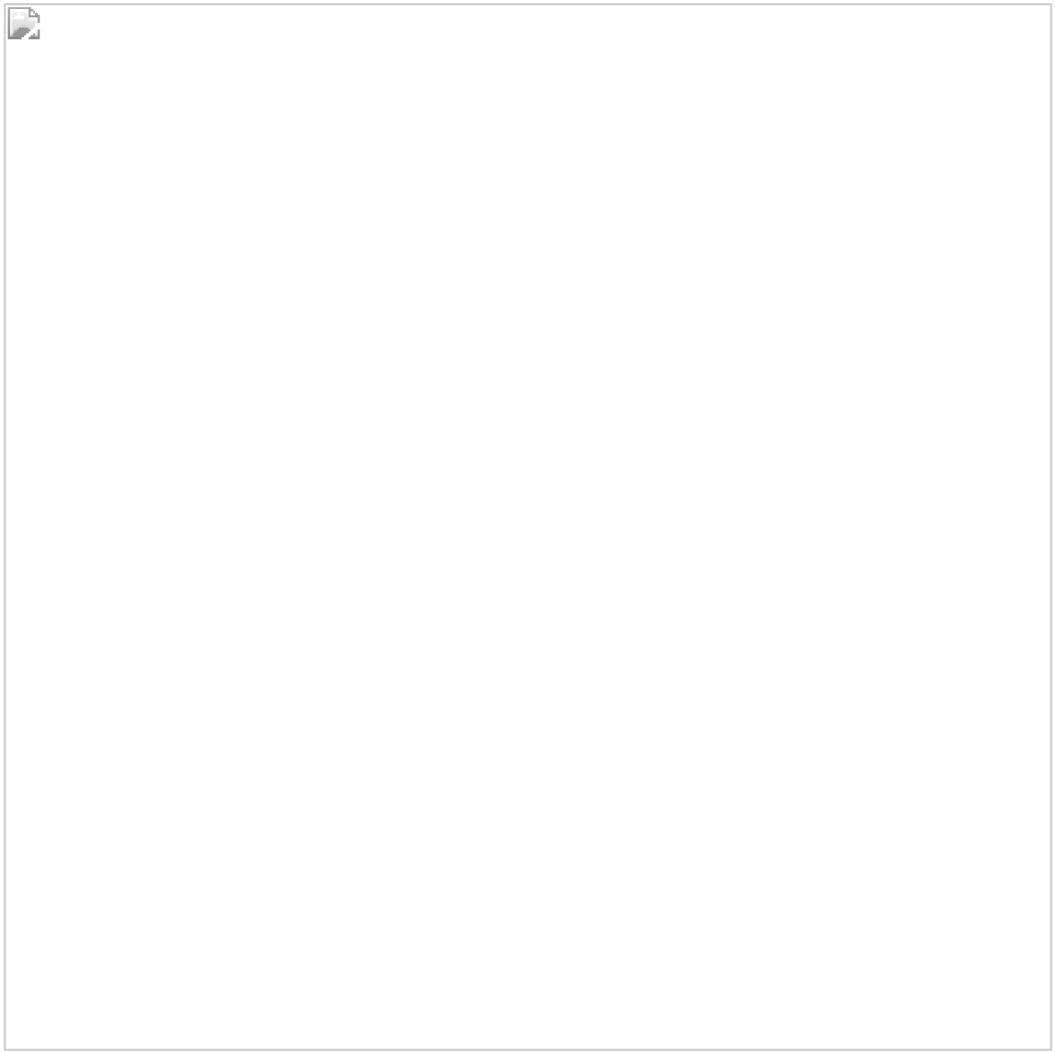
COLORING THE CLASSICS

The Gifts of the Dwarfs

A Norse Myth



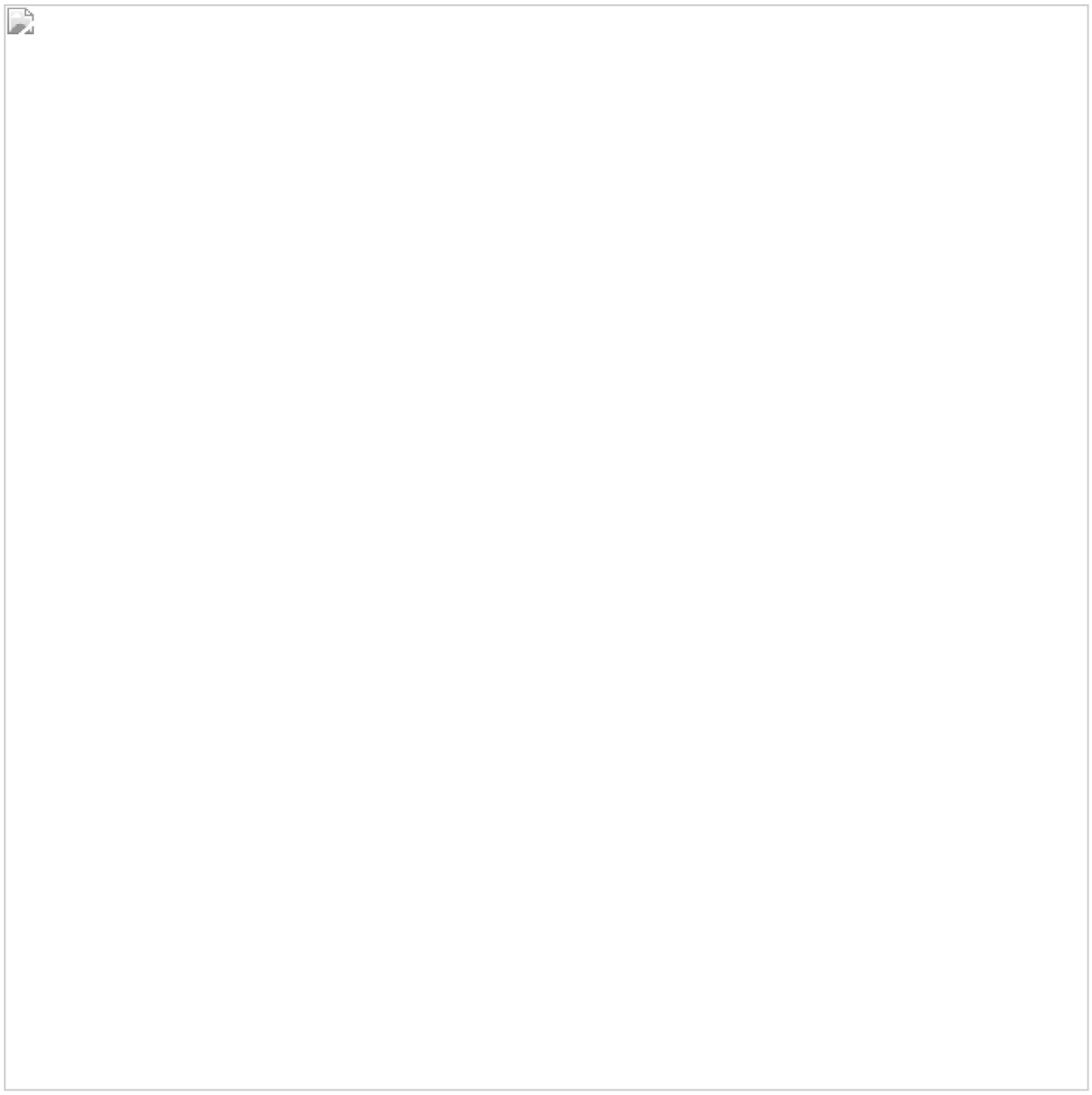
Long ago in the far North lived Thor, the strongest and noblest of the great ones, with a long red beard that waved through the sky as he rode in his chariot pulled by two goats.

TALK ABOUT IT

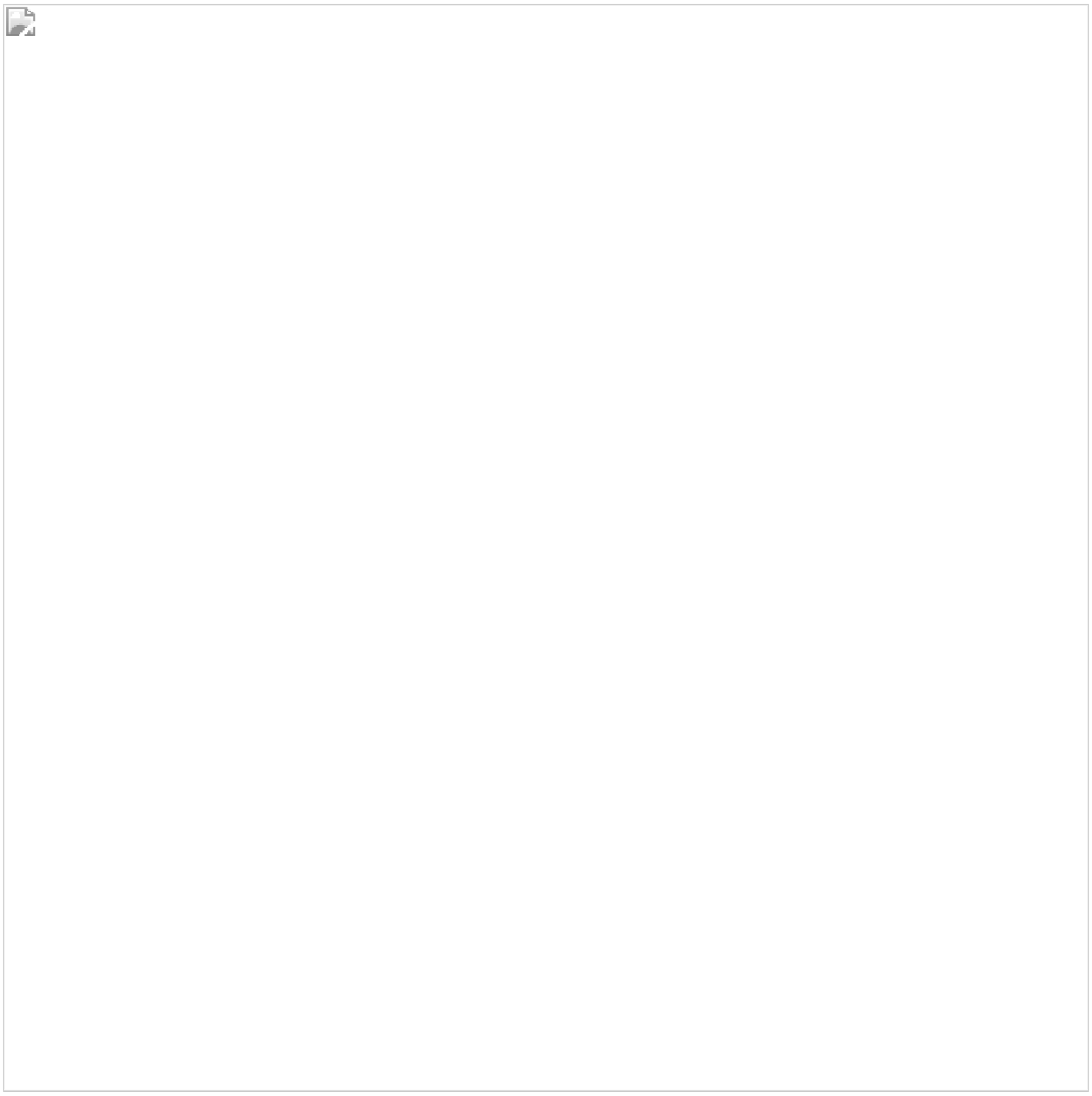
Thor rode through the sky in a chariot pulled by goats. What would you want to ride in, and where would you go?

This book belongs to _____

The Gifts of the Dwarfs · another picture



Thor and Sib



Thor had fiery brown eyes, and when he was angry, sparks flew from his goats' hooves.

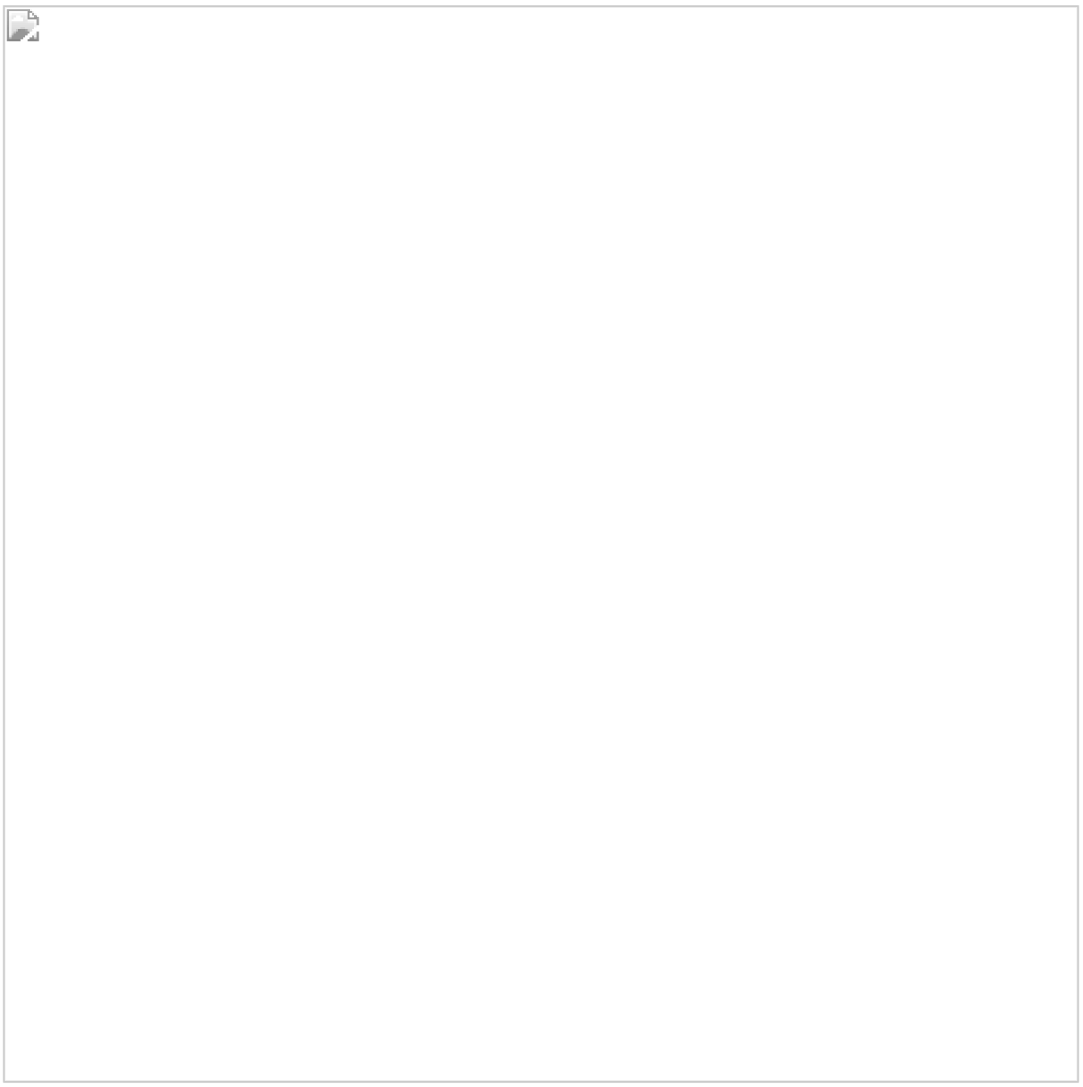
When Thor was angry, his chariot wheels rumbled and crashed, and people trembled and said that Thor had gone to battle.

Thor's wife was Sib. Her hair was thick and golden-brown, so long it covered her from head to feet. Everyone who knew her spoke well of her, and her eyes looked at her friends the way a mother looks at a child.

TALK ABOUT IT

Sib was loved by everyone who knew her. What do you think makes a person easy to love?

Thor and Sib · another picture

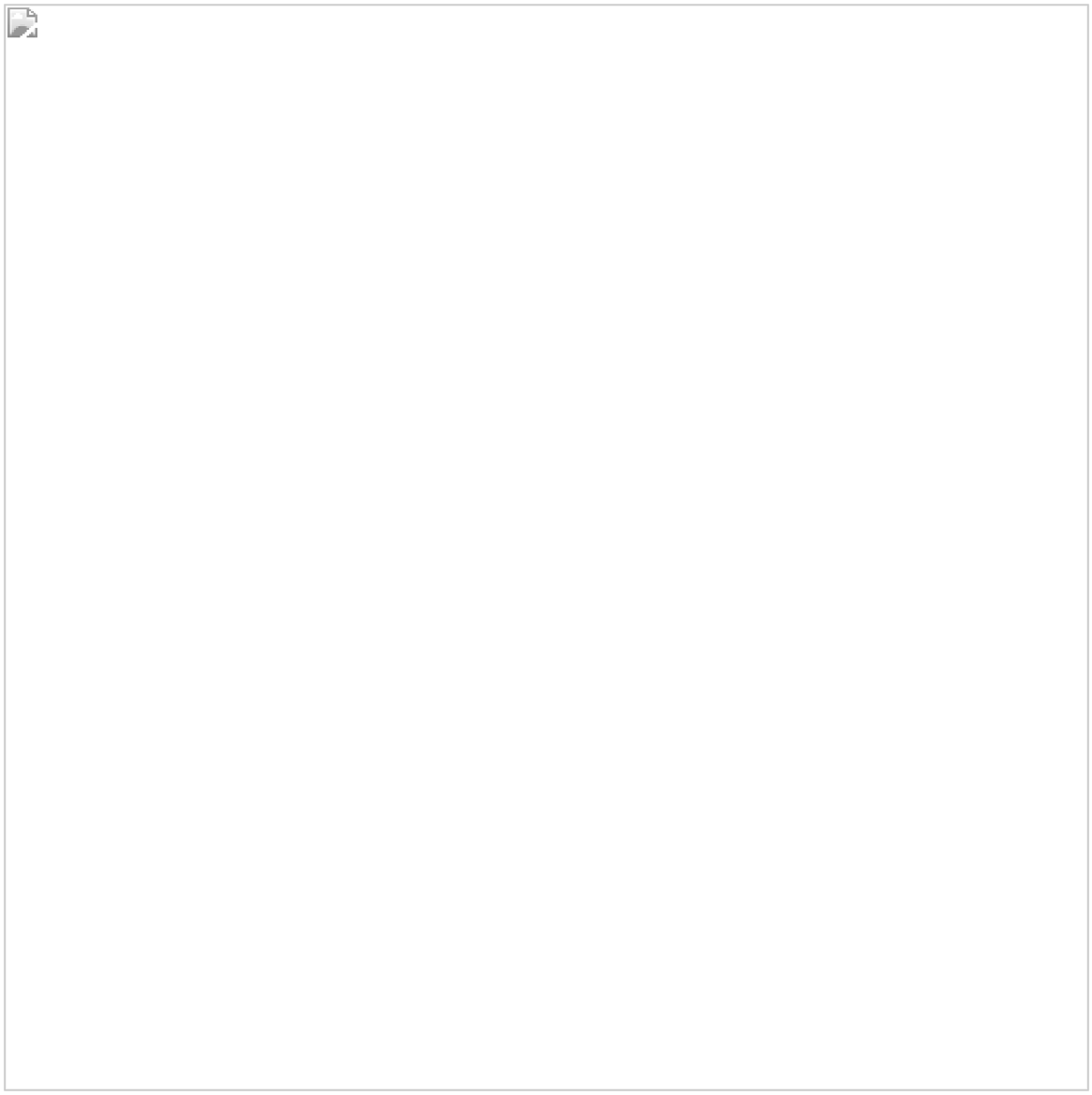


Think about it

1. How did Thor travel across the sky?

- ○ On a white horse
- ○ In a chariot pulled by goats
- ○ On a cloud

Loki's Unkind Trick



Now Loki was the mischief-maker. He looked at Sib and could not bear it that everyone loved her so.

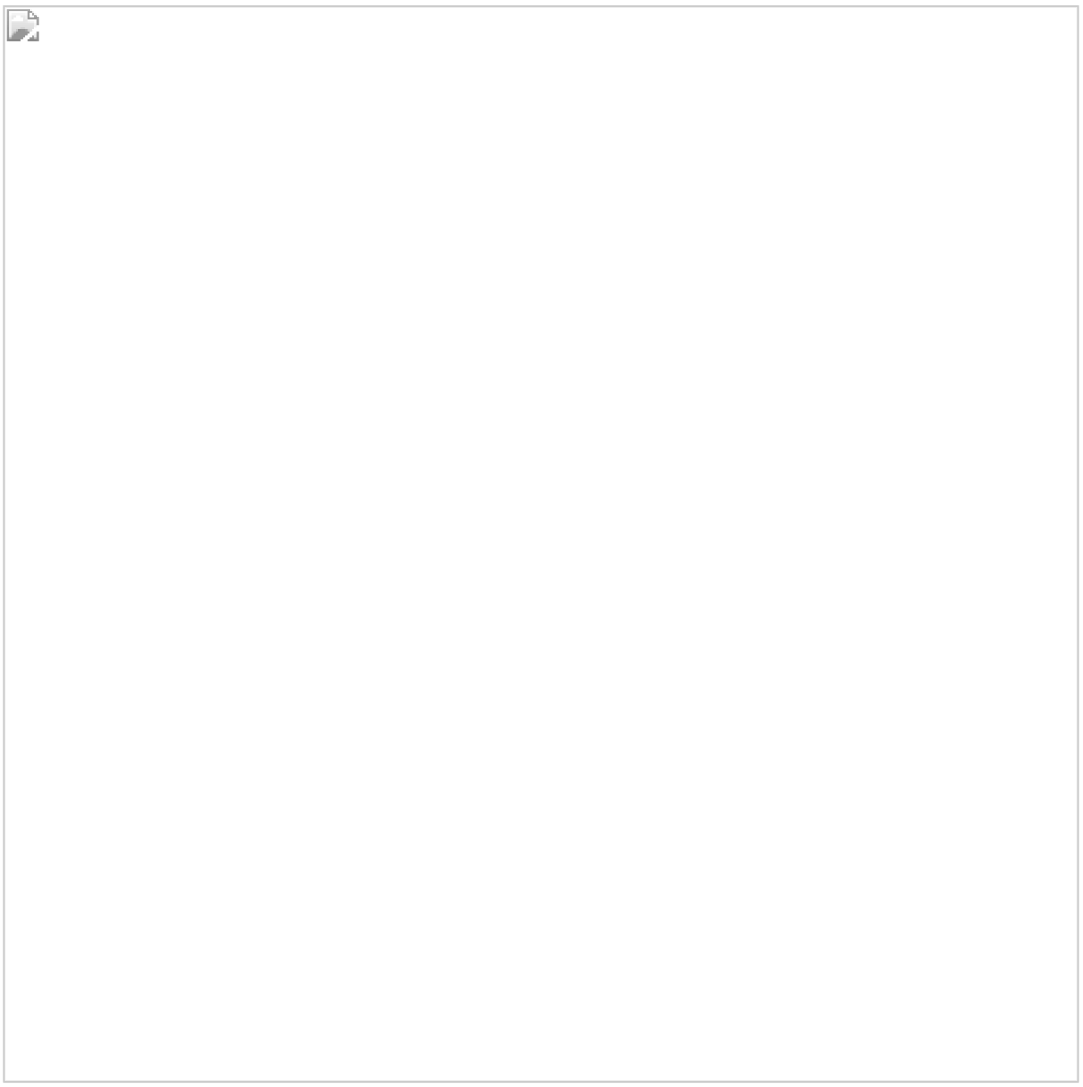
One late summer day, he found Sib asleep on a riverbank. Creeping close, he cut off all her long golden hair.

Then he ran off and scattered it far and wide, where the wind and rain faded it and blew it away.

When Sib woke up, she felt something was wrong. She ran to the river and looked at her reflection. Her hair was gone!

TALK ABOUT IT

Loki was jealous. What is jealousy, and what can a person do with it besides hurt someone?



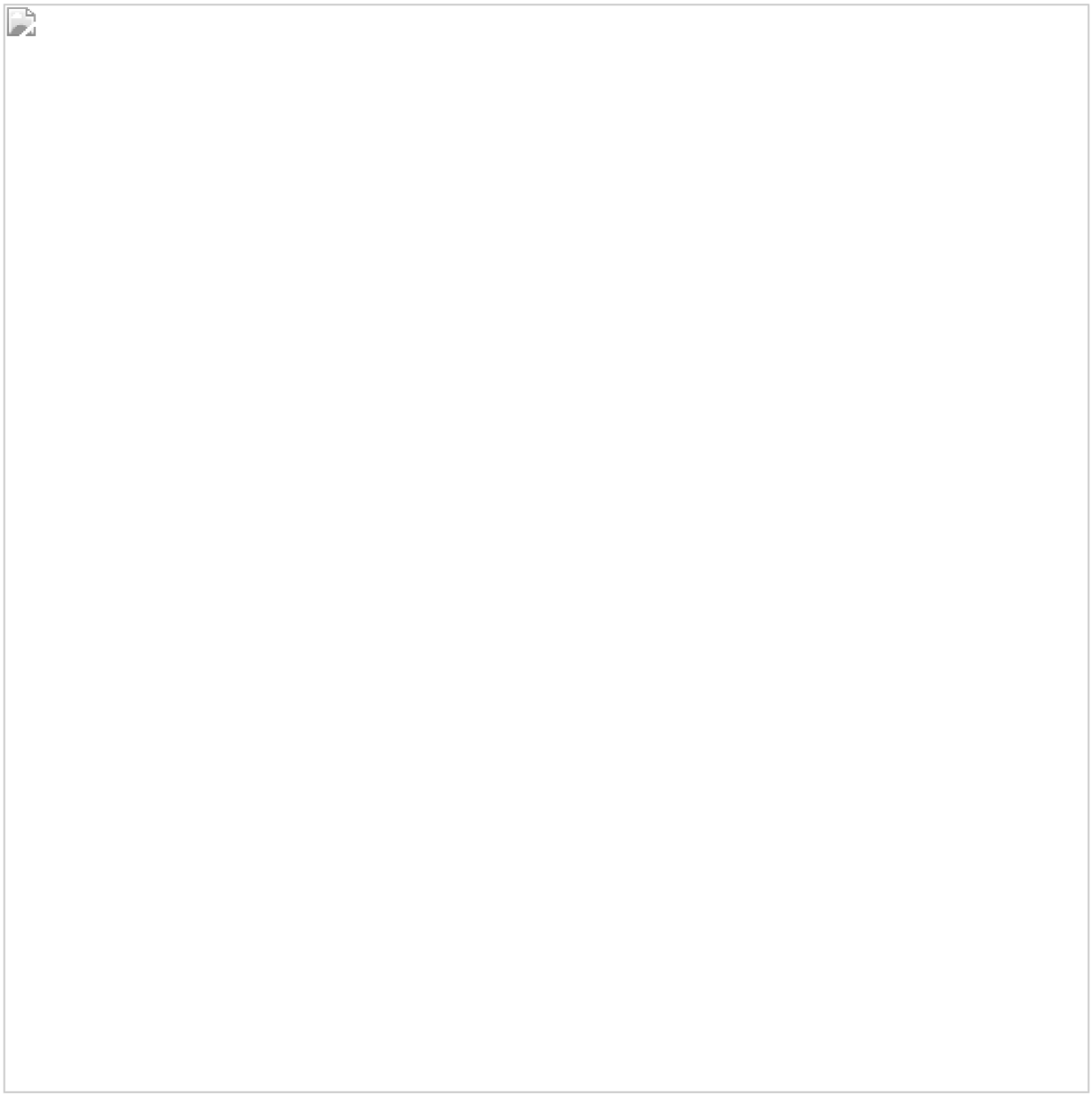
Think about it

1. Why did Loki cut Sib's hair?

- ○ She asked him to
- ○ He was jealous that everyone loved her
- ○ It was a mistake

2. How do you think Sib felt when she saw her reflection?

Thunder Over the Rocks



Sib knew only Loki would do such a thing. In her sorrow, she called for Thor.

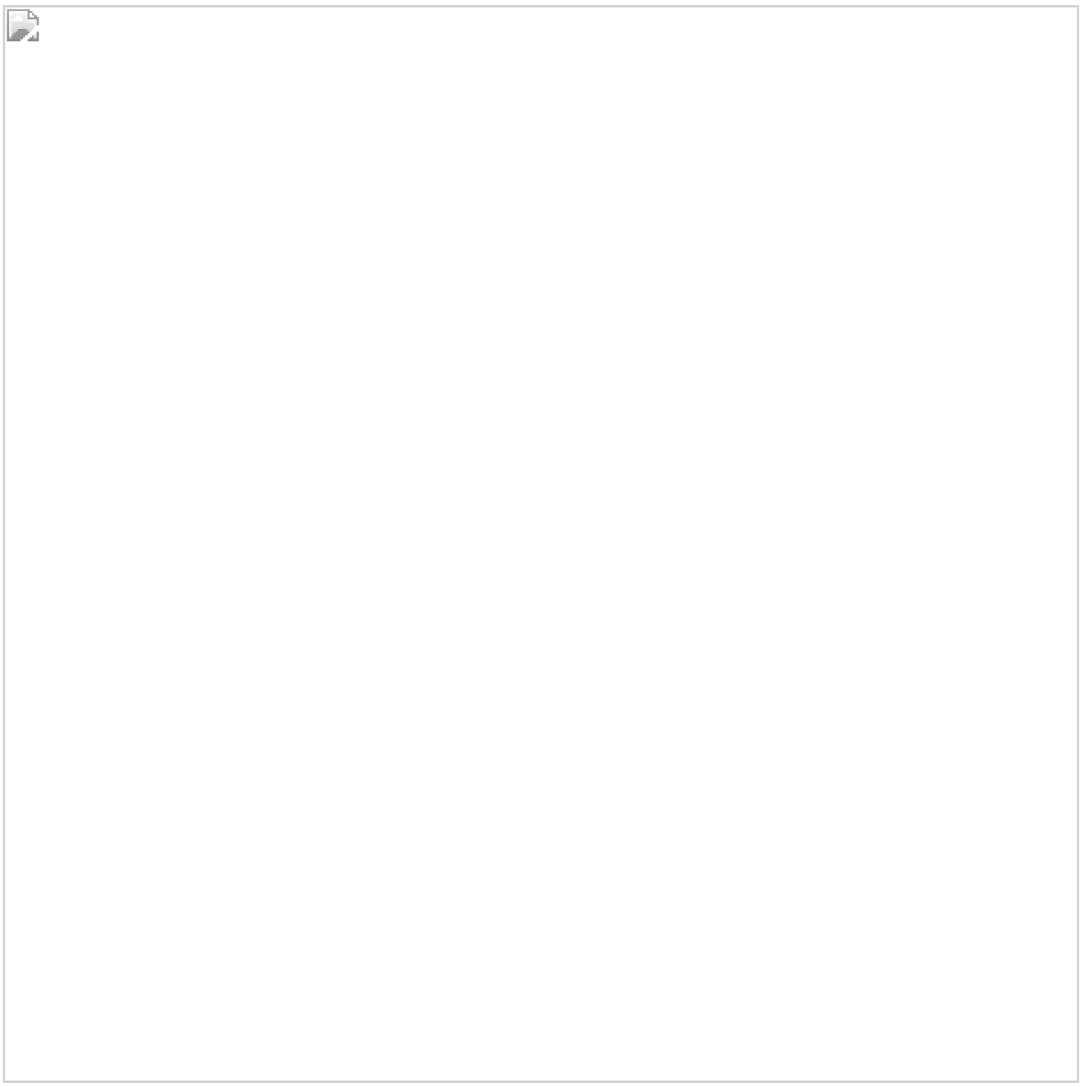
Loki hid far away among the rocks, but he soon heard thunder rumbling closer and closer. A flash from Thor's eyes darted to the very place where he lay.

Thor pulled him out and held him tight. Loki said fast that hurting him would not bring Sib's hair back.

So Thor asked what he would do to make it right. Loki said he would go to the dwarfs under the mountains and ask them to make hair of real gold for Sib.

TALK ABOUT IT

Thor was very angry, but he asked Loki to make things right. Why do you think he did that?

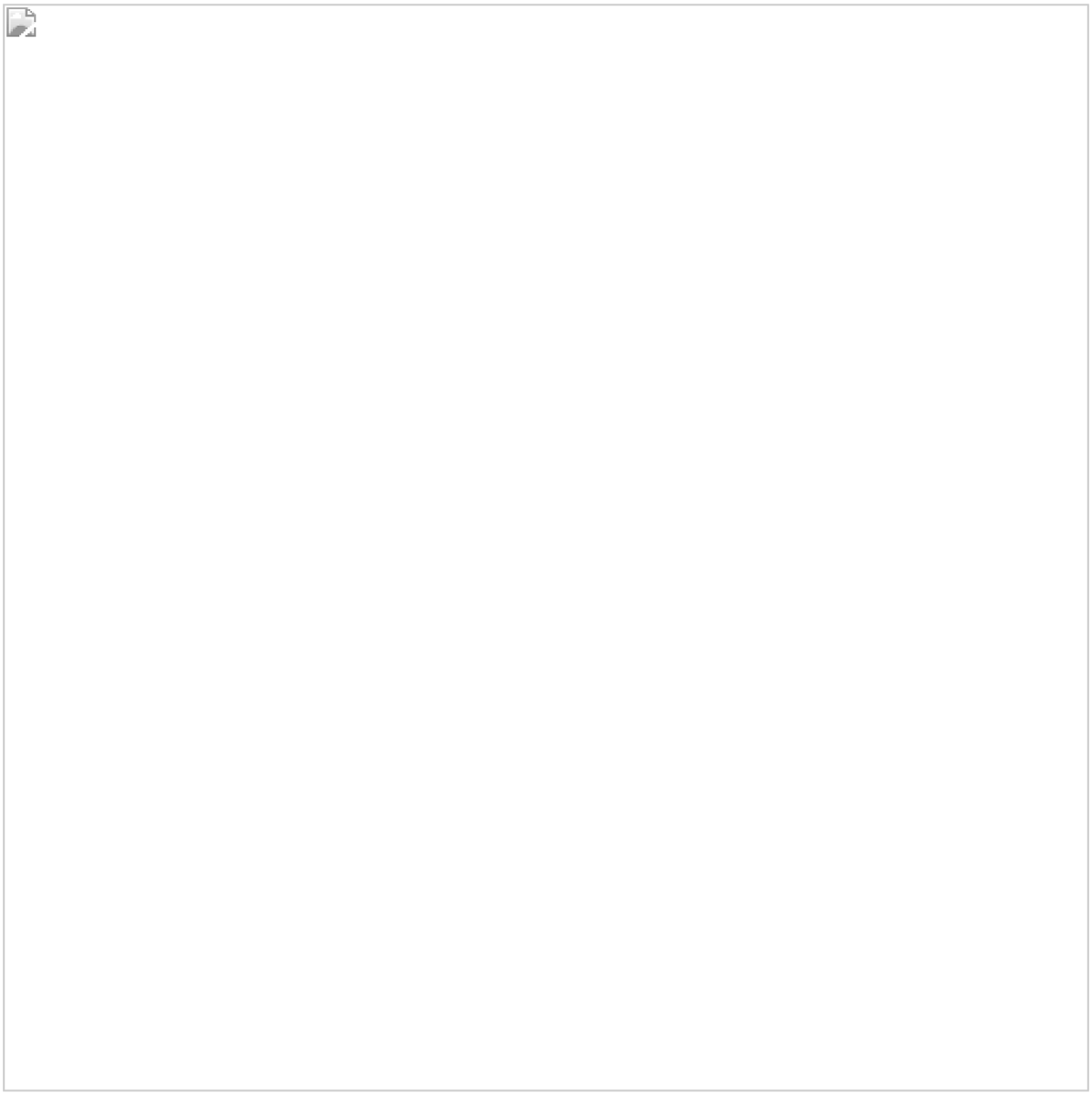


Think about it

1. What did Loki promise to do?

- ○ Hide away forever
- ○ Get the dwarfs to make golden hair for Sib
- ○ Plant a garden

Under the Mountain



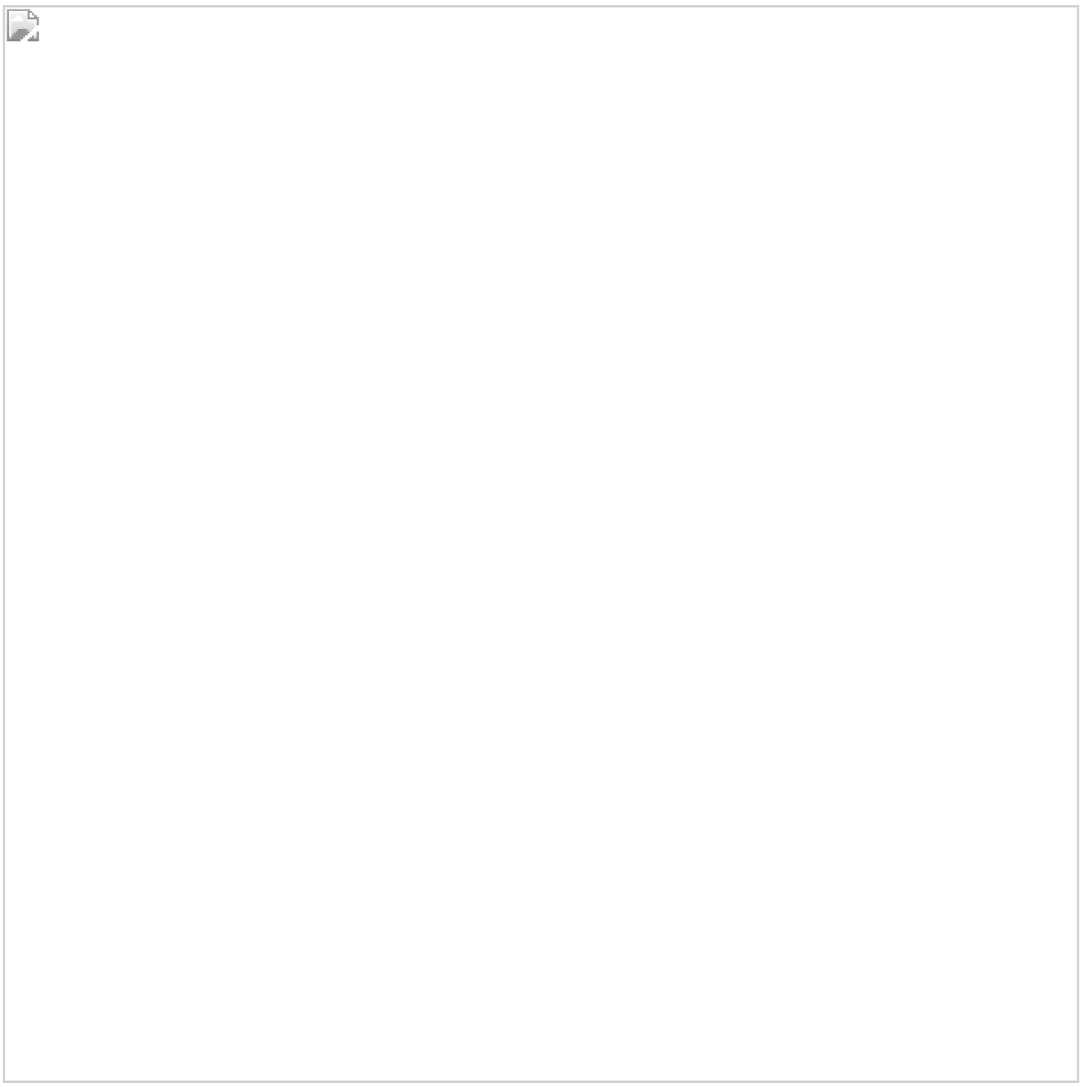
The dwarfs were small and dark, and they liked to stay out of the sun. They knew where gold and silver grew and where bright stones were hidden, red and white and yellow and green.

Deep in their caves, they had furnaces and anvils and hammers. They could make wonderful things from gold and iron and stone.

Loki dropped down a hole in the mountainside into the cave of Iwald's sons, and he found the two cleverest: Sindri and Brok.

TALK ABOUT IT

Dwarfs worked in the dark and never wasted words. What are some things that people make with their hands?

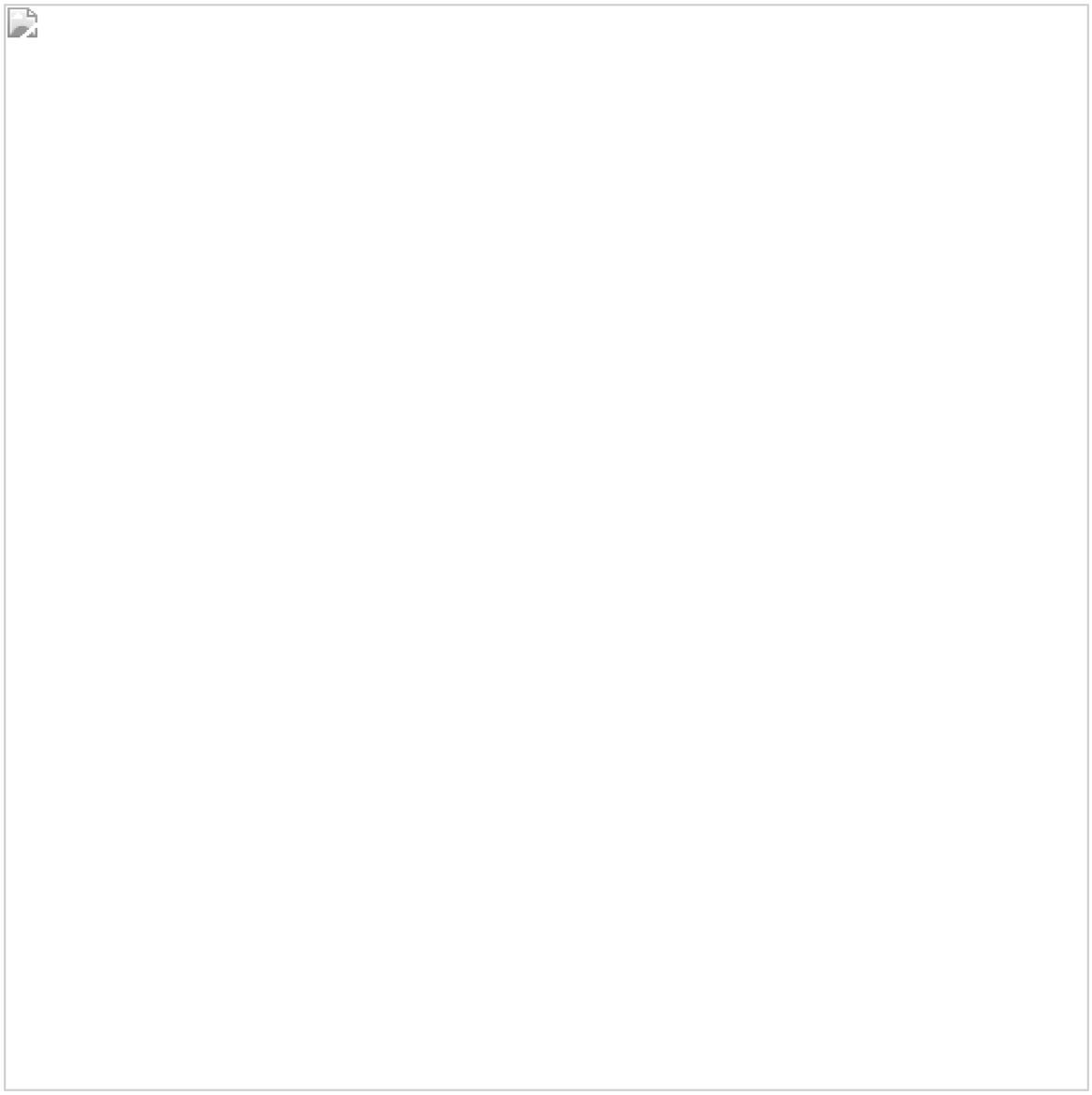


Think about it

1. Who were the two cleverest dwarfs?

- ○ Sindri and Brok
- ○ Odin and Thor
- ○ Idun and Sib

Three Gifts from Brok



Loki told them what he needed. Sindri and Brok knew all about Loki's mischief. But they liked Thor and Sib, so they agreed to help.

They melted stone until red gold trickled out. The dwarf women spun it on their wheels into soft, fine hair.

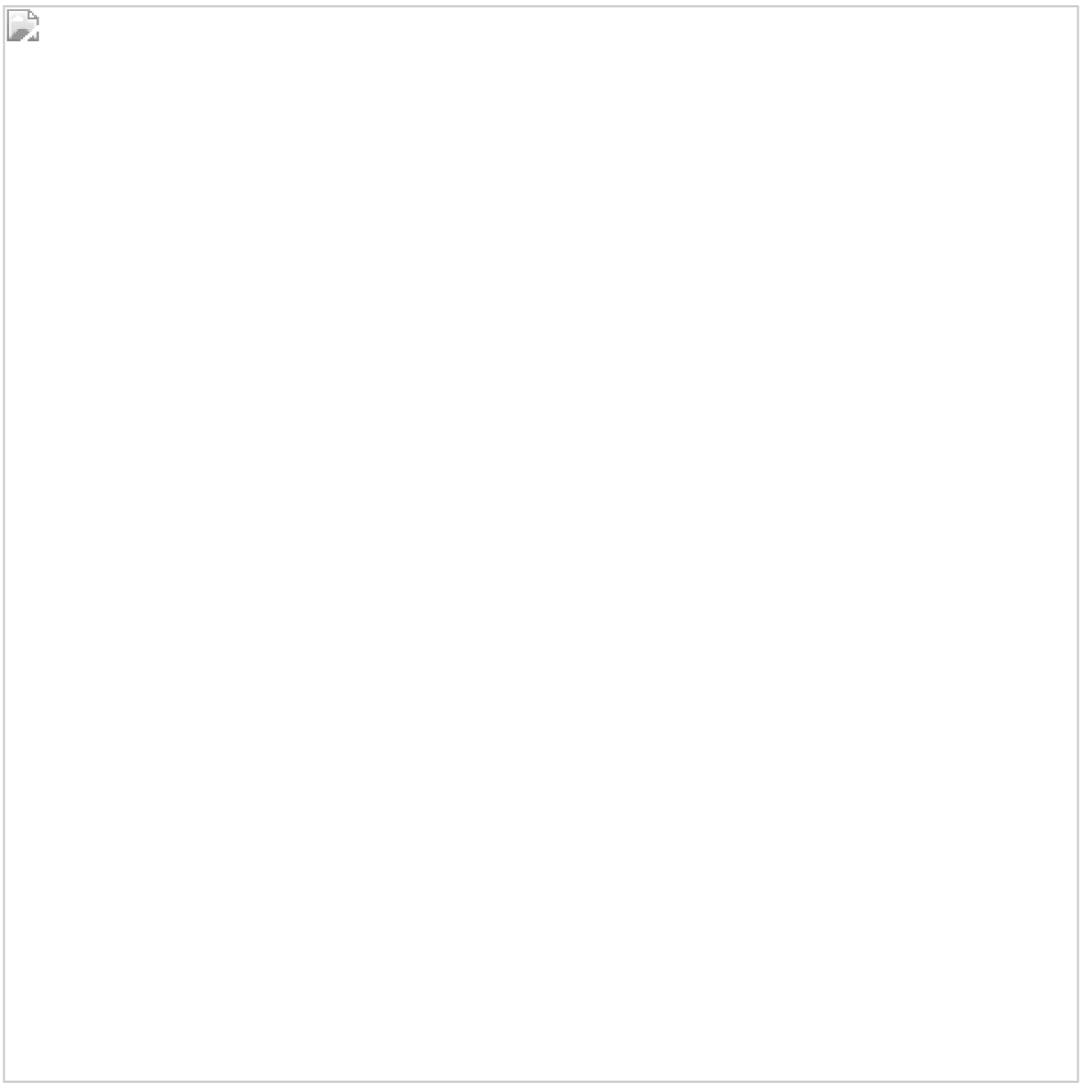
Then Brok melted the blue of the ocean and the tough pith of an underground tree, and out came a little ship.

Last, from a bent bar of iron and two feathers from the wings of the wind, he made a spear for Odin himself.

TALK ABOUT IT

The dwarfs helped even though they knew Loki's tricks. Why do you think they did it?

Three Gifts from Brok · another picture

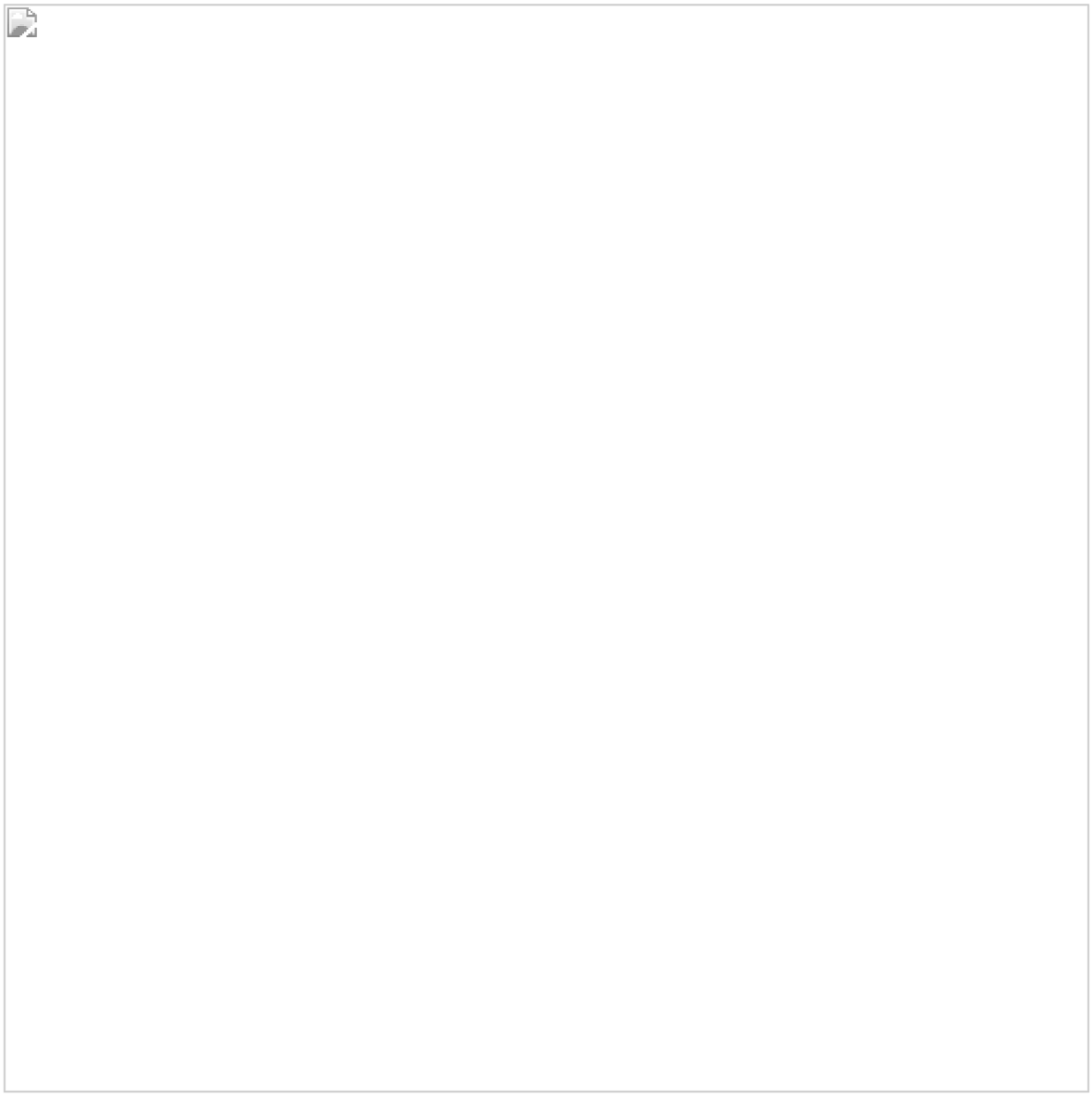


Think about it

1. Why did the dwarfs agree to help Loki?

- ○ They liked Thor and Sib
- ○ Loki paid them gold
- ○ They were afraid of Loki

A Foolish Wager



Brok handed over the three gifts: the golden hair, the ship, and the spear. Loki was supposed to say thank you.

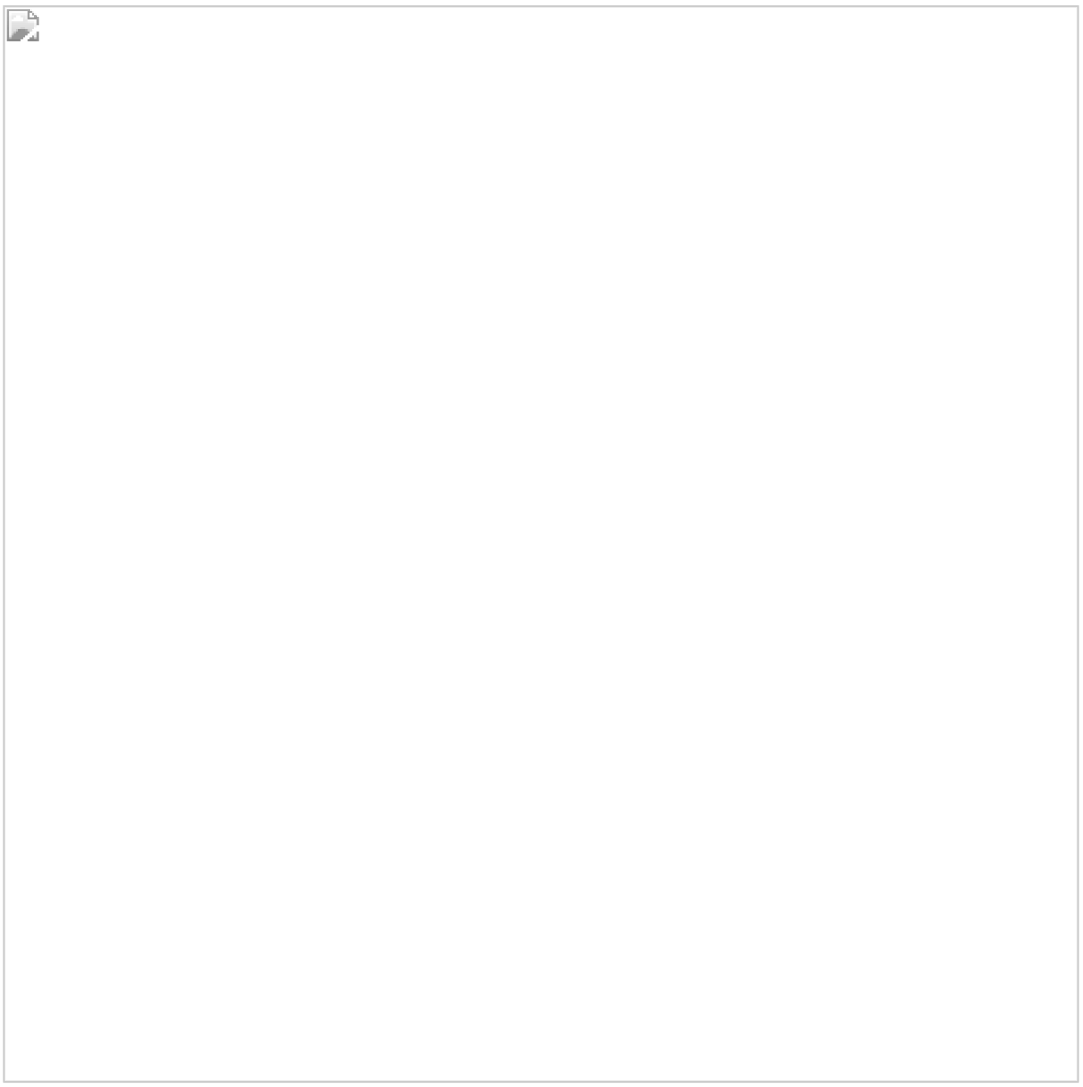
But he was already sorry he had done so well. He picked the gifts up and said they were not very wonderful.

Then, looking at Sindri, he said: “I will wager my head that you could not make anything better.”

The brothers had not expected thanks. But they had not expected this, either.

TALK ABOUT IT

Loki would not say thank you, and he made a big bet instead. Why do you think saying thank you can be so hard?

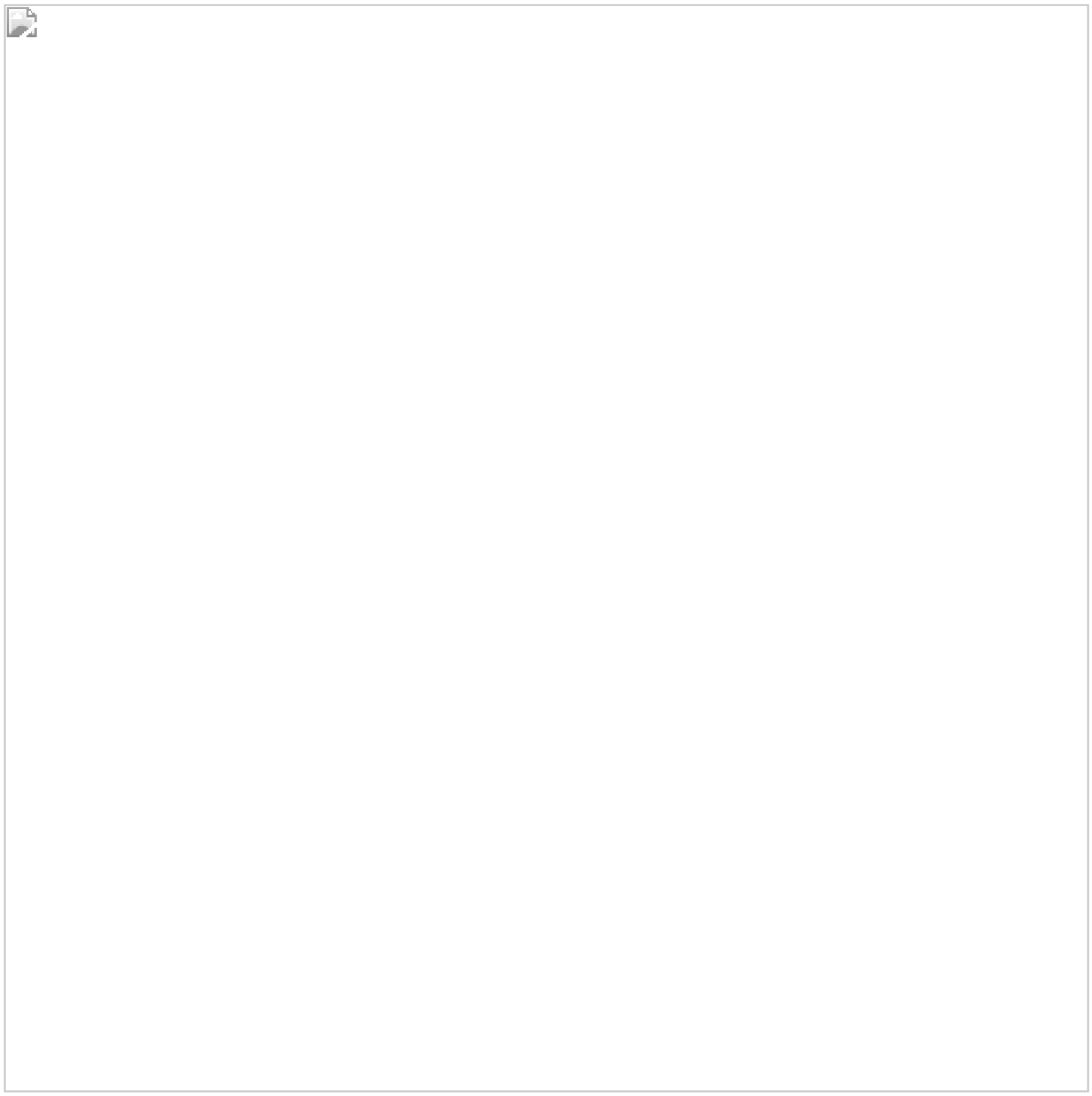


Think about it

1. What did Loki bet?

- ○ His shoes
- ○ His head
- ○ His hair

The Boar and the Ring



Sindri took a pig-skin and put it into the fire. He told Brok to keep working the bellows and never stop until he said so.

Loki turned himself into a fly and stung Brok's hand. But Brok kept on, and out of the fire came a boar with bristles of gold.

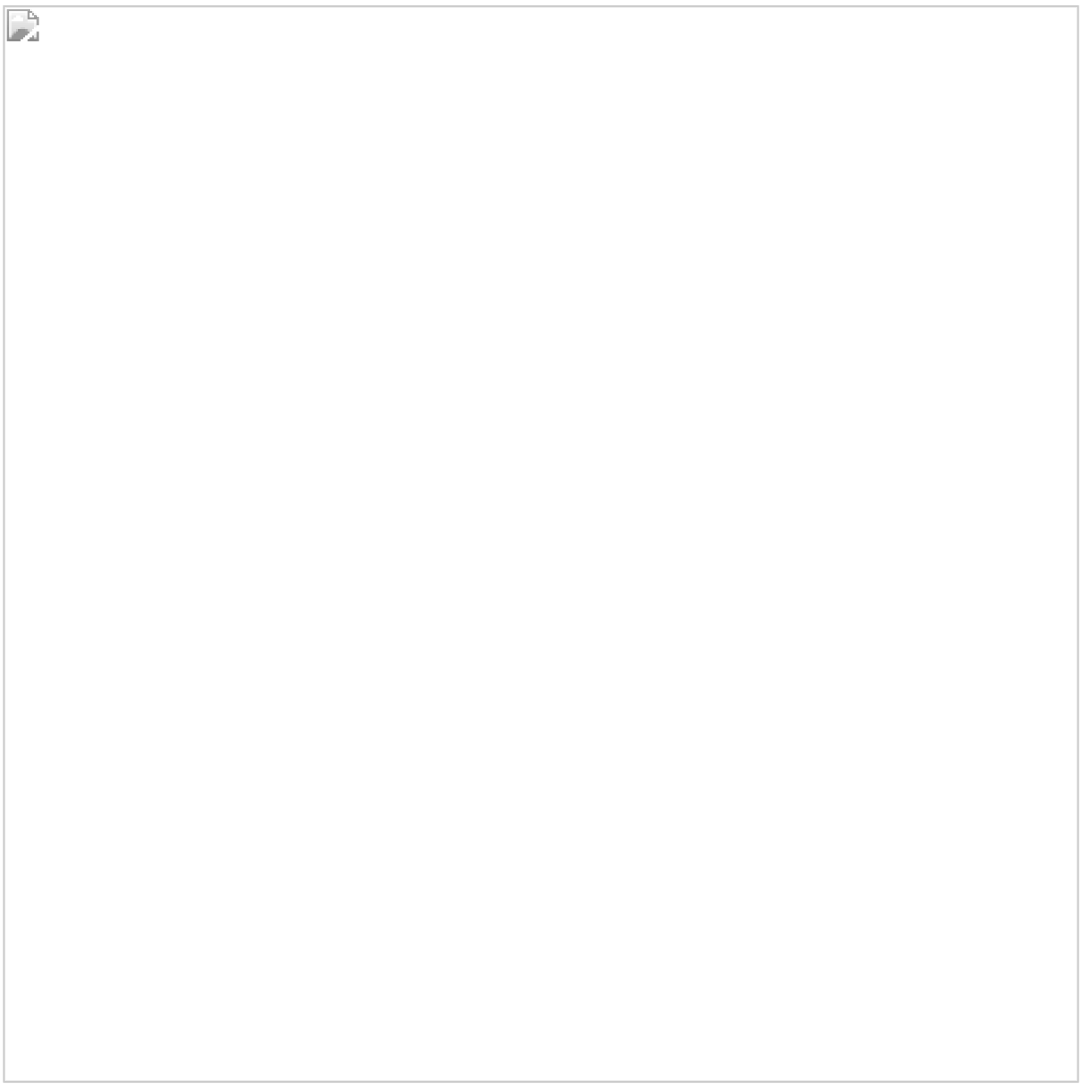
Next Sindri put in a lump of gold. Out came a ring so wonderful that every ninth night, eight new rings dropped from it.

Loki, as a fly, bit Brok's neck. Brok would not even lift his hand.

TALK ABOUT IT

Brok kept working even when it hurt, because he had a job to do for someone else. What do you think of that?

The Boar and the Ring · another picture

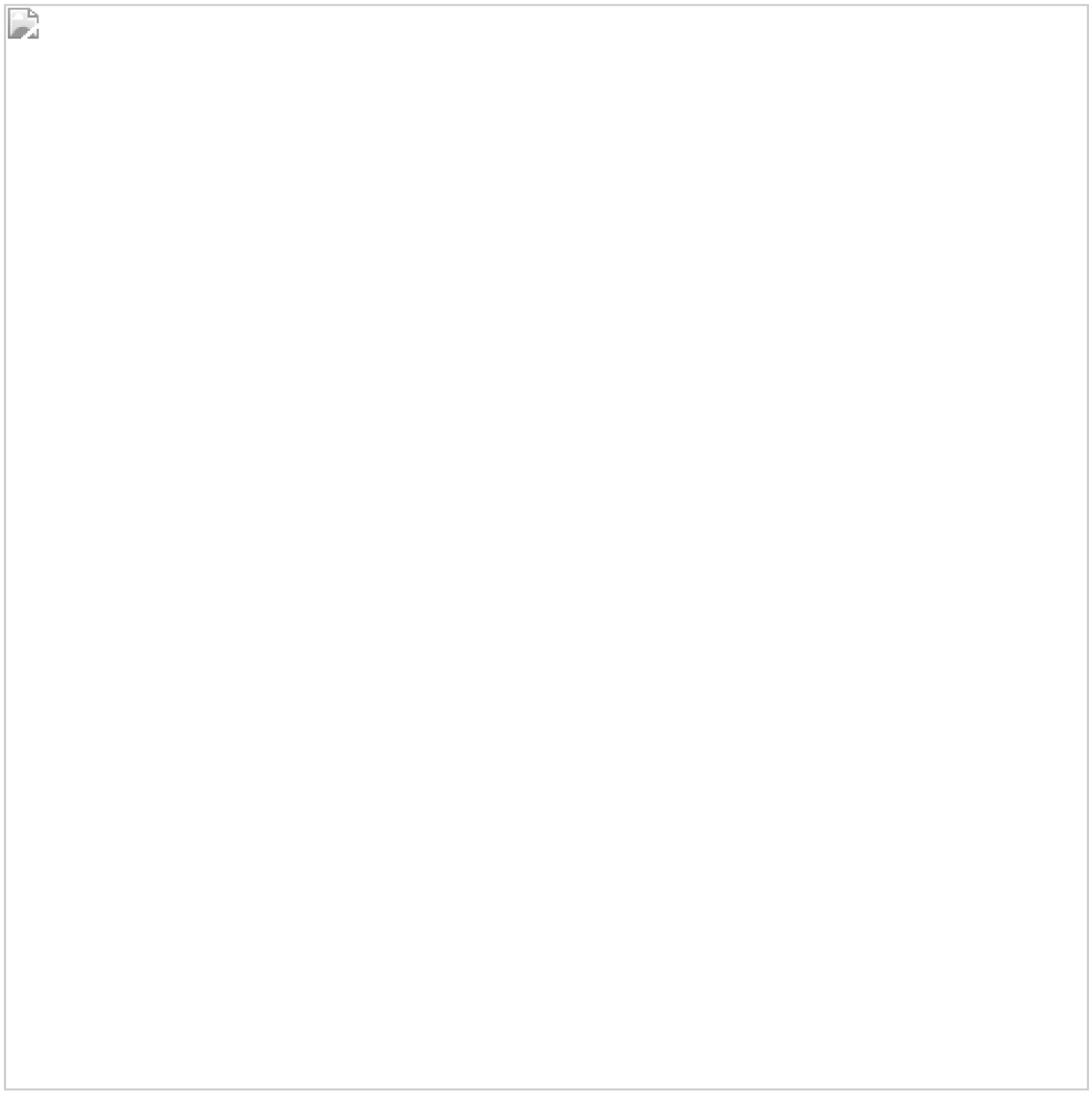


Think about it

1. What came out of the fire first?

- ○ A golden boar
- ○ A silver horse
- ○ A pair of boots

The Last Test



Now came the last and hardest work. Sindri put iron into the fire and told Brok that his hands must not shake or stop even for a moment.

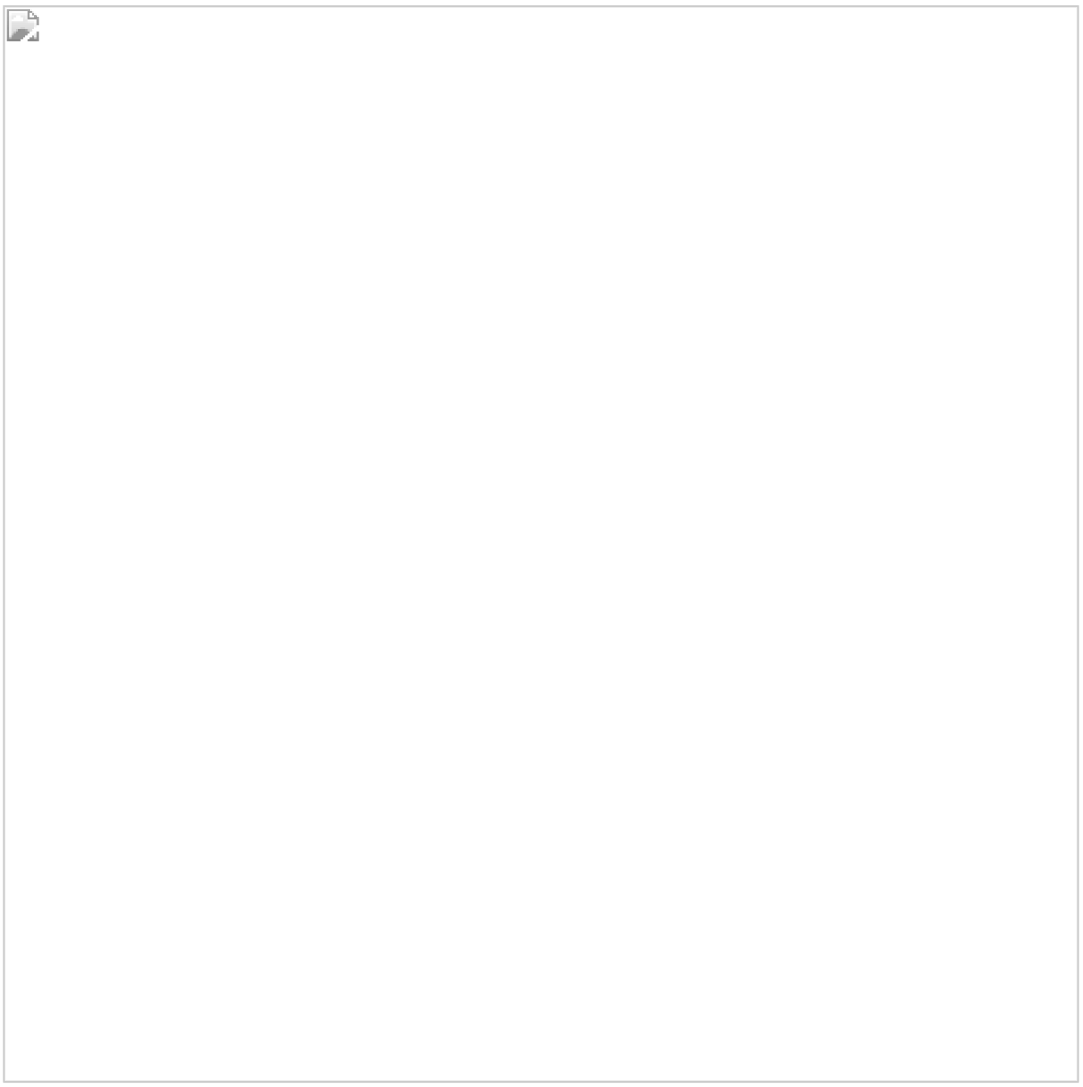
Loki knew that anything made for Thor would make Thor stronger. So he turned into a hornet and stung Brok's eyelid until he could hardly see.

For one moment Brok let go to wipe his eyes. Sindri cried out that the work had nearly been spoiled.

What came out was a hammer, not pretty and not very large, with a handle one inch too short.

TALK ABOUT IT

Loki tried to spoil the work. Why do you think it matters to some people when someone else does well?

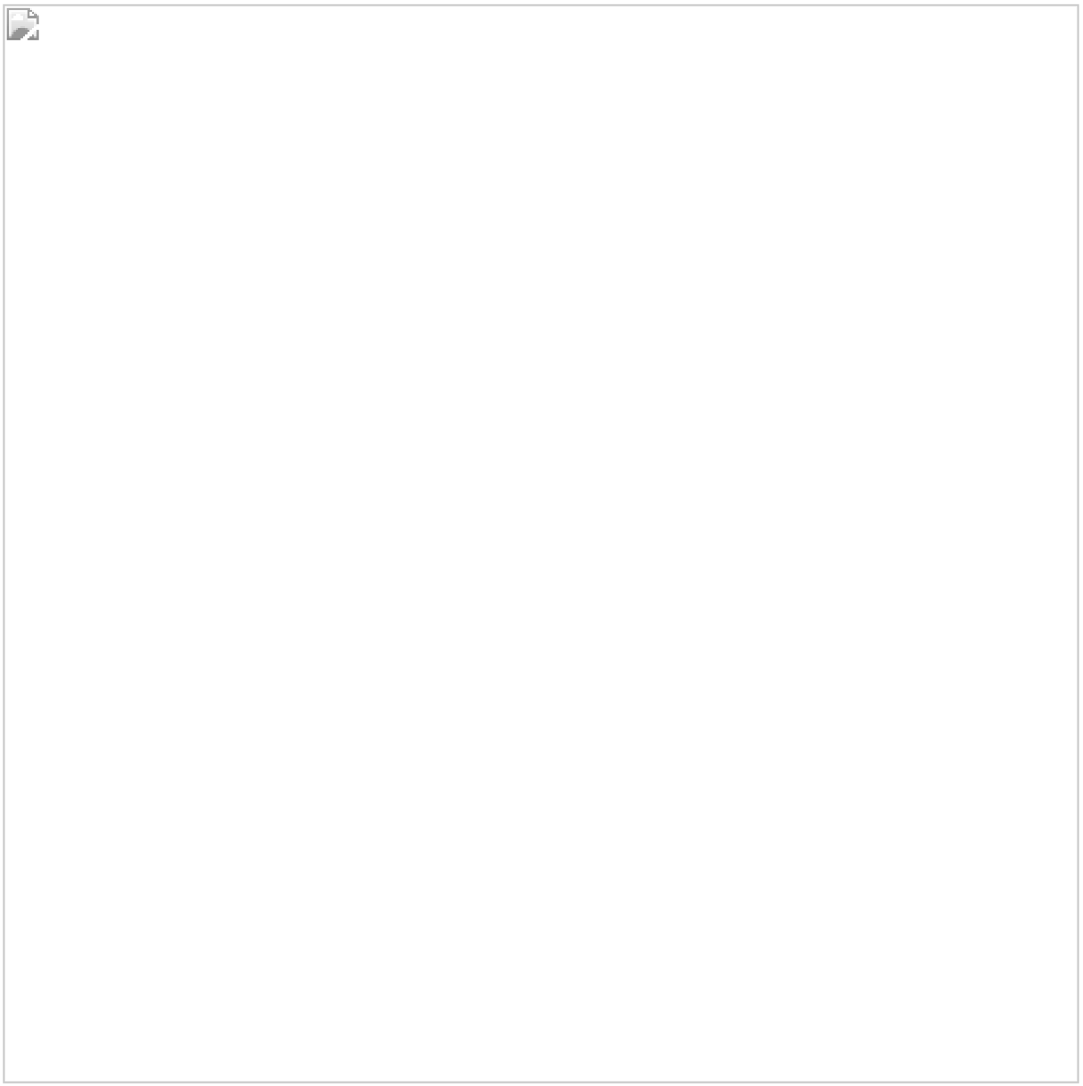


Think about it

1. What was wrong with the hammer?

- ○ It was too heavy
- ○ The handle was an inch too short
- ○ It had no head

To Asgard



Loki and Brok went to Asgard. The gods sat on their high seats, and they picked Odin, Thor, and Frey to be the judges.

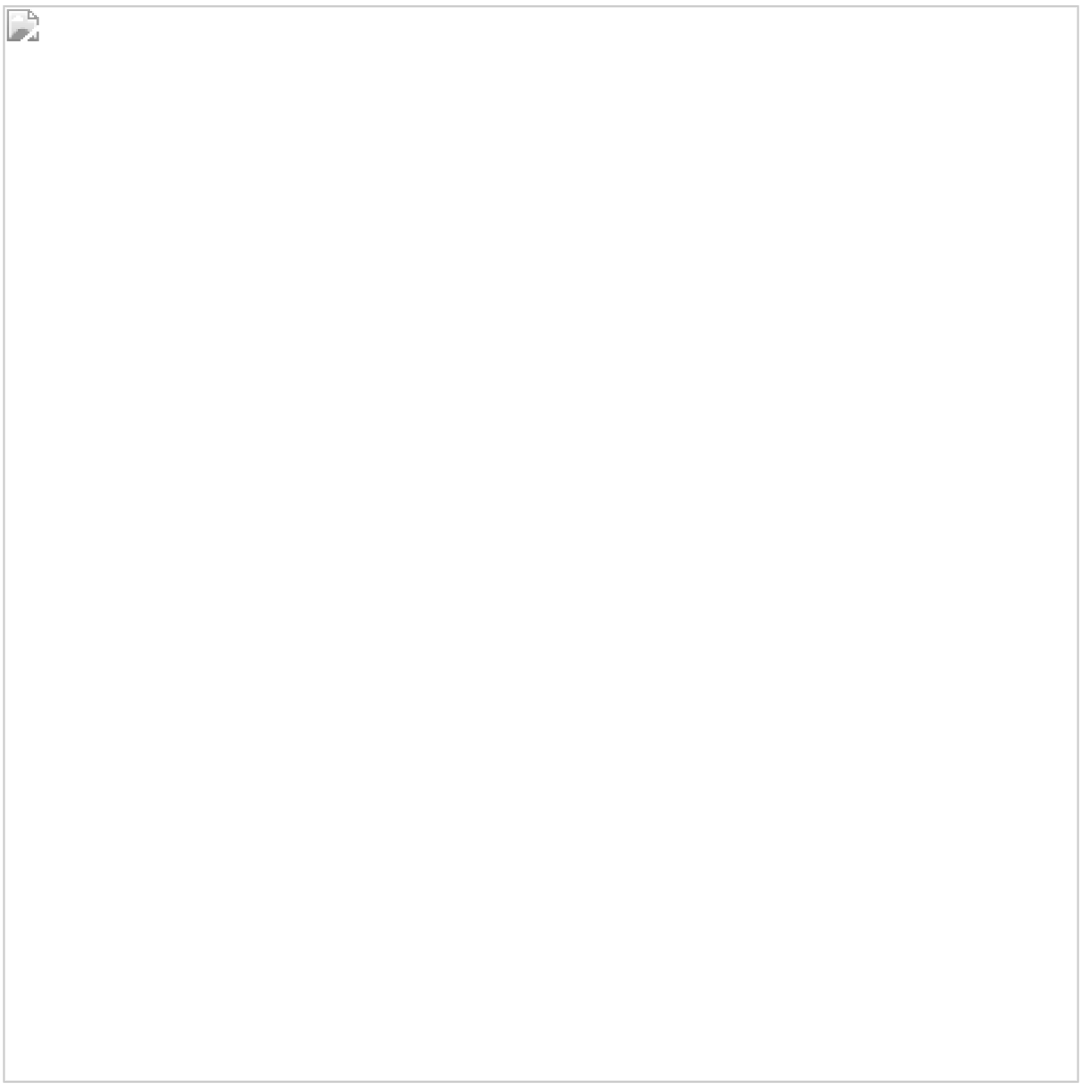
Loki gave Odin the spear. It never missed what it was thrown at, and it flew back to the hand that threw it.

He gave Thor the golden hair. When it was put on Sib's head, it grew there like her own.

He gave Frey the ship. It was so small that it folded up into his pocket, but when it touched the water it grew big enough to hold an army, and the wind took it wherever Frey wished.

TALK ABOUT IT

Sib got her hair back, and Odin and Frey got treasures too. Who do you think was happiest to see Sib's new hair?

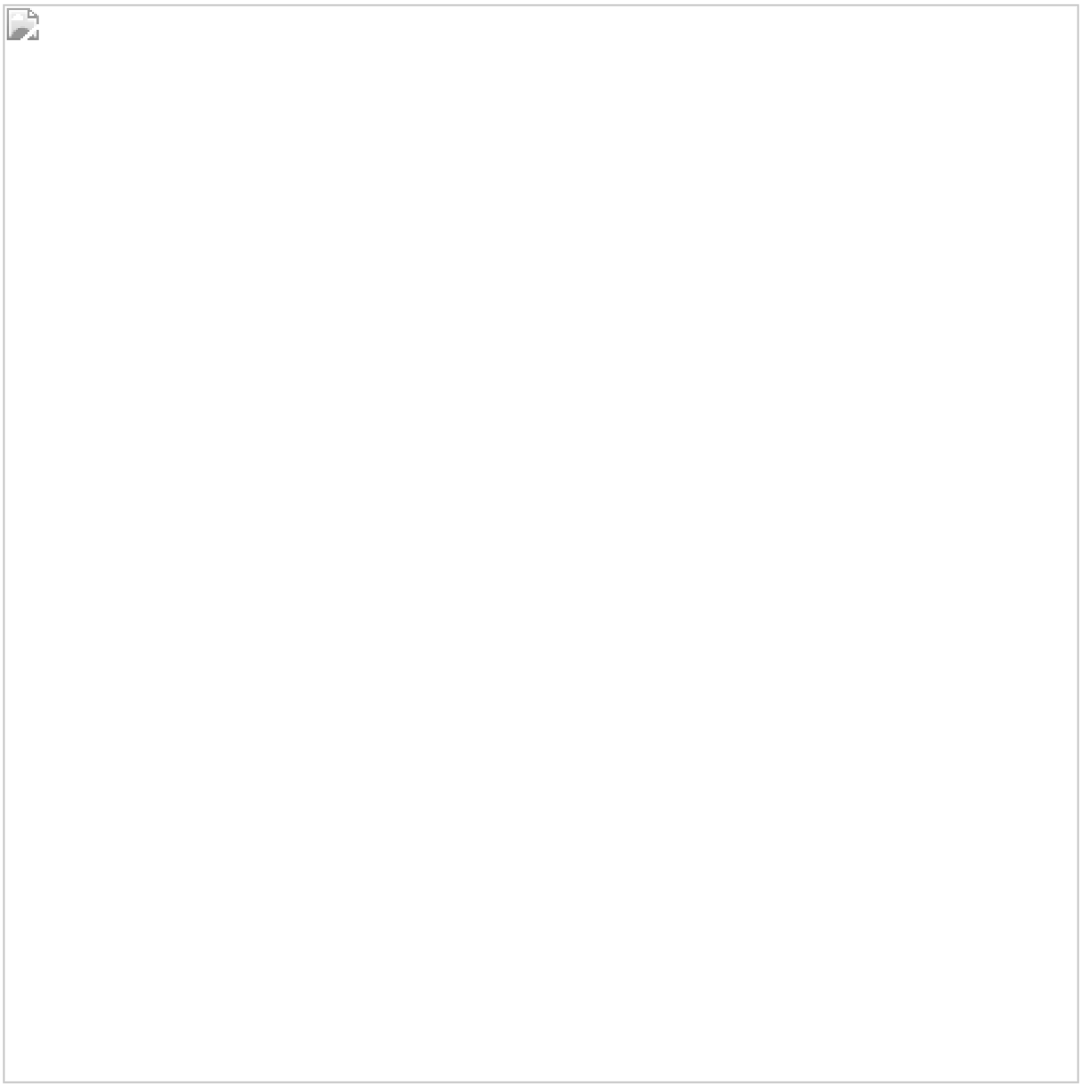


Think about it

1. What could Frey's ship do?

- ○ It could fold up small enough for a pocket
- ○ It could swim like a fish
- ○ It could talk

Brok's Gifts



Then Brok brought forth his gifts. To Odin he gave the ring, and Odin wore it on his arm.

To Frey he gave the golden boar. It ran faster than any horse, over the sea or through the air, and wherever it went, there was light.

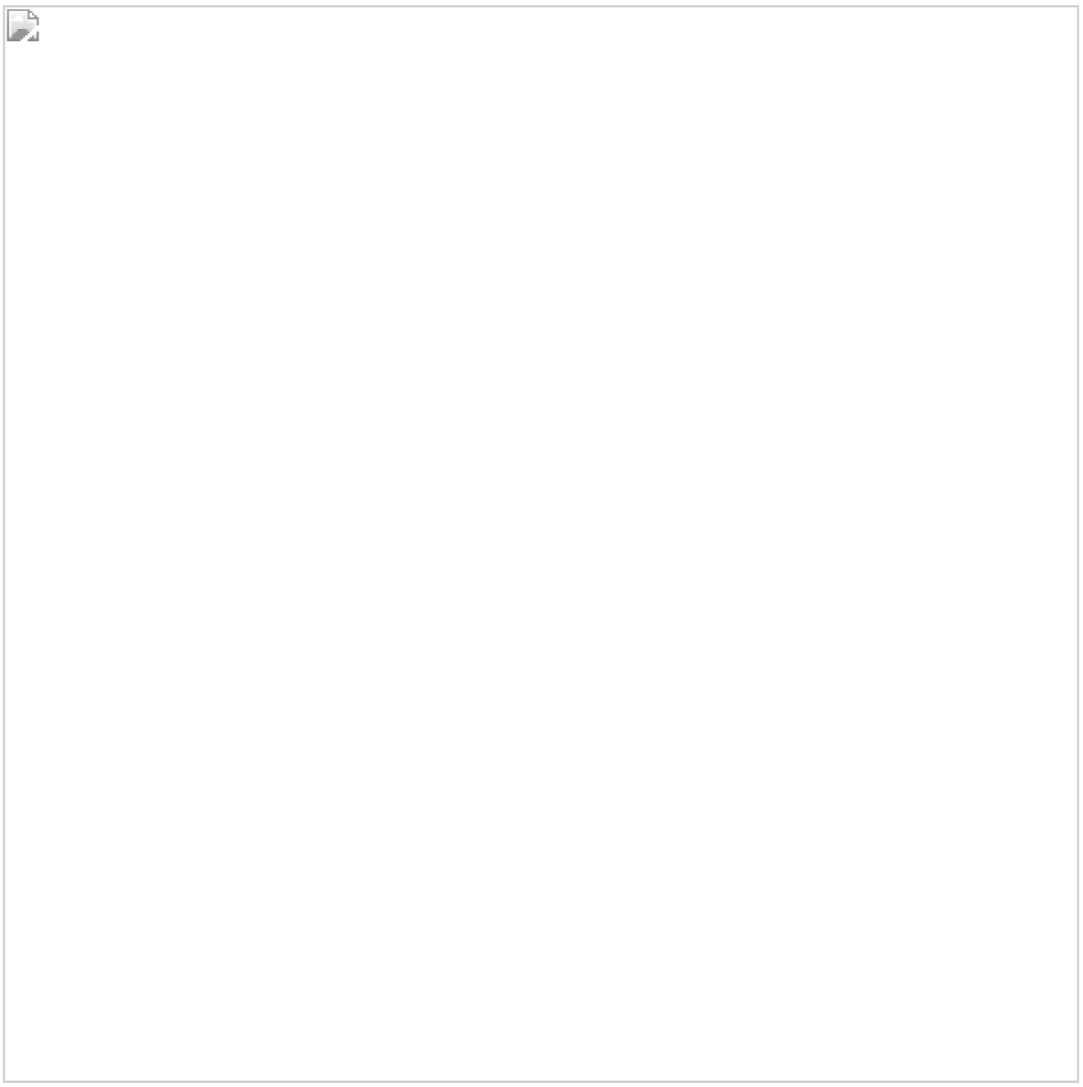
To Thor he gave the dull little hammer. Whatever it struck would be broken, no blow could hurt it, it came back to his hand when thrown, and it was big or small as he wished.

Thor was glad. It was just what he needed to drive back the Rime-giants, who were always trying to take the whole world.

TALK ABOUT IT

Thor's hammer looked plain, but it was the best of all. What is something that looks plain but is really special?

Brok's Gifts · another picture

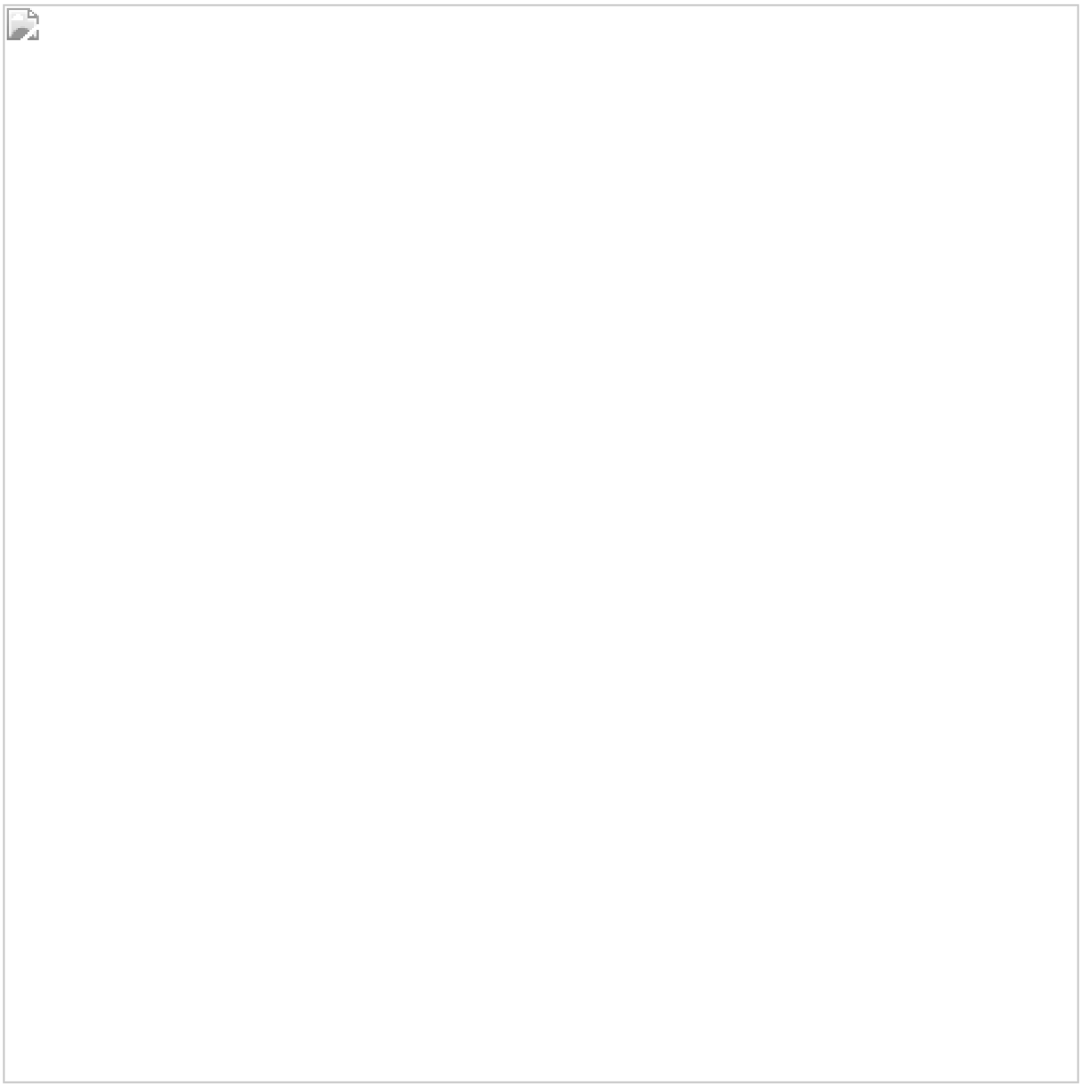


Think about it

1. Which gift looked plain but was the best?

- ○ The ship
- ○ The ring
- ○ The hammer

Who Won?



The gods decided that the hammer was the best of all the gifts. That meant Loki had lost his wager.

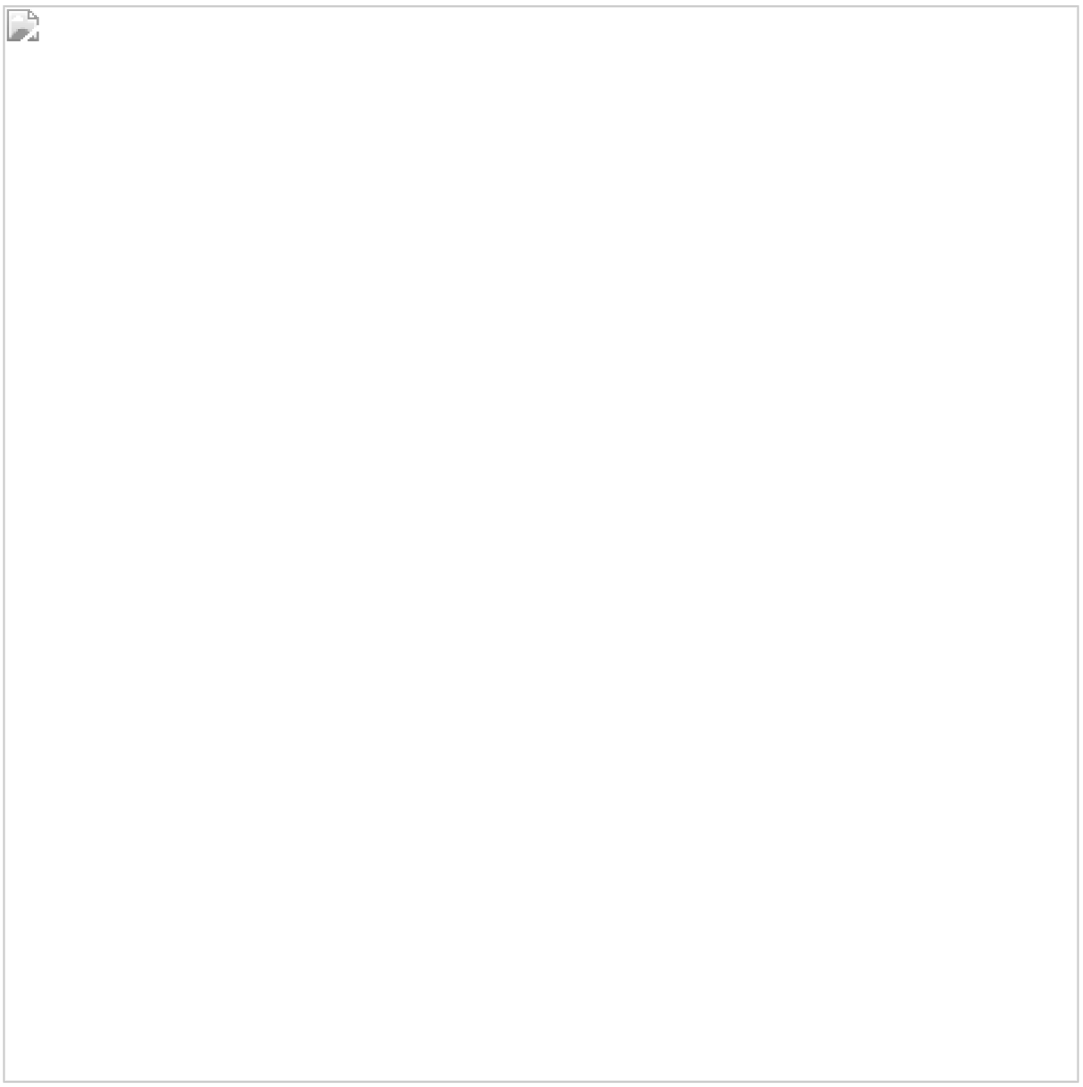
Loki offered many things to keep his head. But Brok wanted only to stop Loki's tongue from making more trouble.

“Catch me, then!” cried Loki, and off he ran in his magic shoes. But Thor soon had him again, and Loki stood there with nothing left to say but clever words.

In the end Loki kept his head, the gods thanked the dwarfs with presents, and Brok went home to his cave. As for Loki, it was not long before he was back to his mischief.

TALK ABOUT IT

The dwarfs made wonderful gifts, and Loki still would not change. What would it take for someone like Loki to become kind?



Think about it

1. What did the gods decide was the best gift?

- ○ The spear
- ○ The hammer
- ○ The ship

2. Who was hurt or helped in this story besides Loki?

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

— Yeshua HaMashiach

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