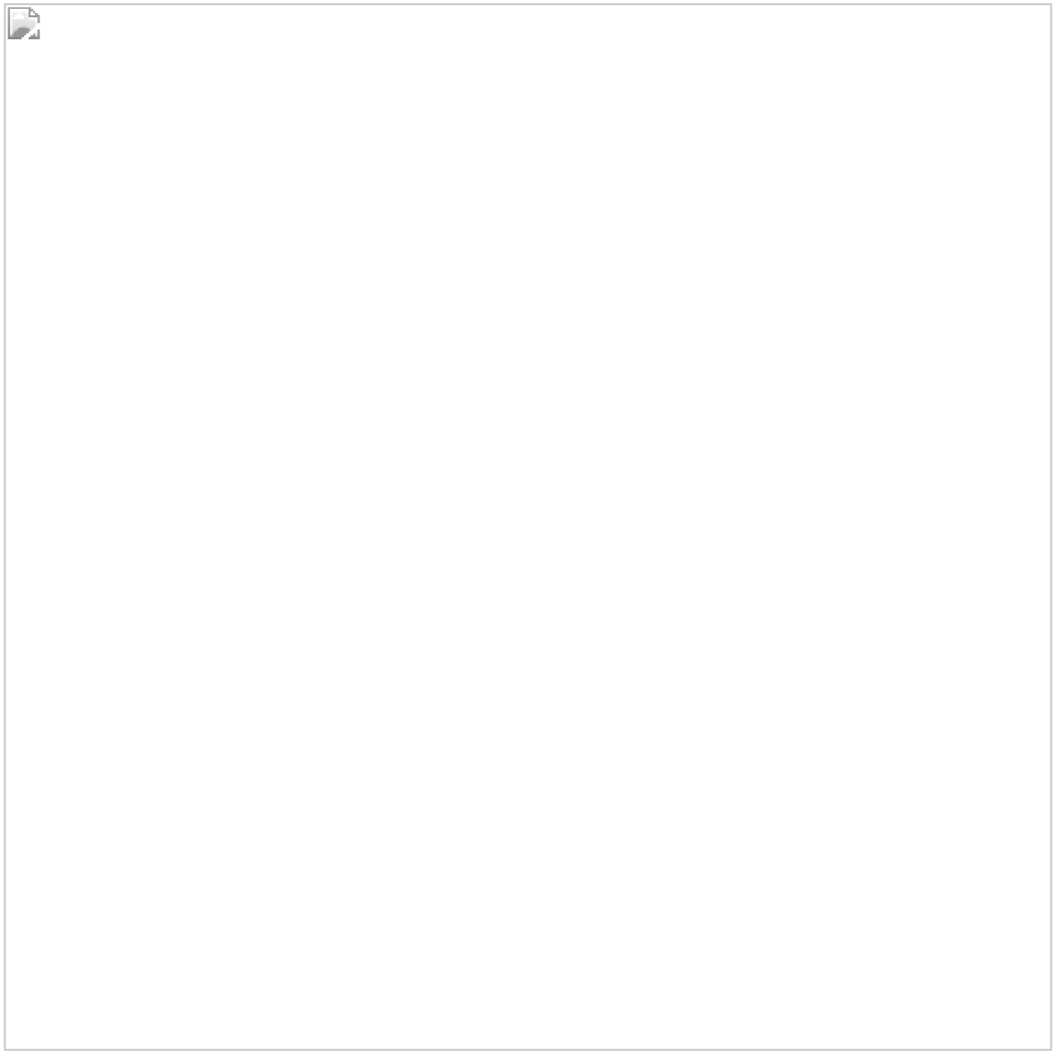
COLORING THE CLASSICS

The Jellyfish and the Monkey

A Tale from Japan



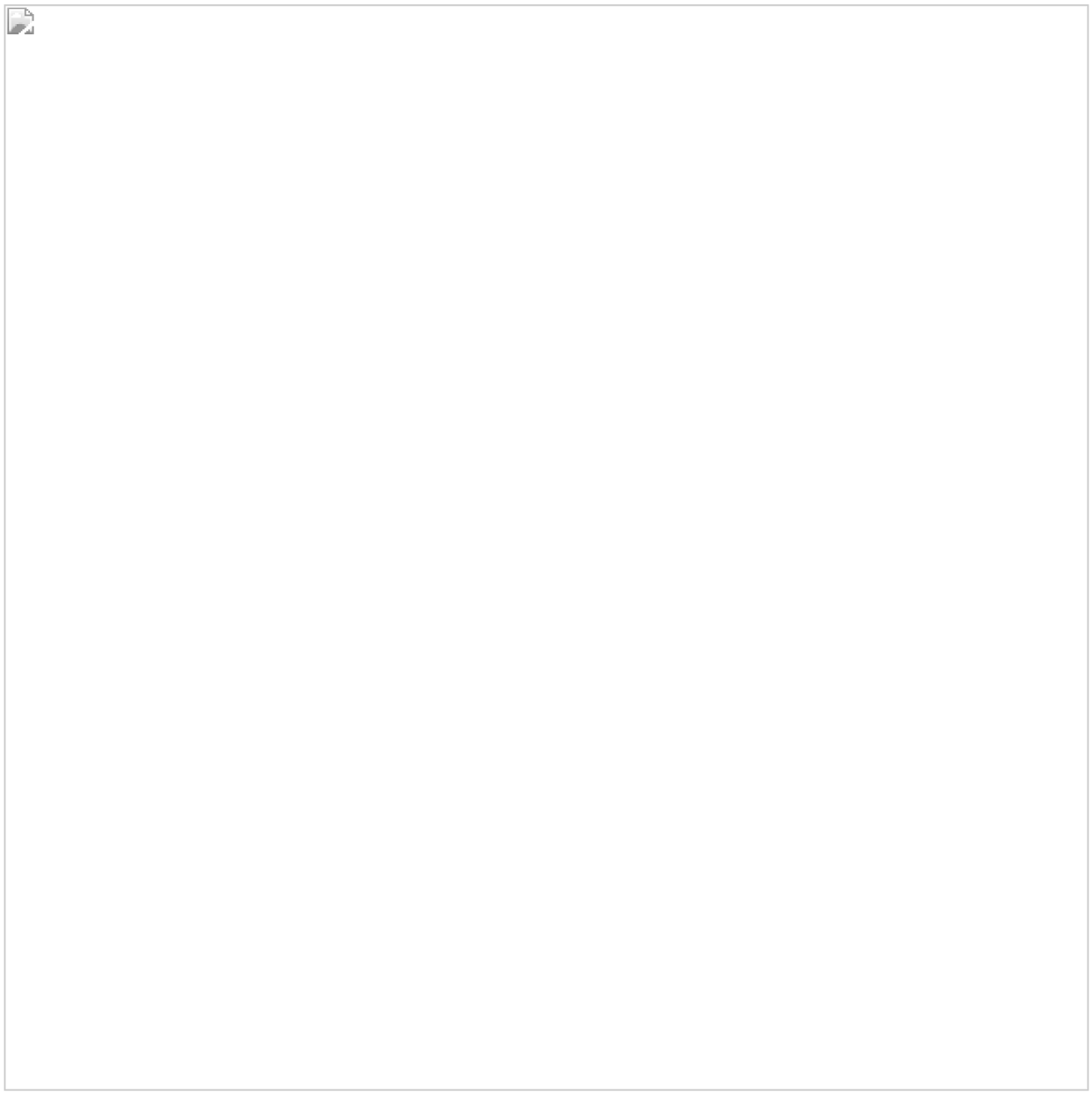
At the bottom of the sea, in old Japan, there was a palace of coral and pearl. In it lived Rin Jin, the Dragon King of the Sea, who ruled every creature in the water, from the great whales to the little shrimps.

TALK ABOUT IT

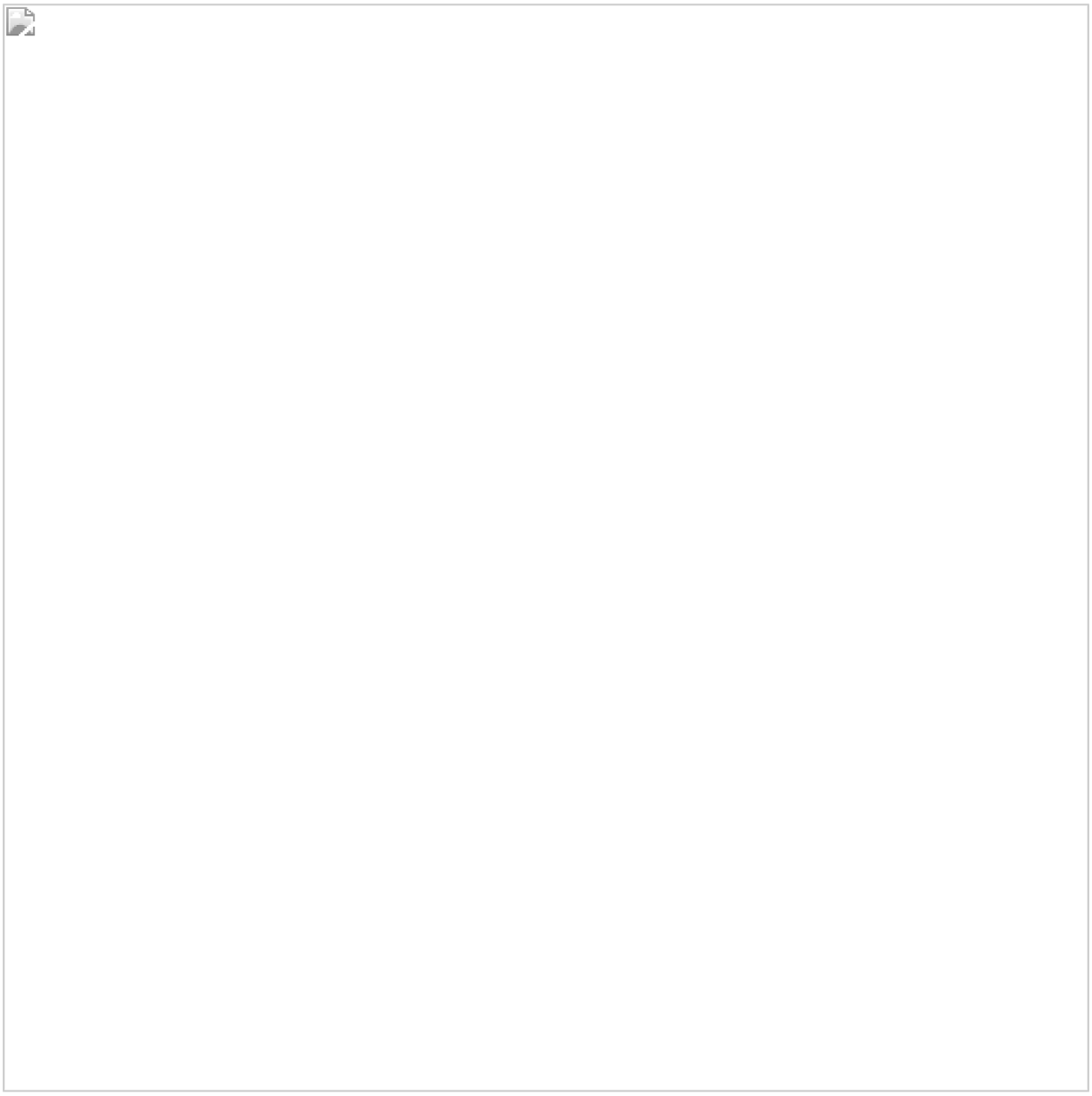
The Dragon King had a whole kingdom under the sea. What would you most like to see down there?

This book belongs to _____

The Jellyfish and the Monkey · another picture



The Palace Under the Sea



The Dragon King's palace was so beautiful that no one has ever seen anything like it, even in dreams. The walls were coral, the roof was jadestone, and the floors were mother-of-pearl.

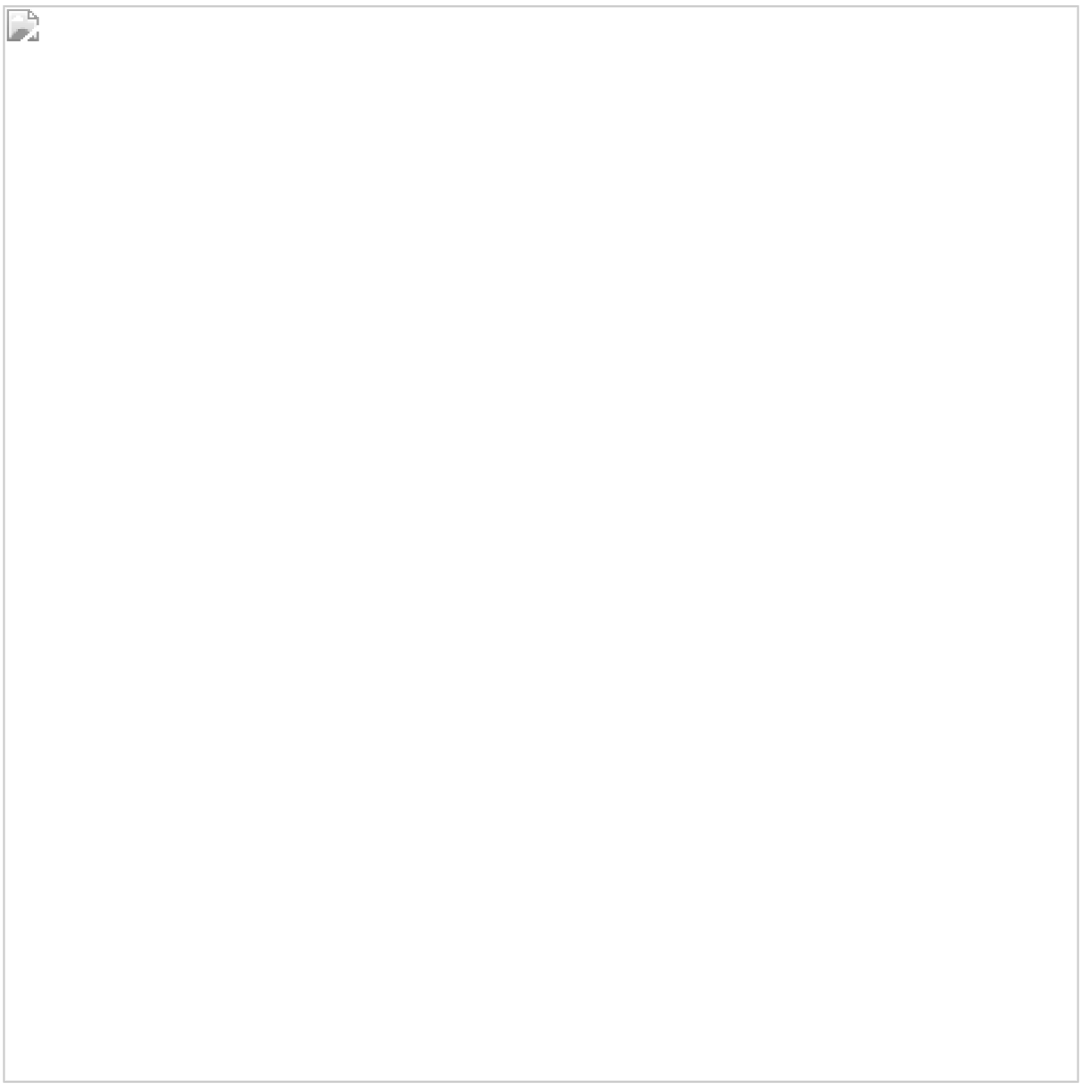
The King also kept two magic jewels, one that made the tide go out and one that made the waves rise high and roll in on the shore.

But for all his power and his lovely palace, the Dragon King was not happy, for he lived alone.

TALK ABOUT IT

The Dragon King had everything, and still he was not happy. Why do you think that is?

The Palace Under the Sea · another picture

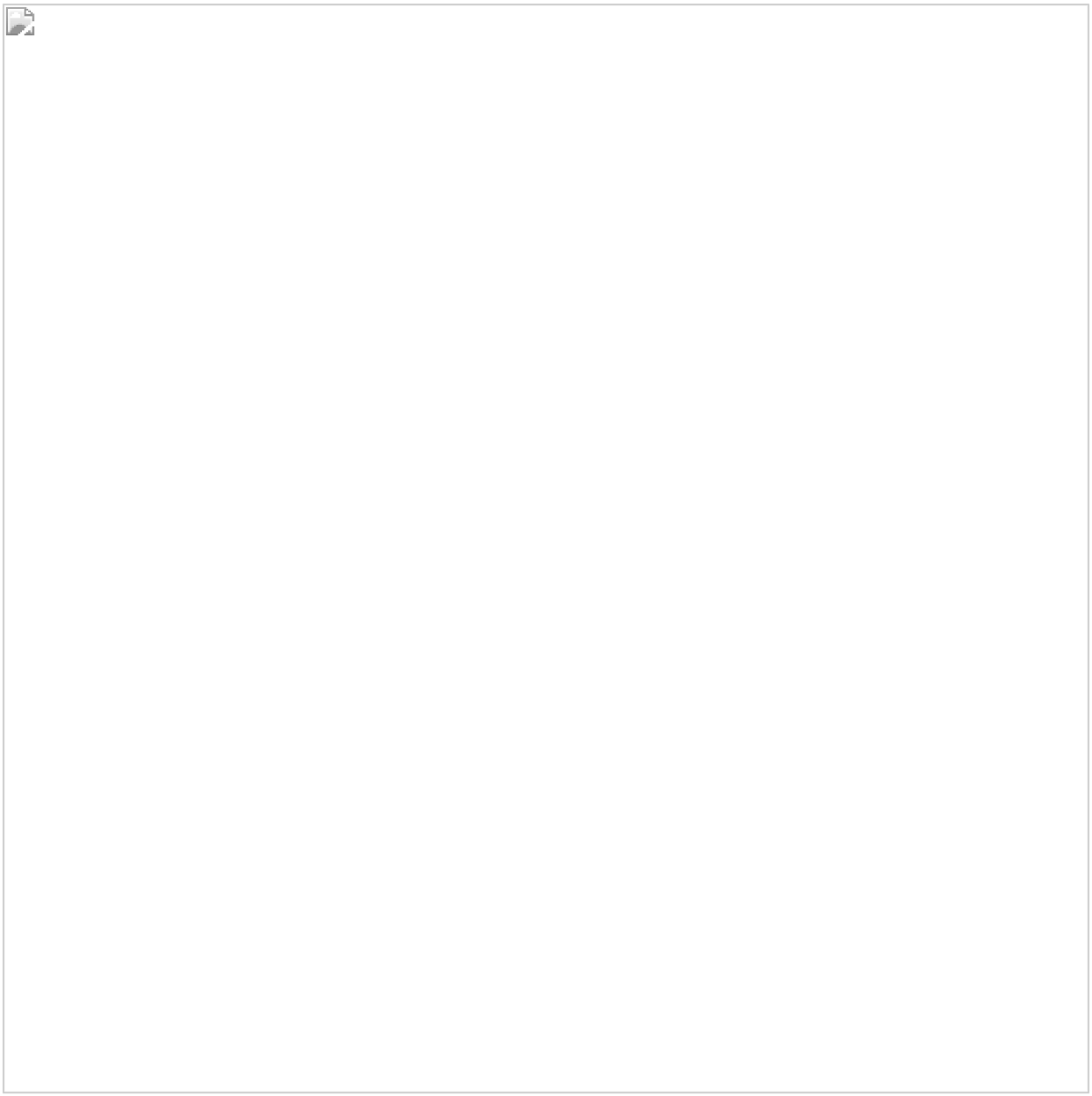


Think about it

1. What were the palace walls made of?

- ○ Coral
- ○ Wood
- ○ Ice

The Dragon Queen



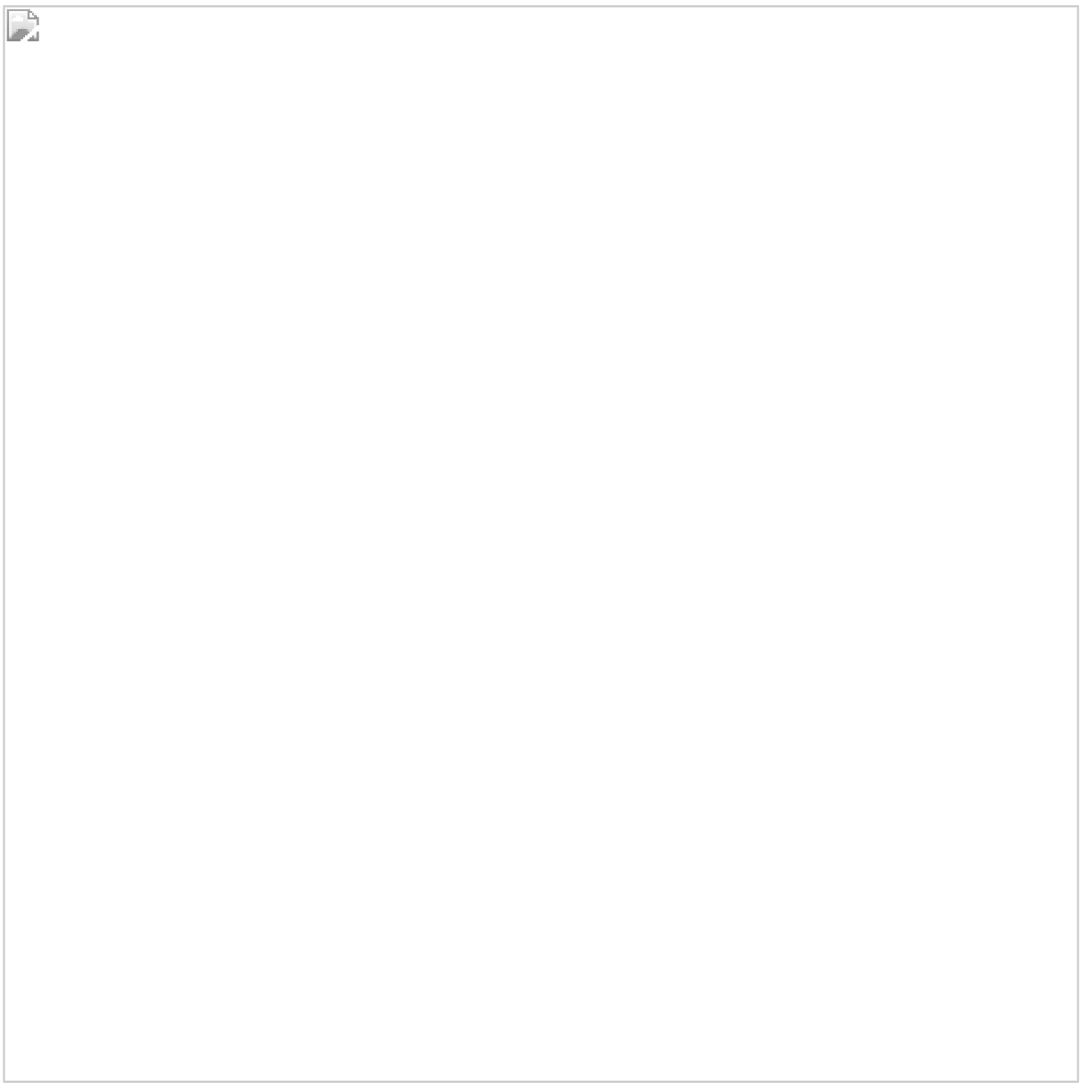
So the King decided to marry. His fish servants went through the sea and came back with a lovely young dragon, with scales of glittering green.

The King fell in love with her at once. Every living thing in the sea came to the wedding, with a lantern that shone like fire on the waves.

For a while they were happy as a long summer day. Then, after two months, the Dragon Queen fell ill. The King sent for the fish doctor, but she only grew worse.

TALK ABOUT IT

How do you think the King felt when his Queen got sick? What would you do for someone you love?

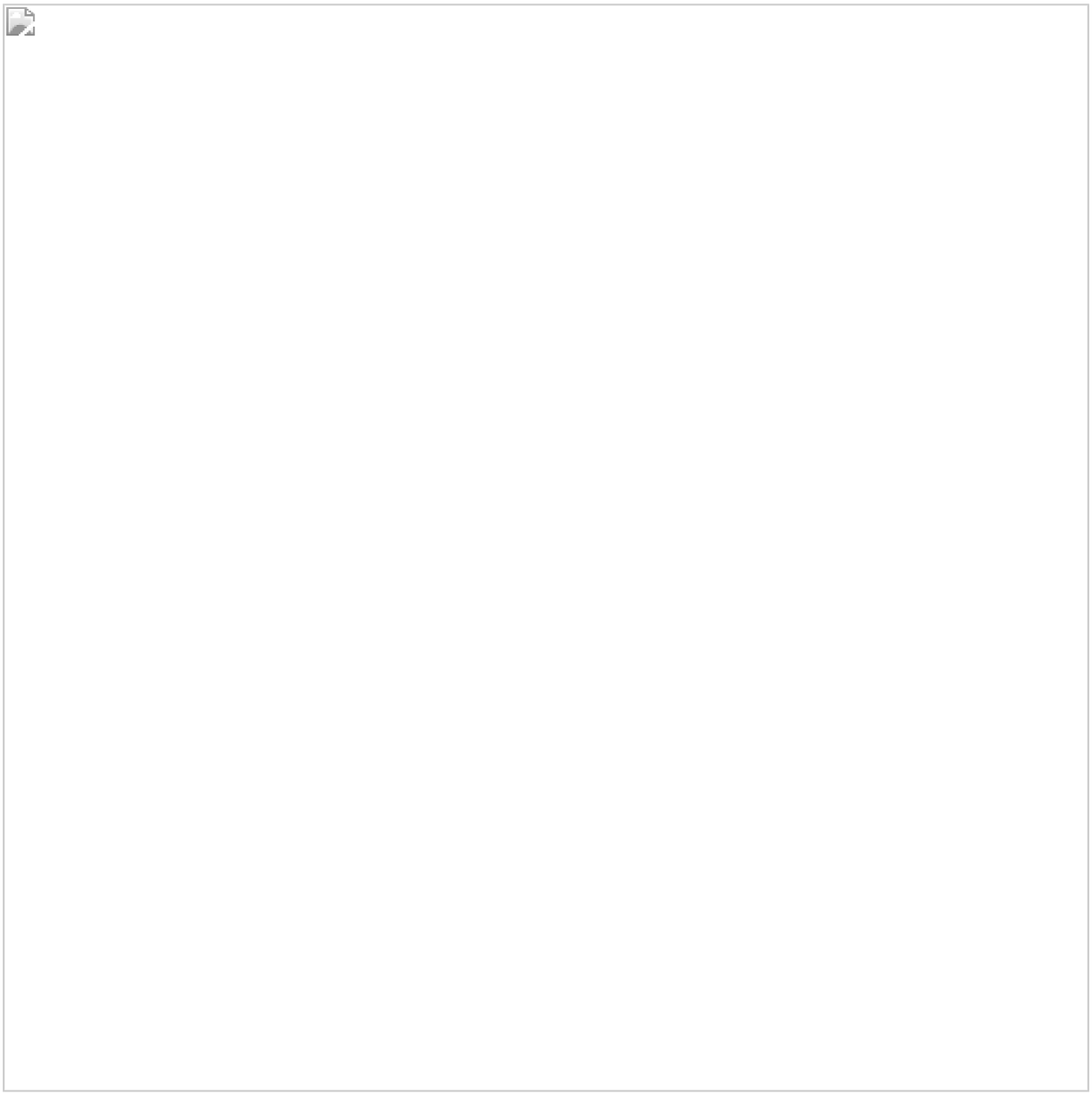


Think about it

1. What happened after two months?

- ○ The Queen fell ill
- ○ The King sailed away
- ○ The palace flooded

The Only Medicine



The King asked the doctor why the Queen was not better. The doctor said he knew the right medicine, but it could not be found in the sea.

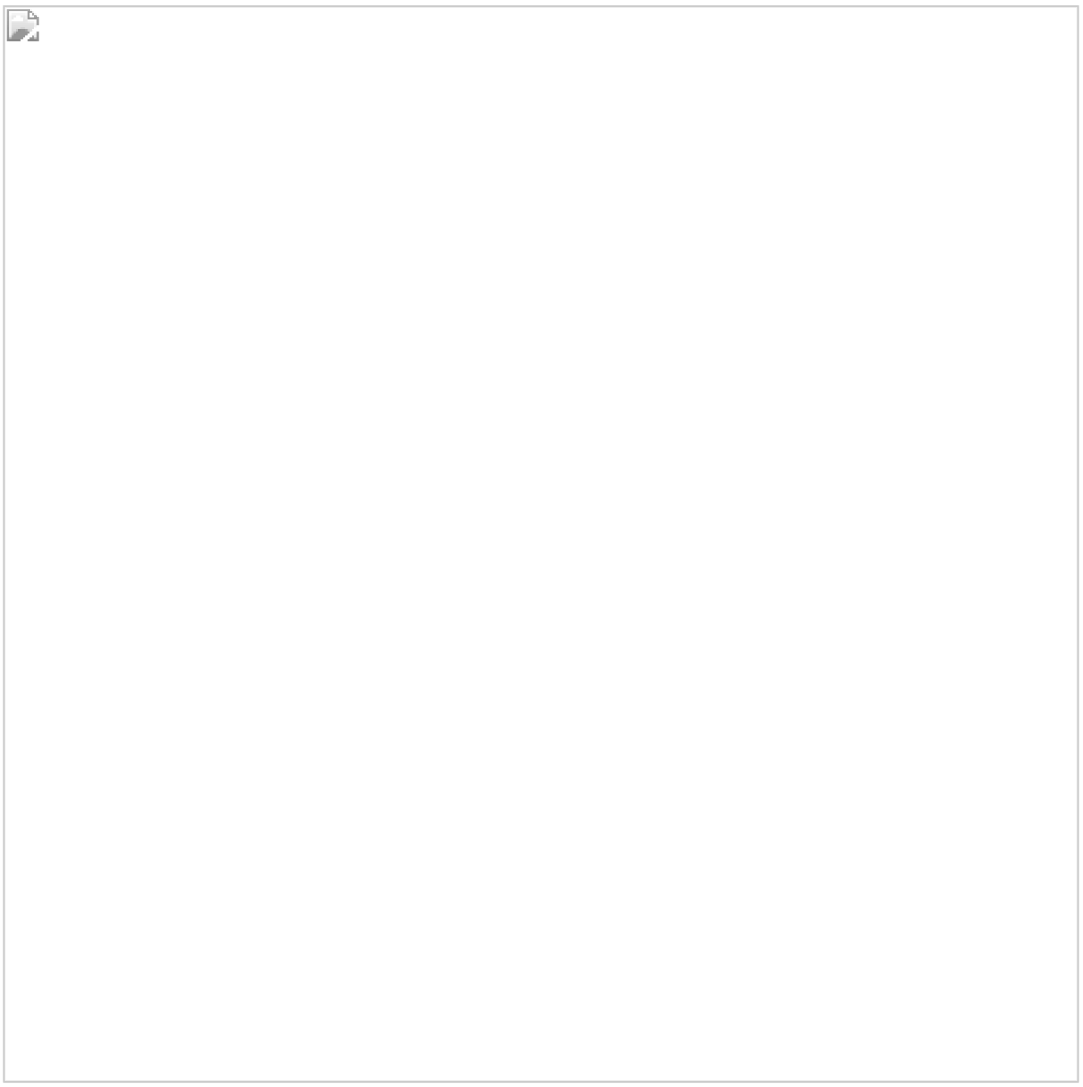
“Tell me what it is you want for the Queen?” said the King.

“I want the liver of a live monkey!” answered the doctor.

Monkeys lived far away on Monkey Island, on dry land, and no sea creature could easily go and catch one. “Something must be done,” said the King.

TALK ABOUT IT

The doctor asked for something that belonged to another creature. What do you think about that?

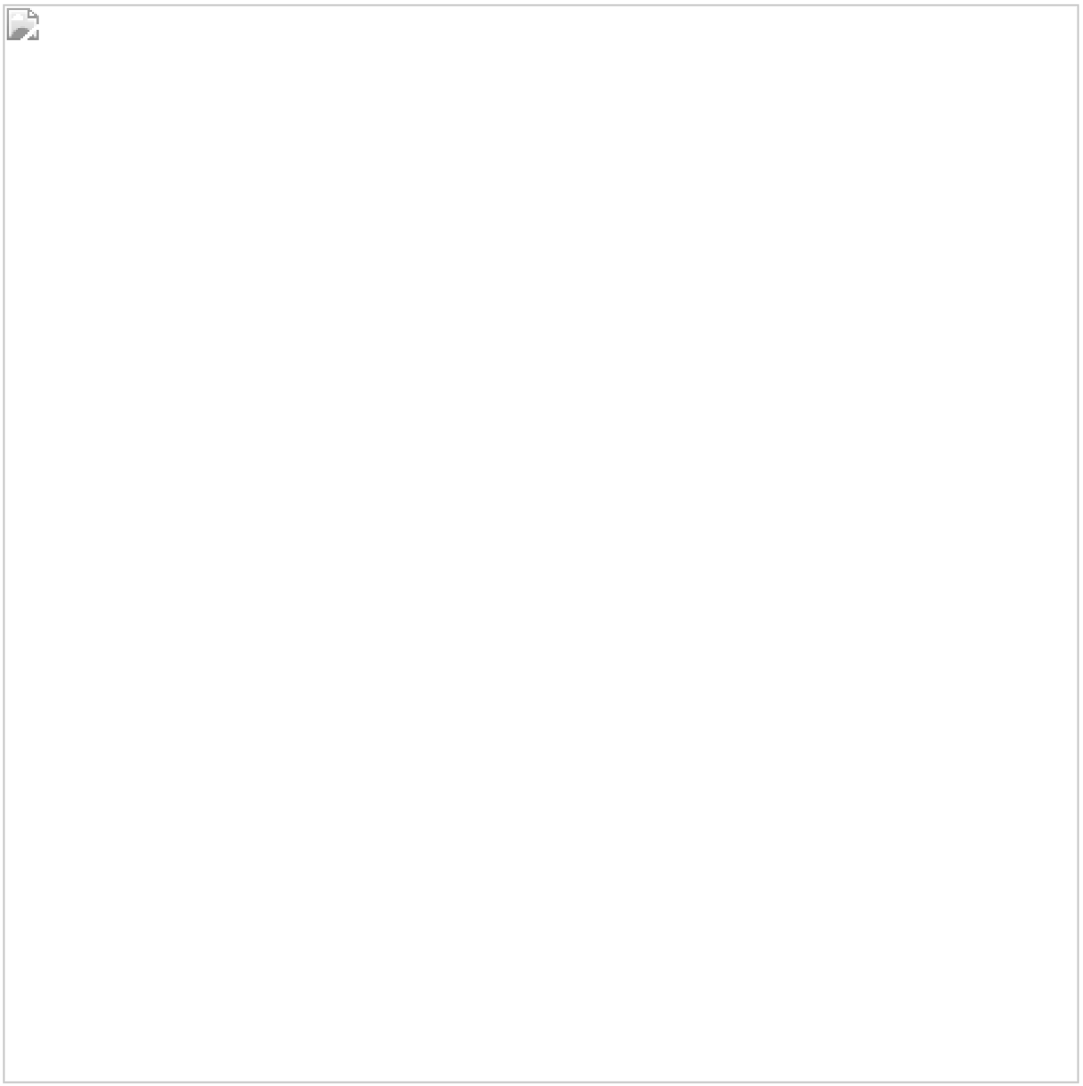


Think about it

1. Why couldn't the doctor find the medicine in the sea?

- ○ It had to come from a monkey on land
- ○ It was too expensive
- ○ It was too heavy

The Jellyfish Is Chosen



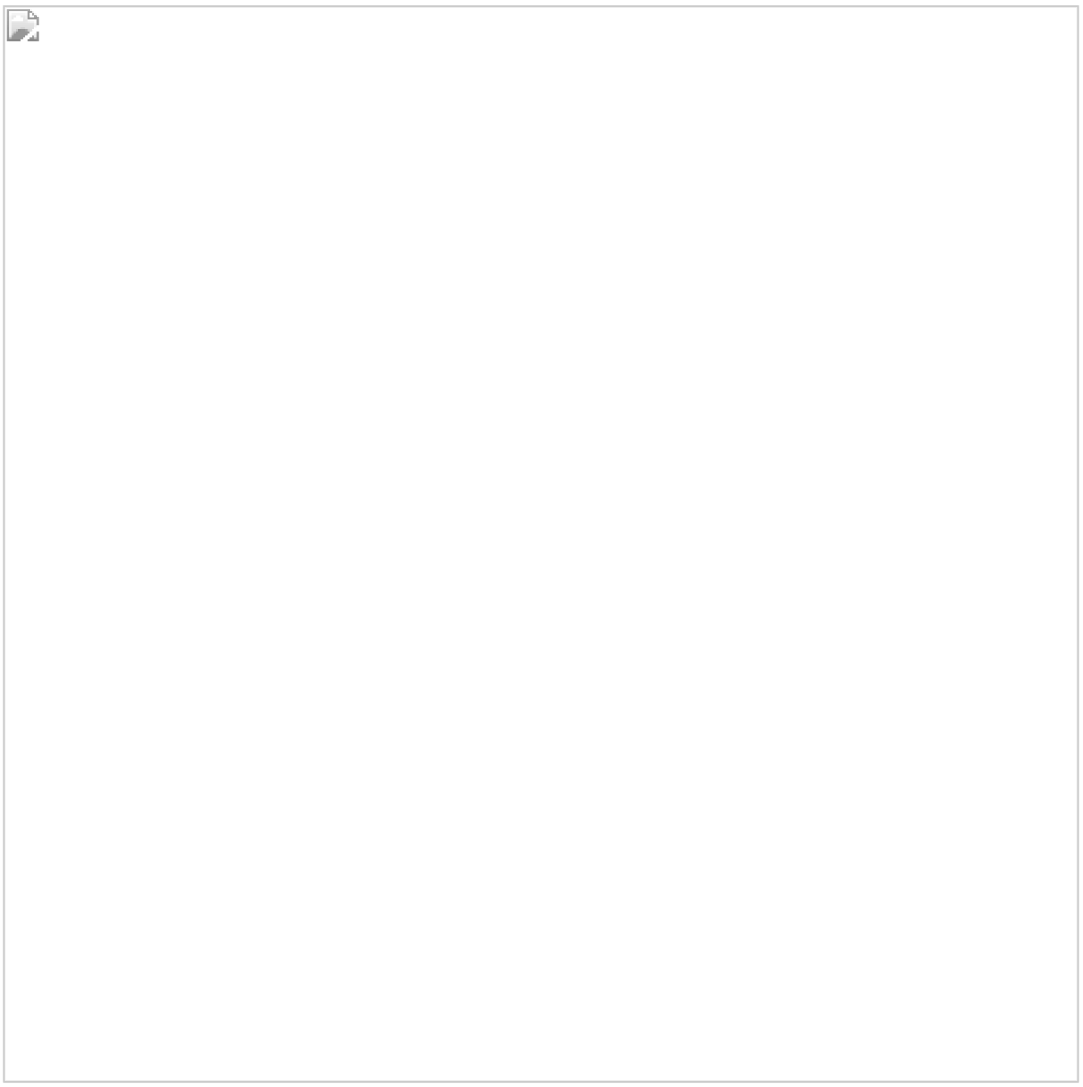
“I know what we must do!” said the King's chief steward. He thought of the kurage, the jellyfish, who in those days had four legs and a hard shell like a tortoise, and could walk on land.

The jellyfish was afraid he could not catch a monkey. “If you depend on your strength or dexterity you will never catch a monkey,” said the steward. “The only way is to play a trick on one!”

Make friends with a monkey, said the steward. Tell him of the palace's wonders, then carry him back on your shell.

“I will do my best then,” said the jellyfish, and he swam away.

TALK ABOUT IT
The steward told the jellyfish to trick a monkey. Is that a kind way to ask someone to come with you? Why or why not?

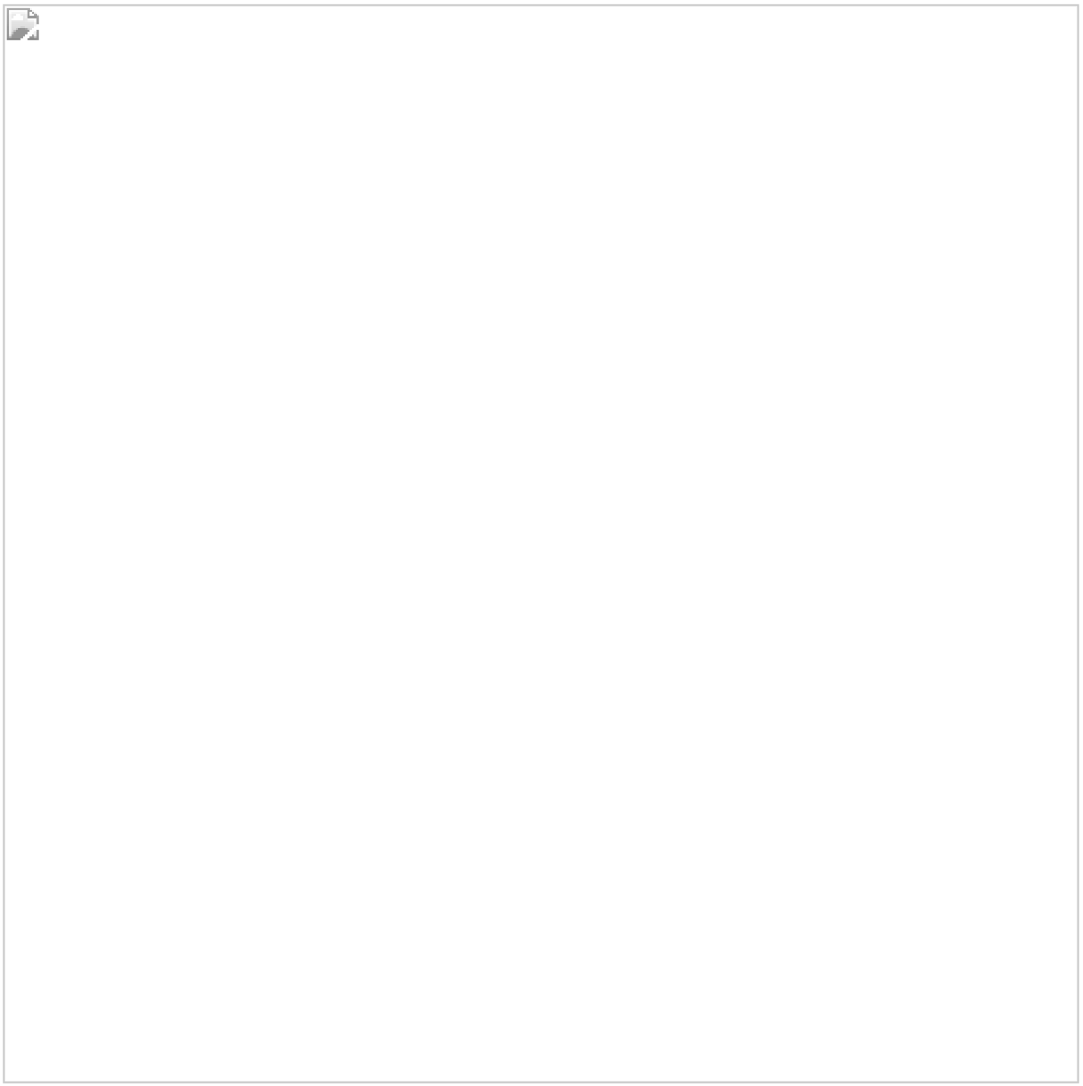


Think about it

1. What could the jellyfish do that the other sea creatures could not?

- ○ Fly
- ○ Walk on land
- ○ Sing

Monkey Island



The jellyfish reached Monkey Island. In a big pine tree by the shore sat a live monkey.

“How do you do, Mr. Monkey? Isn't it a lovely day?” said the jellyfish. “A very fine day,” said the monkey.

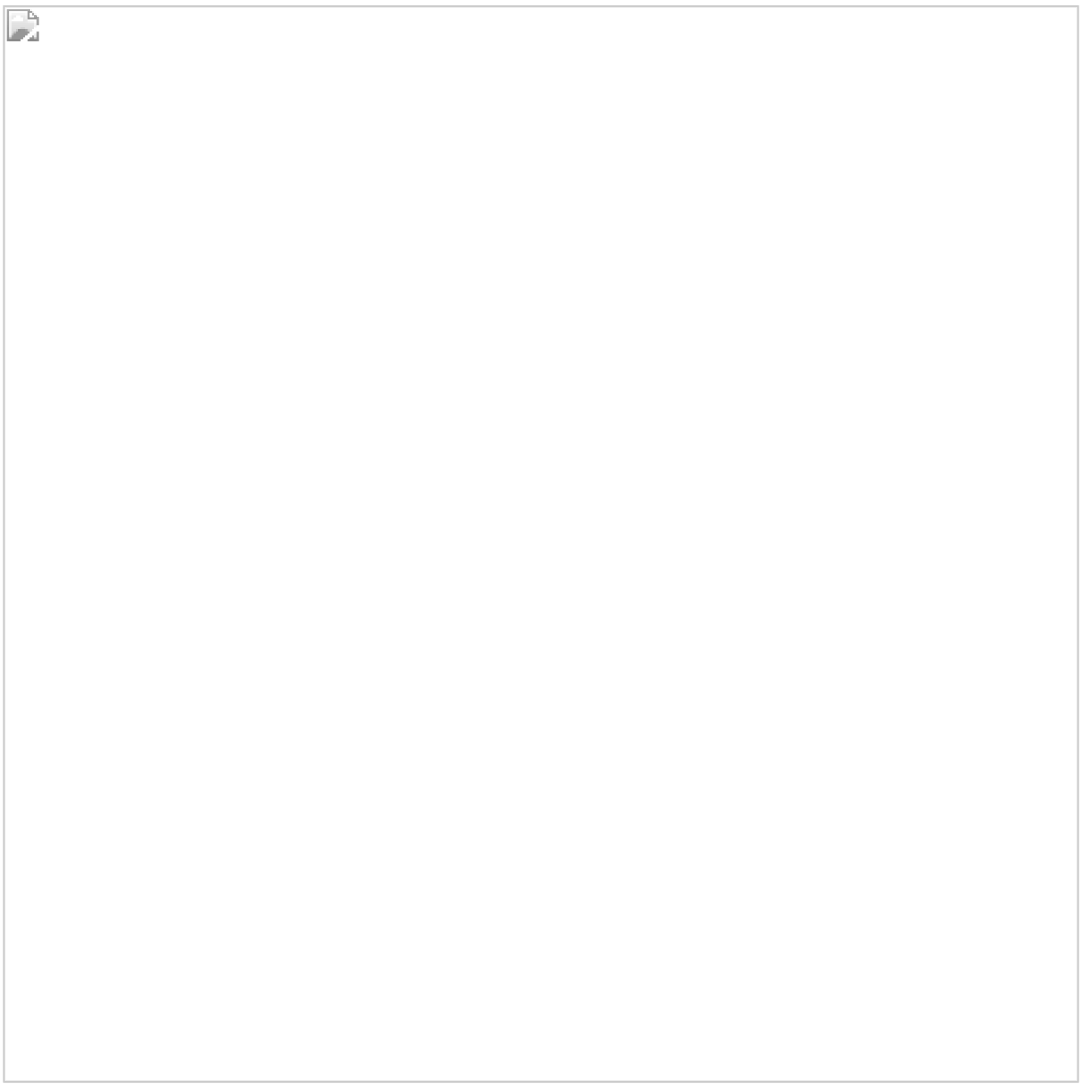
The jellyfish told him of the Dragon King's palace, the trees of white, pink and red coral, and the fruits like great jewels. The monkey came down the tree step by step so as not to lose a word.

“I should love to go,” said the monkey, “but how am I to cross the water? I can't swim.” “I can carry you on my back,” said the jellyfish.

TALK ABOUT IT

The jellyfish said many kind things. Were they all true? How can you tell when someone is only being friendly to get something?

Monkey Island · another picture

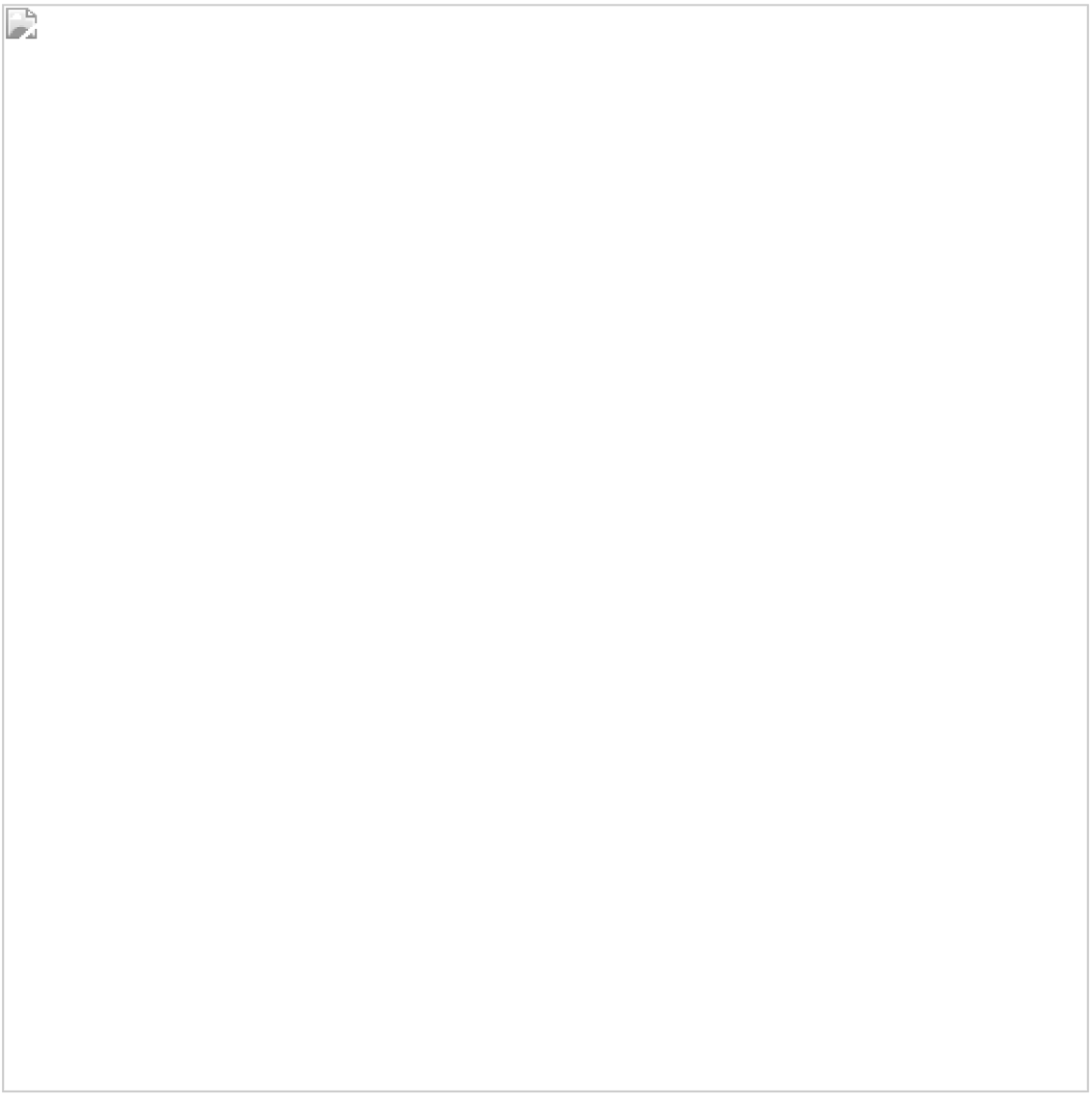


Think about it

1. How did the monkey plan to cross the sea?

- ○ He would swim
- ○ He would ride on the jellyfish's back
- ○ He would take a boat

Across the Waves



The monkey climbed on, and the jellyfish stepped into the sea. “Keep very still, Mr. Monkey,” he said. “You mustn't fall into the sea.” “Please don't go so fast,” said the monkey, “or I am sure I shall fall off.”

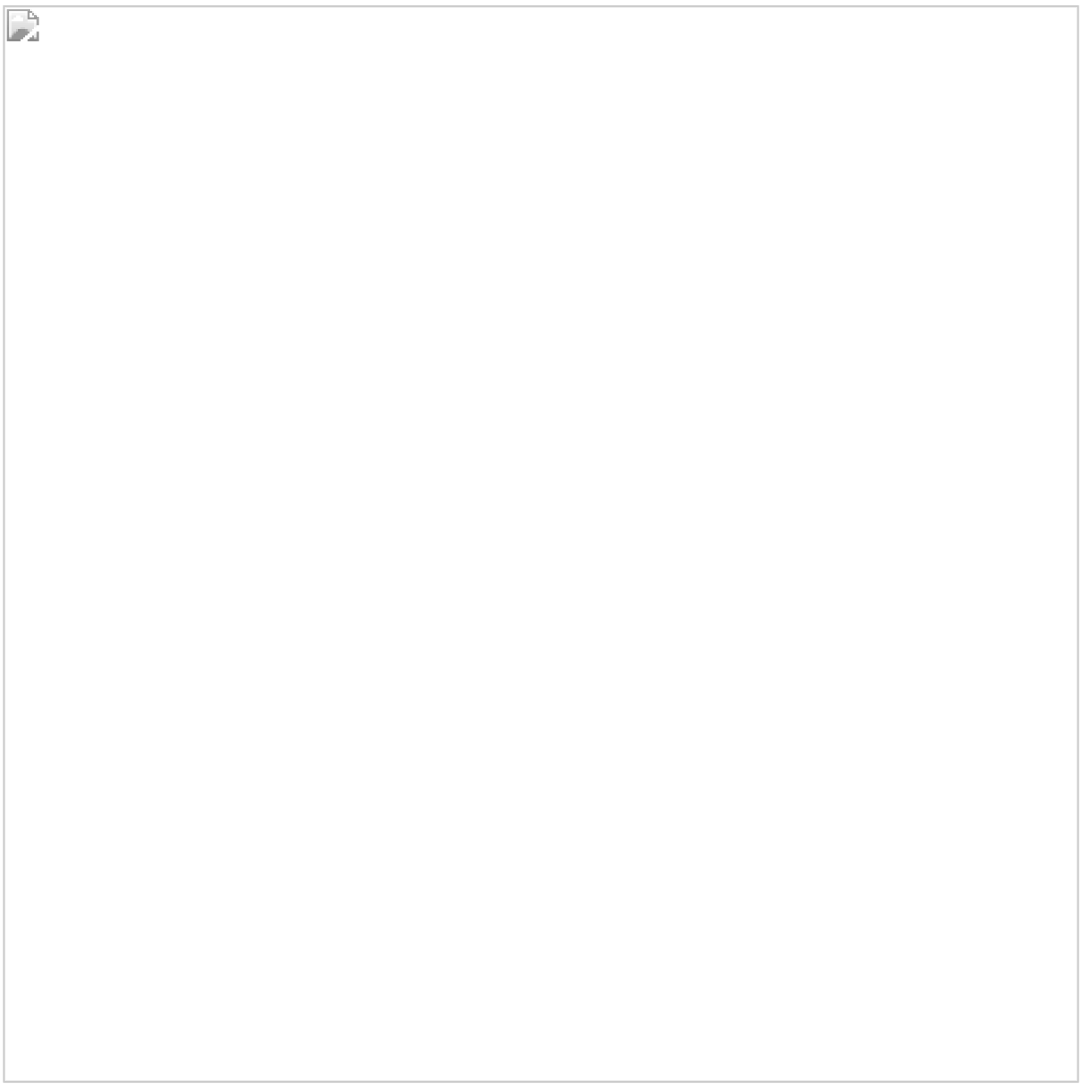
They skimmed along over the waves. When they were about halfway, the jellyfish began to wonder if the monkey had his liver with him.

“Mr. Monkey, tell me, have you such a thing as a liver with you?” he asked.

The monkey was very surprised. “Why is my liver so important to you?” “Oh! you will learn the reason later,” said the jellyfish.

TALK ABOUT IT

The monkey got more and more worried. What could you do if you thought someone was keeping a secret that mattered?

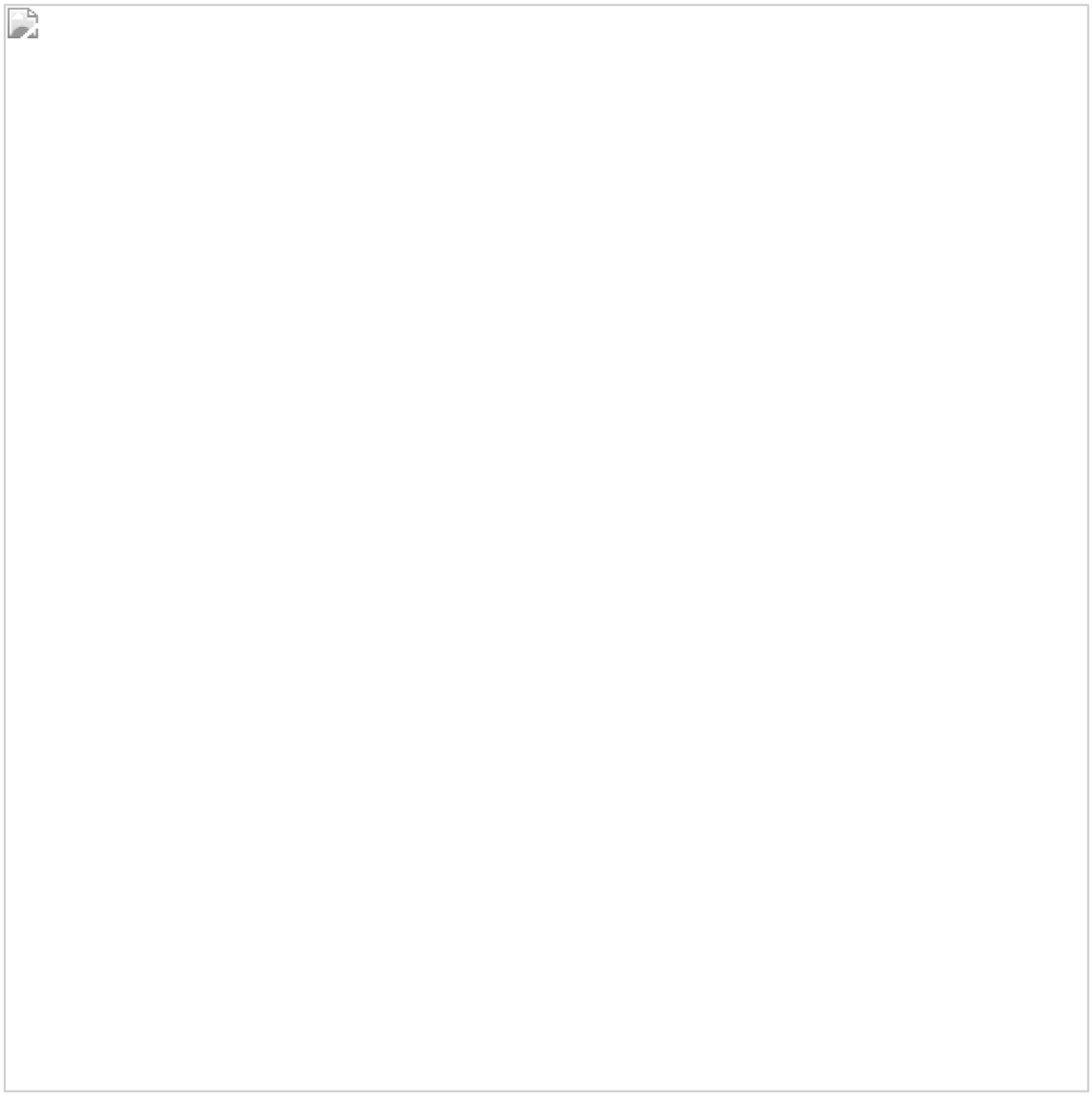


Think about it

1. What strange question did the jellyfish ask?

- ○ “Are you hungry?”
- ○ “Have you such a thing as a liver with you?”
- ○ “Can you swim?”

The Secret Comes Out



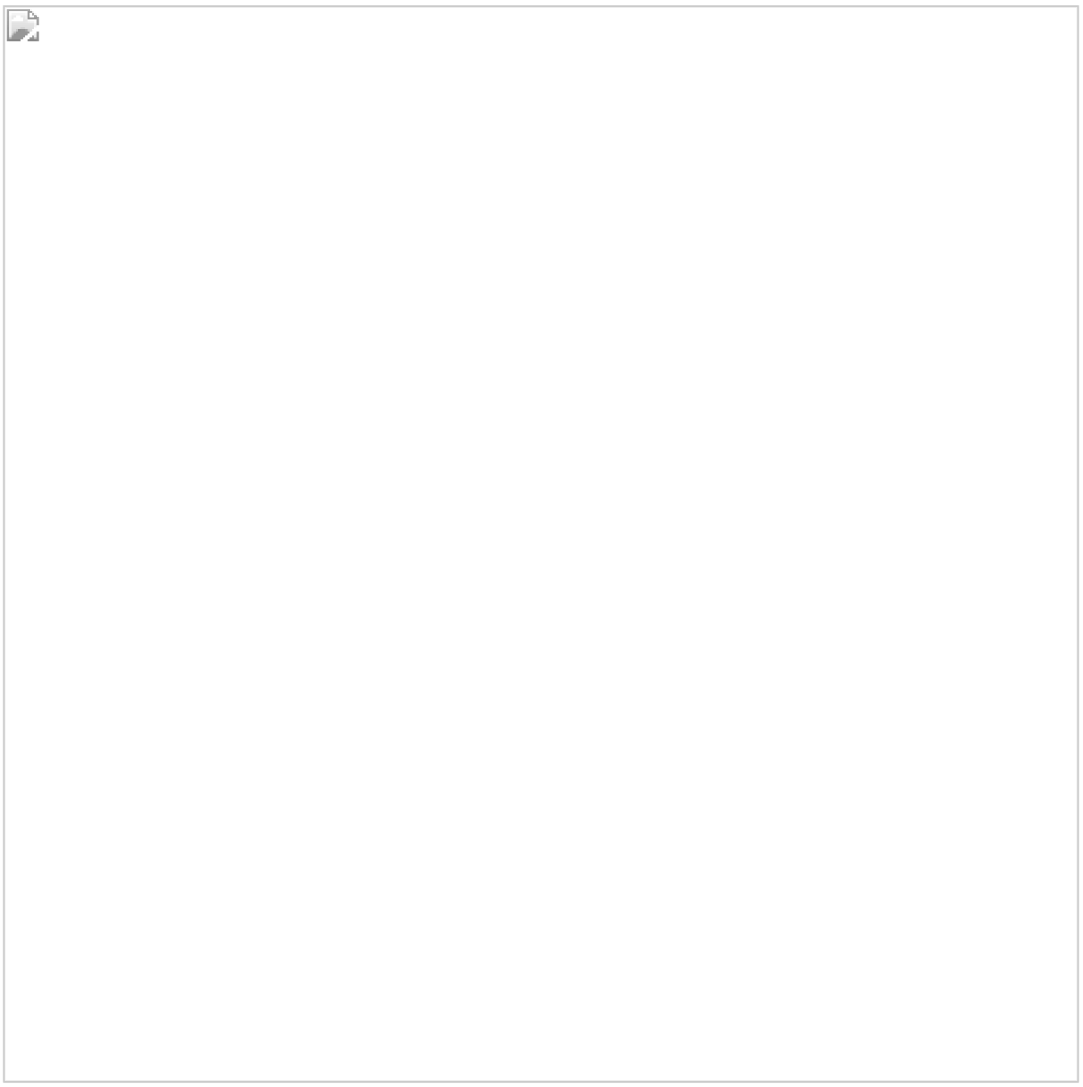
The monkey kept asking, and the jellyfish could see how anxious he looked. He felt sorry for him, and told him everything: the sick Queen, the doctor, and the King's order.

“Now I have done as I was told,” he said, “and as soon as we arrive at the palace the doctor will want your liver, so I feel sorry for you!”

The monkey was horrified and angry at being tricked. But he was a clever animal, and he did not show his fear. He tried to calm himself and think of a way to get out of this.

TALK ABOUT IT

The jellyfish told the truth in the end. Why do you think he did? How do you think the monkey felt?

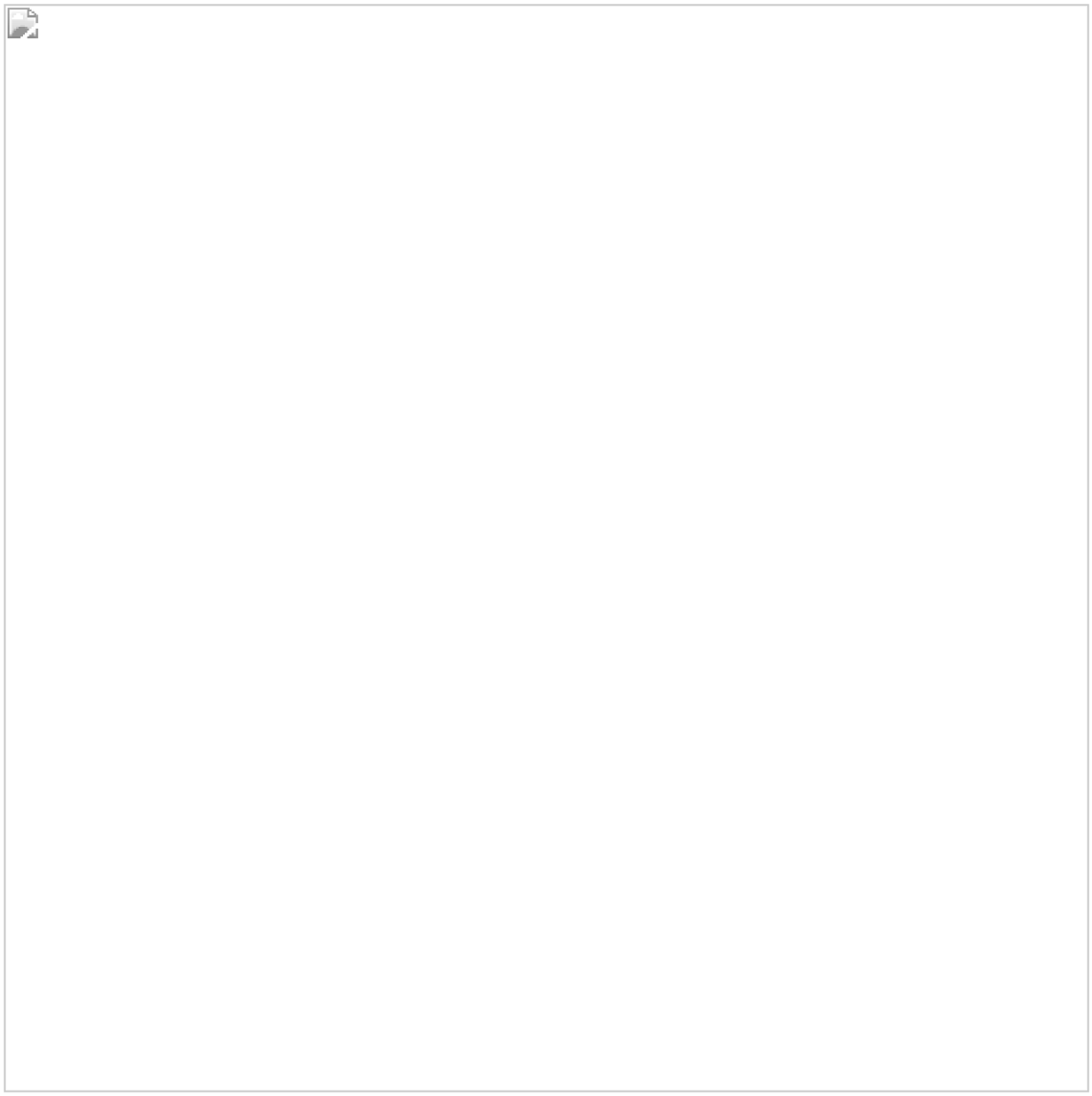


Think about it

1. Why did the jellyfish finally tell the monkey the truth?

- ○ He felt sorry for the worried monkey
- ○ He wanted to scare him
- ○ He forgot his job

The Liver in the Pine Tree



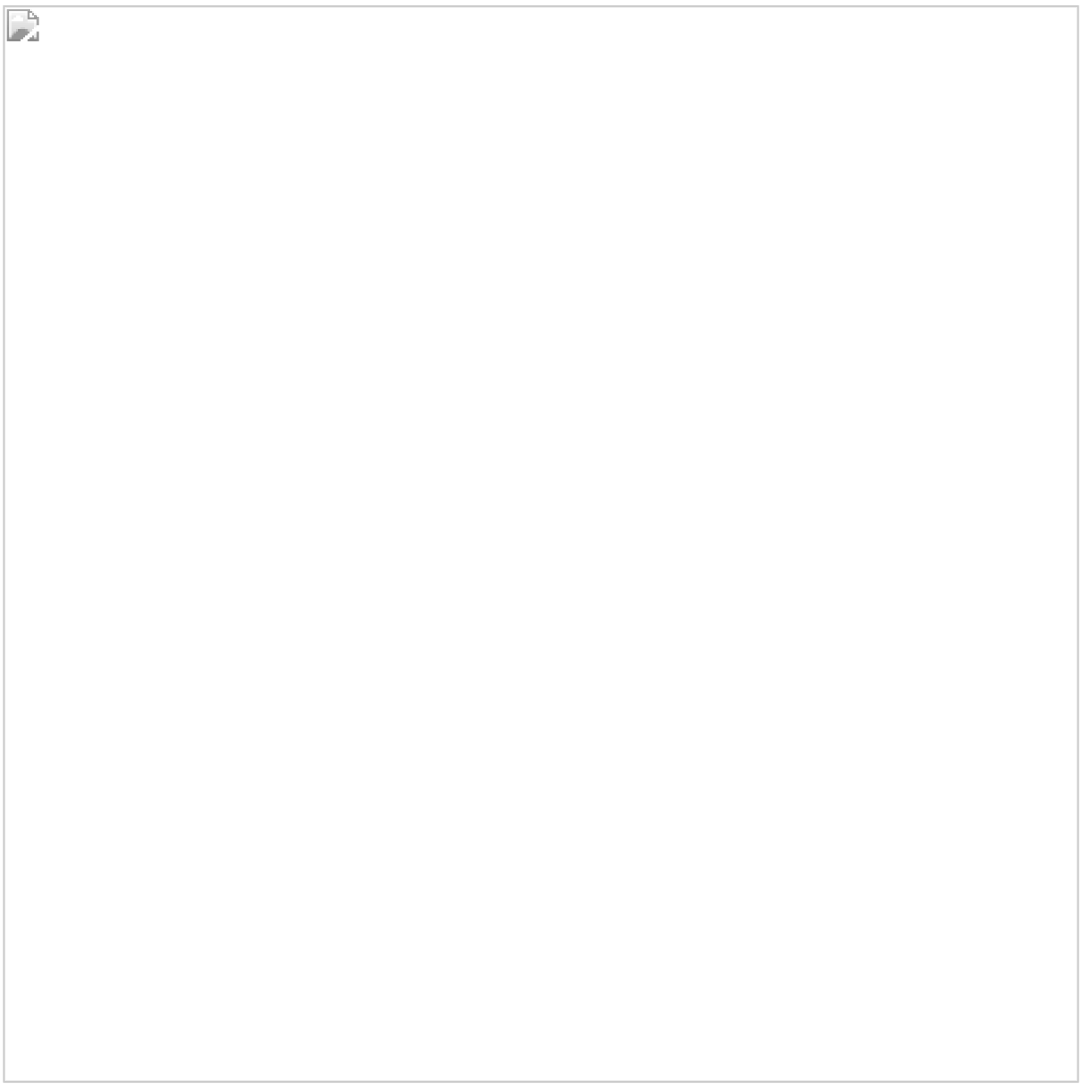
The monkey said cheerfully, “What a pity it was, Mr. Jellyfish, that you did not speak of this before we left the island!” “Monkeys can very well spare a liver or two.” But, he said, he had “left all my livers hanging on the pine-tree.”

“Have you left your liver behind you?” asked the jellyfish. “Yes,” said the monkey. “During the daytime I usually leave my liver hanging up on the branch of a tree.”

The jellyfish believed every word. A monkey without a liver was no use to the King. So he turned around and swam back to the island.

TALK ABOUT IT

The monkey made up a story to save himself. The jellyfish had tricked the monkey first. What do you think about each of them?



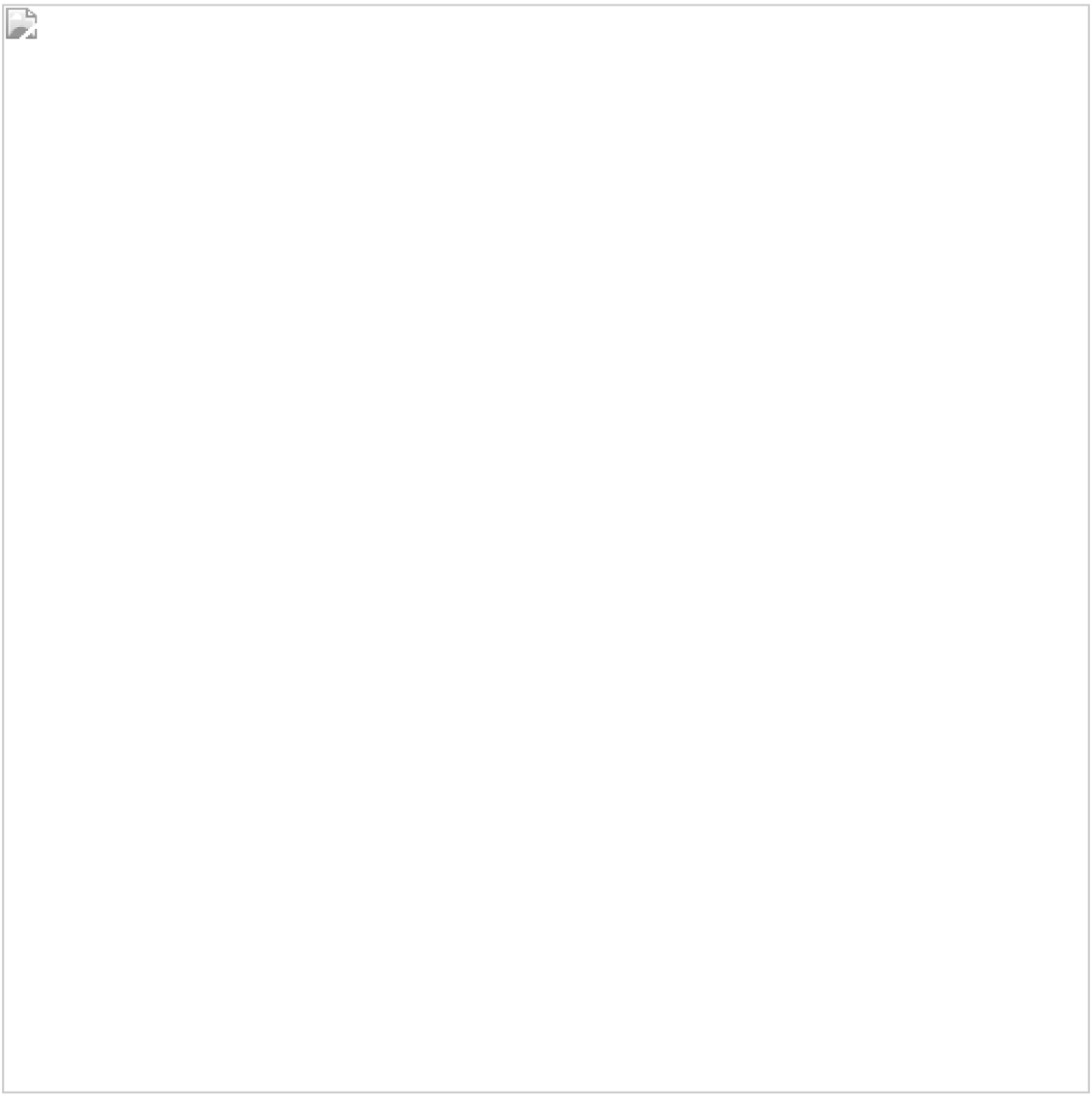
Think about it

1. Where did the monkey say his liver was?

- ○ Hanging on the pine tree
- ○ Under a rock
- ○ At the palace

2. Was what the monkey said true? How do you know?

Back on the Shore



As soon as they reached the shore, the monkey jumped off and scrambled up the pine tree. He cut capers in the branches for joy at being safe at home.

“So many thanks for all the trouble you have taken!” he called. “Please present my compliments to the Dragon King on your return!”

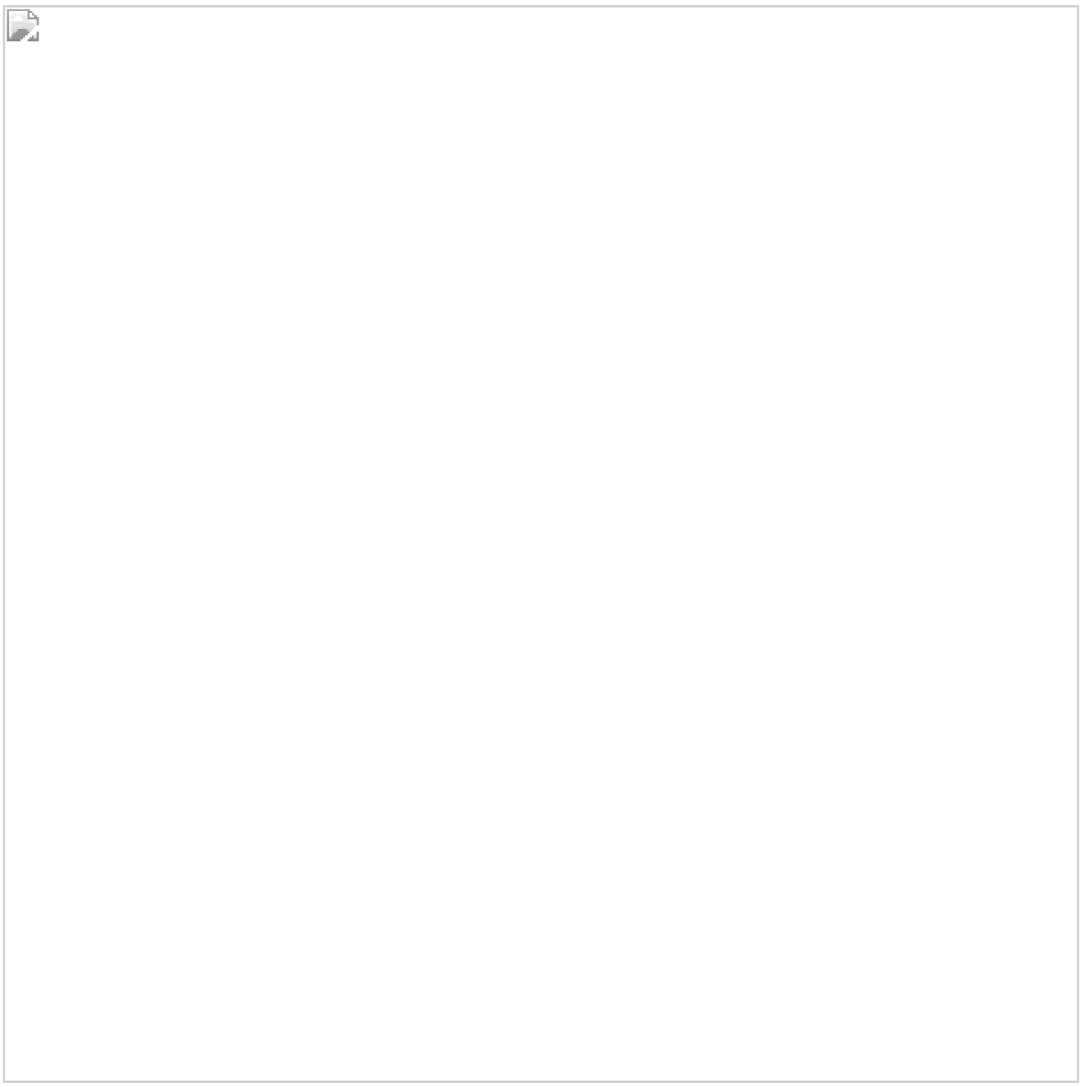
The jellyfish asked if the monkey was coming after he had fetched his liver. “But remember your promise!” “That promise was false,” said the monkey, “and anyhow it is now broken!”

The jellyfish swam sadly away. The last thing he heard was the monkey laughing.

TALK ABOUT IT

The monkey got away safely, and then he laughed at the jellyfish. What do you think about that?

Back on the Shore · another picture

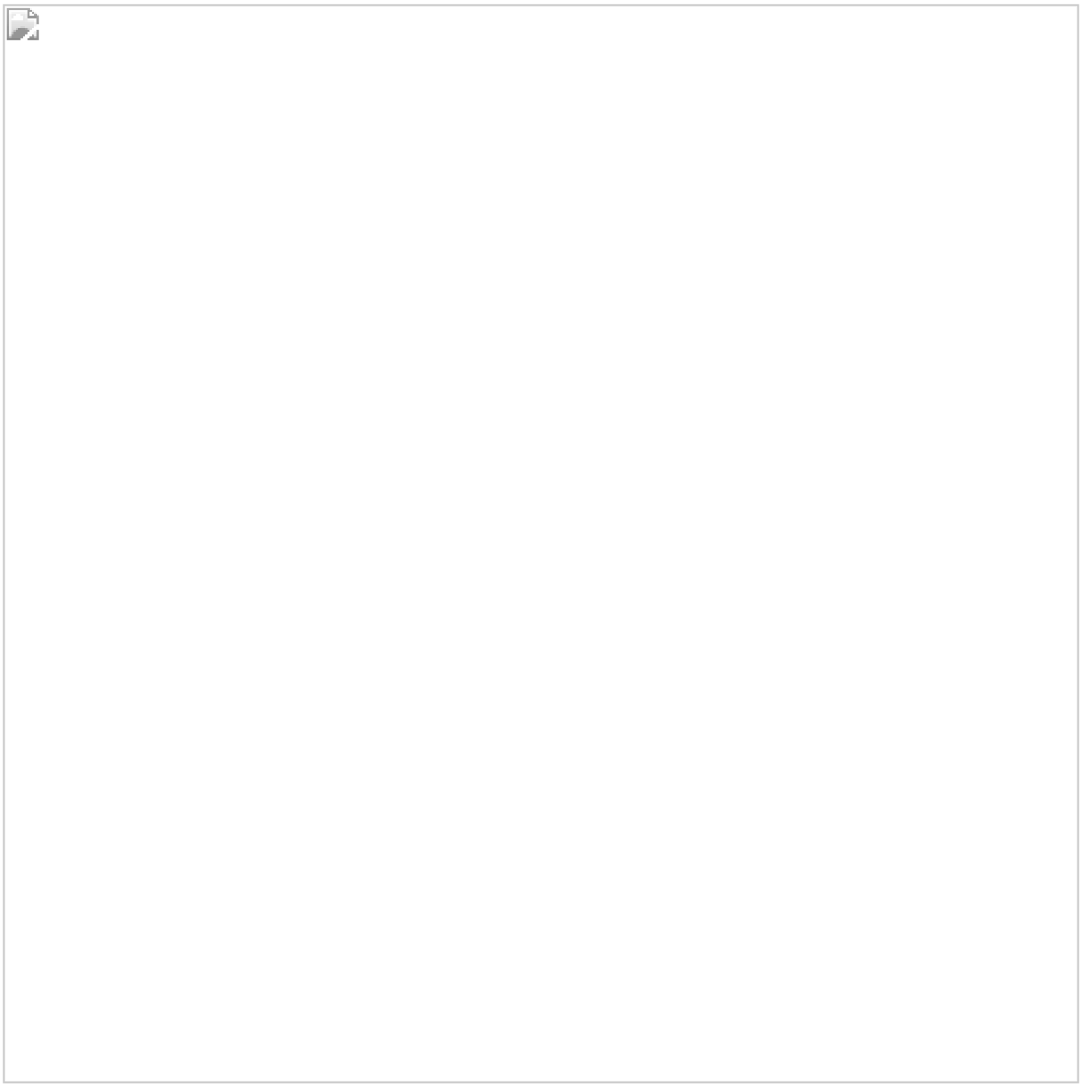


Think about it

1. What did the monkey do when he reached the pine tree?

- ○ Said sorry
- ○ Climbed up and thanked the jellyfish for the trouble
- ○ Went to sleep

Why the Jellyfish Is Soft



At the palace, the Dragon King, the doctor and the servants waited eagerly. They cheered when they saw the jellyfish coming. But he came back alone.

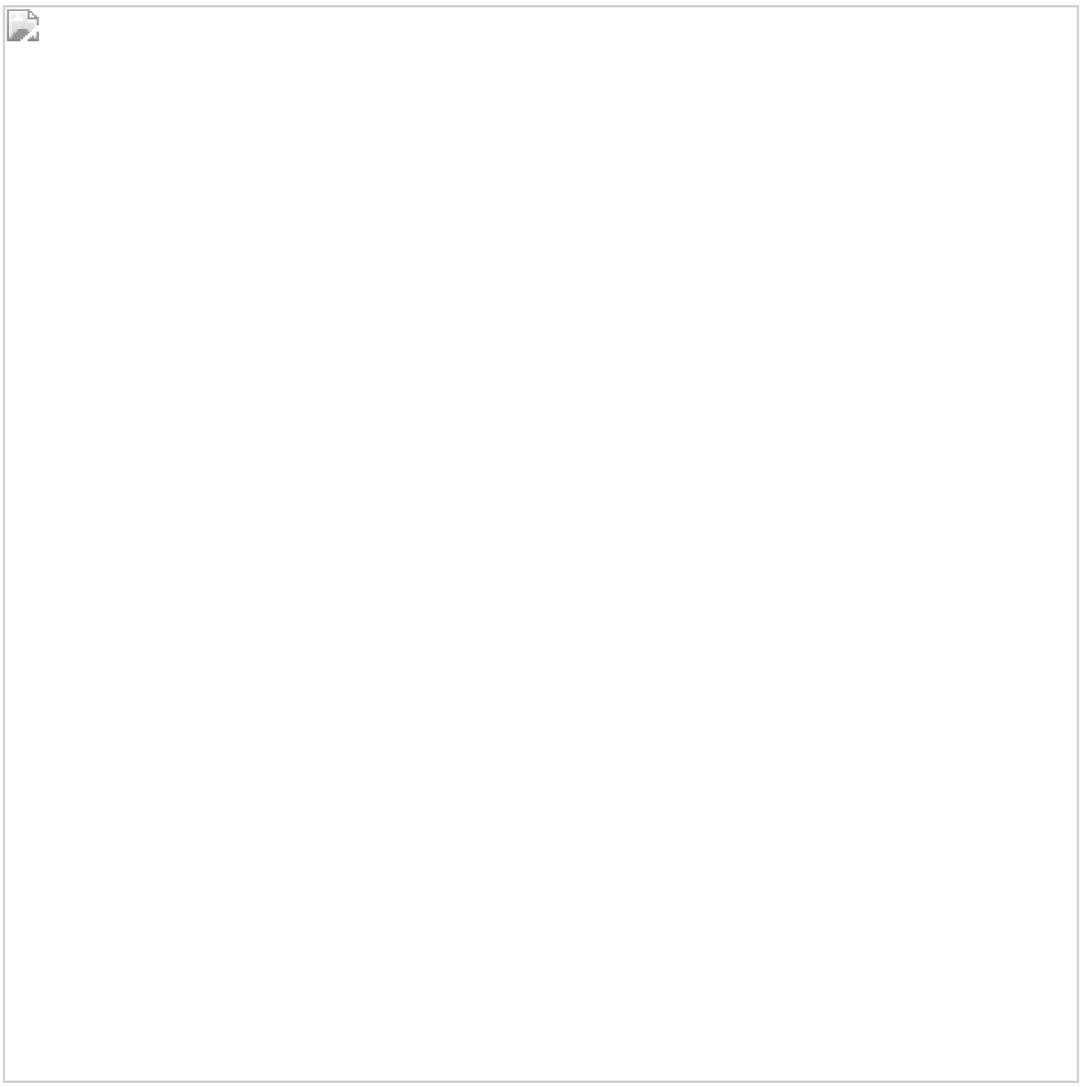
He shook all over as he told them how he had let out the secret and how the monkey had tricked him.

The Dragon King was very angry, and the jellyfish was sent away from the palace. In this tale, that is why the jellyfish, who once had a shell and bones like a tortoise, has been soft and boneless ever since.

That is how people in Japan explain it when they see jellyfish washed up by the waves.

TALK ABOUT IT

In the story, the jellyfish was ashamed of his foolish chatter. What could the jellyfish have done differently from the start? What about the monkey?



Think about it

1. Why is the jellyfish soft and boneless, in this story?

- ○ He lost his shell and bones after the King's order
- ○ He was born that way
- ○ He ate too much

2. If you could ask the Dragon King for one thing for the jellyfish, what would you ask for?

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

— Yeshua HaMashiach

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