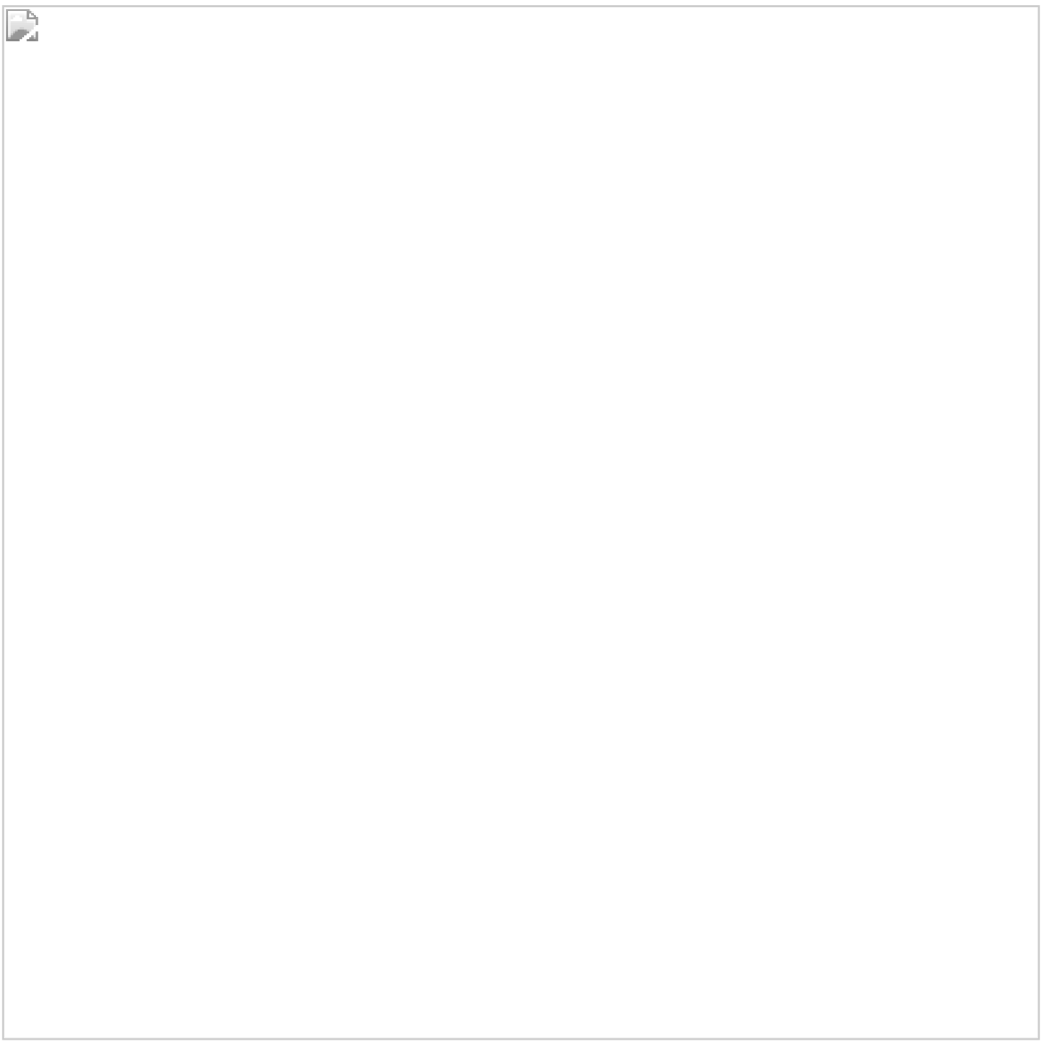
COLORING THE CLASSICS

The Haunted Man

A Christmas Ghost Story



"Everybody said so." That is how Dickens begins this story. Everybody said that a certain man looked like a haunted man, which means a man who is followed around by a ghost.

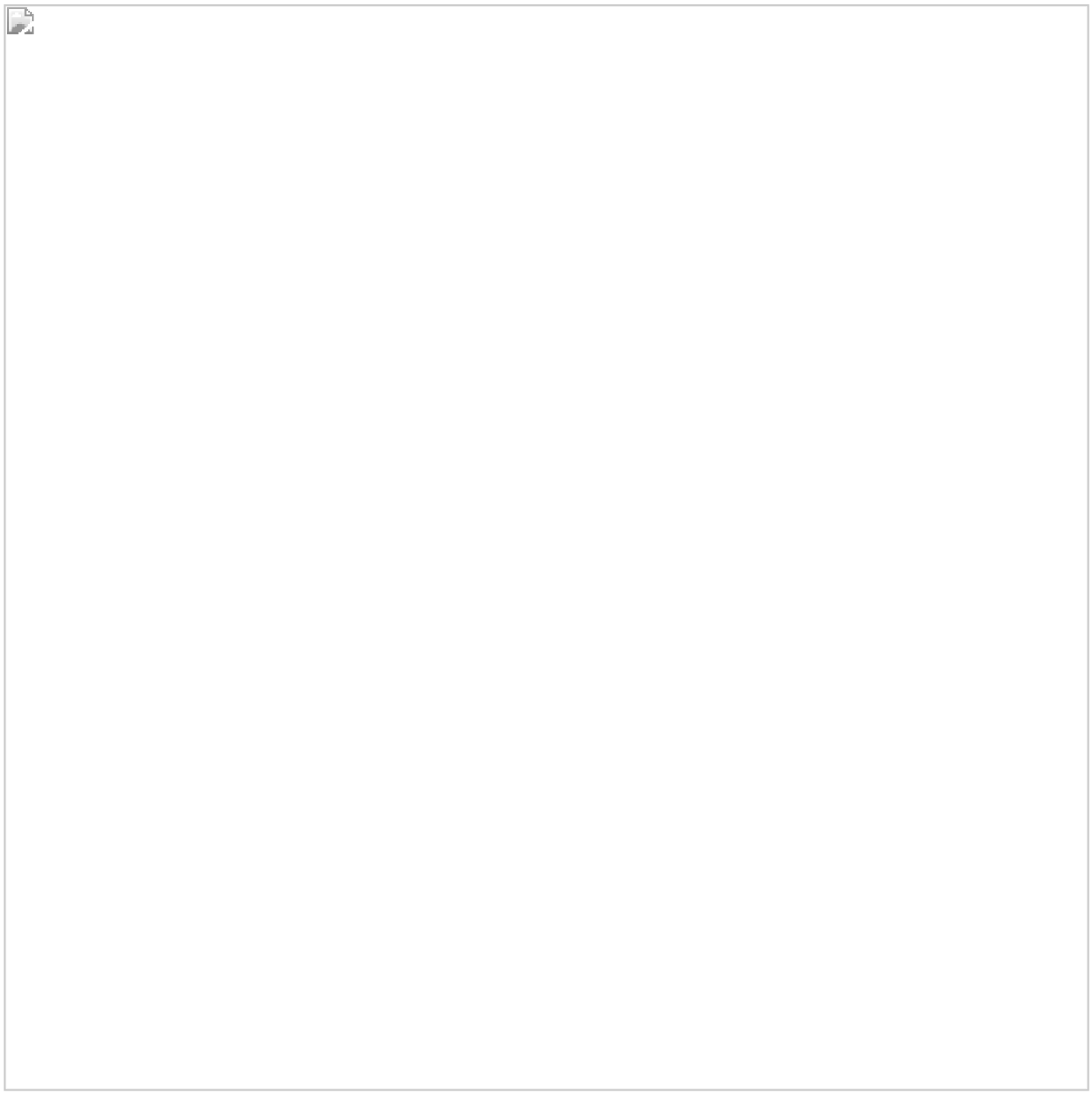
His name was Mr. Redlaw. He was a chemist, which is a teacher of science who studies what things are made of. He lived alone in the oldest, darkest corner of an old college in a big, smoky city, and he hardly ever smiled.

TALK ABOUT IT

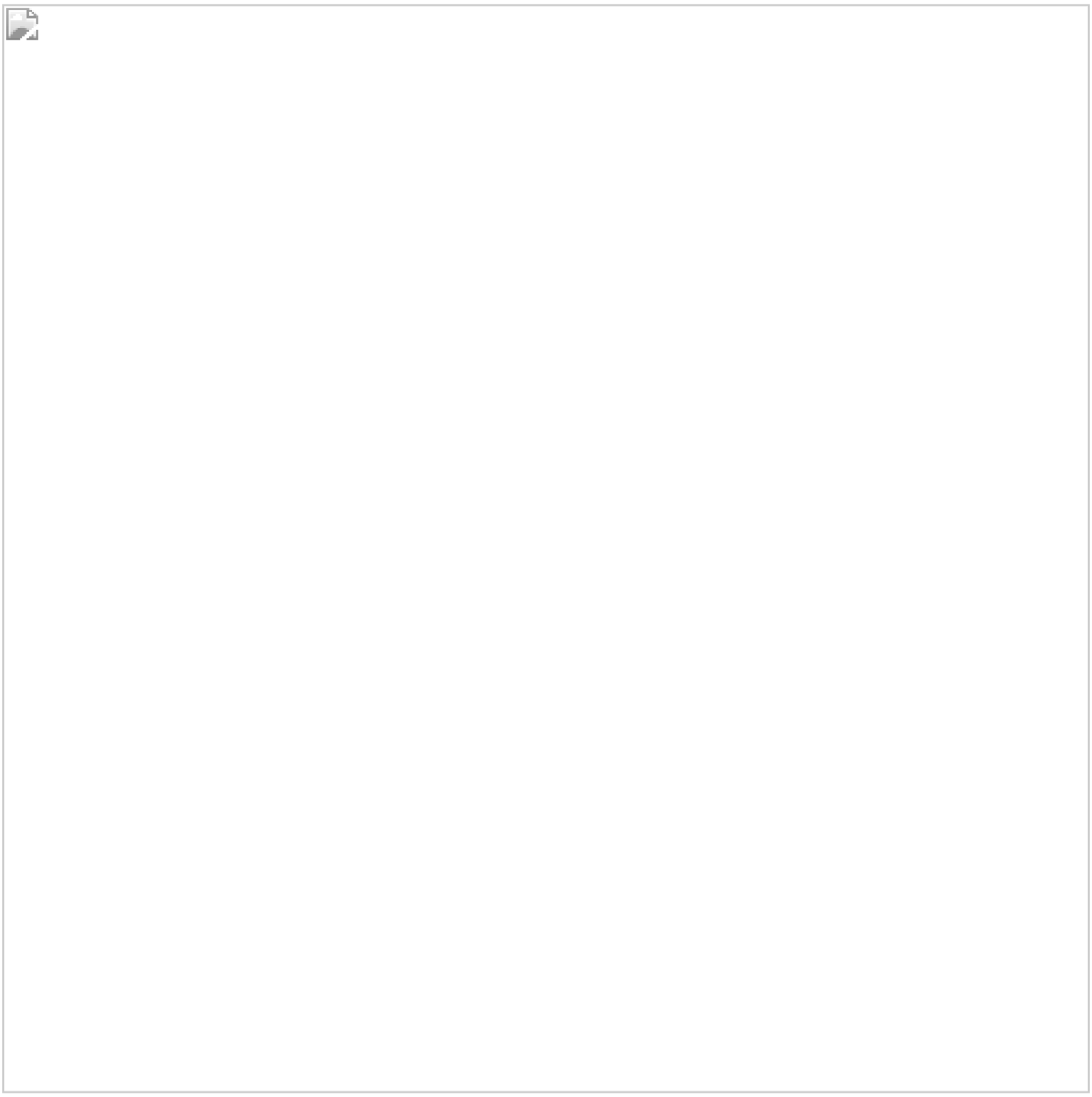
Everybody said Mr. Redlaw looked like a haunted man. What do you think a haunted man might look like?

This book belongs to _____

The Haunted Man · another picture



A Winter Night



It was a cold winter night, close to Christmas. Mr. Redlaw sat by his fire. In bustled William Swidger, the keeper of the old college, with Mr. Redlaw's dinner.

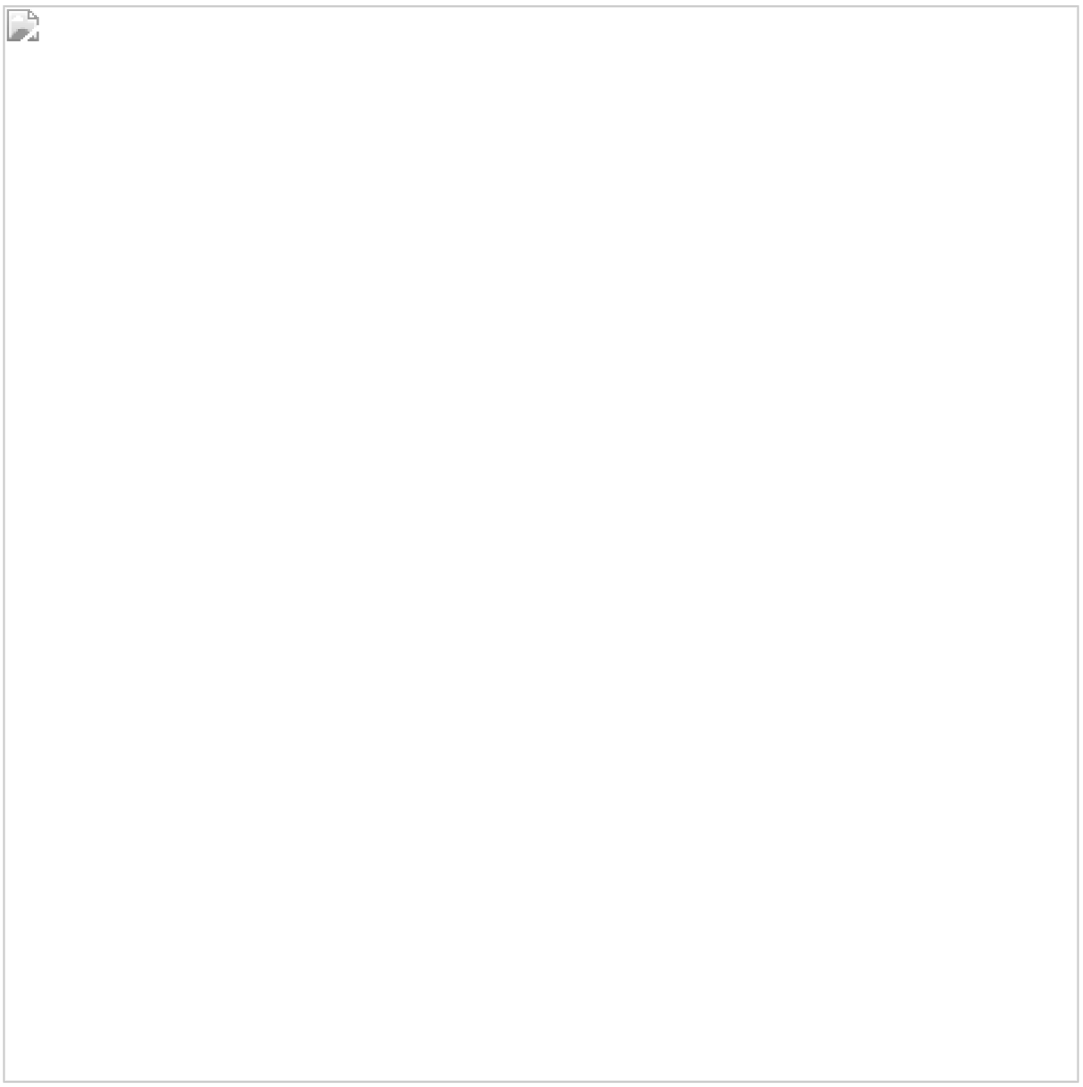
With him came his wife Milly, quiet and calm and kind, and his old father Philip, who was eighty-seven and had his arms full of holly, the prickly green plant with red berries that people hang up at Christmas.

Philip loved to remember. He told of a portrait in the college's great hall, and under it the words “Lord, keep my memory green!” To keep a memory green is to keep it fresh and alive, like a leaf.

TALK ABOUT IT

Philip's memories made him glad, even though he was very old. Which memories would you like to keep fresh for a long, long time?

A Winter Night · another picture



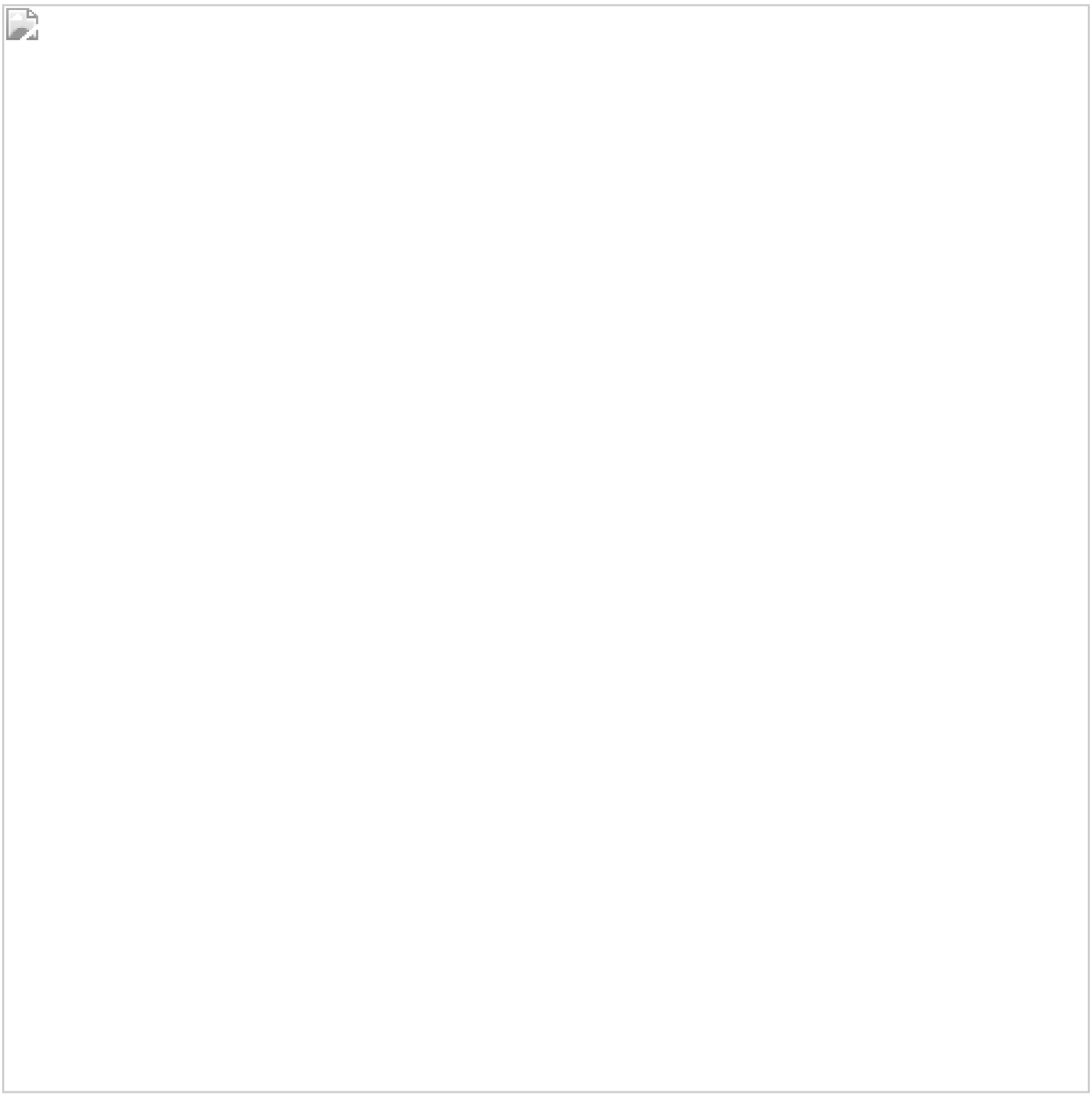
Think about it

1. What did old Philip carry in his arms?

- ○ Holly
- ○ Books
- ○ A kitten

2. What is one memory you would like to keep green, like a leaf that stays alive?

A Sick Student and a Darkening Room



Quietly, Milly told Mr. Redlaw that a young student of his was very sick and very poor. She had been looking after him. When Mr. Redlaw tried to give her money to help, she gave it back.

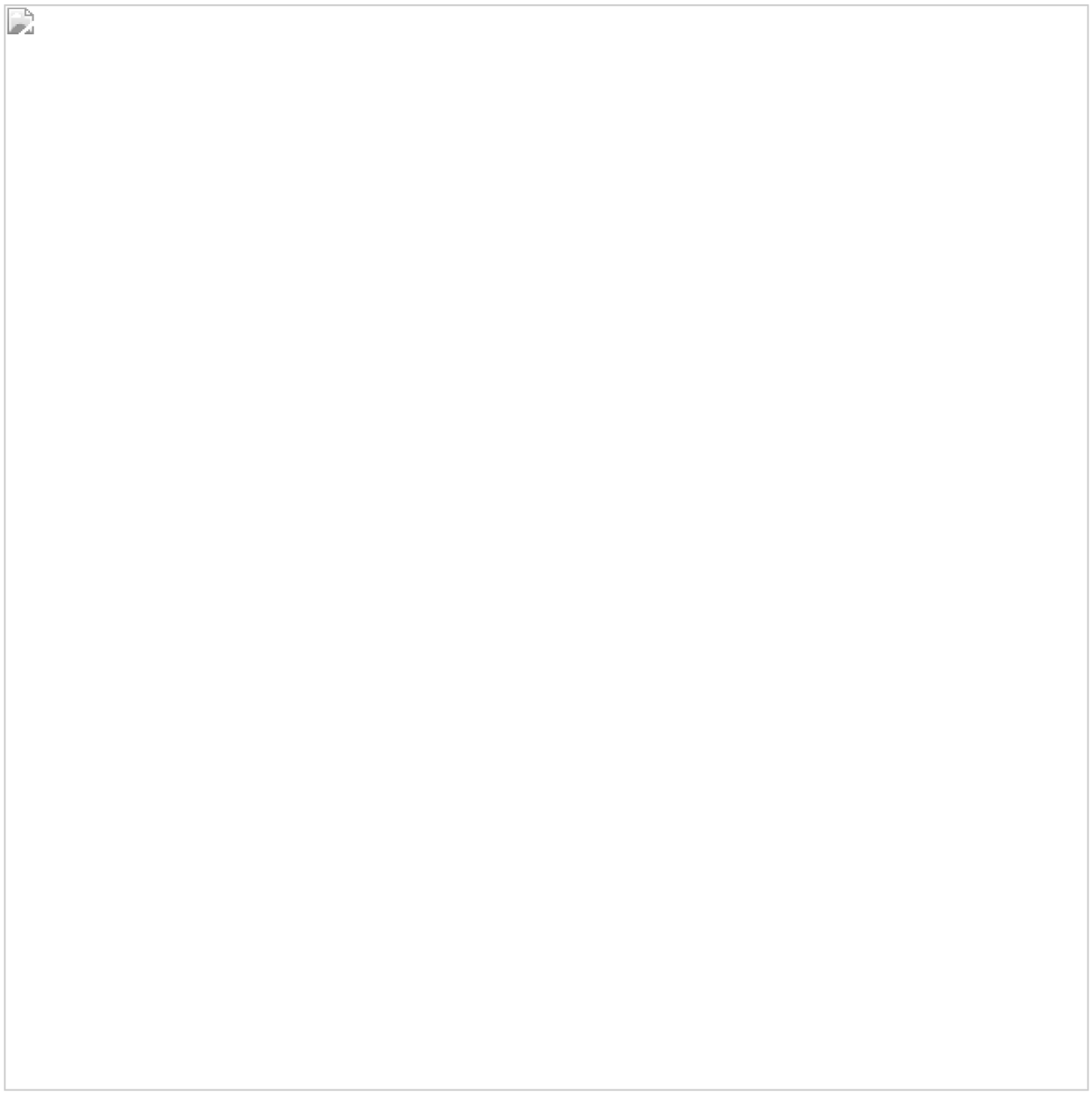
William added that Milly had found a ragged little boy shivering on a doorstep that evening. She had brought him home to the Lodge, the keeper's house, to be warmed and fed.

The room grew darker and colder, and the holly withered. When the Swidgers had gone, something began to take shape in the gloom behind Mr. Redlaw's chair.

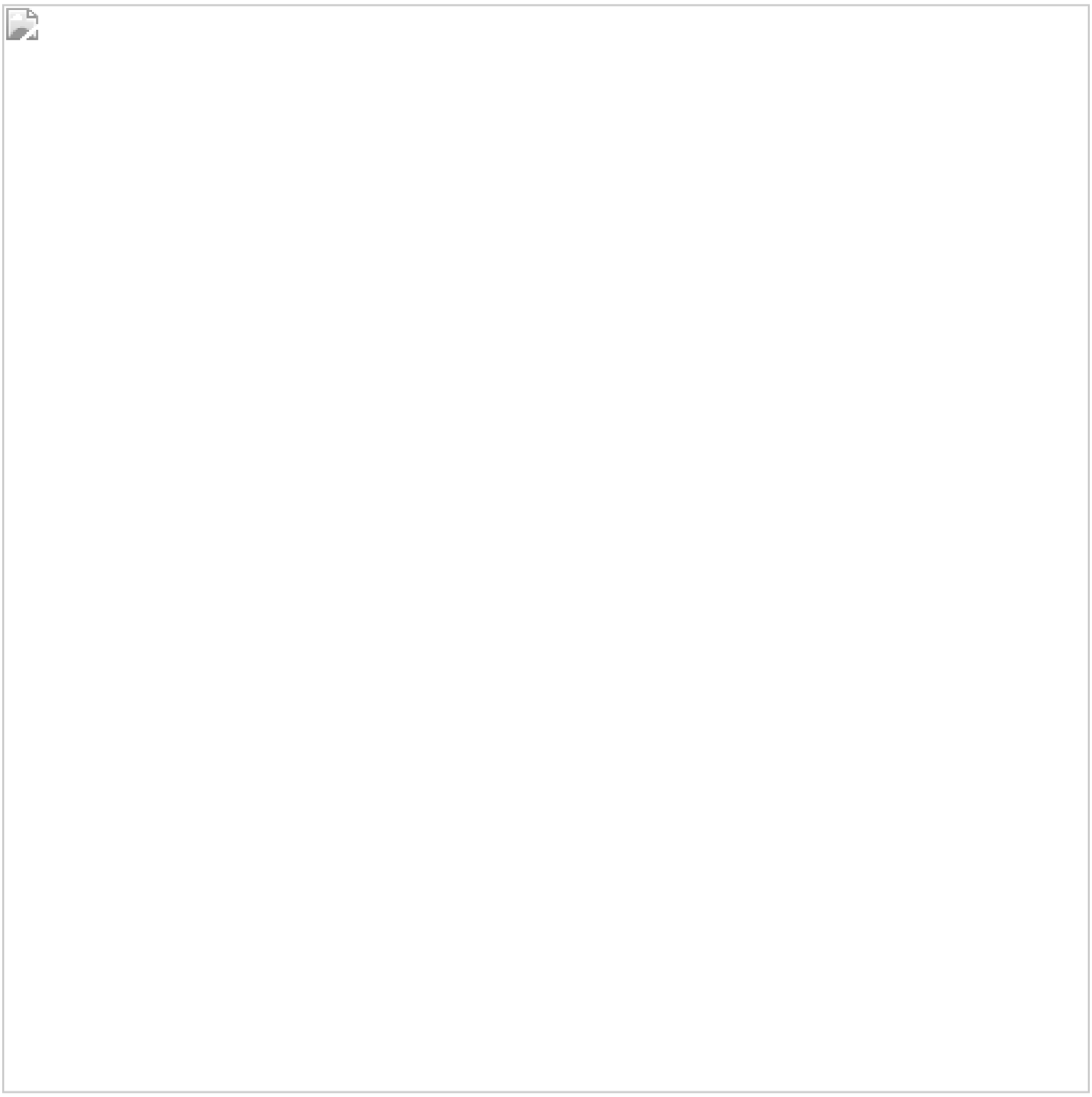
TALK ABOUT IT

Milly cared for a sick student and a cold little boy, and she did not want a reward. What do you notice about the way she helps?

A Sick Student and a Darkening Room · another picture



Here Again



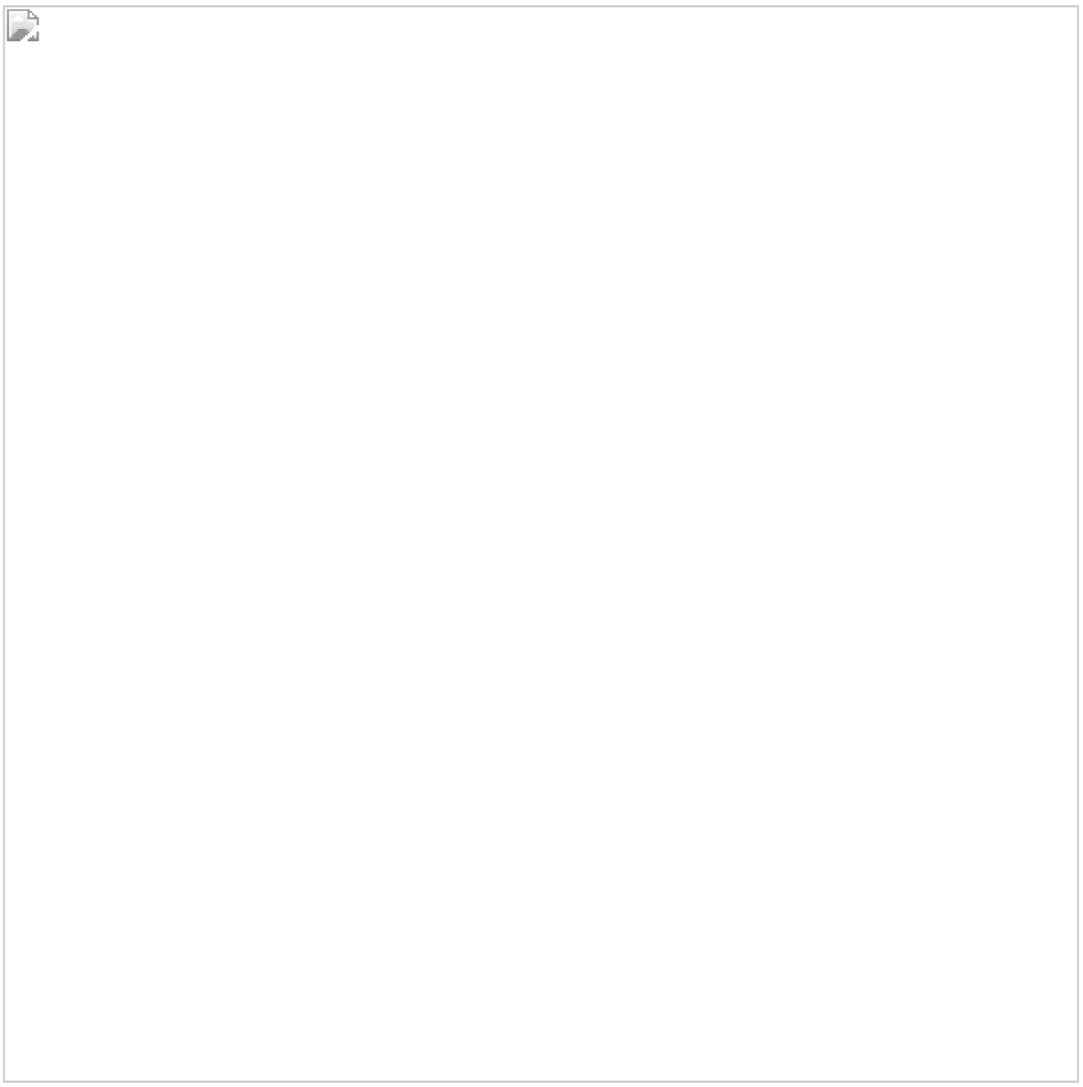
The shape looked exactly like Mr. Redlaw himself: the same face, the same grey hair, the same black clothes, but pale as ash and cold as a gravestone. This was the Phantom, the ghost that haunted him.

“Here again!” said Mr. Redlaw. The Phantom spoke of his own life: how a friend he trusted had wronged him, and how his dear sister had died. These were his sorrow and his wrong, and he thought about them all the time.

“If I could forget my sorrow and my wrong, I would!” said the Phantom, again and again. The words were Mr. Redlaw's own thought, coming back to him like an echo.

TALK ABOUT IT

The Phantom said out loud the thing Mr. Redlaw kept thinking in secret. Have you ever had a thought that kept coming back?



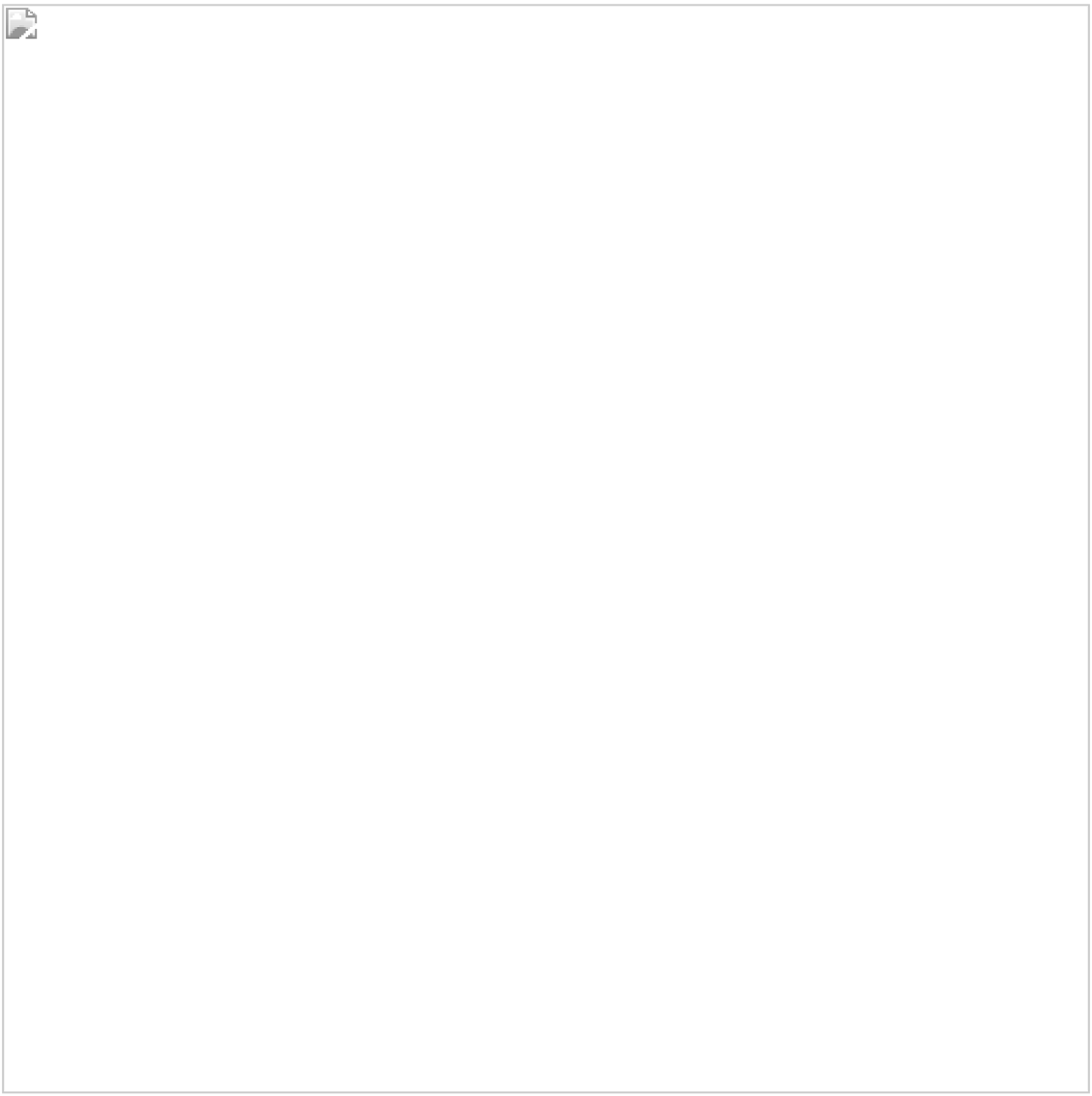
Think about it

1. Who did the Phantom look like?

- ○ Mr. Redlaw himself
- ○ A giant
- ○ William Swidger

2. What do you think Mr. Redlaw would most like to say to the Phantom?

The Bargain



Then the Phantom offered to take away every memory of sorrow, wrong and trouble from Mr. Redlaw's mind.

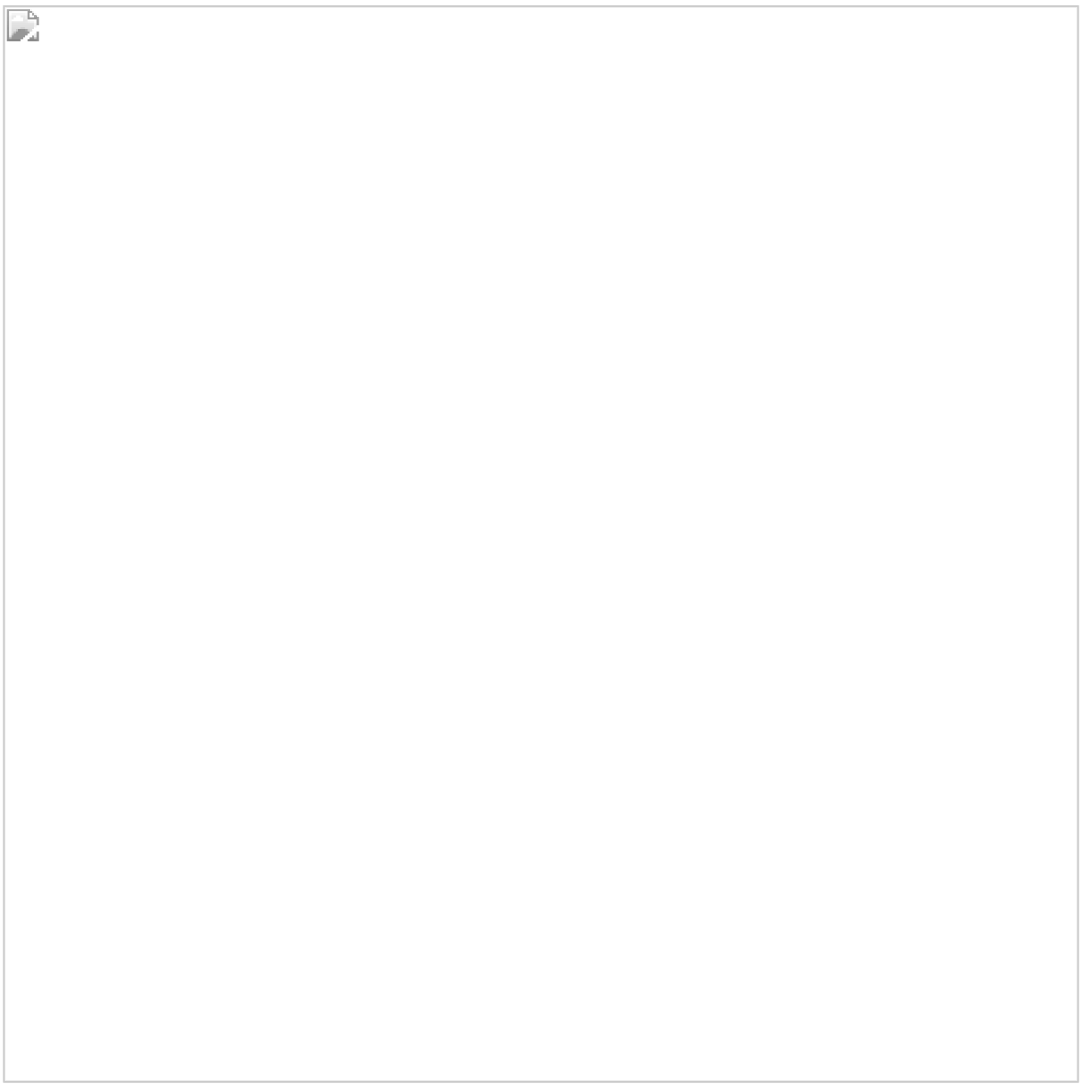
He asked what else he would lose. Only the feelings joined to those memories, said the Phantom, like links in a chain. At last he cried, “I WILL forget my sorrow, wrong, and trouble!”

“Is it done?” asked the Phantom. “It is!” said Mr. Redlaw. Then came a warning: “The gift that I have given, you shall give again, go where you will.” Anyone Mr. Redlaw came near would lose those memories too. The Phantom called this a blessing, and melted away.

TALK ABOUT IT

The Phantom called its offer a gift. Do you think it was a gift? What makes you think so?

The Bargain · another picture



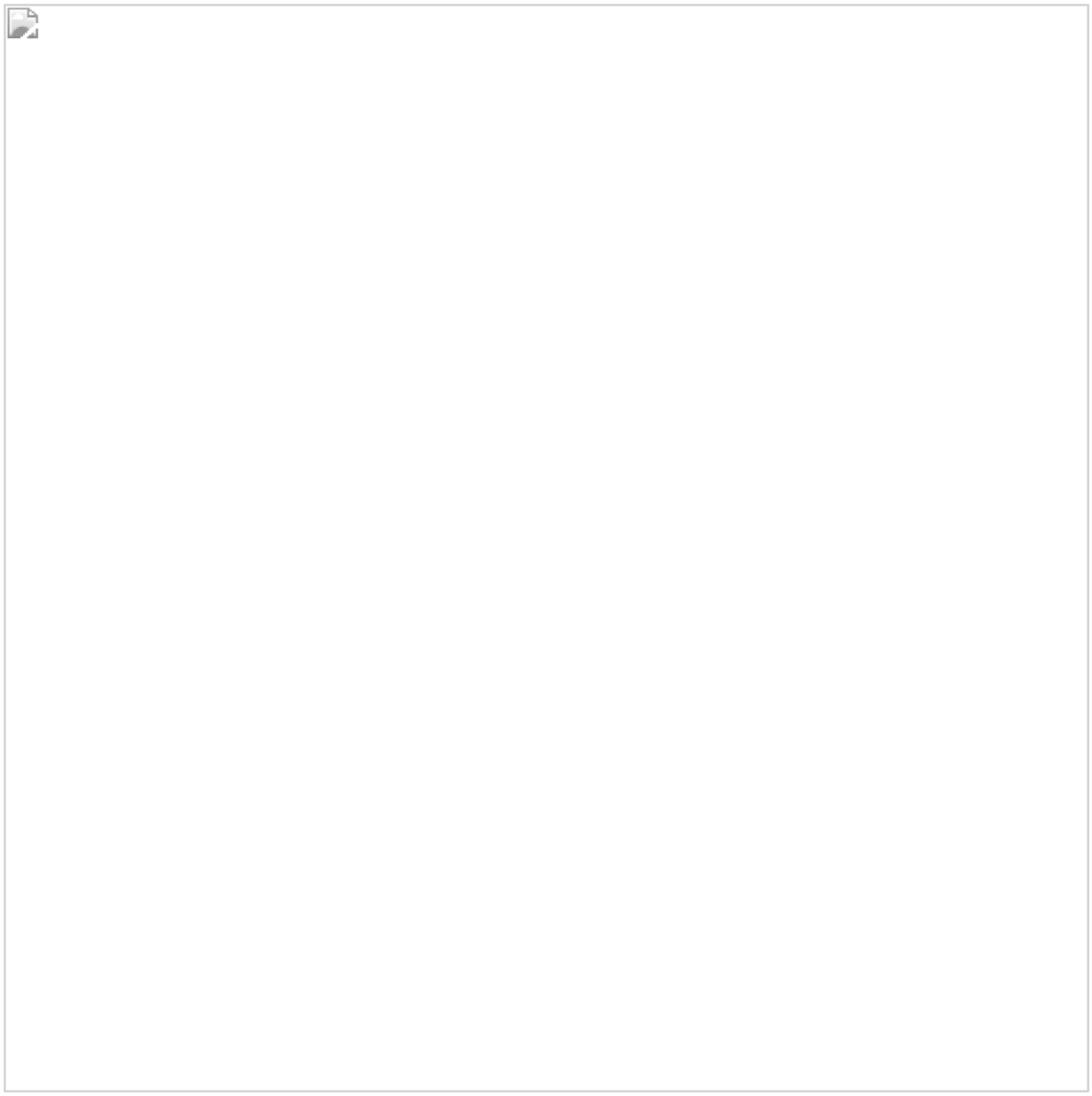
Think about it

1. What did the Phantom offer to take away?

- ○ All Mr. Redlaw's memories of sorrow, wrong and trouble
- ○ His house
- ○ His voice

2. If someone offered you a bargain like this, what is the first thing you would want to ask?

A Boy in the Dark



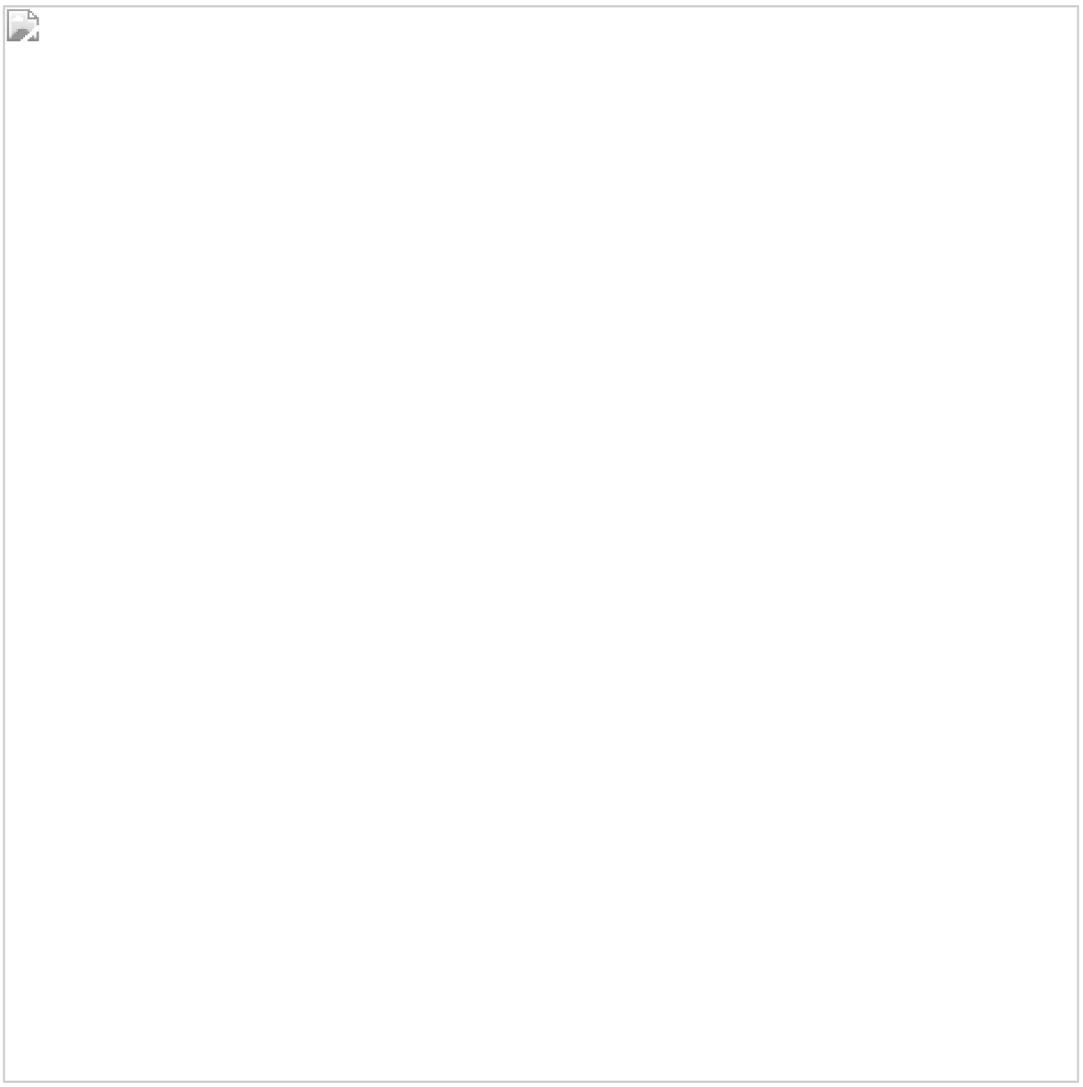
Right then, something rushed past him like a wild cat and crouched in a corner. It was a small boy in rags, with bare, cracked feet and sharp, watchful eyes.

“I’ll bite,” he said, “if you hit me!” He only wanted the woman who had set him by the big fire. That was Milly. The boy had no name. When Mr. Redlaw asked where he lived, he said, “Live! What’s that?”

A short while ago, Mr. Redlaw's heart would have ached for this child. Now he looked at him coldly. He sent the boy off toward the Lodge fire and sat down alone.

TALK ABOUT IT

Mr. Redlaw looked at the boy and felt nothing. What do you think had changed in him since dinner?



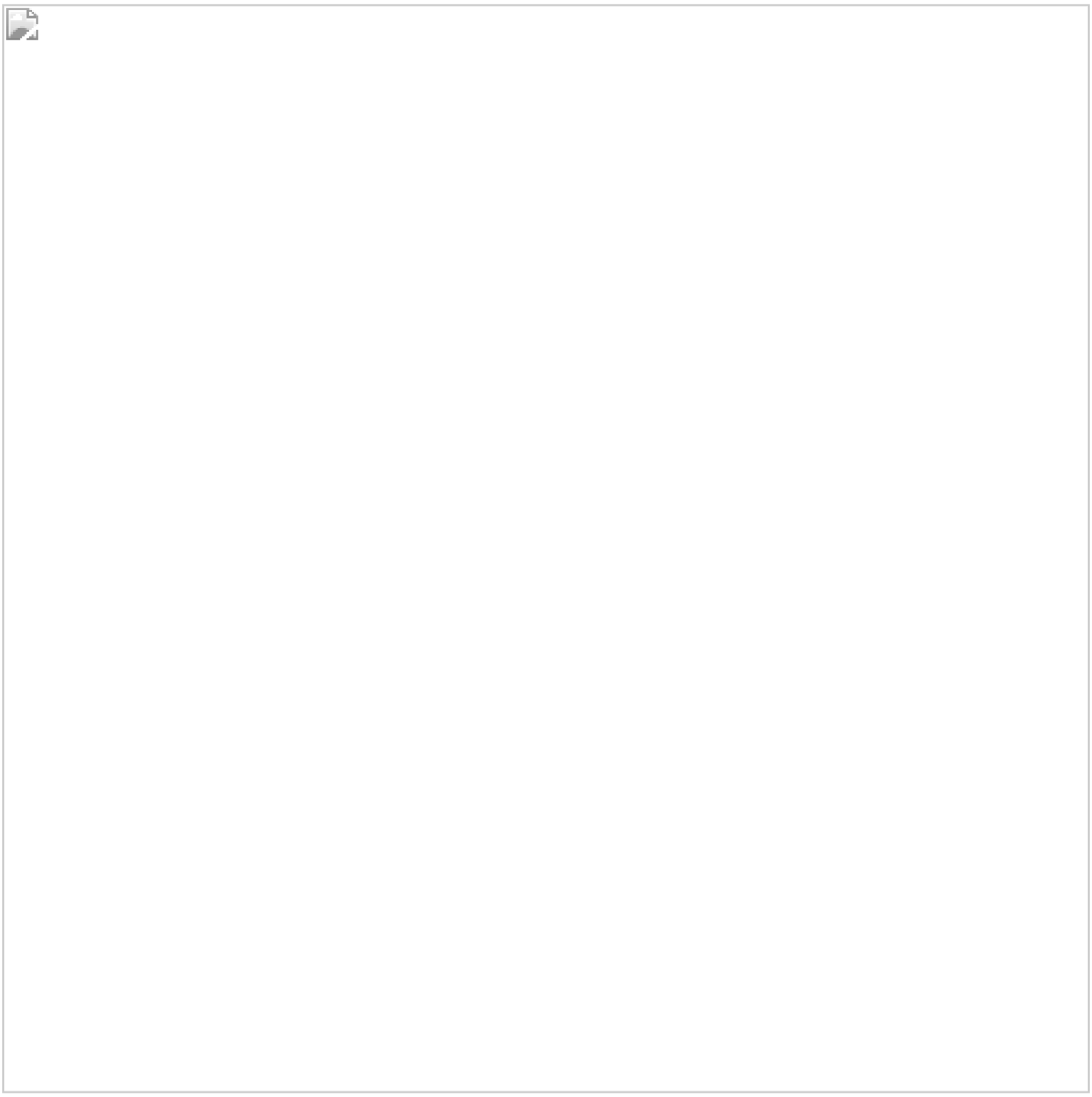
Think about it

1. Who was the boy looking for?

- ○ A teacher
- ○ The woman who had warmed him by the fire
- ○ A policeman

2. How might it be to have nobody who says your name?

The Tetterbys



The next evening, the gift began to travel. Mr. Tetterby kept a tiny newspaper shop close by. He lived there with his wife Sophia, seven boys, and a heavy baby girl. Johnny spent his days carrying the baby.

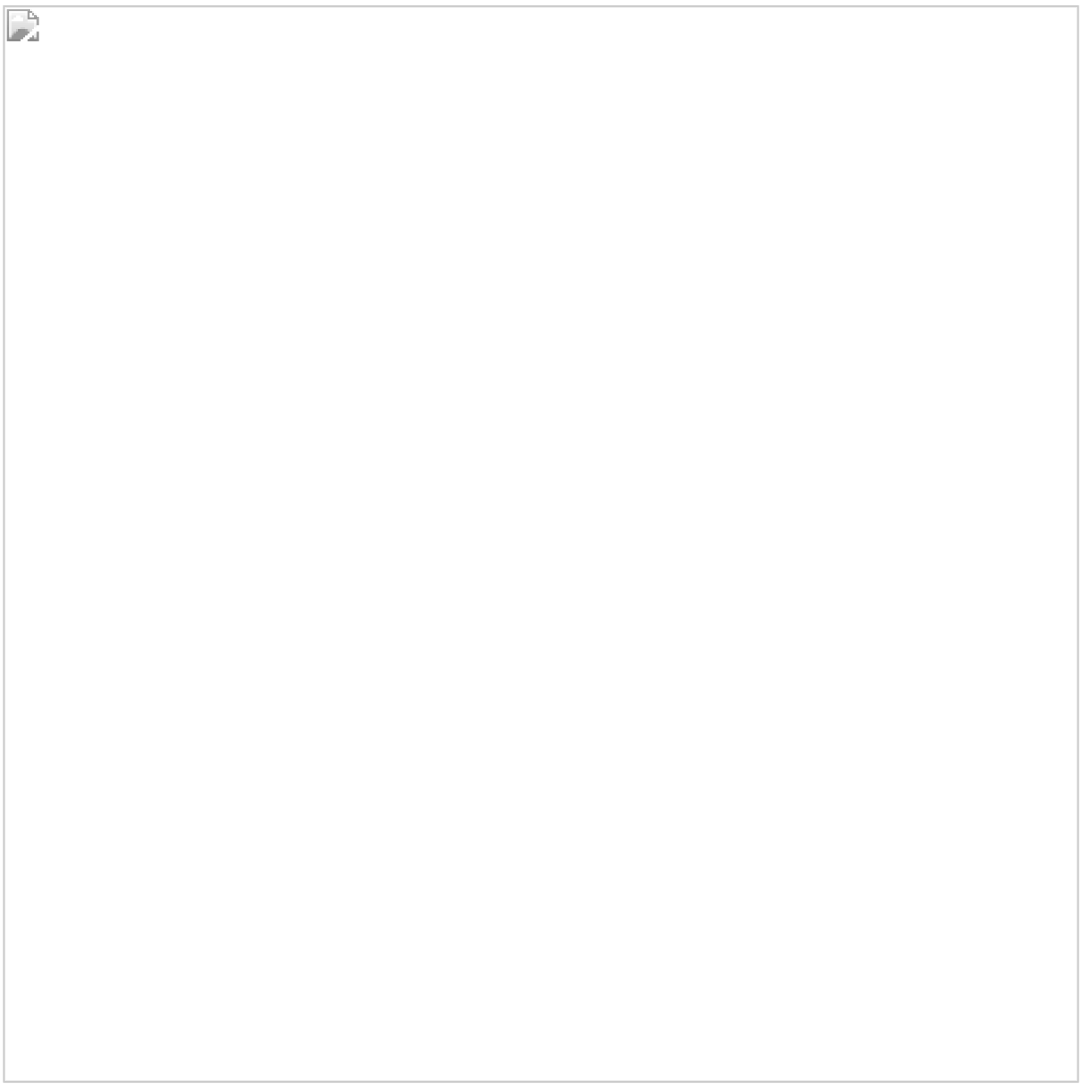
It was a noisy, crowded, cheerful house, where a cross word was soon mended with a hug.

Then a tall, pale stranger in black came in. He was Redlaw, come to see the sick student upstairs. As he stood in the doorway, Mrs. Tetterby asked what was going out of her. The two of them looked at each other coldly, and the children crept away to bed.

TALK ABOUT IT

A moment before, the Tetterbys were laughing and hugging. What do you notice about what happened when Mr. Redlaw came in?

The Tetterbys · another picture



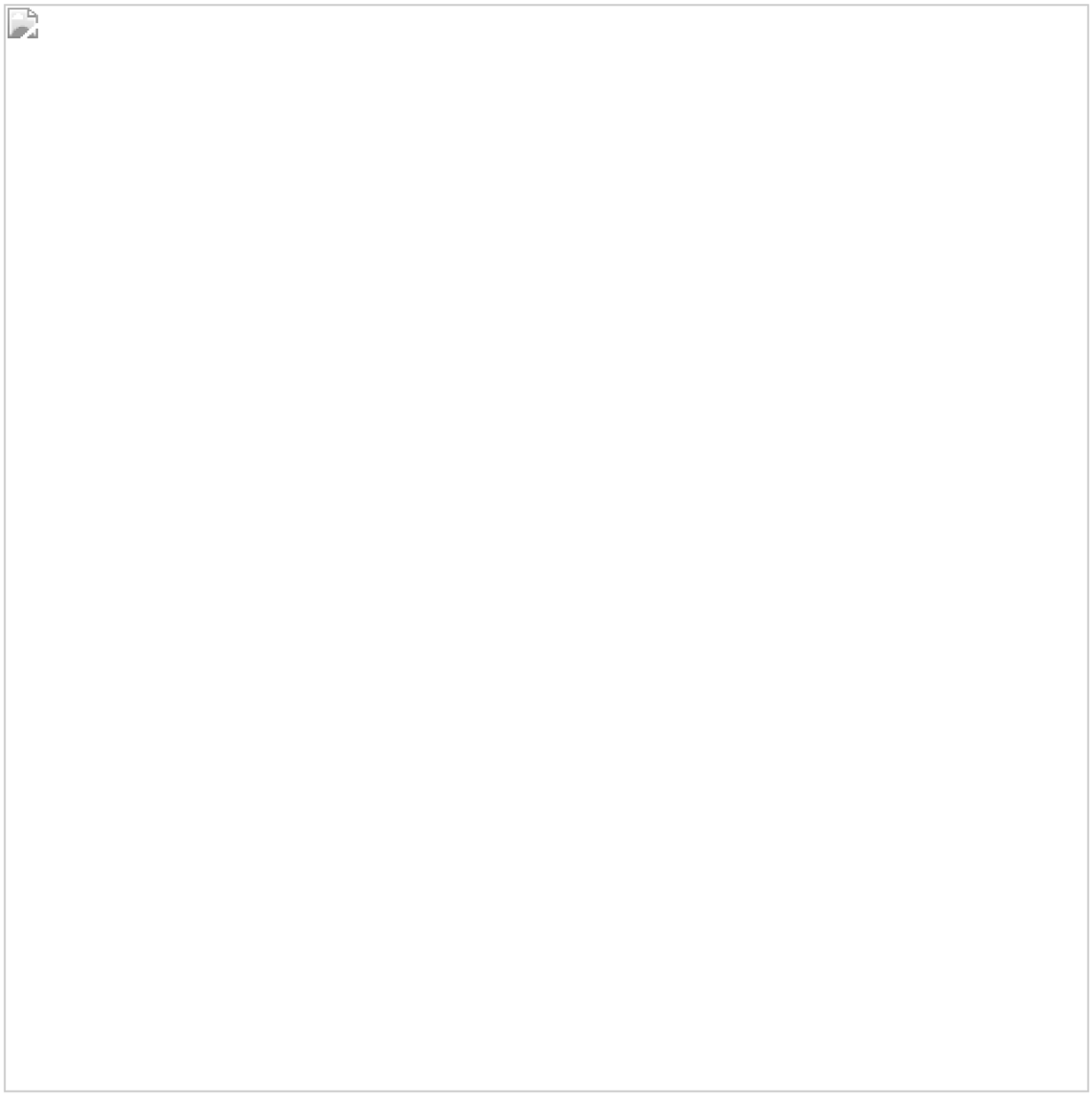
Think about it

1. What did Mr. Tetterby sell in his little shop?

- ○ Newspapers
- ○ Bread
- ○ Shoes

2. How can you tell when someone in your family needs a little extra kindness?

The Student's Room



Mr. Redlaw climbed the stairs to the sick student, Mr. Edmund Denham, who was glad and honored to see his teacher. When Edmund spoke of a sad secret, Mr. Redlaw only laughed: “Sorrow!” and then, “Wrong! What are those to me?”

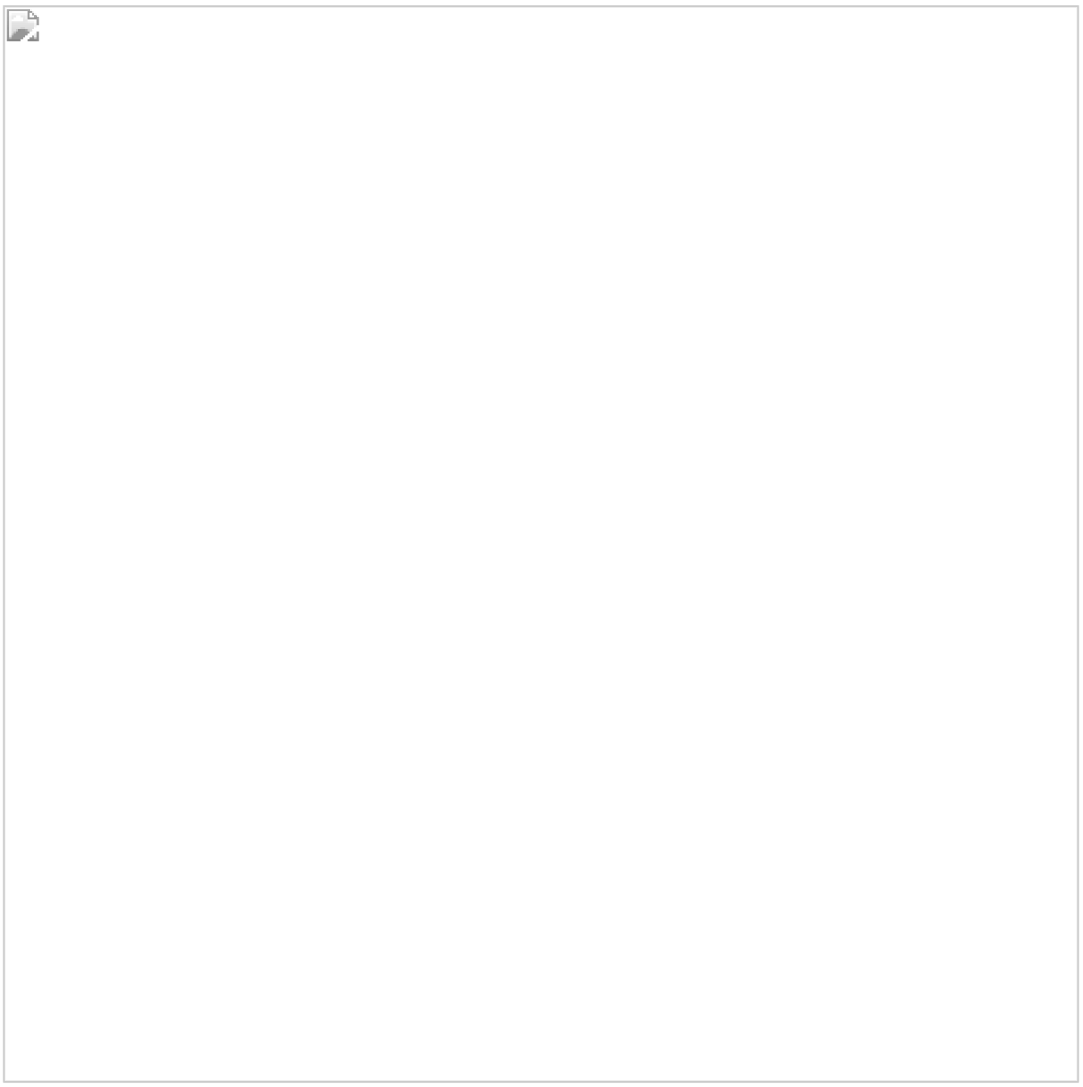
Then Milly came in, with a new curtain she was sewing for the student's window. Edmund spoke to her coldly and would not let her fuss with his pillows. She said gently, “If you should want me, I will come back willingly.”

When she had gone, Mr. Redlaw understood what he had done. “Give me back myself!” he cried. But no one could.

TALK ABOUT IT

Milly told the student she would come back whenever he wanted her. What does that tell you about Milly?

The Student's Room · another picture



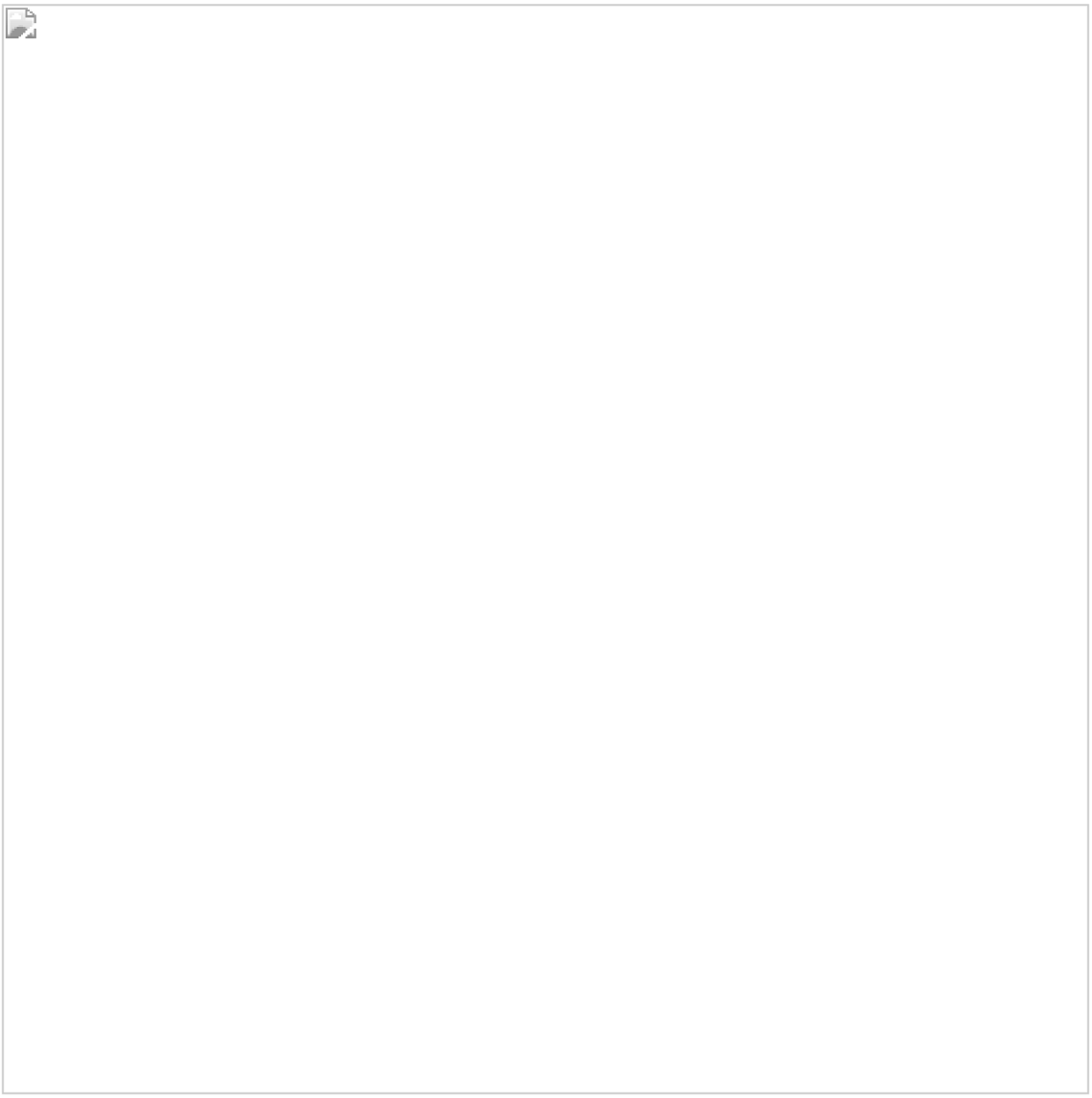
Think about it

1. What was Milly sewing for the student?

- ○ A new curtain for his window
- ○ A hat
- ○ A scarf

2. How do you thank someone who has been kind to you?

The Boy Who Did Not Change



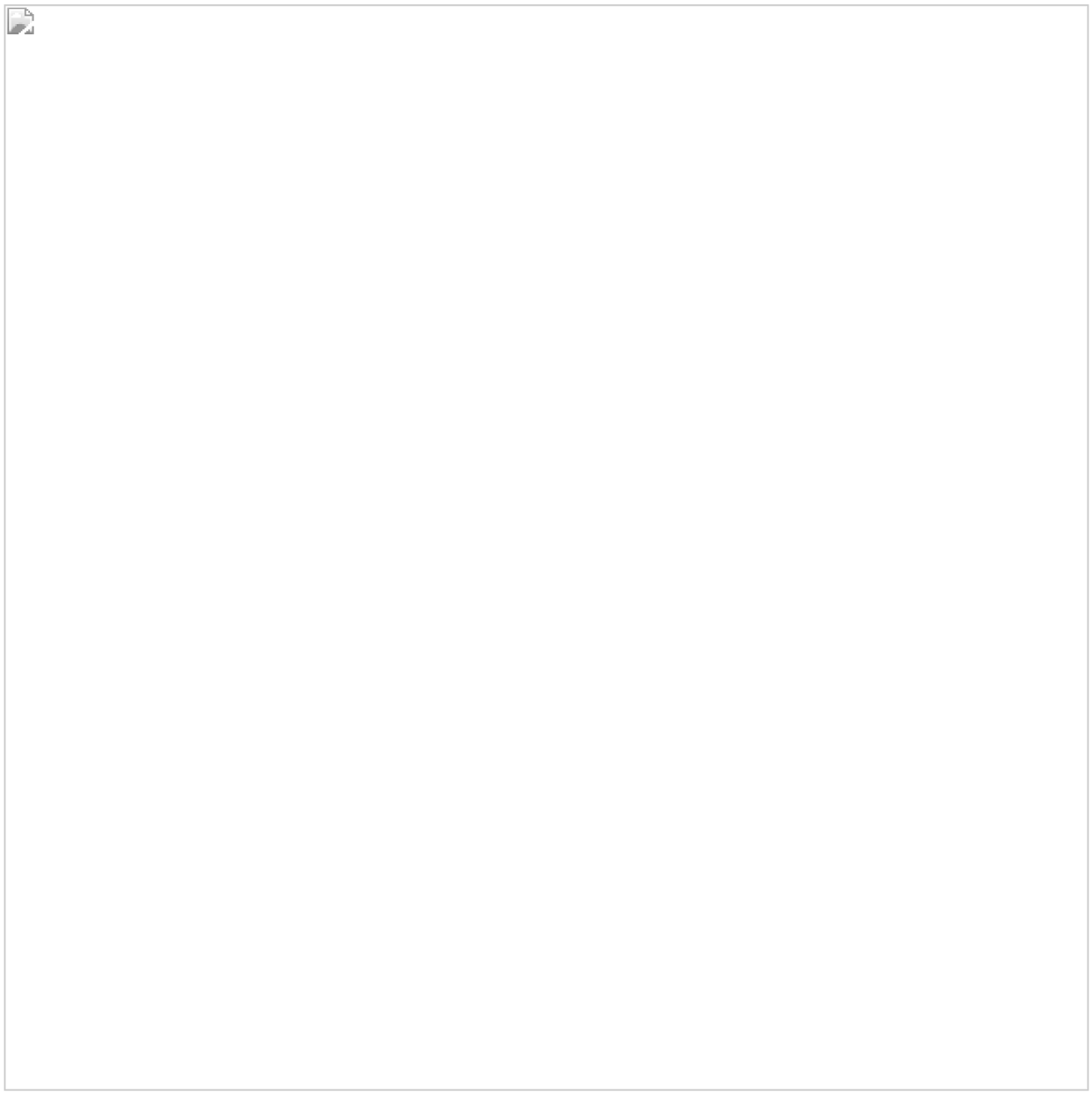
Mr. Redlaw wandered through the snow. Then he thought of the wild boy. Of everyone he had met since the bargain, only the boy had not changed at all.

He offered the boy money to guide him to people who were very poor or very unhappy, because he wanted to do them good and not harm. The boy took it and ran ahead in his bare feet.

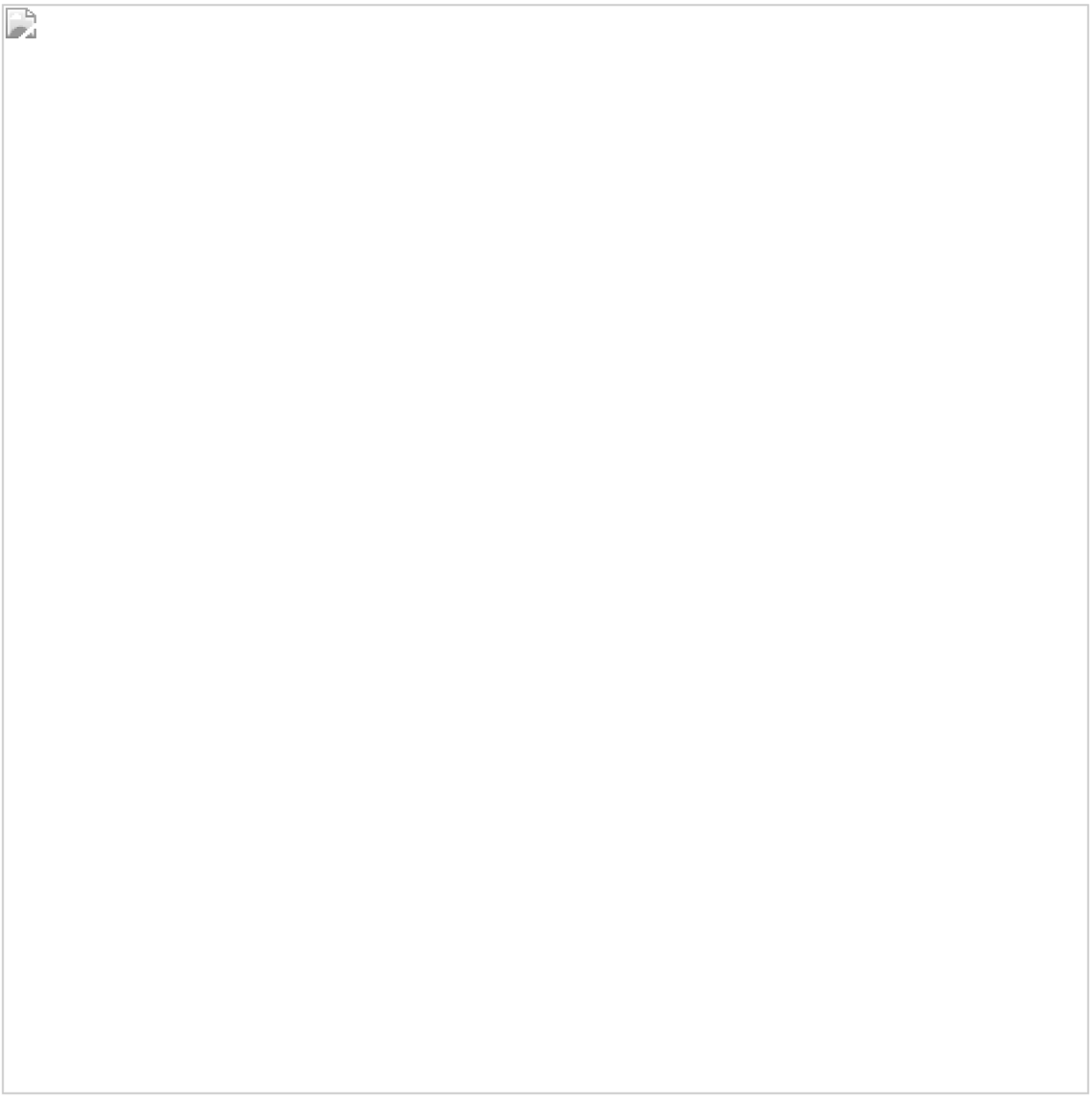
Three times on the way they stopped side by side. Each time Mr. Redlaw felt none of what he used to feel. And each time he saw, with a shiver, that the boy's face looked just like his own.

TALK ABOUT IT

Of everyone Mr. Redlaw met, only the boy did not change. What do you think that might mean?



Philip and William Change



In a poor lodging house lay George, old Philip's eldest son, very sick, with Philip and William beside him. When Mr. Redlaw came close, George scowled and said he did not care for anyone.

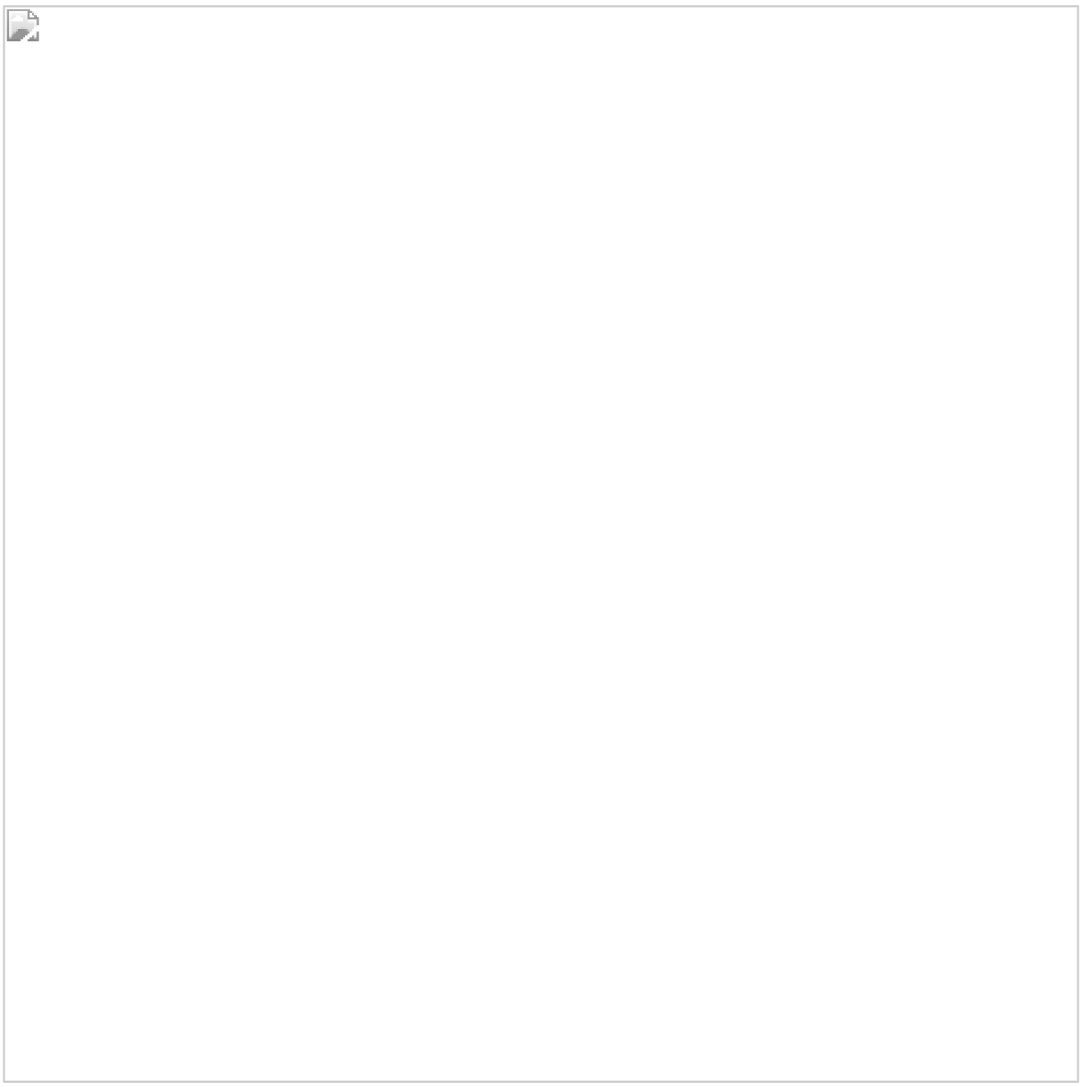
Then old Philip changed too. He said George was no son of his, and that he only wanted a warm chair and a good dinner. He tried to remember, and could not. “I’m eighty-seven!” he kept saying, in a small, thin voice.

William, who had always been so respectful, frowned at his father and said he could not see what good the old man was. Mr. Redlaw ran out of the house.

TALK ABOUT IT

Philip and William used to speak so lovingly to each other. What do you notice about how they spoke after Mr. Redlaw came near?

Philip and William Change · another picture



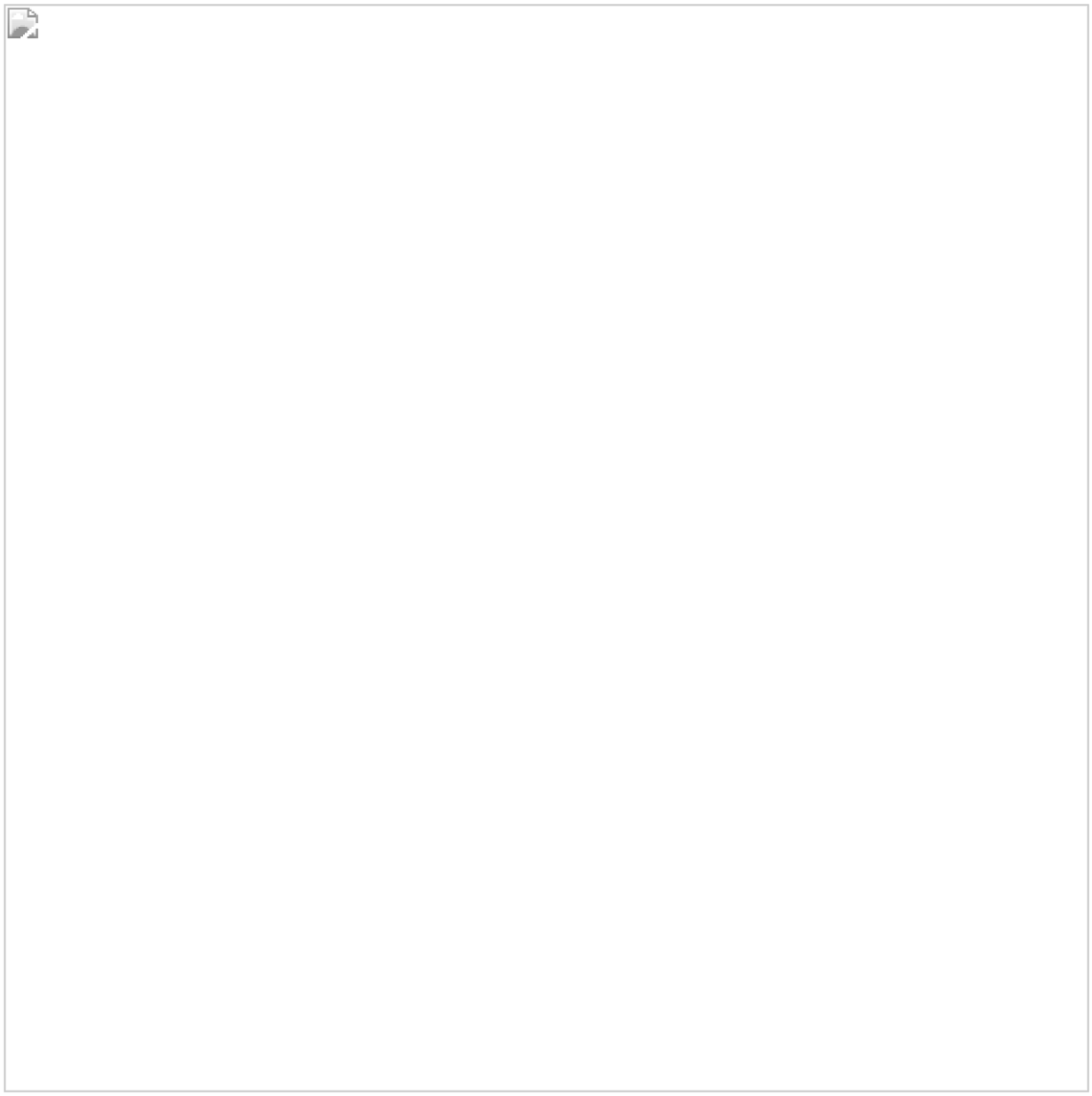
Think about it

1. How old was Philip?

- ○ Eighty-seven
- ○ Seven
- ○ Fifty

2. What would you say to a grandparent to remind them how much they are loved?

Do Not Come In



Mr. Redlaw hurried back to his rooms with the boy. A voice called at the door. It was Milly. William and his father had changed in a moment, she said, and George was worse. She begged him to help.

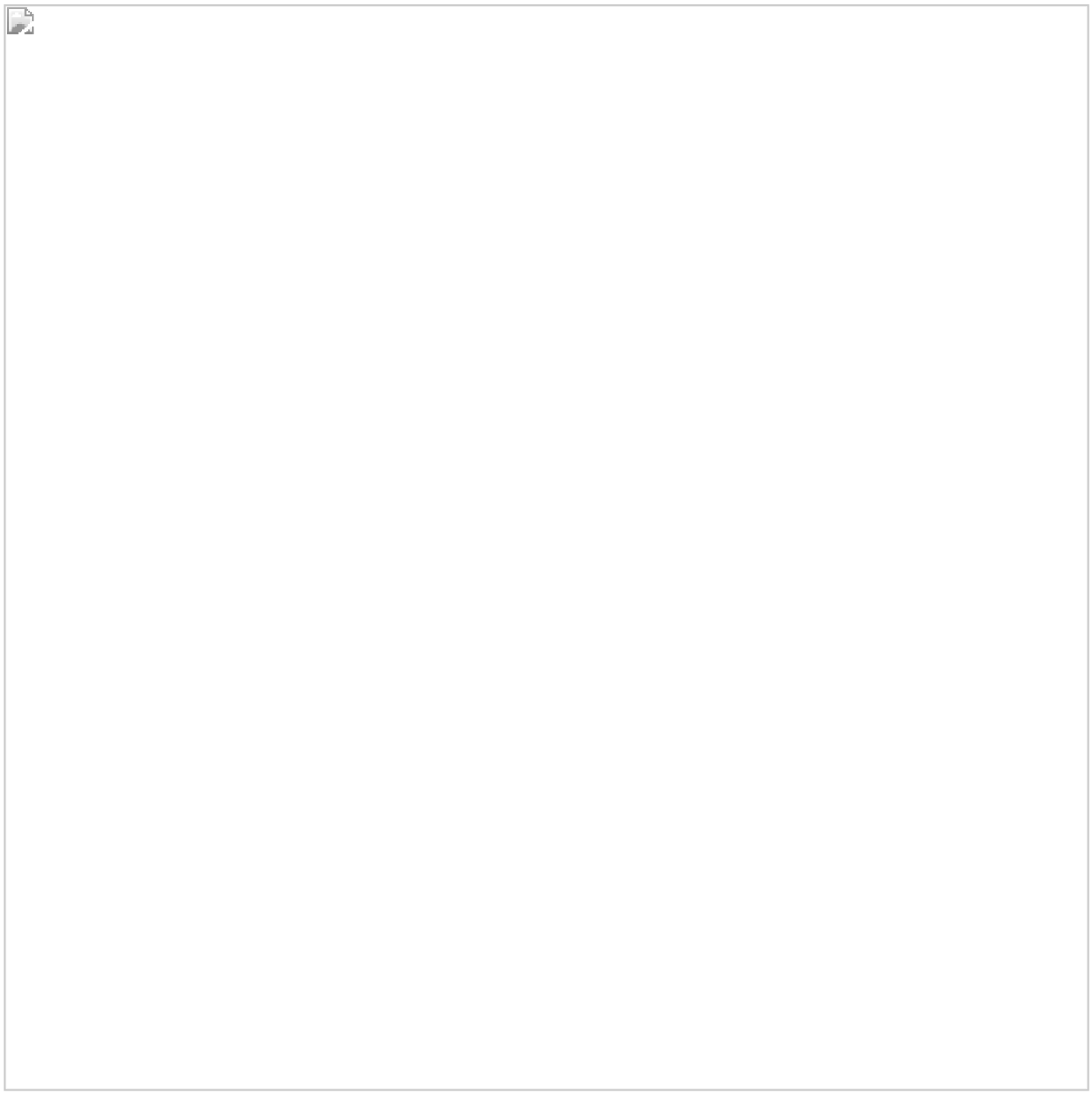
Mr. Redlaw would not open the door. He held the boy back, for the boy was struggling to run to her. He was afraid that if Milly came near him, she would lose her goodness too.

He cried out to the Phantom to take the gift back. There was no answer. At last Milly's voice stopped, and the boy fell asleep on the floor.

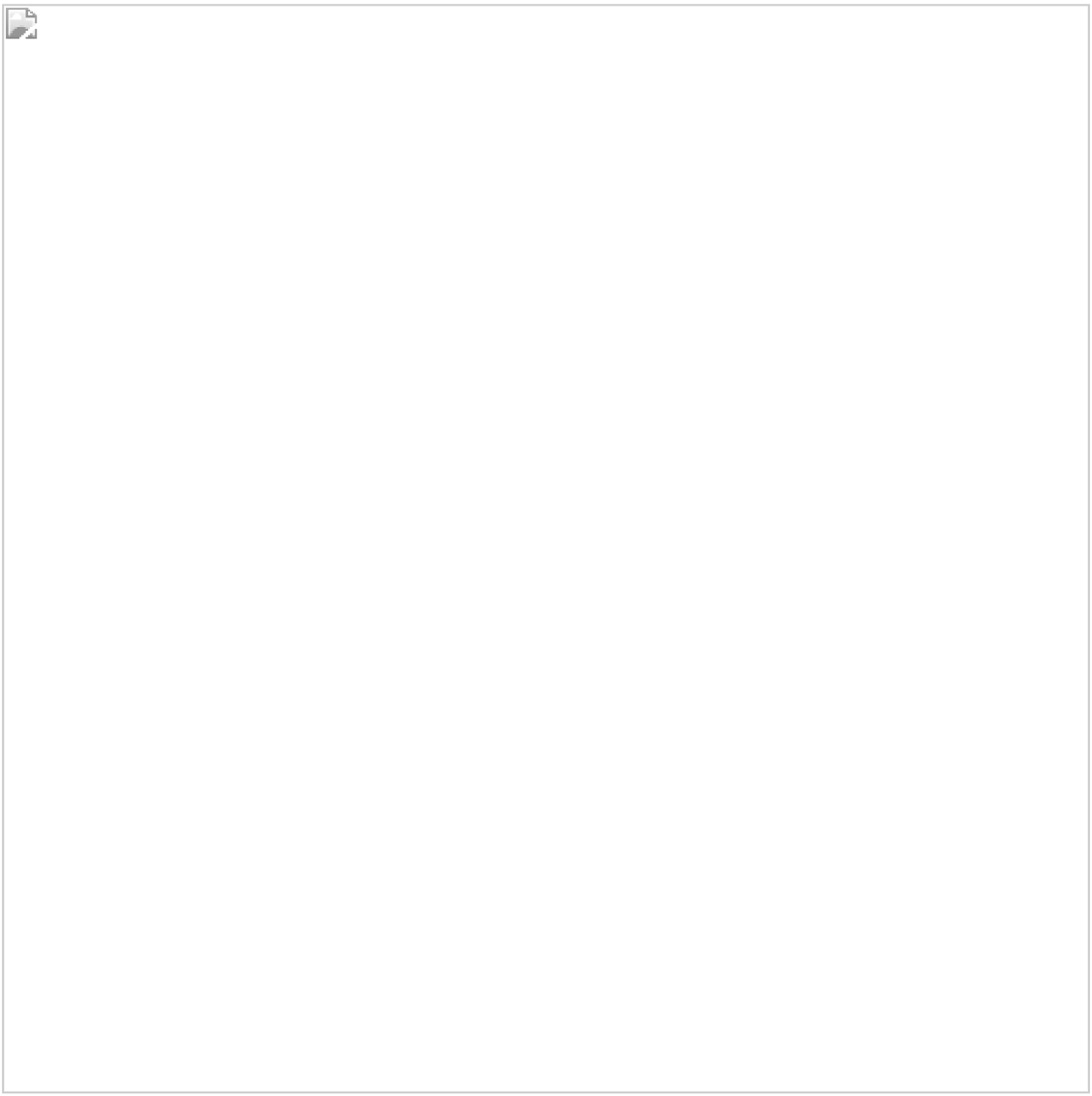
TALK ABOUT IT

Mr. Redlaw would not let Milly in, though she was begging for help. Why do you think he kept the door shut?

Do Not Come In · another picture



The Shadow of Milly



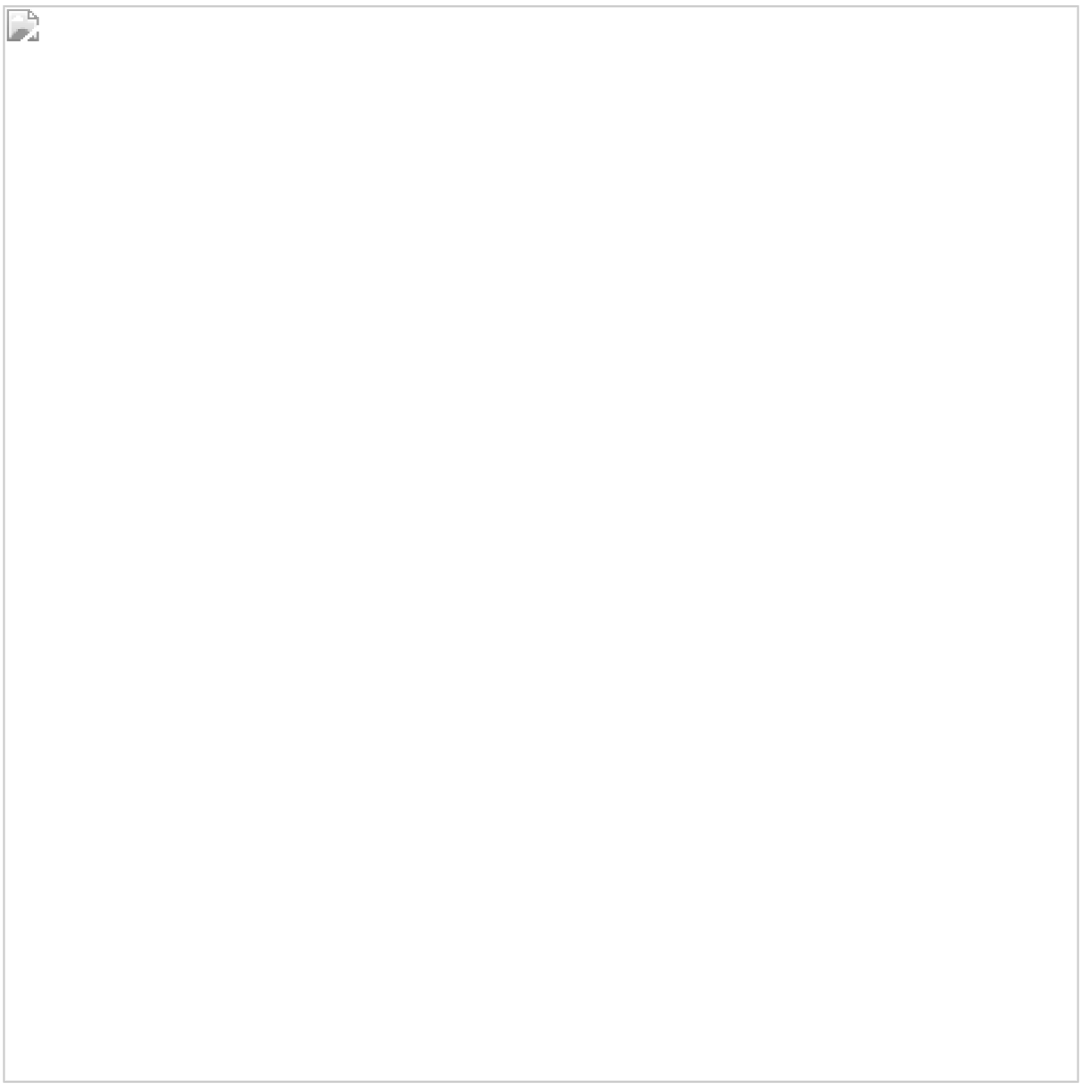
In the dark hours, Christmas music began to play outside, and tears ran down Mr. Redlaw's face. He could not remember his sorrows, but the music made him understand how much he had lost.

The Phantom stood there again, holding the hand of Milly's shadow. Could anyone undo what he had done? All it would say was to seek her out when the morning came.

Why had the boy alone not changed? The boy had never had anyone be kind to him, said the Phantom, so there was no softening memory in him to take away. Mr. Redlaw bent down and covered the sleeping child.

TALK ABOUT IT

The Phantom said to seek Milly out. Why might Milly be the one who can help?



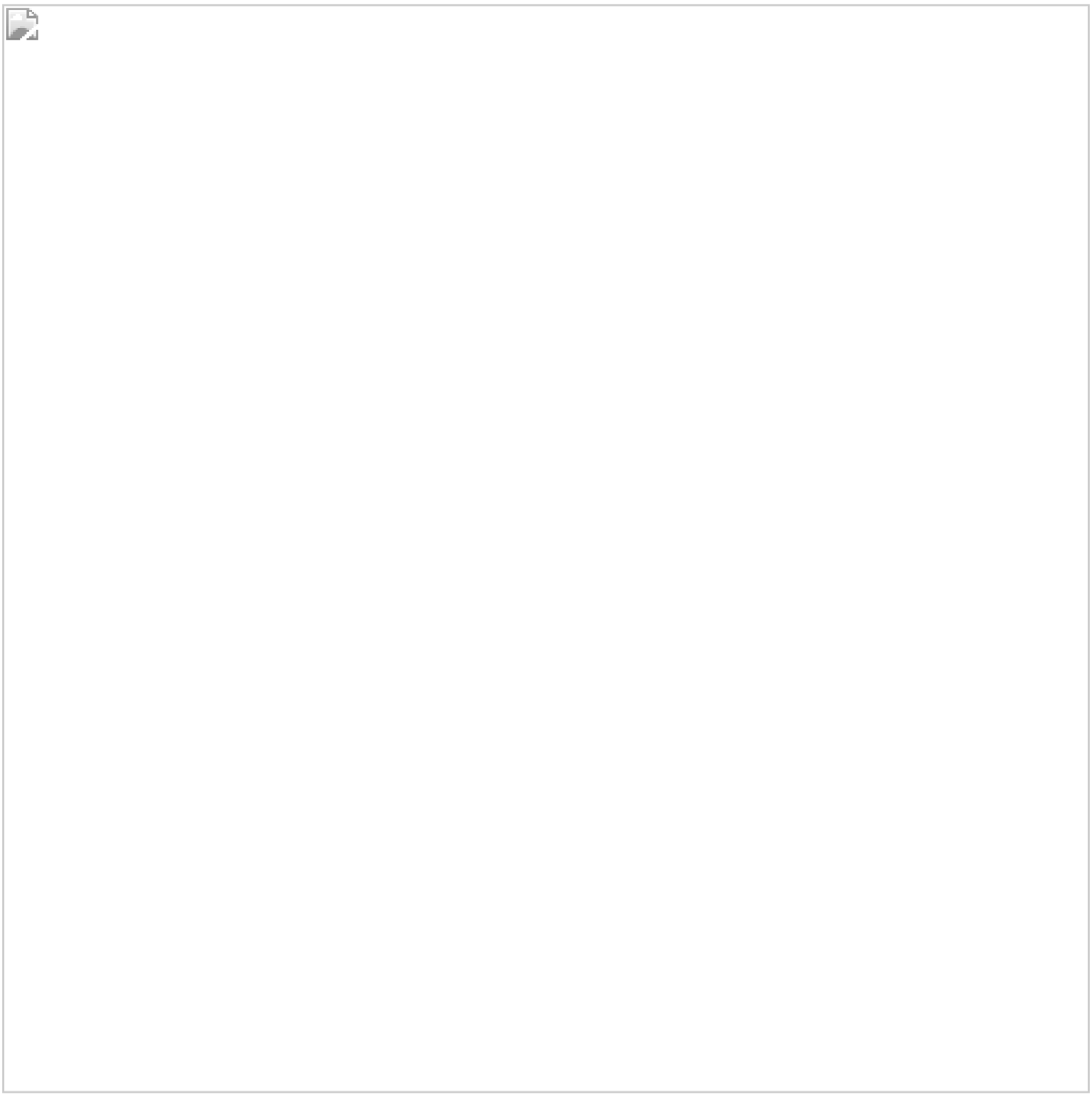
Think about it

1. What did the Phantom tell Mr. Redlaw to do when the morning came?

- ○ Seek out Milly
- ○ Leave the city
- ○ Go back to sleep

2. When have you seen a kind person make a hard day better?

Mrs. William Comes



At the Tetterbys', Christmas morning began crossly. Then Johnny ran in, shouting that Mrs. William was coming down the street. At once the grown-ups' faces began to brighten, and they said they were sorry.

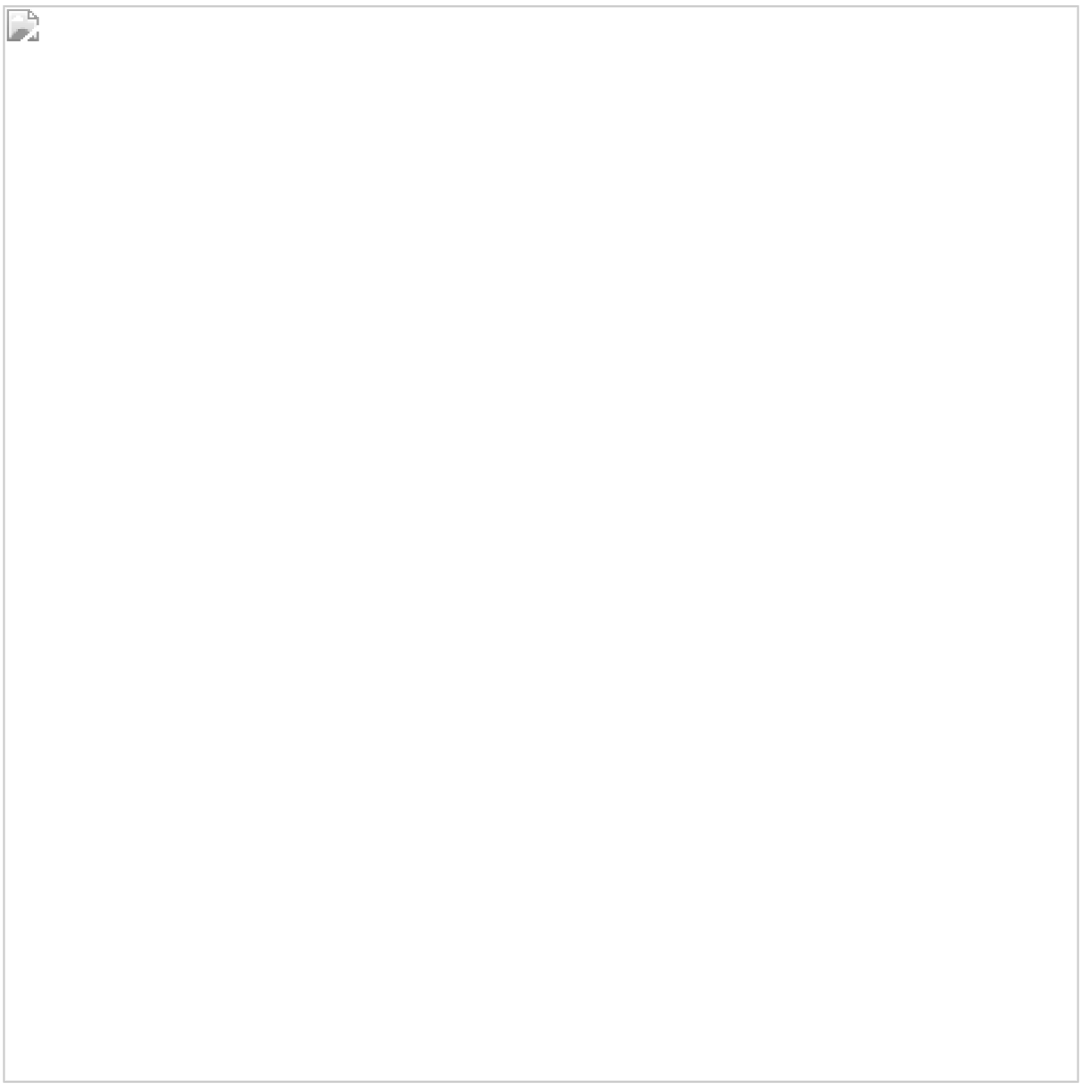
Milly arrived, and the children flocked around her. “Oh dear,” said Milly, “what delicious tears you make me shed. How can I ever have deserved this! What have I done to be so loved?”

Mr. Edmund said he was sorry for how he had spoken to her. At the Lodge, Philip and William brightened as she walked in. Mr. Redlaw followed Milly everywhere, as if she were the teacher and he the pupil.

TALK ABOUT IT

Wherever Milly went, the people around her seemed to wake up kind again. What do you think she did that helped?

Mrs. William Comes · another picture



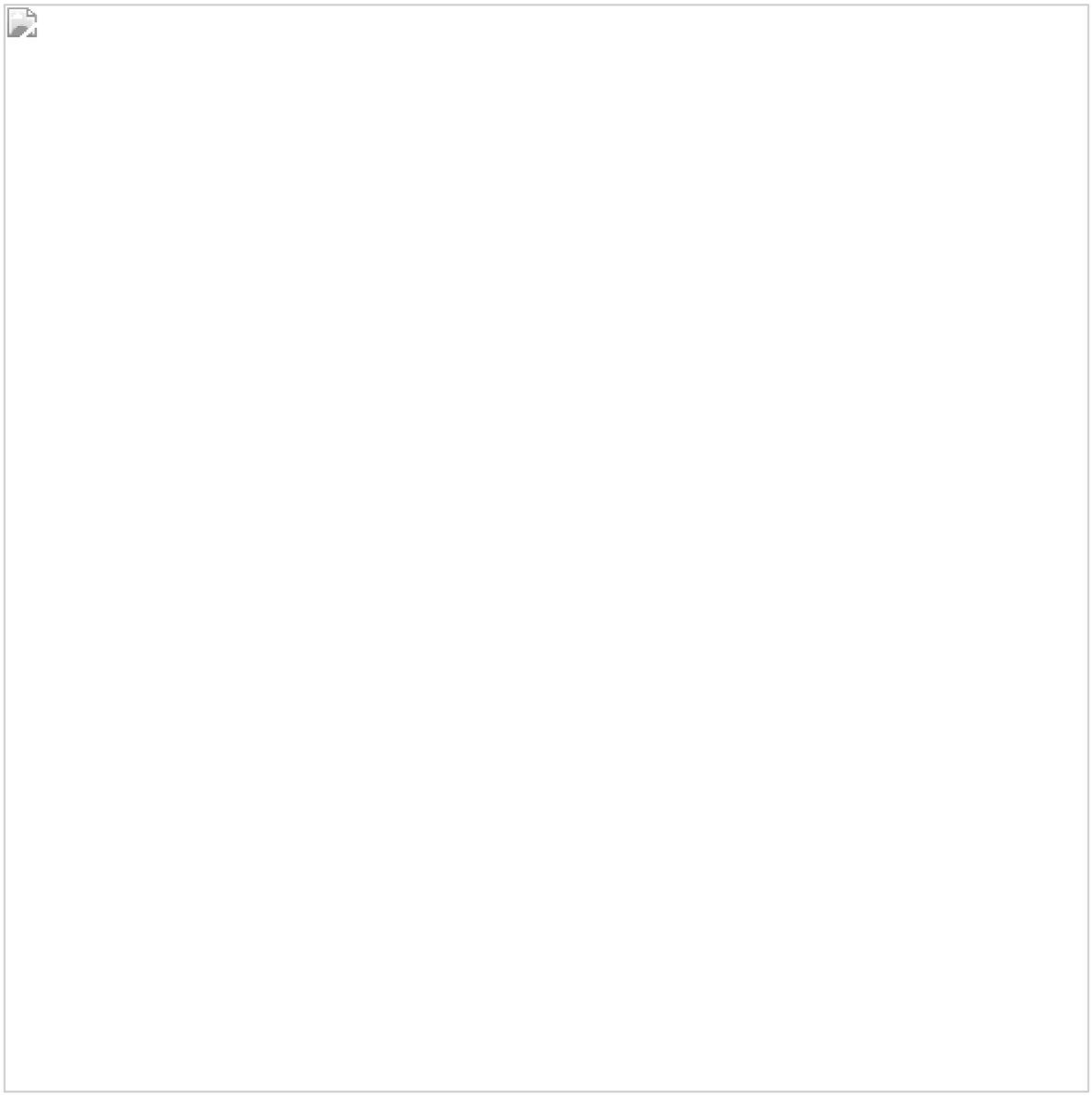
Think about it

1. Who ran in shouting that Mrs. William was coming?

- ○ Johnny
- ○ Philip
- ○ The boy

2. What is something kind that a person did that made you want to be kind too?

Why We Remember



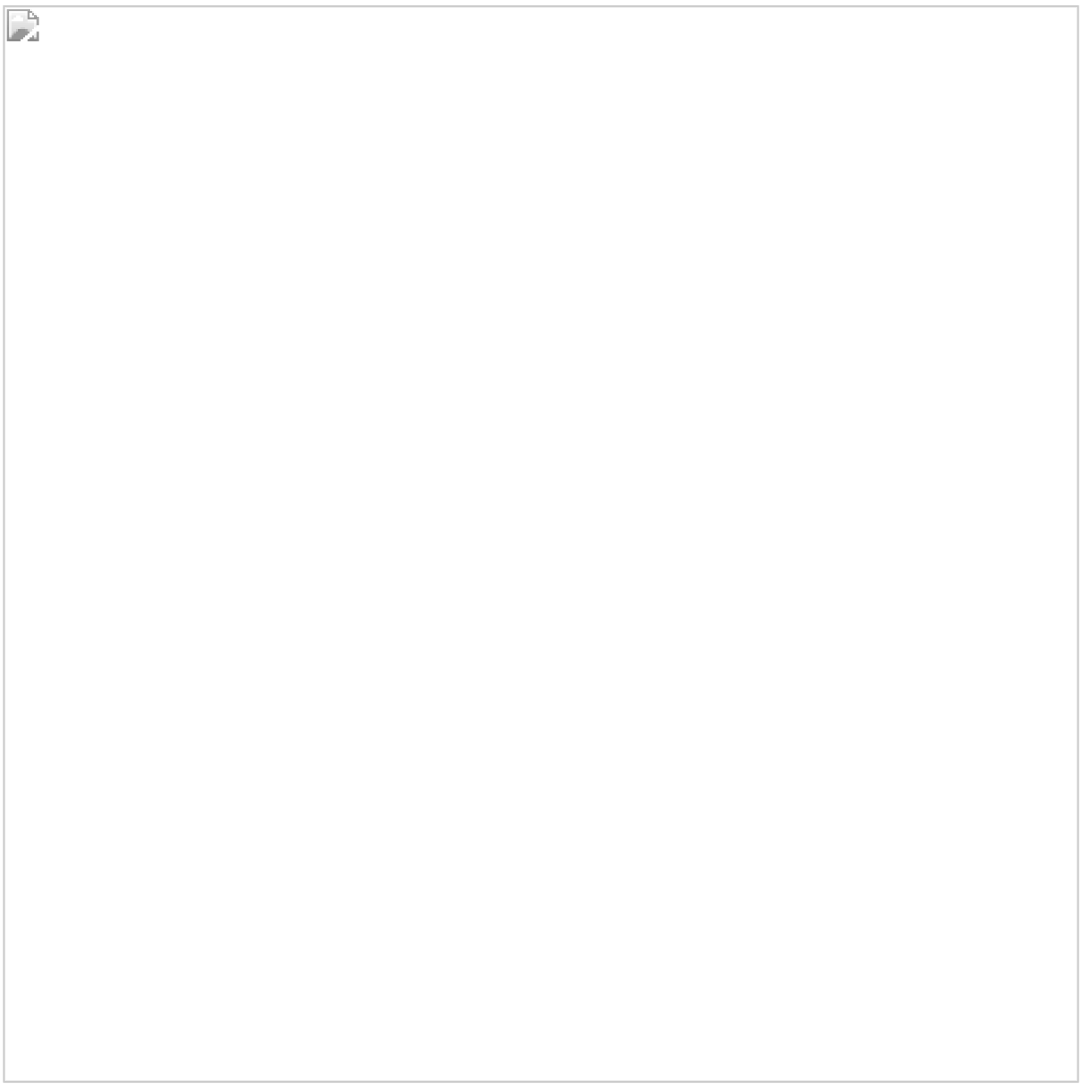
Milly reminded Mr. Redlaw of a man who had once been his friend and had done him a wrong. His name was Longford. He was Mr. Edmund's father, and now he was poor and ill and alone.

Milly asked if she might tell him why it seems good to remember a wrong someone has done us. “That we may forgive it,” she said. Mr. Redlaw begged to be pardoned for having thrown away something so great.

Then Milly brought Longford in, and he said he was sorry. Mr. Redlaw sent him, with some money, to a place where he could begin again, and held out his hand.

TALK ABOUT IT

Milly said we remember wrongs so that we can forgive them. What do you think about that?



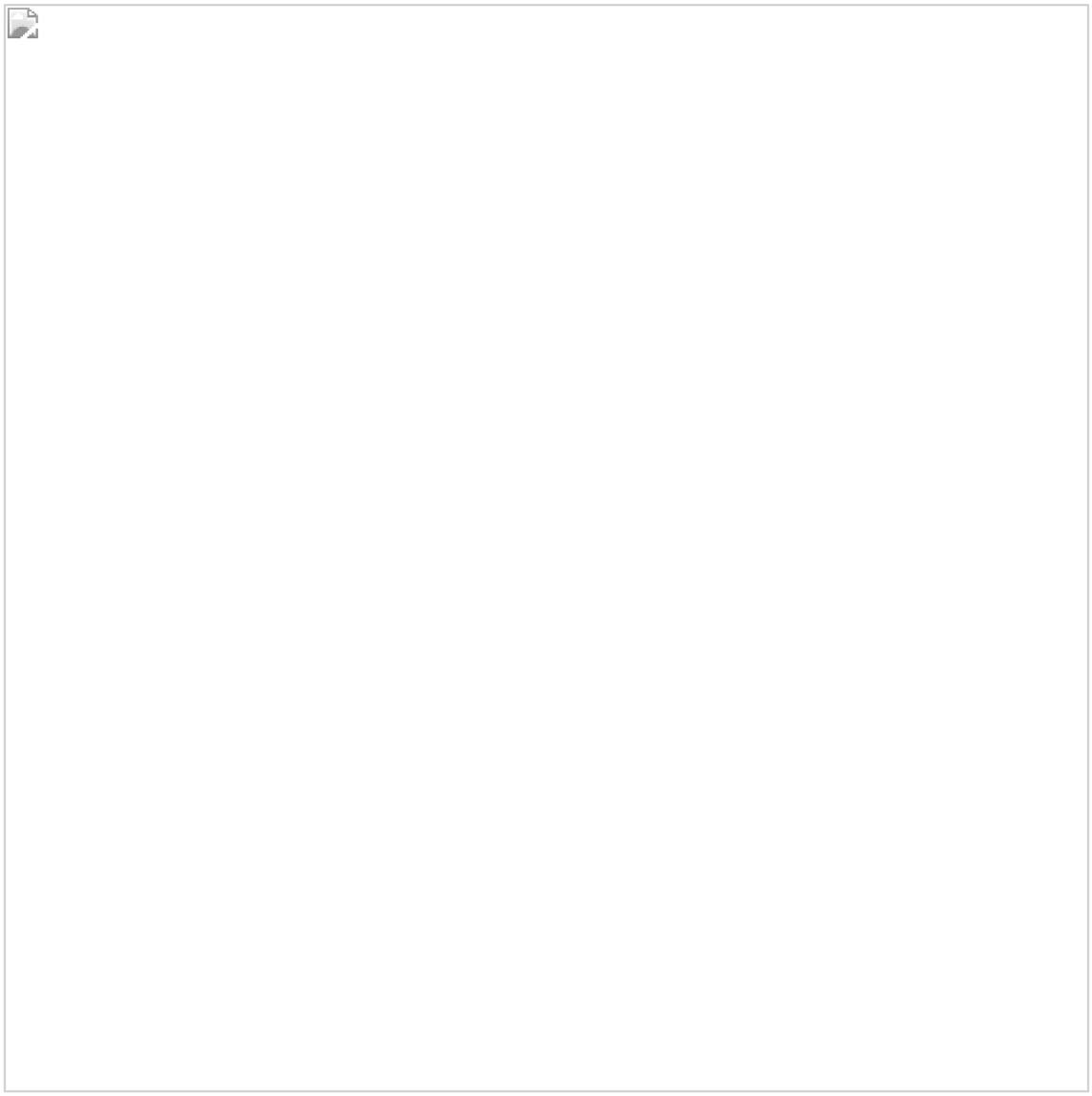
Think about it

1. Why did Milly say it is good to remember a wrong?

- ○ So that we can forgive it
- ○ So that we can get even
- ○ So that we can be proud

2. Is there someone you would like to forgive? What would help you start?

Milly's Little Child



William said softly that a baby of theirs had once died when it was very new, and Milly still thought of it every day. Milly said it was no sadness to her. It made her love poor and lonely children, and the old, all the more.

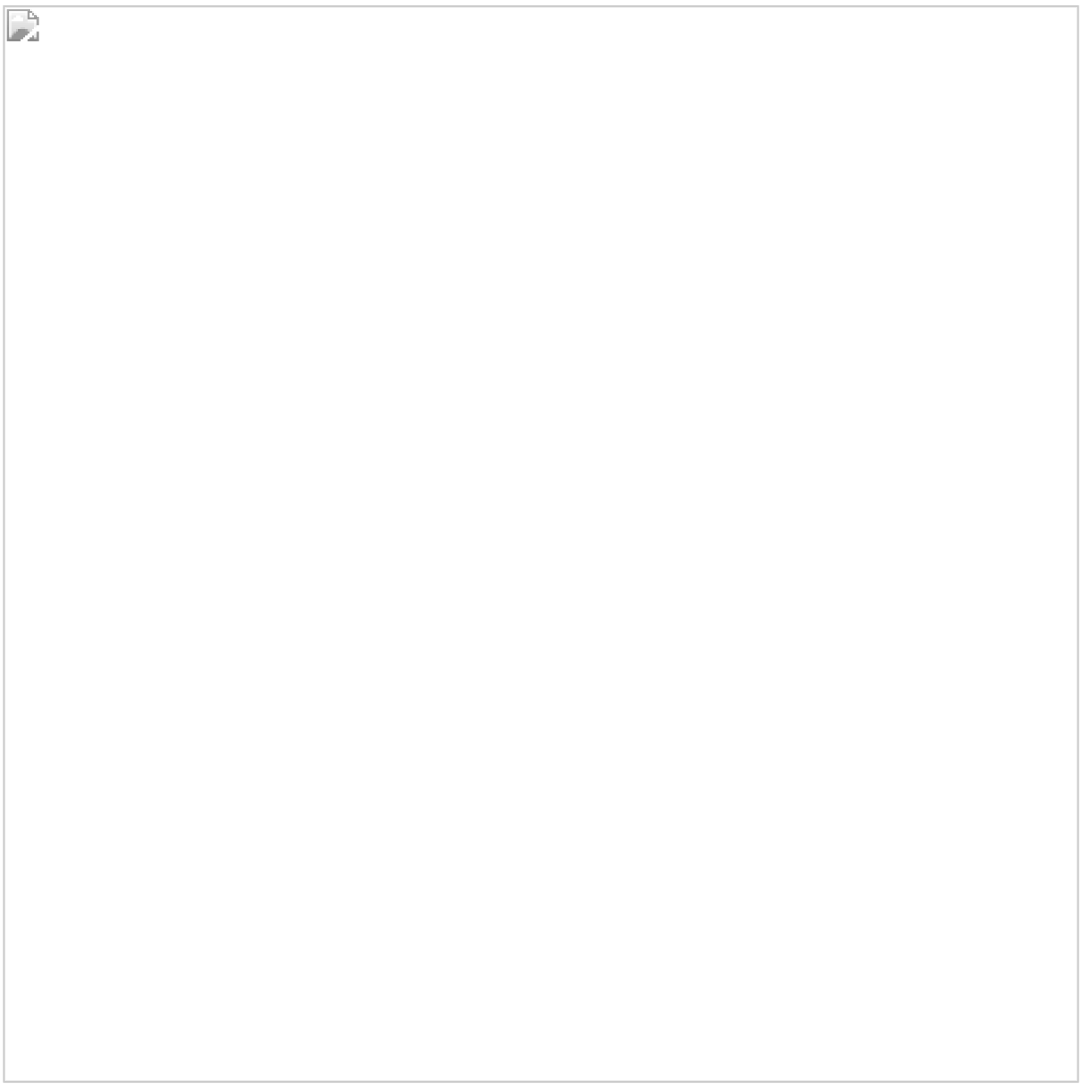
Mr. Redlaw fell on his knees. He thanked God for the teaching of love and asked a blessing on her.

Then he folded her to his heart. His memory had come back to him. “He is come back to himself!” said Milly. “He likes me very much indeed, too! Oh, dear, dear, dear me, here’s another!”

TALK ABOUT IT

Milly keeps the memory of her little child, even though it is sad. What do you think her memory gives her?

Milly's Little Child · another picture



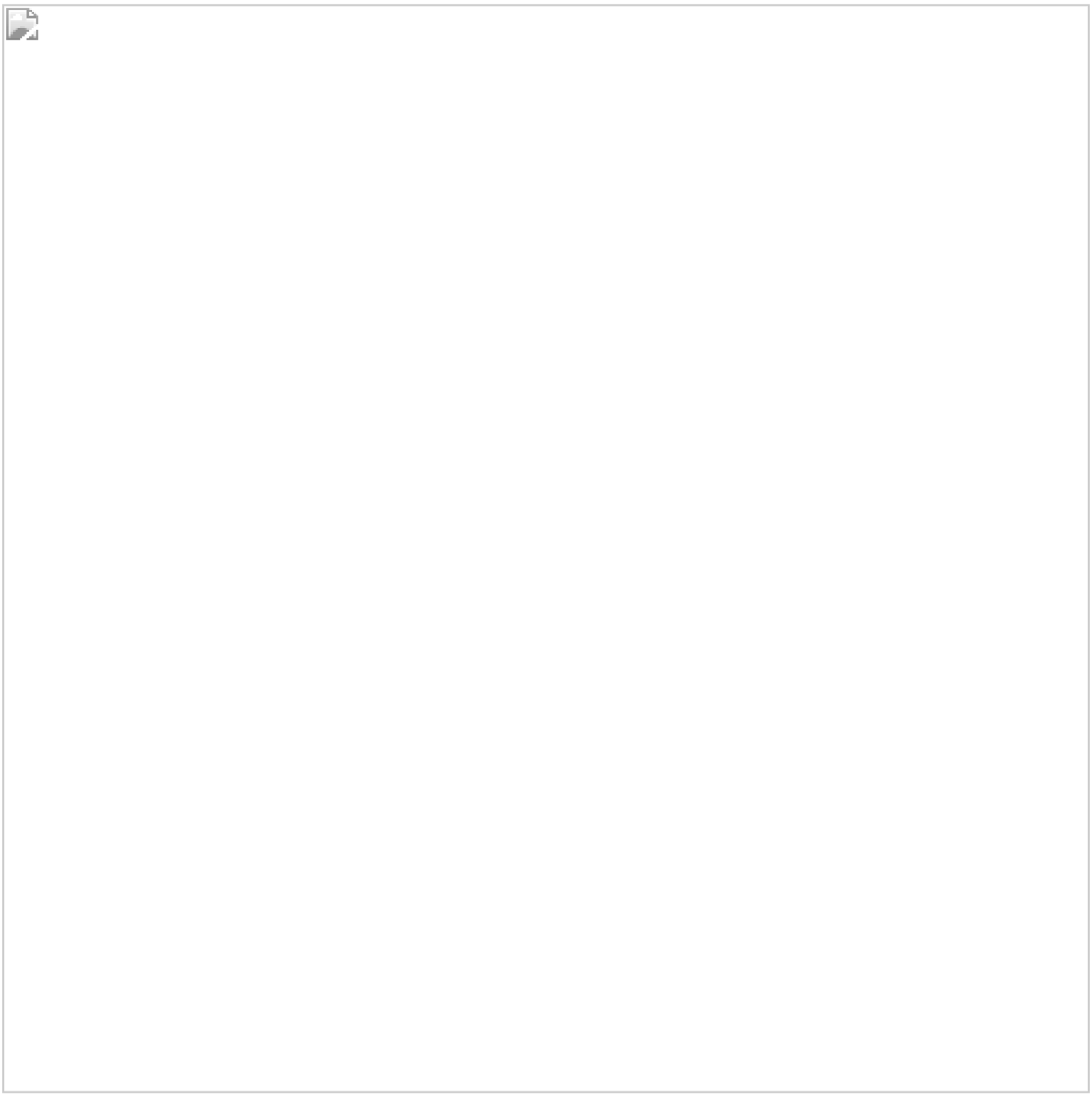
Think about it

1. What did Mr. Redlaw do when he heard Milly's words?

- ○ He fell on his knees and thanked God
- ○ He laughed
- ○ He left the room

2. What is a memory you keep close, because it helps you be kind?

The Great Hall at Christmas



Mr. Edmund came in with the young lady he was going to marry, and Mr. Redlaw asked them to be like his own children. He laid his hand on the wild boy's head and promised, before God, to protect him and bring him up.

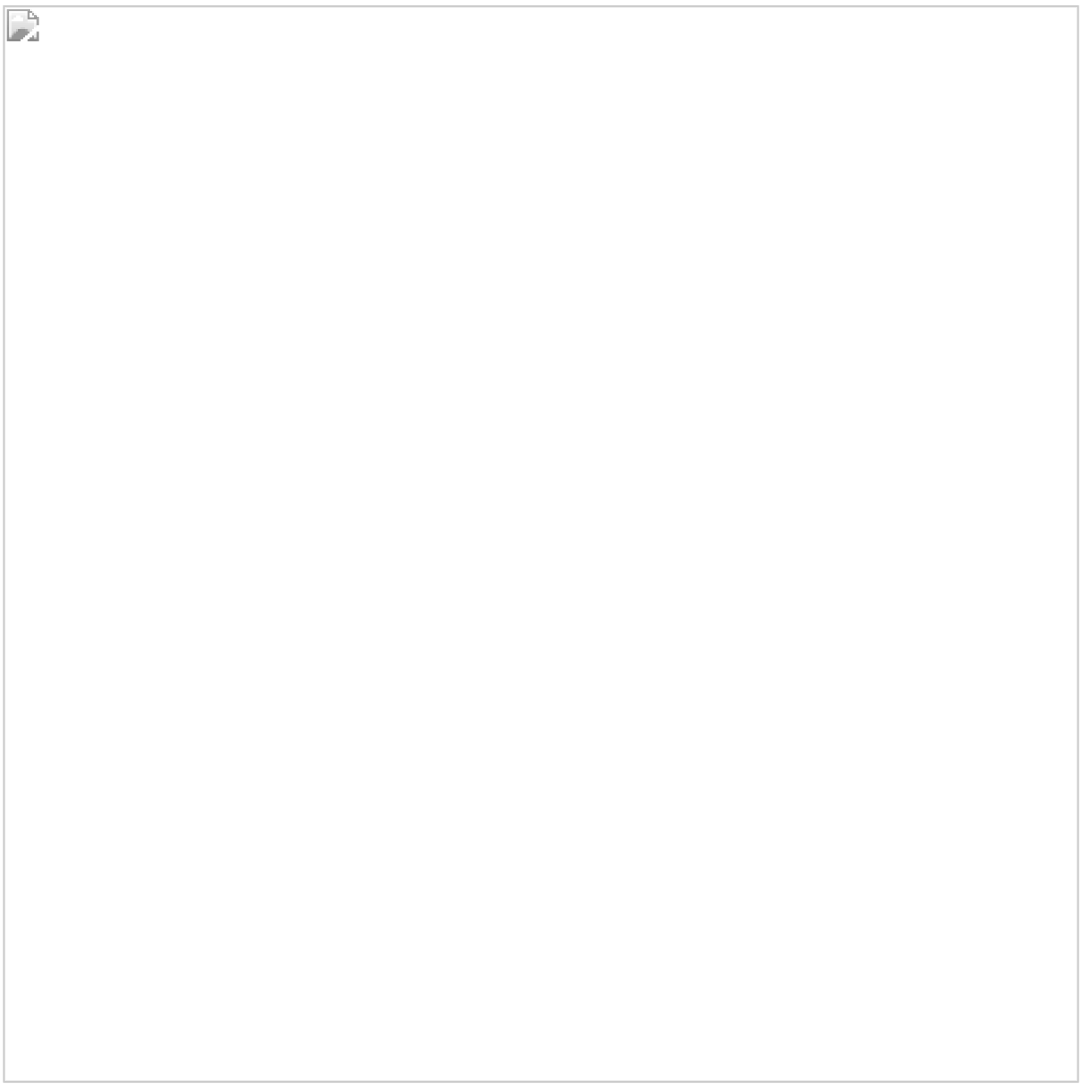
That day every Swidger who could be found came to Christmas dinner in the great hall, with the Tetterbys. The littlest ones came to the boy with small presents, and he stayed by Milly.

When firelight made shadows dance, the one thing the shadows could not change was the portrait under its holly wreath, and clear beneath it the words: “Lord keep my Memory green.”

TALK ABOUT IT

These words came at the start of the story, and they come again at the end. What do you notice?

The Great Hall at Christmas · another picture



Think about it

1. Where did the Christmas dinner happen?

- ○ In the great hall of the old college
- ○ On a ship
- ○ In a shop

2. Who would you invite to a Christmas dinner, if you could ask anyone?

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

— Yeshua HaMashiach

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