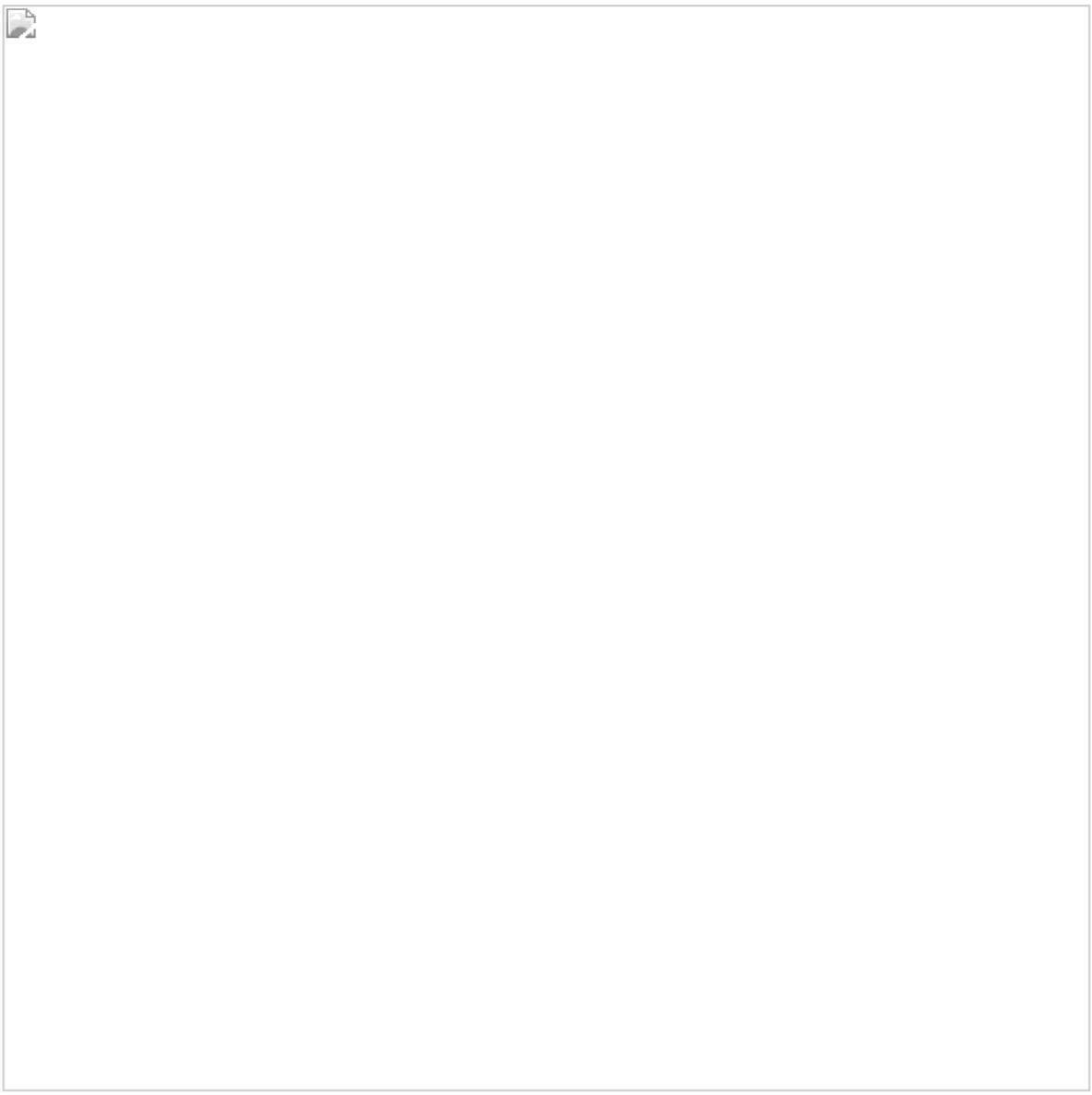
COLORING THE CLASSICS

Sadko

A Tale from Russia



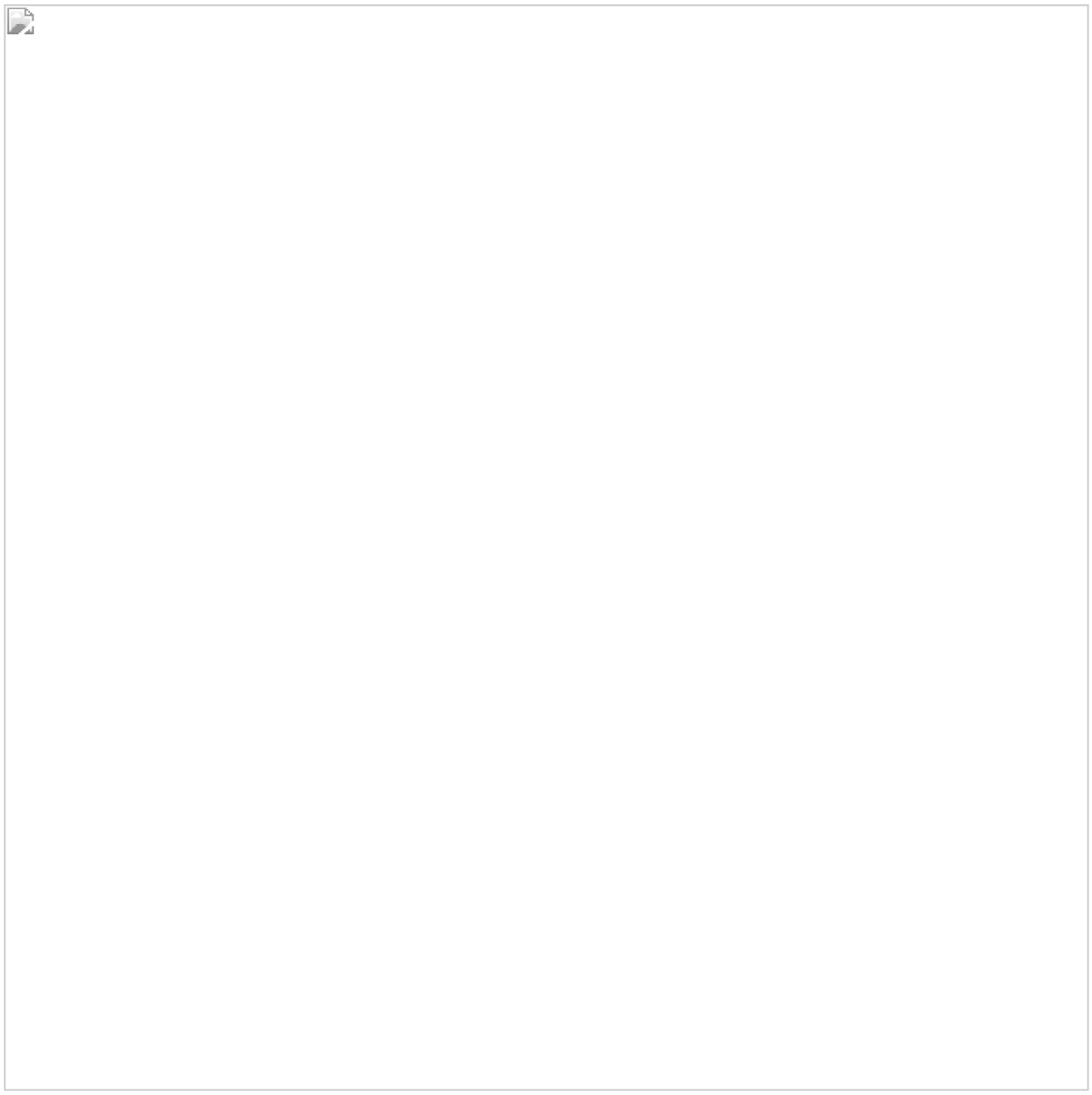
In Novgorod in the old days there was a young man, just a boy he was, the son of a rich merchant who had lost all his money and died. So Sadko was very poor. He had not a kopeck in the world, except what the people gave him when he played his dulcimer for their dancing.

TALK ABOUT IT

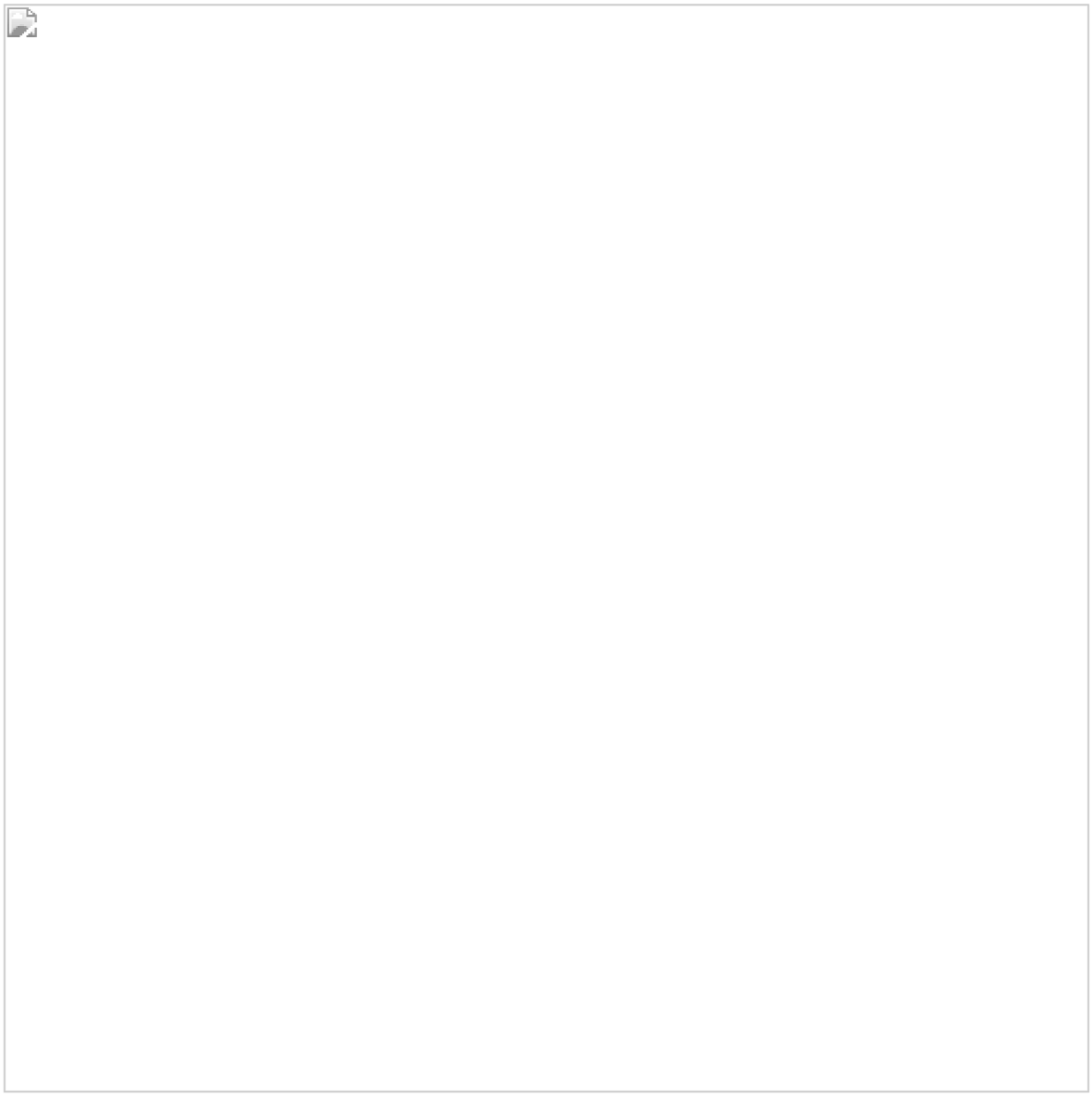
Sadko played music for others to dance. What do you like to play or sing?

This book belongs to _____

Sadko · another picture



The Little River



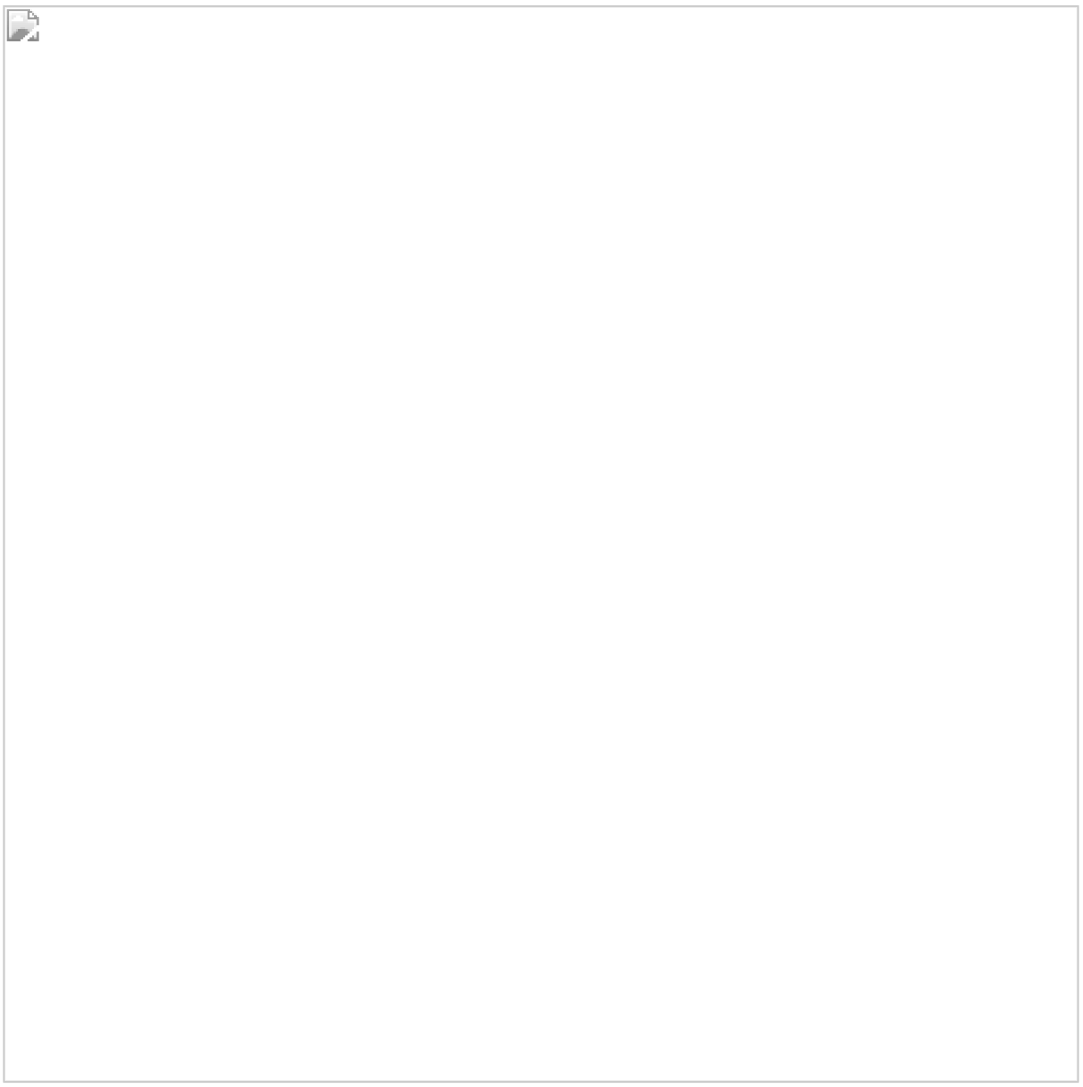
Sadko lived alone with his dulcimer, and made do with half a loaf when he could not get a whole. He did not mind so very much, so long as he could play and walk along the banks of the little river Volkhov that flows by Novgorod.

“There is no girl in all Novgorod as pretty as my little river,” he used to say. Night after night he sat by the river or on the shores of the lake, playing and singing to himself.

The young women of Novgorod never looked at him, except to tell him sharply to keep the music going.

TALK ABOUT IT

Sadko loved the river. Is there a place outdoors that you love?

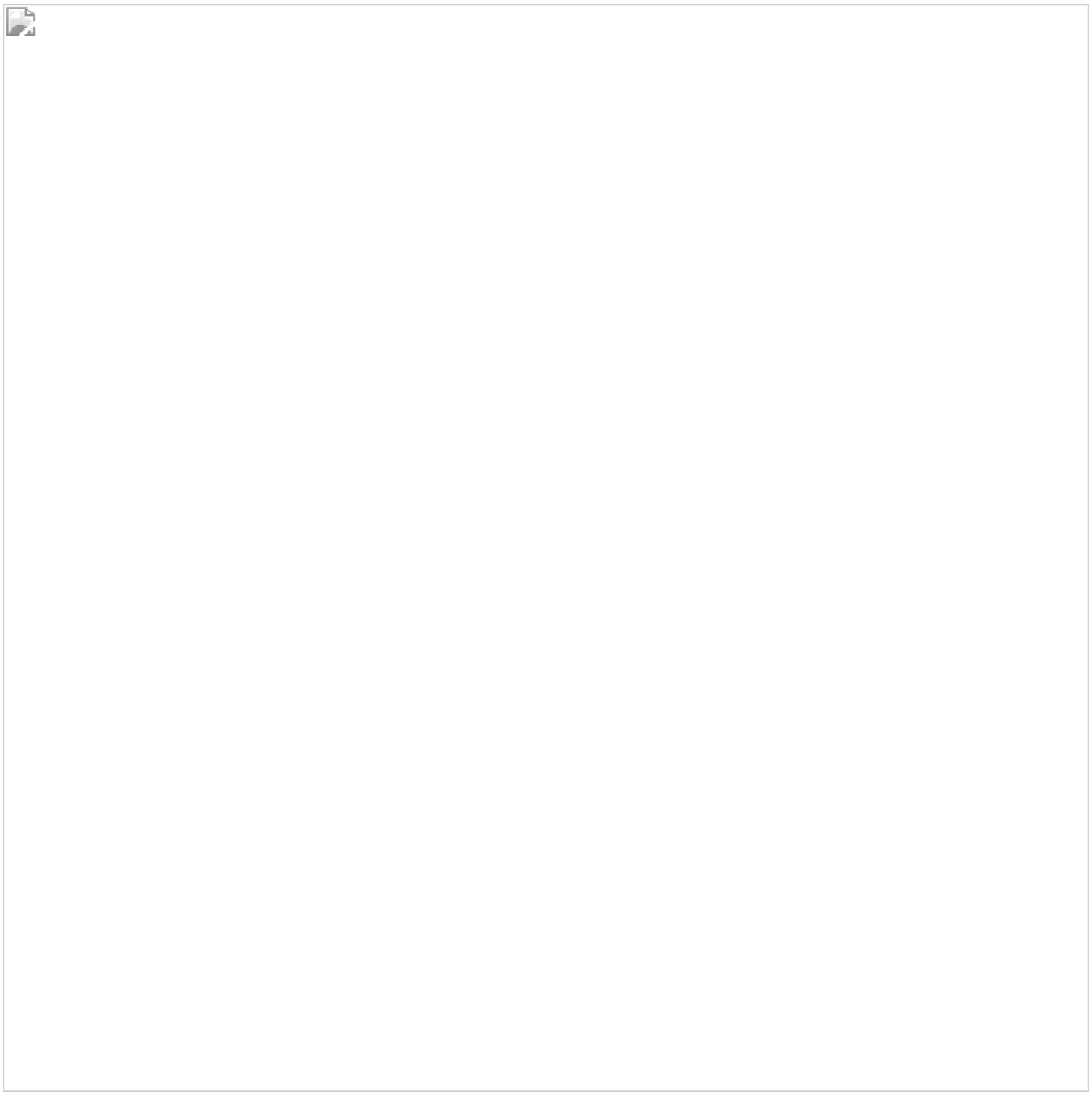


Think about it

1. What was the name of the little river?

- ○ The Volkhov
- ○ The Caspian
- ○ The Novgorod

The Tzar of the Sea



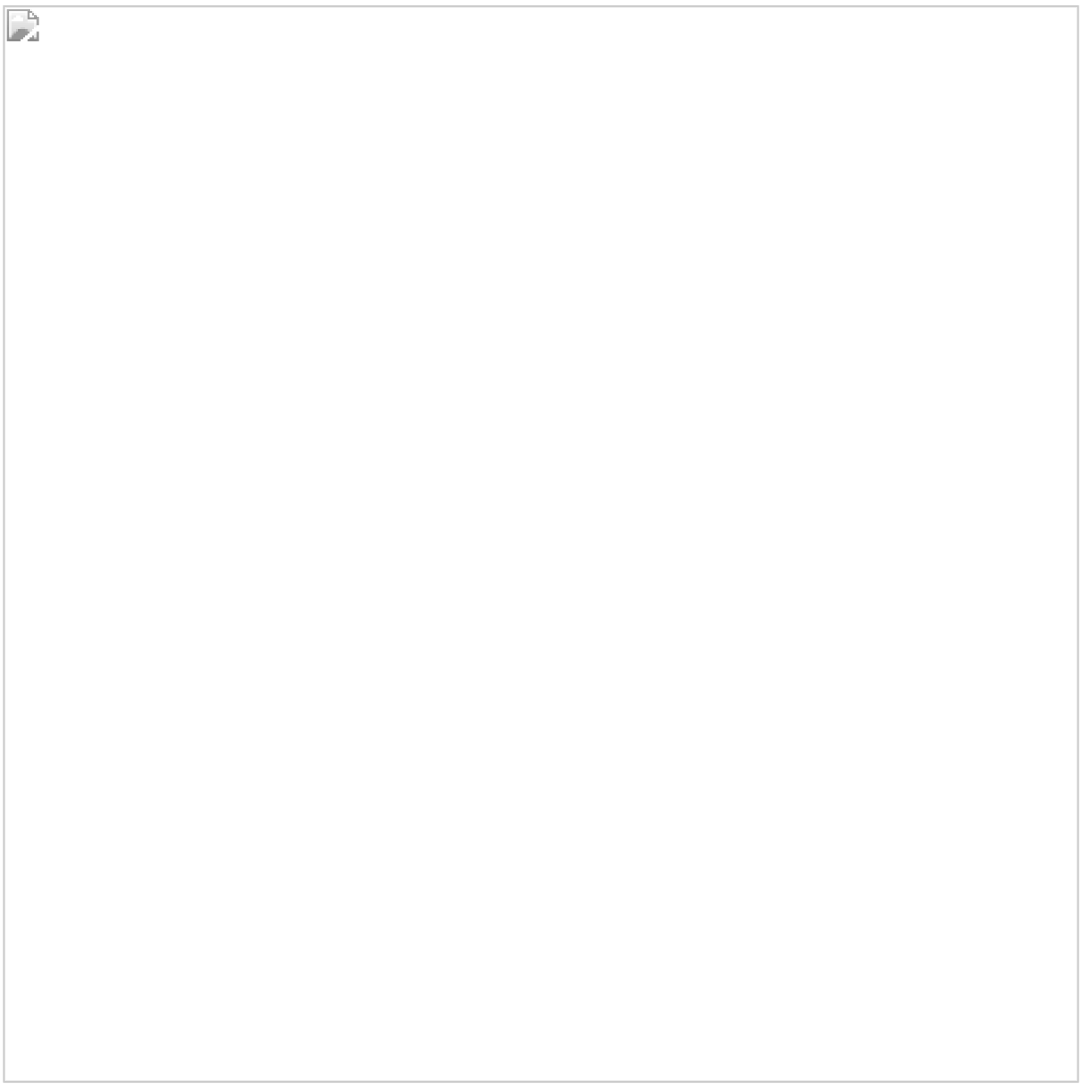
One evening the fishermen asked Sadko to watch their nets. He sat on a rock and played and sang of the lake and the river.

While he sang, a whirlpool opened in the lake. In the middle of it rose the head of a great man with blue hair and a gold crown. It was the Tzar of the Sea.

“Sadko of Novgorod,” he called in a great voice like wind and water in a storm, “my daughters love your music, and it has pleased me too. Throw out a net into the water, and draw it in, and the waters will pay you for your singing.”

TALK ABOUT IT

The Tzar of the Sea liked Sadko's music. What do you think it was about it?

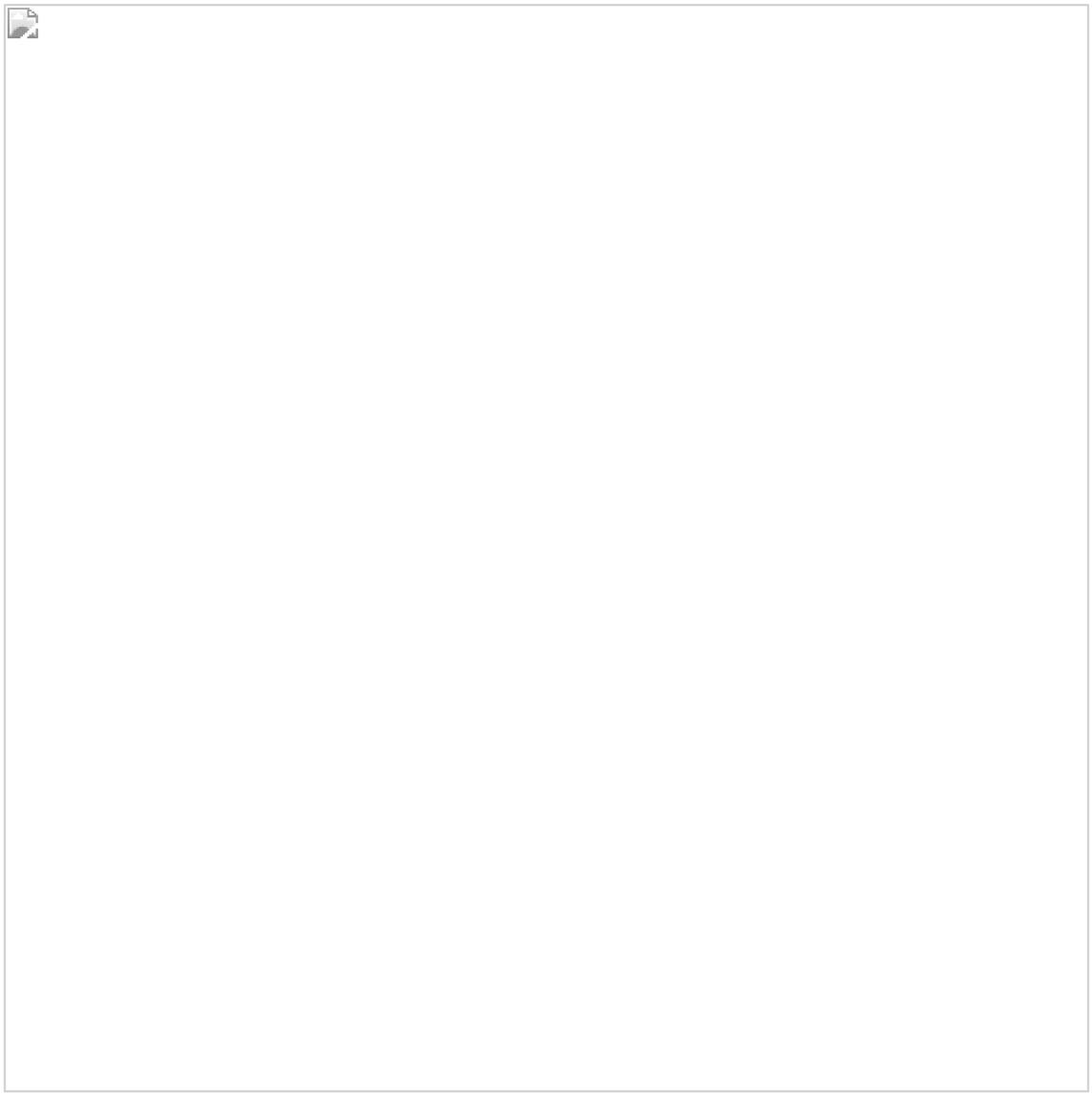


Think about it

1. Who loved Sadko's music?

- ○ The sailors
- ○ The Tzar of the Sea and his daughters
- ○ The fishermen's wives

The Net in the Moonlight



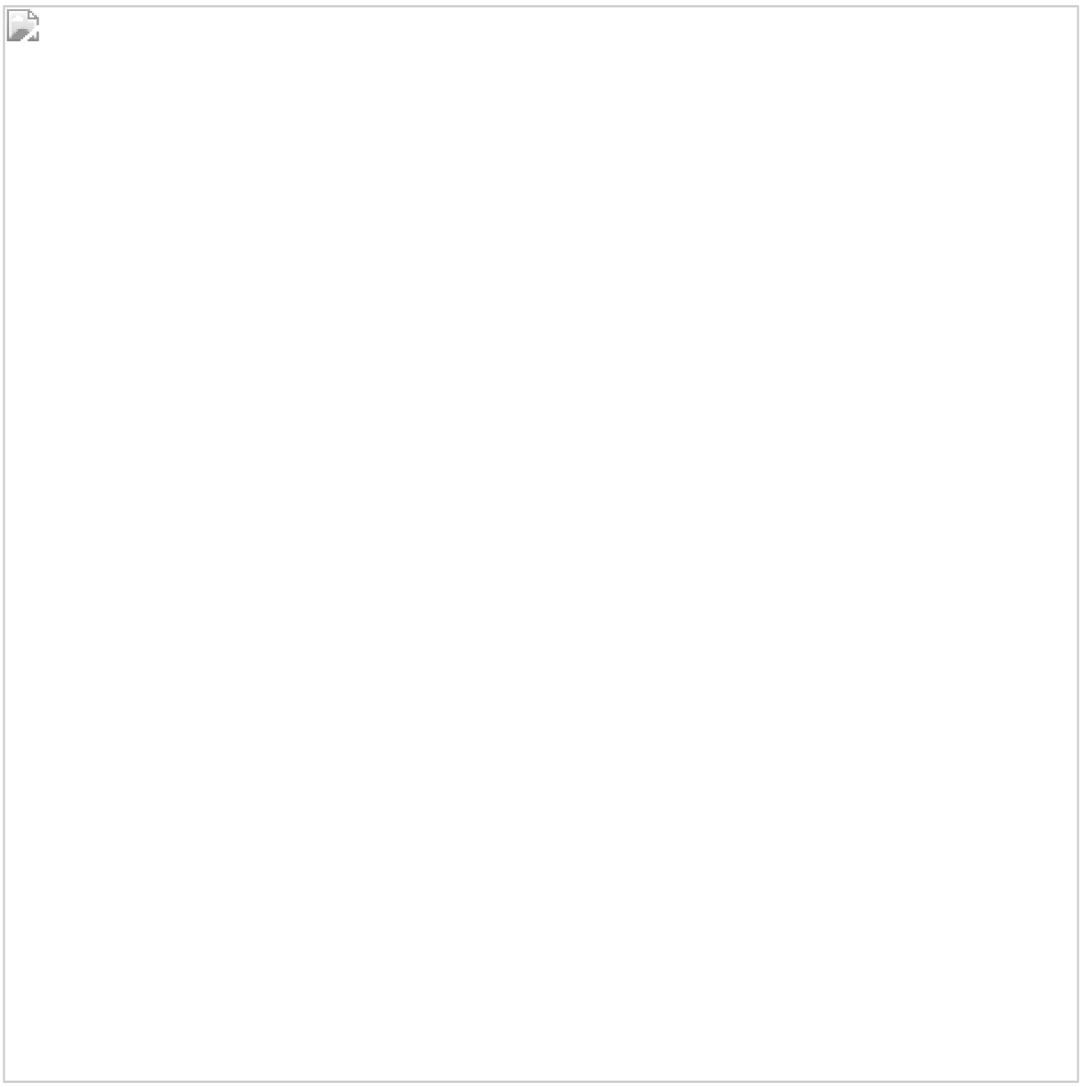
Sadko said, “Well, there is no harm done in casting out a net.” So he threw it into the lake and went on playing until the dusk had fallen and the moon shone over the water.

When he drew the net up, it came easily. “I was dreaming,” said Sadko; “there is nothing in the net at all.”

And then, just as the last of the net was coming ashore, he saw something in it, square and dark. It was a coffer, and it was full of precious stones, green, red, gold, gleaming in the moonlight.

TALK ABOUT IT

Sadko thought he had dreamed it. Have you ever had something happen that seemed too good to be true?

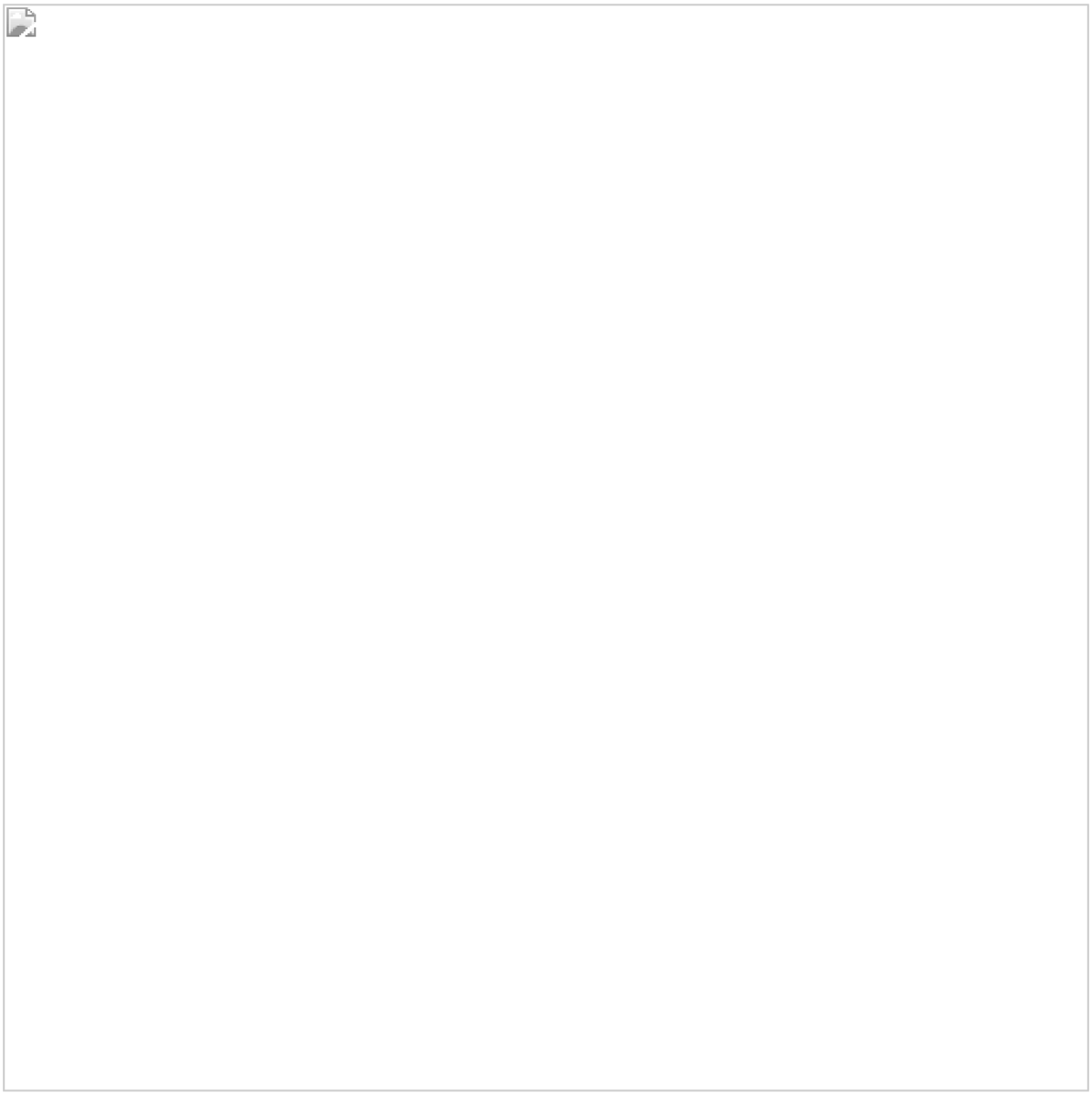


Think about it

1. What was in the net?

- ○ Fish
- ○ A coffer of precious stones
- ○ A golden crown

A Rich Man Who Stayed the Same



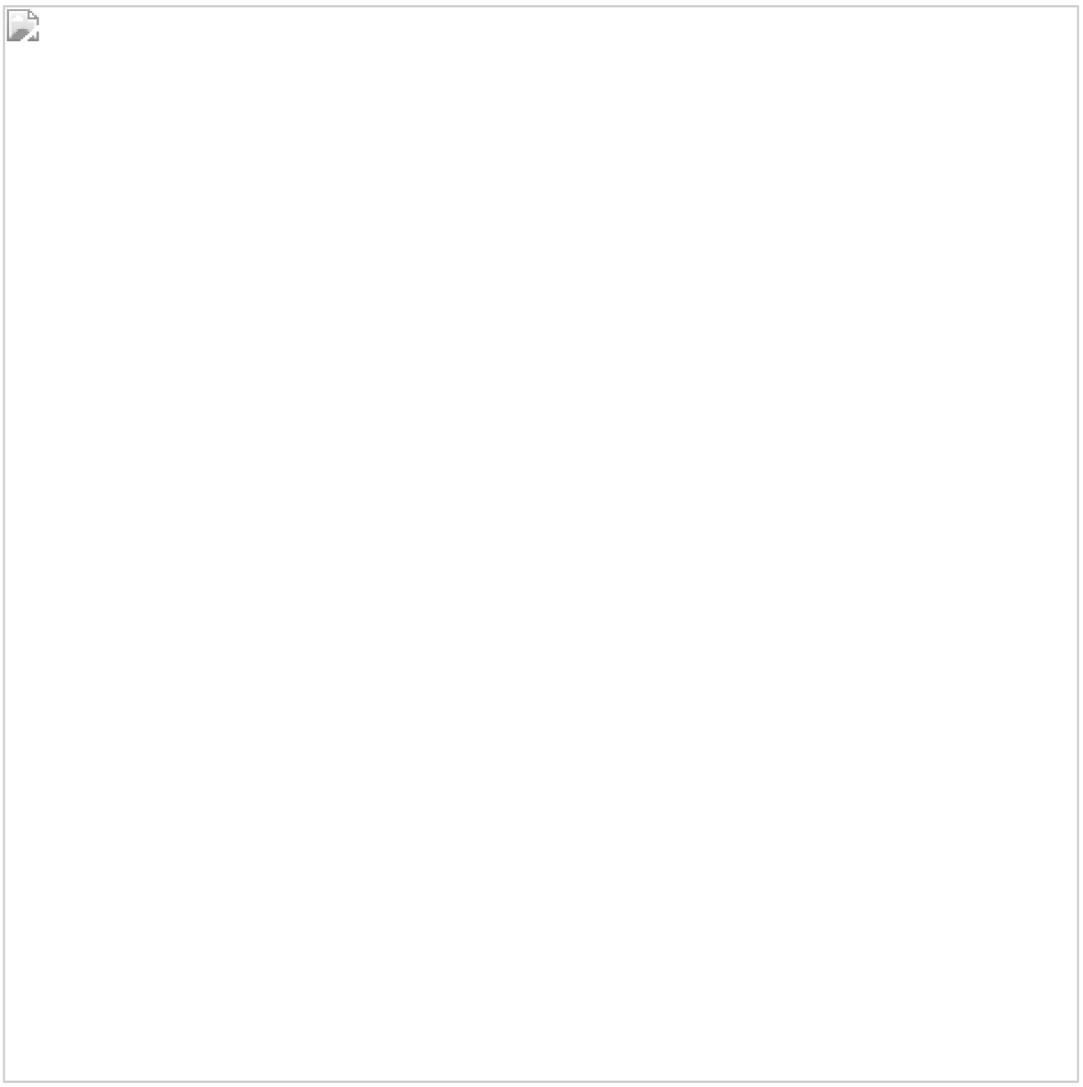
The fishermen gave Sadko a little fish for watching their nets. “And that is my last meal as a poor man,” says Sadko. “Ah me! who knows if I shall be happier?”

He sold a few stones, set up a booth in the market, and was soon one of the richest traders in Novgorod. Now no girl in the town could look too sweetly at Sadko. “A little money, you see, opens everybody's eyes.”

But he was not changed. Home from every voyage he went to the little river, and threw in some little present for her.

TALK ABOUT IT

Sadko was still the same Sadko when he was rich. What do you think made him stay the same?

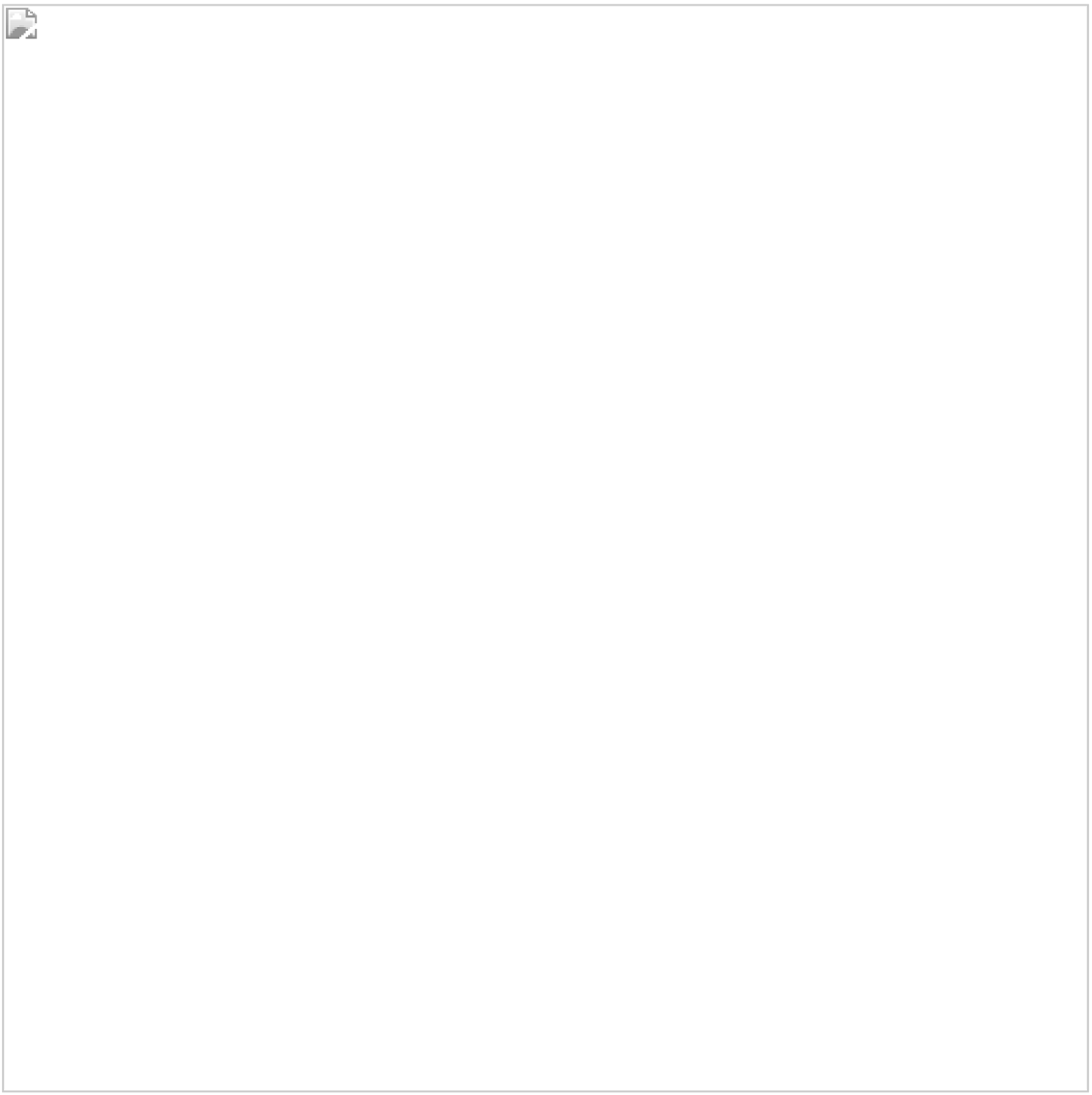


Think about it

1. What did Sadko do with little presents he brought from his voyages?

- ○ Gave them to the fishermen
- ○ Threw them into the river
- ○ Sold them in the market

The Ship That Would Not Move



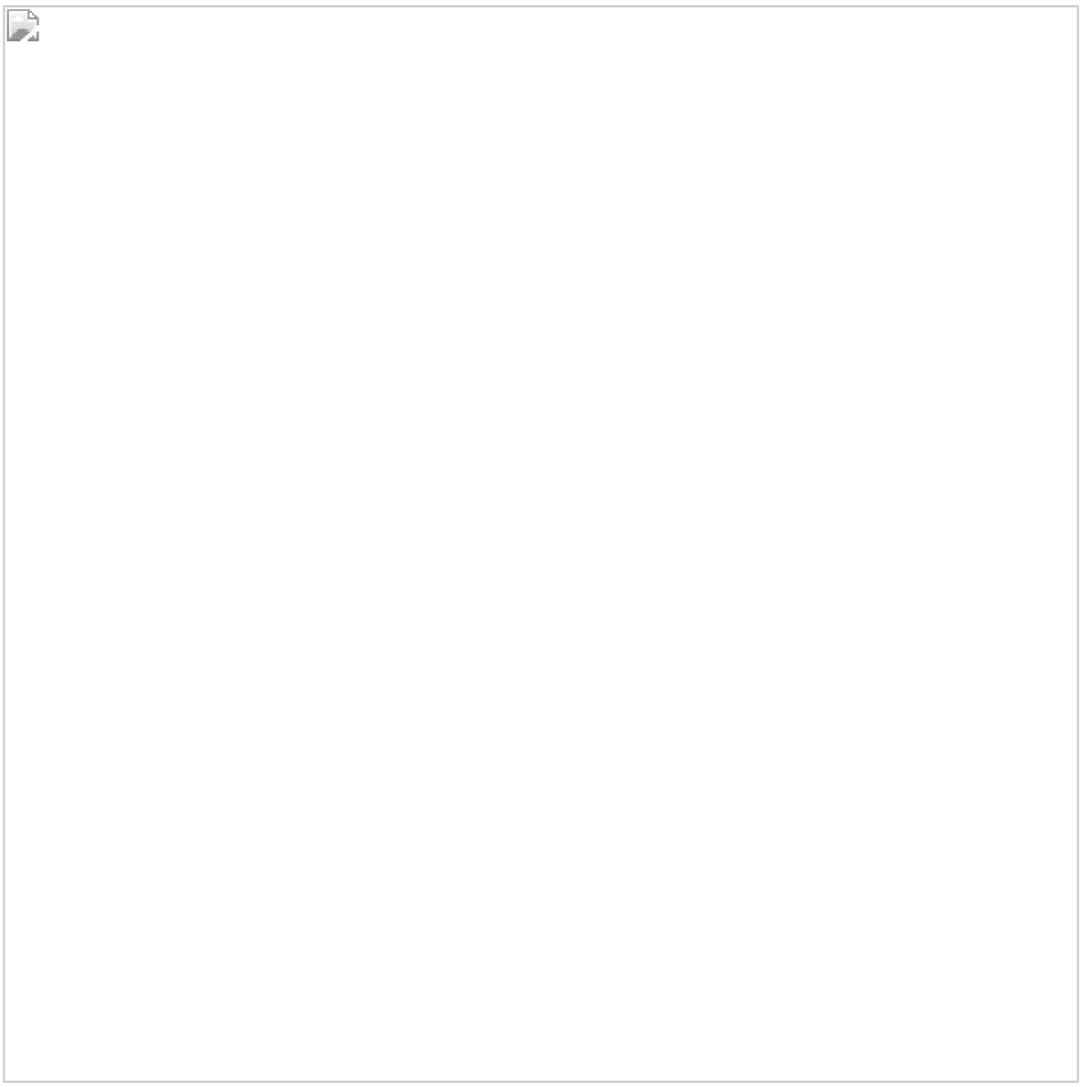
For twelve years Sadko lived unmarried in Novgorod, voyaging and growing richer. Then he was sailing on the Caspian Sea, far away, playing his dulcimer and singing of Novgorod.

Suddenly the ship stopped and trembled in the middle of the sea, as if held by a big hand.

“We are aground!” cry the sailors. The captain said they were not, “unless there is a rock sticking up like a needle in the middle of the Caspian Sea!” “There is magic in this,” say the sailors. They hoisted more sail, but the ship lay shivering and did not move.

TALK ABOUT IT

The ship would not move and nobody knew why. What would you have done?

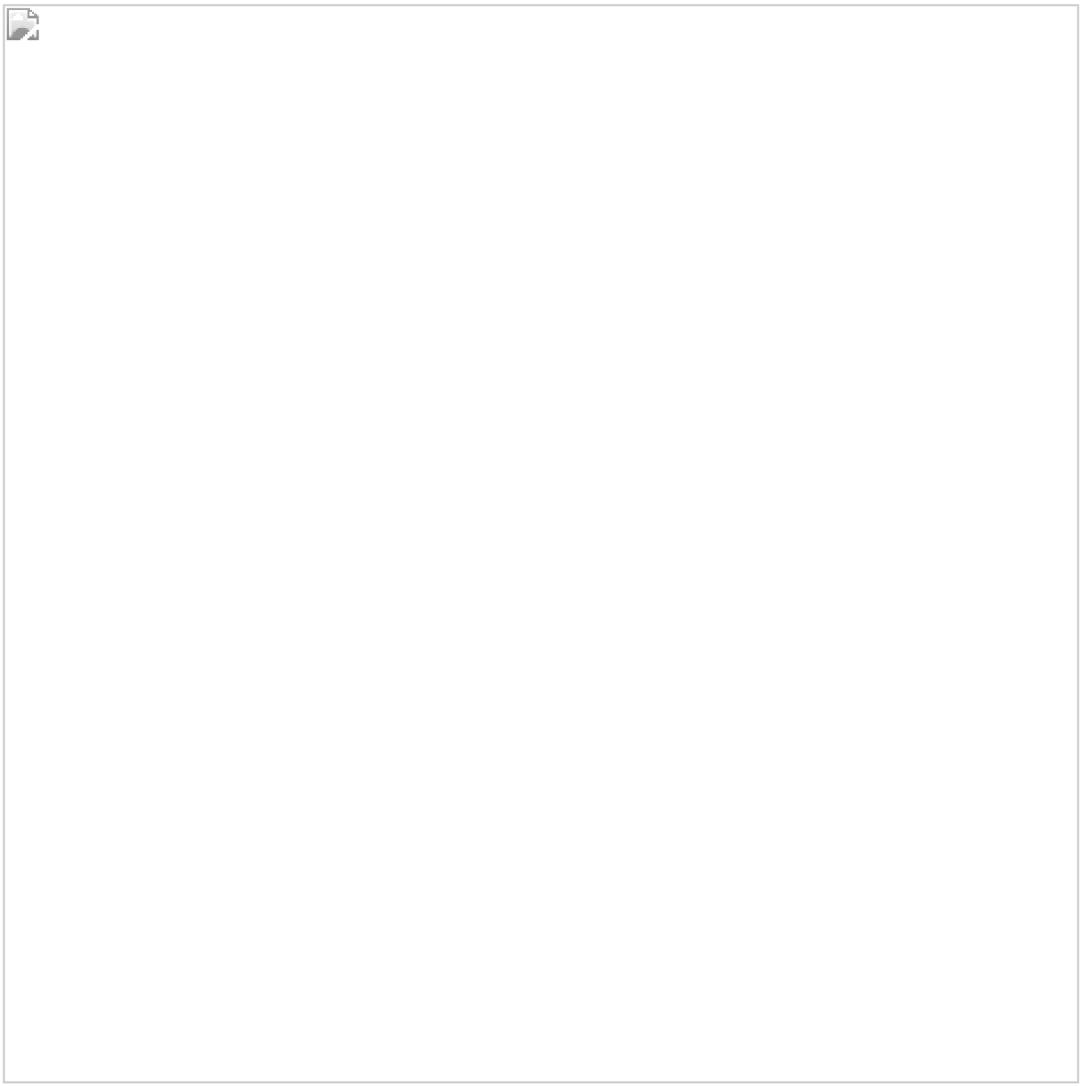


Think about it

1. Where was Sadko when the ship stopped?

- ○ On the Caspian Sea
- ○ At the lake
- ○ In the market

Drawing Lots



“There is an unlucky one aboard,” says an old sailor. “We must draw lots and find him, and throw him overboard into the sea.”

They cut a string for each soul aboard, and one they cut in half. Sadko stopped playing to pluck one, and his was the half.

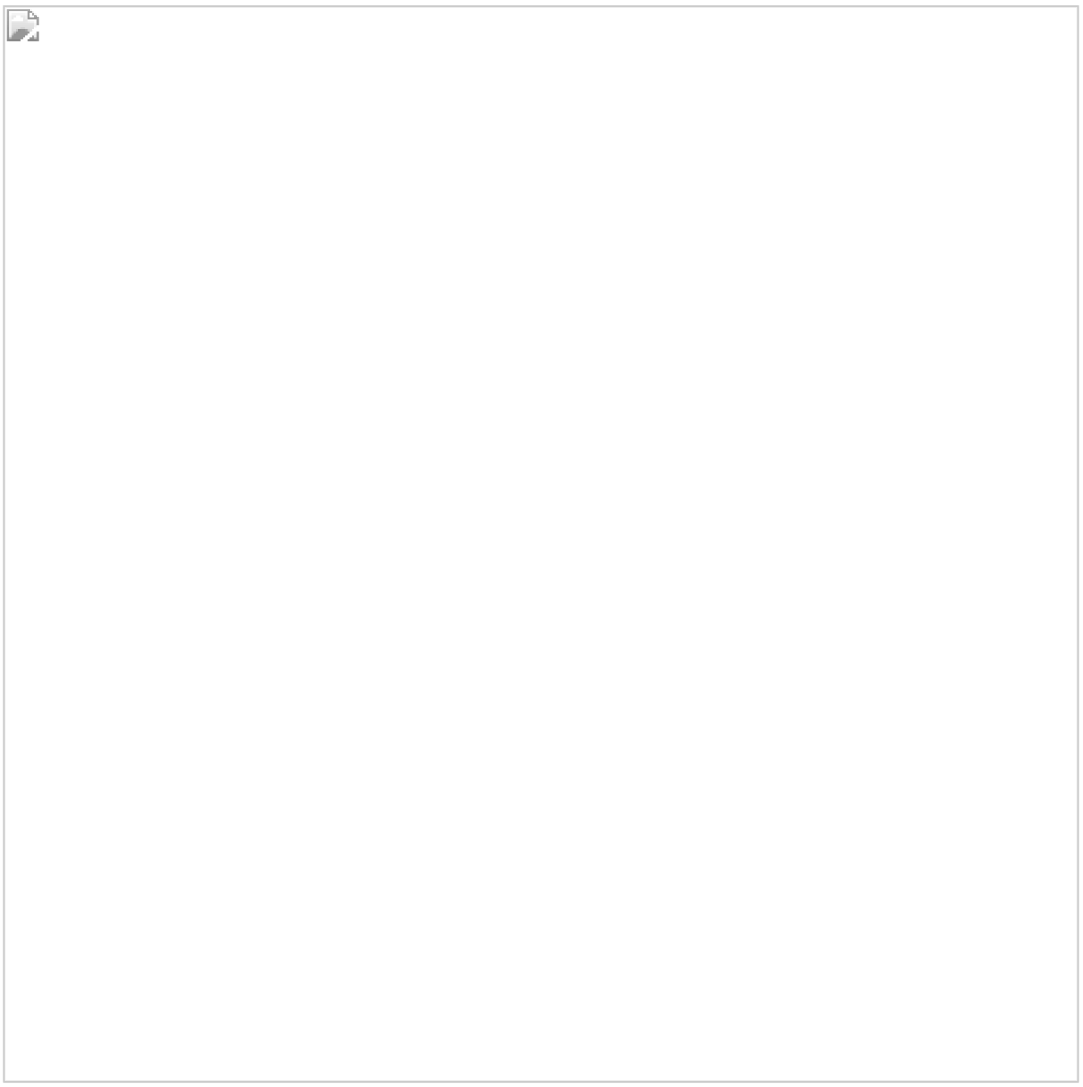
“Not so,” said Sadko, when they shouted unkind names at him. “I remember now an old promise I made, and I keep it willingly.”

He took his dulcimer in his hand and leapt into the blue Caspian Sea. The waves had scarcely closed over his head before the ship shot forward and came safely to her harbour.

TALK ABOUT IT

Sadko remembered a promise he had made years before. Why is it important to keep promises?

Drawing Lots · another picture

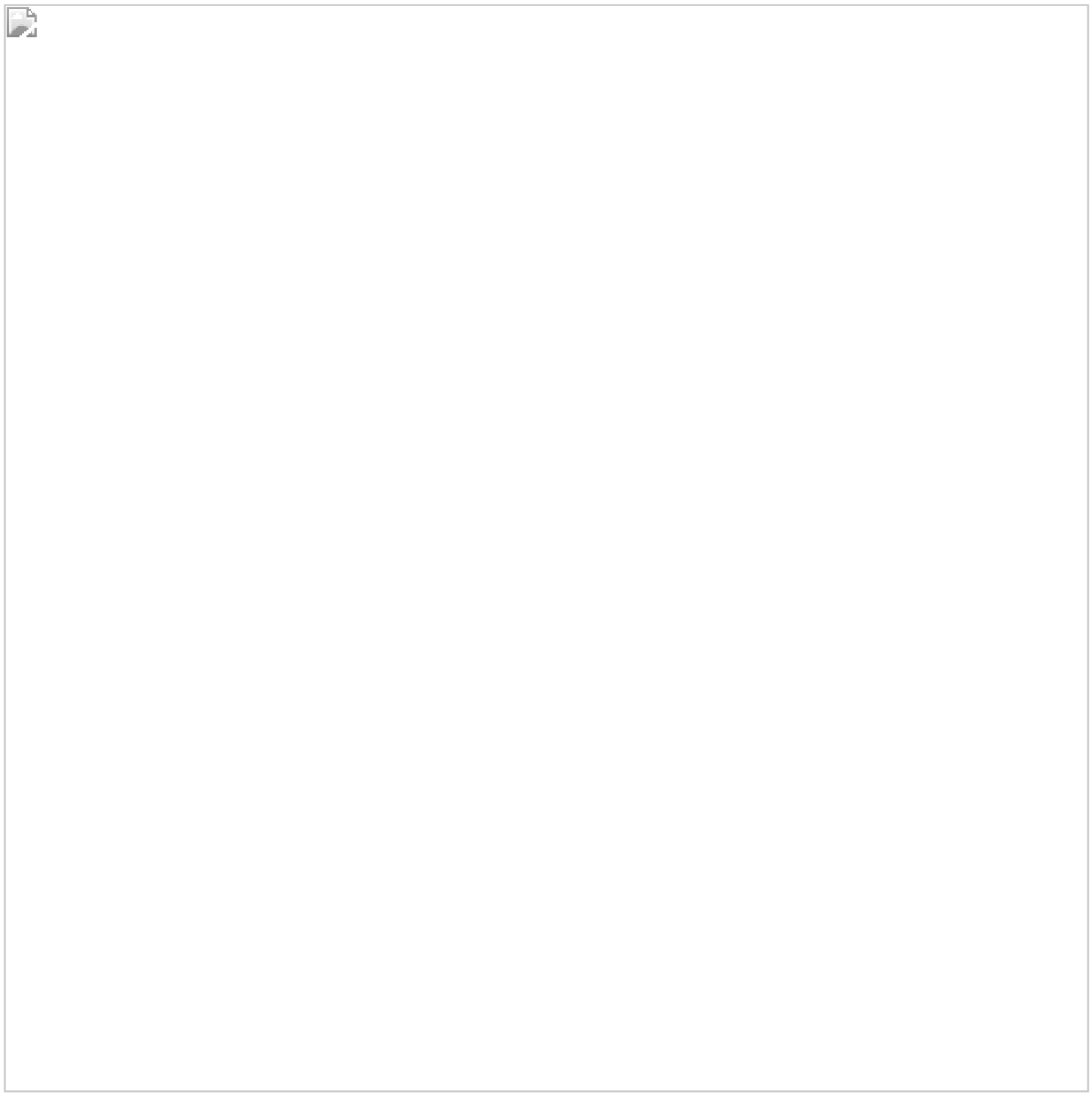


Think about it

1. What did Sadko take with him when he leapt into the sea?

- ○ His dulcimer
- ○ His coffer
- ○ A rope

The Green Palace



Down Sadko sank, like a pebble thrown into a pool, through blue water, then green, past strange fish with goggle eyes, to the bottom of the sea.

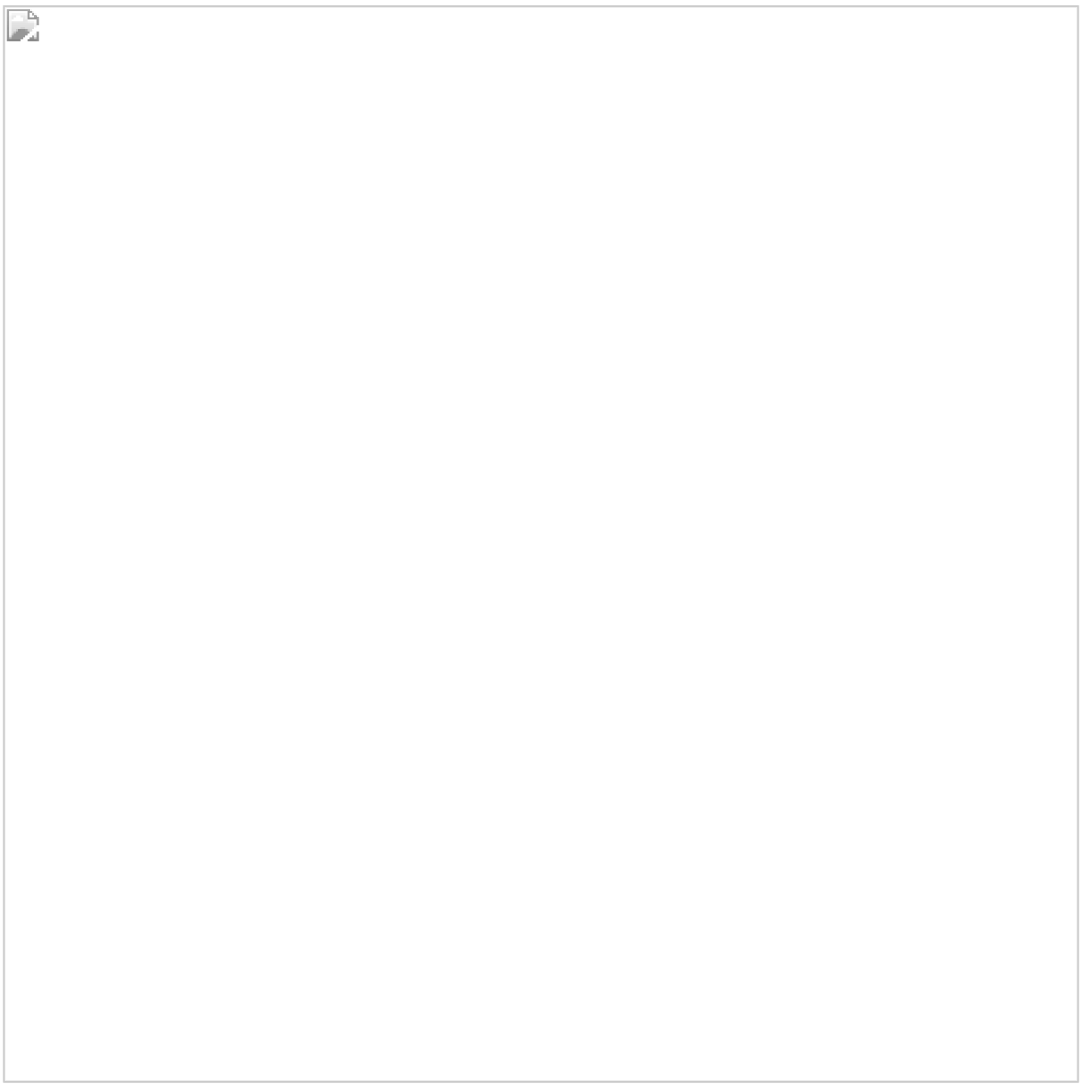
There stood a palace built of green wood. All the timbers of all the ships that have been wrecked in all the seas of the world are in that palace. Two big sturgeons guarded the gates.

In the hall lay the Tzar of the Sea, his crown on his head. “Ah, Sadko,” says the Tzar, “you have been a long time in coming to sing in the palaces of the sea. Twelve years I have lain here waiting for you.”

TALK ABOUT IT

The Tzar had waited twelve years. How do you feel when you have to wait a long time?

The Green Palace · another picture

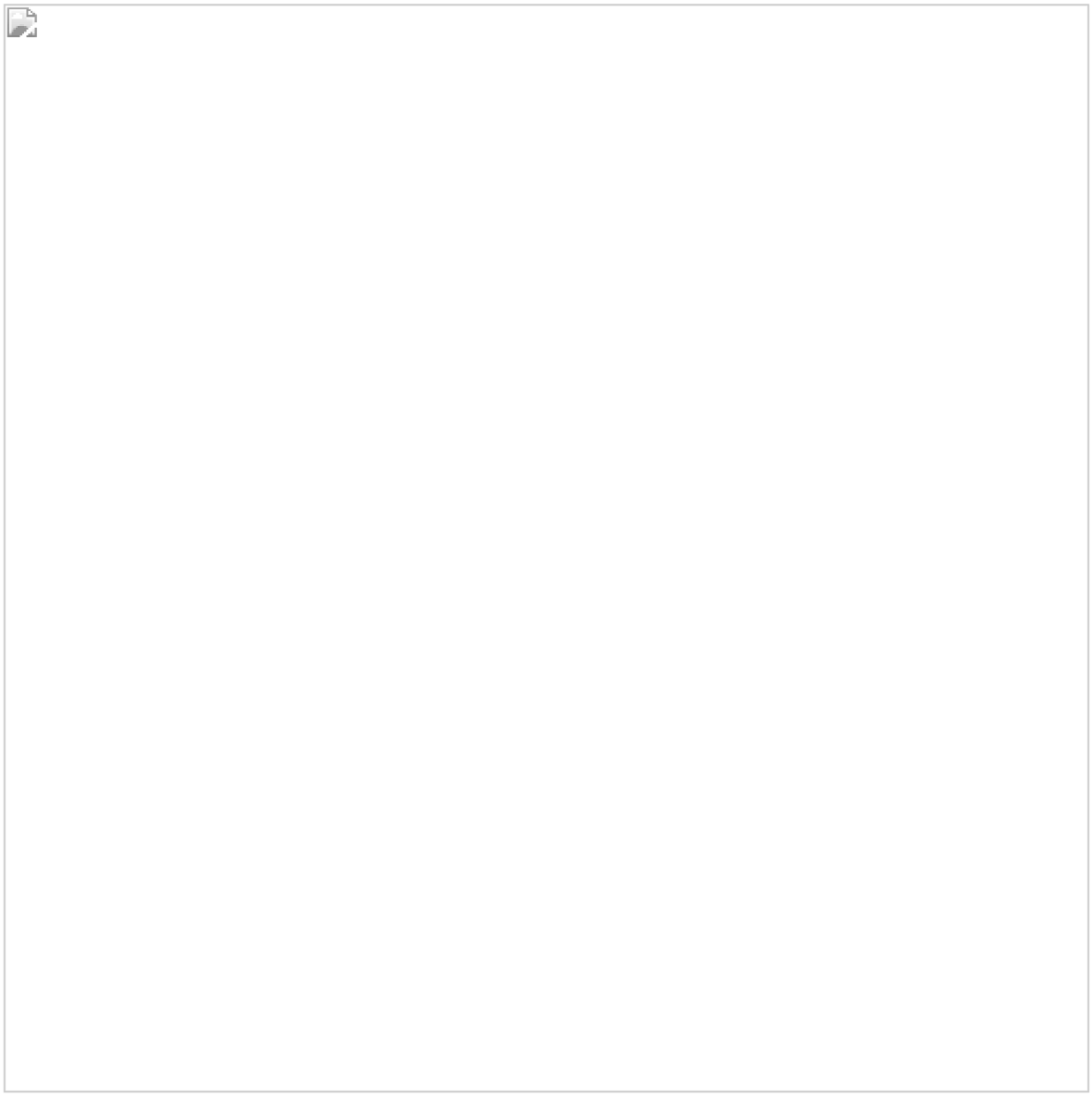


Think about it

1. What was the palace built of?

- ○ Green wood from wrecked ships
- ○ Gold and silver
- ○ Sea glass

The Dance



“Sing now,” says the Tzar of the Sea. Sadko played and sang of Novgorod and of the little river Volkhov which he loved. There was wind over the lake in his song,. “Never had the Tzar of the Sea heard such music.”

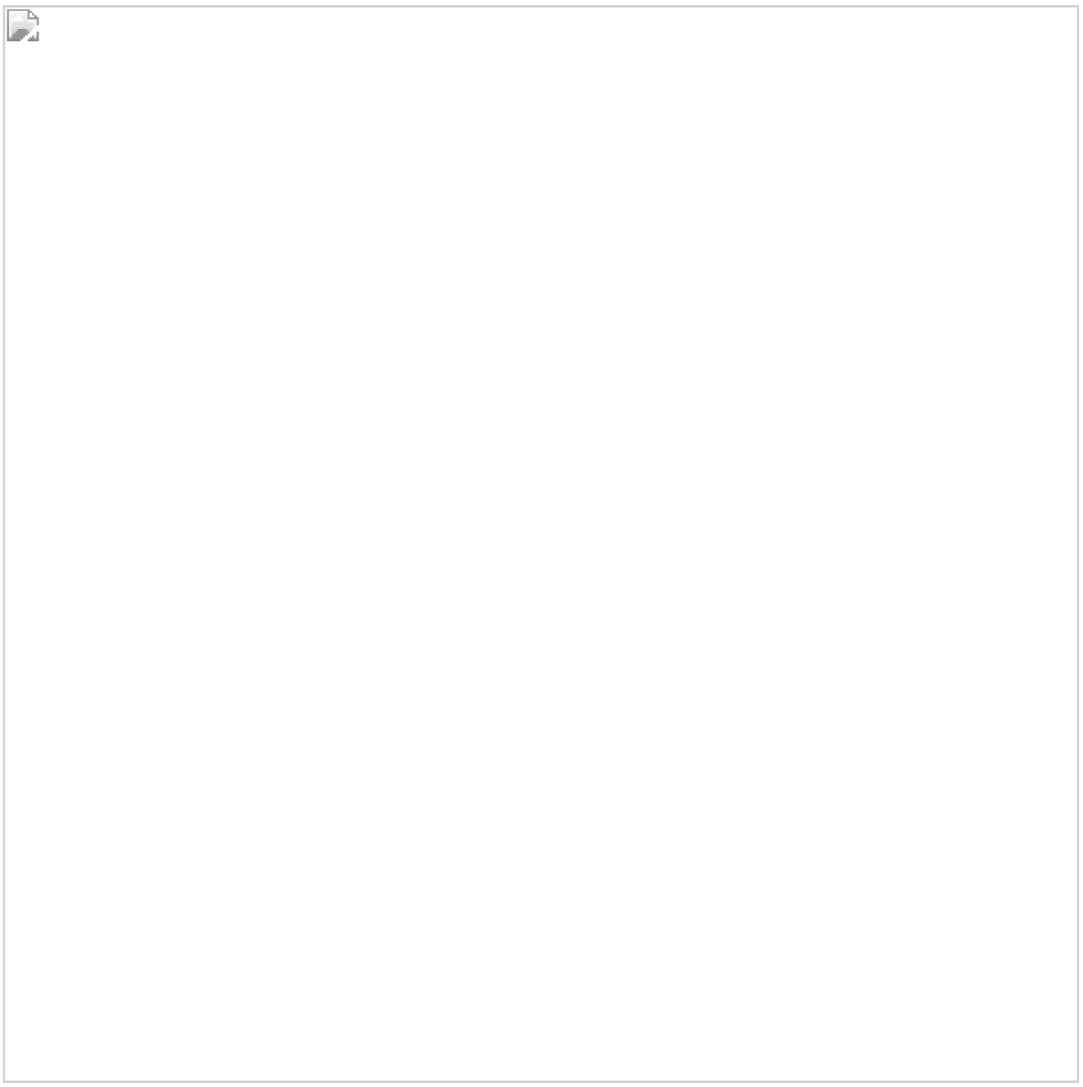
“I would dance,” said the Tzar, and he stood up like a tall tree. Outside he grew huge as a mountain and began to dance. “Great was that dancing. The sea boiled, and ships went down. The waves rolled as big as houses.”

He danced till he was tired. “You have played well and given me pleasure,” he says.

TALK ABOUT IT

Sadko's song made a giant dance. What song or music makes you want to move?

The Dance · another picture

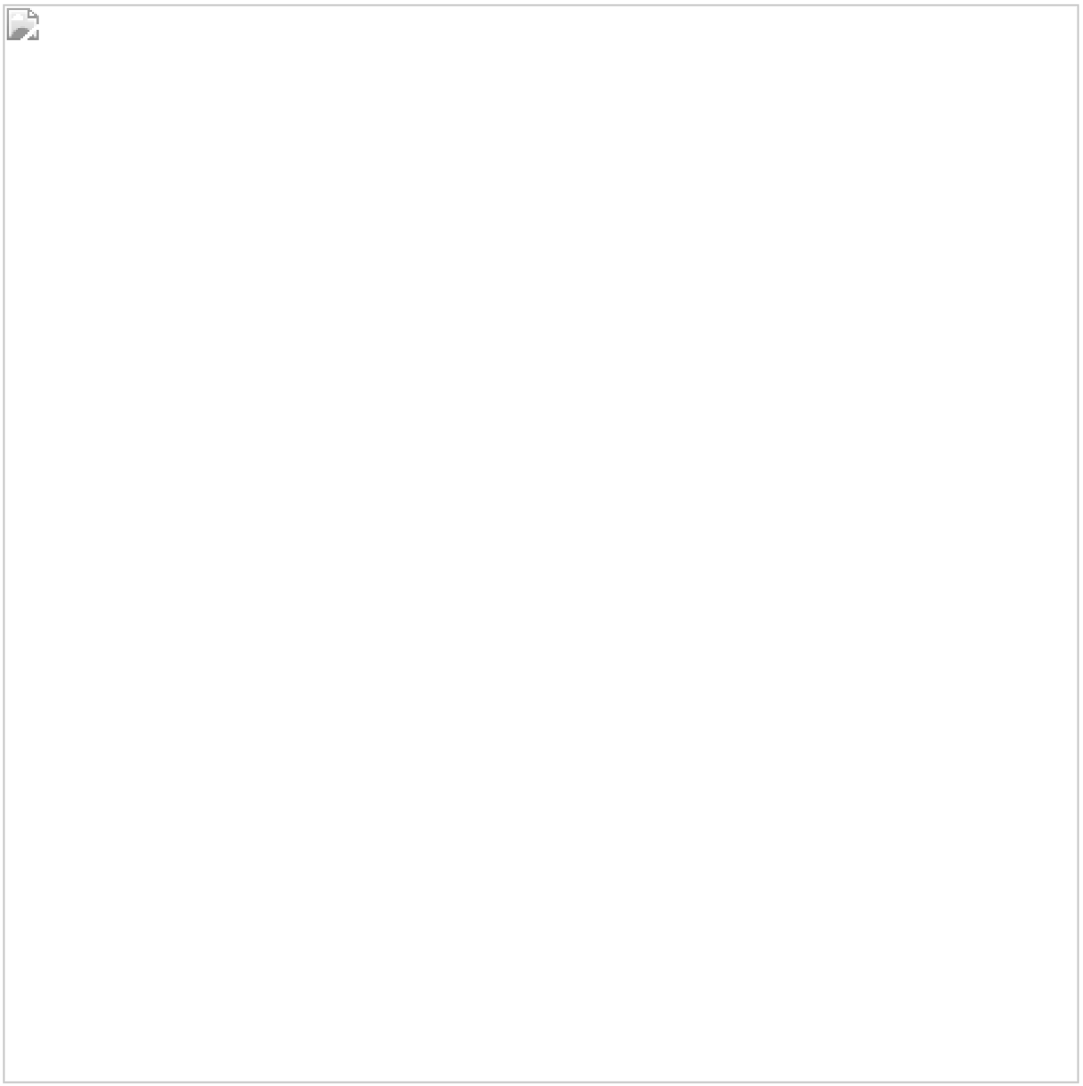


Think about it

1. What did Sadko sing about?

- ○ Gold and jewels
- ○ Novgorod and the little river Volkhov
- ○ The Caspian Sea

Thirty Daughters



“I have thirty daughters,” says the Tzar of the Sea, “and you shall choose one and marry her, and be a Prince of the Sea.” “Better than all maidens I love my little river,” says Sadko.

Twenty-nine daughters passed by, and Sadko thought of his little river.

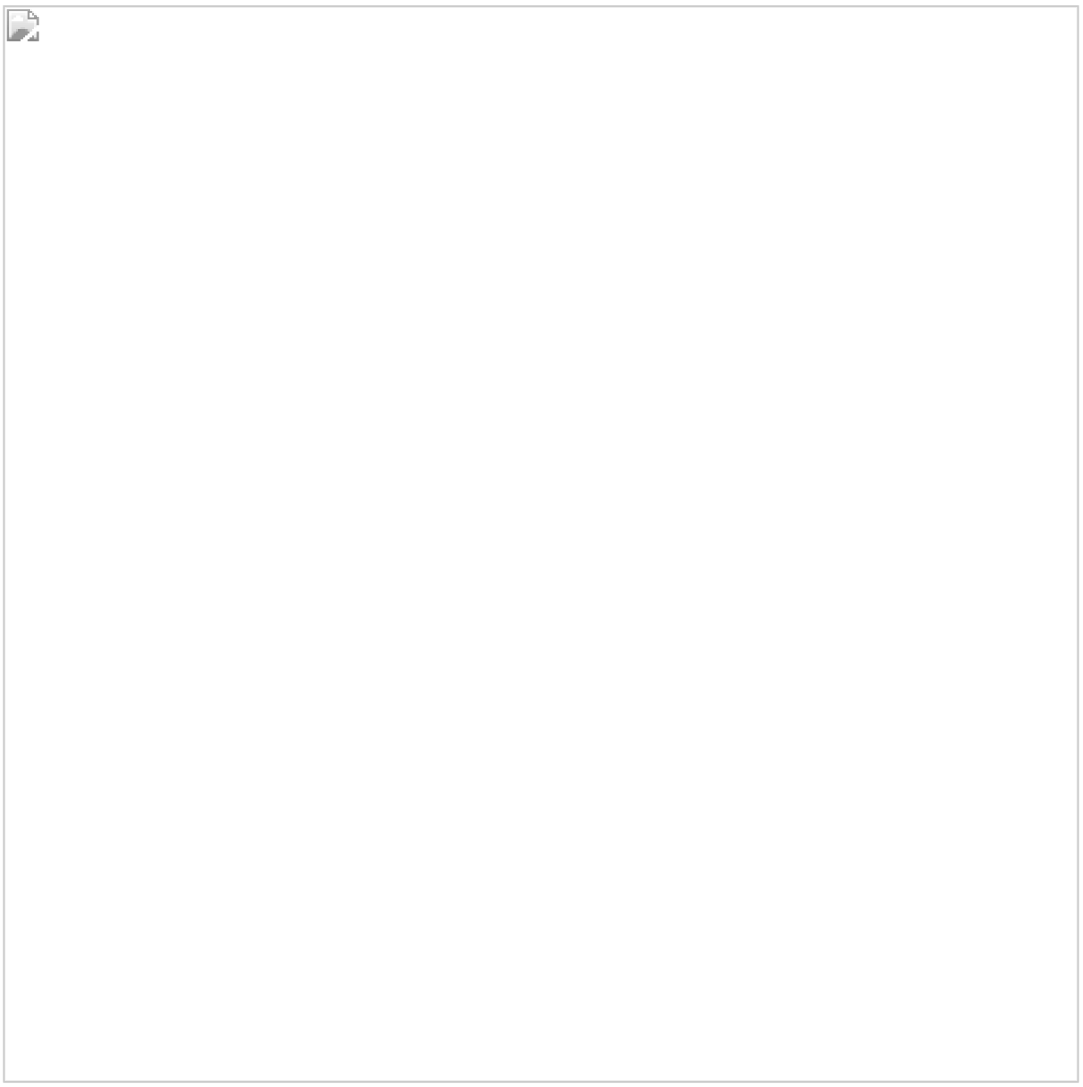
In came the thirtieth, and Sadko cried, “Here is the only maiden in the world as pretty as my little river!” Her eyes shone like stars.

“What is the name of your little river?” says the Tzar. “The little river Volkhov,” says Sadko. “It is a strange thing,” says the Tzar, “but Volkhov is the name of my youngest daughter.”

TALK ABOUT IT

Sadko only had to say what he loved, and it turned out the same. What do you love that you would sing about?

Thirty Daughters · another picture

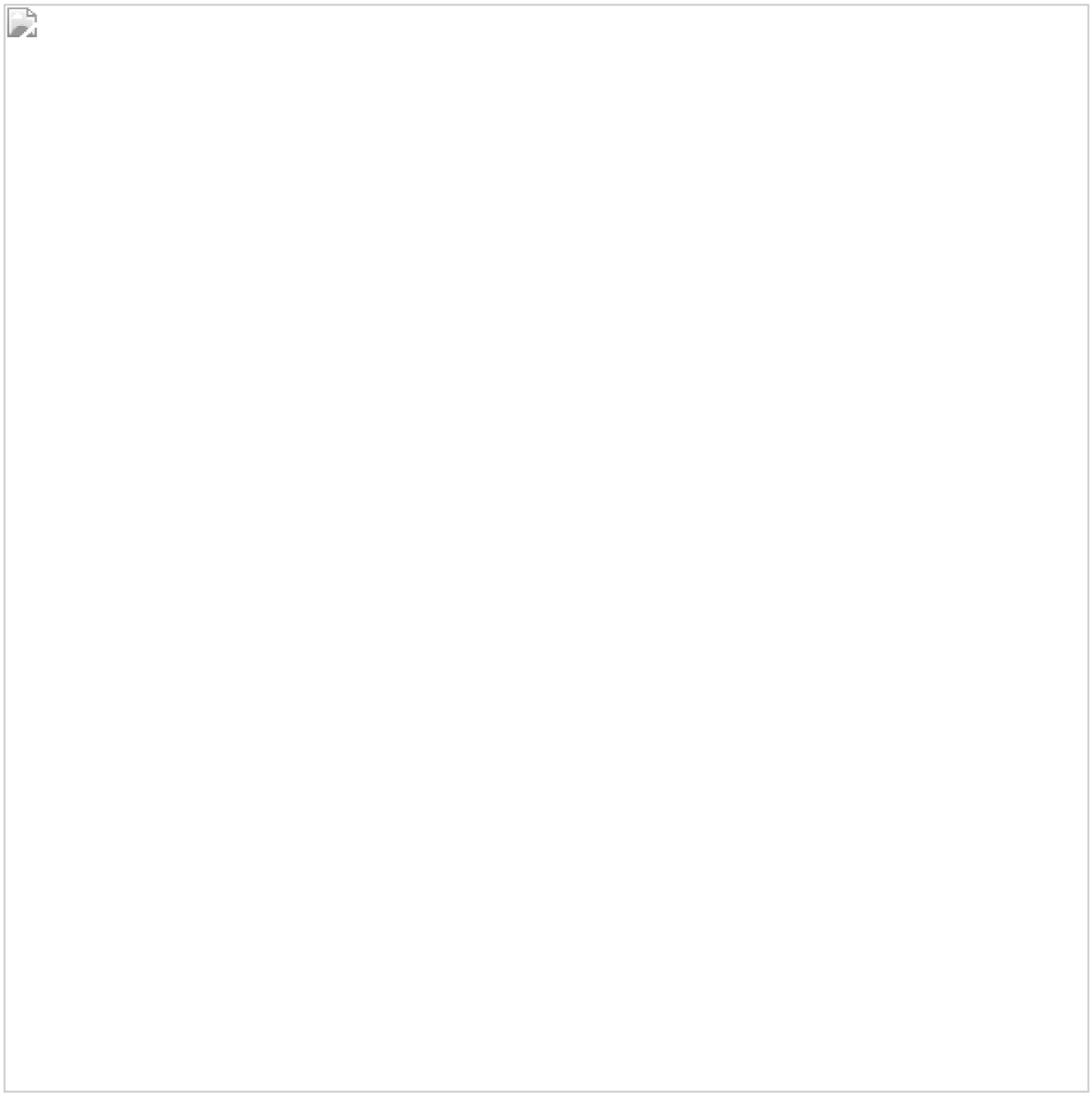


Think about it

1. What was the name of the Tzar's youngest daughter?

- ○ Volkhov
- ○ Maroosia
- ○ Novgorod

The Presents in the Coffer



The Tzar put Sadko's hand in the hand of his youngest daughter. Sadko saw a necklace round her neck and knew it for one he had thrown into the river as a present for his sweetheart.

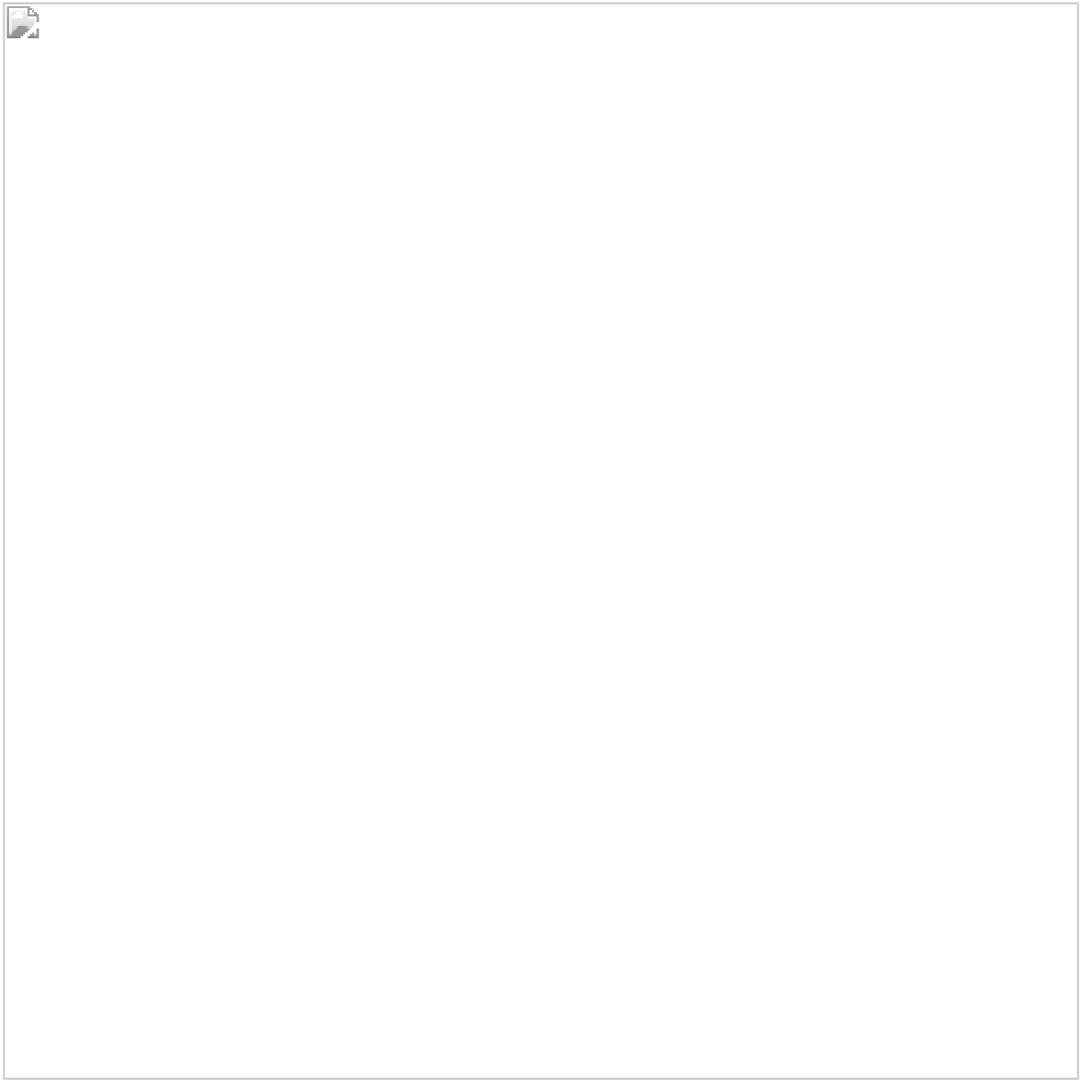
“Come!” says she, and took him to a palace of her own and showed him a coffer. In it were bracelets and rings and earrings, all the gifts that he had thrown into the river.

Sadko laughed for joy. “O my little river!” says he. Well, they were married, and the Tzar of the Sea laughed at the wedding feast till the palace shook.

TALK ABOUT IT

Every present Sadko threw into the river had reached her. What do you think of that?

The Presents in the Coffer · another picture

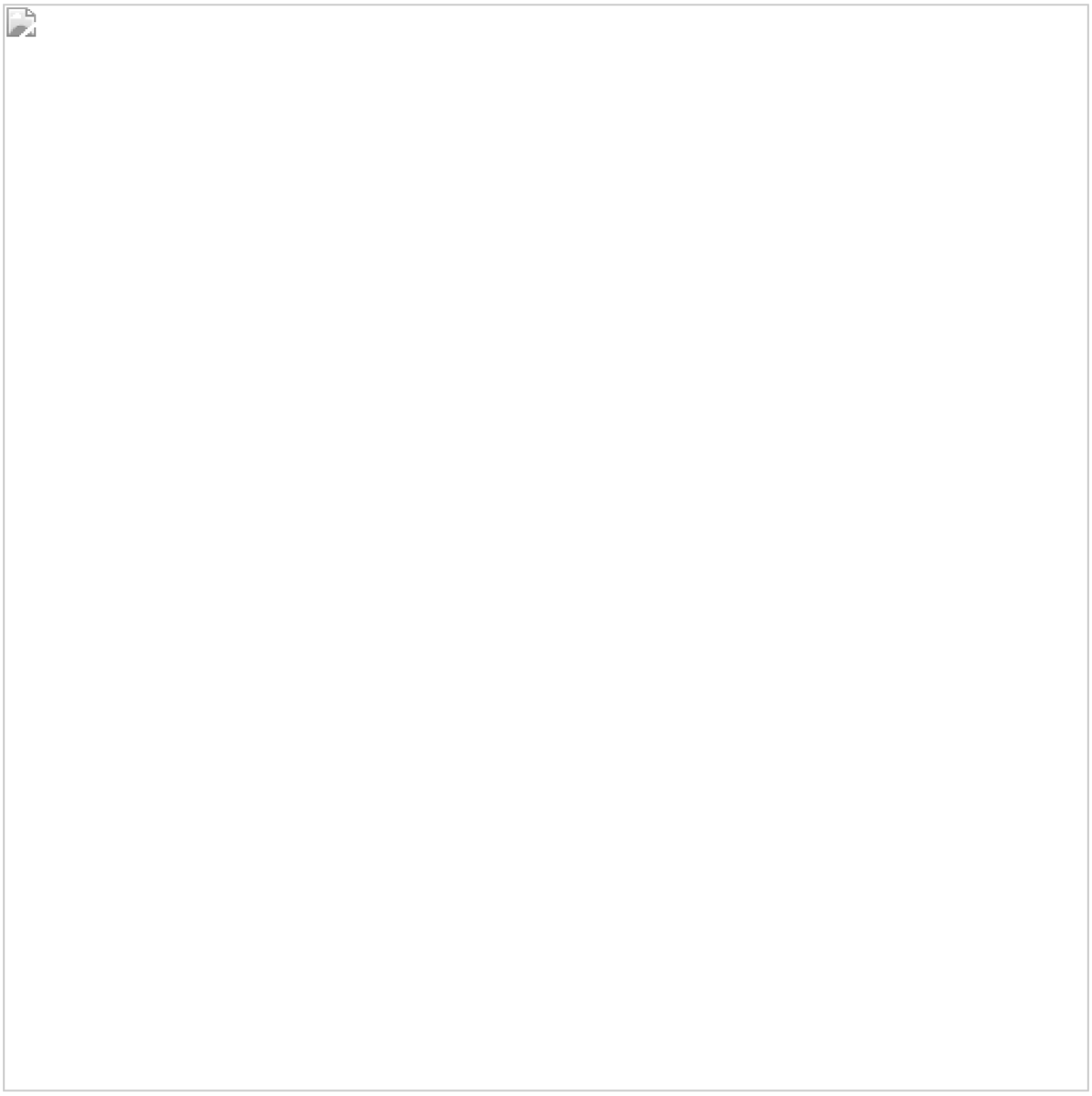


Think about it

1. What did the Tzar's daughter keep in her coffer?

- ○ Pearls from the sea
- ○ The gifts Sadko had thrown into the river
- ○ Her father's crown

Under the Walls of Novgorod

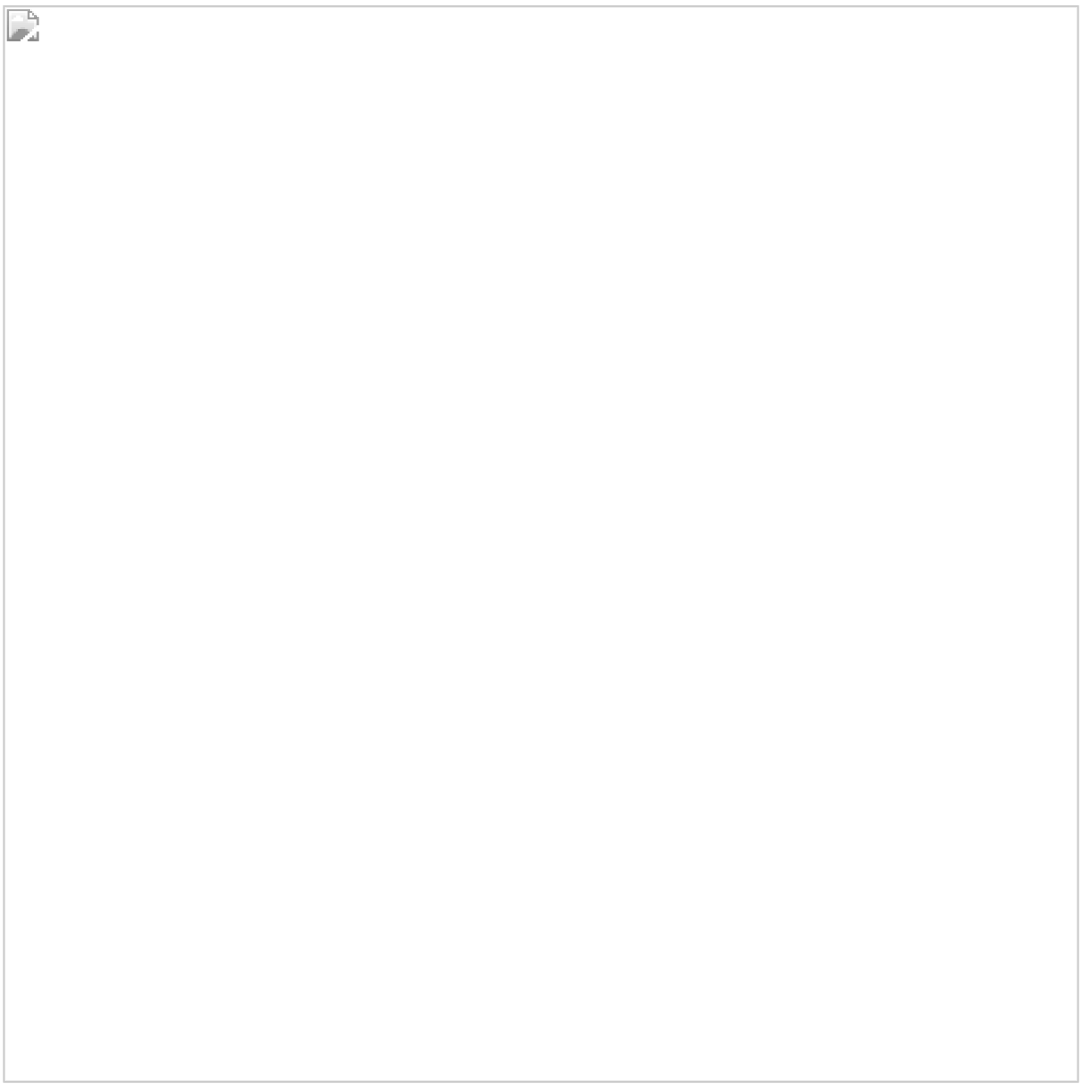


Before they slept, she kissed him very tenderly. “O Sadko, you will not forget me? You will play to me sometimes, and sing?” “I shall never lose sight of you, my pretty one,” says he; “and as for music, I will sing and play all the day long.” “That's as may be,” says she, and they fell asleep.

In the middle of the night Sadko turned in bed and touched the Princess with his left foot, and she was cold as ice in January. He woke lying under the walls of Novgorod, his dulcimer in his hand, one foot in the little river Volkhov, and the moon shining.

TALK ABOUT IT

Sadko woke by the river with his dulcimer. How do you think he felt?

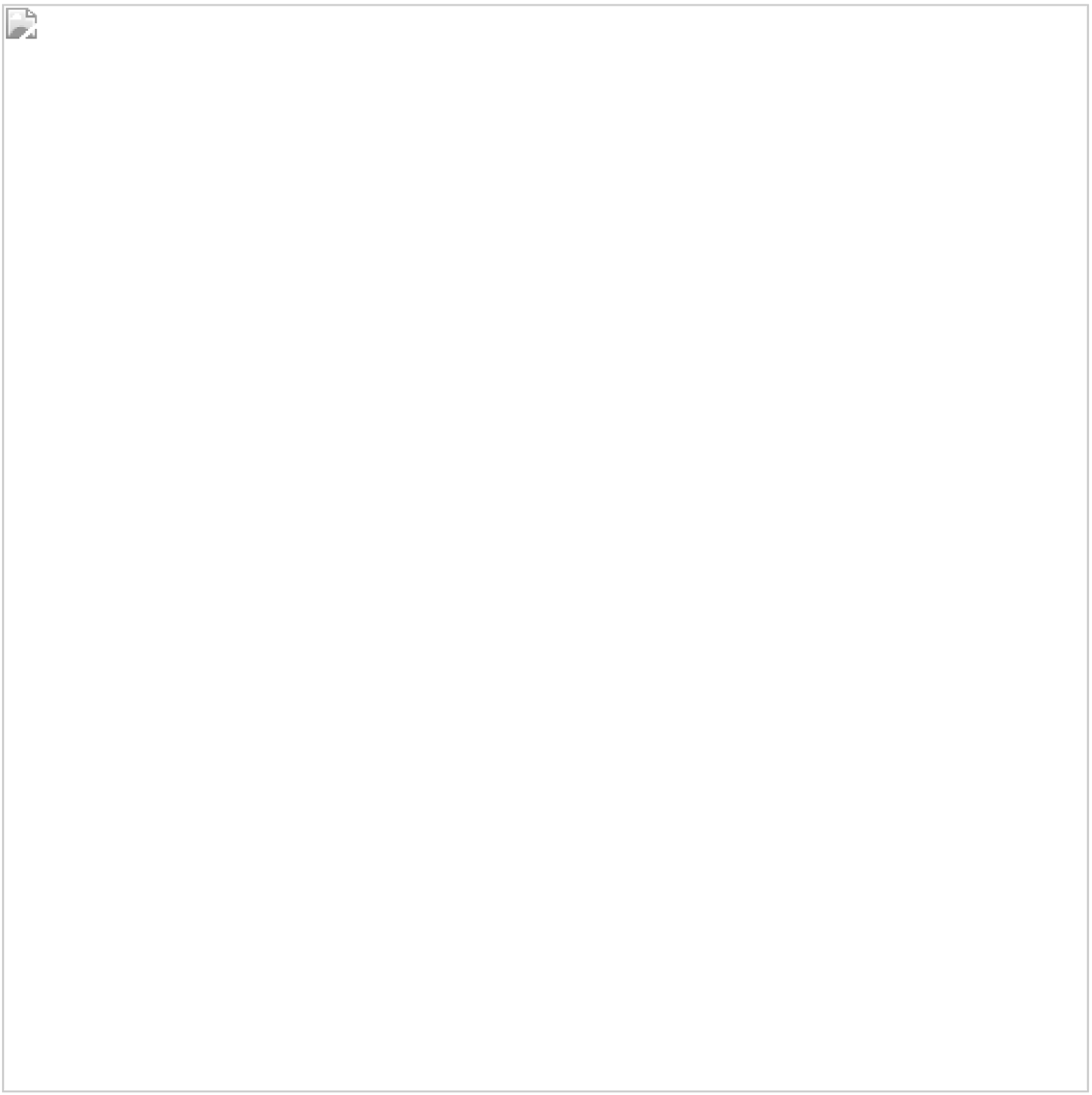


Think about it

1. Where did Sadko wake up?

- ○ On the ship
- ○ Under the walls of Novgorod
- ○ At the bottom of the sea

What Happened After



“There are many tales,” said old Peter. “Some say he went into the town, and lived on alone until he died.

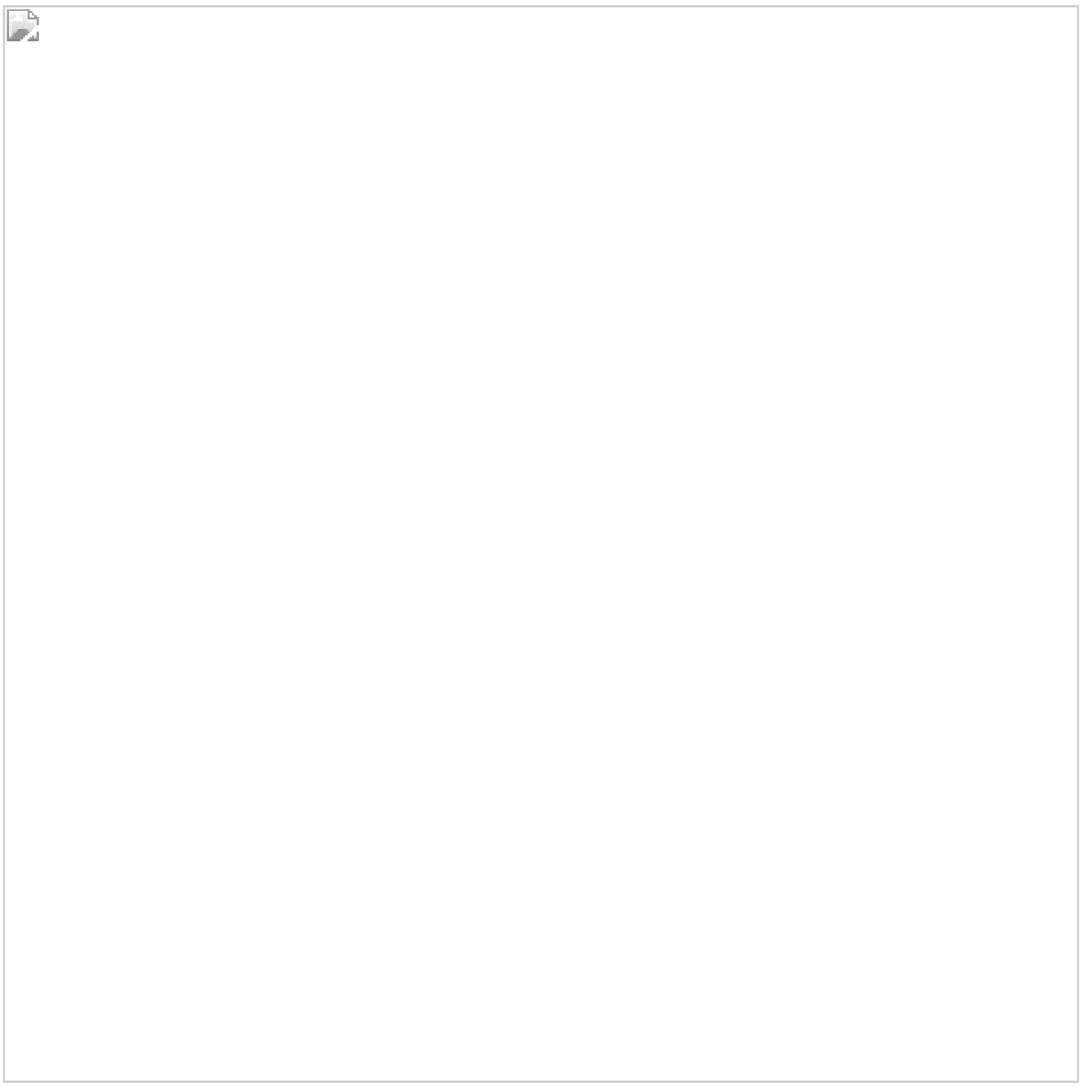
But I think with those who say that he took his dulcimer and swam out into the middle of the river, and sank under water again, looking for his little Princess. They say he found her, and lives still in the green palaces of the bottom of the sea.

When there is a big storm, you may know that Sadko is playing on his dulcimer and singing, and that the Tzar of the Sea is dancing his tremendous dance down there, on the bottom, under the waves.”

TALK ABOUT IT

Which ending do you like best for Sadko, and why?

What Happened After · another picture



Think about it

1. What do people say a big storm means?

- ○ The Tzar of the Sea is dancing to Sadko's music
- ○ A ship is lost
- ○ The river is angry

2. Who do you think Sadko loved most, the river or the girl? Why?

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

— Yeshua HaMashiach

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