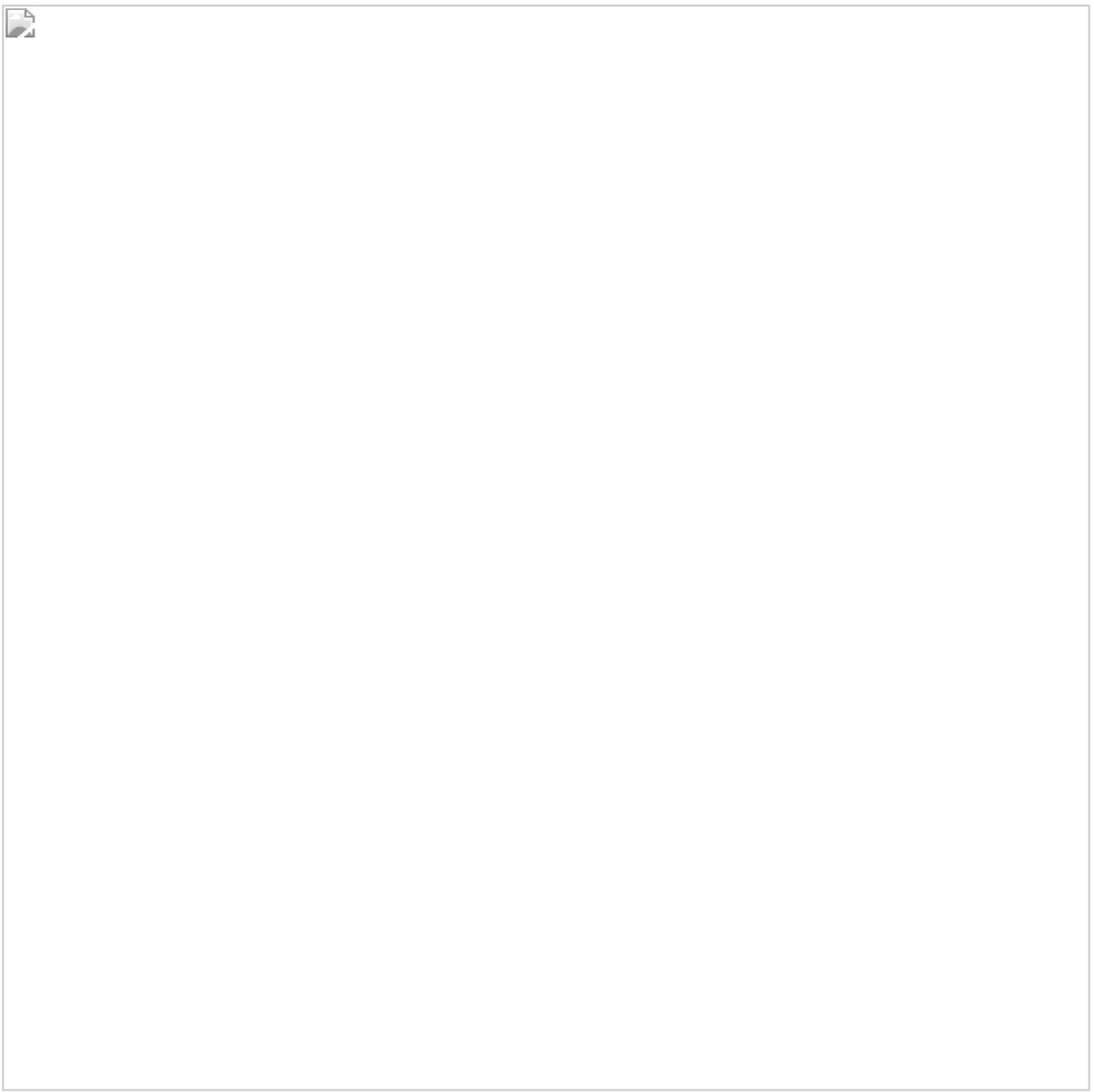
COLORING THE CLASSICS

The Happy Prince

A Little Swallow and a Golden Statue



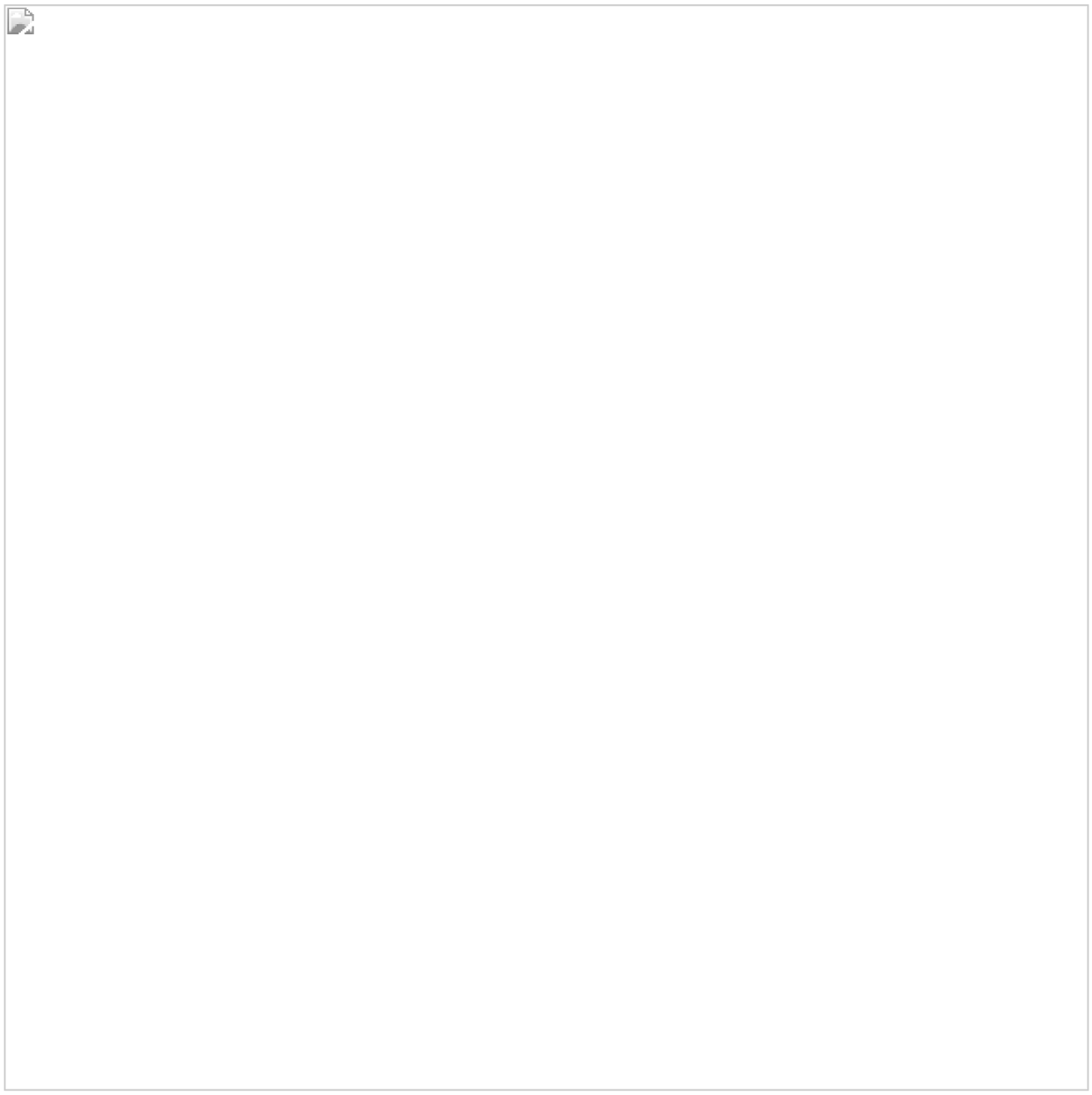
By Oscar Wilde

TALK ABOUT IT

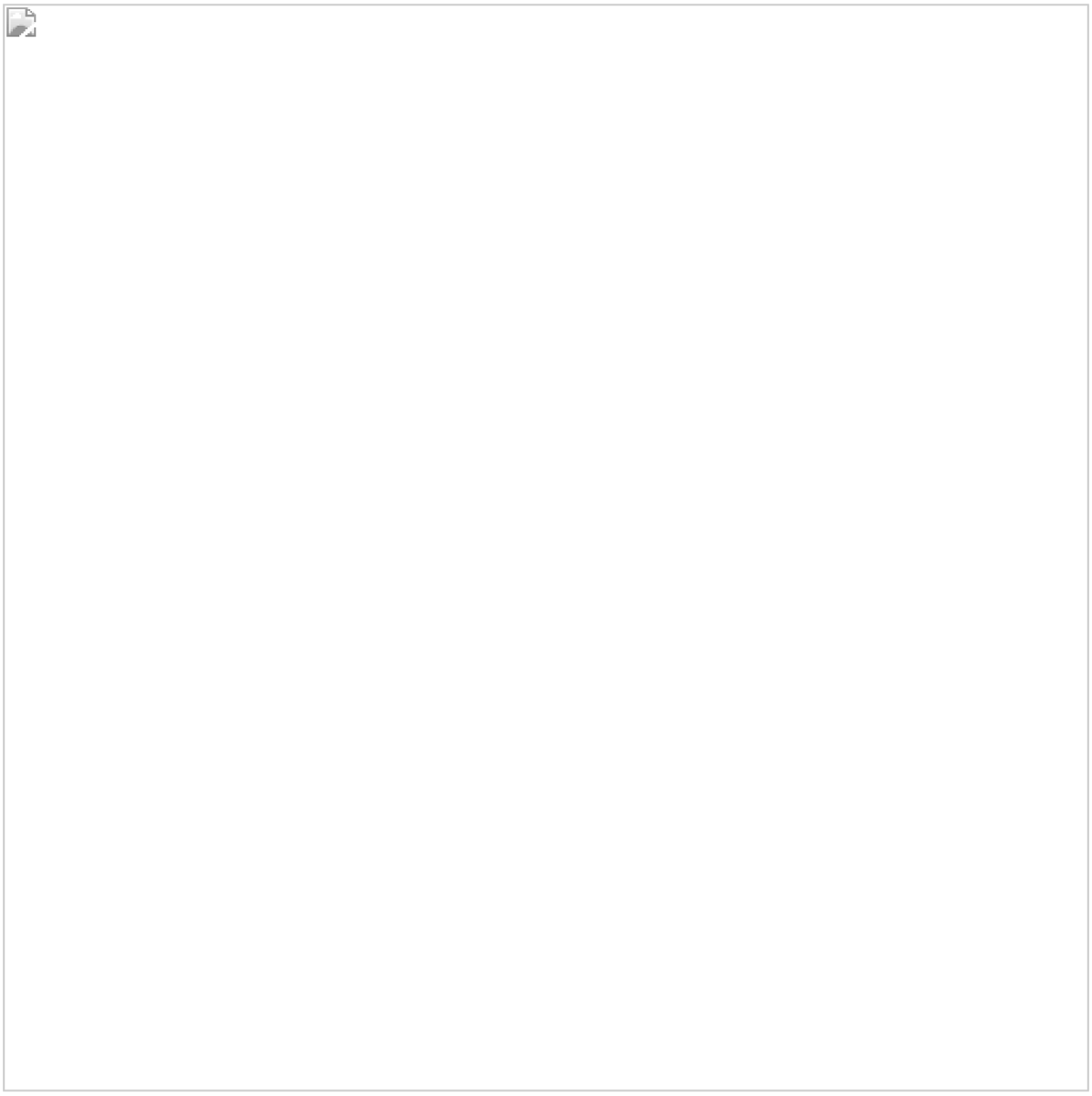
What is something you would give away to help a friend?

This book belongs to _____

The Happy Prince · another picture



The Statue on the Column



High above a city, on a tall column, stood the statue of the Happy Prince. He was covered all over with thin leaves of fine gold. For eyes he had two bright blue sapphires, and a big red ruby glowed on his sword.

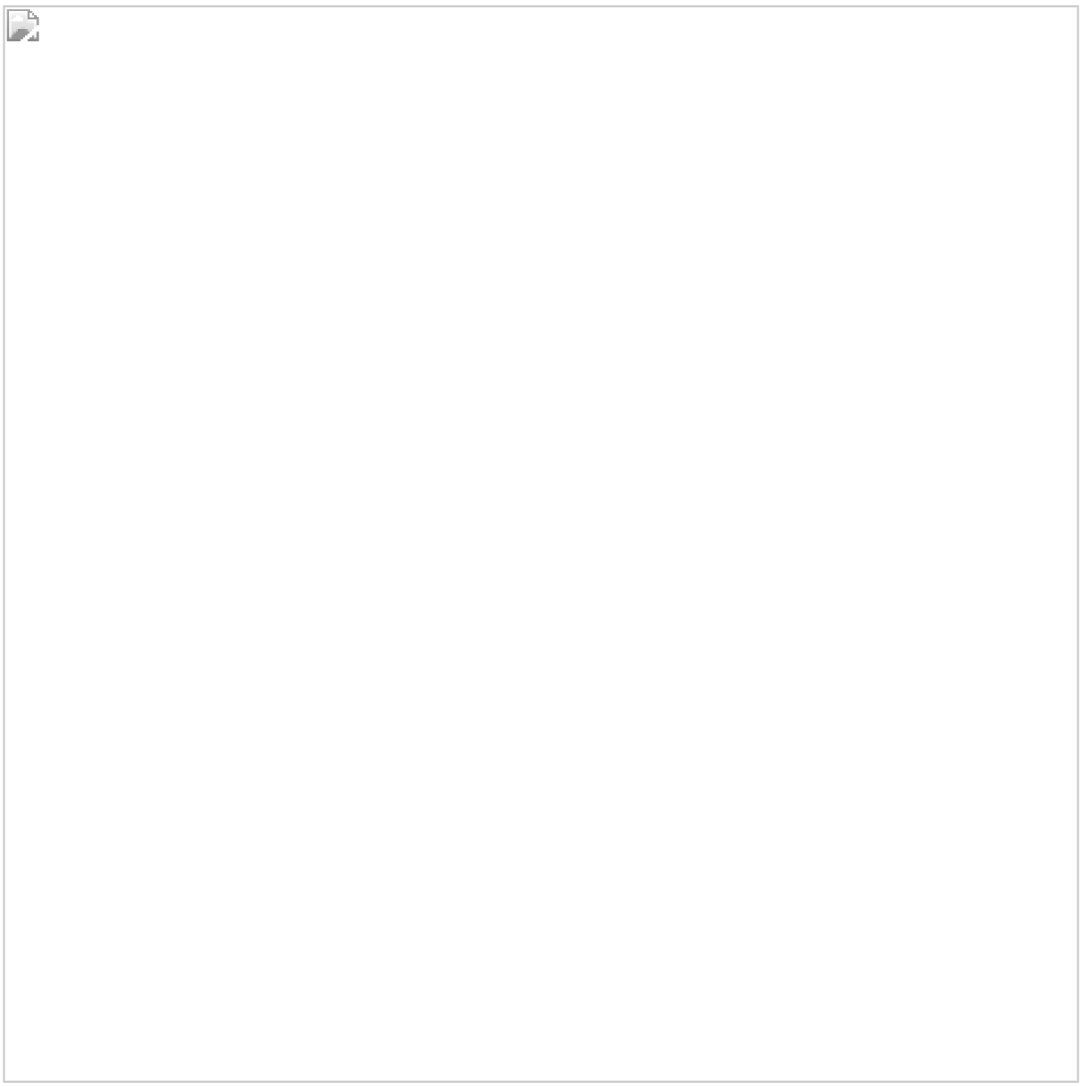
Everyone admired him. When the children came out of the cathedral in their bright scarlet cloaks, they said, “He looks just like an angel.”

The Mathematical Master frowned. “How do you know?” he said, “you have never seen one.” “Ah! but we have, in our dreams,” answered the children.

TALK ABOUT IT

What do you think the children saw in the statue? Have you ever dreamed of something lovely?

The Statue on the Column · another picture



Think about it

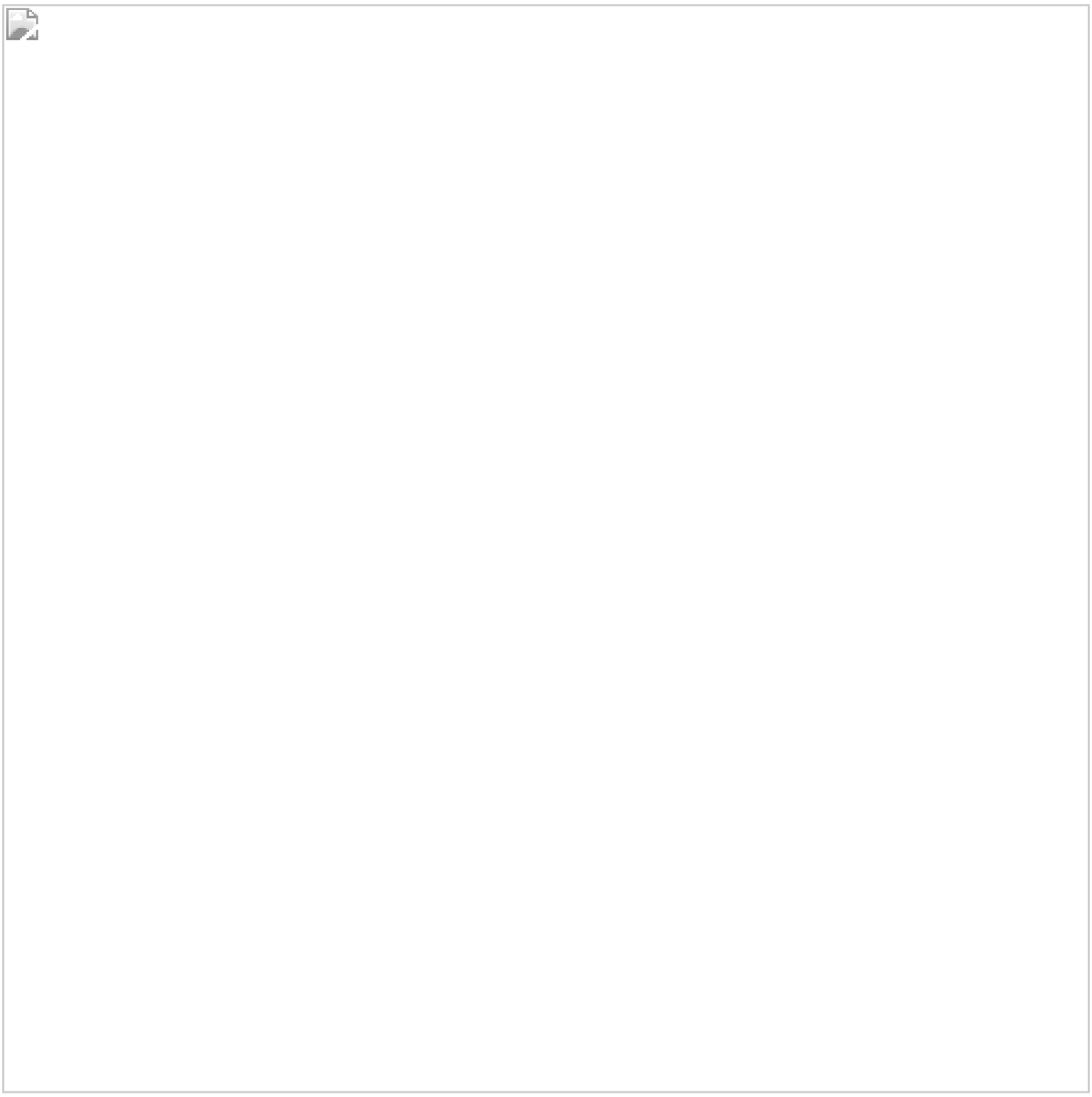
1. What were the Prince's eyes made of?

- ○ Sapphires
- ○ Glass marbles
- ○ Coal

2. What did the children say the statue looked like?

- ○ An angel
- ○ A weathercock
- ○ A tall tree

A Little Swallow Stays



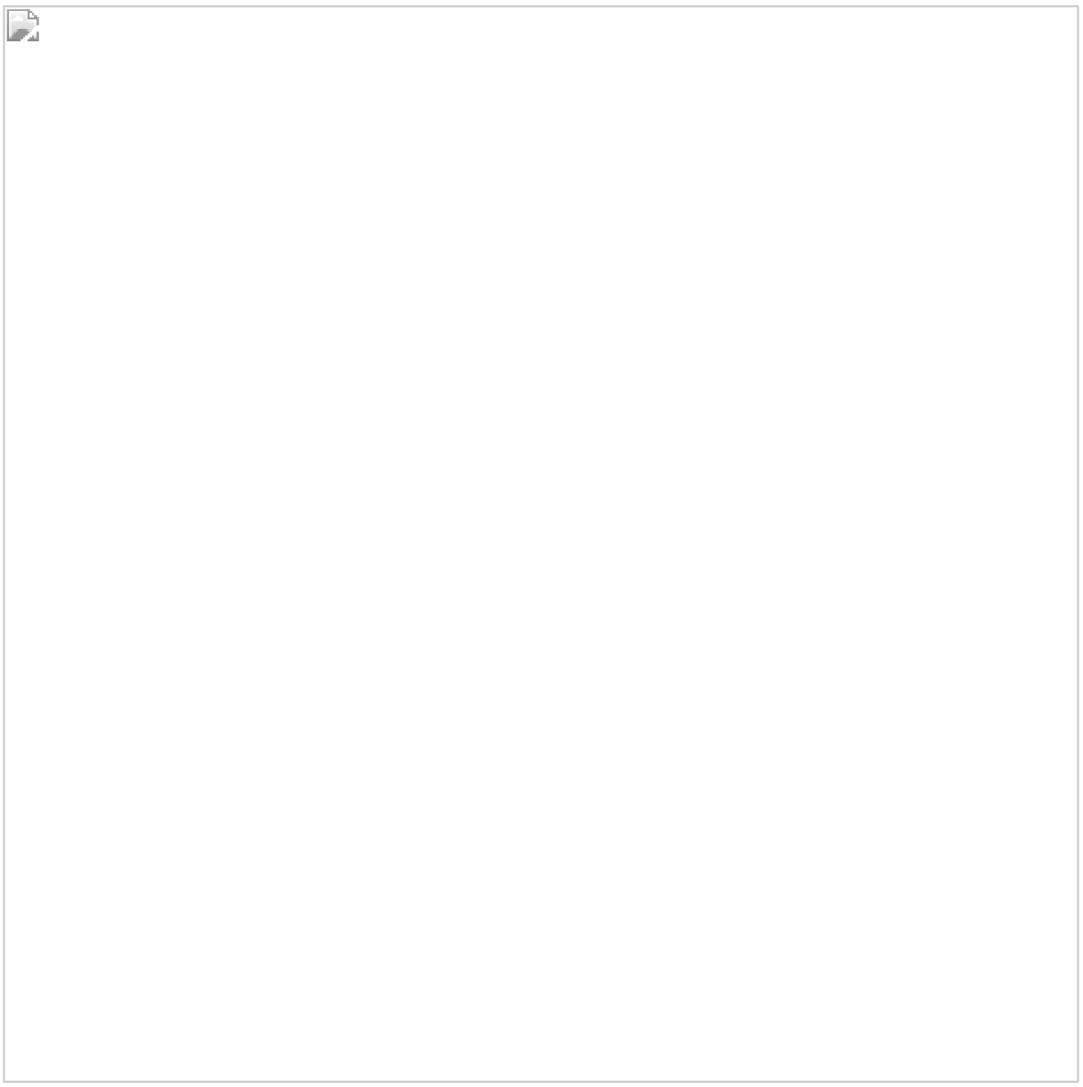
One night a little Swallow flew over the city. His friends had flown away to Egypt six weeks before, but he had stayed behind, because he liked a slender Reed by the river. When the Reed would not come travelling with him, he said good-bye and flew away.

All day he flew, and at night he reached the city. He saw the statue on its tall column. “I will put up there,” he cried; “it is a fine position, with plenty of fresh air.”

So he landed between the feet of the Happy Prince, and he tucked his head under his wing to go to sleep.

TALK ABOUT IT

The Swallow was tired and found a place to rest. Where do you like to rest when you are tired?



Think about it

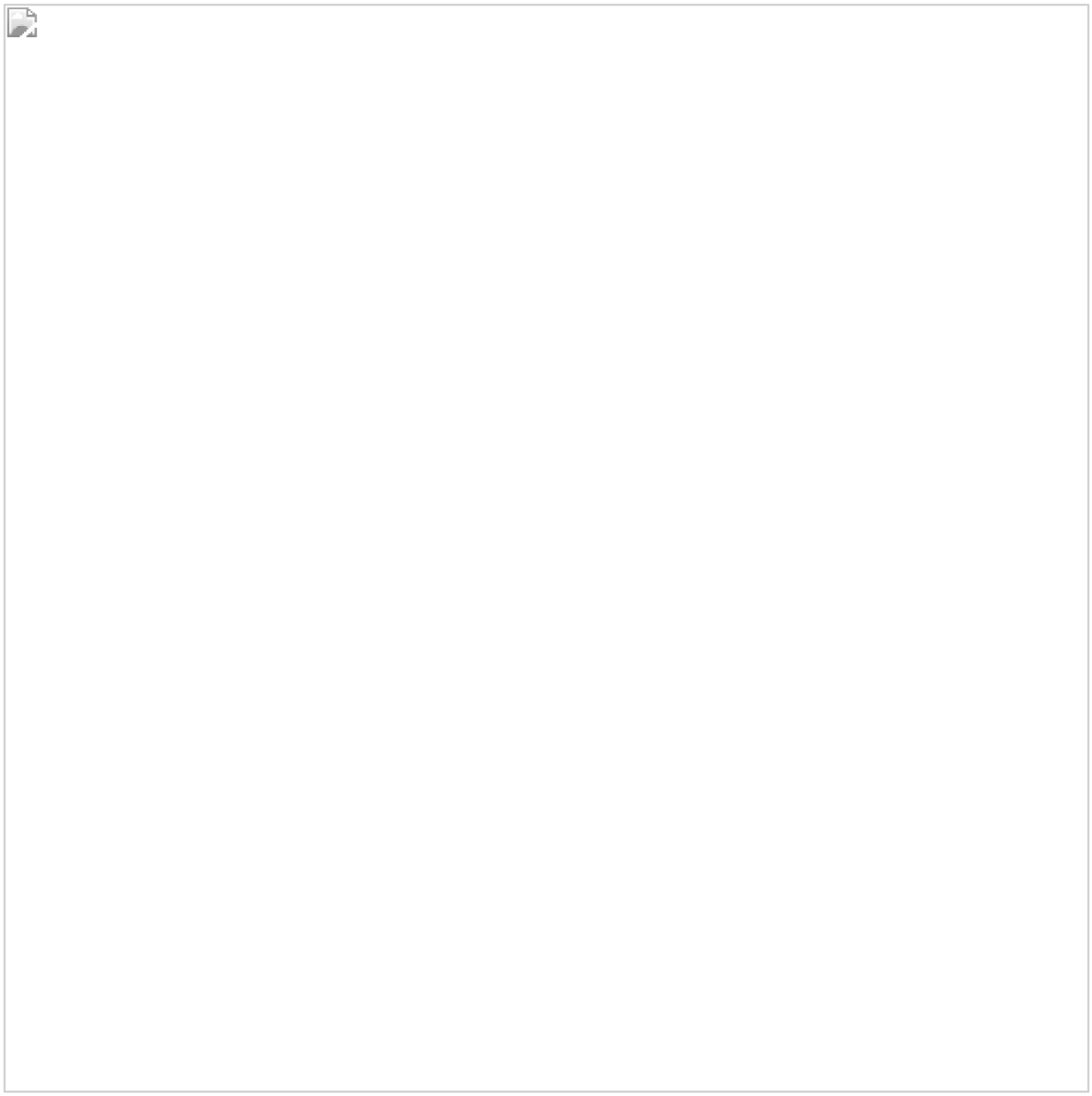
1. Where were the Swallow's friends?

- ○ Gone to Egypt
- ○ In the city
- ○ At the river

2. Where did the Swallow sleep?

- ○ Between the Prince's feet
- ○ In a chimney
- ○ On a boat

Drops of Water



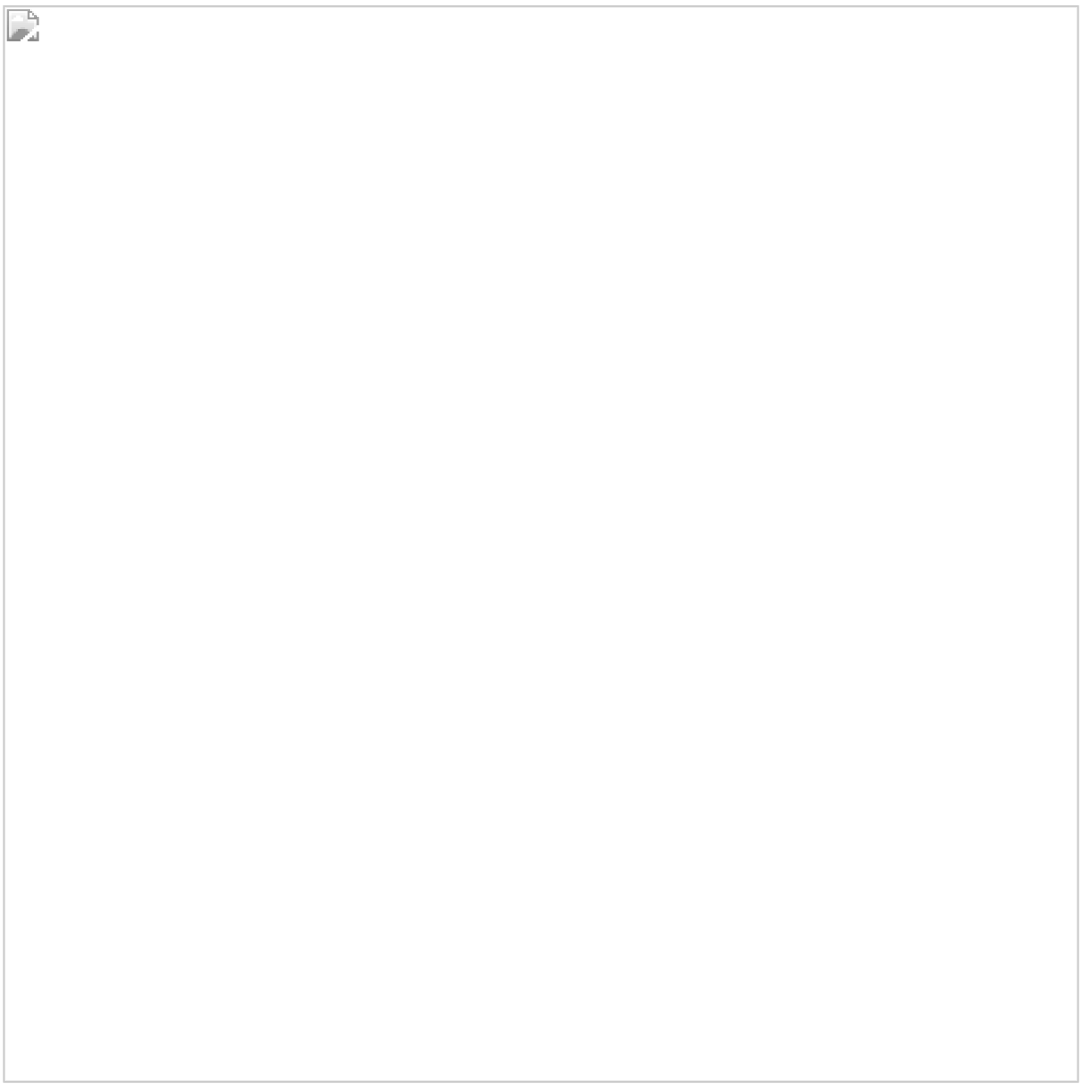
Just as the Swallow was falling asleep, a large drop of water fell on him. “What a curious thing!” he cried; “there is not a single cloud in the sky, and yet it is raining.”

He looked up. Tears were running down the golden cheeks of the Happy Prince. “Who are you?” “I am the Happy Prince.” “Why are you weeping then?”

Once, said the Prince, he had lived in a palace where sorrow was not allowed to come in. Now, high above his city, he could see all its misery, “and though my heart is made of lead yet I cannot chose but weep.”

TALK ABOUT IT

Why do you think the Prince cried, even though people called him happy?



Think about it

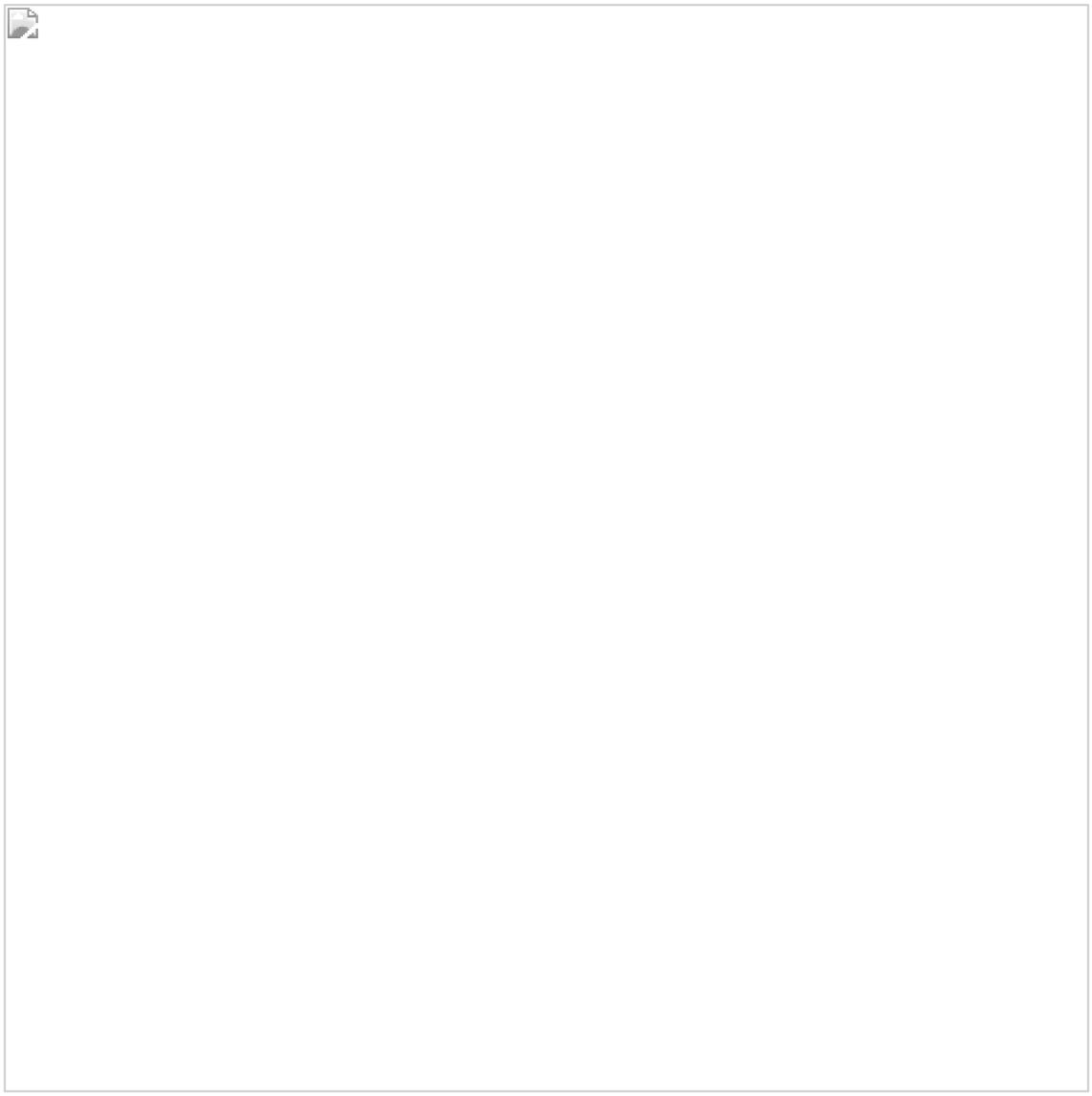
1. What was falling on the Swallow?

- ○ The Prince's tears
- ○ Rain from a cloud
- ○ Snow

2. What was the Prince's heart made of?

- ○ Lead
- ○ Gold
- ○ Glass

The Ruby for the Sick Boy



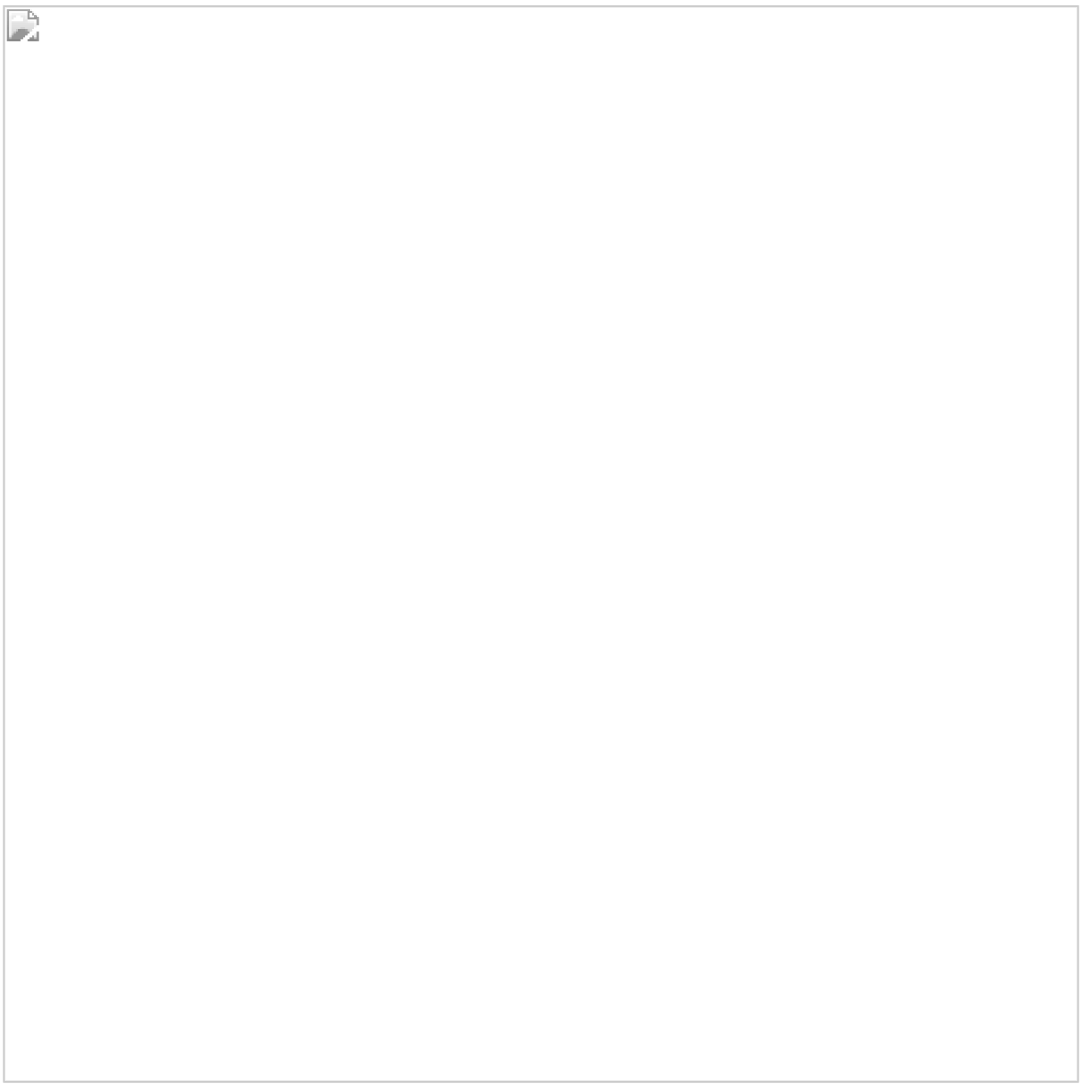
The Prince said, “far away in a little street there is a poor house.” In it a tired woman sewed flowers on a gown. Her little boy lay ill with a fever, asking for oranges; she had only river water to give him.

“Swallow, Swallow, little Swallow, will you not bring her the ruby out of my sword-hilt? My feet are fastened to this pedestal and I cannot move.”

“I am waited for in Egypt,” said the Swallow. But the Prince looked so sad that he was sorry. “It is very cold here,” he said; “but I will stay with you for one night, and be your messenger.”

TALK ABOUT IT

The Swallow wanted to go to Egypt, but he stayed. What do you think made him change his mind?



Think about it

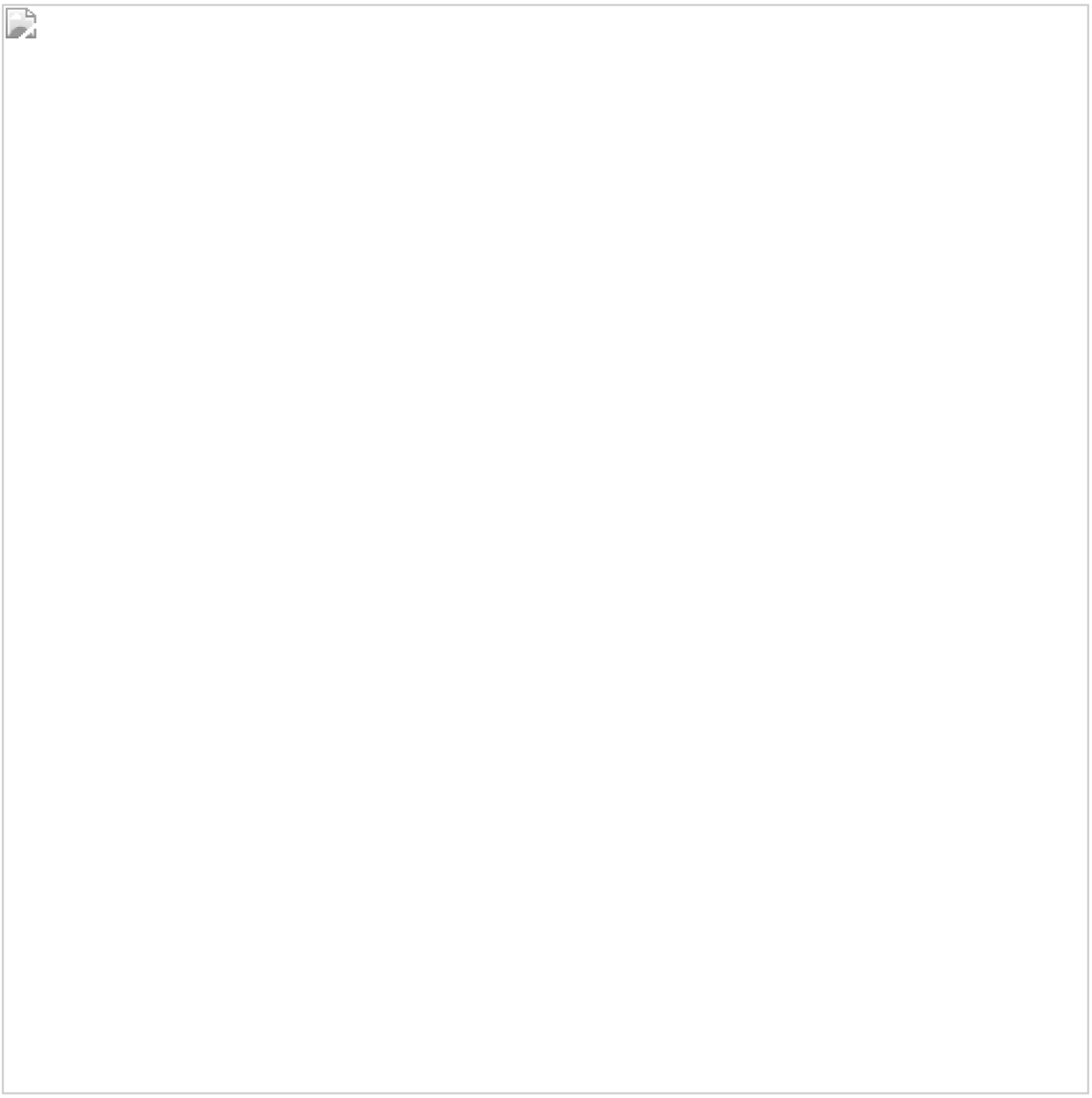
1. What did the little boy want?

- ○ Oranges
- ○ A kite
- ○ A kitten

2. Why couldn't the Prince take the ruby himself?

- ○ His feet were fastened to the pedestal
- ○ He did not want to
- ○ He was asleep

A Cool Breeze



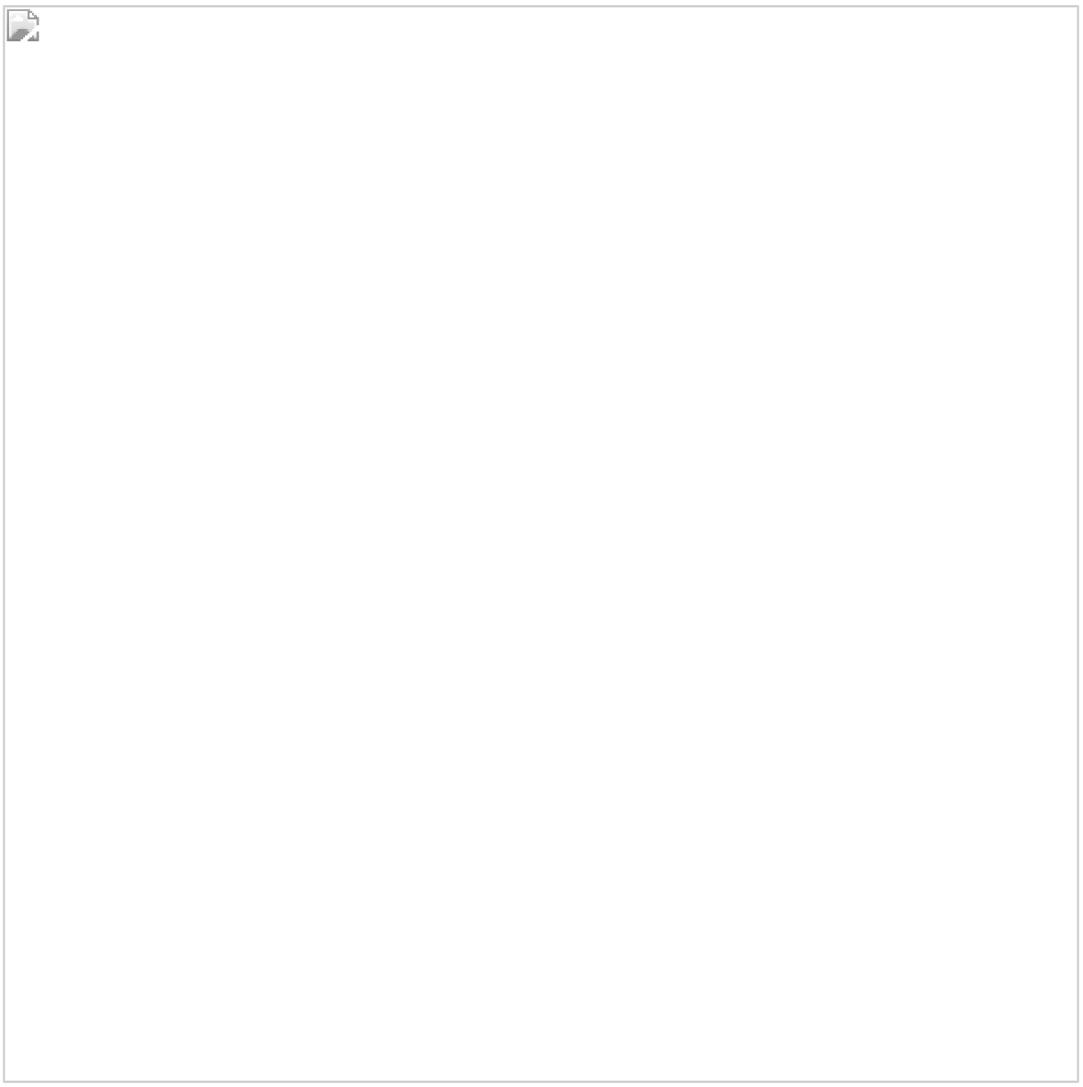
The Swallow picked out the great ruby and flew with it over the roofs to the poor house. The boy was tossing in bed, and his mother had fallen asleep.

In he hopped and laid the ruby on the table by her thimble. Then he flew gently round the bed, fanning the boy's forehead with his wings. "How cool I feel," said the boy. "I must be getting better." And he slept.

The Swallow flew back. "It is curious," he said, "but I feel quite warm now, although it is so cold." "That is because you have done a good action," said the Prince.

TALK ABOUT IT

The Swallow felt warm after helping. Have you ever felt warm inside after doing something kind?



Think about it

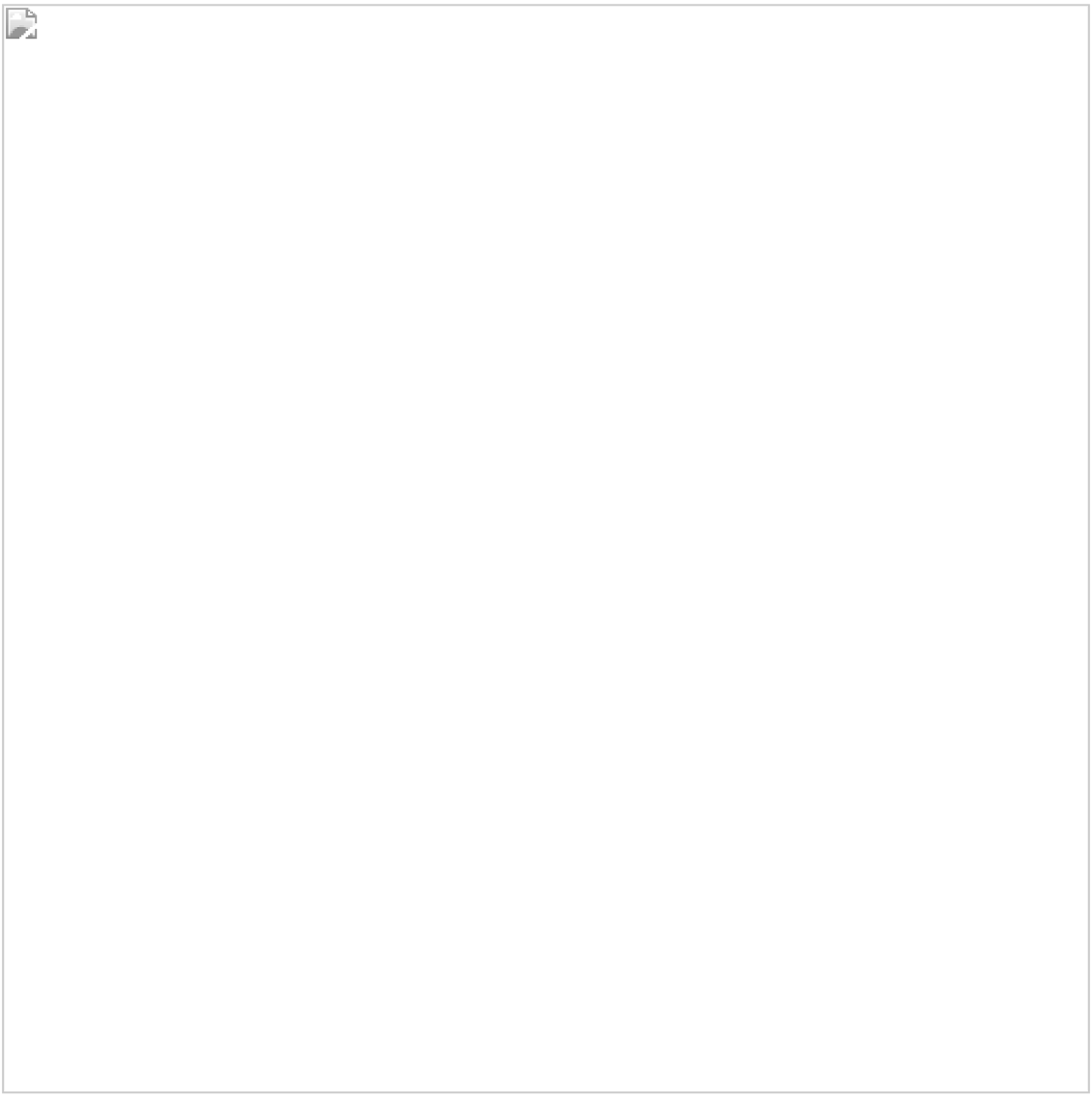
1. How did the Swallow help the boy?

- ○ He fanned him with his wings
- ○ He sang a song
- ○ He read him a book

2. Why did the Swallow feel warm?

- ○ He had done a good action
- ○ The sun came out
- ○ He wore a scarf

A Sapphire for the Writer



The next night the Prince asked, “will you not stay with me one night longer?” In a cold attic, a young man was trying to finish a play, but he had no fire and was too cold to write.

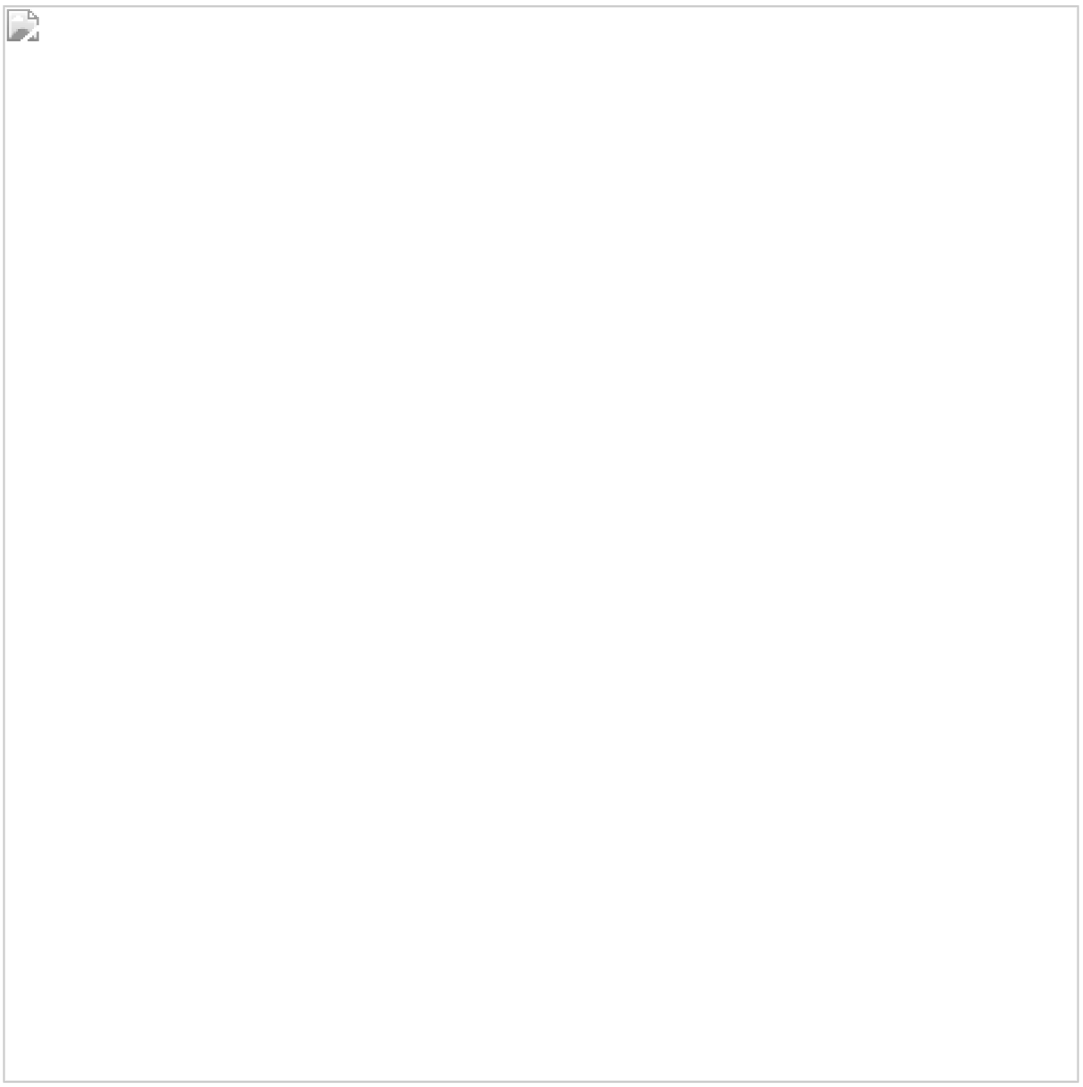
“I have no ruby now; my eyes are all that I have left. Pluck out one of them and take it to him.” “Dear Prince,” said the Swallow, “I cannot do that,” and he began to weep.

“Swallow, Swallow, little Swallow, do as I command you.” The Swallow took one sapphire to the attic. “Now I can finish my play,” cried the young man, and he looked quite happy.

TALK ABOUT IT

It was hard for the Swallow to do this. Why do you think he did it anyway?

A Sapphire for the Writer · another picture



Think about it

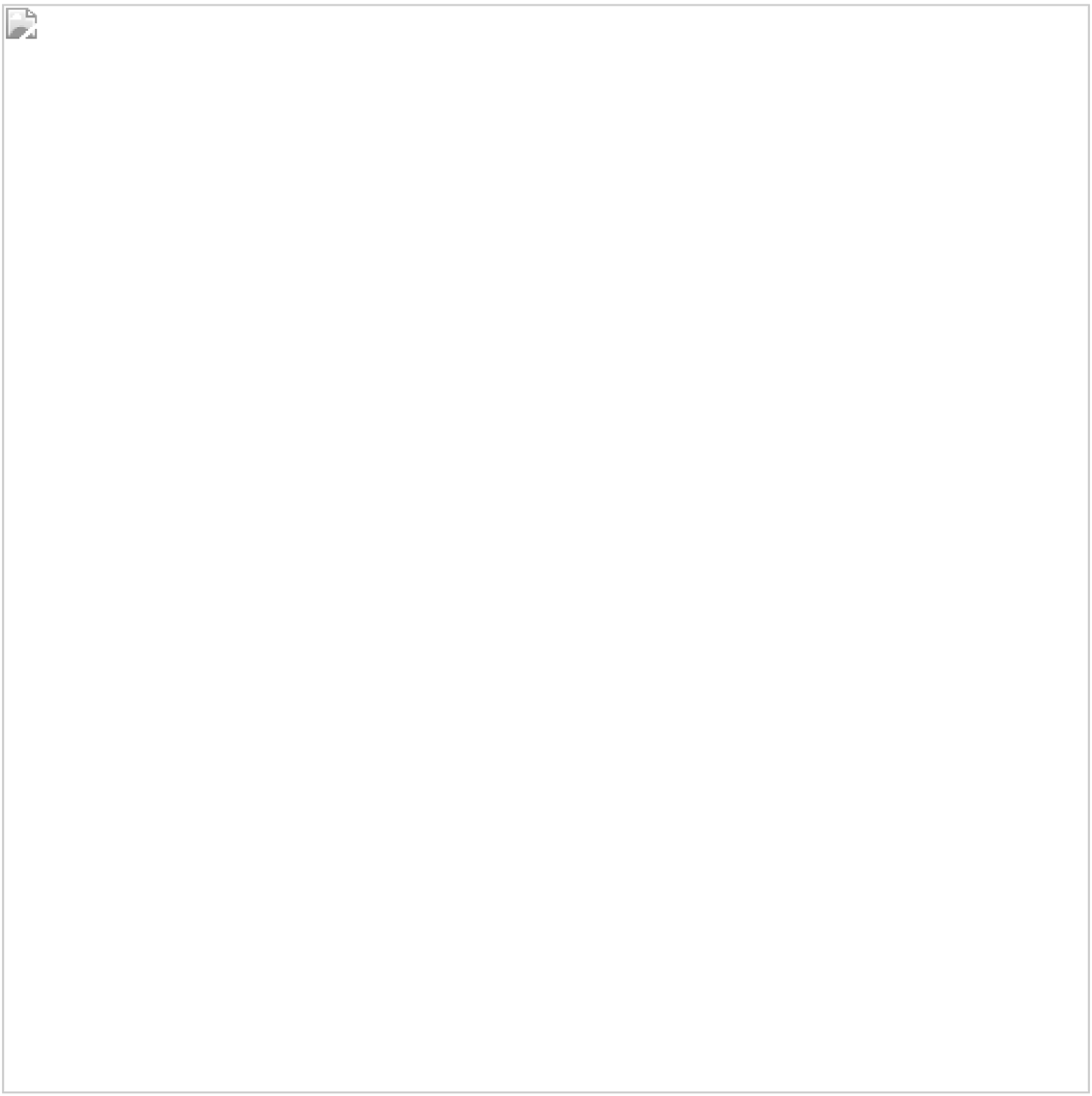
1. What was the young man trying to finish?

- ○ A play
- ○ A painting
- ○ A song

2. What did the Prince give him?

- ○ One of his sapphire eyes
- ○ His sword
- ○ A gold coin

The Match-Girl



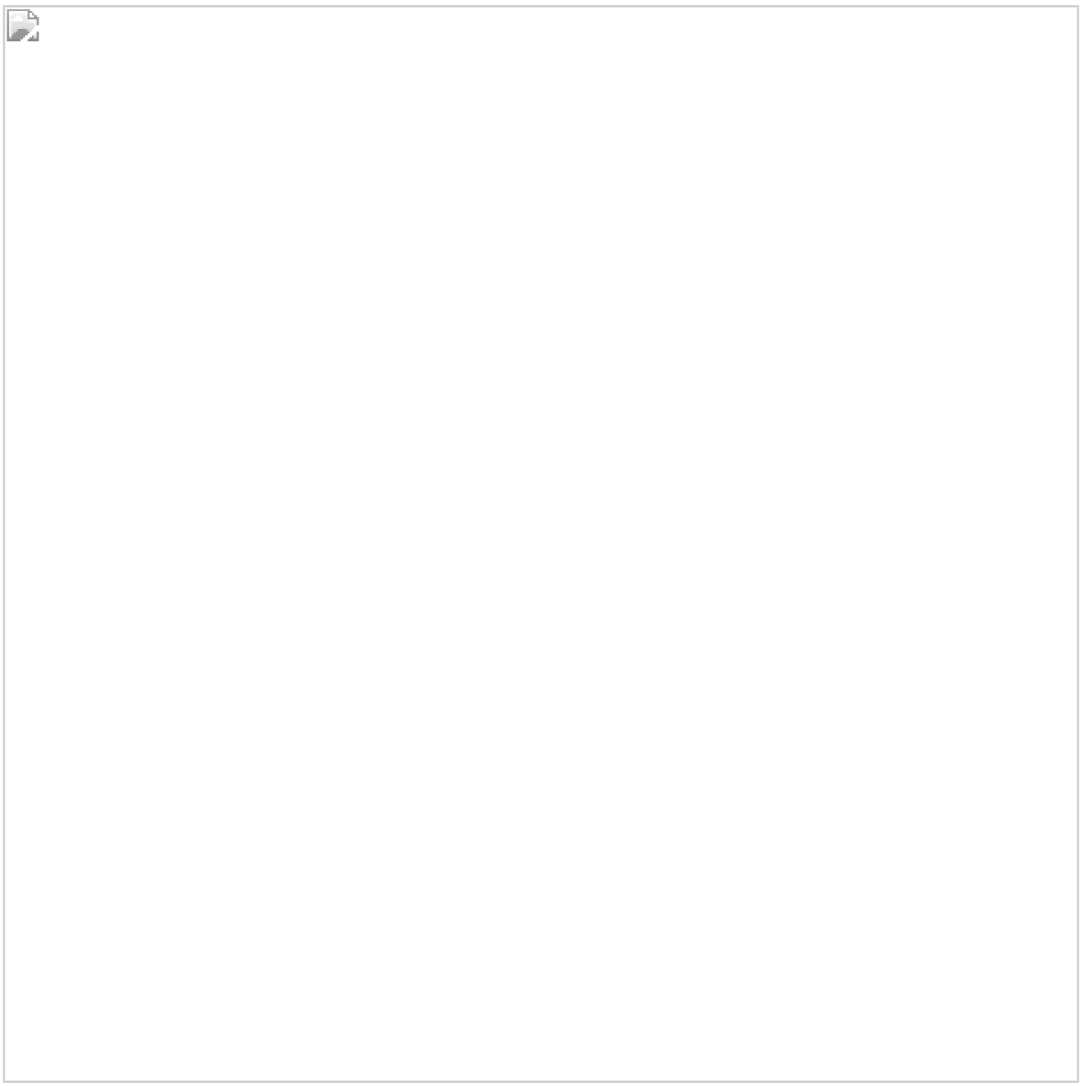
The Swallow came back to say good-bye. “It is winter,” he said, “and the chill snow will soon be here.” “Dear Prince, I must leave you, but I will never forget you.”

Down in the square the Prince saw a little match-girl. She had let her matches fall in the gutter and they were all spoiled. She had no shoes or stockings, and she was crying. “Pluck out my other eye, and give it to her.”

“You would be quite blind then,” said the Swallow. But he slipped the jewel into the girl’s hand. “What a lovely bit of glass,” she cried, and she ran home, laughing.

TALK ABOUT IT

Now the Prince could not see. What do you think the Swallow will do?



Think about it

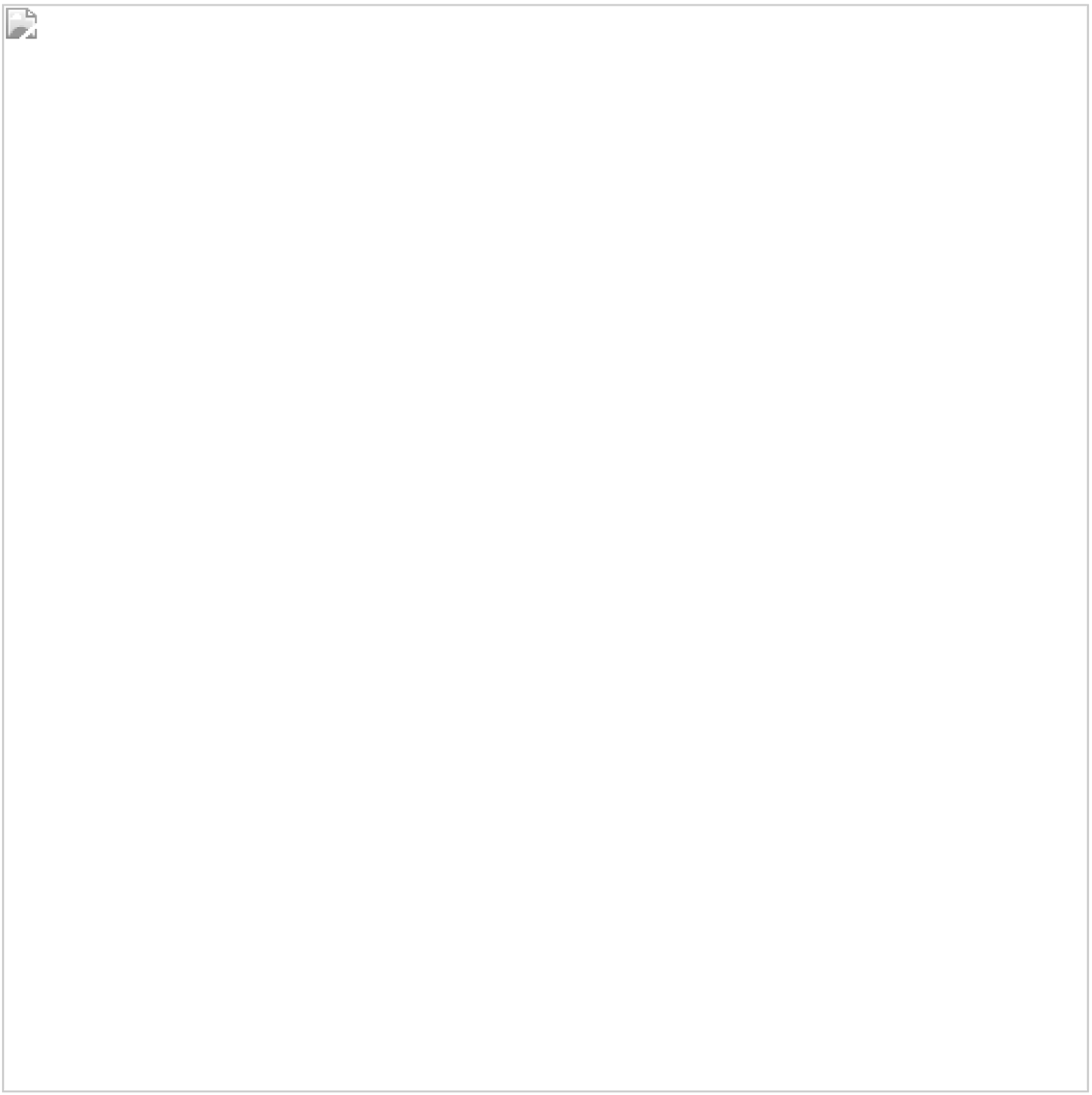
1. What had happened to the girl's matches?

- ○ They fell in the gutter and were spoiled
- ○ She sold them all
- ○ She lost them in the snow

2. What did the girl think the jewel was?

- ○ A lovely bit of glass
- ○ A button
- ○ A star

I Will Stay with You Always



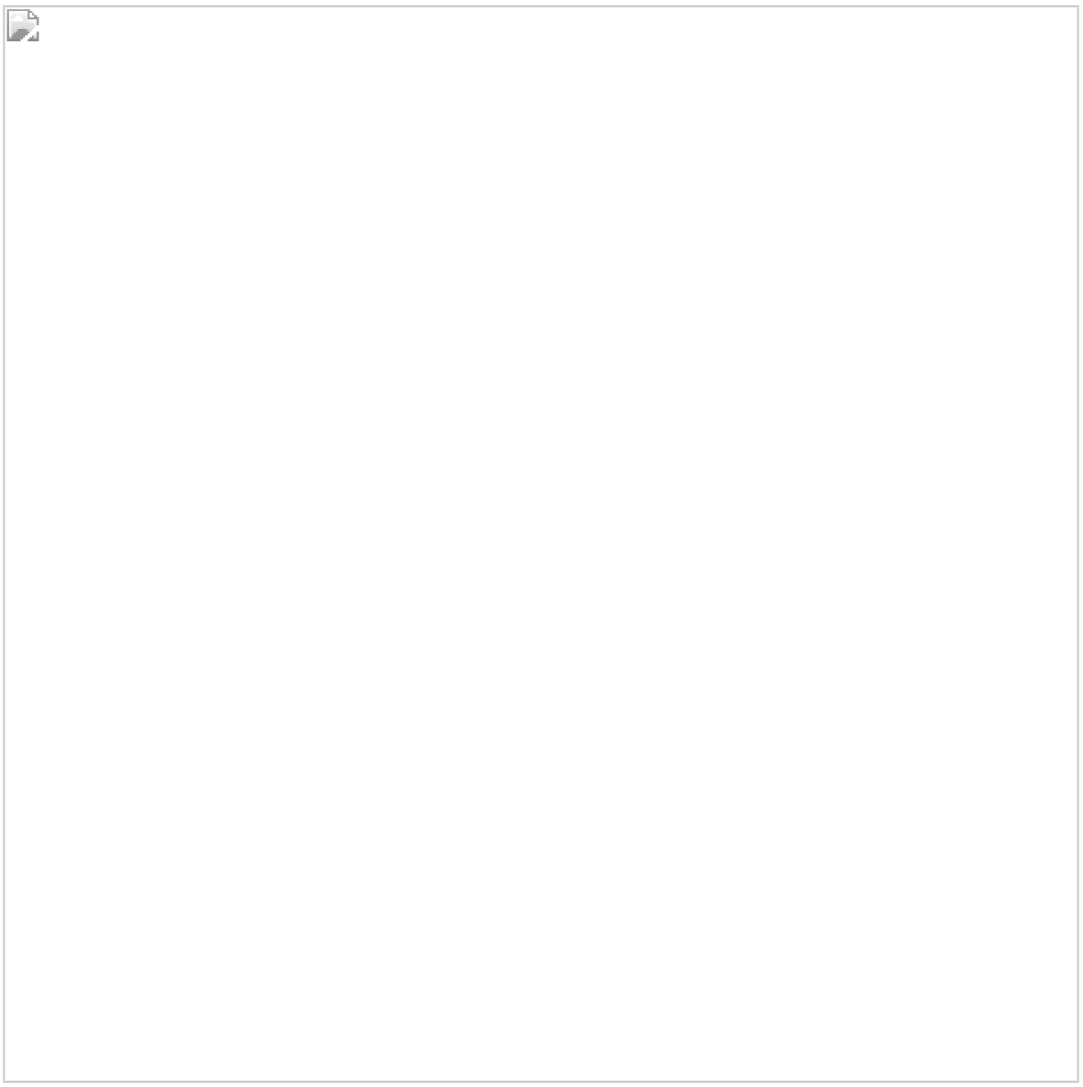
“You are blind now,” said the Swallow, “so I will stay with you always.” “No, little Swallow, you must go away to Egypt.” But the Swallow said again, “I will stay with you always,” and he slept at the Prince’s feet.

Next day, on the Prince’s shoulder, he told stories of strange lands: of red ibises along the Nile, of the Sphinx in the desert, of merchants walking beside their camels.

“Dear little Swallow, you tell me of marvellous things, but more marvellous than anything is the suffering of men and of women. Fly over my city, little Swallow, and tell me what you see there.”

TALK ABOUT IT

The Swallow chose to stay with his friend. Who would you stay with, and why?



Think about it

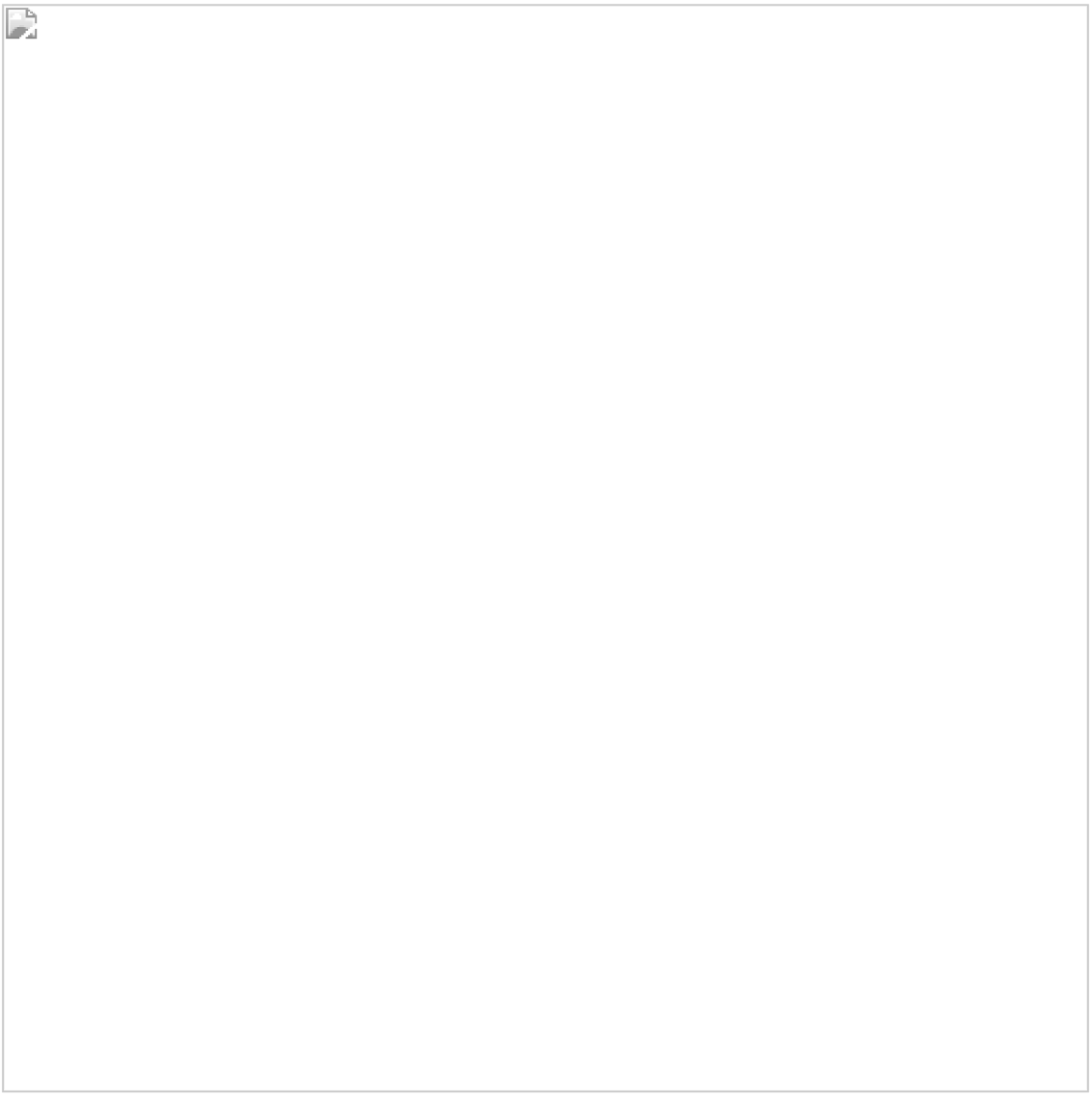
1. What did the Swallow tell the Prince about?

- ○ Strange lands he had seen
- ○ What he ate for lunch
- ○ A football match

2. What did the Prince ask the Swallow to do next?

- ○ Fly over the city and tell what he saw
- ○ Fly home to Egypt
- ○ Sing him to sleep

Leaf After Leaf of Gold



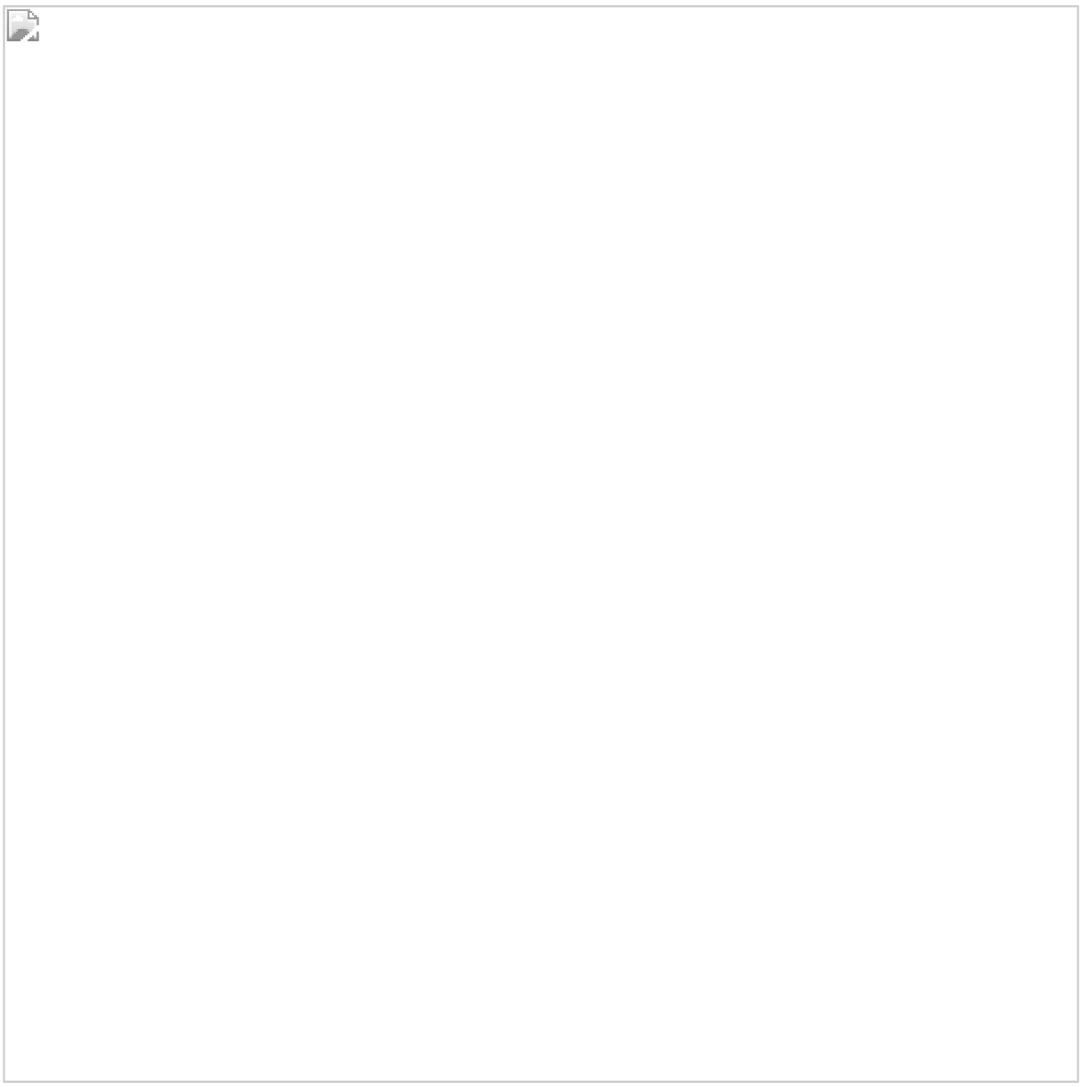
The Swallow flew over the great city. He saw the rich in their beautiful houses, and beggars sitting at the gates. Under a bridge two little boys lay in each other's arms to keep warm. "How hungry we are!" they said.

"I am covered with fine gold," said the Prince, "you must take it off, leaf by leaf, and give it to my poor."

Leaf after leaf of gold the Swallow picked off, till the Happy Prince looked dull and grey. Leaf after leaf he brought to the poor, and the children's faces grew rosier, and they laughed and played in the street. "We have bread now!" they cried.

TALK ABOUT IT

The Prince gave away everything that made him beautiful. What do you think about that?



Think about it

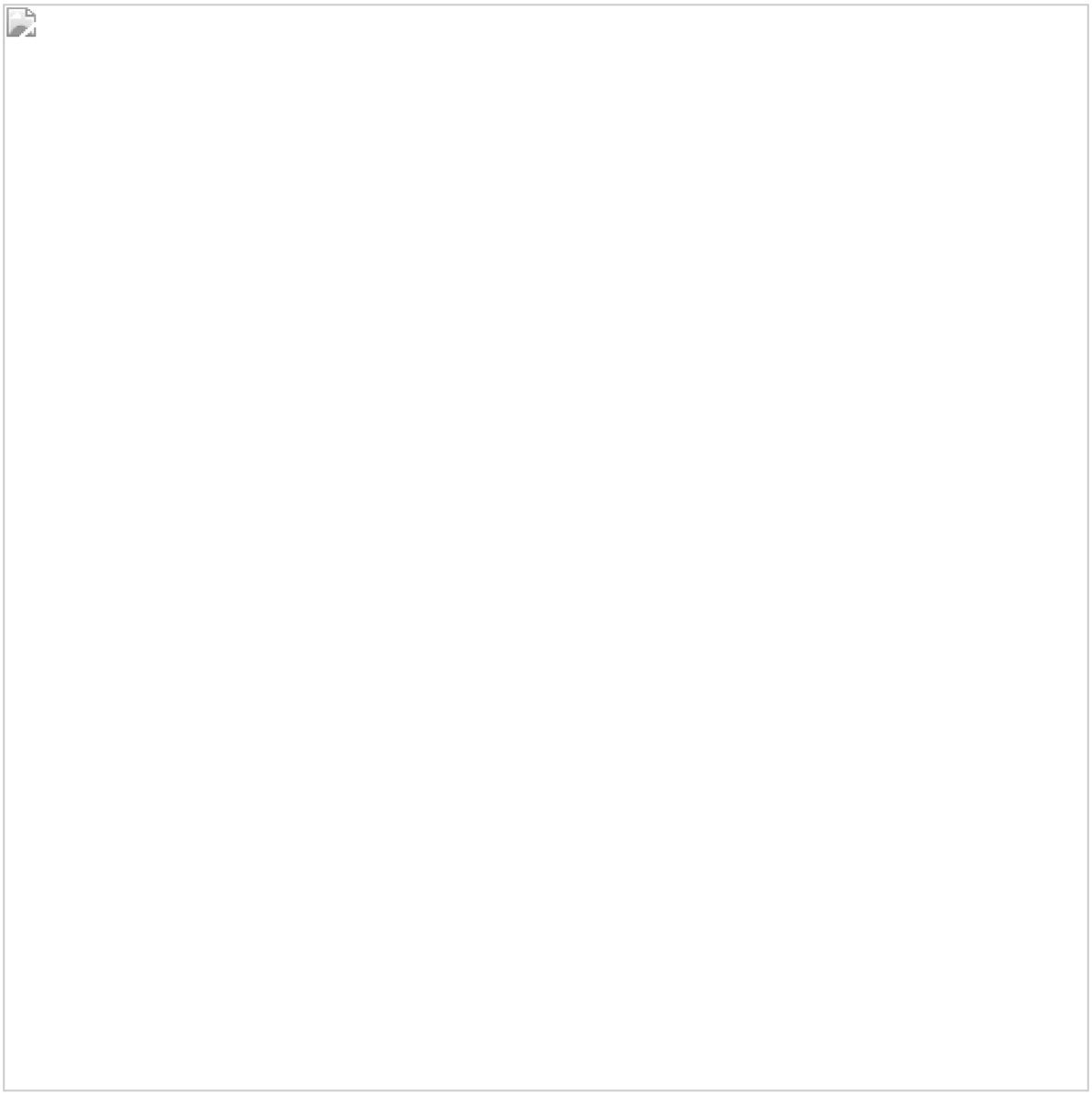
1. What did the Swallow take from the Prince to give to the poor?

- ○ Leaves of gold
- ○ His crown
- ○ His cloak

2. What did the children say when they got the gold?

- ○ “We have bread now!”
- ○ Give us more
- ○ Where is the Prince

Good-bye, Dear Prince



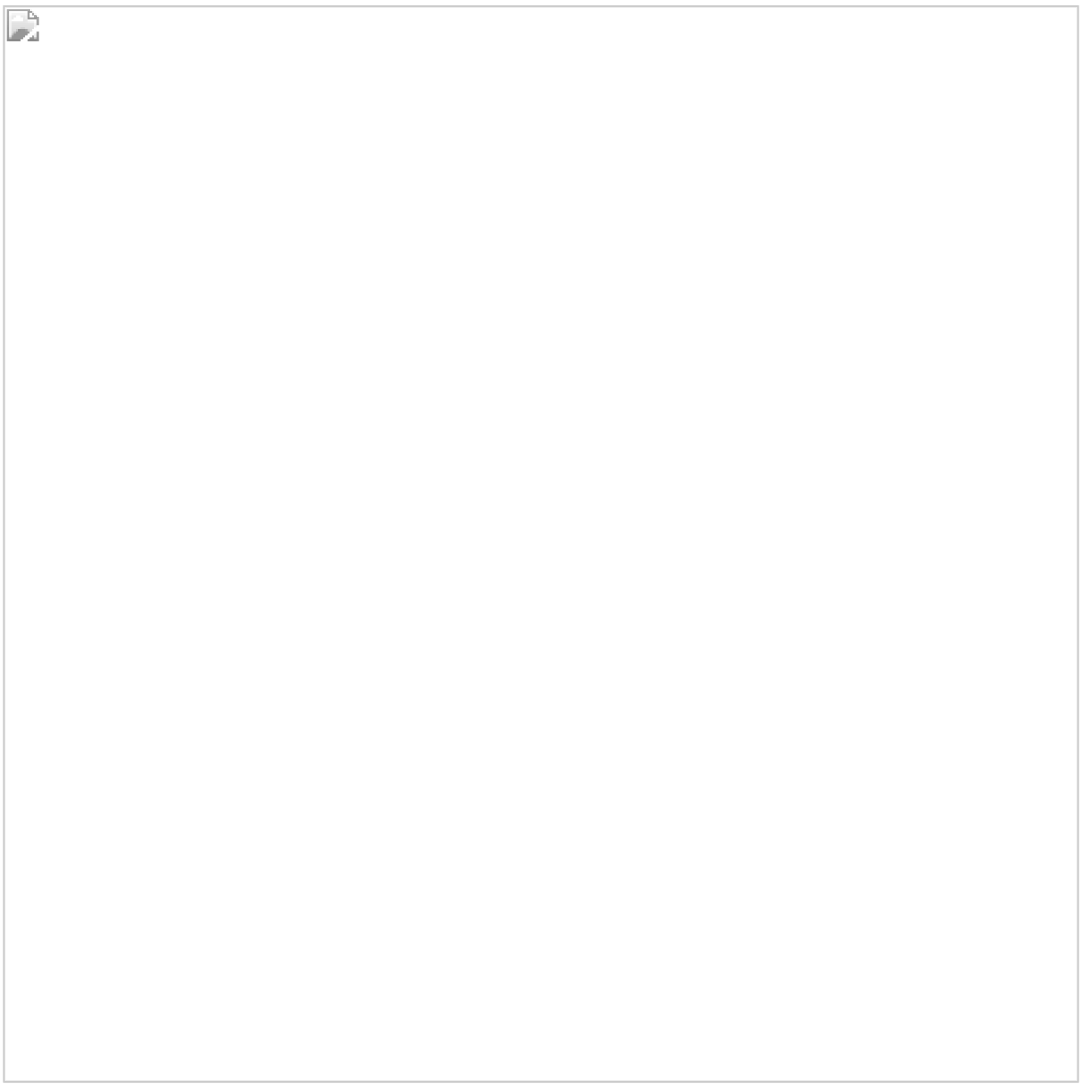
Then the snow came, and after the snow the frost. The Swallow grew colder and colder, but he would not leave the Prince, he loved him too well.

He knew that he was going to die. He flew up to the Prince's shoulder once more. "Good-bye, dear Prince!" he murmured, "will you let me kiss your hand?"

"I am glad that you are going to Egypt at last," said the Prince, "but you must kiss me on the lips, for I love you." "It is not to Egypt that I am going. I am going to the House of Death. Death is the brother of Sleep, is he not?"

TALK ABOUT IT

The Swallow and the Prince said they loved each other. How do you show someone you love them?



Think about it

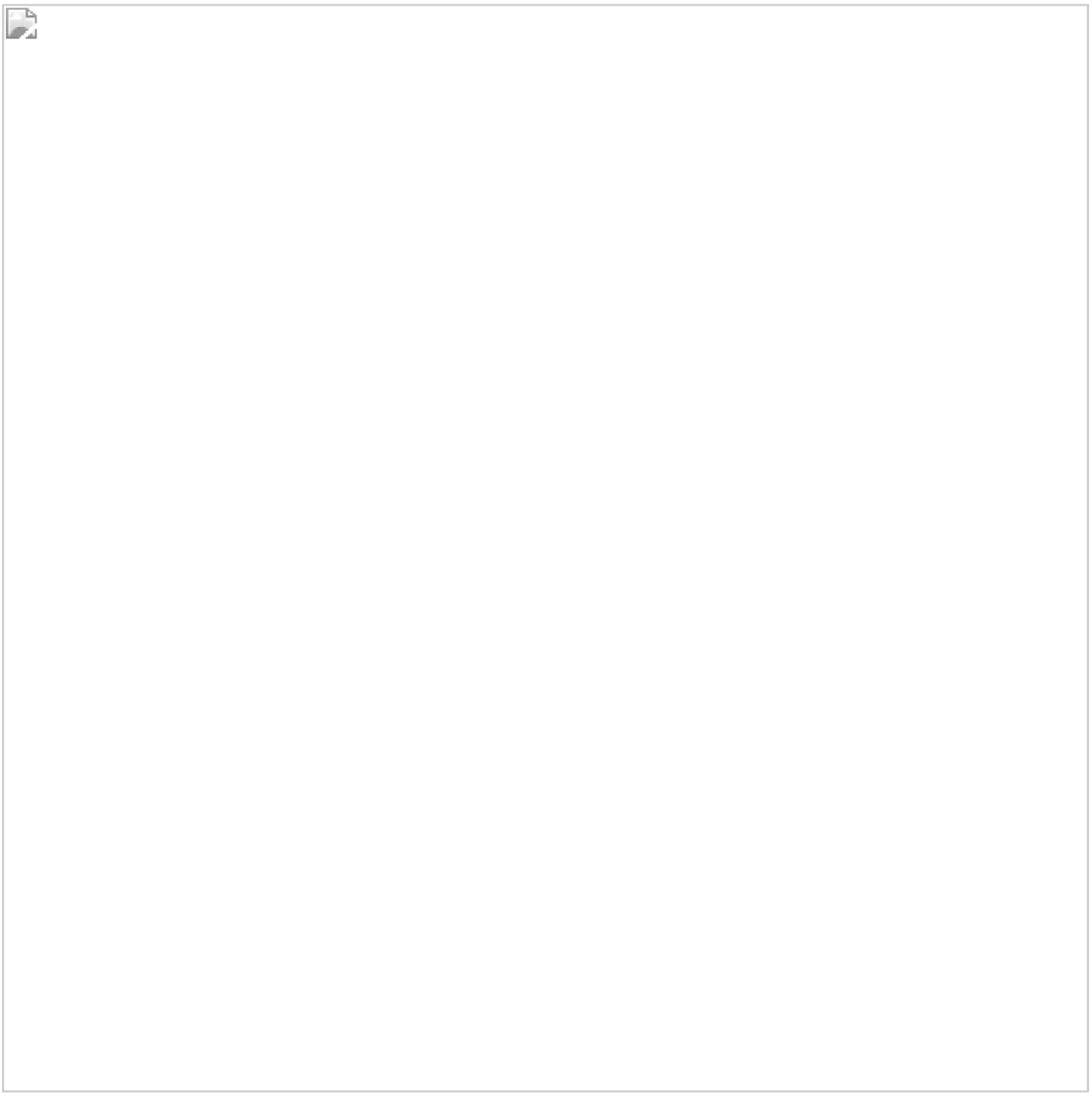
1. Why did the Swallow not fly away when it got cold?

- ○ He loved the Prince too well
- ○ He forgot the way
- ○ He liked the snow

2. What did the Swallow ask to do?

- ○ Kiss the Prince's hand
- ○ Fly to the moon
- ○ Eat a ruby

The Heart That Broke



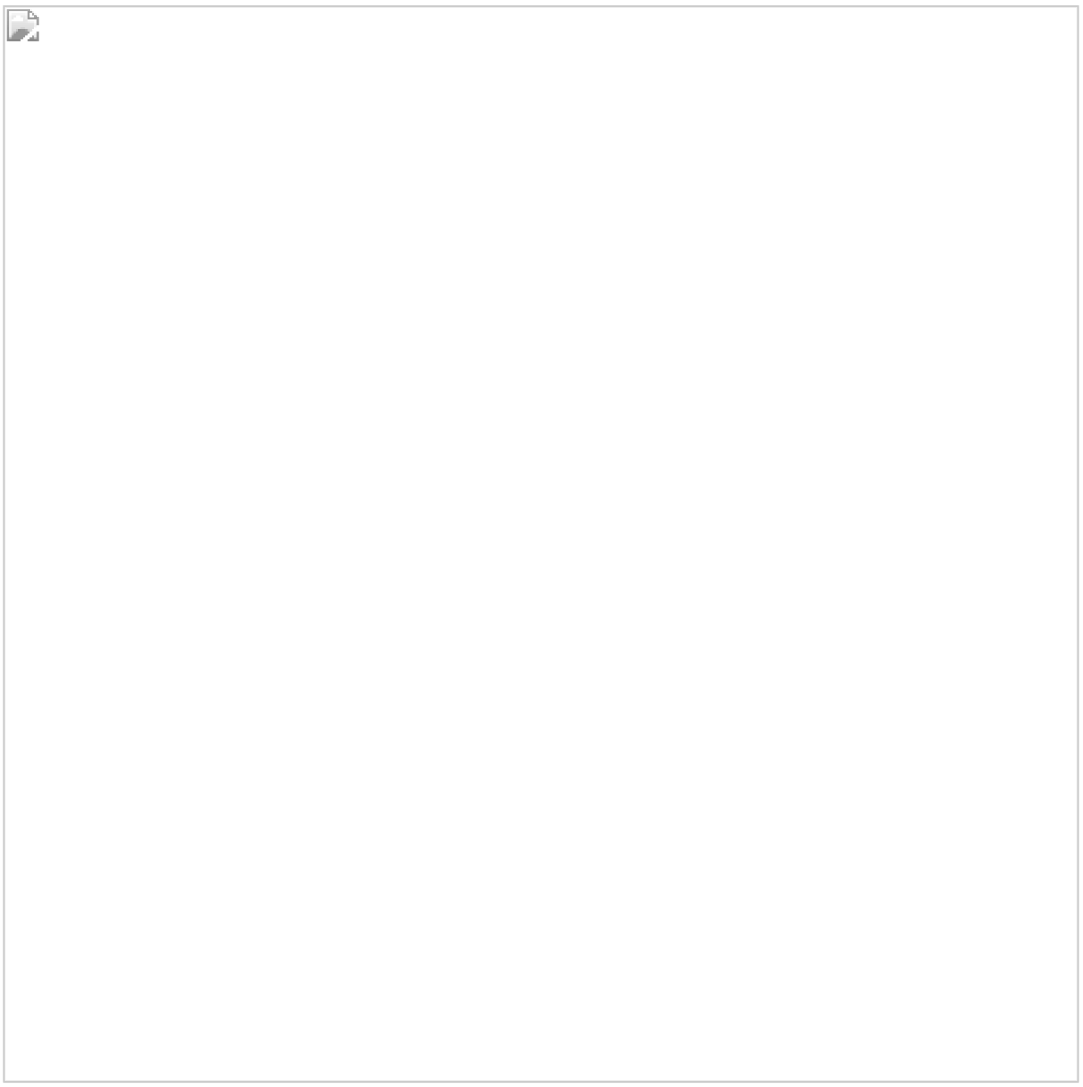
The Swallow kissed the Happy Prince on the lips and fell down dead at his feet. At that moment a curious crack sounded inside the statue. The leaden heart had snapped right in two.

Early next morning the Mayor walked by with the Town Councillors. “Dear me! how shabby the Happy Prince looks!” “His eyes are gone, and he is golden no longer. He is little better than a beggar!”

So they pulled down the statue and melted it in a furnace. The Mayor said they must have another statue, “and it shall be a statue of myself.” “Of myself,” said each of the Town Councillors, and they quarrelled.

TALK ABOUT IT

The Mayor only saw that the statue was not pretty any more. What do you think he missed?



Think about it

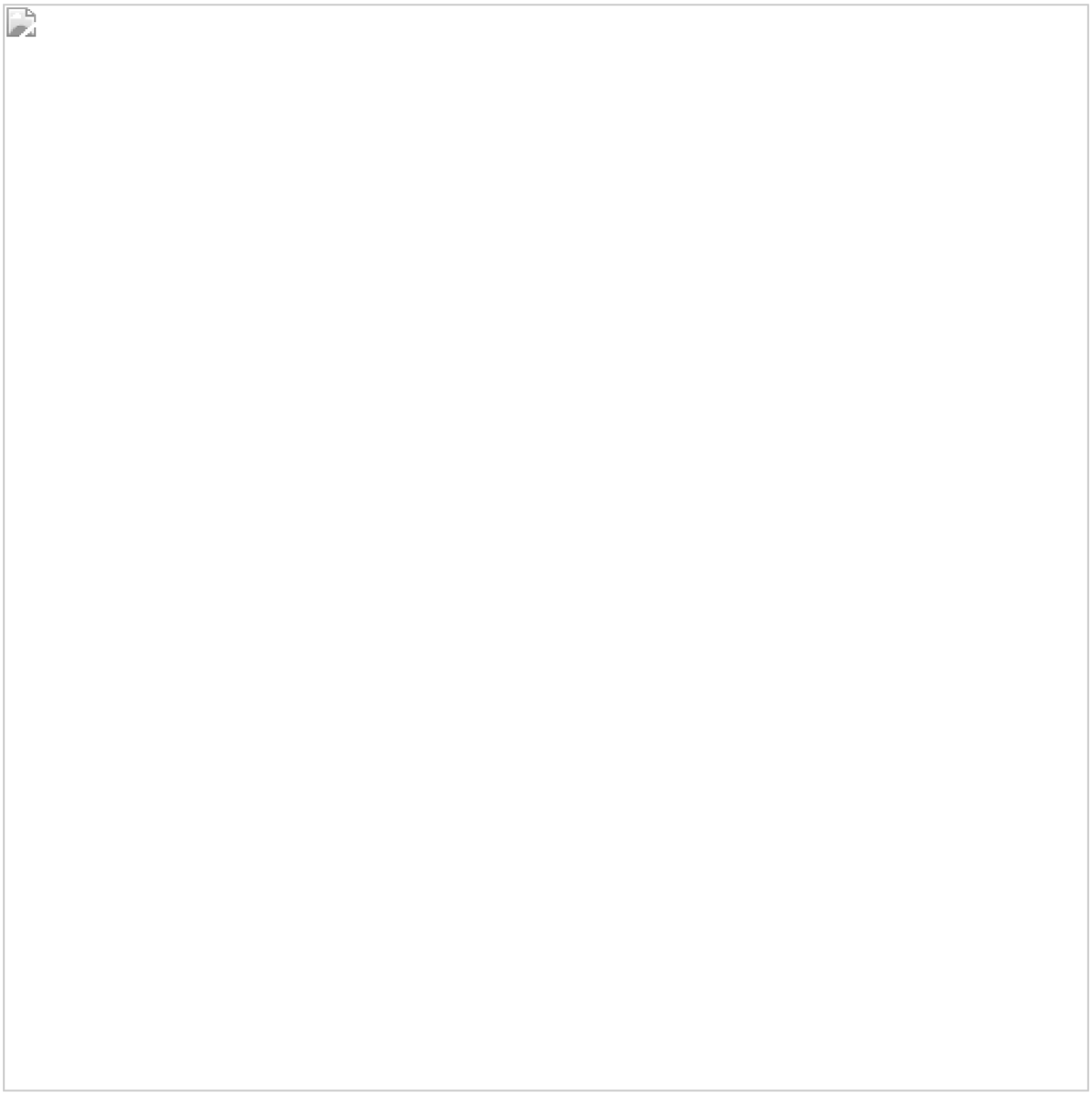
1. What happened to the Prince's leaden heart?

- ○ It snapped in two
- ○ It turned to gold
- ○ It flew away

2. What did the Mayor want to put up instead?

- ○ A statue of himself
- ○ A garden
- ○ A new Happy Prince

The Two Most Precious Things



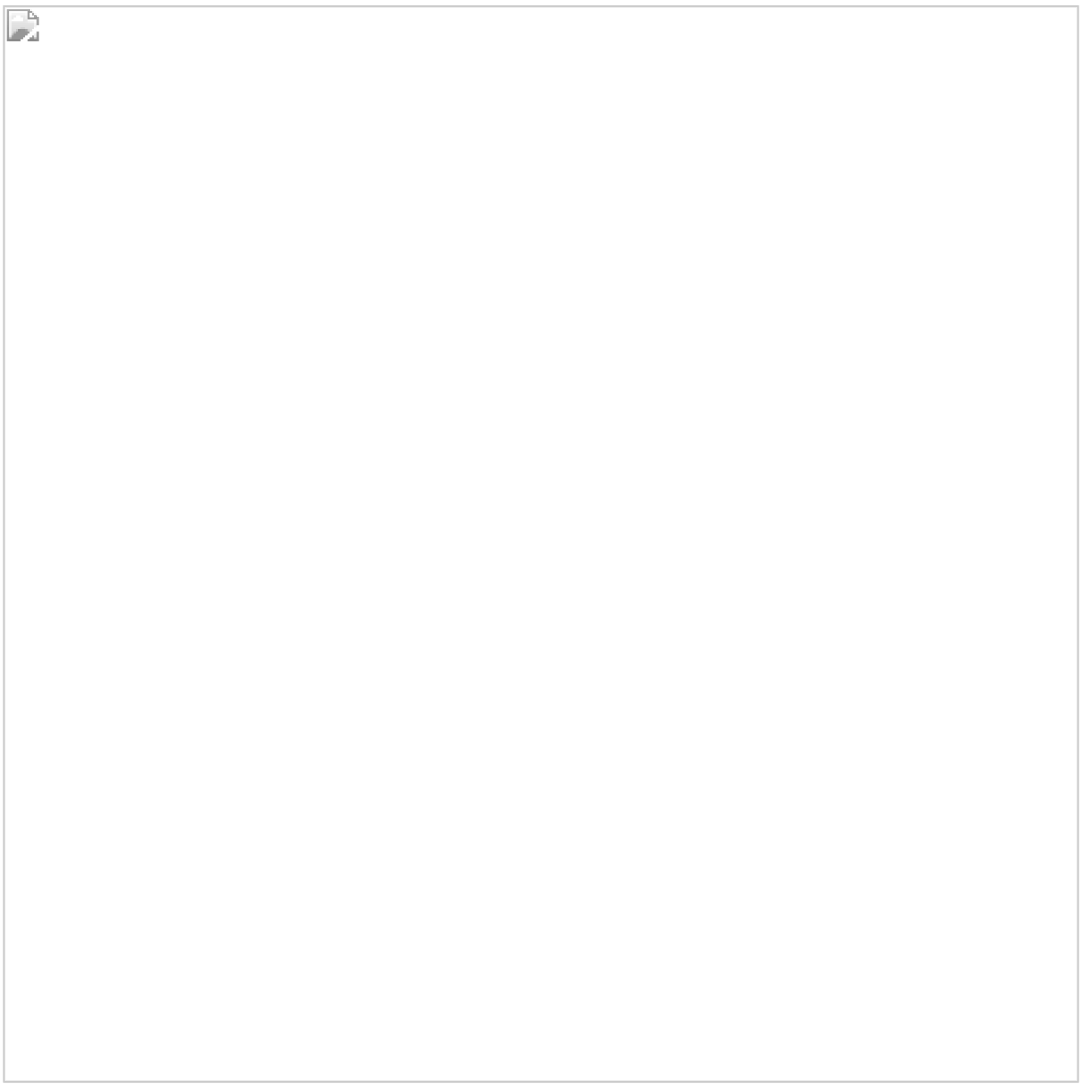
At the foundry, the workmen said, “This broken lead heart will not melt in the furnace. We must throw it away.” So they threw it on a dust-heap, where the dead Swallow was also lying.

“Bring me the two most precious things in the city,” said God to one of His Angels. And the Angel brought Him the leaden heart and the dead bird.

“You have rightly chosen,” said God, “for in my garden of Paradise this little bird shall sing for evermore, and in my city of gold the Happy Prince shall praise me.”

TALK ABOUT IT

God called the little bird and the broken heart the most precious things. Why do you think He chose them?



Think about it

1. What would not melt in the furnace?

- ○ The leaden heart
- ○ The sword
- ○ The column

2. What did God's Angel bring Him?

- ○ The leaden heart and the dead bird
- ○ The ruby and the sapphire
- ○ The gold leaves

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

— Yeshua HaMashiach

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