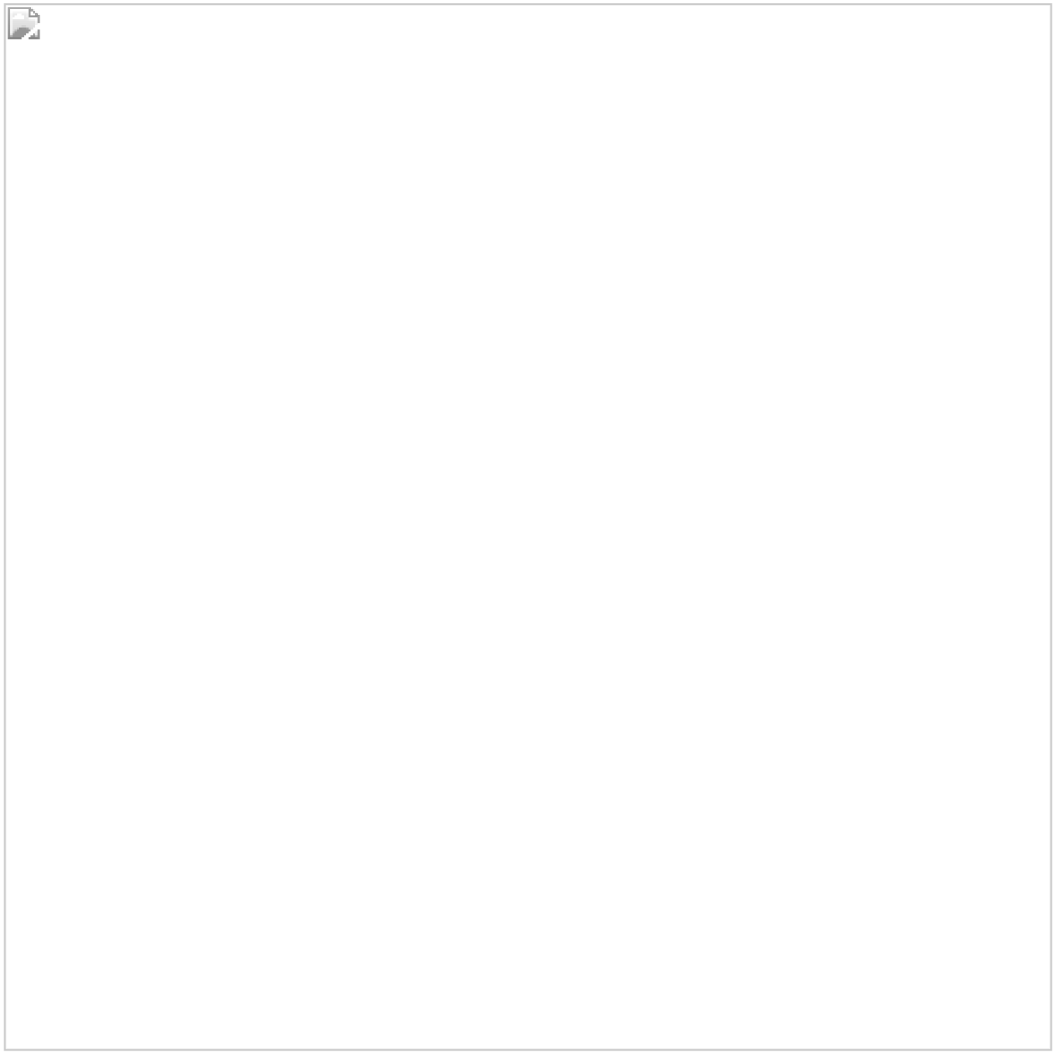
COLORING THE CLASSICS

The Little Daughter of the Snow

A Tale from Russia



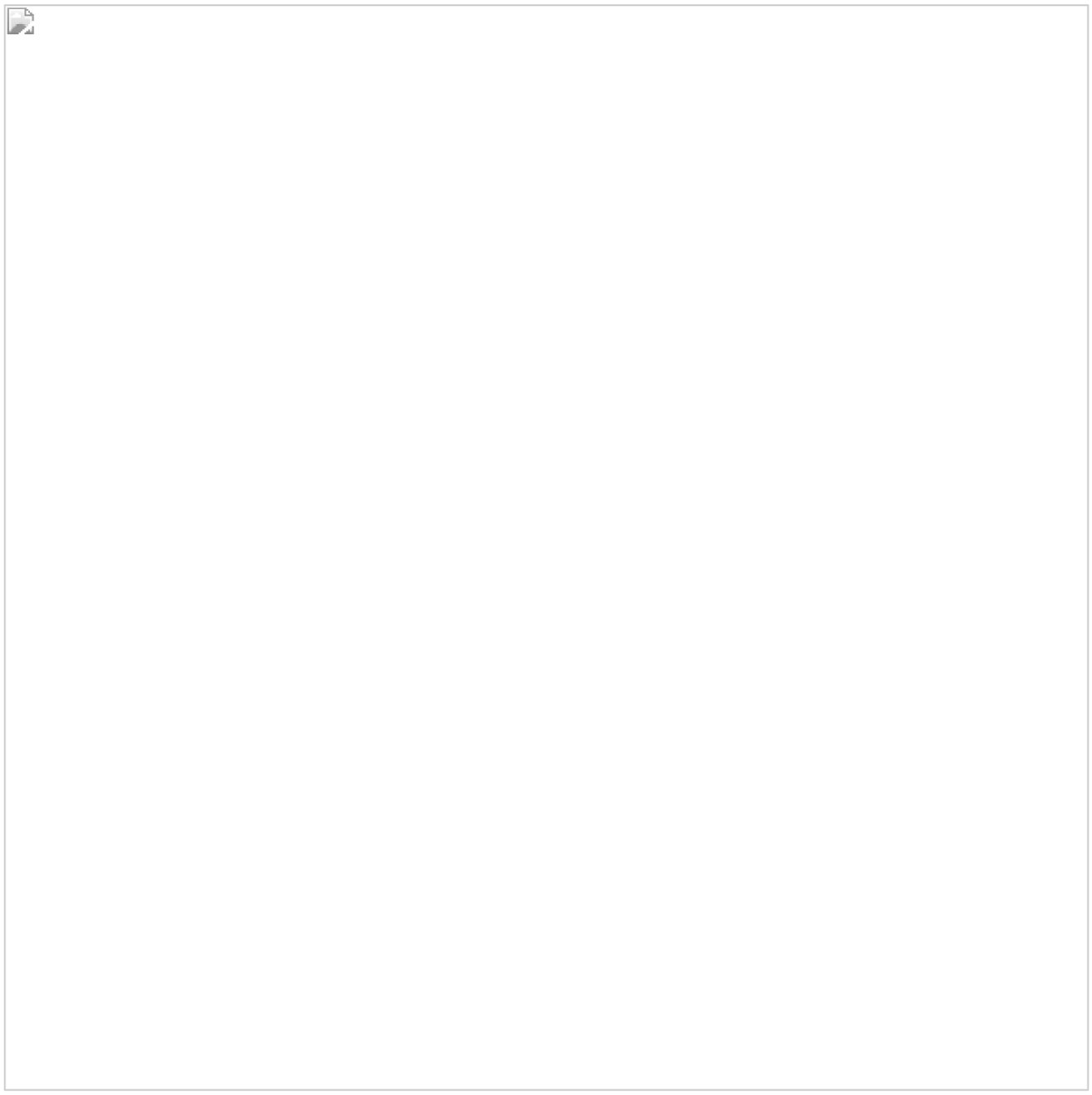
There were once an old man and an old woman who lived in a hut in a village at the edge of the forest. They had a dog and a cat and cocks and hens. But they were unhappy, because they had no children.

TALK ABOUT IT

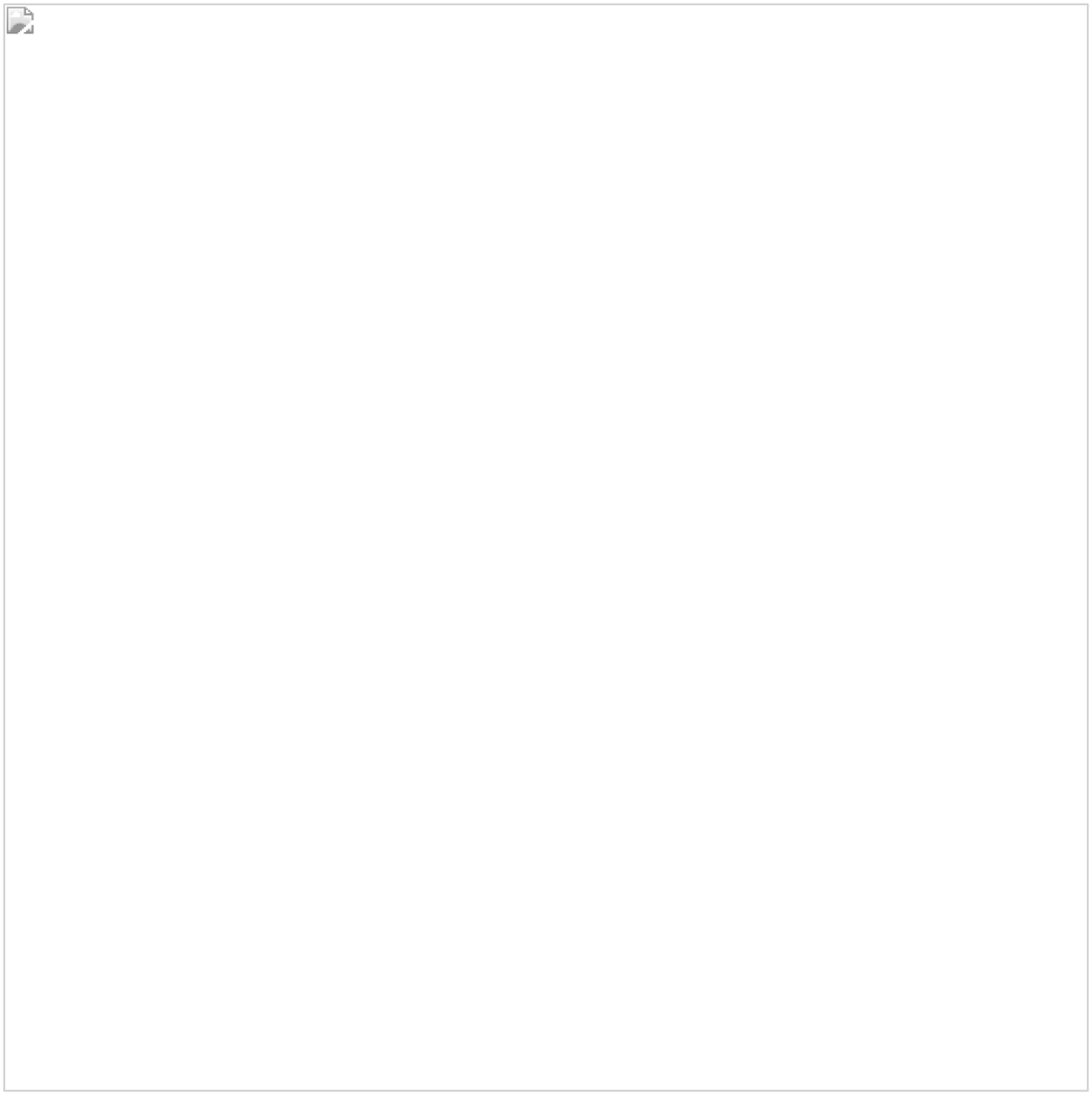
The old man and woman wished for a child. What is something you have wished for very much?

This book belongs to _____

The Little Daughter of the Snow · another picture



Watching at the Window

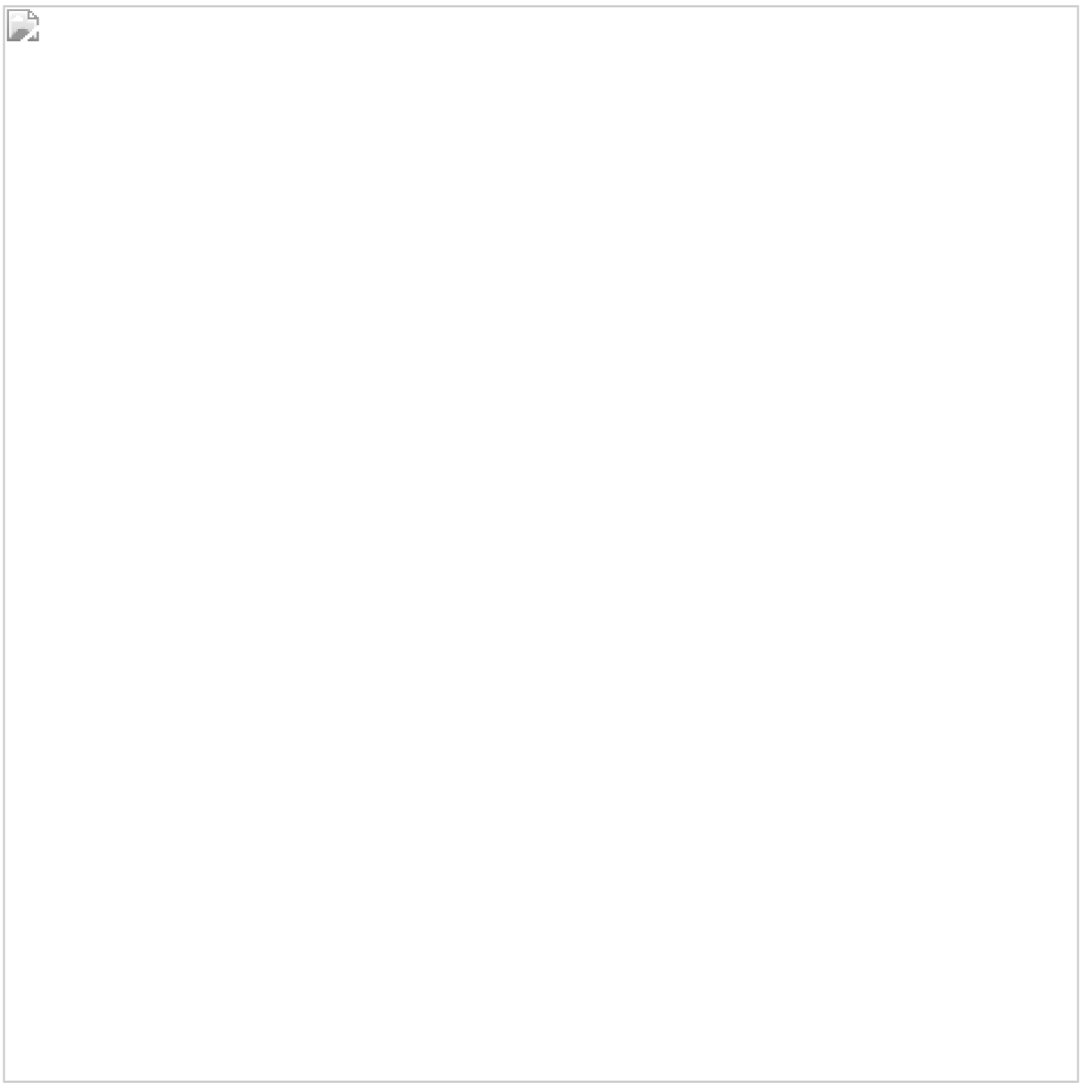


The old people stood for hours at their window, watching the children of the other huts play outside. The dogs barked and the cat curled up against them, but they did not notice.

In winter the children played in the snow in their little sheepskin coats. They made a snow woman, a snow Baba Yaga, such an old fright!

TALK ABOUT IT

The old people just watched. Have you ever watched others play and wished to join in? What did you do?

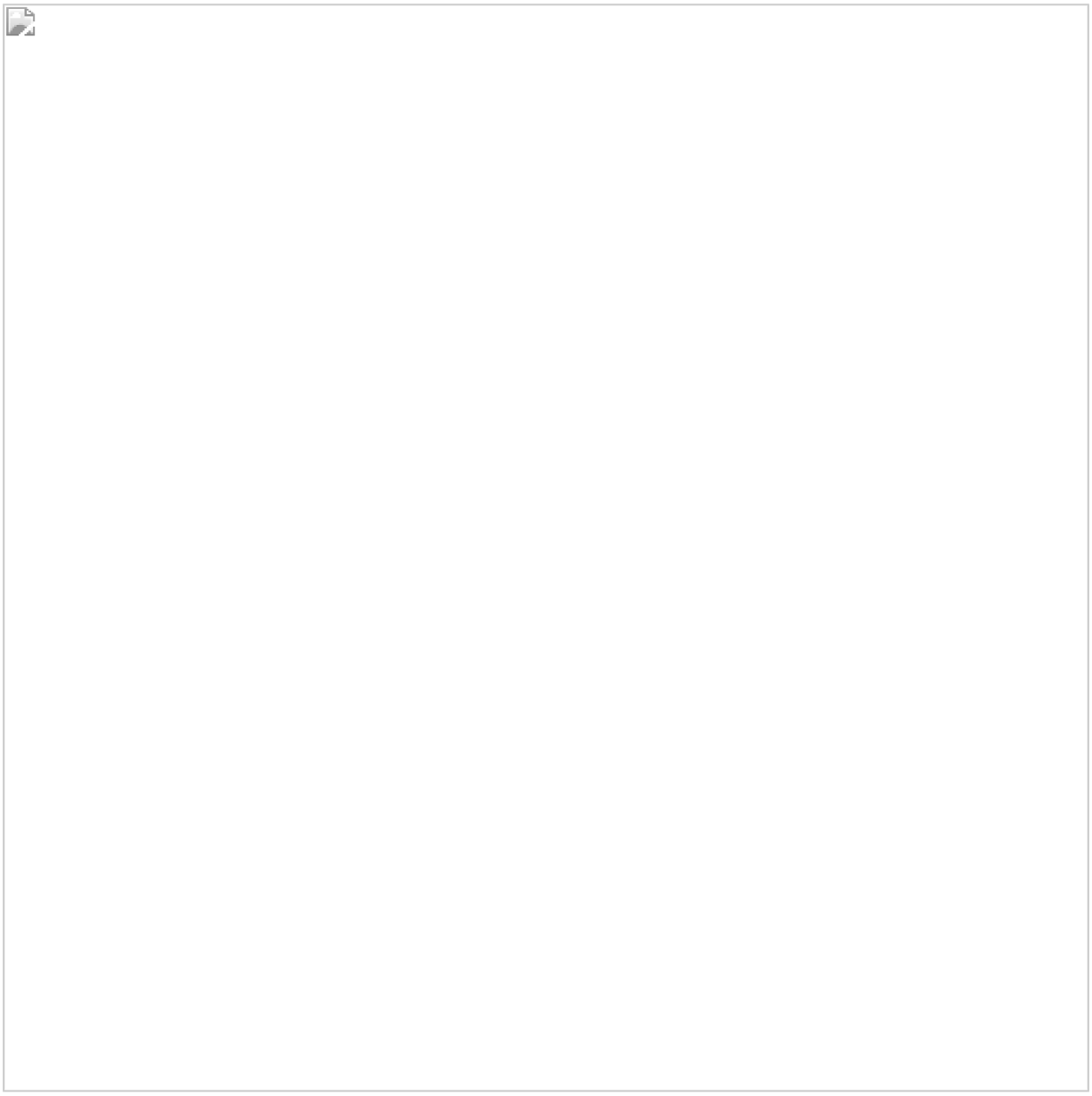


Think about it

1. What did the children make out of snow?

- ○ A snow woman
- ○ A snow horse
- ○ A snow house

Making a Snow Girl



The old man said to his wife, “Wife, let us go into the yard behind and make a little snow girl; and perhaps she will come alive, and be a little daughter to us.”

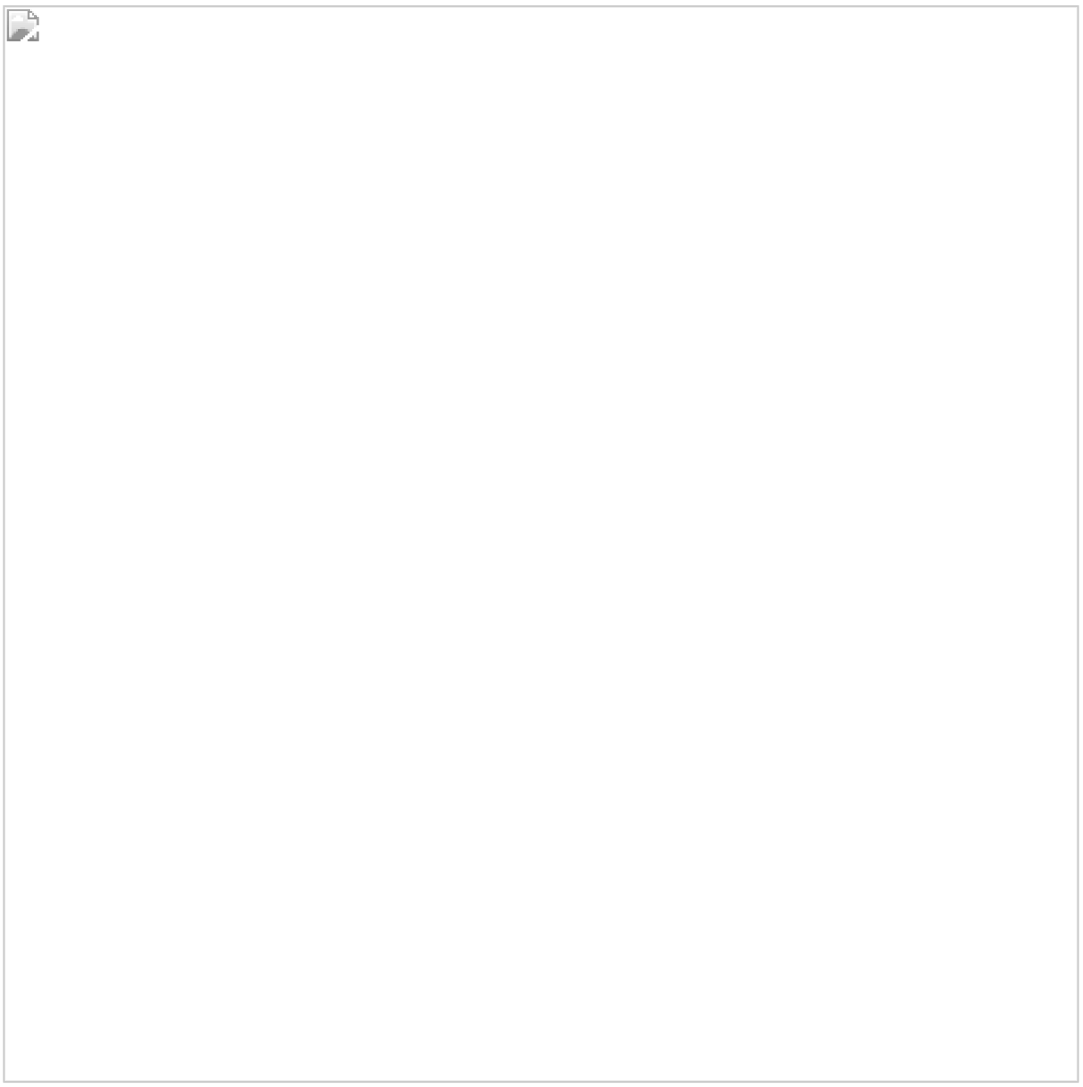
“Husband,” said the old woman, “there's no knowing what may be.”

So they put on their big coats and fur hats and went out into the yard where nobody could see them. Very tenderly they rolled up the snow to make her little arms and legs. By evening she was finished, a little girl all of snow, with blind white eyes and snow lips tightly closed.

TALK ABOUT IT

They made her very tenderly, with great care. What have you made with great care?

Making a Snow Girl · another picture

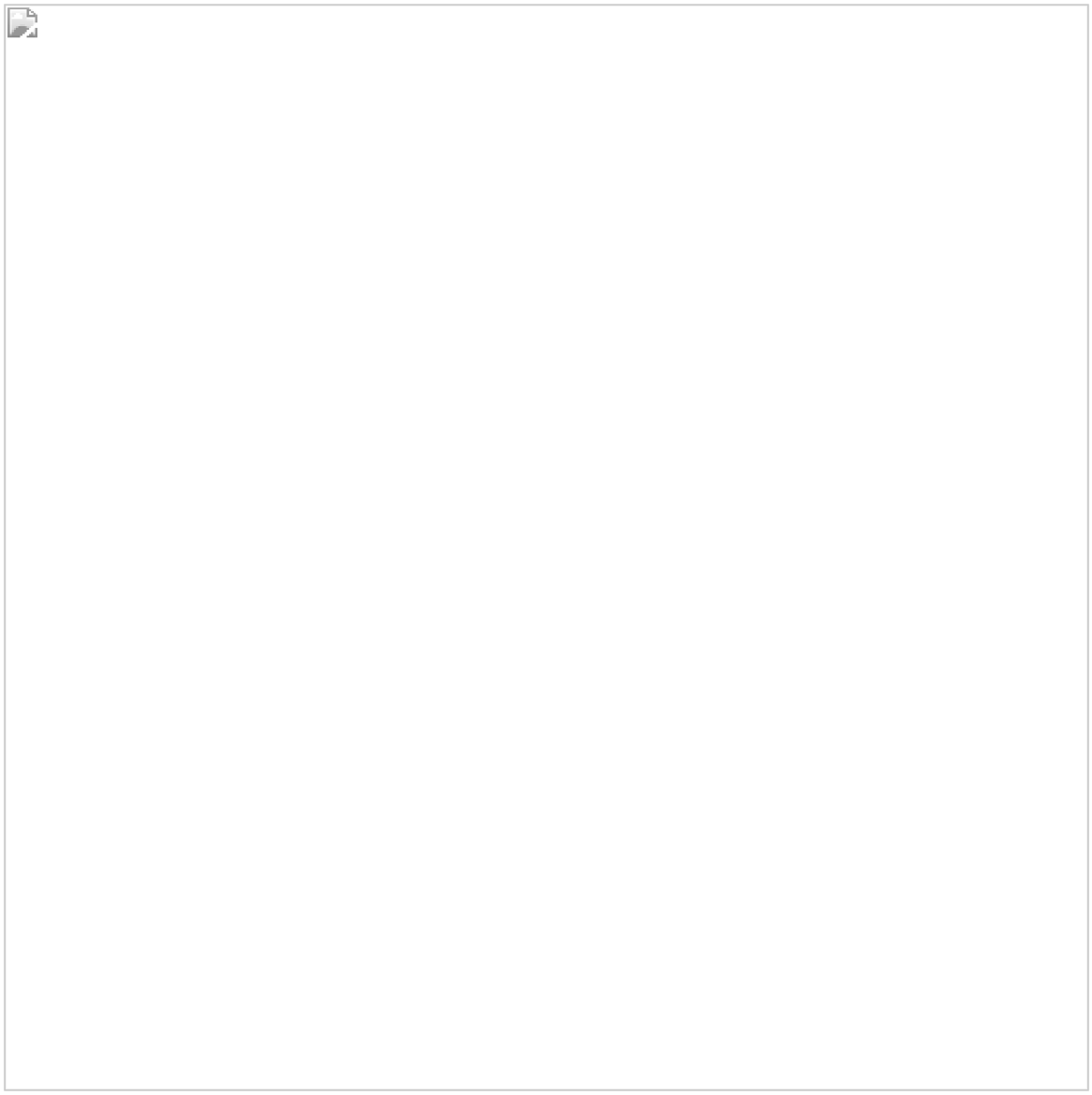


Think about it

1. Where did the old people make the snow girl?

- ○ In the road
- ○ In the yard behind the hut
- ○ In the forest

She Comes Alive



“Oh, speak to us,” said the old man.

And she did. In the twilight her eyes shone blue like the sky, her lips opened, and she smiled. Her black hair stirred in the wind. She began to dance in the snow, and the old people watched and wondered and thanked God.

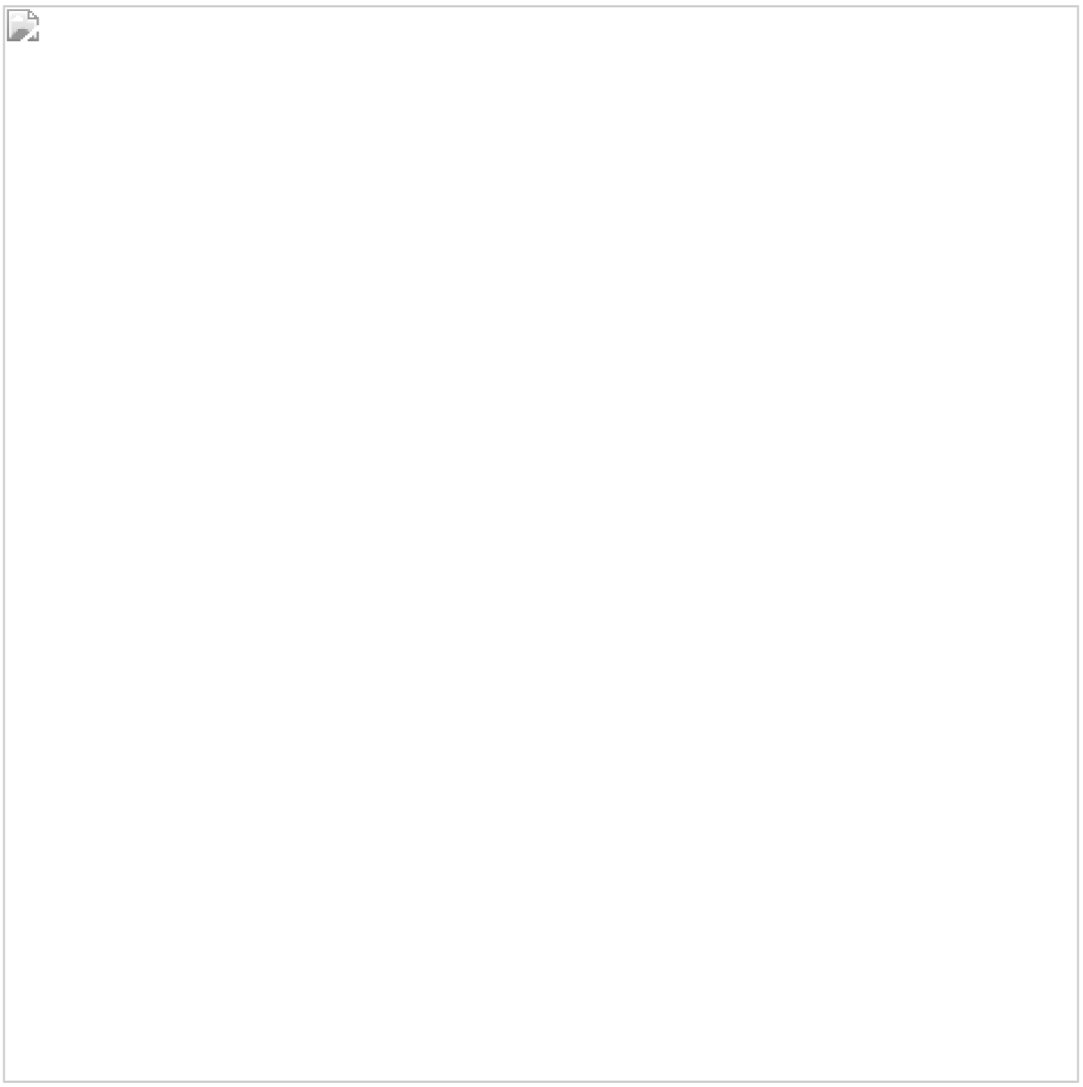
She sang: “No warm blood in me doth glow, Water in my veins doth flow;” and then, “But whenever I do know That you love me little, then I shall melt away again.”

She was the little daughter of the Snow.

TALK ABOUT IT

She sang that if she was loved only a little, she would melt. What do you think she meant?

She Comes Alive · another picture

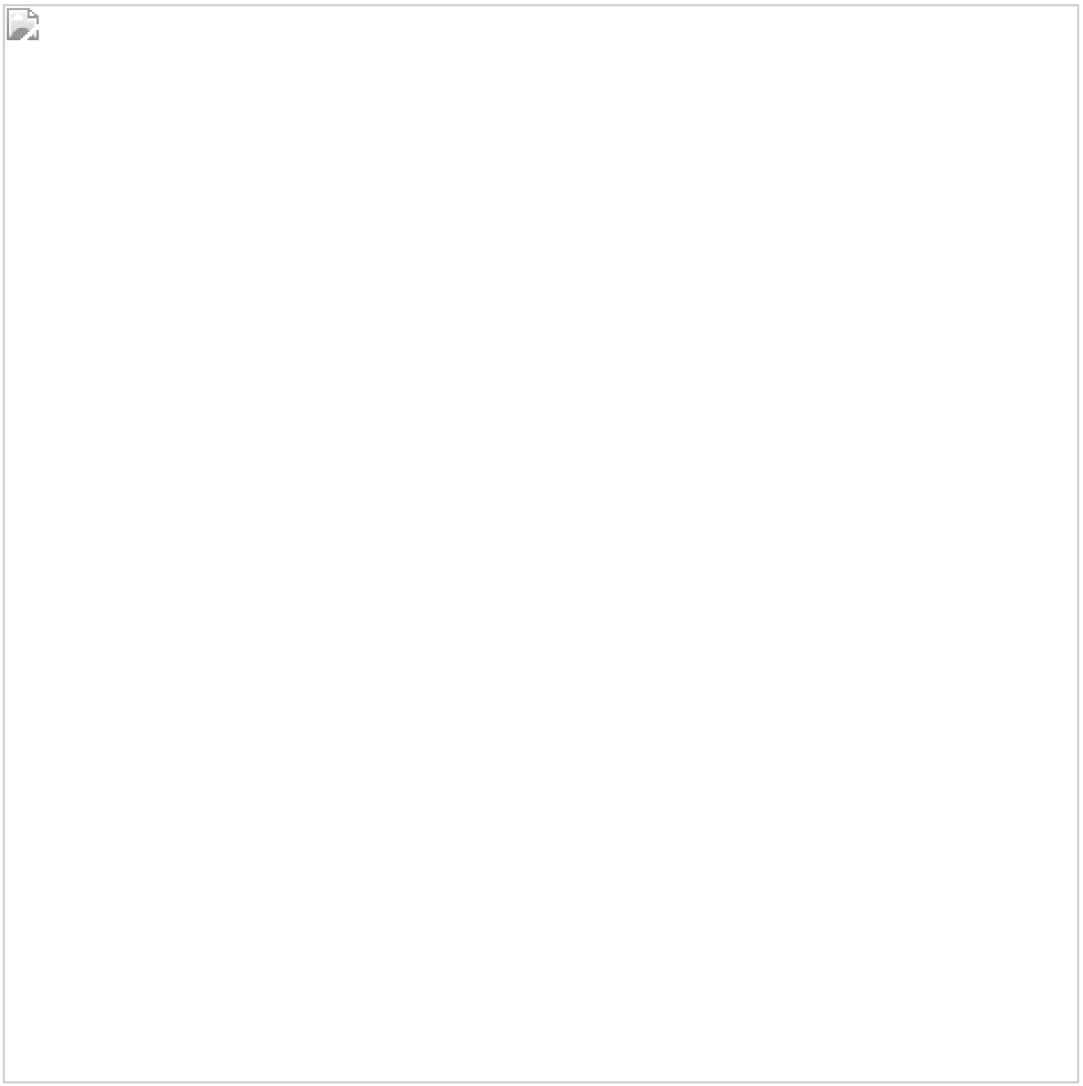


Think about it

1. What did the snow girl sing she would do if she was loved only a little?

- ○ Run away to the forest
- ○ Melt away again
- ○ Fall asleep

Not Too Warm



The old man picked her up, and she put her little cold arms round his neck. “You must not keep me too warm,” she said.

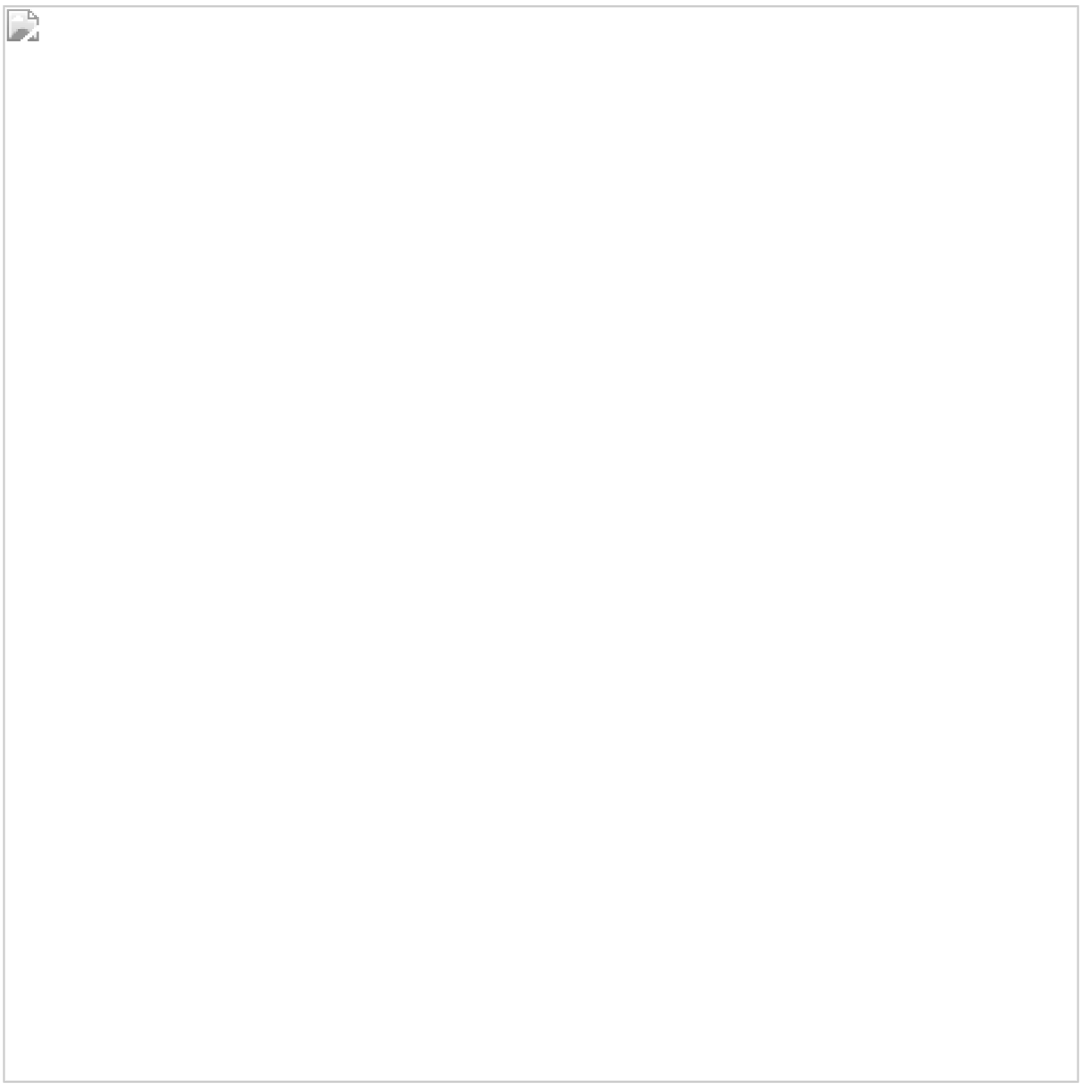
In the hut she lay on a bench far from the stove. The old woman made her a little coat, and the old man bought a fur hat and little red boots.

But when they dressed her, she said, “Too hot, too hot,” and ran out into the yard to dance in the moonlight. “I am the little daughter of the Snow,” she told them.

In the morning she came in laughing. Her porridge was ice, crushed up in a little wooden bowl.

TALK ABOUT IT

She was different from the other children, and they loved her anyway. How would you welcome someone different?

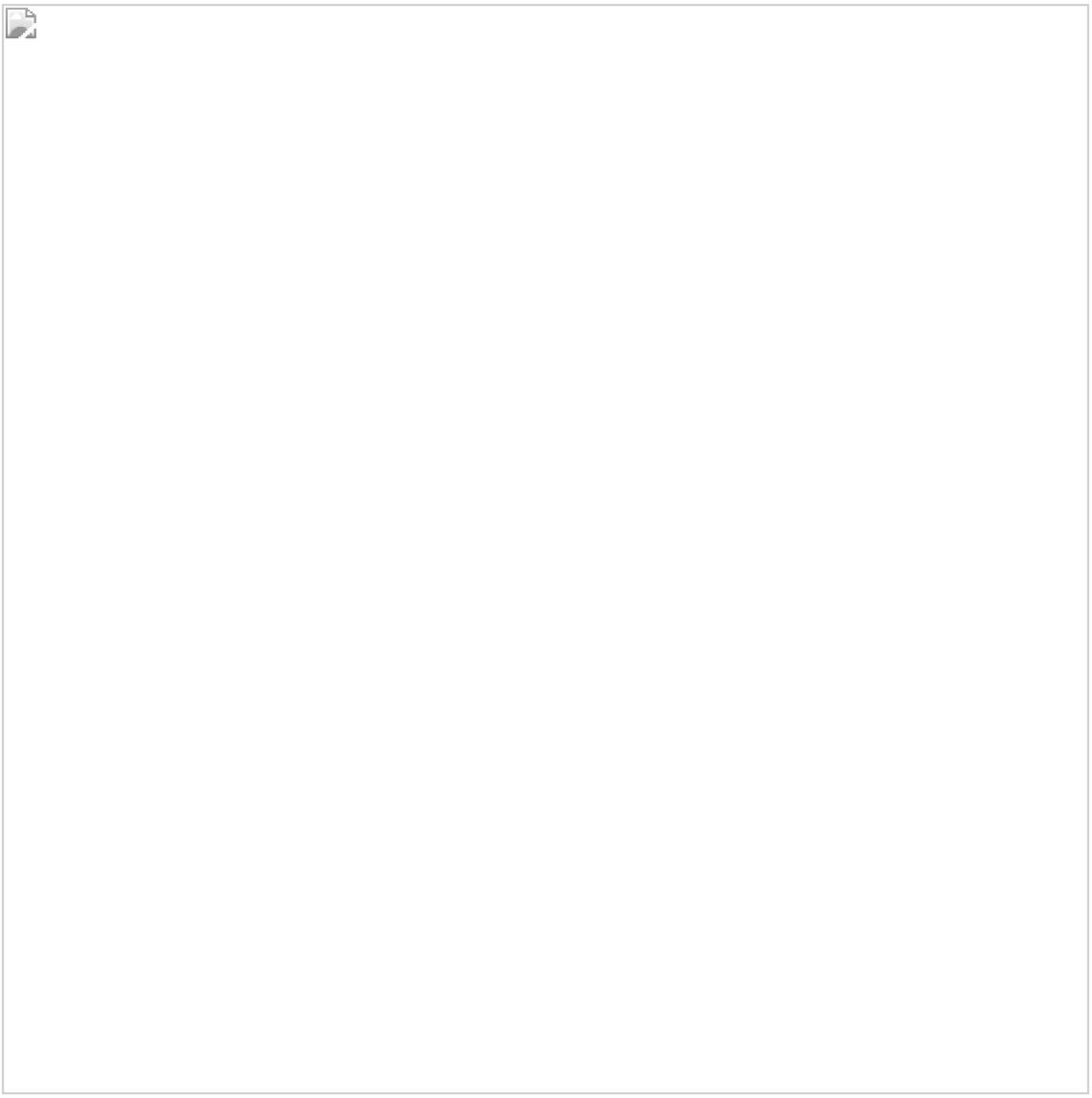


Think about it

1. What was the snow girl's porridge made of?

- ○ Crushed ice
- ○ Oats and milk
- ○ Snow and honey

A Winter of Play



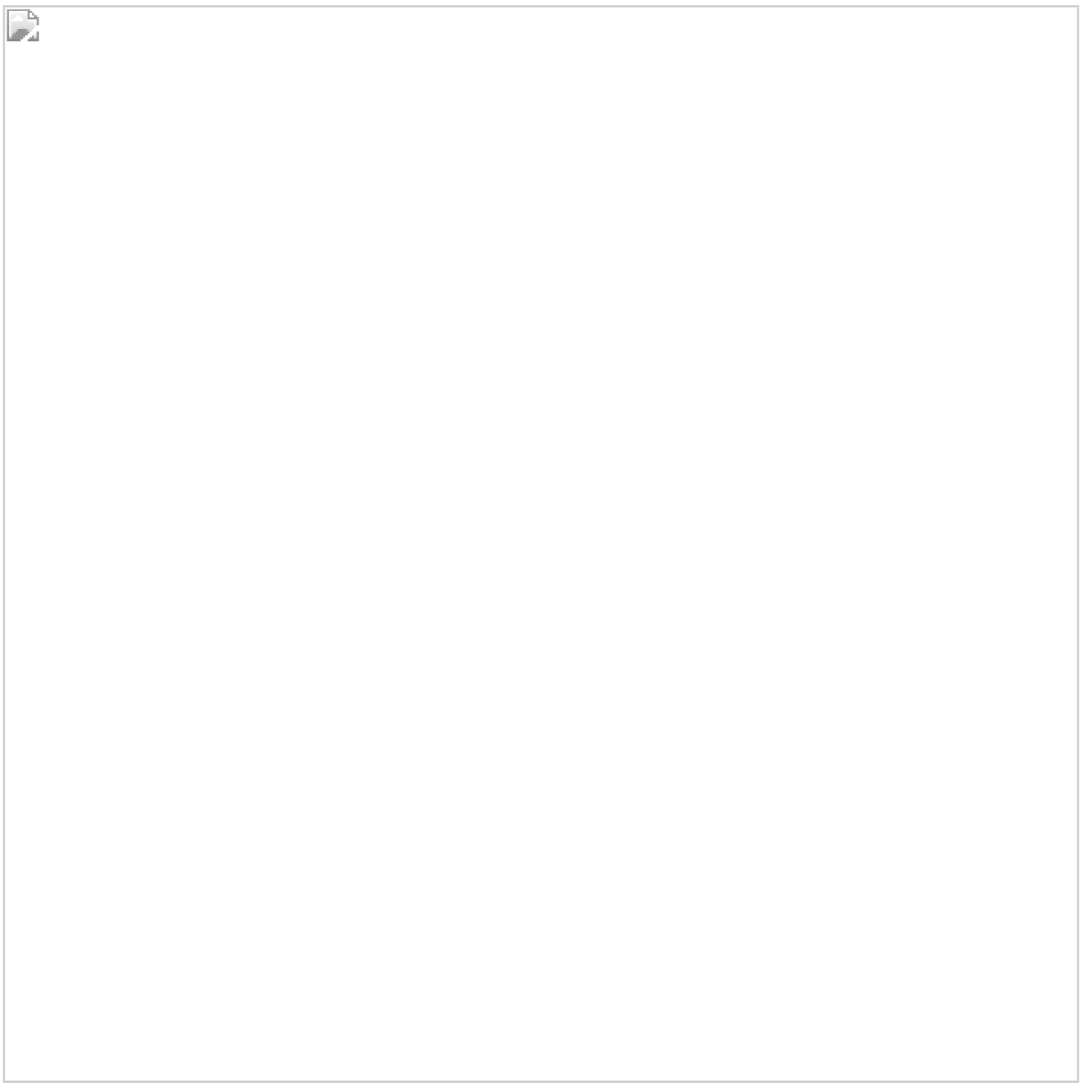
In the road the snow girl played with the other children. Her little red boots flashed as she ran. Nobody was a match for her at snowballing, and when they made a snow Baba Yaga, she laughed like little glass bells.

The old man and woman were so proud. “She is all our own,” said the old woman. “Our little white pigeon,” said the old man.

All winter long she ran out into the night to play by herself and came in at dawn for her ice porridge. She did everything the old woman told her. Only she would never sleep indoors. All the children loved her.

TALK ABOUT IT

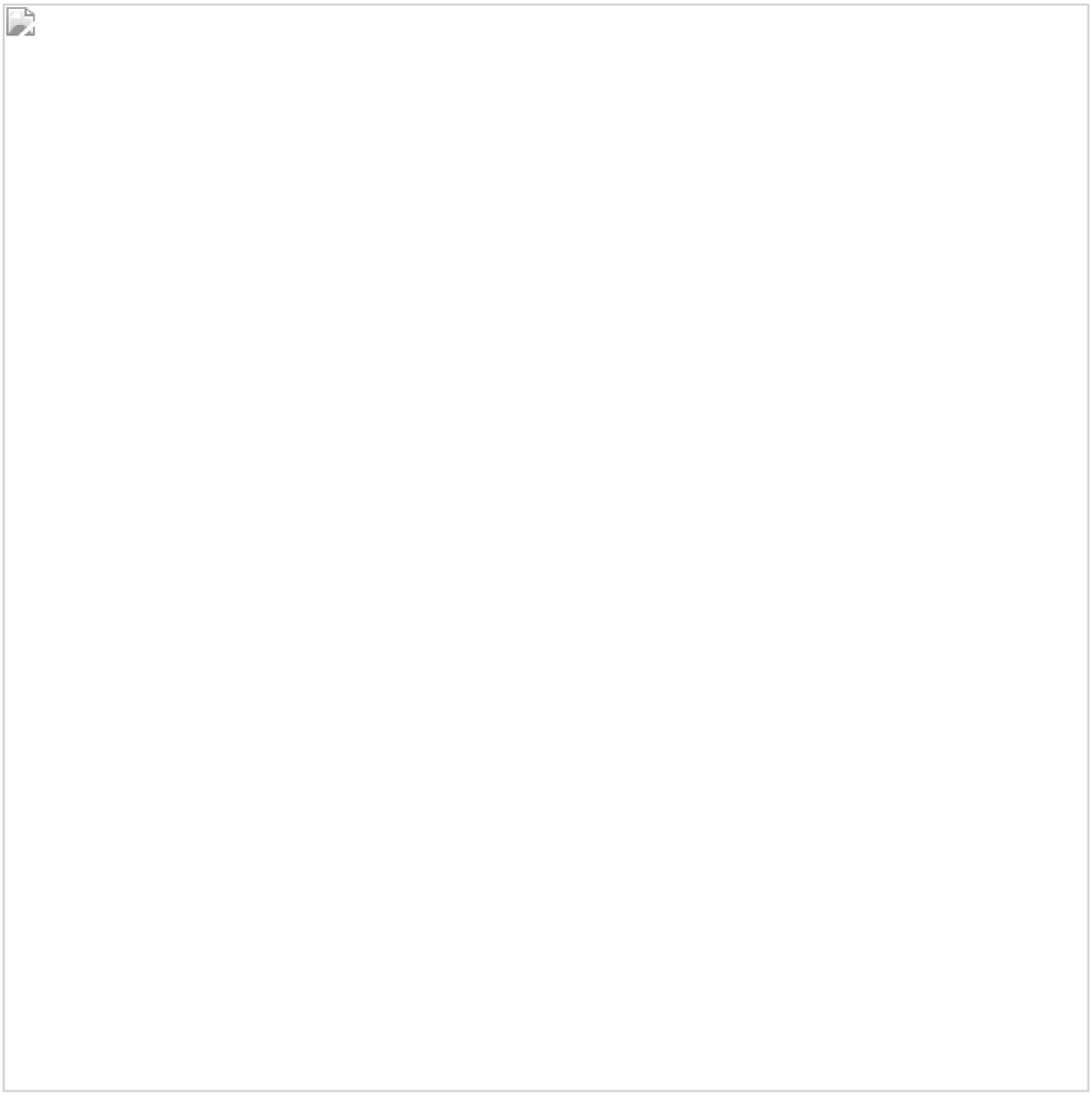
The children did not know how they had ever played without her. Who would you miss if they were gone?



Think about it

1. Why do you think the old people were so proud?

Lost in the Forest



When the snow began to melt, the children went a little way into the forest in the sunny part of the day. One day they went too far. When they said they would turn back, the snow girl ran on laughing among the trees.

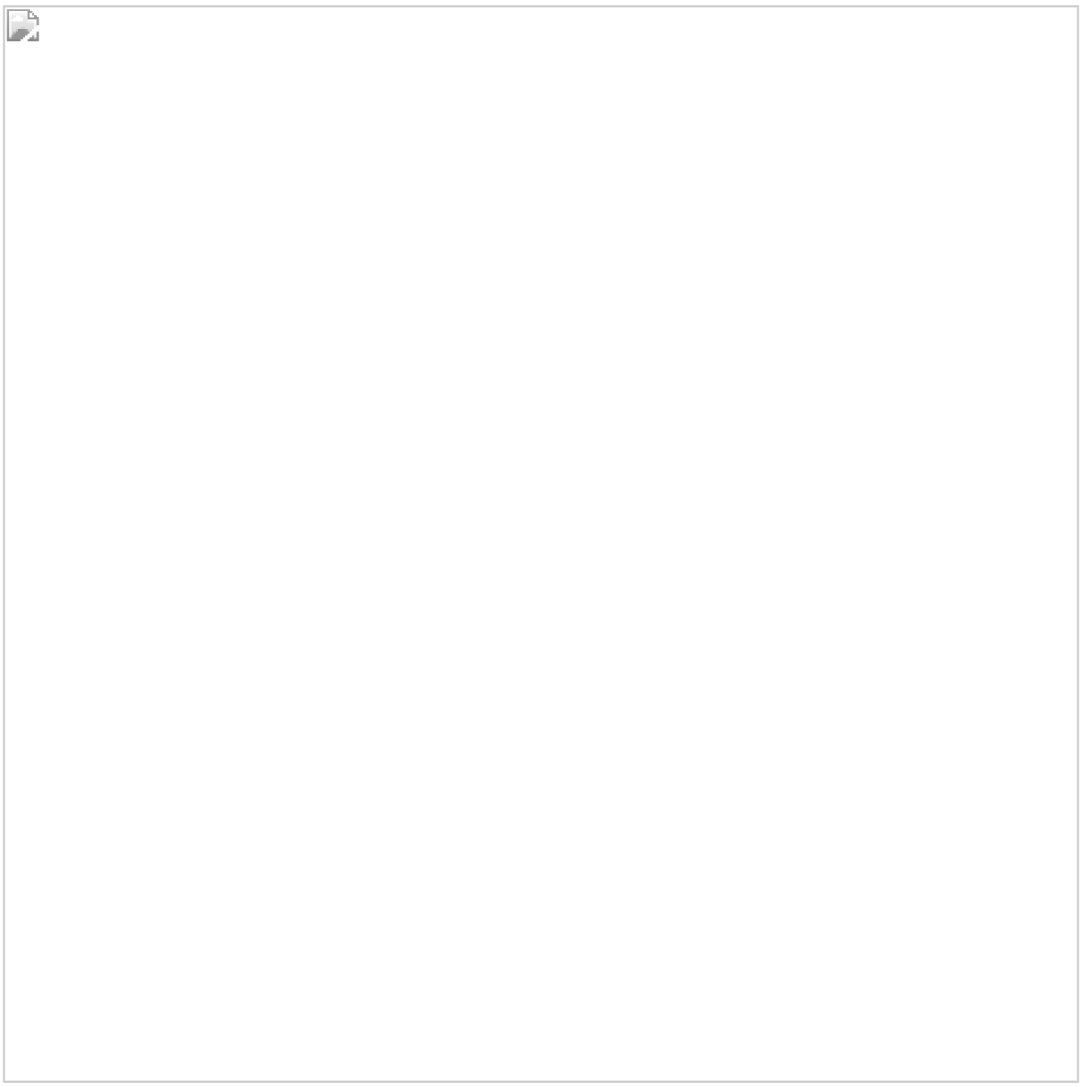
The other children were afraid to follow. It was getting dark, and they ran home, holding each other's hands. The snow girl was alone in the forest.

She climbed a tree, but she could not see any farther. “Ai, ai, little friends, have pity on the little snow girl,” she called.

TALK ABOUT IT

The other children ran home. What would you have done?

Lost in the Forest · another picture

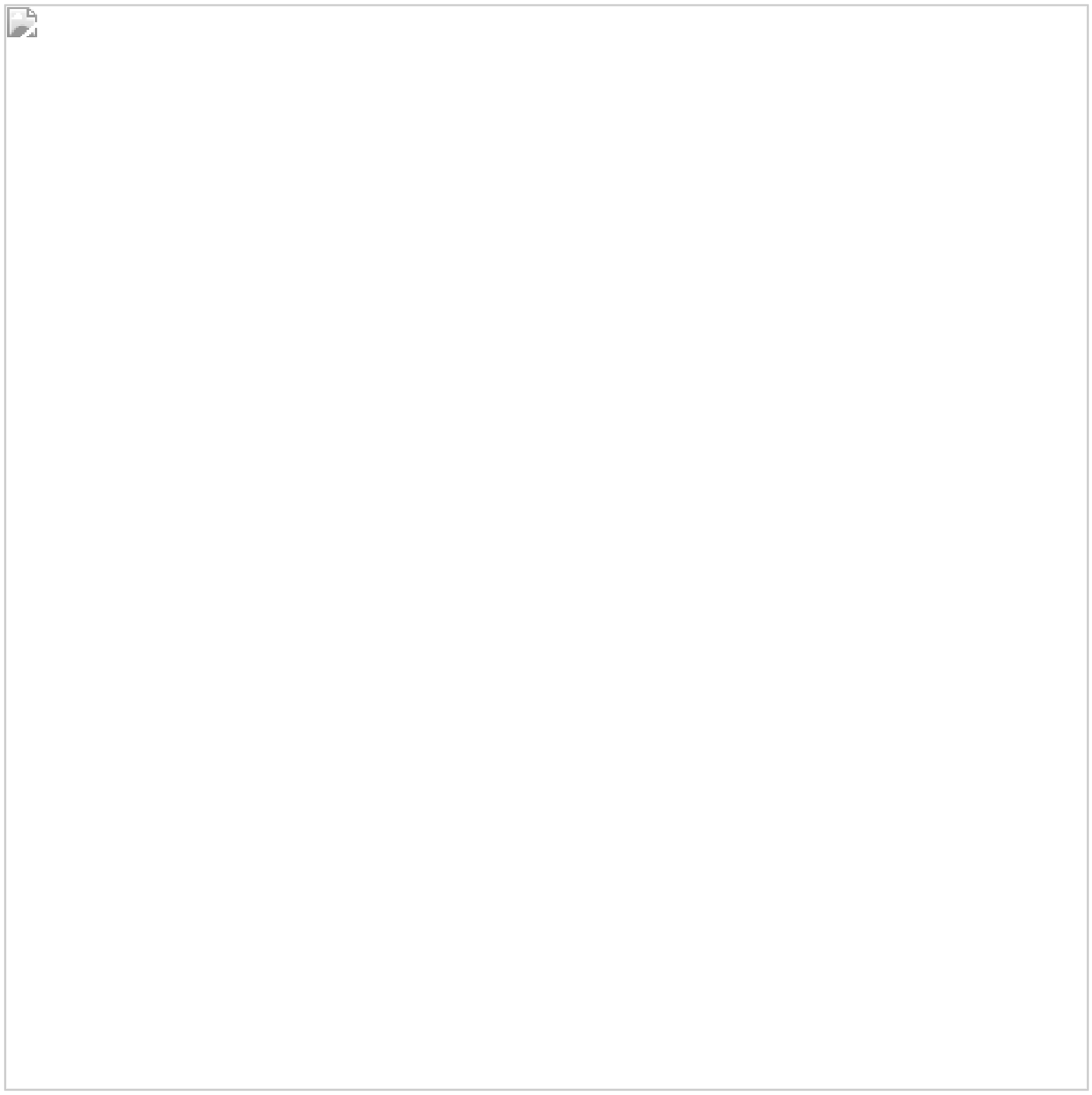


Think about it

1. Why did the children run home?

- ○ They were hungry
- ○ It was getting dark and they were afraid
- ○ They heard a bell

Bear, Wolf and Fox



An old brown bear said, “I will take you home.” But she said, “I am afraid of you. I think you would eat me.” And the bear shambled away.

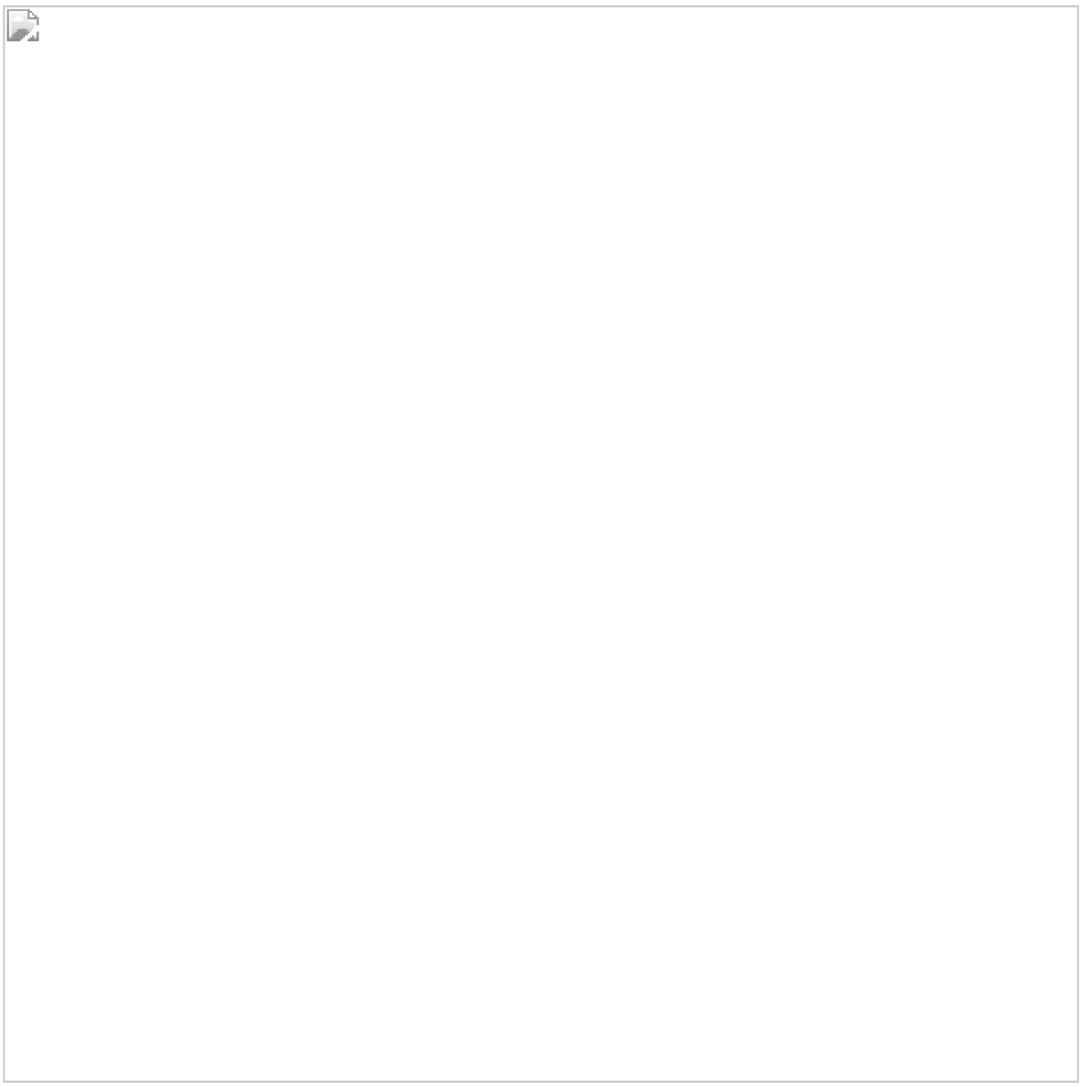
So did an old gray wolf, and she told him the same.

Then an old red fox came running up. “I will take you home,” he said. “I am not afraid of you,” said the snow girl. “I do not think you will eat me. I will go home with you, if you will take me.”

She held on to the hair of his back, and they ran through the dark forest to the lights of the village.

TALK ABOUT IT

She chose the fox because she was not afraid of him. How do you decide whom to trust?

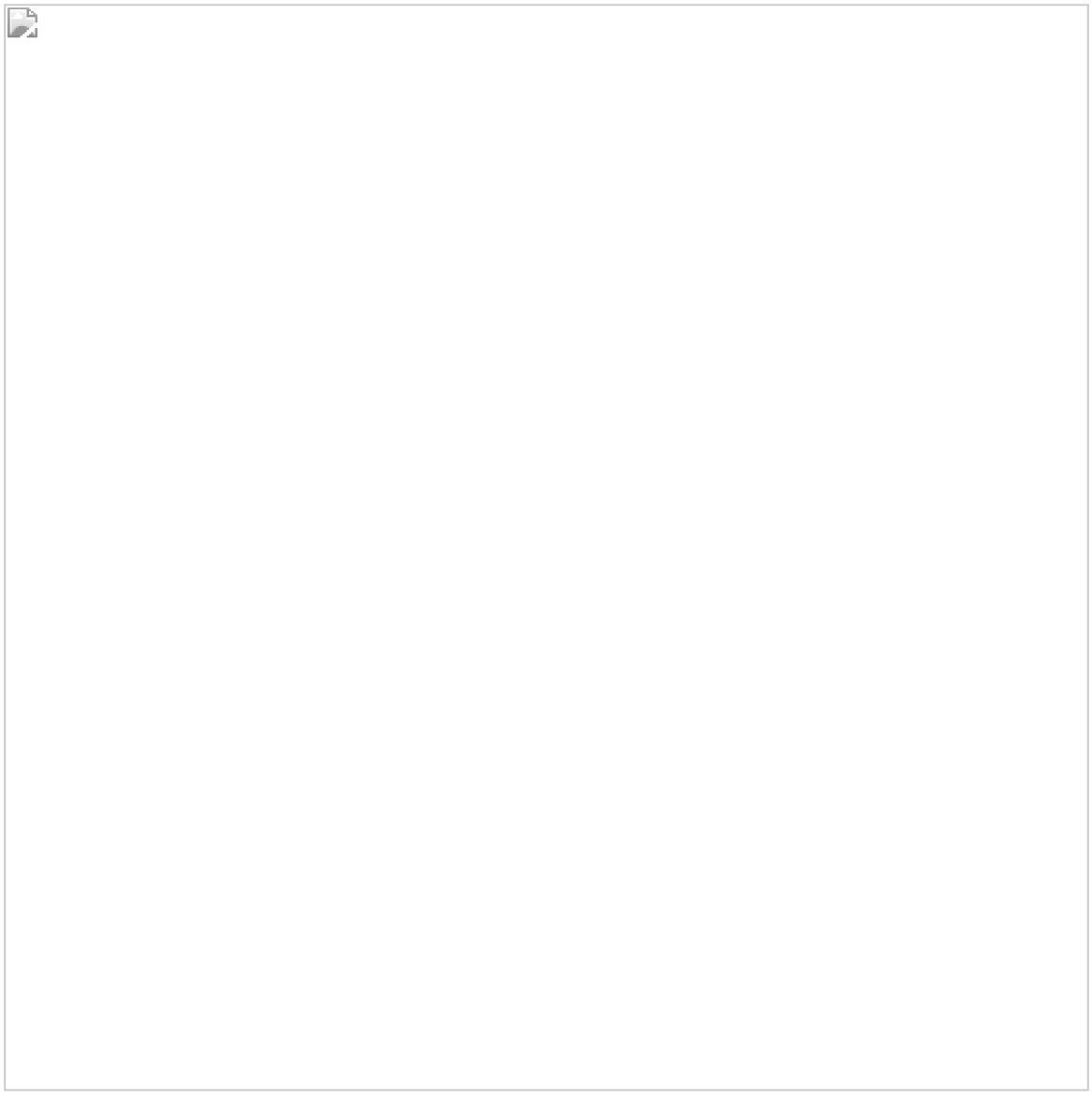


Think about it

1. Which animal did the snow girl go home with?

- ○ The bear
- ○ The wolf
- ○ The fox

A Plump Hen



The old man and woman were at the door, crying. “Here I am,” said the snow girl. “The kind red fox has brought me home. You must shut up the dogs.”

“We are very grateful to you,” the old man said to the fox.

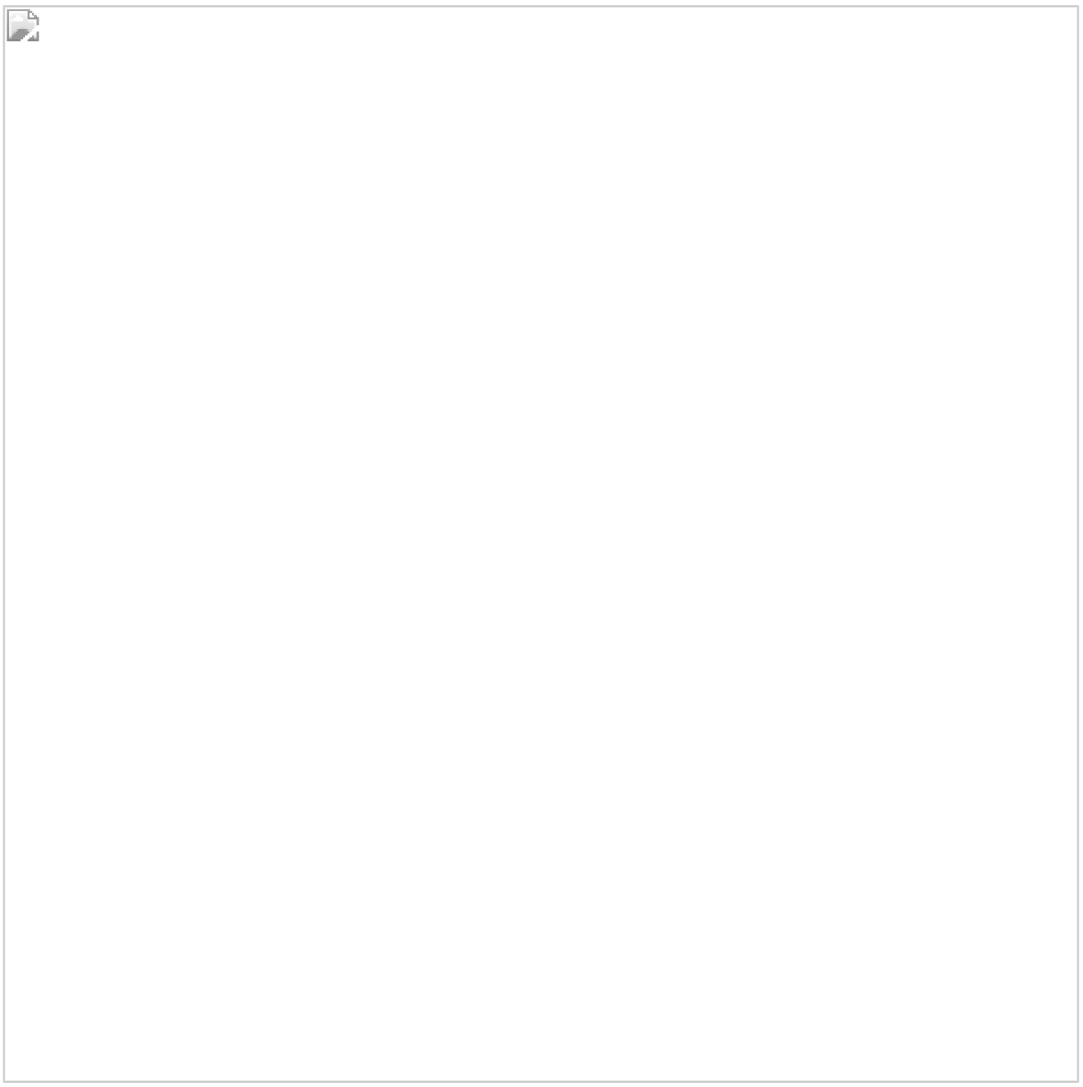
“Are you really?” said the fox, “for I am very hungry.” The old woman offered him a crust. “Oh,” said the fox, “but what I would like would be a nice plump hen. After all, your little snow girl is worth a nice plump hen.”

“Very well,” said the old woman. But she grumbled, “It seems waste to give away a good plump hen.”

TALK ABOUT IT

The old woman said yes, but she grumbled. Was that a kind thing to do? What do you think?

A Plump Hen · another picture

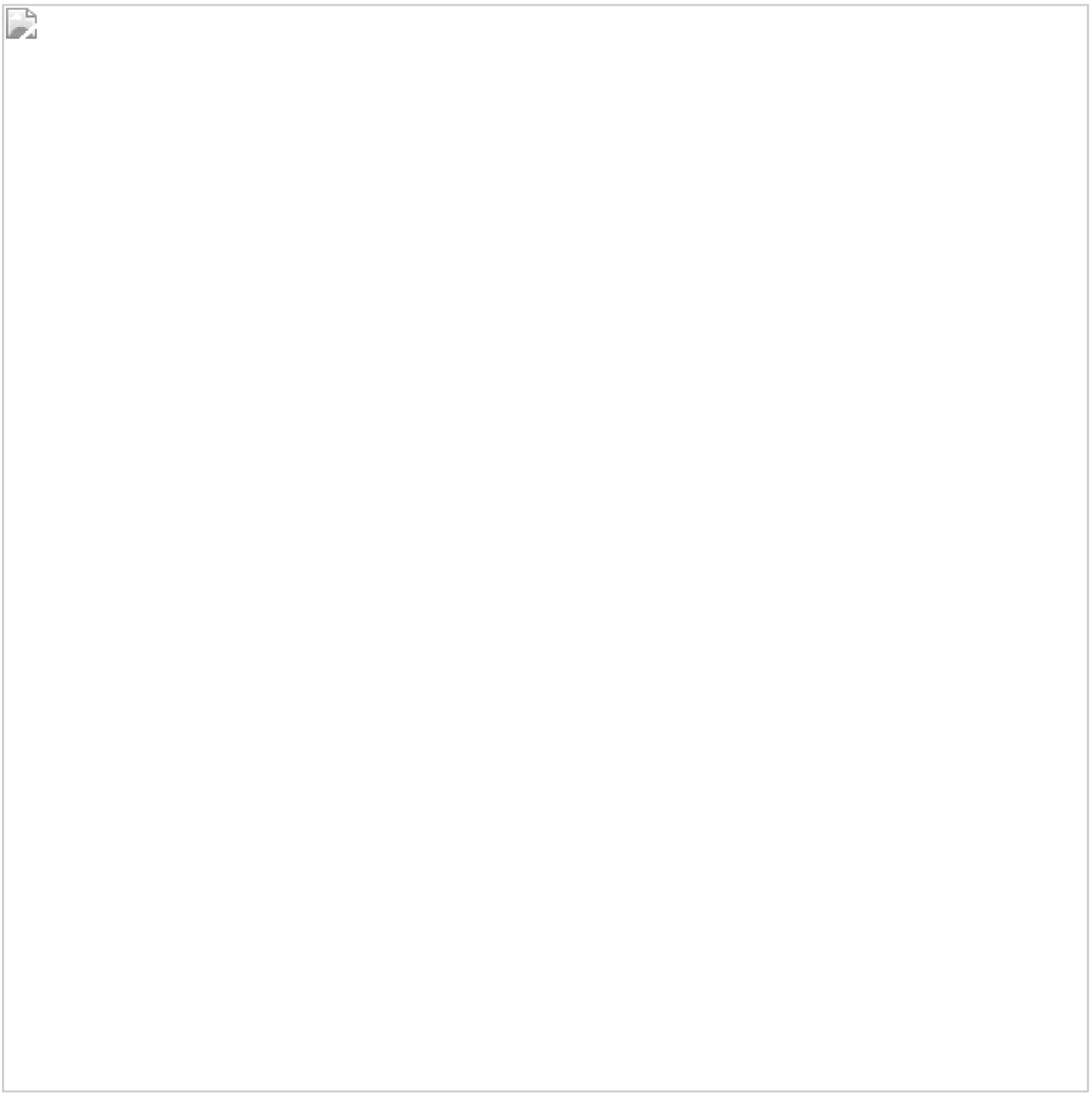


Think about it

1. What did the fox ask for?

- ○ A warm blanket
- ○ A nice plump hen
- ○ A bowl of ice porridge

Two Sacks



The old woman had a plan. Her husband got two sacks; in one they put a fine plump hen, and in the other the fiercest of the dogs.

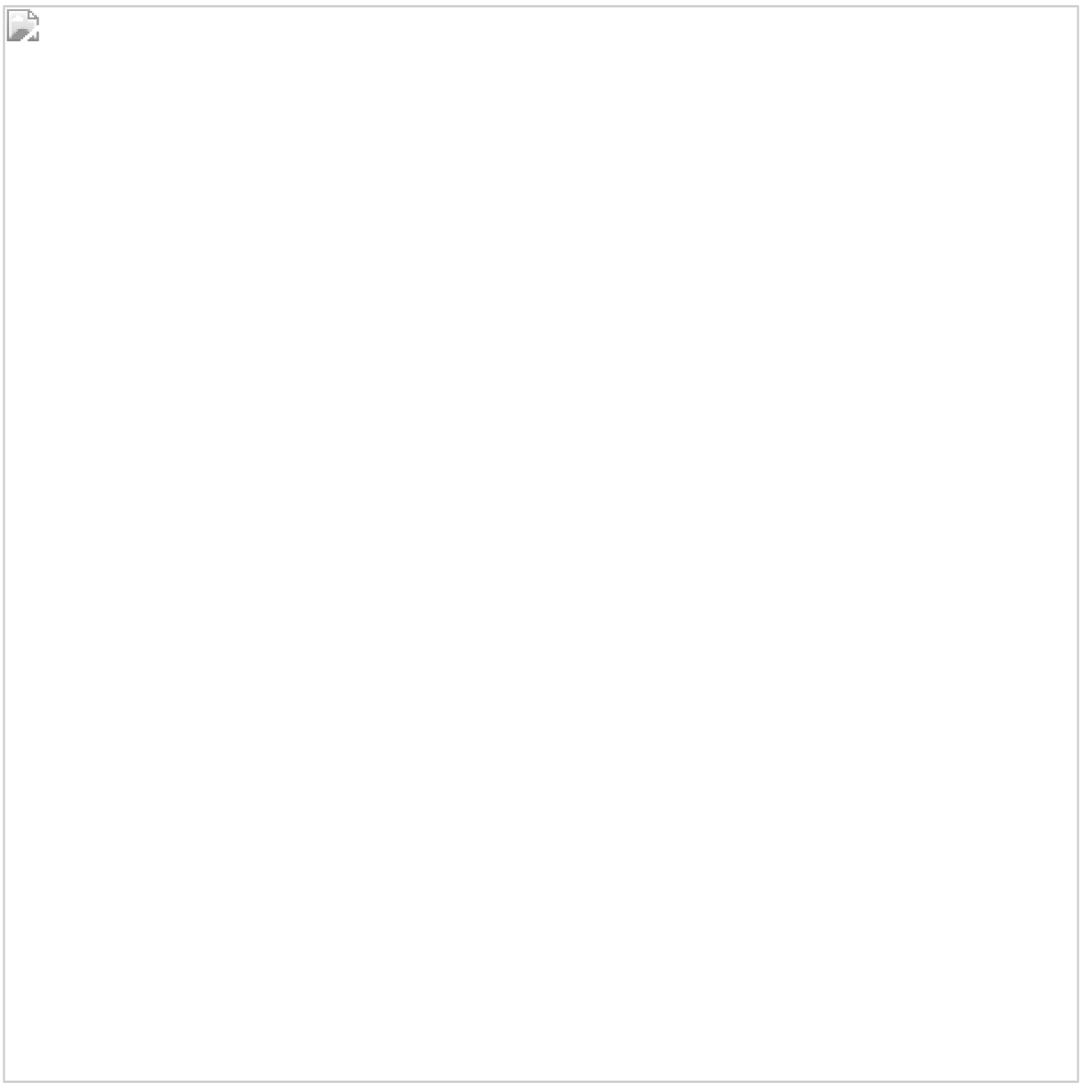
The fox came up licking his lips. Out of the first sack fluttered the hen. As the fox was about to seize her, they opened the other sack, and out jumped the fierce dog.

The fox fled back into the forest and never had the hen at all.

"That was well done," said the old man and the old woman. "We have got our little snow girl, and not had to give away our plump hen."

TALK ABOUT IT

The fox had brought the snow girl home. Do you think it was fair that he got no hen? Why or why not?

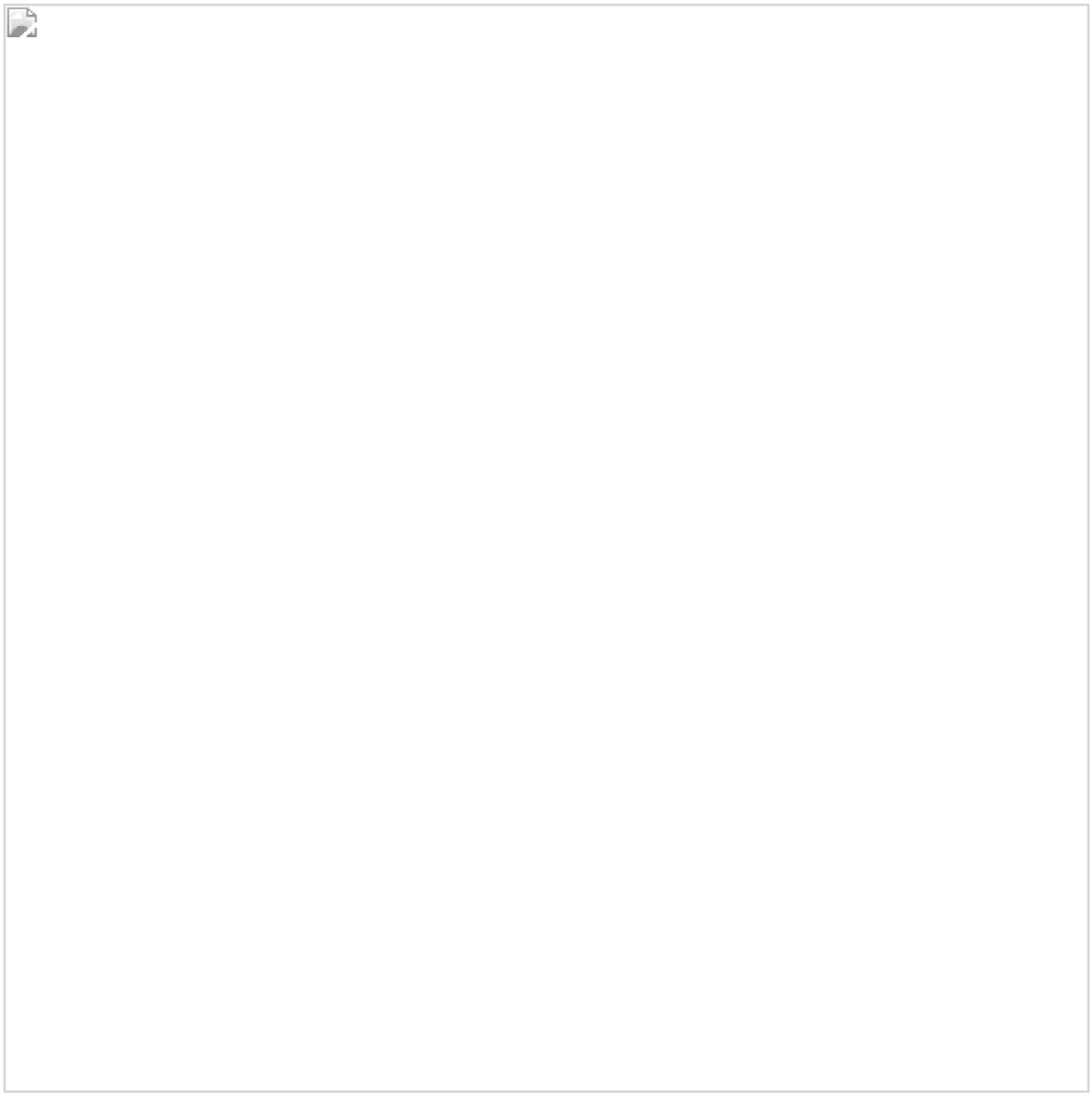


Think about it

1. What was in the second sack?

- ○ A cat
- ○ The fiercest of the dogs
- ○ A pot of porridge

Melting



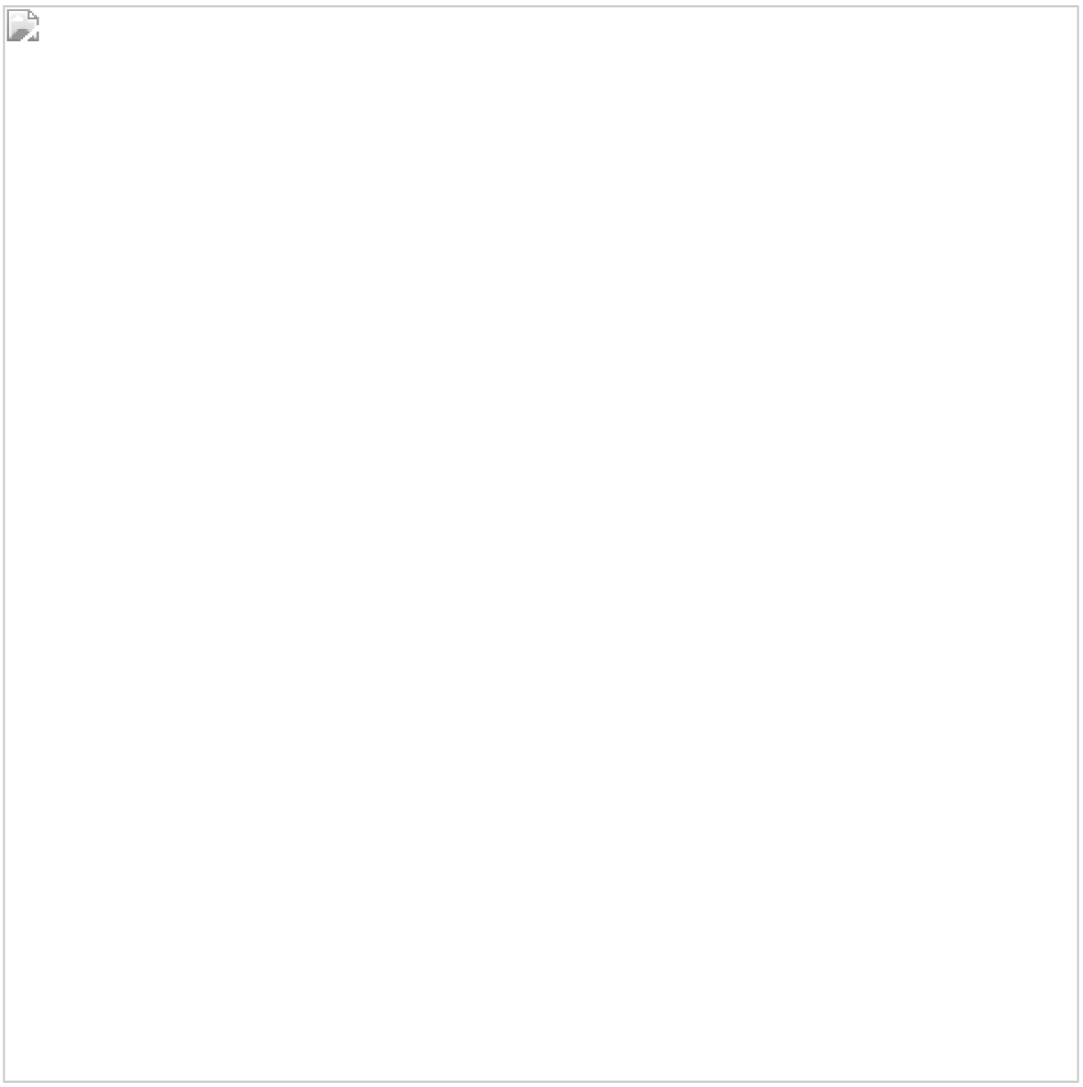
Then they heard the snow girl singing in the hut: “Old ones, old ones, now I know Less you love me than a hen, I shall go away again.”

They ran inside. By the stove lay a little pool of water, and in it a fur hat, a little coat and little red boots. Yet it seemed they saw her, with her bright eyes and long hair, dancing in the room.

“Do not go! do not go!” they begged, but already they could hardly see her. She laughed and sang, “I shall melt away again. To my motherkin I go--Little daughter of the Snow.”

TALK ABOUT IT

What do you think the snow girl heard that made her sing that song?

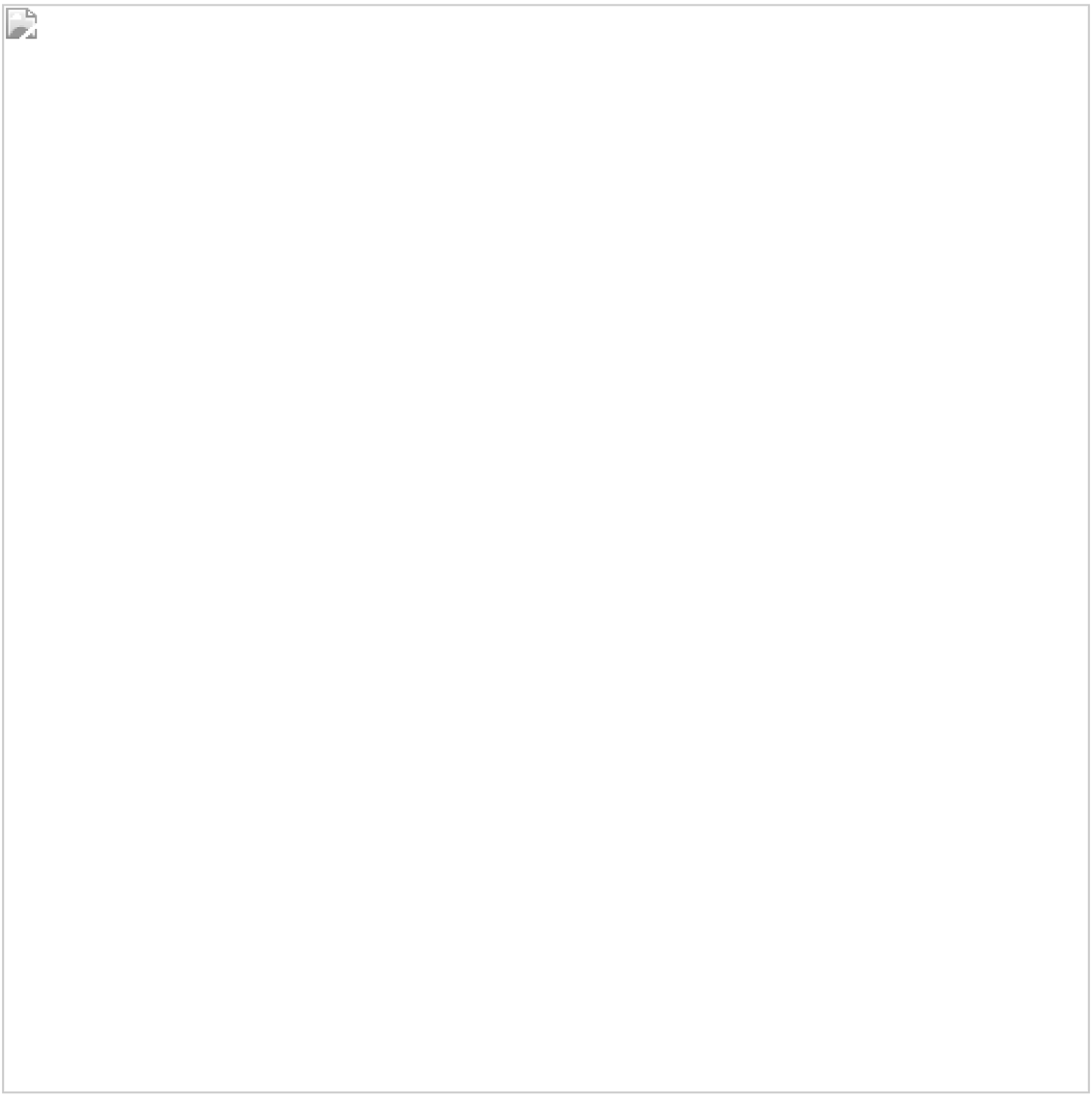


Think about it

1. What was left by the stove?

- ○ A pool of water, a hat, a coat and boots
- ○ Only a hat
- ○ A pile of snow

Frost and Snow



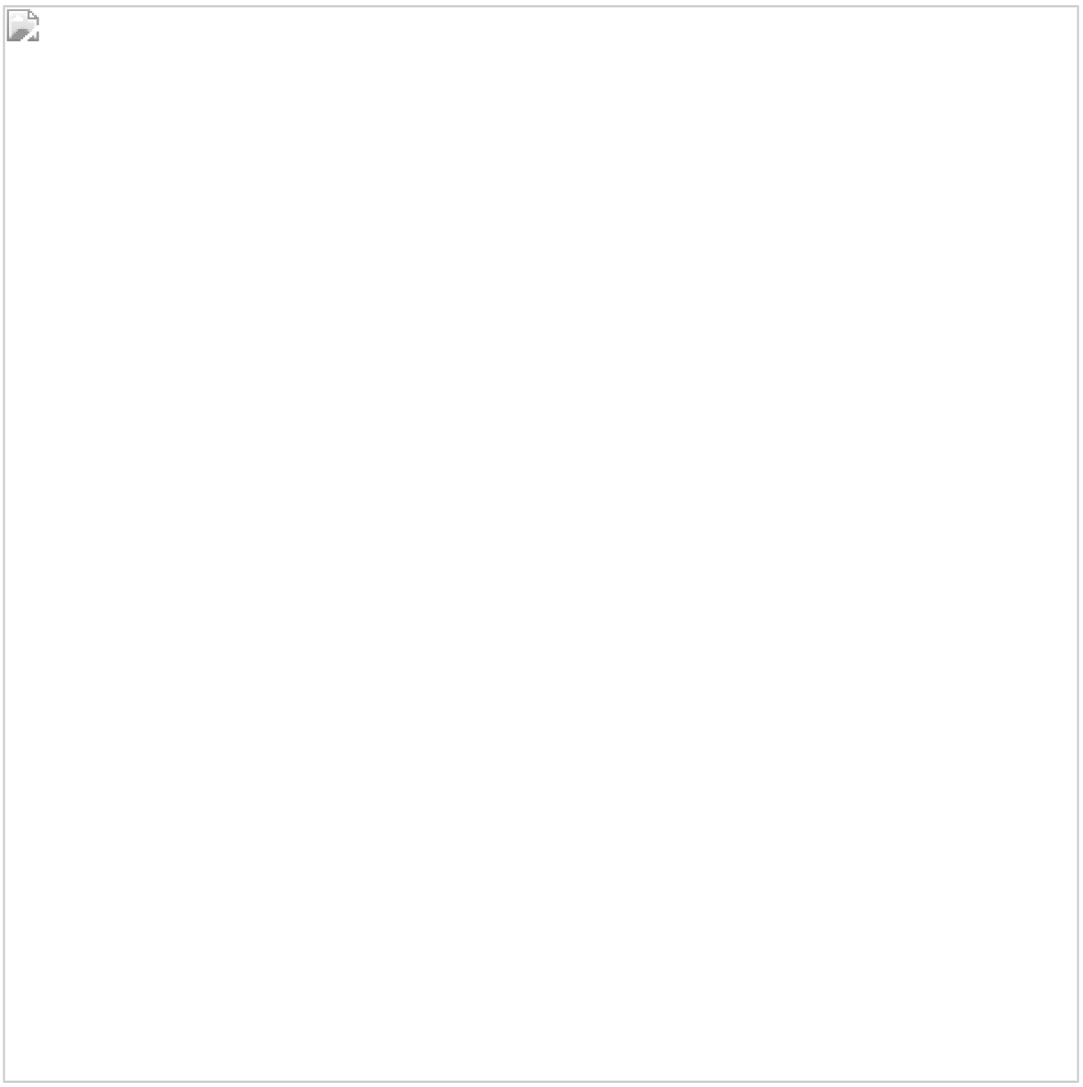
Just then the door blew open, a cold wind filled the room, and the little daughter of the Snow was gone.

Old Peter, who tells the tale, says that Frost her father and Snow her mother carried her away over the stars to the far north. All summer she plays on the frozen seas. In winter she comes back to Russia, and “some day, you know, when you are making a snow woman, you may find the little daughter of the Snow standing there instead.”

“Wouldn't that be lovely!” said Maroosia. Vanya thought for a minute, and then he said, “I'd love her much more than a hen.”

TALK ABOUT IT

Vanya said he would love her much more than a hen. What would you say?



Think about it

1. Where does the snow girl play in the summer?

- ○ In the forest
- ○ On the frozen seas of the far north
- ○ In the village road

2. When the snow girl sang that she was loved less than a hen, was she right? What do you think?

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

— Yeshua HaMashiach

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