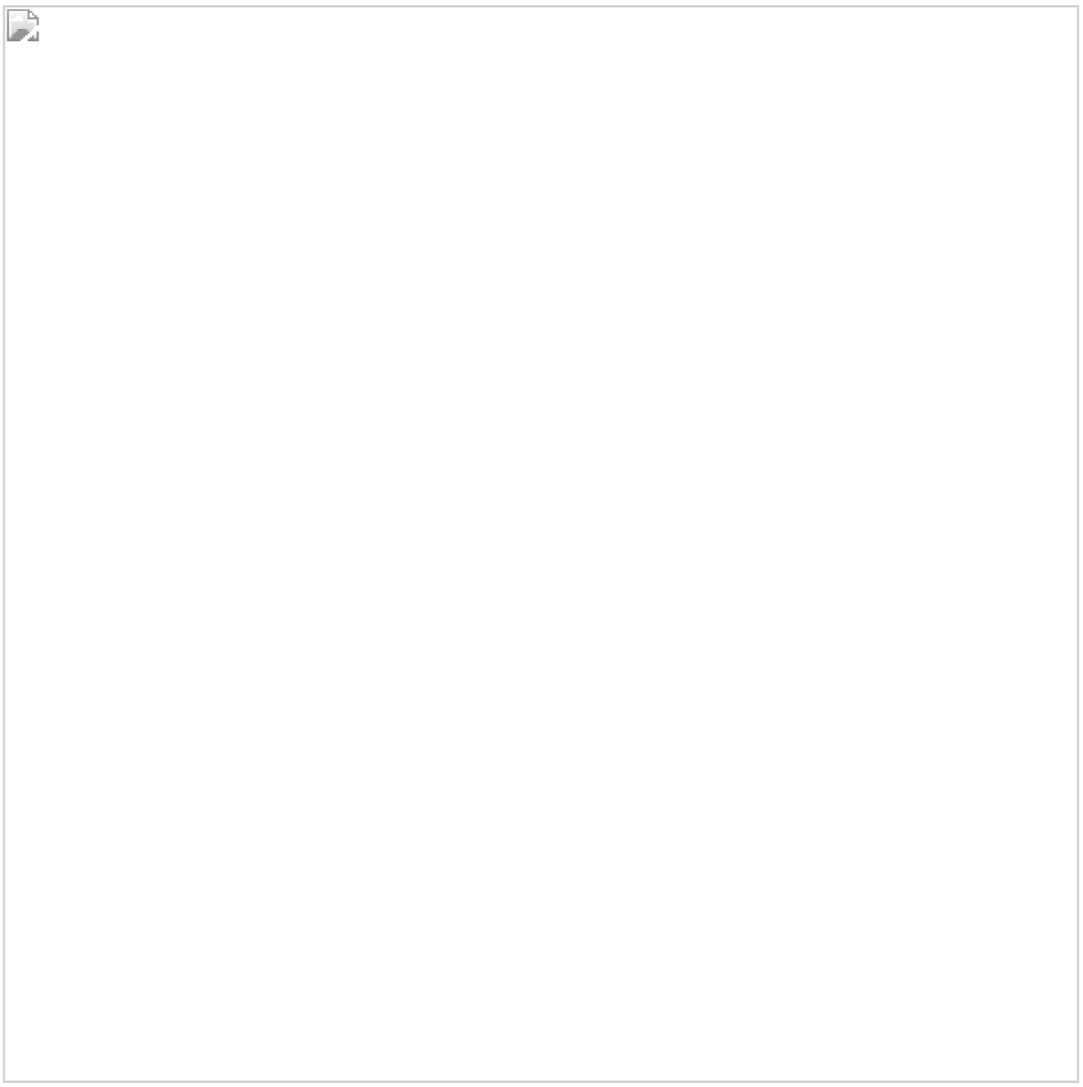
Then she thought she heard tiny voices inside, whispering: “Let us out, dear Pandora, do let us out.”

“Is there something alive in the box?” she wondered. She would take only “one little peep,” and then shut the lid down as safely as ever.

TALK ABOUT IT

The voices sounded friendly. Do you think things that sound friendly are always good for us? Why or why not?

Tiny Voices · another picture

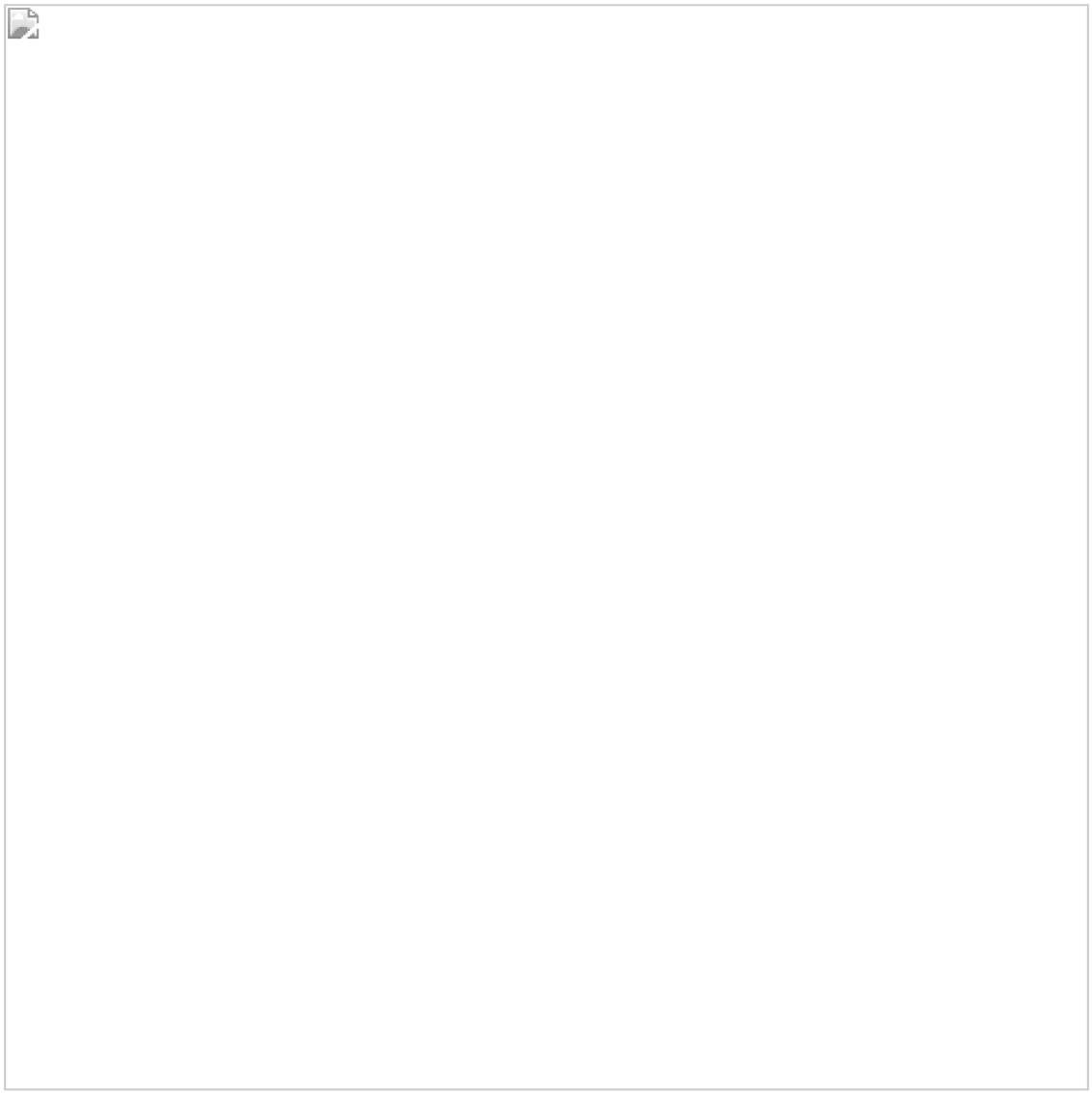


Think about it

1. What did the tiny voices whisper?

- ○ “Let us out, dear Pandora”
- ○ “Go away”
- ○ Run home

Epimetheus Comes Home



All this time Epimetheus was playing in the fields with the other children, but he was not happy. It was the first time he had played without Pandora.

On the way home he gathered roses and lilies and orange-blossoms and made a wreath for her. A great black cloud was creeping toward the sun.

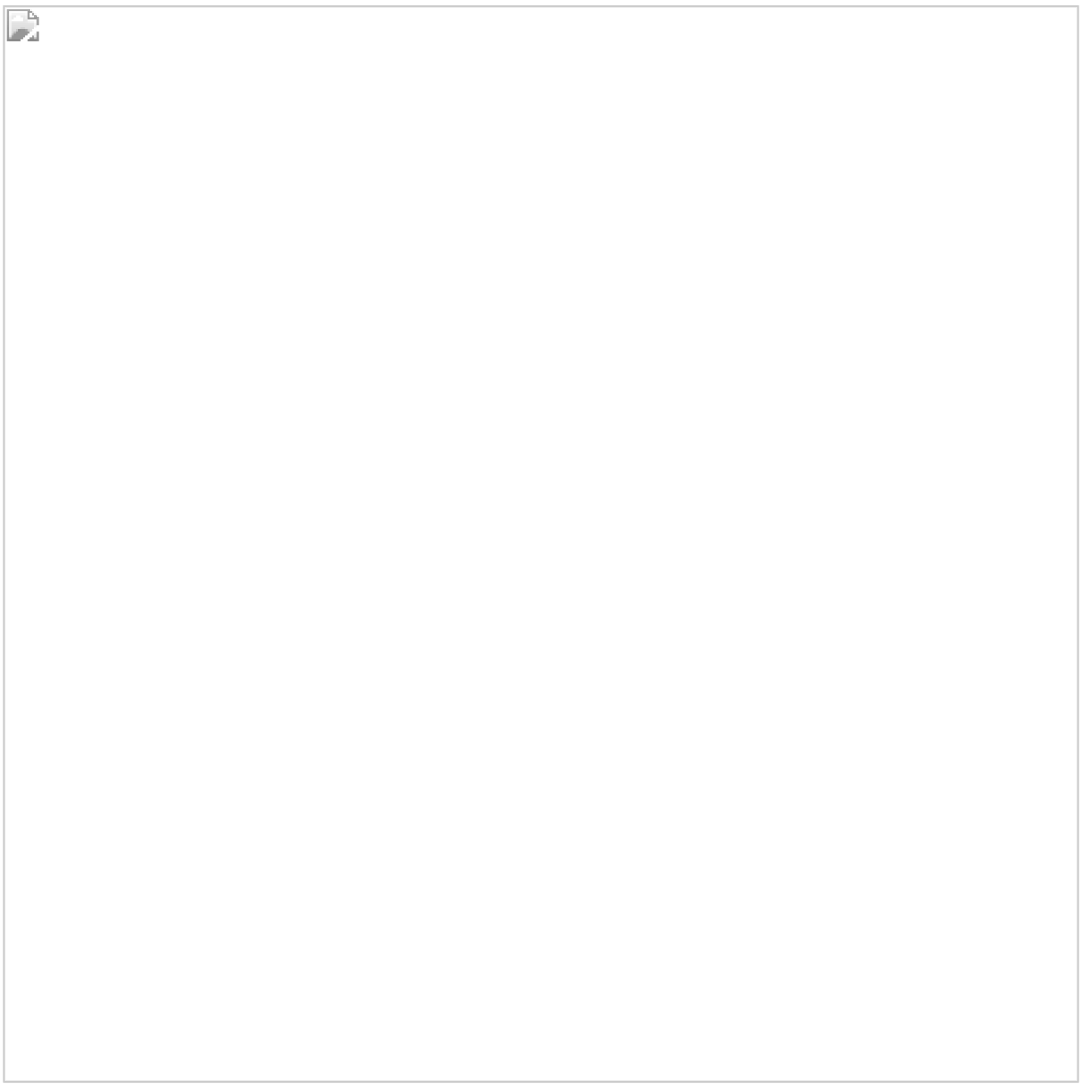
He stepped in quietly, and there was Pandora with her hand on the lid. If he had called out at once, she would have let go.

But the story says Epimetheus was curious too. He had hoped to take half of whatever was inside. So he said nothing.

TALK ABOUT IT

Epimetheus could have called out, and he stayed quiet. What do you think made it hard for him to speak up?

Epimetheus Comes Home · another picture



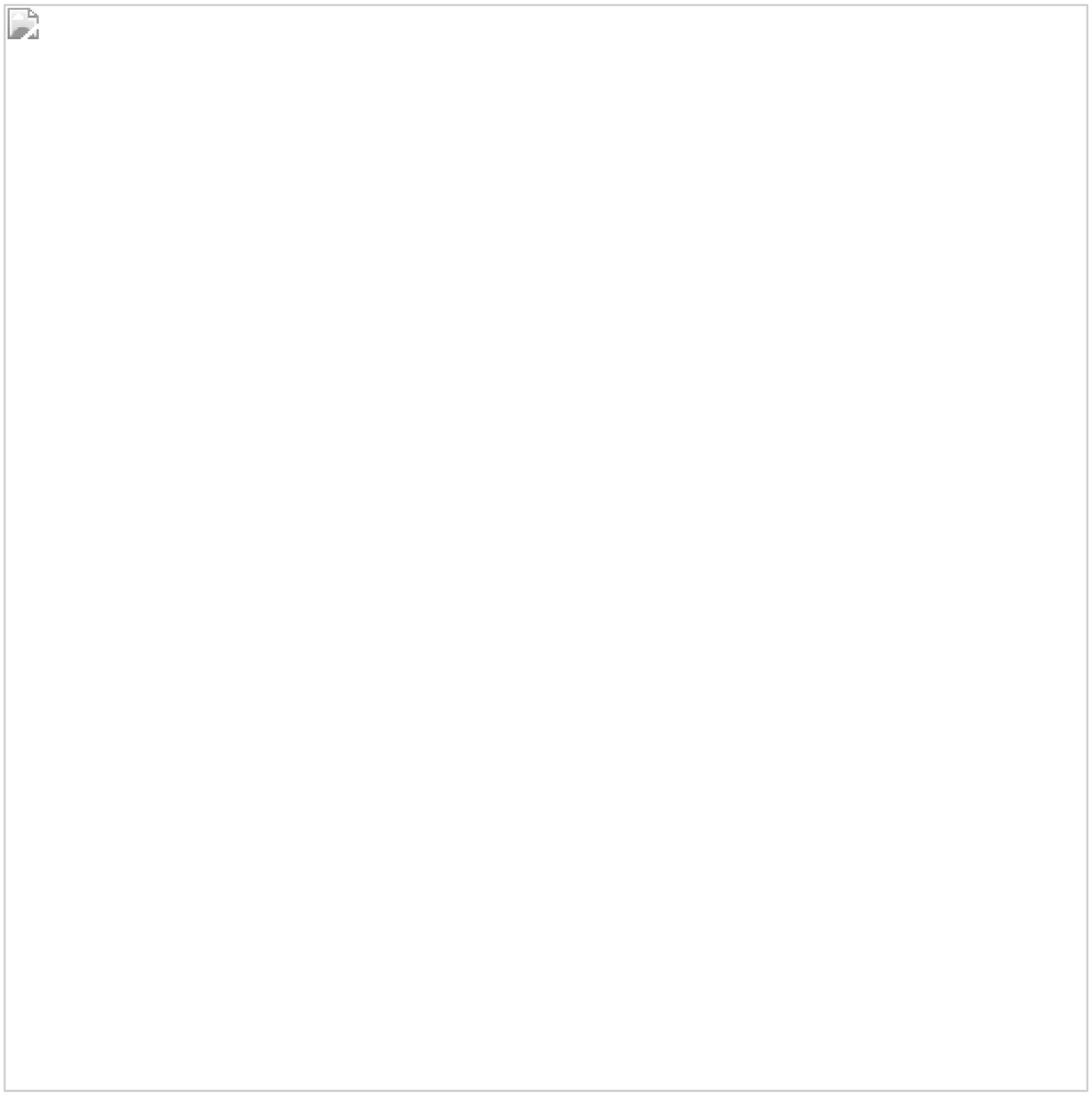
Think about it

1. What did Epimetheus make for Pandora on the way home?

- ○ A wreath of flowers
- ○ A little boat
- ○ A basket of bread

2. Was it Pandora alone who was to blame? What does the old story say?

The Lid Is Lifted



The room had grown dark. Thunder rumbled. Pandora, so busy and excited, did not notice. She lifted the lid right up.

At once a swarm of winged creatures flew out. “Oh, I am stung, I am stung!” cried Epimetheus. Pandora let the lid drop with a crash.

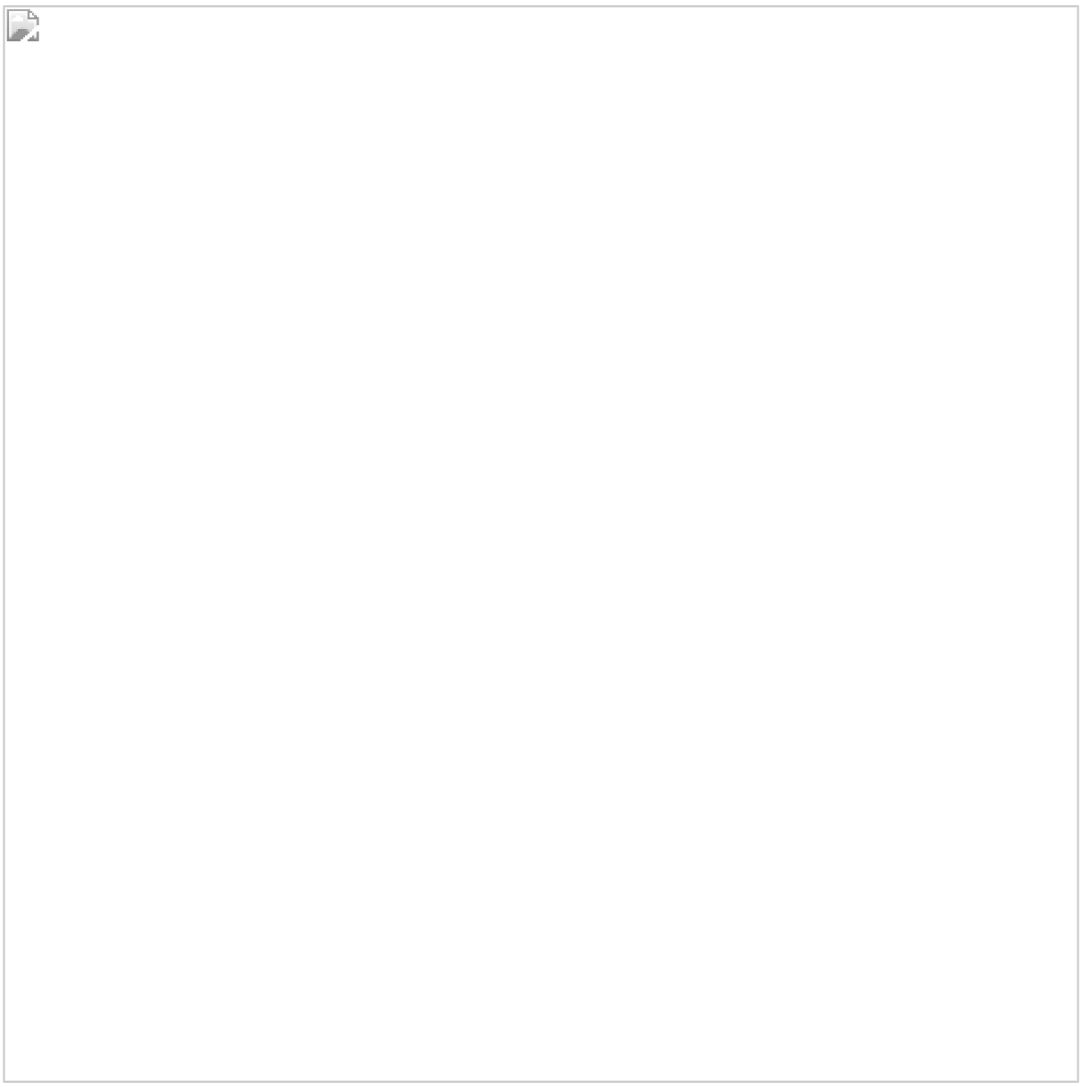
They were ugly little shapes with wings like bats and long stings. One settled on Pandora's forehead, and Epimetheus ran and brushed it away.

These were all the troubles of the world: bad tempers, worries, sorrows, and sicknesses. They had been shut in the box so the happy children would never meet them.

TALK ABOUT IT

Epimetheus helped Pandora even though he was hurt too. What do you think of that?

The Lid Is Lifted · another picture

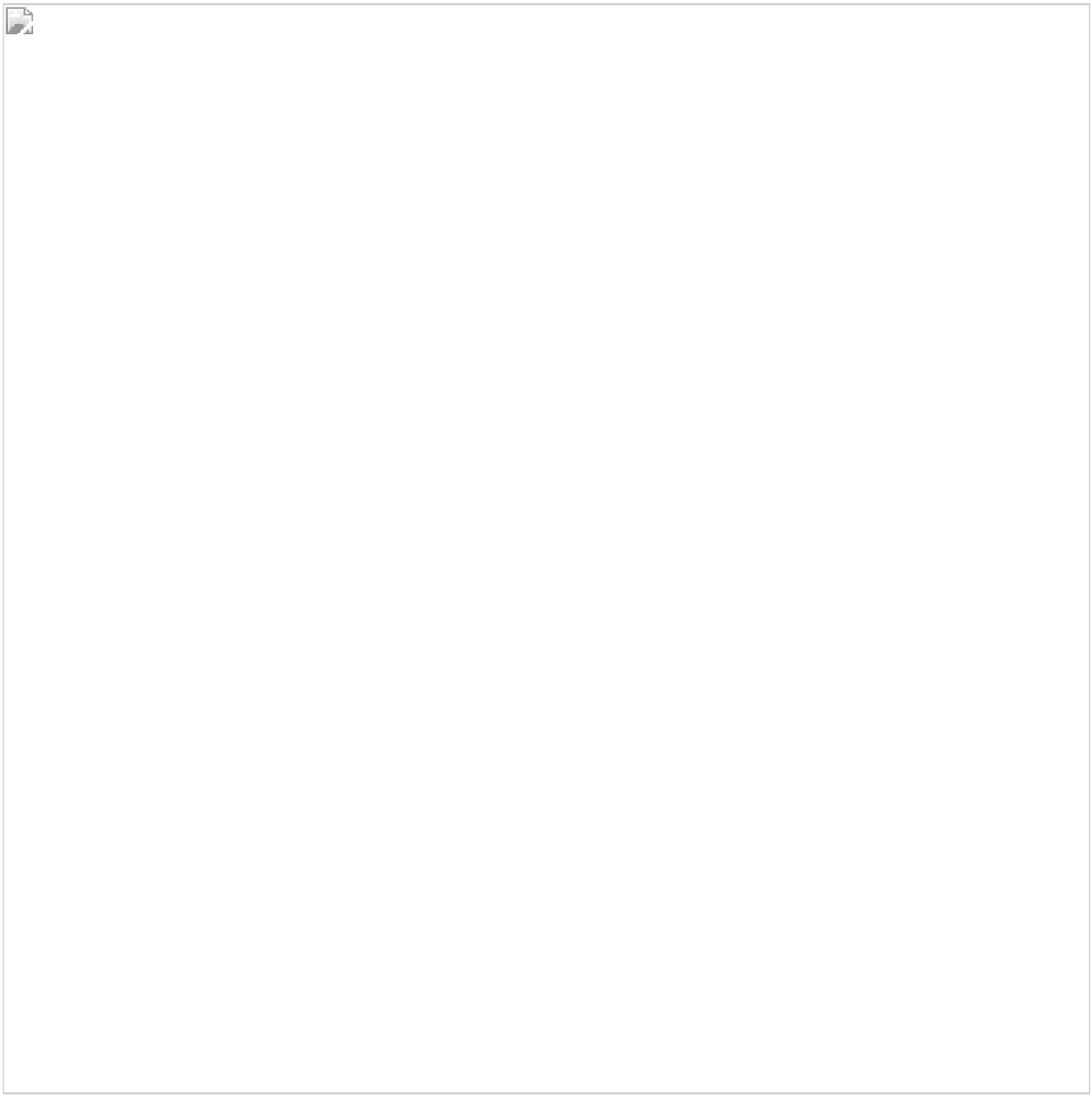


Think about it

1. What flew out of the box?

- ○ Butterflies
- ○ Winged troubles with little stings
- ○ Birds

Out Into the World



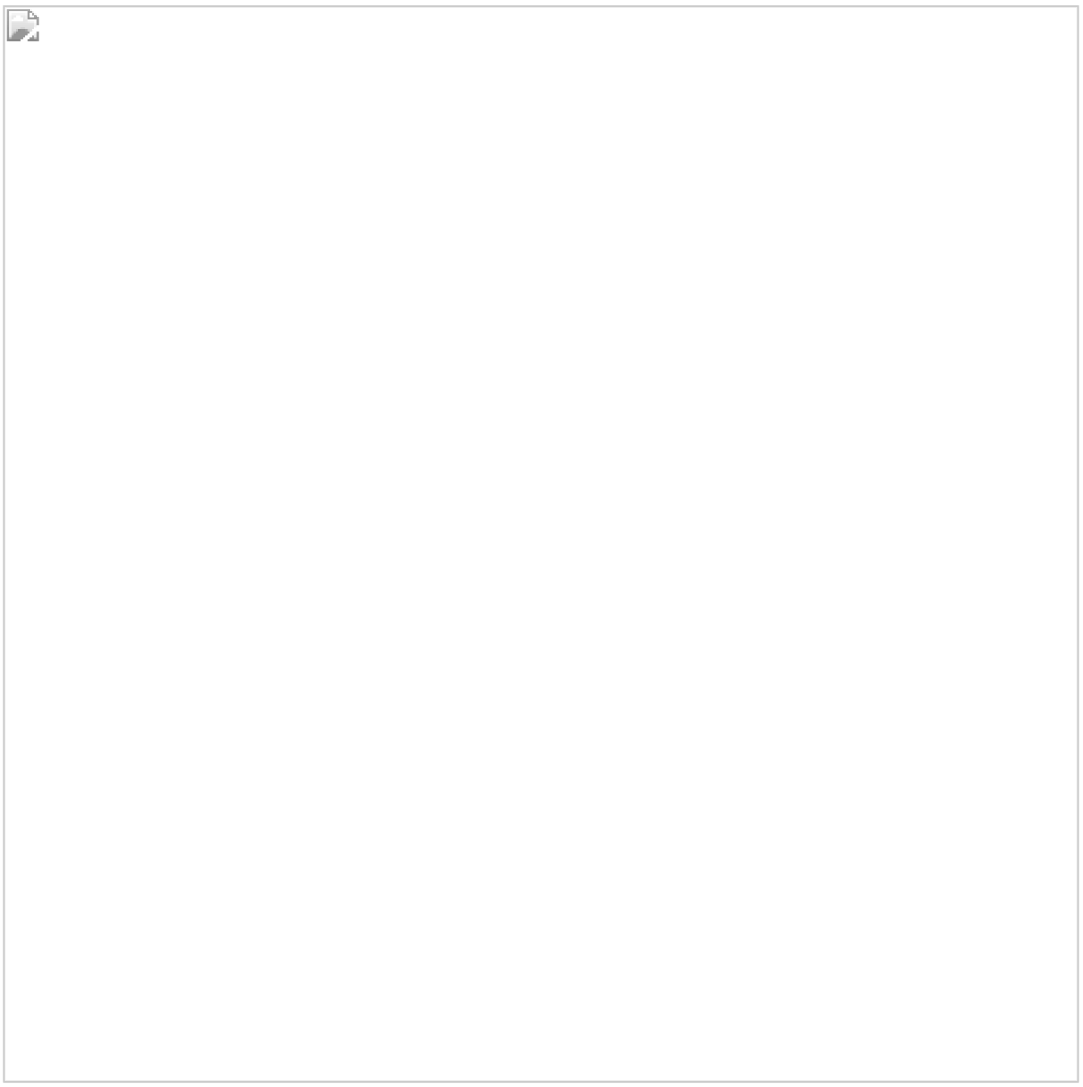
The troubles flew out of the window and all over the world. For a great many days no one smiled.

It was strange, too, that from that day the flowers began to fade. Before, they had always been fresh and beautiful.

Back in the cottage, Epimetheus sat sulking in a corner with his back turned. Pandora threw herself on the floor and cried, with her head on the lid of the box.

TALK ABOUT IT

What do you do when you have made a mistake that you cannot undo? Who could you go to?

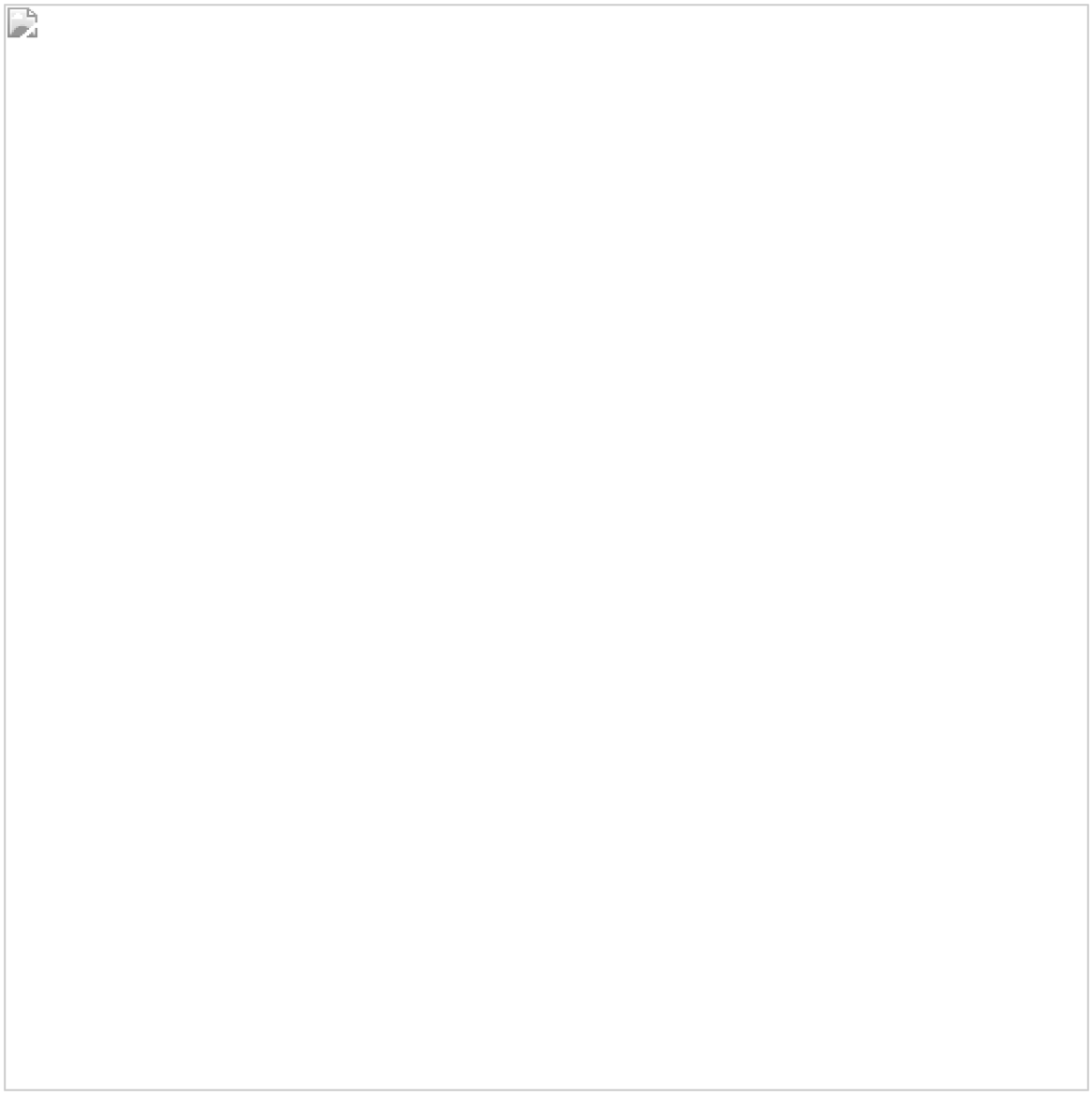


Think about it

1. What began to happen to the flowers?

- ○ They grew taller
- ○ They began to fade
- ○ They turned blue

Tap, Tap, Tap



Then Pandora heard a gentle tap, tap, tap inside the box, like the knuckles of a tiny hand.

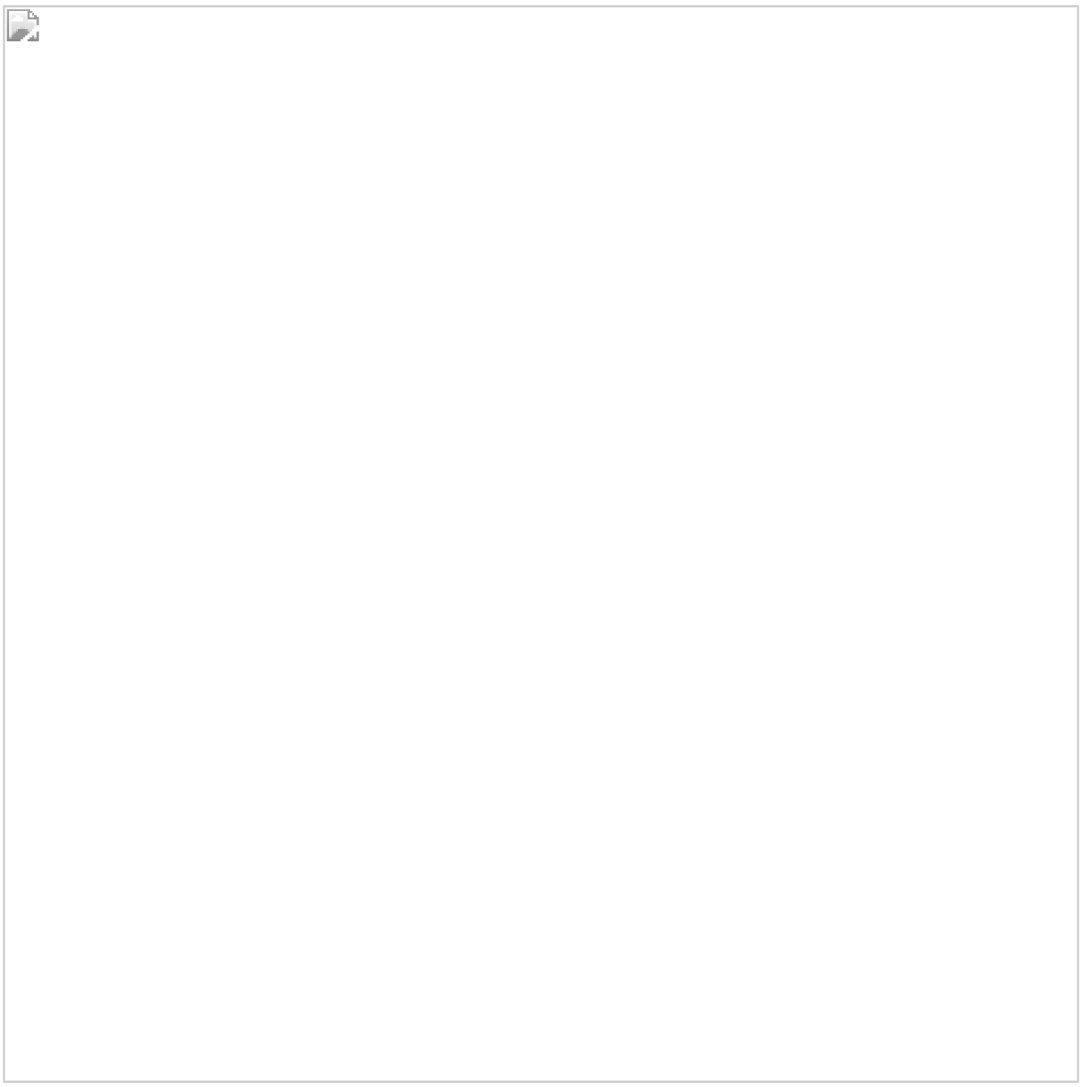
“Who are you?” she asked. A sweet little voice answered: “Only lift the lid and you will see.”

Pandora was afraid. “No, no, I am afraid,” she sobbed. There were so many troubles with stings flying about already that they did not want any more.

“Ah, but I am not one of these,” said the voice. “Come, come, dear Pandora.” It sounded so kind and cheery that she felt a little better just listening.

TALK ABOUT IT

Pandora was afraid to open the lid again. Why do you think she did it anyway?

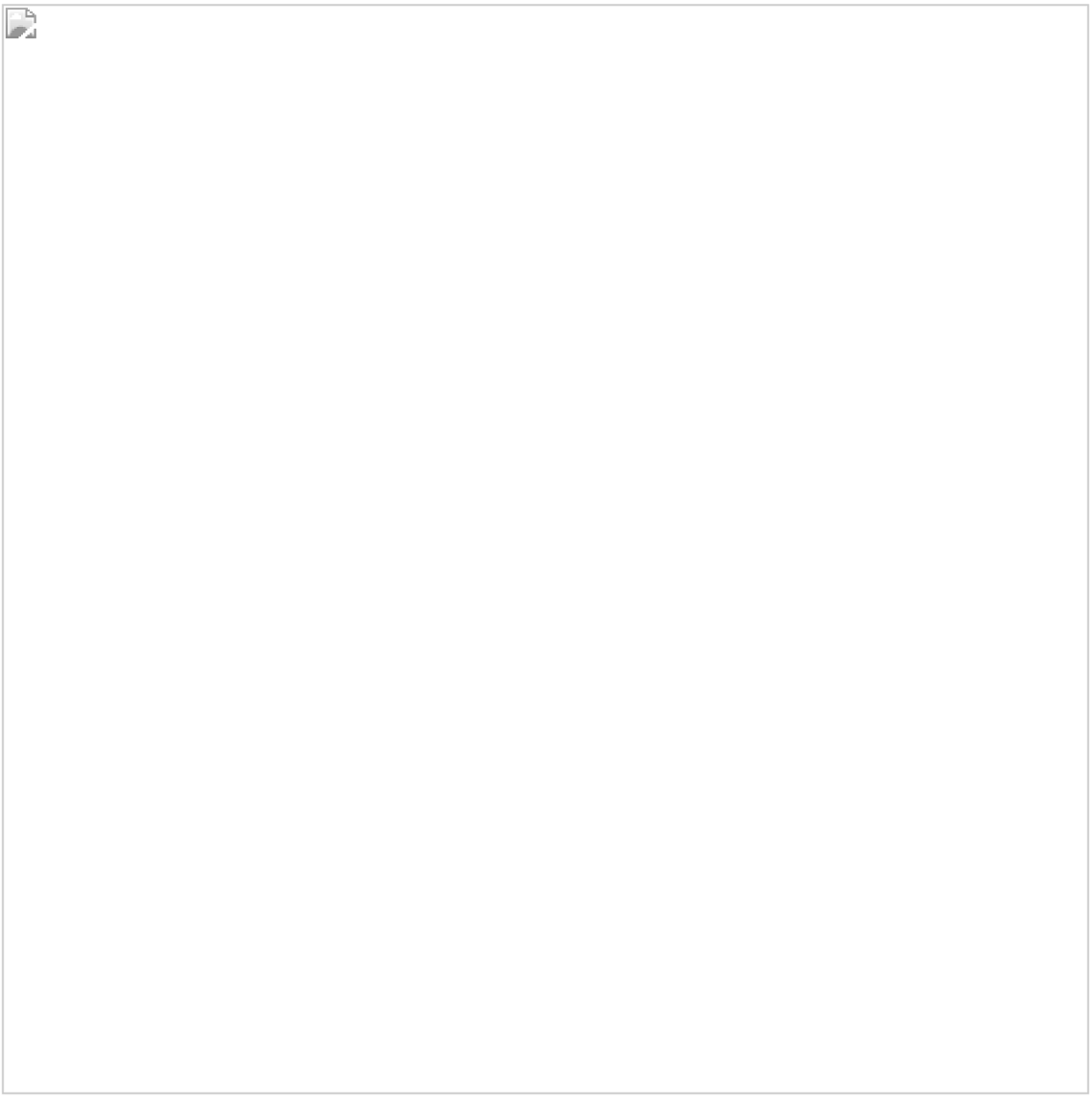


Think about it

1. How did the voice in the box sound?

- ○ Kind and cheery
- ○ Grumpy and loud
- ○ Sleepy

Hope



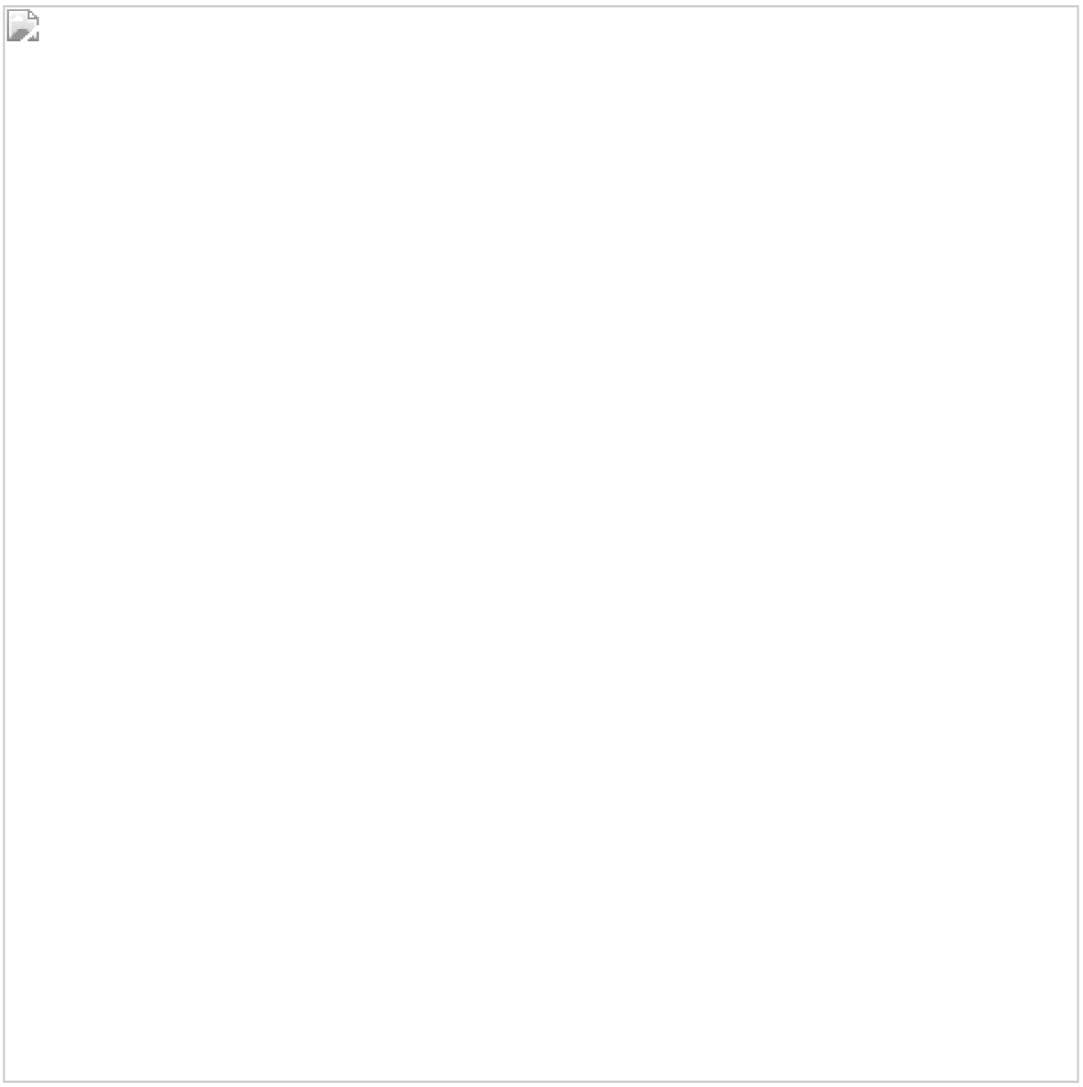
Epimetheus had heard the voice too. He came forward and said, “Let me help you, Pandora, as the lid is very heavy.”

So this time they opened the box together, and out flew a bright, smiling little fairy with wings like a rainbow. She touched Epimetheus on the brow where he had been stung, and the pain was gone. She kissed Pandora, and her hurt was better at once.

“I am called Hope,” she said. “I was shut up in the box so that I might be ready to comfort people when the family of troubles got loose in the world.”

TALK ABOUT IT

This time Epimetheus and Pandora opened the box together. What changed between the two of them?

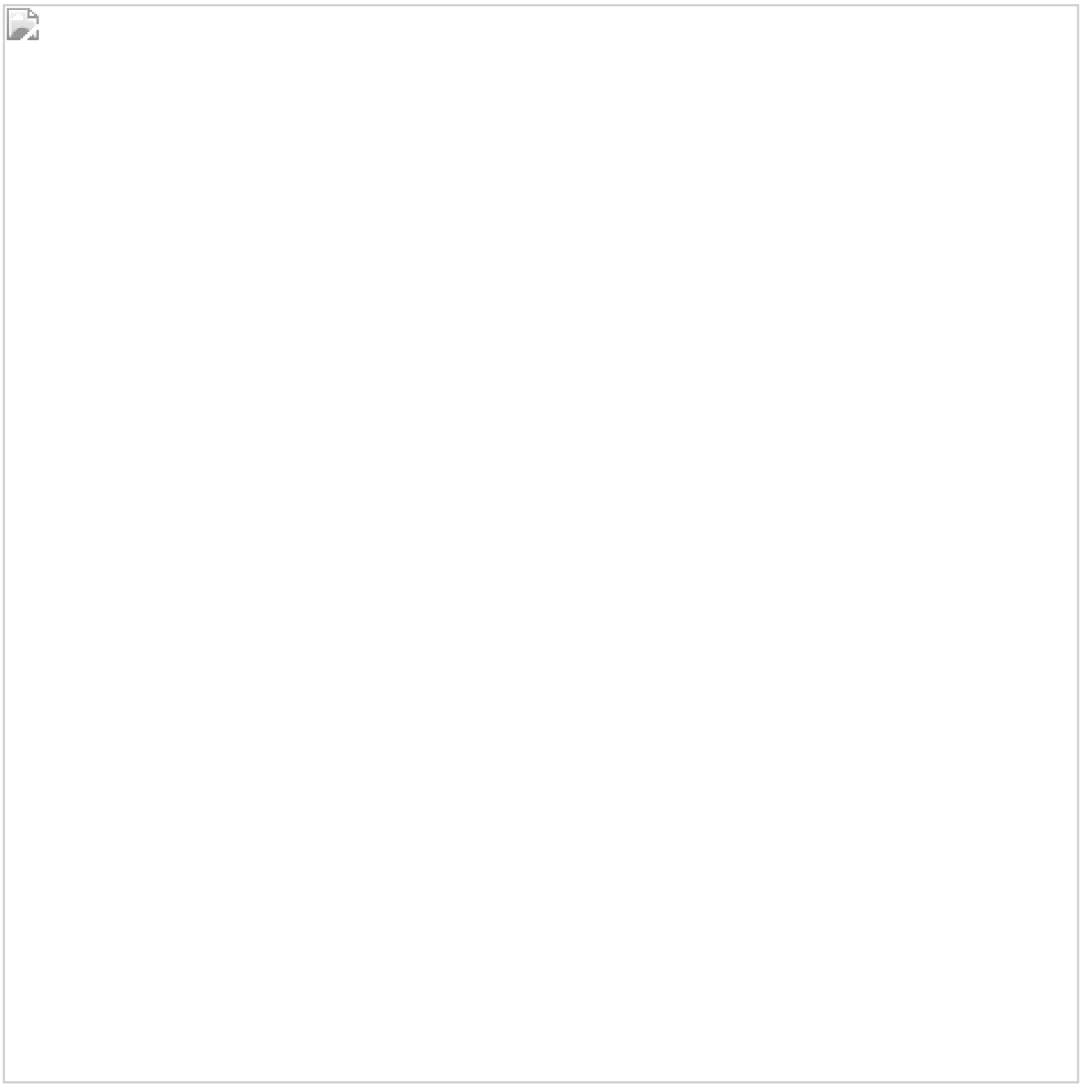


Think about it

1. What was the little fairy's name?

- ○ Joy
- ○ Hope
- ○ Mercury

Hope Stays



Epimetheus asked if she would stay with them “for ever and ever.”

“Yes,” said Hope, “I shall stay with you as long as you live.” Sometimes they would not be able to see her, and might think she was gone. But she would come back again and again, and they must always trust her promise that she would never really leave.

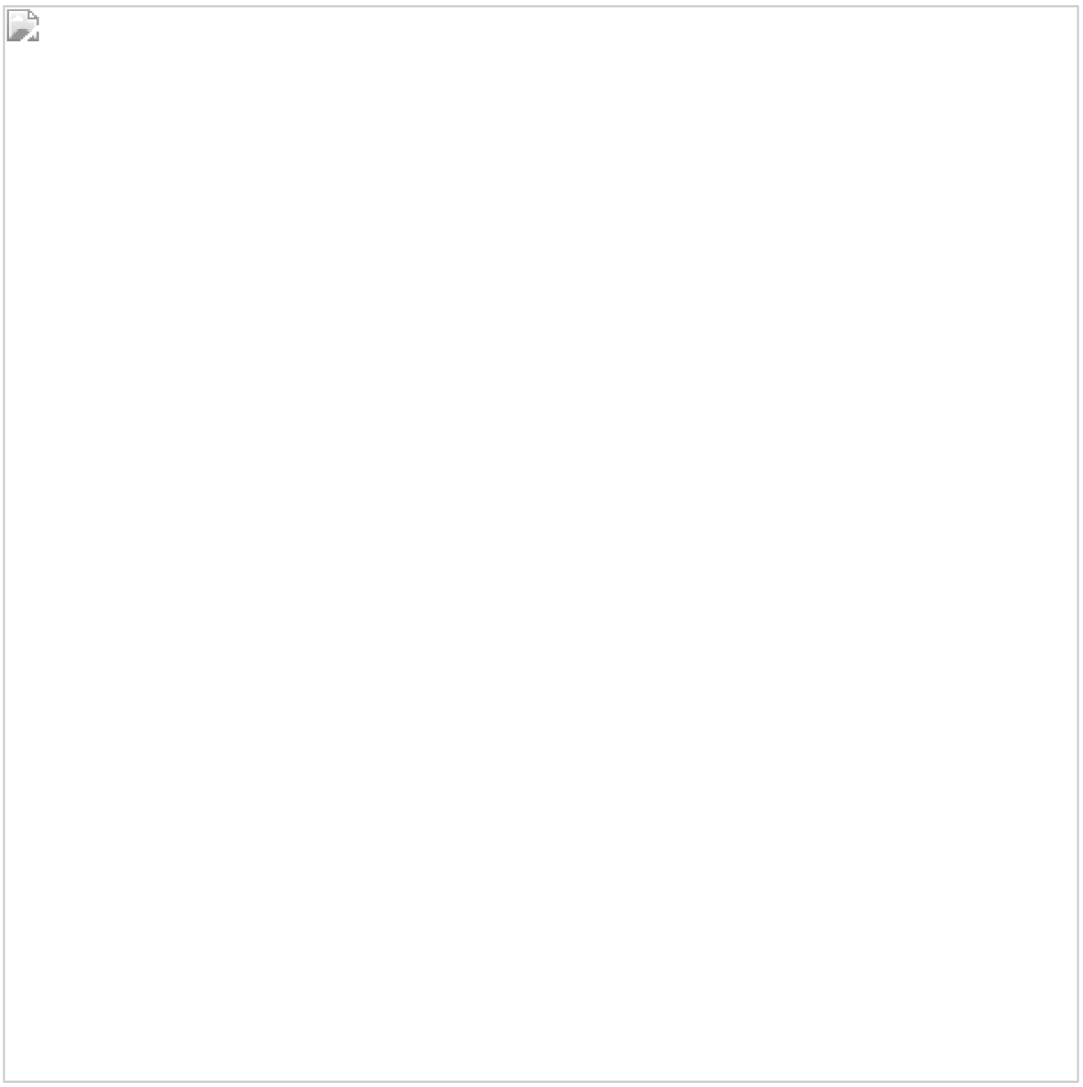
“Yes, we do trust you,” cried both children.

All the rest of their lives, when troubles came buzzing back, Pandora and Epimetheus remembered how they had come into the world. And they waited, and the fairy with rainbow wings came back to comfort them.

TALK ABOUT IT

A very old song says, “weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning” (Psalm 30:5). When has a hard time ended for you, or for someone you know?

Hope Stays · another picture



Think about it

1. What did Hope promise?

- ○ To stay as long as they lived
- ○ To come back next year
- ○ To bring more toys

2. Who could you bring a little hope to this week?

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

— Yeshua HaMashiach

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