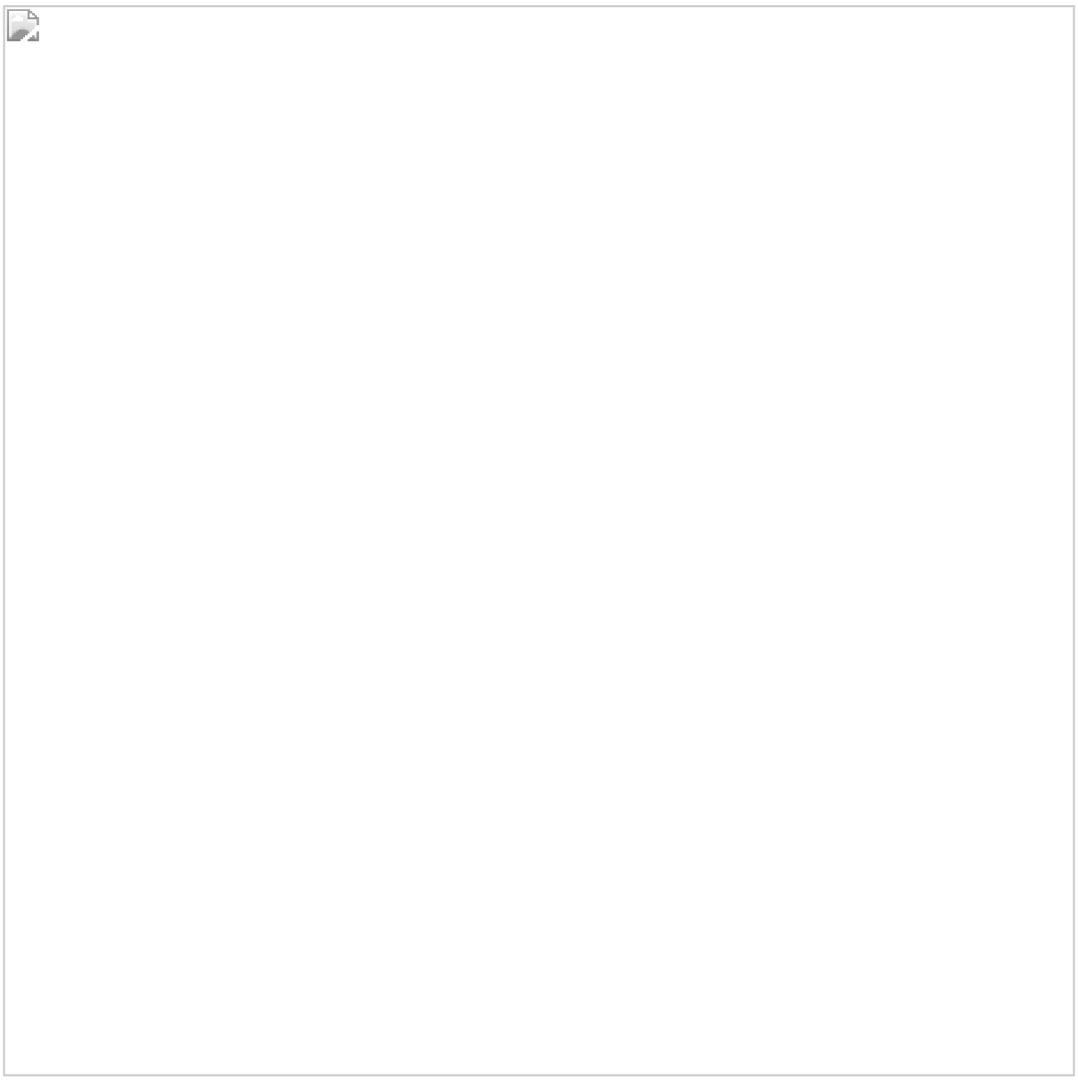
COLORING THE CLASSICS

Rapunzel

A Tale from the Brothers Grimm



There were once a man and a woman who had long wished for a child. At last the woman hoped that God was about to grant her wish.

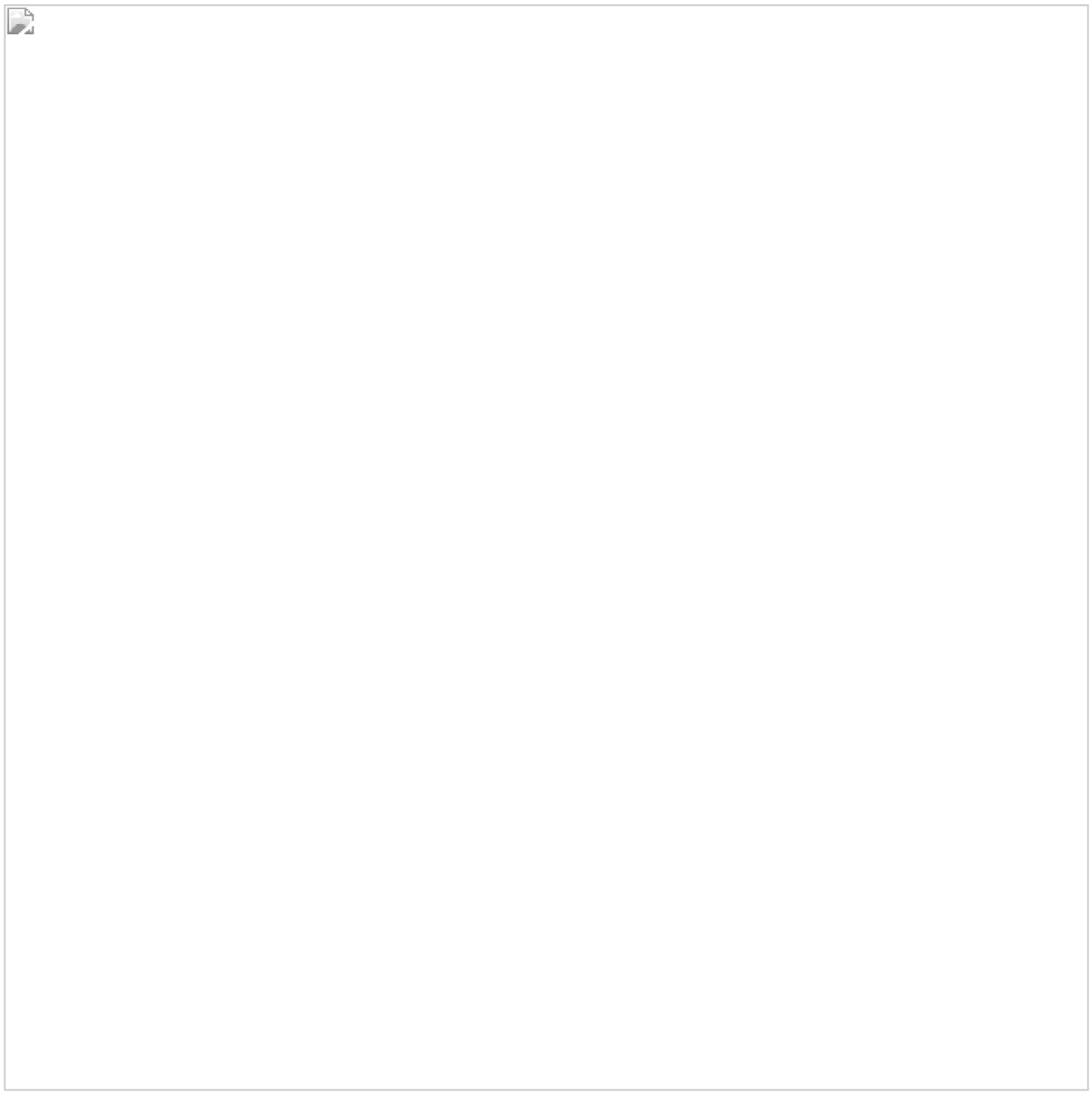
These people had a little window at the back of their house, and from it they could see a splendid garden full of the most beautiful flowers and herbs. But the garden was surrounded by a high wall, and no one dared to go into it. It belonged to an enchantress, who had great power.

TALK ABOUT IT

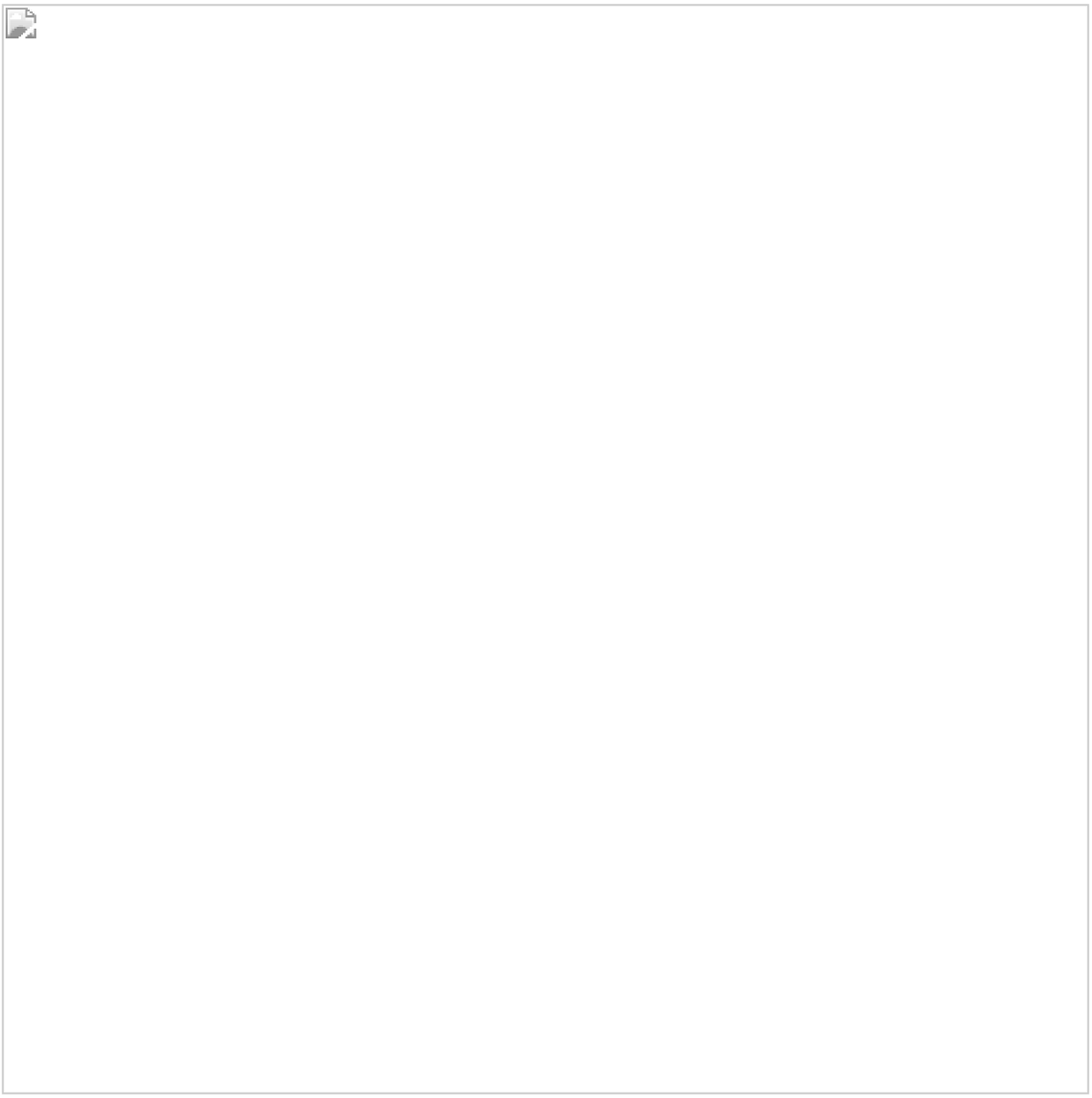
The couple could see the garden but could not go in. What do you think the garden was like?

This book belongs to _____

Rapunzel · another picture



The Rampion



One day the woman stood at the window looking down into the garden. She saw a bed planted with the most beautiful rampion, which is a leafy green plant, and it looked so fresh and green that she longed for it. She had the greatest wish to eat some.

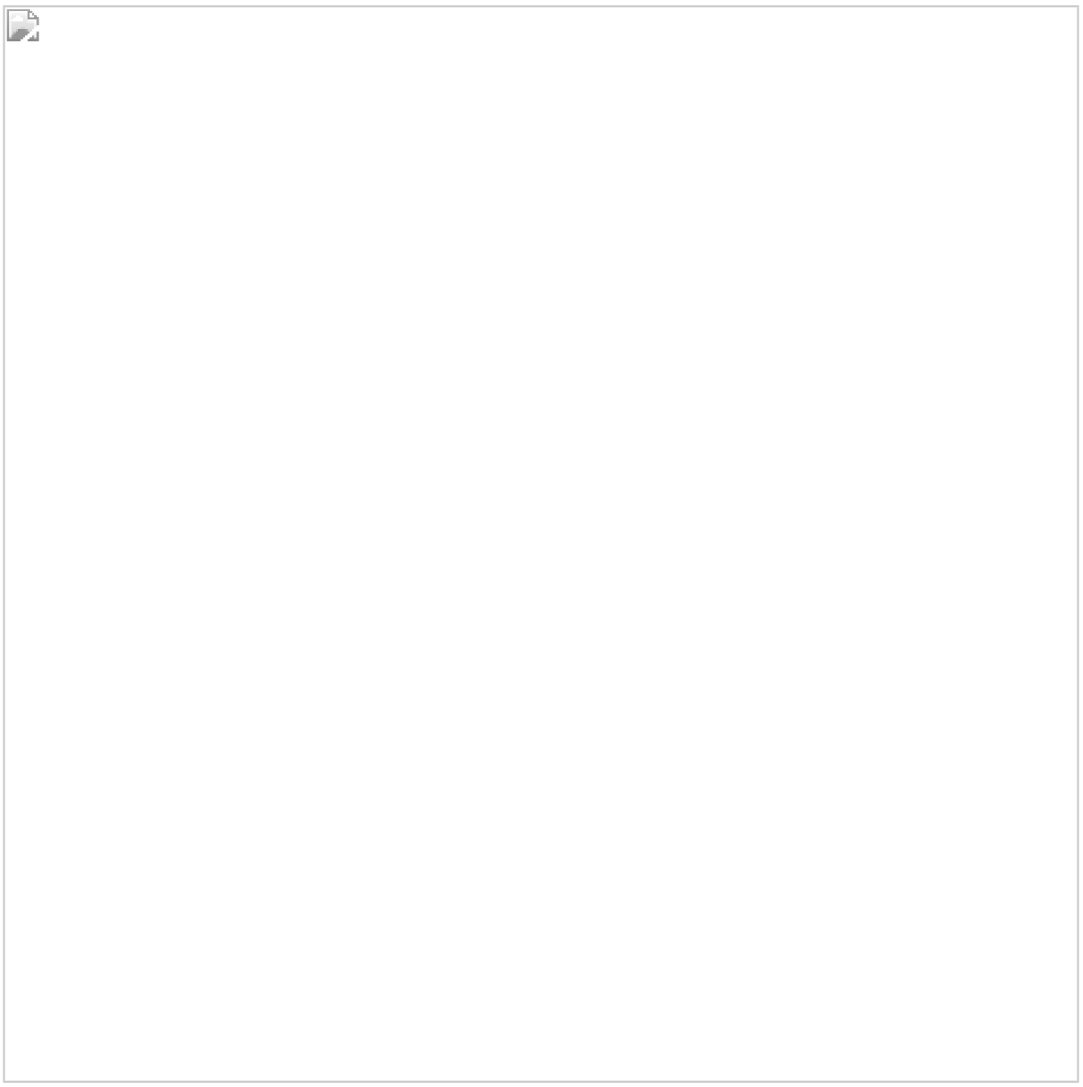
Every day the wish grew, and she knew she could not get any. She pined away, and looked pale and miserable.

Her husband was alarmed. “Ah,” she said, “if I can’t get some of the rampion, which is in the garden behind our house, to eat, I shall die.”

TALK ABOUT IT

The woman wanted the rampion so much. What is something you have wanted very, very much?

The Rampion · another picture

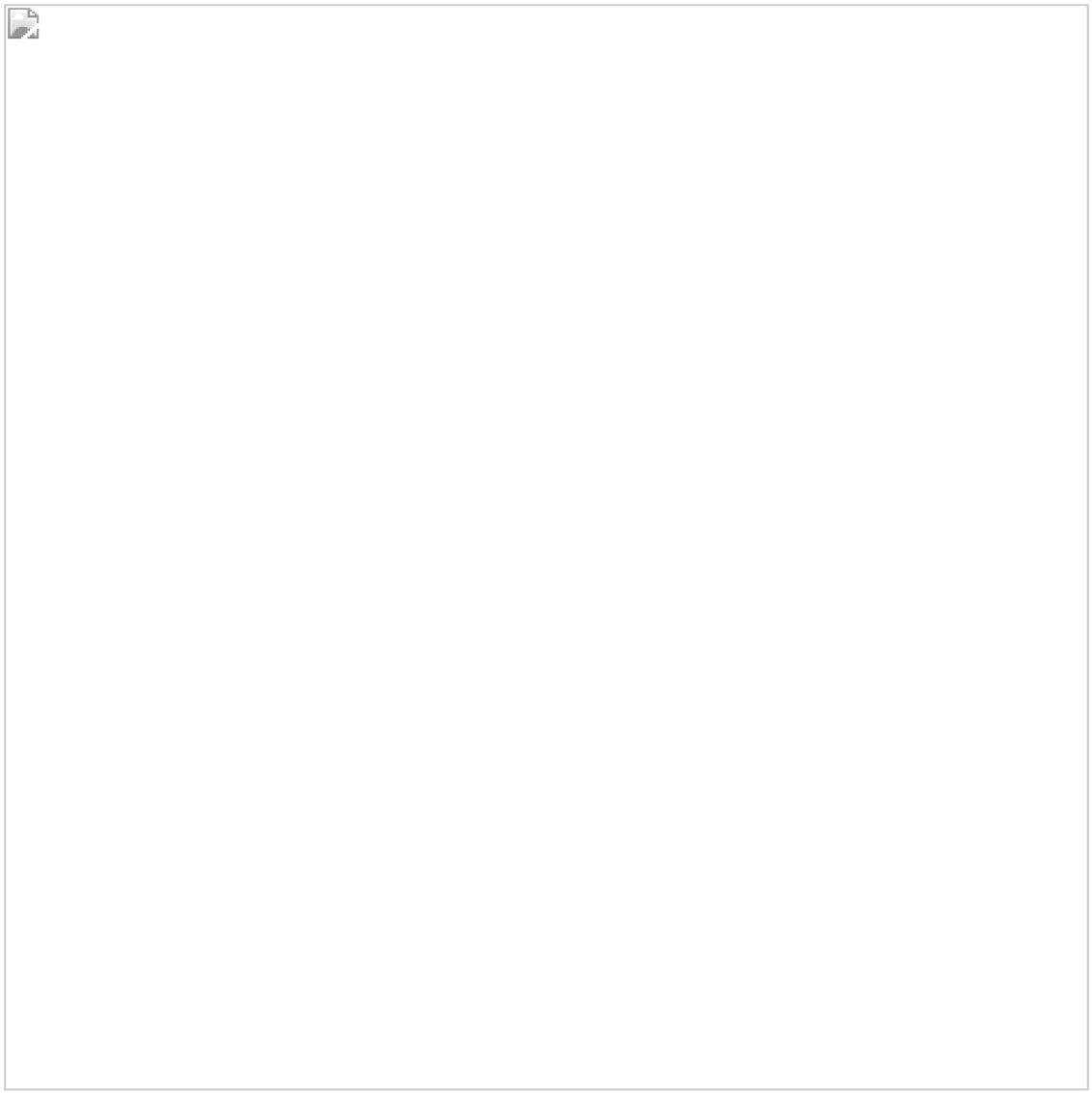


Think about it

1. What did the woman long to eat?

- ○ Rampion
- ○ Apples
- ○ Honey

Over the Wall



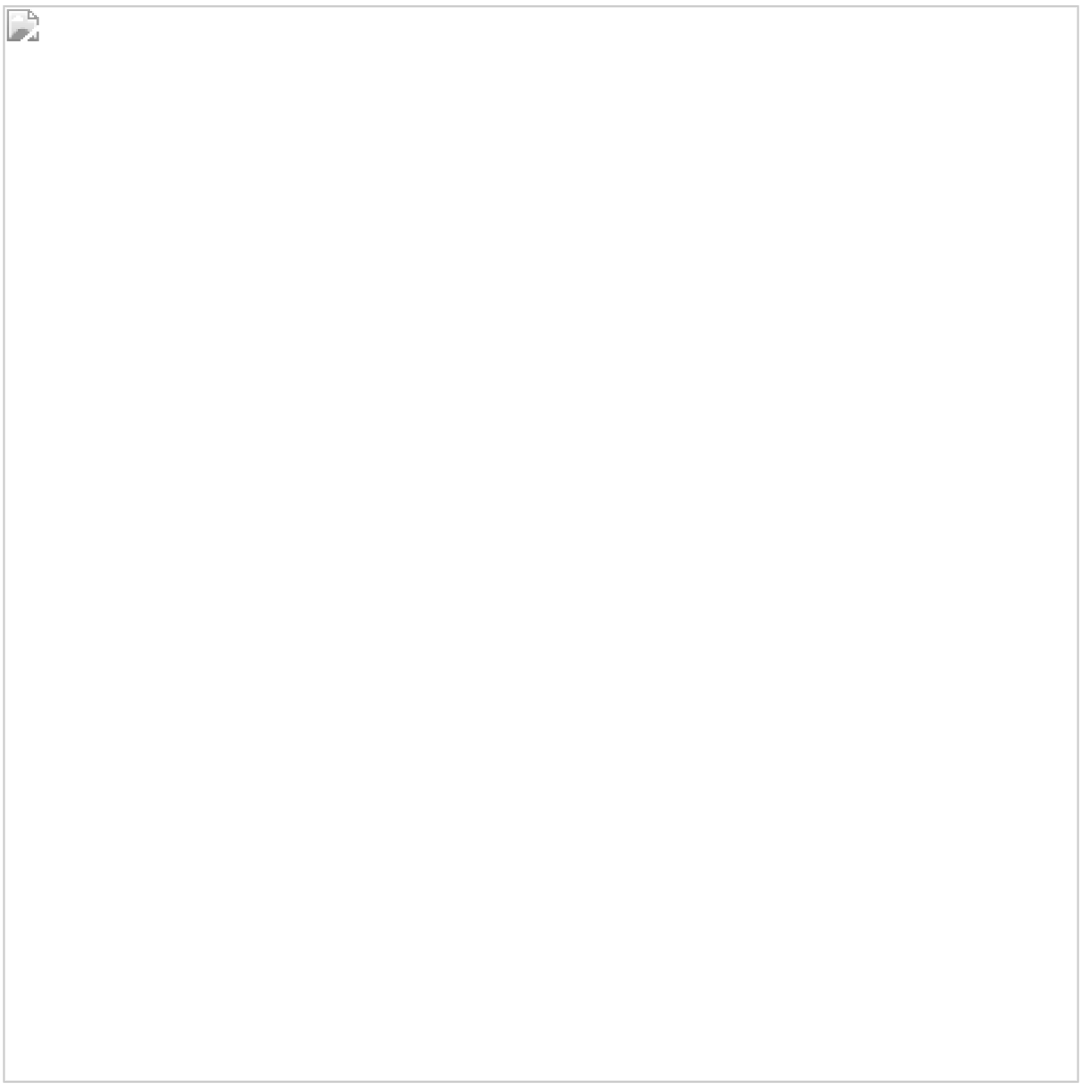
The man loved his wife. In the twilight he climbed over the wall into the enchantress's garden, grabbed a handful of rampion, and took it to her. She made a salad and ate it with great relish.

But the next day she longed for it three times as much. So her husband had to go down into the garden once more.

This time, when he had climbed down, he was terribly afraid, for he saw the enchantress standing before him. “How canst thou dare,” said she with angry look, “to descend into my garden and steal my rampion like a thief? Thou shalt suffer for it!”

TALK ABOUT IT

The man took the rampion without asking. What could he have done instead?

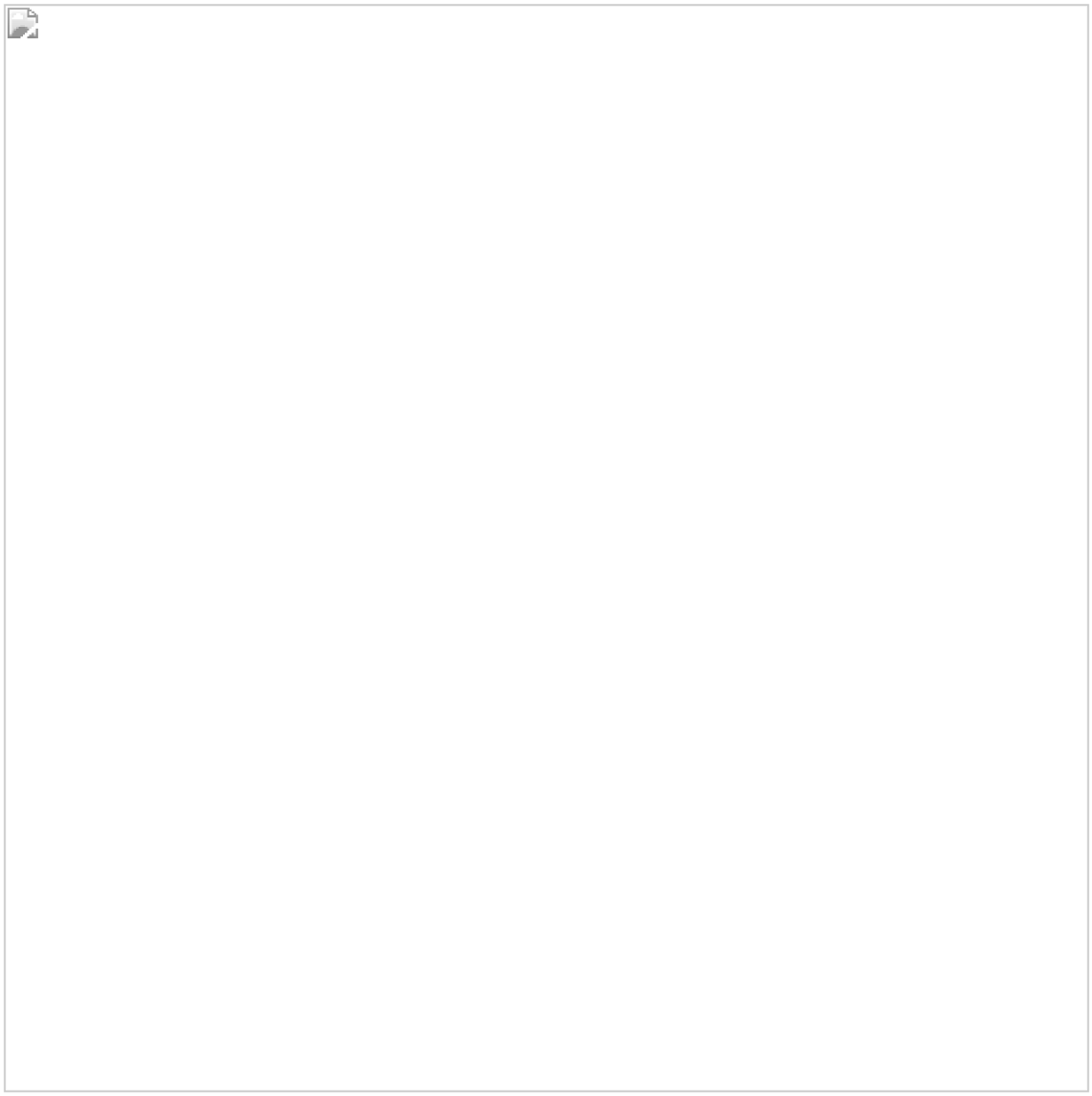


Think about it

1. Who was standing in the garden?

- ○ The king
- ○ The enchantress
- ○ A gardener boy

A Hard Bargain



“Ah,” answered the man, “let mercy take the place of justice. My wife saw your rampion from the window, and felt such a longing for it that she would have died if she had not got some to eat.”

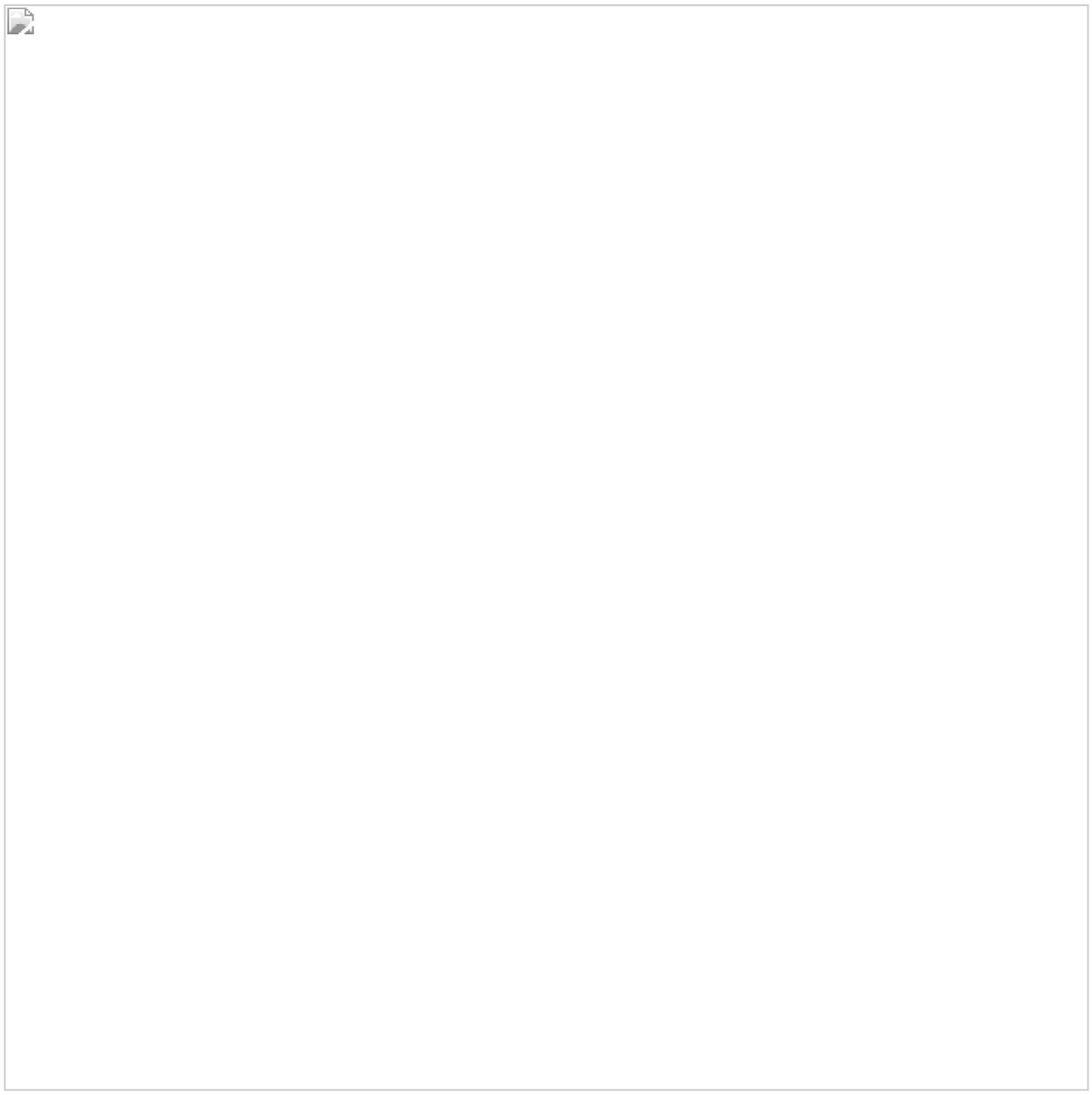
The enchantress's anger softened. He could take all the rampion he wished, on one condition: he must give her the child his wife would have. “It shall be well treated, and I will care for it like a mother.”

In his fright, the man agreed. When the baby was born, the enchantress came at once, named the child Rapunzel, and took her away.

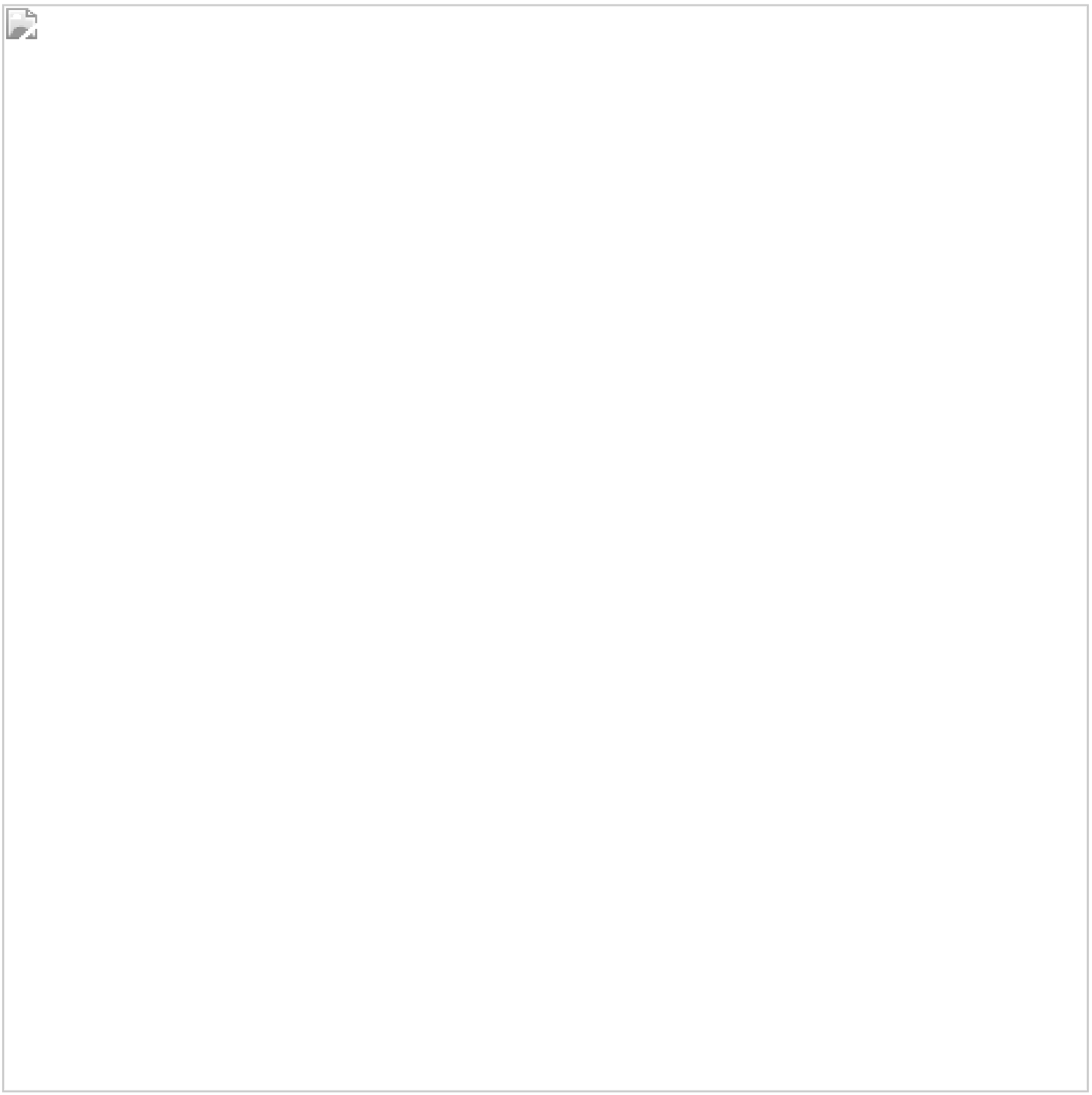
TALK ABOUT IT

The man had to make a hard choice in a frightening moment. What do you think about the bargain?

A Hard Bargain · another picture



The Tower



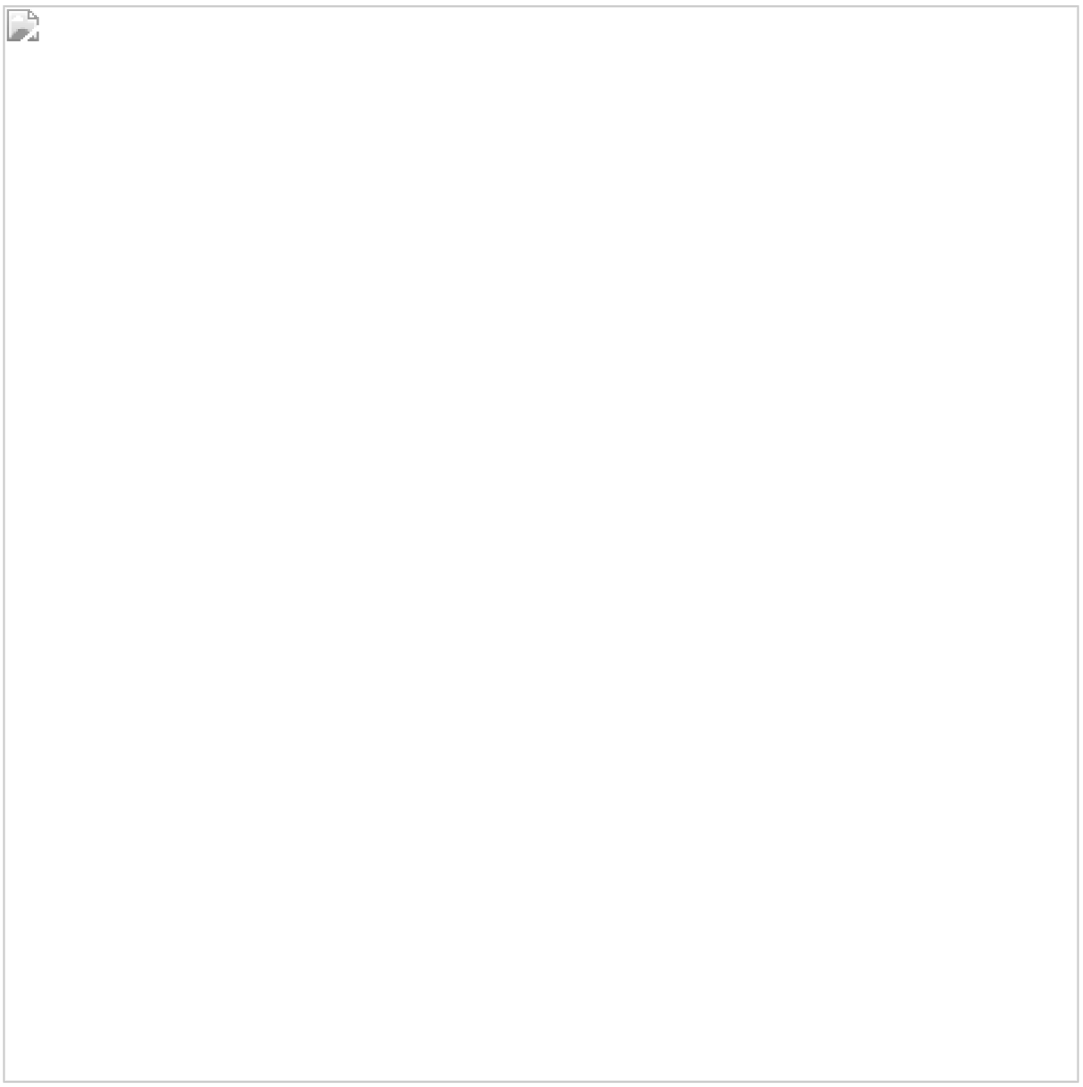
Rapunzel grew into the most beautiful child beneath the sun. When she was twelve years old, the enchantress shut her into a tower in a forest. It had neither stairs nor door, but quite at the top was a little window.

When the enchantress wanted to go in, she stood beneath it and cried, "Rapunzel, Rapunzel, Let down thy hair to me."

Rapunzel had magnificent long hair, fine as spun gold. When she heard the voice of the enchantress, she unfastened her braids and wound them round a hook of the window. Then the hair fell all the way down, and the enchantress climbed up by it.

TALK ABOUT IT

How do you think Rapunzel felt about her long hair? Or how would you feel about it?

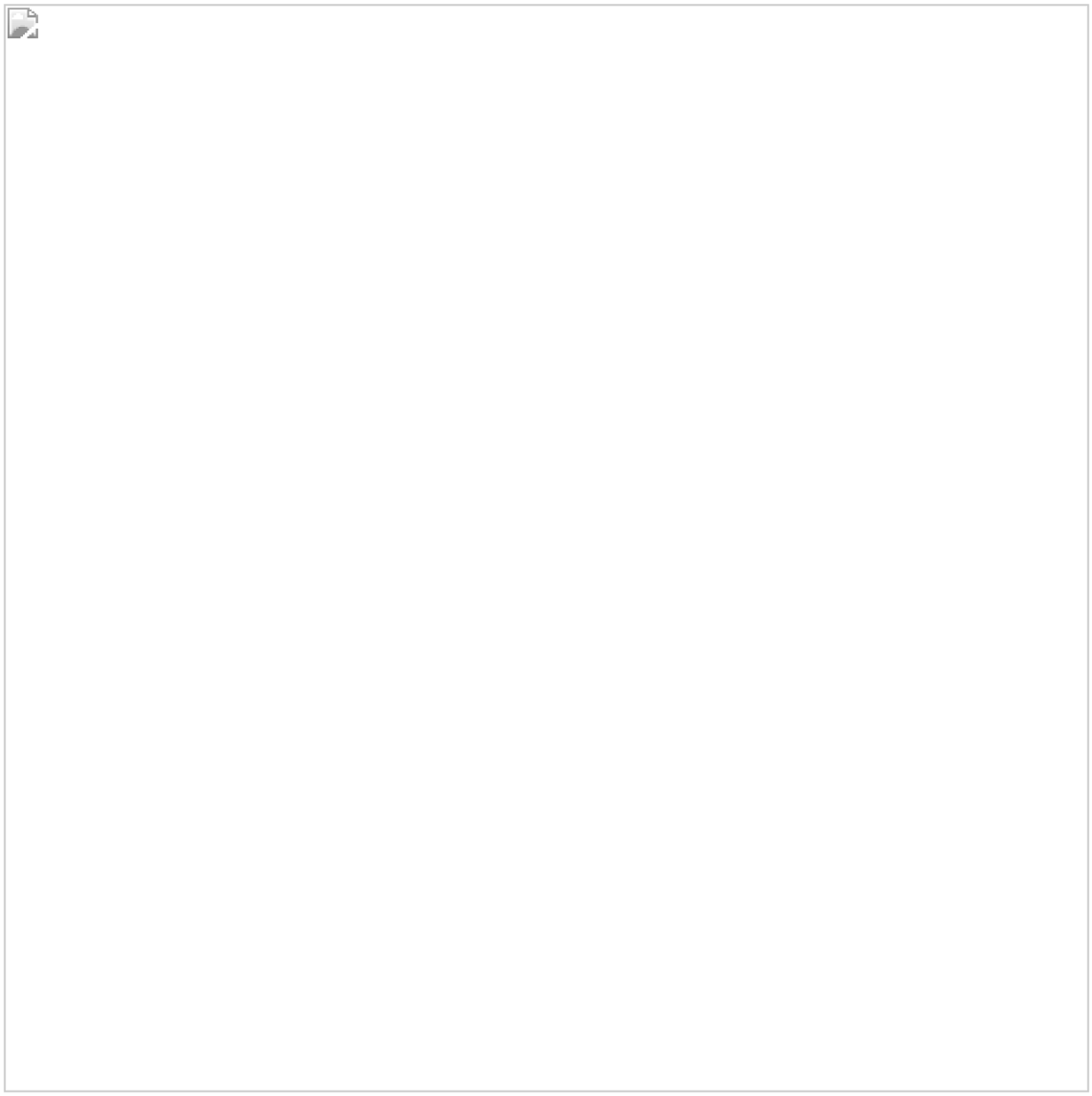


Think about it

1. How did the enchantress get into the tower?

- ○ By a ladder
- ○ By climbing Rapunzel's hair
- ○ Through the door

The Song in the Forest



After a year or two, it came to pass that the King's son rode through the forest and went by the tower. He heard a song, so charming that he stood still and listened.

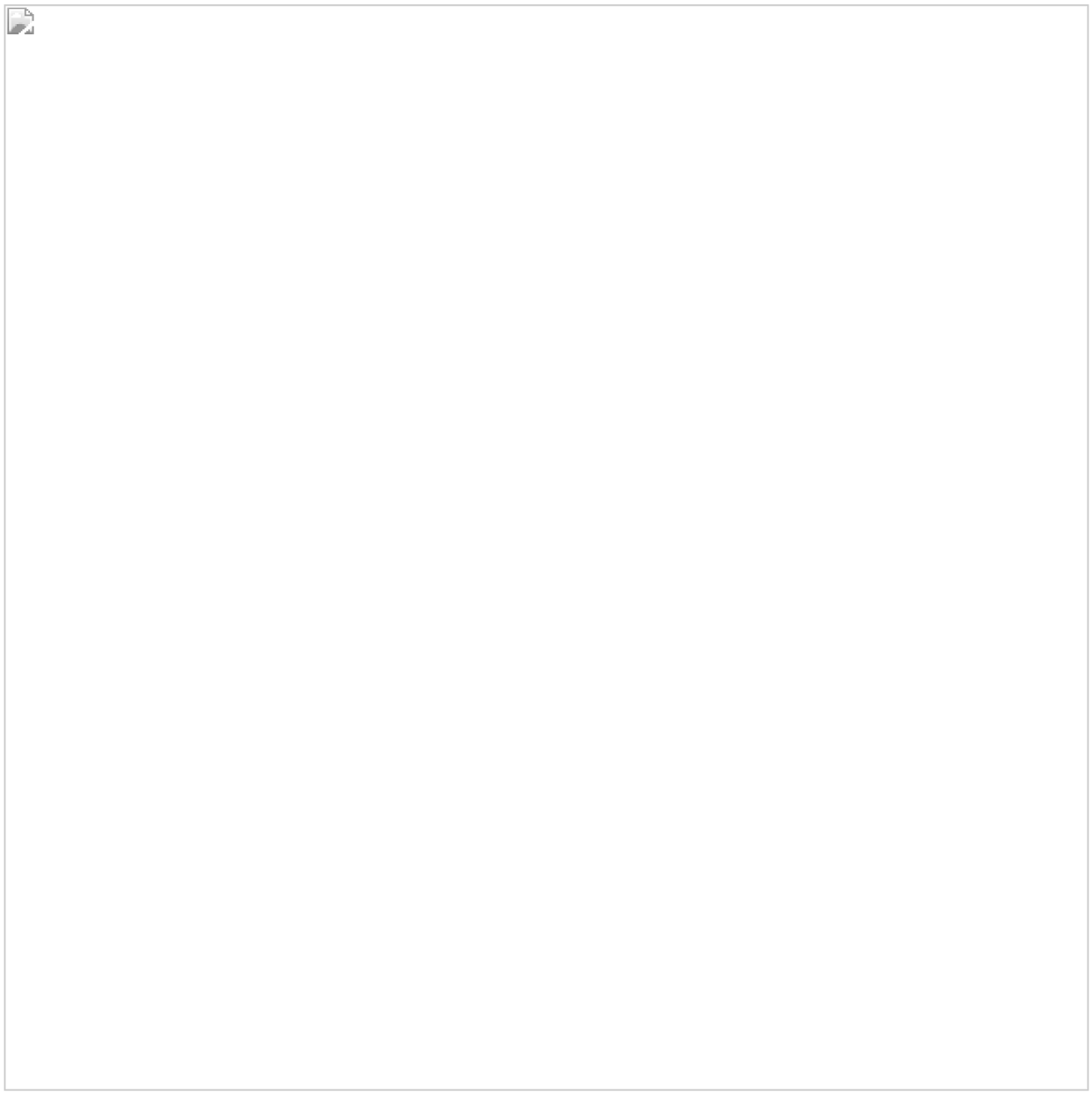
It was Rapunzel, who in her solitude passed her time letting her sweet voice sound. The King's son wanted to climb up to her, and looked for the door of the tower, but none was to be found.

He rode home. But the singing had so deeply touched his heart that every day he went out into the forest and listened.

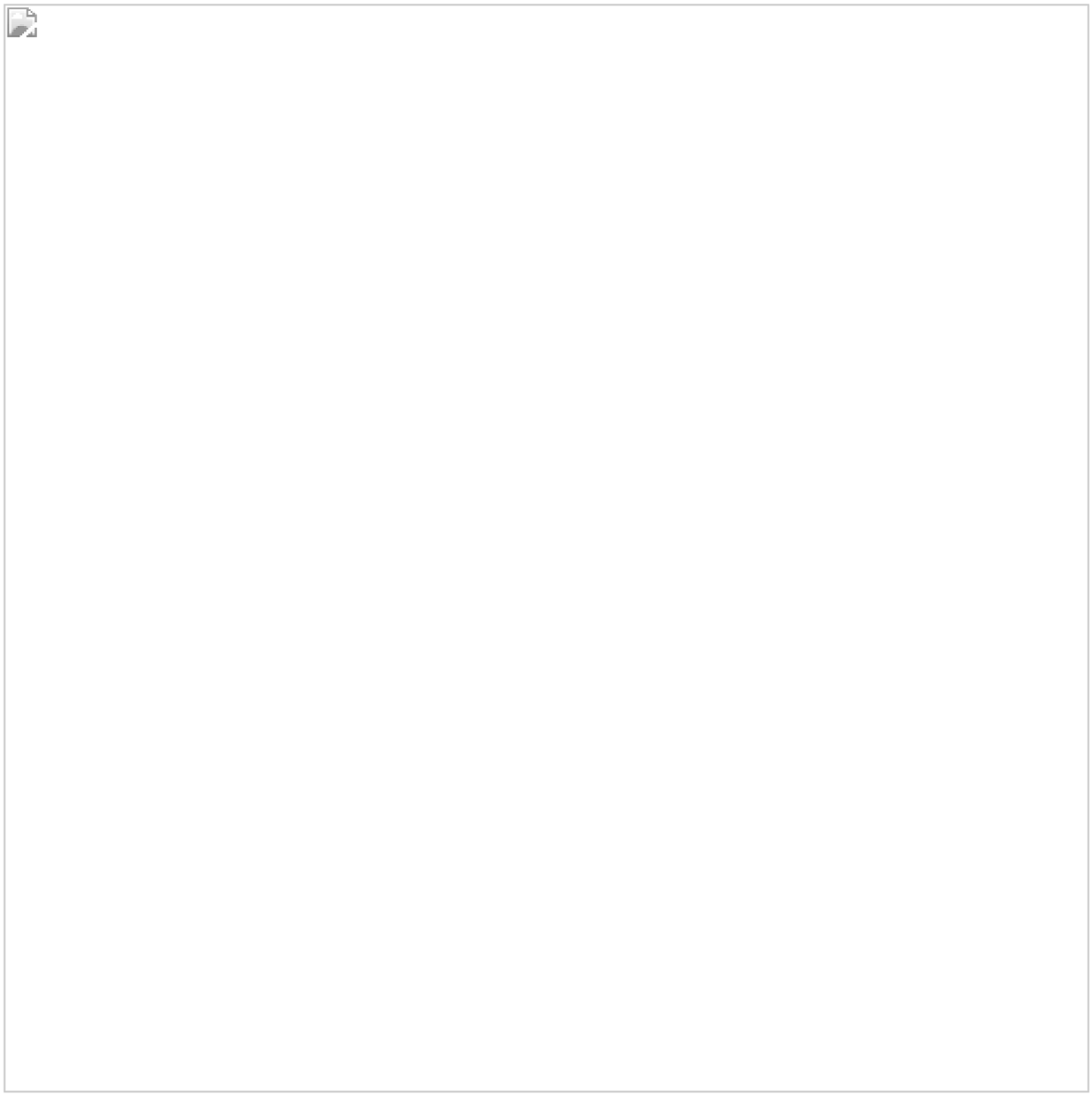
TALK ABOUT IT

The King's son came back every day to listen. What song or sound could you listen to every day?

The Song in the Forest · another picture



The Ladder of Hair



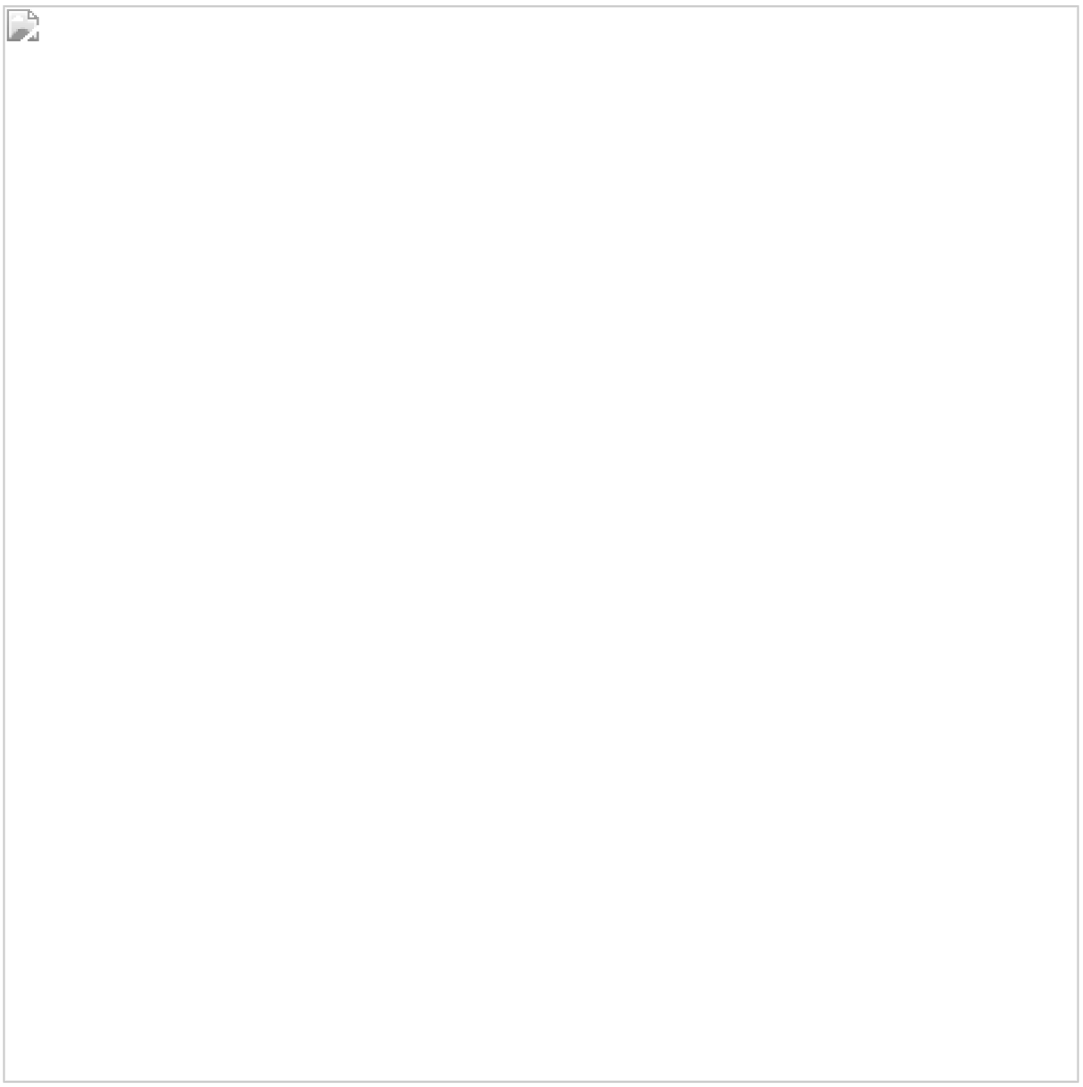
One day, while he stood behind a tree, he saw the enchantress come and heard her cry, “Rapunzel, Rapunzel, Let down thy hair.” Rapunzel let down her braids, and the enchantress climbed up.

“If that is the ladder by which one mounts, I will for once try my fortune,” said he.

The next day, when it began to grow dark, he went to the tower and cried, “Rapunzel, Rapunzel, Let down thy hair.” Immediately the hair fell down, and the King's son climbed up.

TALK ABOUT IT

The prince watched and listened before he tried. What do you think about that?

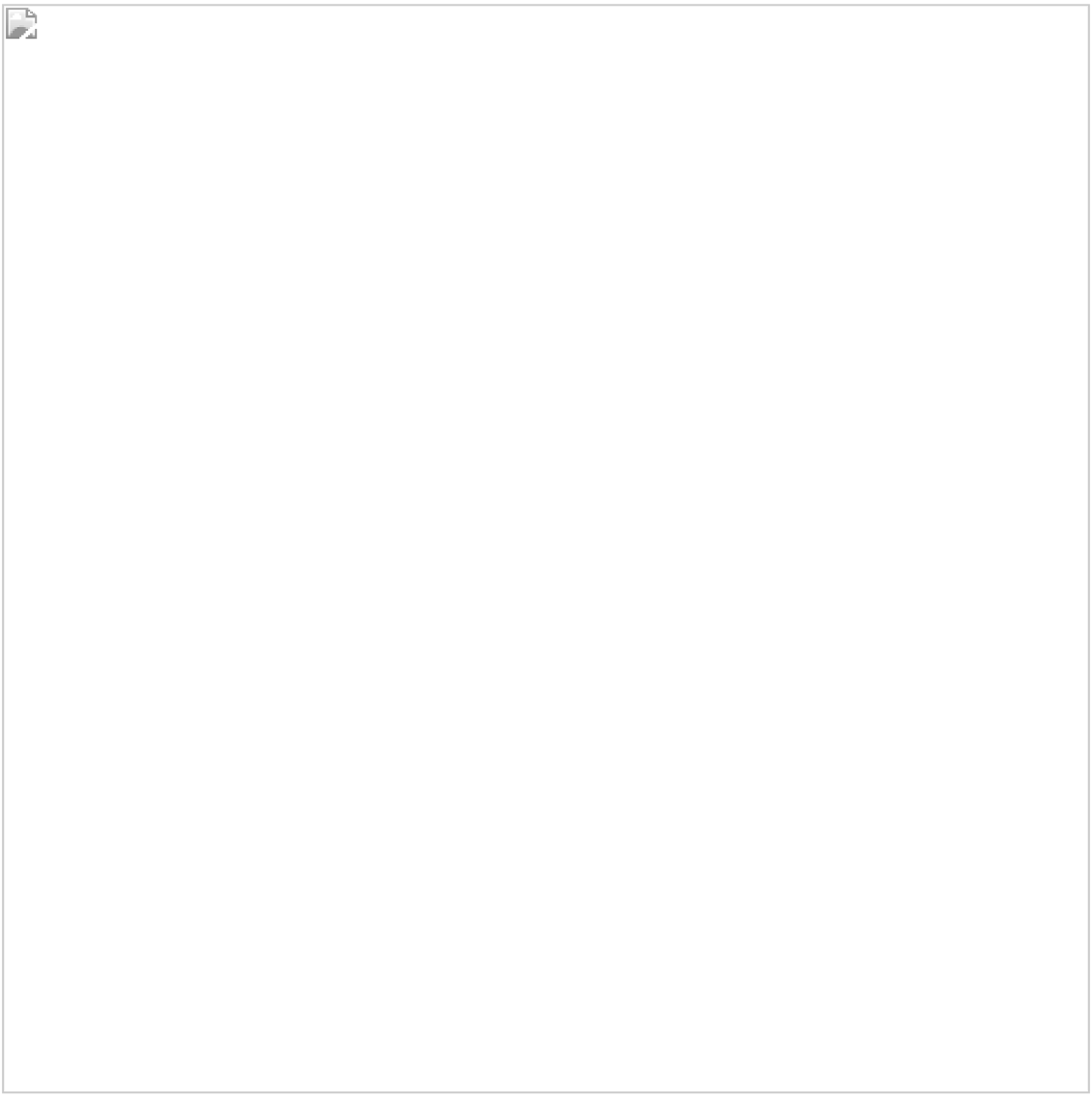


Think about it

1. How did the King's son learn what to call?

- ○ Rapunzel told him
- ○ He heard the enchantress say it
- ○ He read it on a wall

Rapunzel and the King's Son



Rapunzel was terribly frightened, for she had never seen a man. But the King's son spoke kindly: his heart had been so stirred that he had no rest until he saw her.

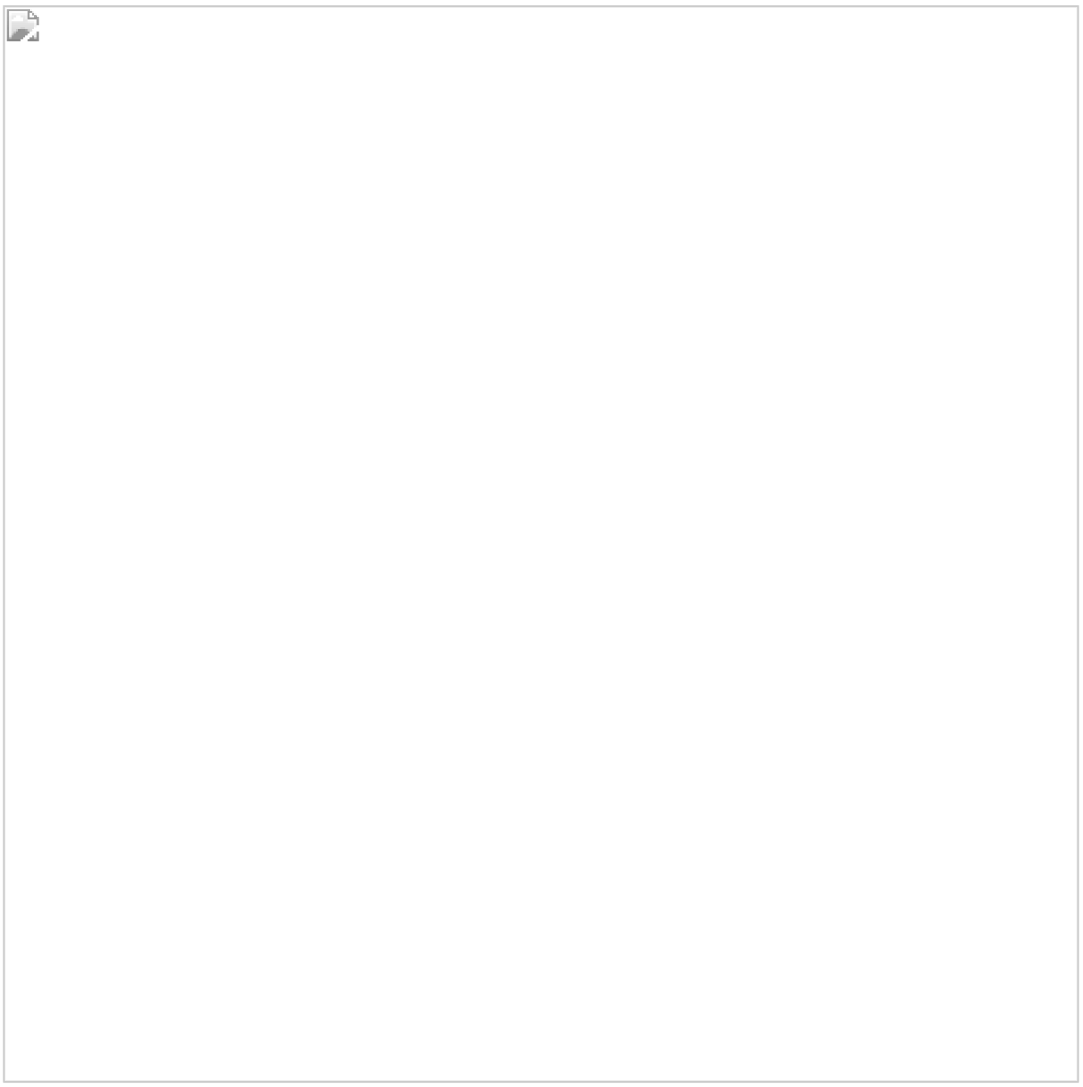
Her fear went. He asked her to marry him, and she saw he was young and handsome. “He will love me more than old Dame Gothel does,” she thought, and she said yes, and laid her hand in his.

“I will willingly go away with thee, but I do not know how to get down. Bring with thee a skein of silk every time that thou comest, and I will weave a ladder with it.”

TALK ABOUT IT

Rapunzel had a plan for getting out of the tower. What do you think of her plan?

Rapunzel and the King's Son · another picture

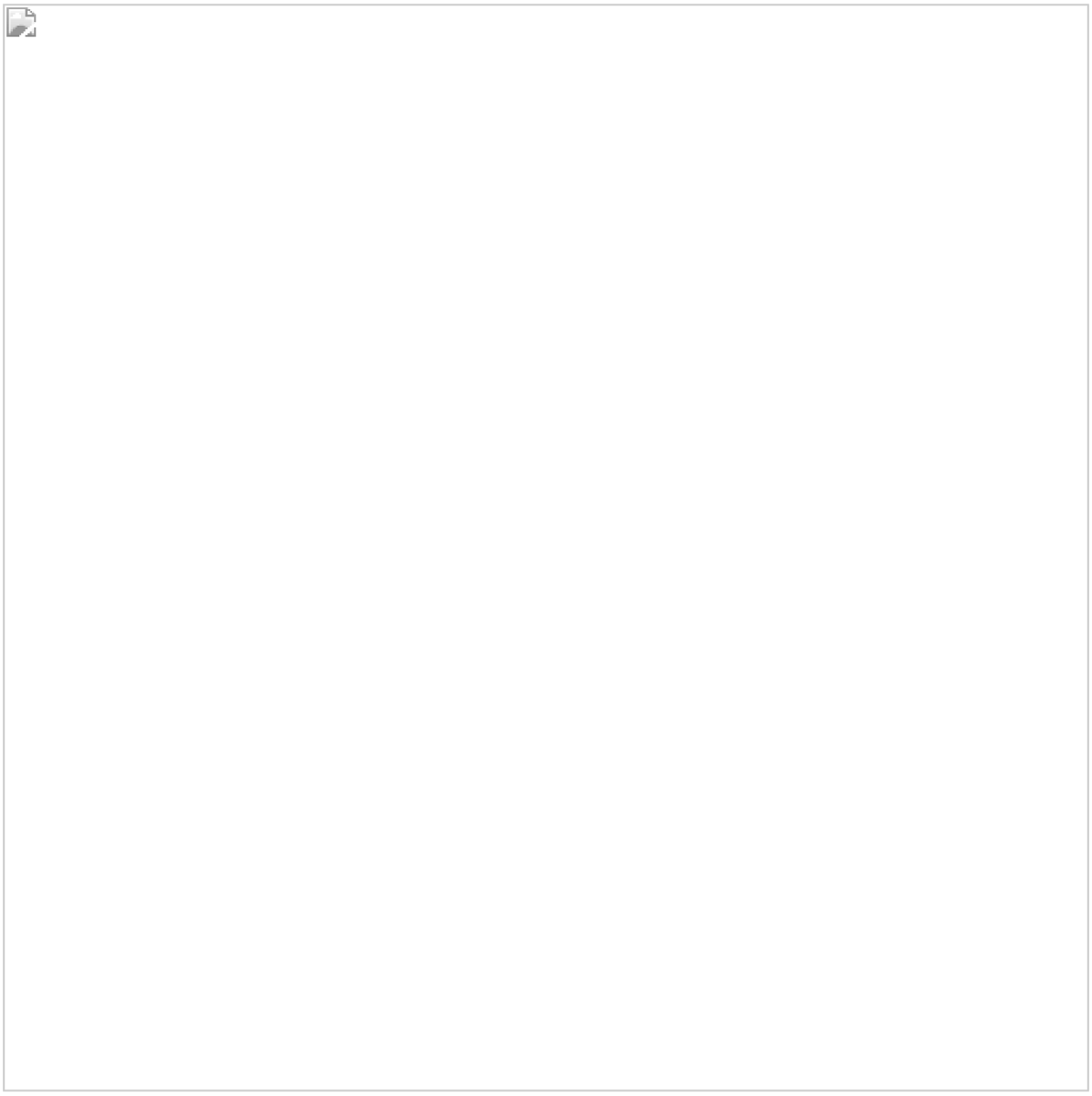


Think about it

1. What would Rapunzel weave from silk?

- ○ A ladder
- ○ A cap
- ○ A basket

The Secret Slips Out



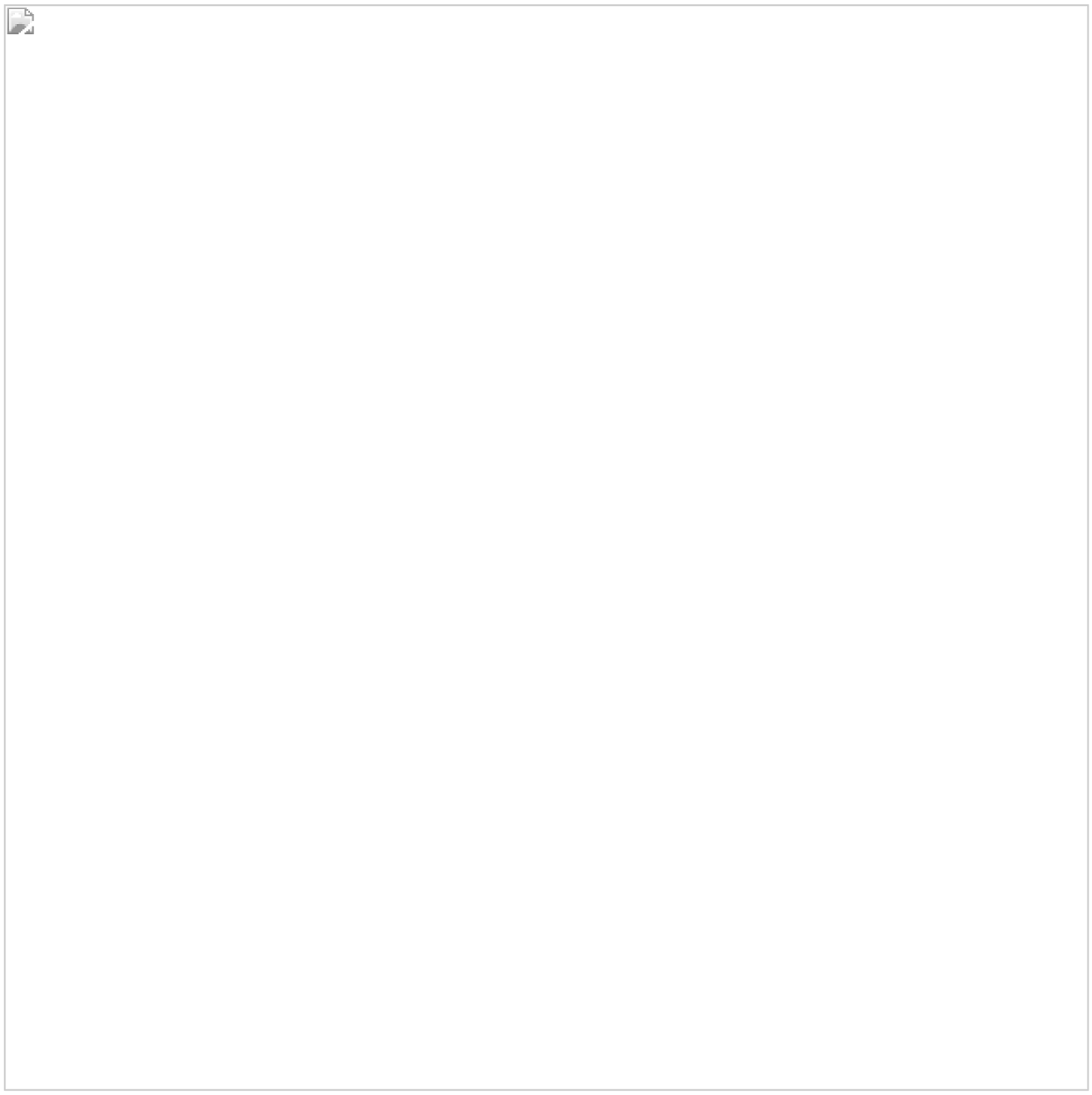
They agreed that he would come to her every evening, because the old woman came by day.

The enchantress noticed nothing, until one day Rapunzel said to her, “Tell me, Dame Gothel, how it happens that you are so much heavier for me to draw up than the young King’s son—he is with me in a moment.”

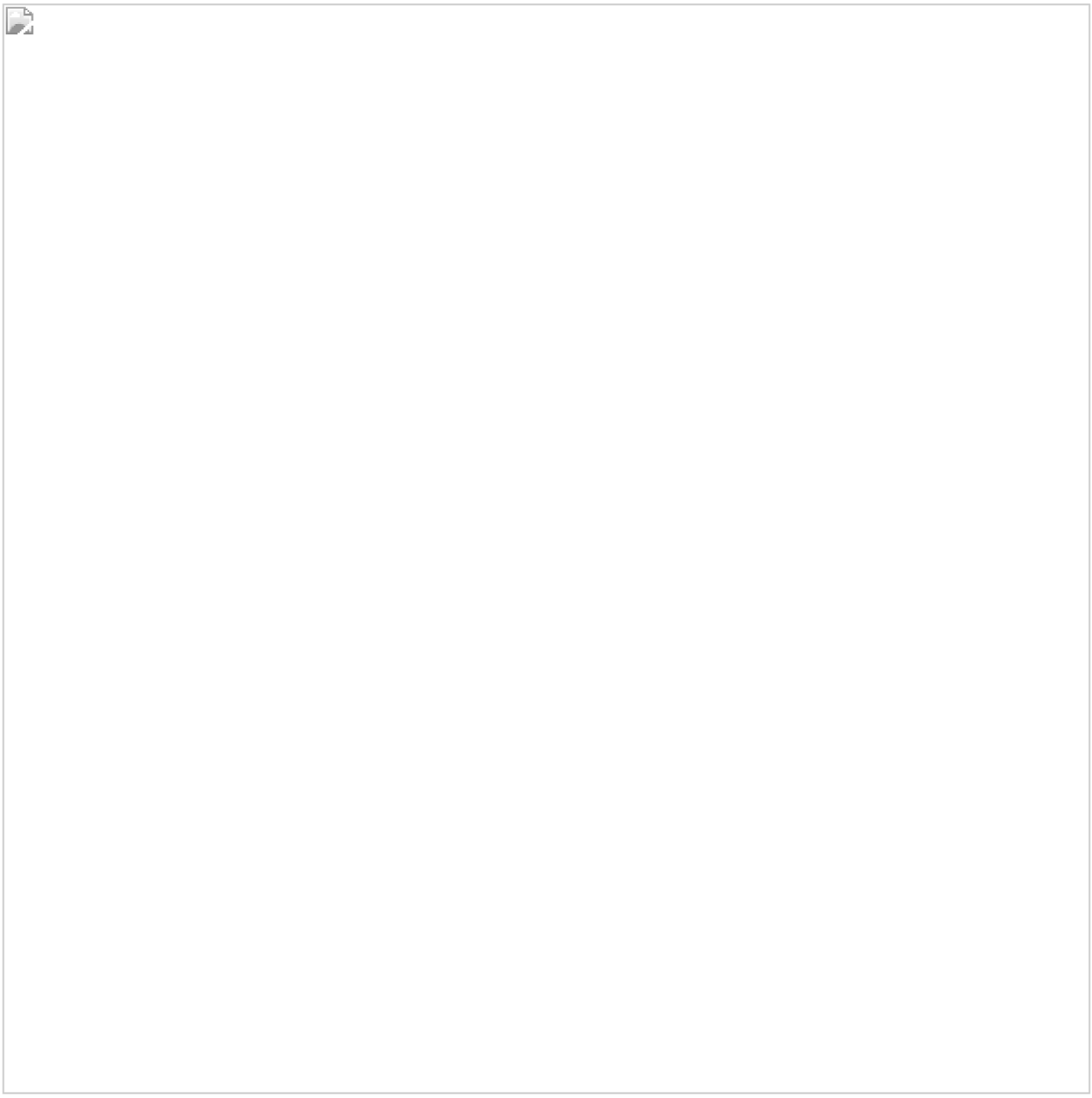
“Ah! thou wicked child,” cried the enchantress. “I thought I had separated thee from all the world, and yet thou hast deceived me.”

TALK ABOUT IT

Rapunzel said something without thinking and it let the secret out. What do you think she might do differently?



Snip, Snap



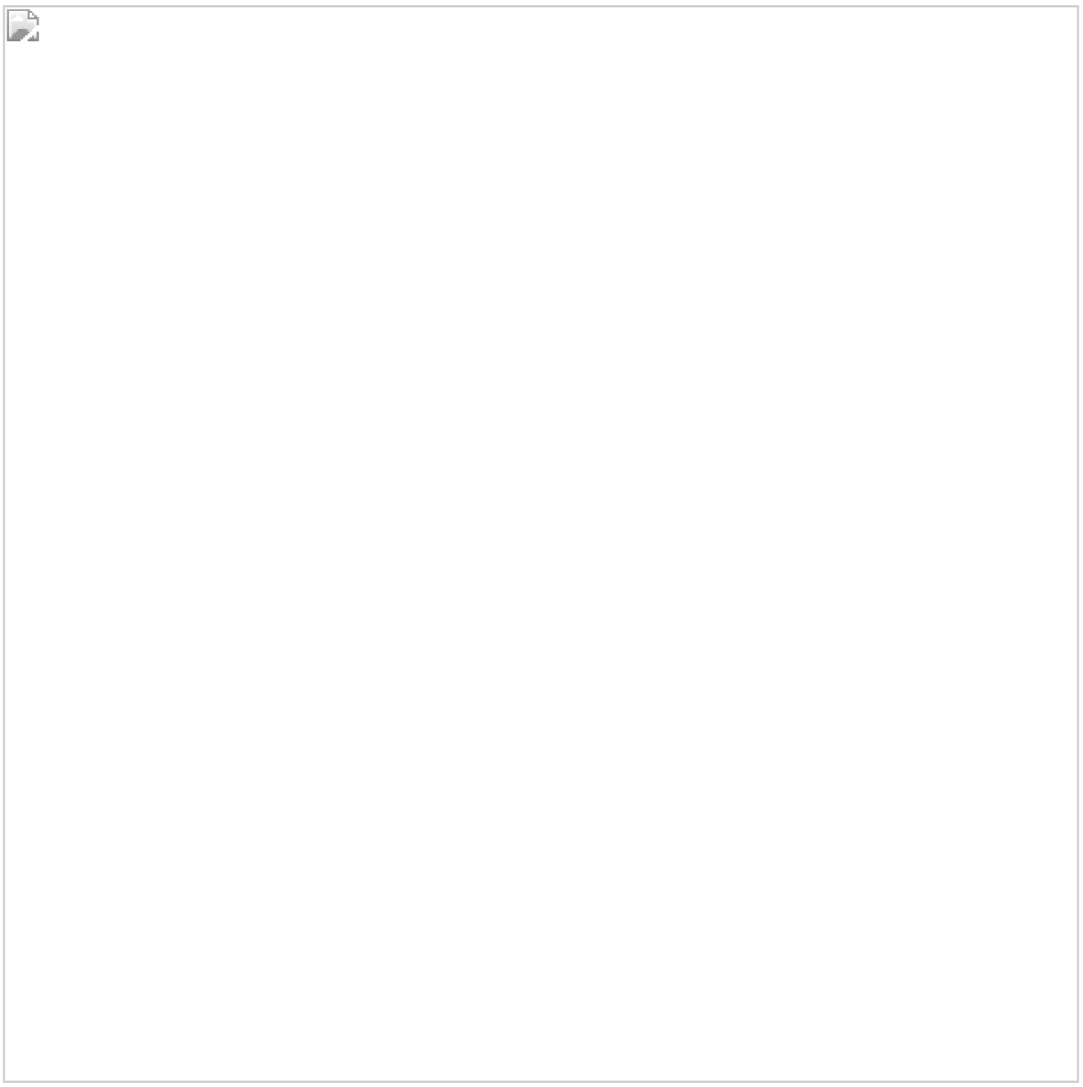
In her anger the enchantress took Rapunzel's beautiful hair in her hand, seized a pair of scissors, and snip, snap, the lovely braids lay on the ground.

She was so pitiless that she took poor Rapunzel into a desert, where she had to live in great grief and misery.

On that same day, the enchantress fastened the cut braids to the hook of the window, and waited.

TALK ABOUT IT

Rapunzel was sent far away from her tower. Who do you think might try to find her?

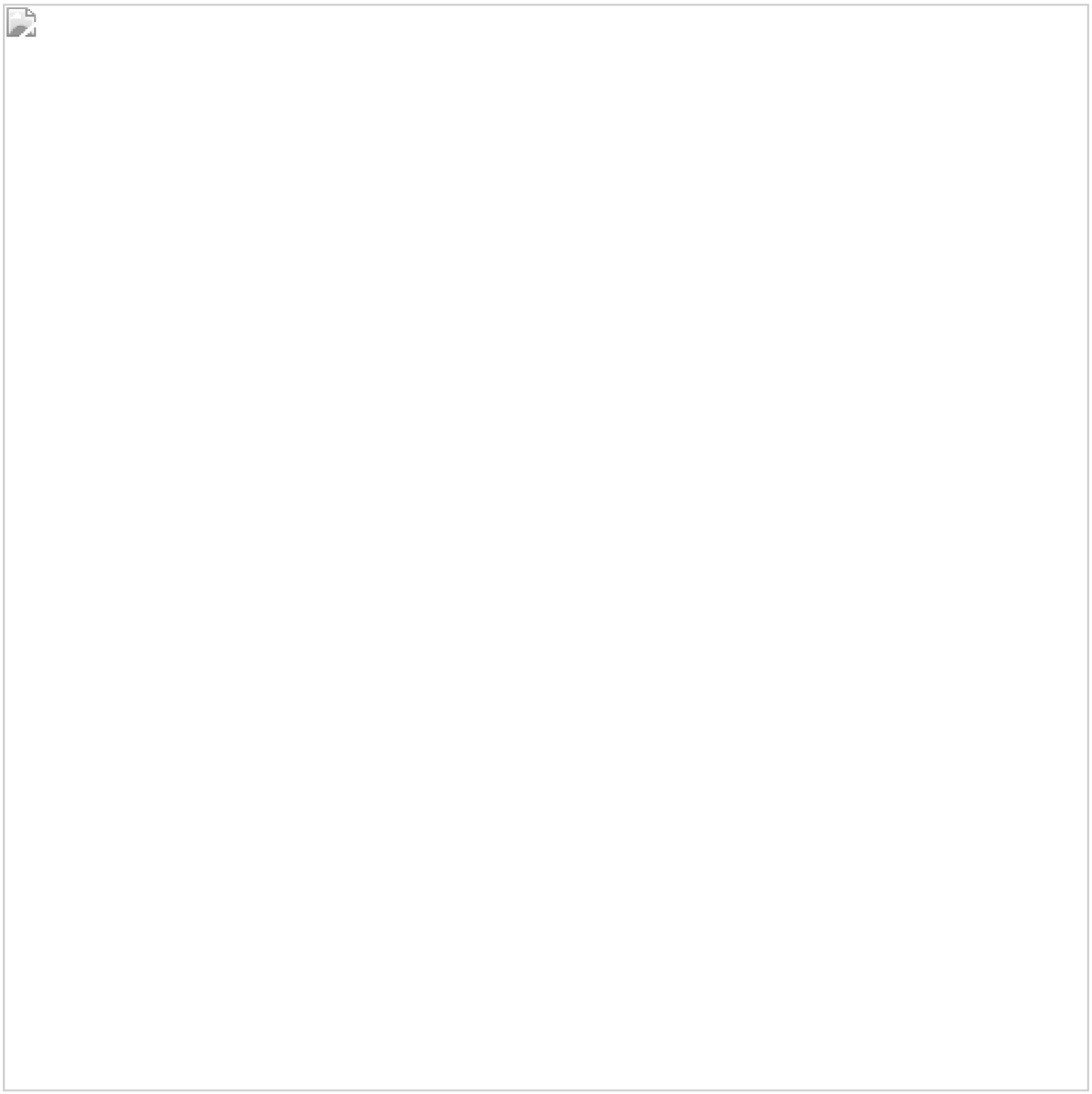


Think about it

1. What did the enchantress do with the braids?

- ○ Threw them in the river
- ○ Fastened them to the window hook
- ○ Gave them to the prince

The Enchantress's Trick



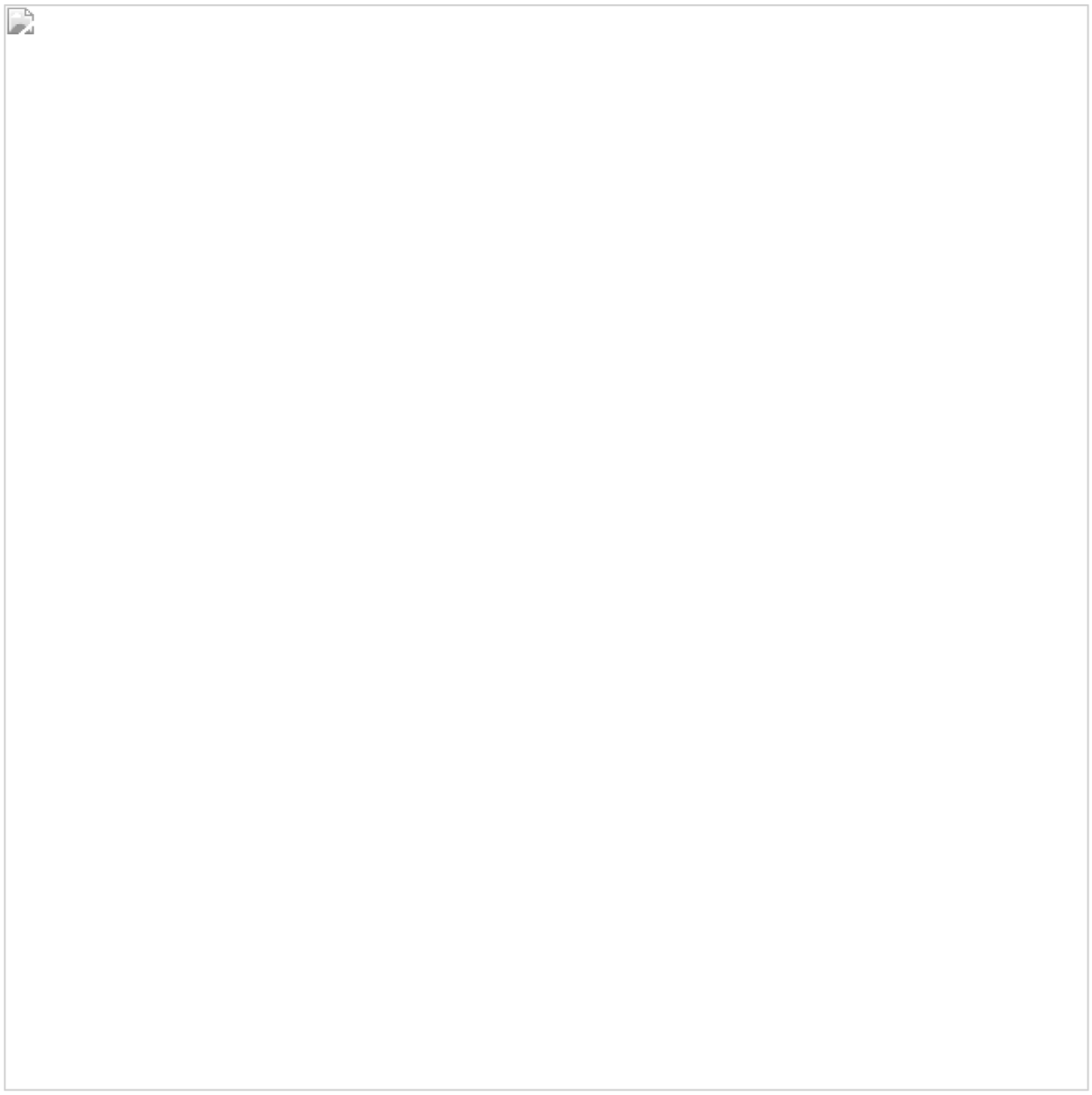
In the evening the King's son came and cried, “Rapunzel, Rapunzel, Let down thy hair,” and the enchantress let the hair down.

The King's son climbed up, but he did not find his dearest Rapunzel above. He found the enchantress, who gazed at him with wicked and venomous looks.

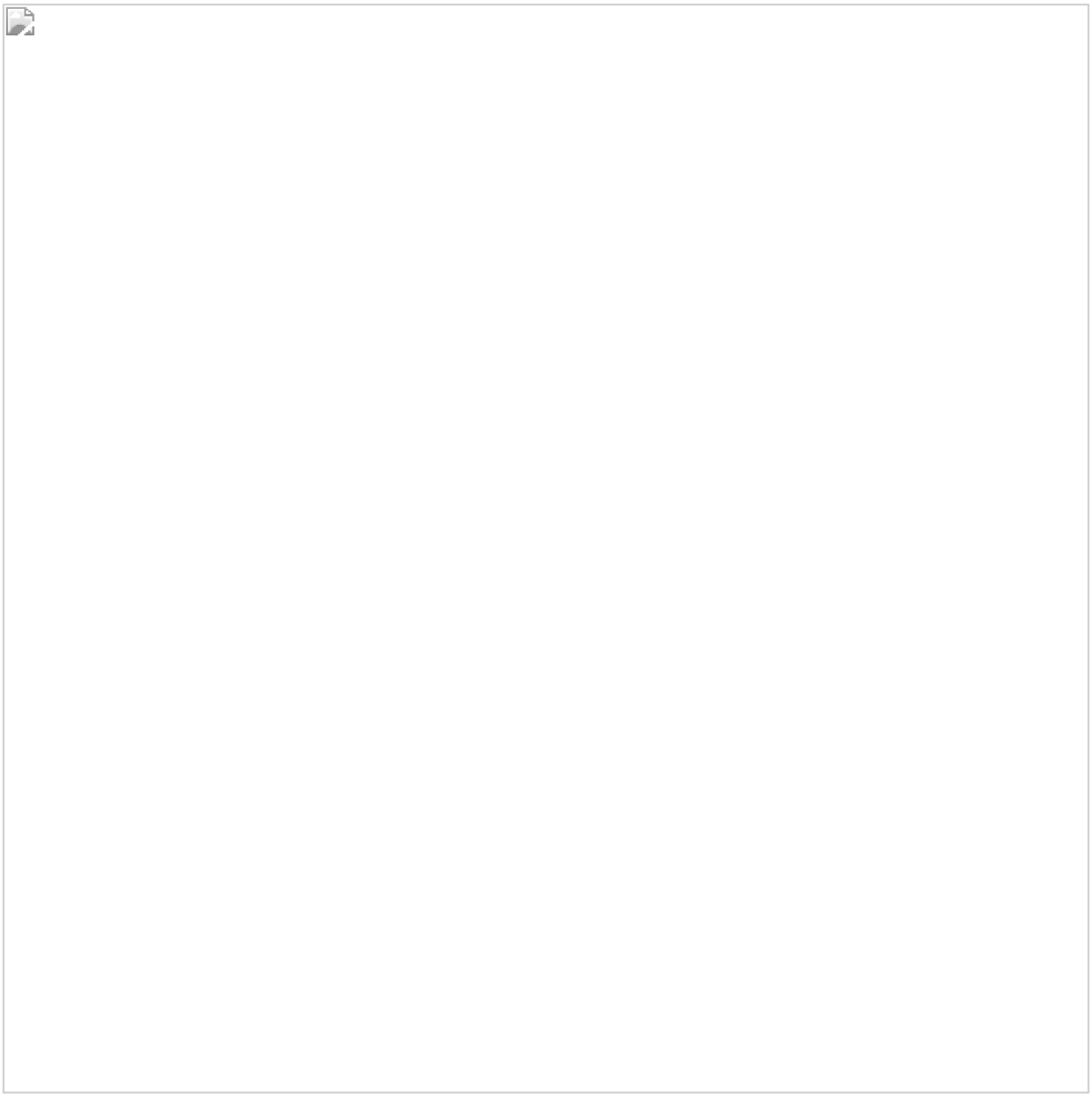
“Aha!” she cried mockingly, “Thou wouldst fetch thy dearest, but the beautiful bird sits no longer singing in the nest;” and then, “Rapunzel is lost to thee; thou wilt never see her more.”

TALK ABOUT IT

The prince climbed up hoping to see Rapunzel. What do you think he thought when he saw the enchantress?



Lost in the Forest



The King's son was beside himself with pain, and in his despair he leapt down from the tower. He escaped with his life, but the thorns he fell into hurt his eyes, and he could not see.

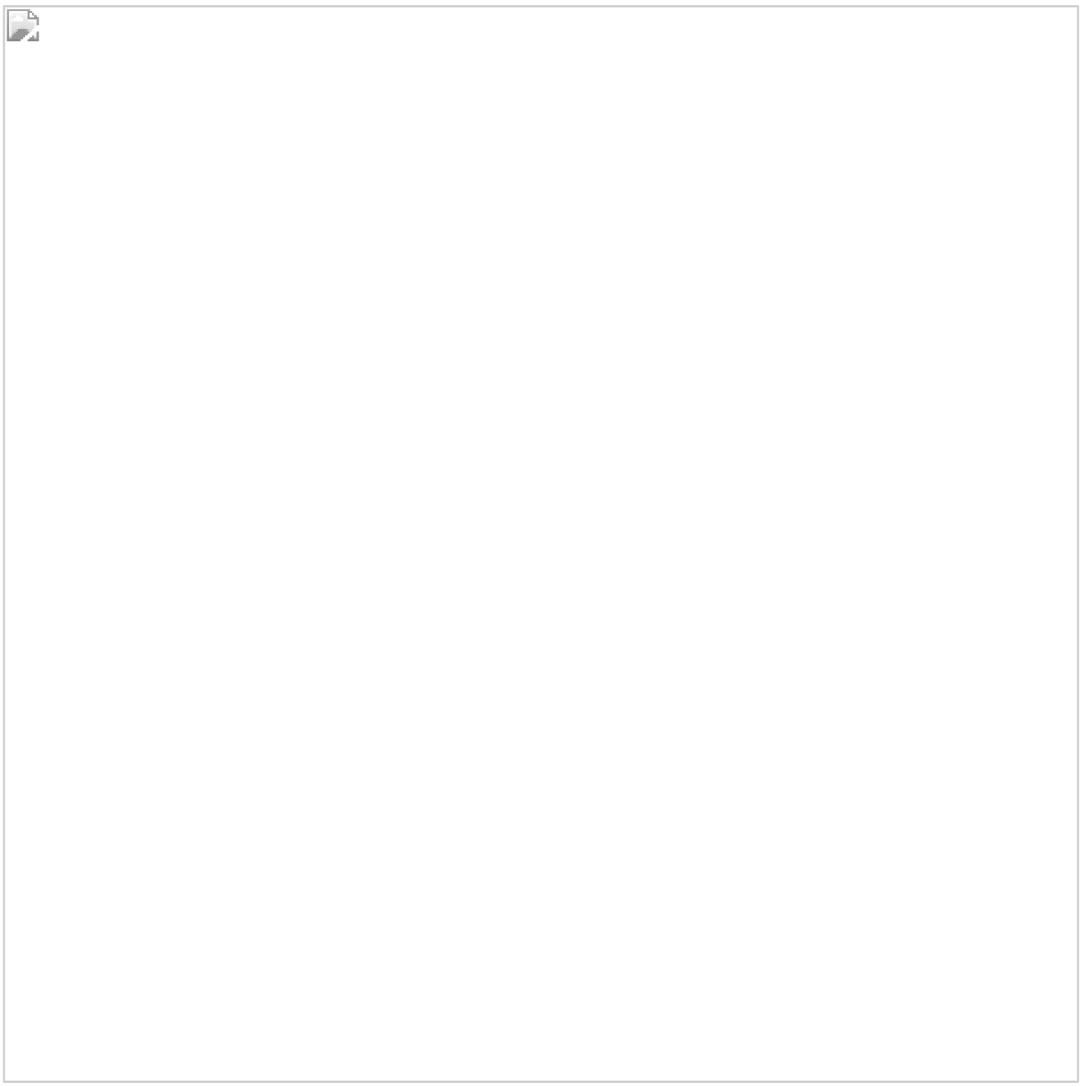
Then he wandered quite blind about the forest. He ate nothing but roots and berries, and did nothing but lament and weep over the loss of his dearest wife.

So he roamed about in misery for some years.

TALK ABOUT IT

The prince walked for years and years without giving up. What helps you keep going when things are hard?

Lost in the Forest · another picture

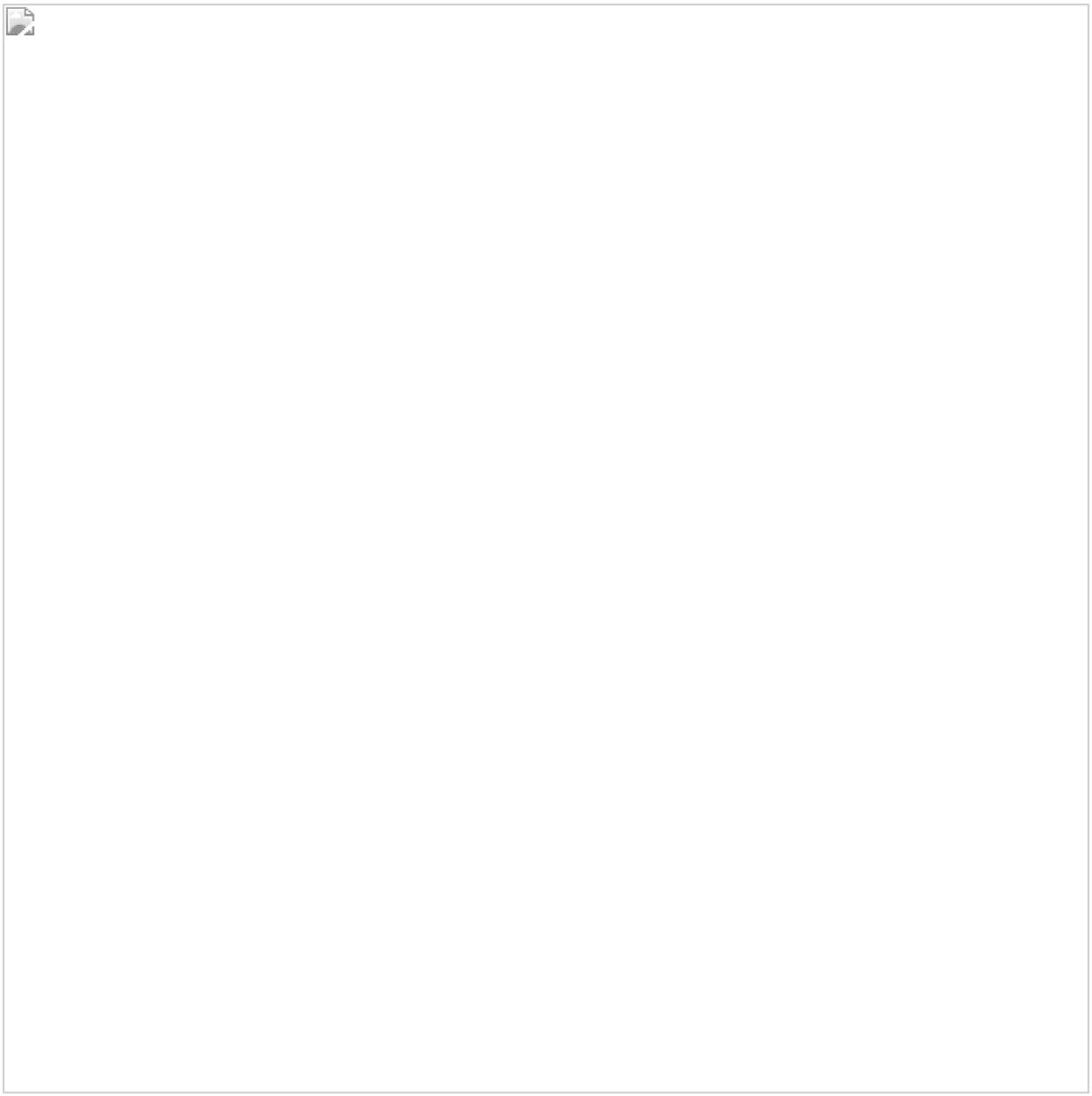


Think about it

1. What happened to the King's son's eyes?

- ○ They turned green
- ○ He could not see
- ○ Nothing at all

Two Tears



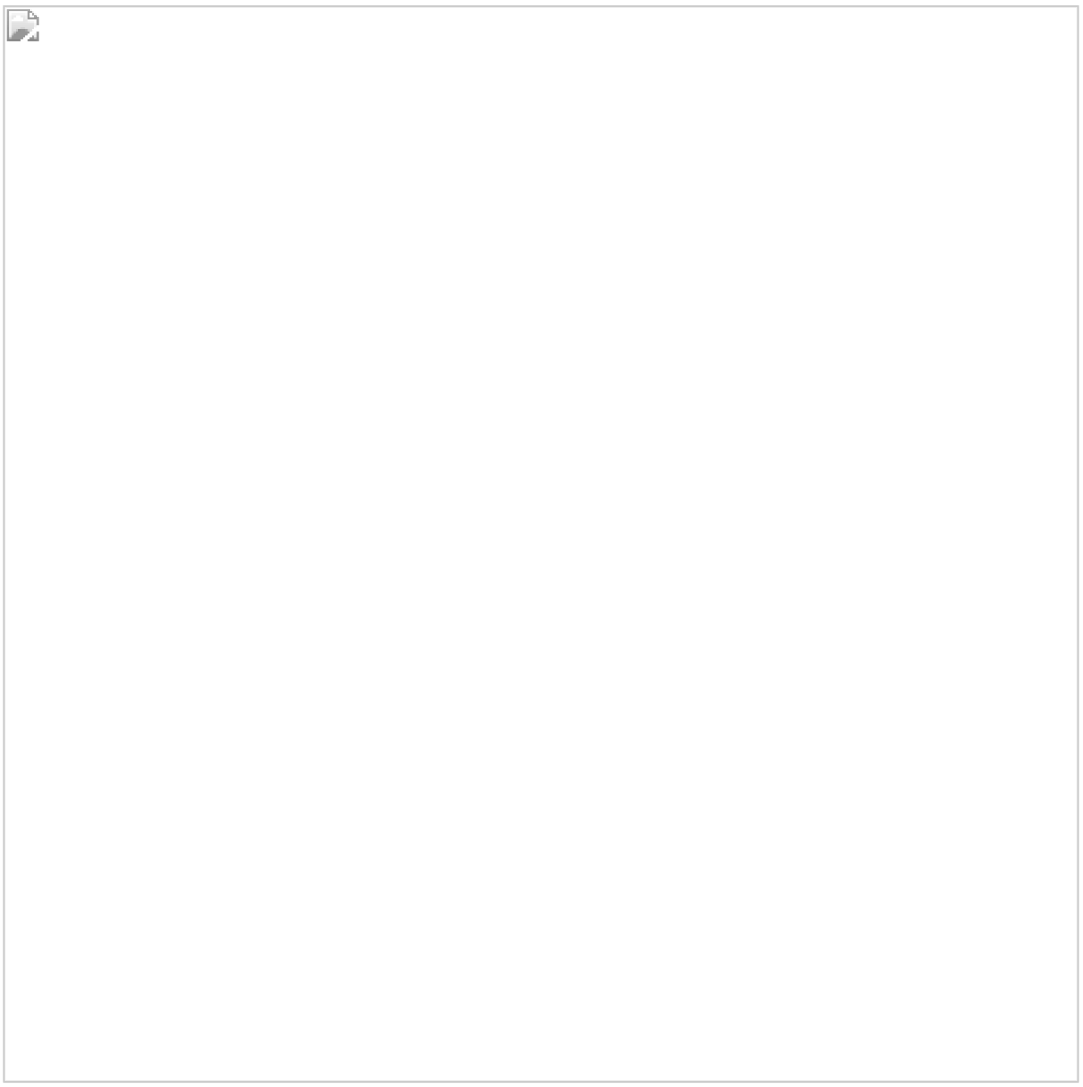
At length he came to the desert where Rapunzel lived, with the twins she had given birth to, a boy and a girl, in sorrow and want.

He heard a voice, and it seemed so familiar to him that he went toward it. When he came near, Rapunzel knew him and fell on his neck and wept.

Two of her tears wetted his eyes, and they grew clear again, and he could see with them as before.

TALK ABOUT IT

The prince knew her voice even though he could not see. What voices do you know right away?

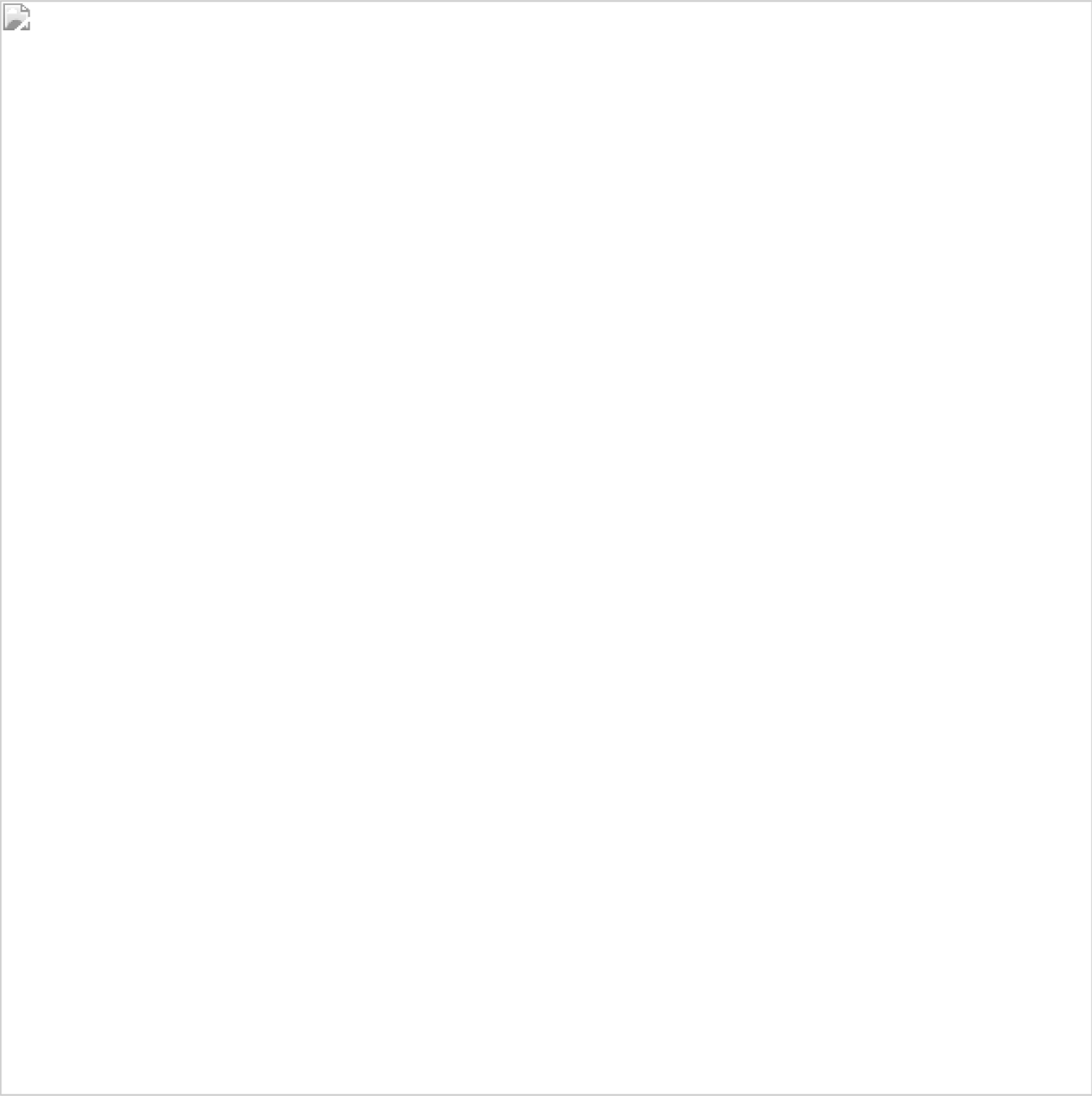


Think about it

1. What made the prince's eyes clear again?

- ○ A magic potion
- ○ Two of Rapunzel's tears
- ○ A good night's sleep

Home to the Kingdom

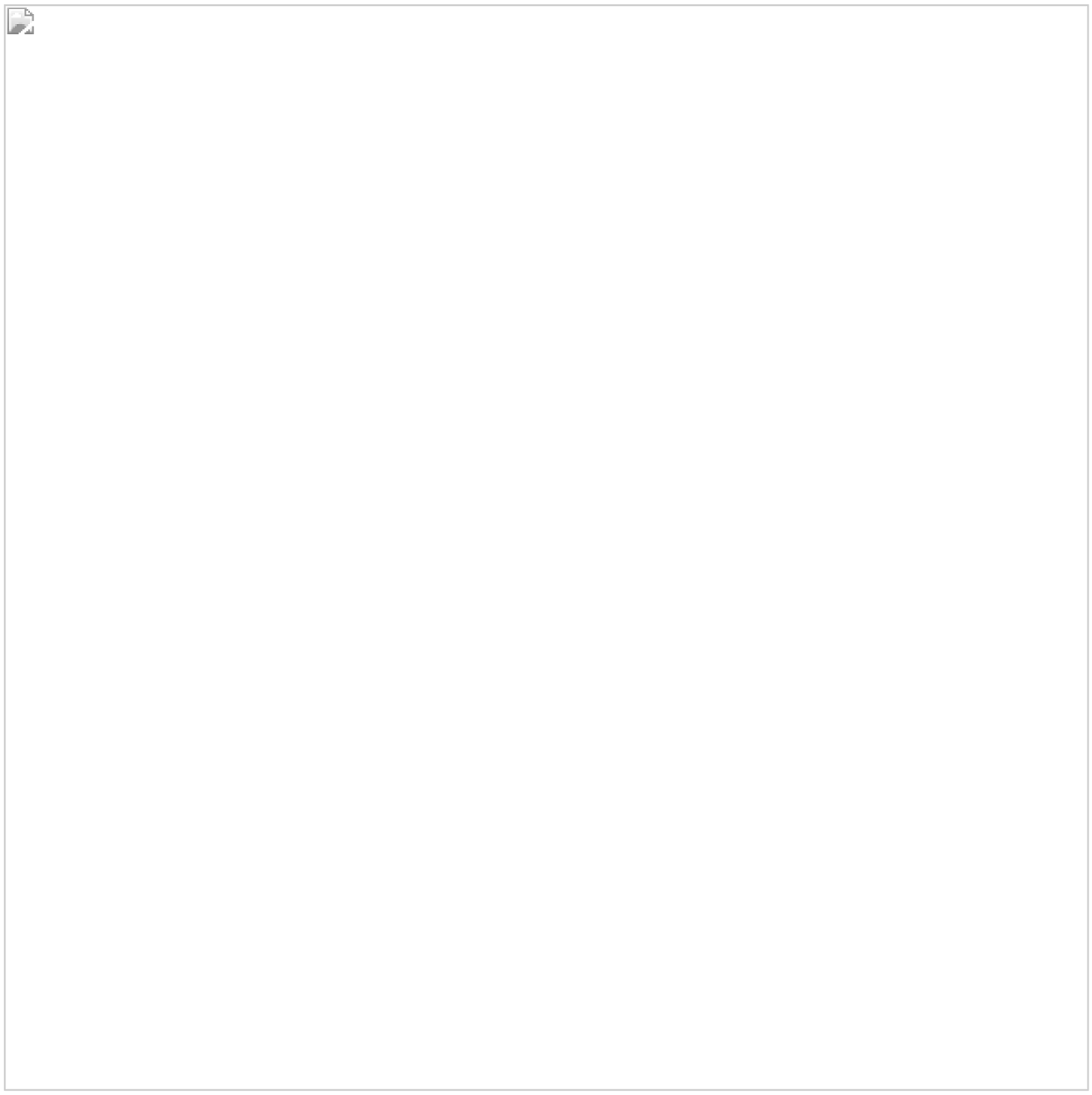


He led her to his kingdom, where he was joyfully received.

And they lived for a long time afterwards, happy and contented.

TALK ABOUT IT

Everyone was glad to see them come home. Who is glad when you come home?



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

— Yeshua HaMashiach

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