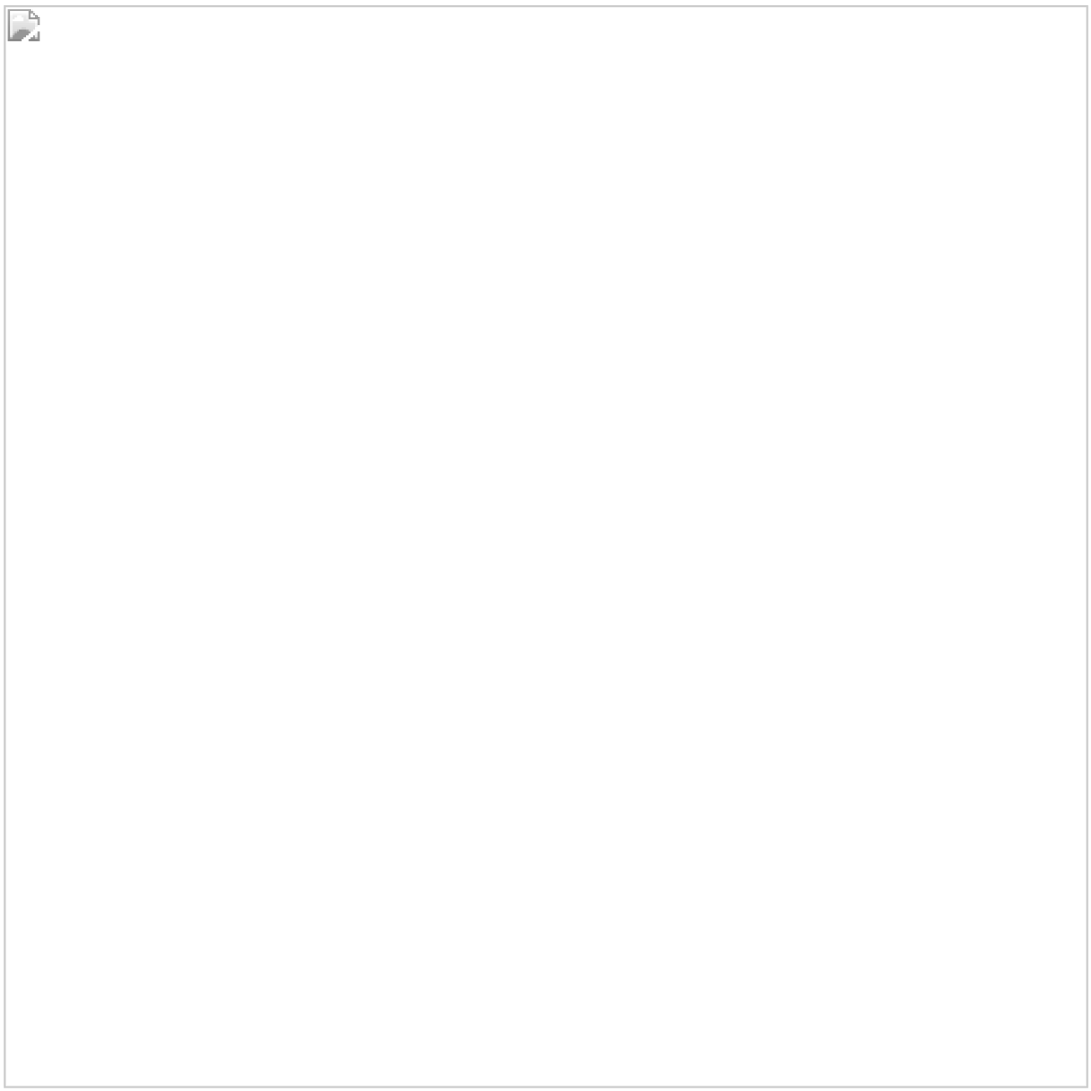
COLORING THE CLASSICS

The Snow Queen

A Tale in Seven Stories



A wicked troll once made a mirror. Everything good and beautiful that was reflected in it shrank to almost nothing, and everything worthless looked hideous.

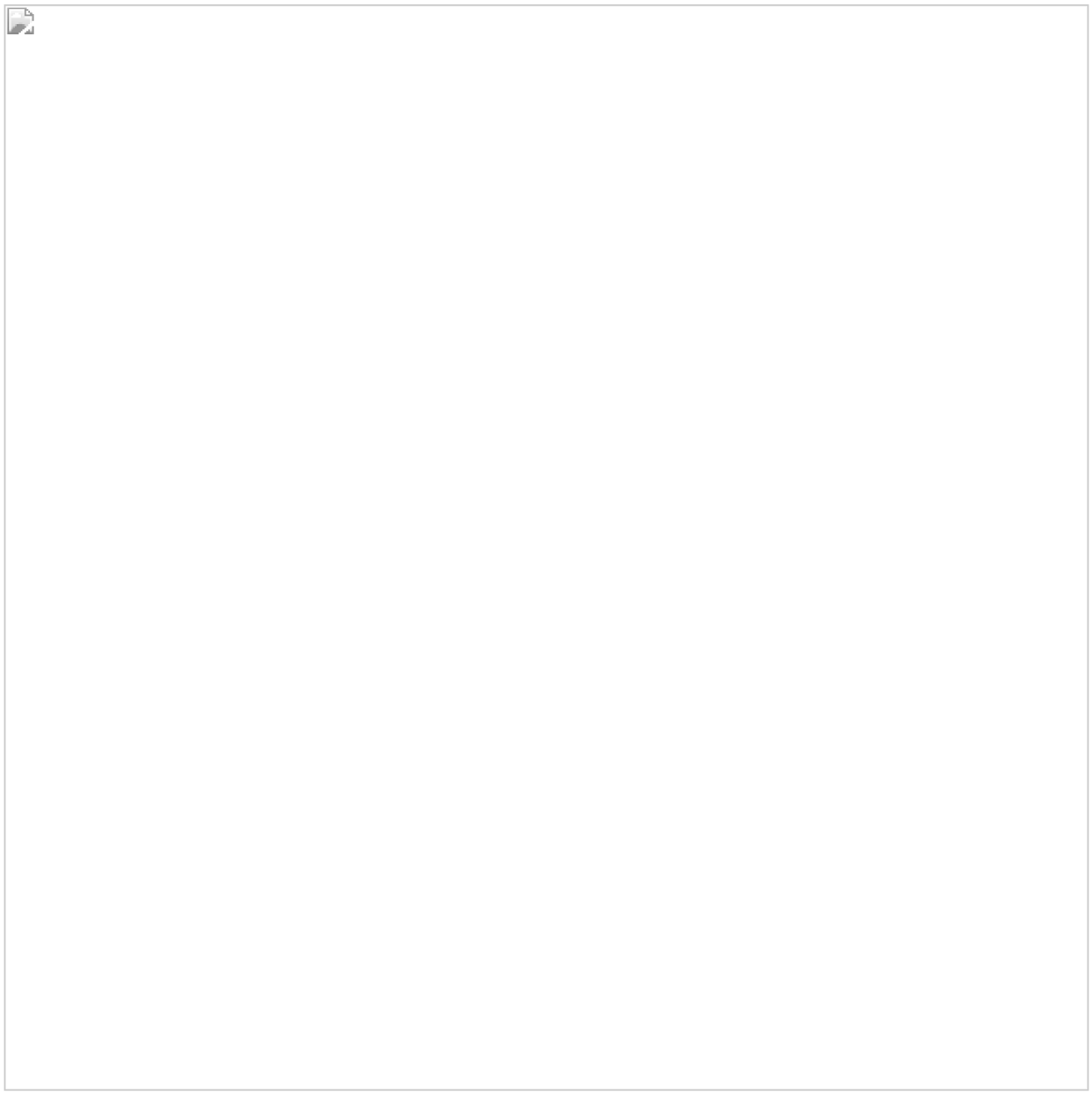
Then the mirror fell and broke into millions of pieces, and the tiny splinters flew all over the world.

TALK ABOUT IT

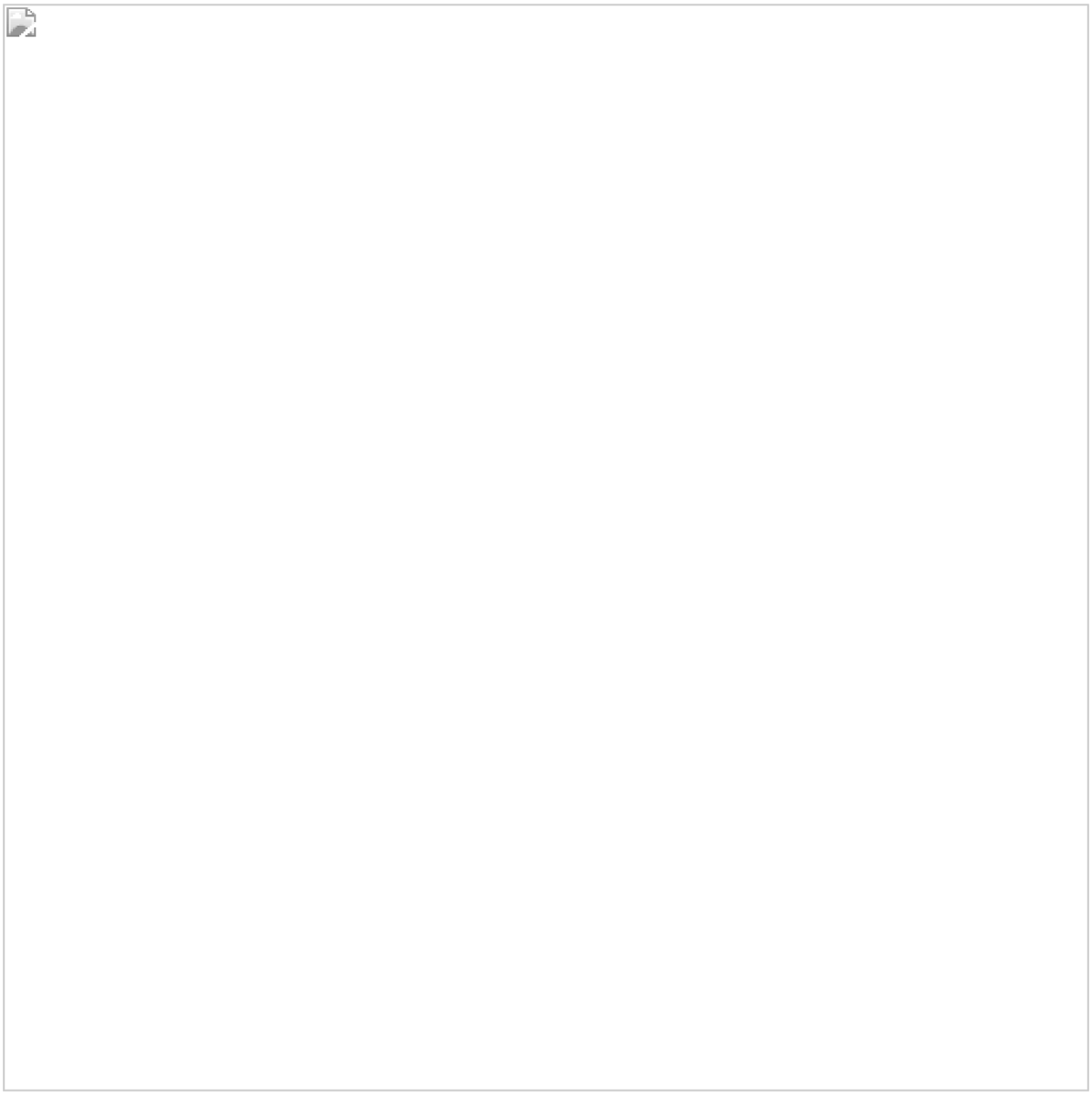
A mirror that makes good things look small. What would you hope to see in a mirror like that?

This book belongs to _____

The Snow Queen · another picture



The Troll's Mirror



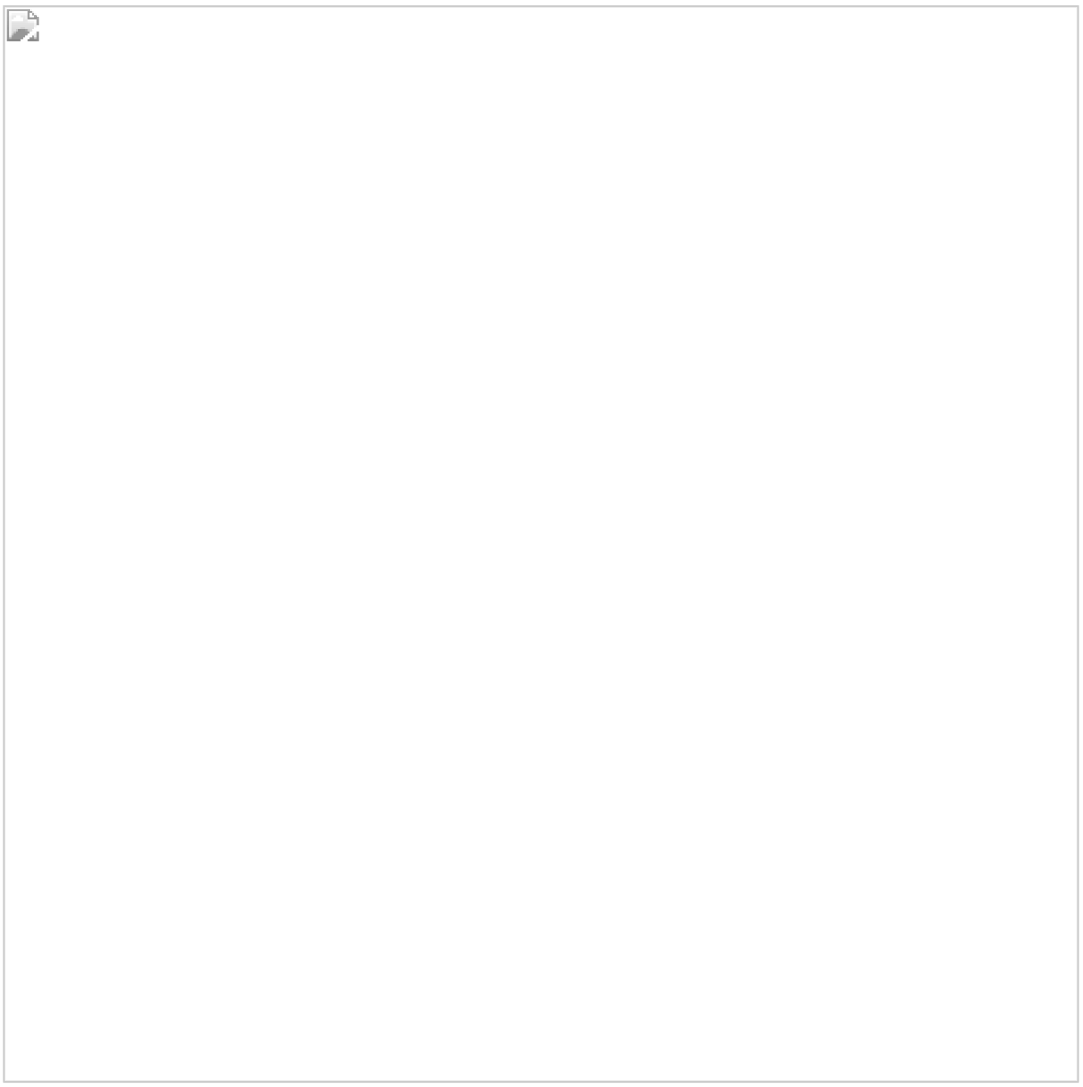
The troll laughed at his own cleverness. "It is most amusing," he said. His troll-school ran about with the mirror until there was not a country or a person that had not been reflected and twisted in it.

They wanted to carry it up to heaven to mock the angels. But the higher they flew, the more the mirror trembled, until it slipped from their hands and broke.

Some splinters got into people's eyes and made everything look wrong. Some got into people's hearts, and "these hearts became like lumps of ice."

TALK ABOUT IT

A splinter in the eye makes a person see the wrong side of things. Have you ever felt grumpy and seen everything that way?

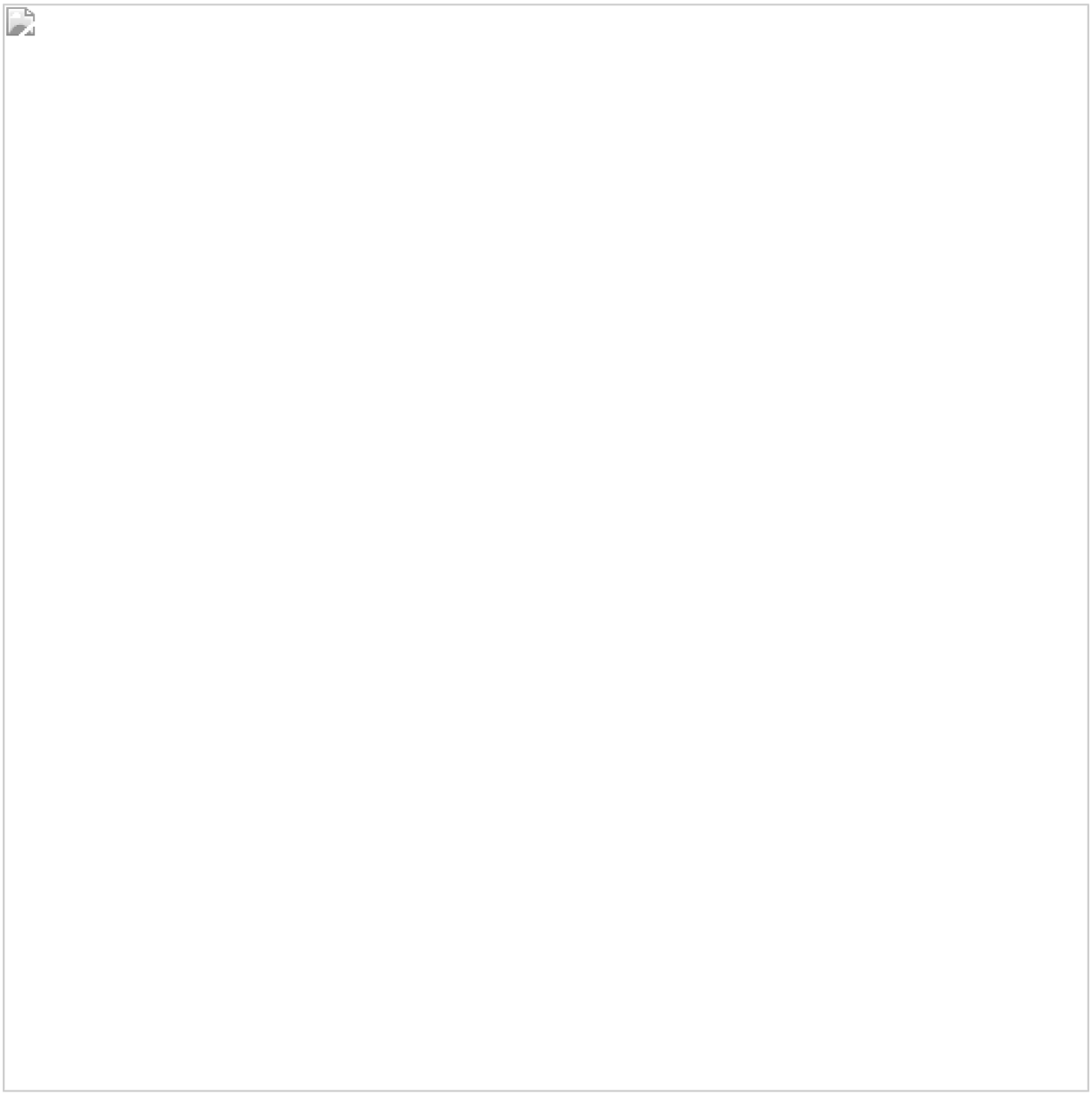


Think about it

1. What happened to the mirror when it was carried high up?

- ○ It grew bigger and brighter
- ○ It trembled, slipped, and broke
- ○ It turned into snow

Kay and Gerda



In a big town there lived a little boy named Kay and a little girl named Gerda. Their windows faced each other across a narrow street, and their parents had put a big wooden box of plants outside each one.

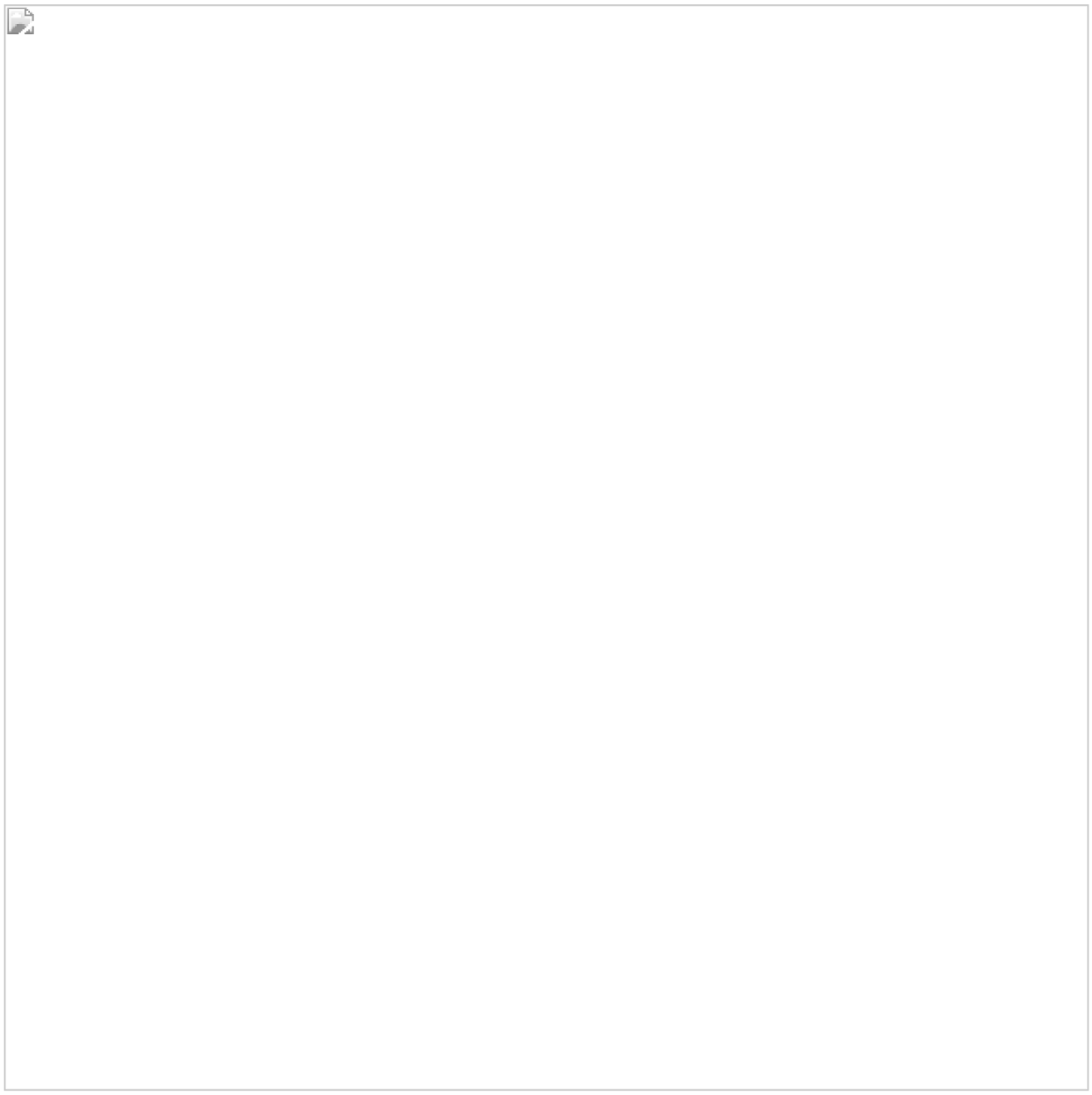
In winter the windows often froze. One snowy evening the old grandmother said, “It’s the white bees that are swarming!”

“Can the Snow Queen come in here?” asked the little girl. “Let her only come,” said the boy, “I’ll put her on the warm stove and then she’ll melt.”

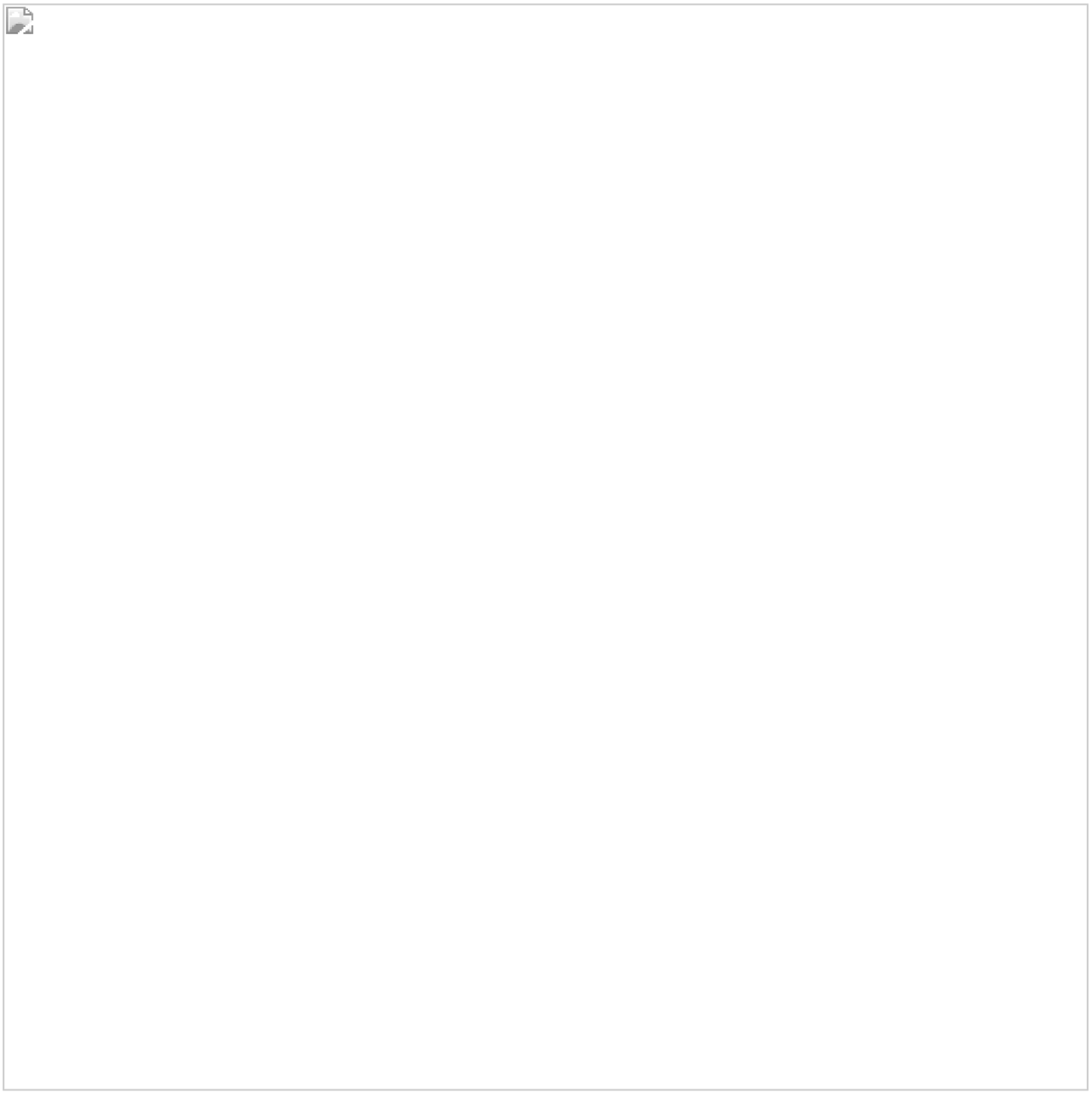
TALK ABOUT IT

Kay said he was not afraid of the Snow Queen. Do you think he should have said that?

Kay and Gerda · another picture



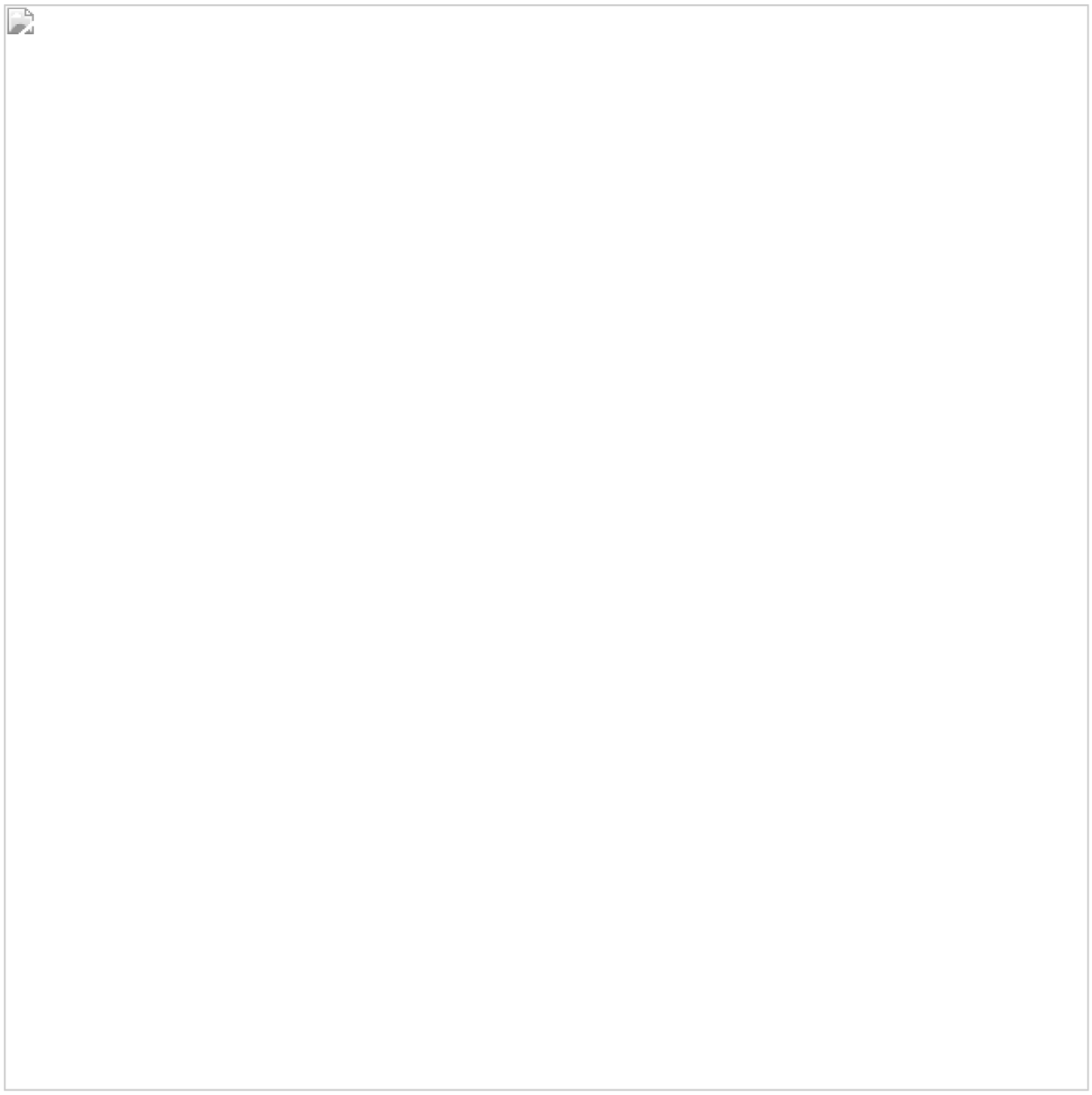
Roses and a Splinter



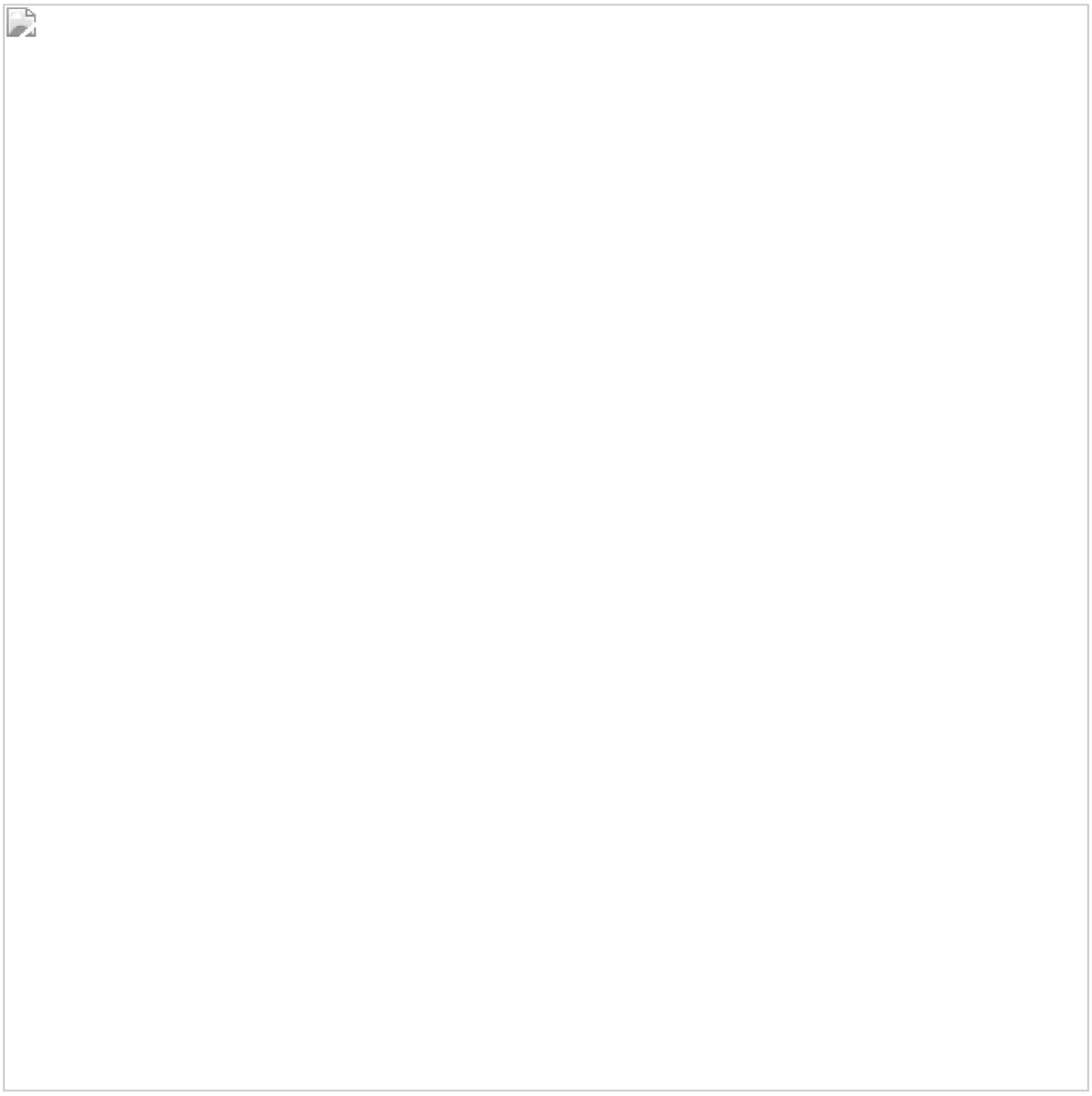
Summer came, and the roses blossomed most beautifully. The little girl had learned a hymn, and she and Kay sang it together: “The roses grow in the valley, Where the Christ-Child we shall see.”

One day, while they looked at a picture book, a tiny splinter of the troll’s mirror flew into Kay’s eye, and another into his heart. “I think it is gone!” he said; but it was not gone.

TALK ABOUT IT
Kay and Gerda held hands and sang. Who do you like to sing with?



Kay Is Carried Away



After that Kay was a different boy. He teased Gerda, called the flowers ugly, and no longer cared for the old games.

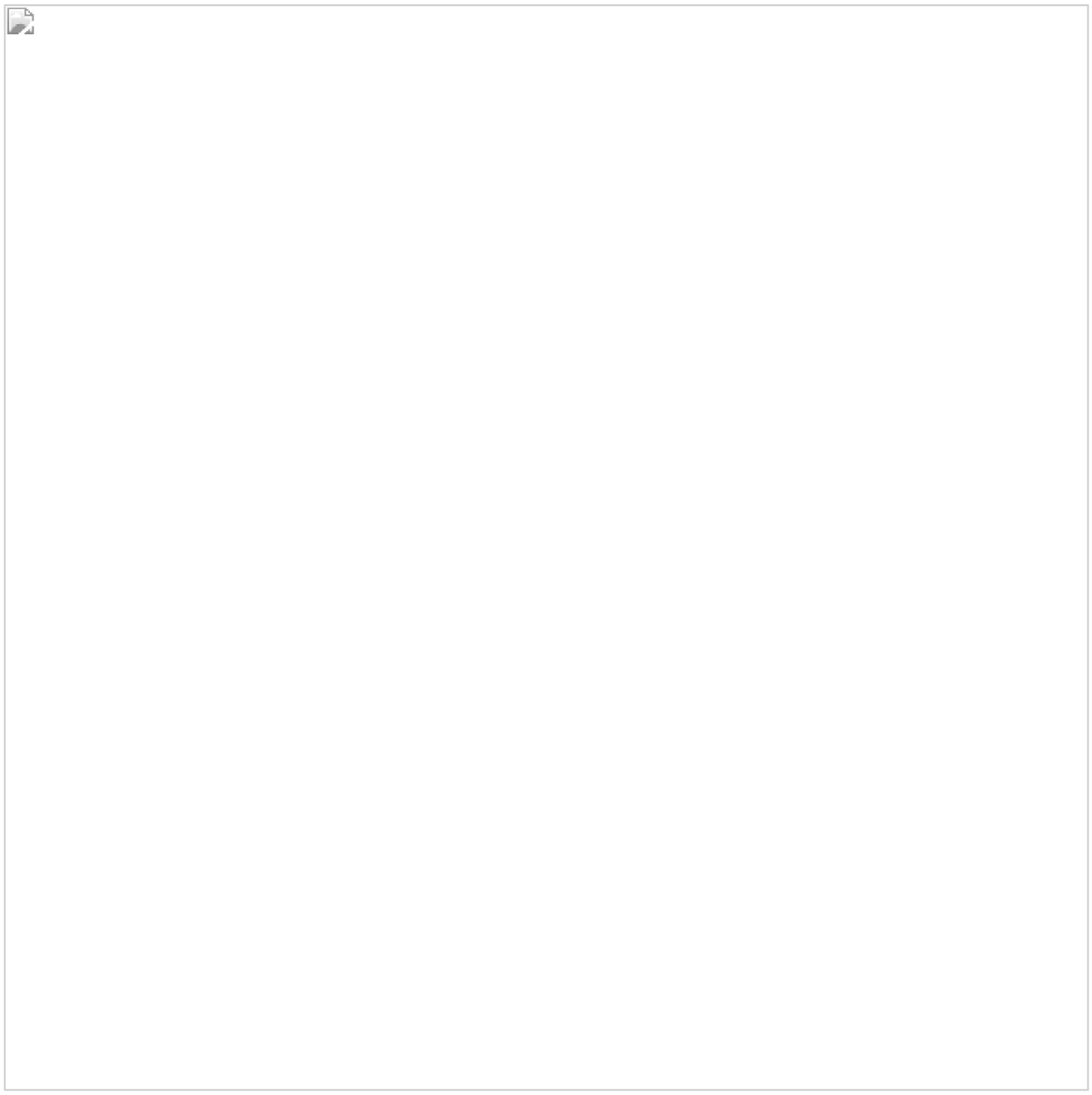
One winter day he went out with his sledge and tied it to a big white sledge. It carried him far out of the town, and the driver turned out to be the Snow Queen herself. She kissed him and asked, “Do you feel cold still?” After that he forgot Gerda, his grandmother and everyone at home.

Then the Snow Queen flew away north with Kay.

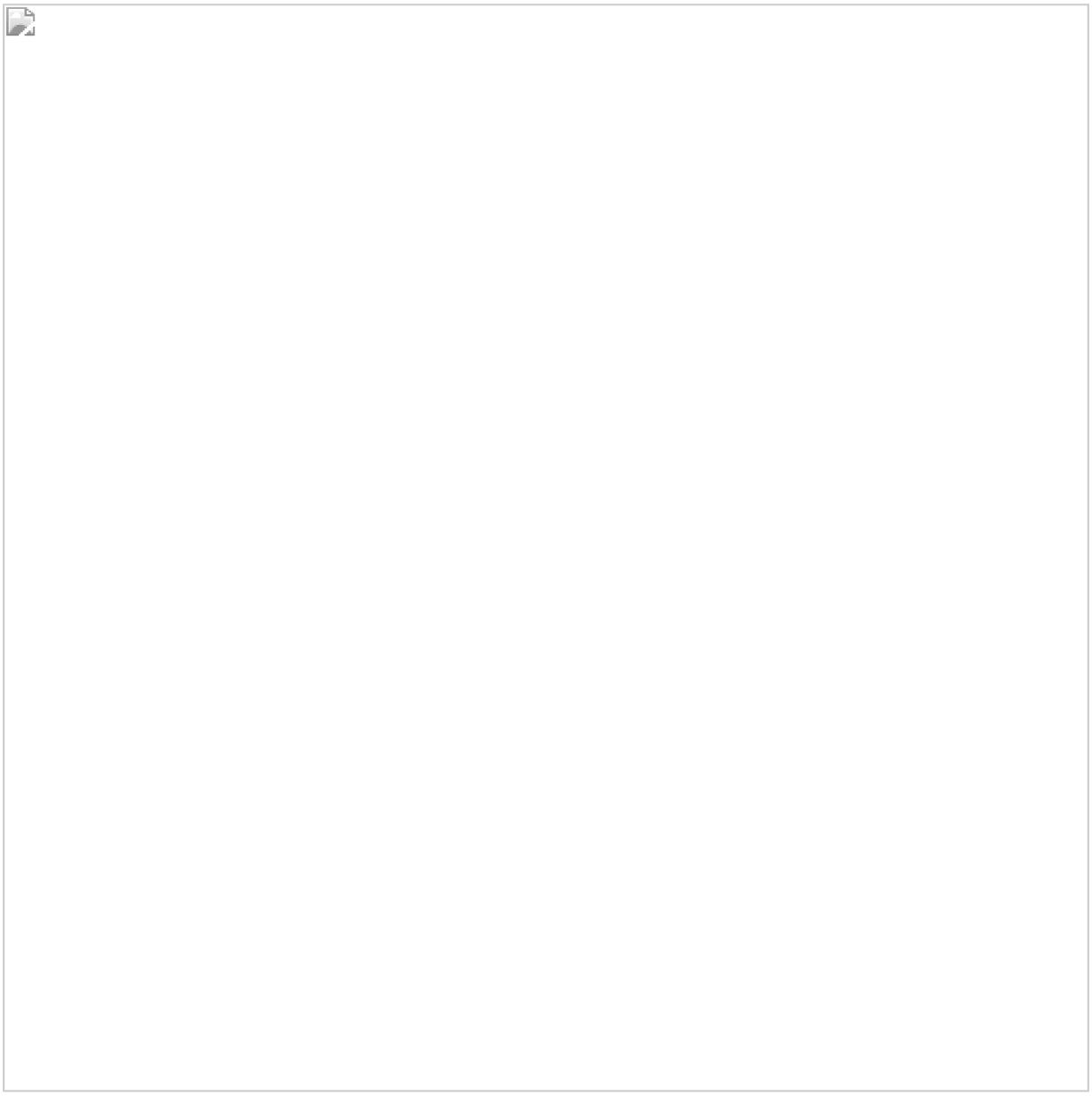
TALK ABOUT IT

Kay forgot everyone he loved. What do you think Gerda will do when he does not come home?

Kay Is Carried Away · another picture



Gerda Sets Out



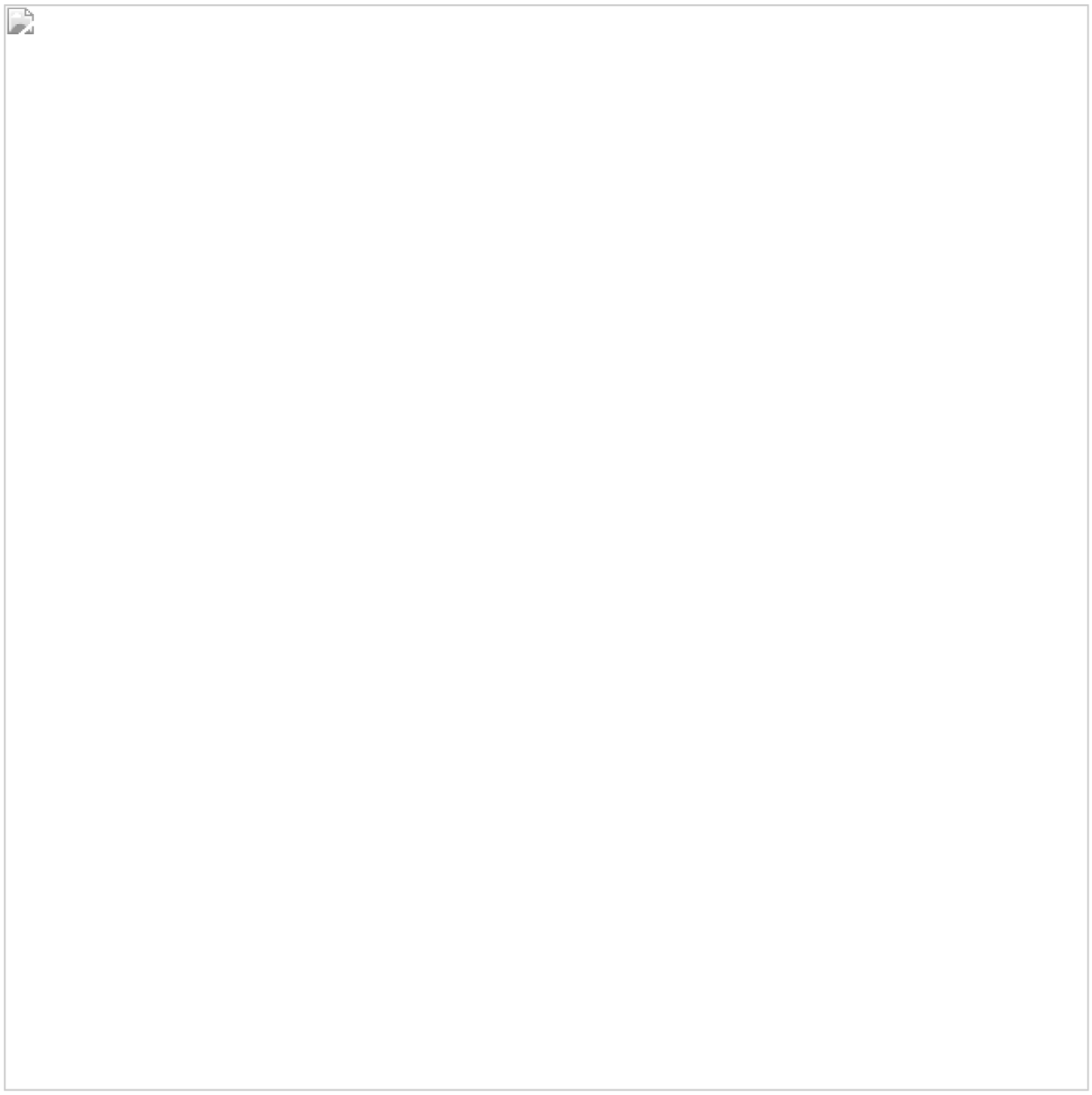
Kay did not return, and no one knew where he was. “Kay is dead and gone,” said little Gerda. “I don’t believe it!” said the sunshine.

The swallows did not believe it either, and at last neither did Gerda. “I will put on my new red shoes,” she said one morning, and she went down to the river.

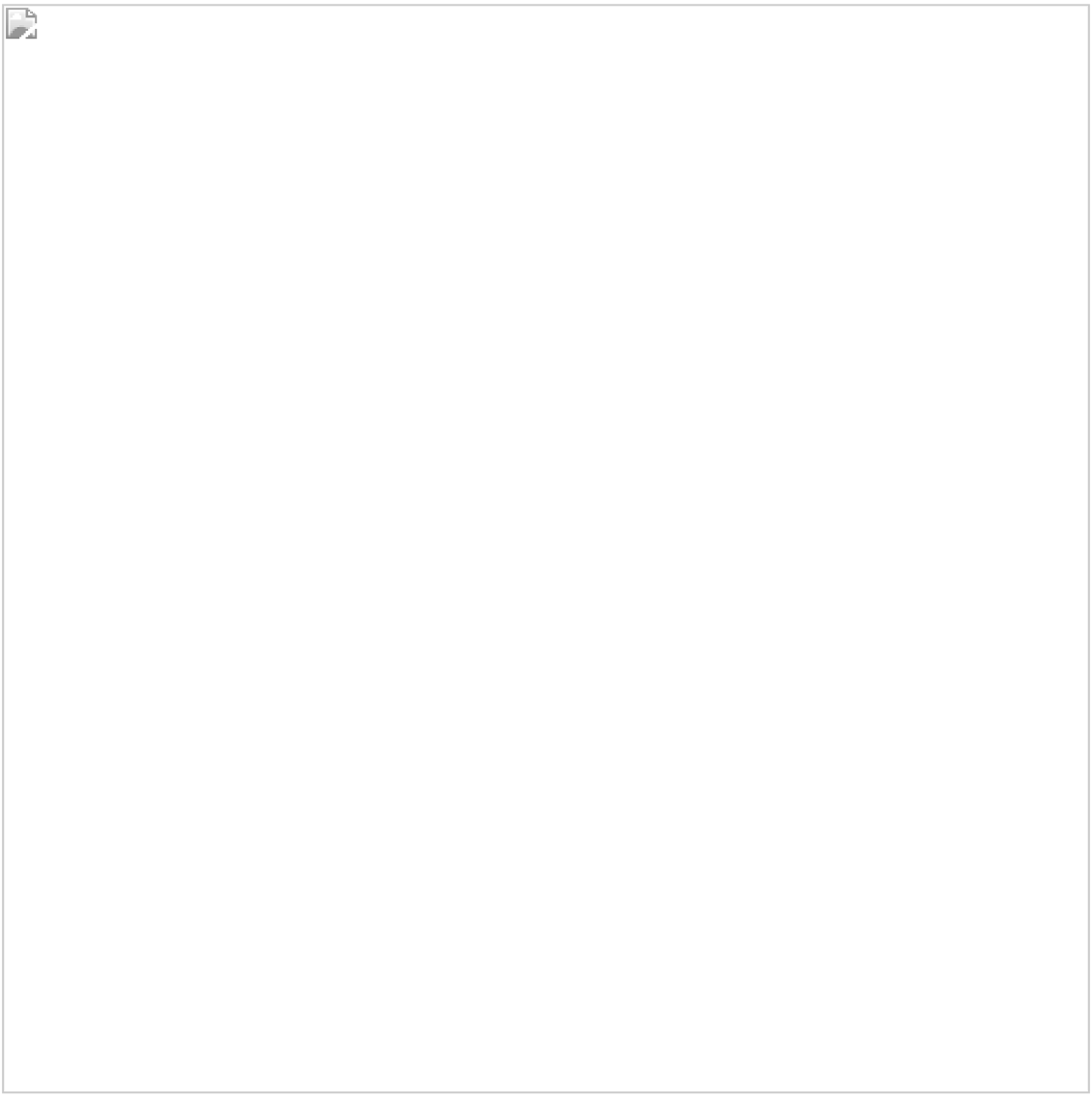
“Is it true that you have taken my little playmate? I will make you a present of my red shoes if you will give him back to me.” She threw the shoes in, but the waves brought them back, and the boat she sat in drifted away.

TALK ABOUT IT

Gerda gave away her best shoes. What would you give to find a friend?



The Flower Garden



The boat floated to a little house with a cherry orchard, and an old woman with a crook helped Gerda ashore.

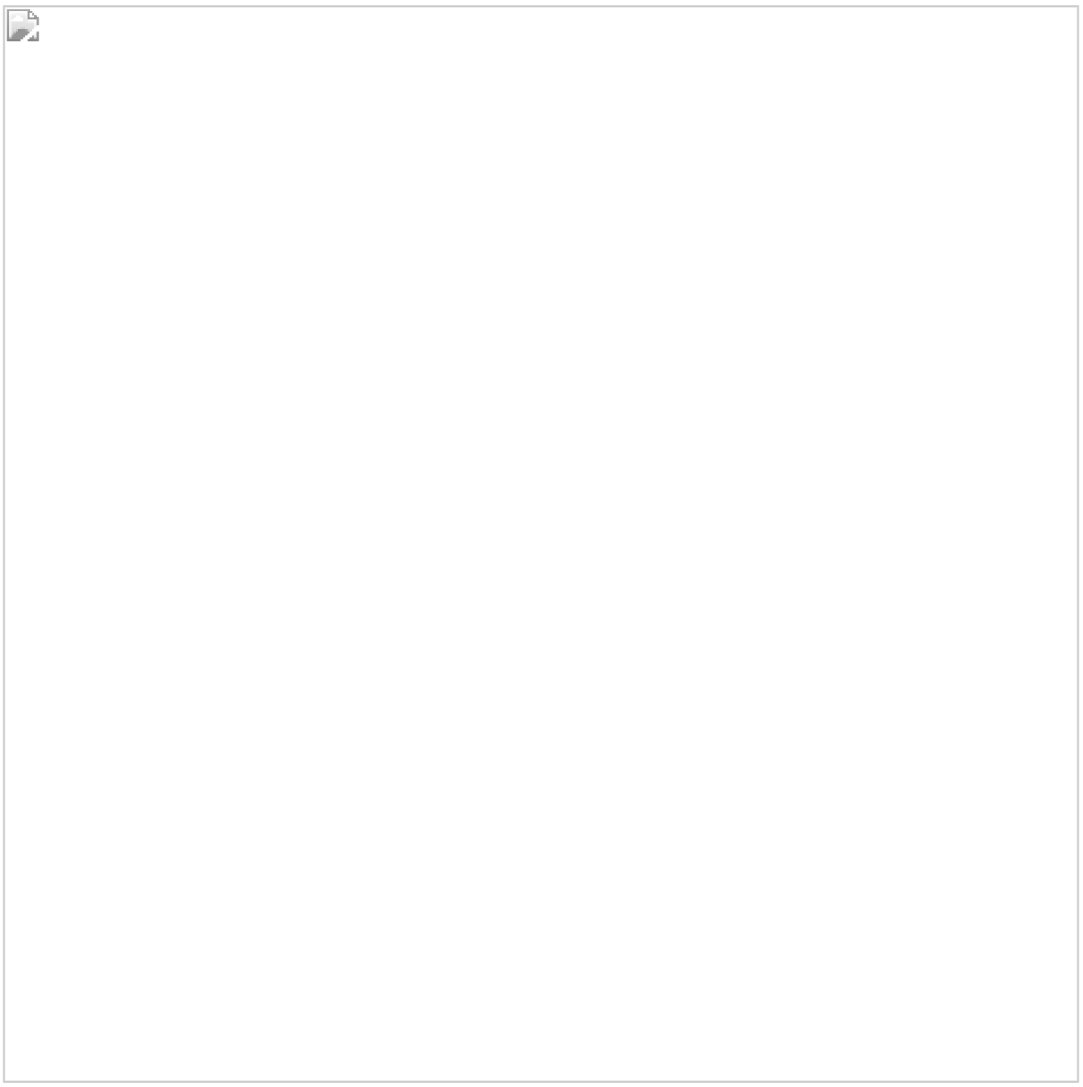
She knew magic, but she was not a wicked witch. She wanted to keep Gerda, so she made all the rose-trees sink into the ground, afraid that Gerda would see the roses, think of Kay and run away.

But one day Gerda saw the painted flowers on the old woman's sunbonnet, and the prettiest was a rose. She remembered. Her tears fell, and a rose-tree rose up from the very spot. "He is not dead," said the roses. Gerda asked every flower about Kay, but none of them knew.

TALK ABOUT IT

The old woman wanted Gerda to stay. Why do you think she hid the roses?

The Flower Garden · another picture

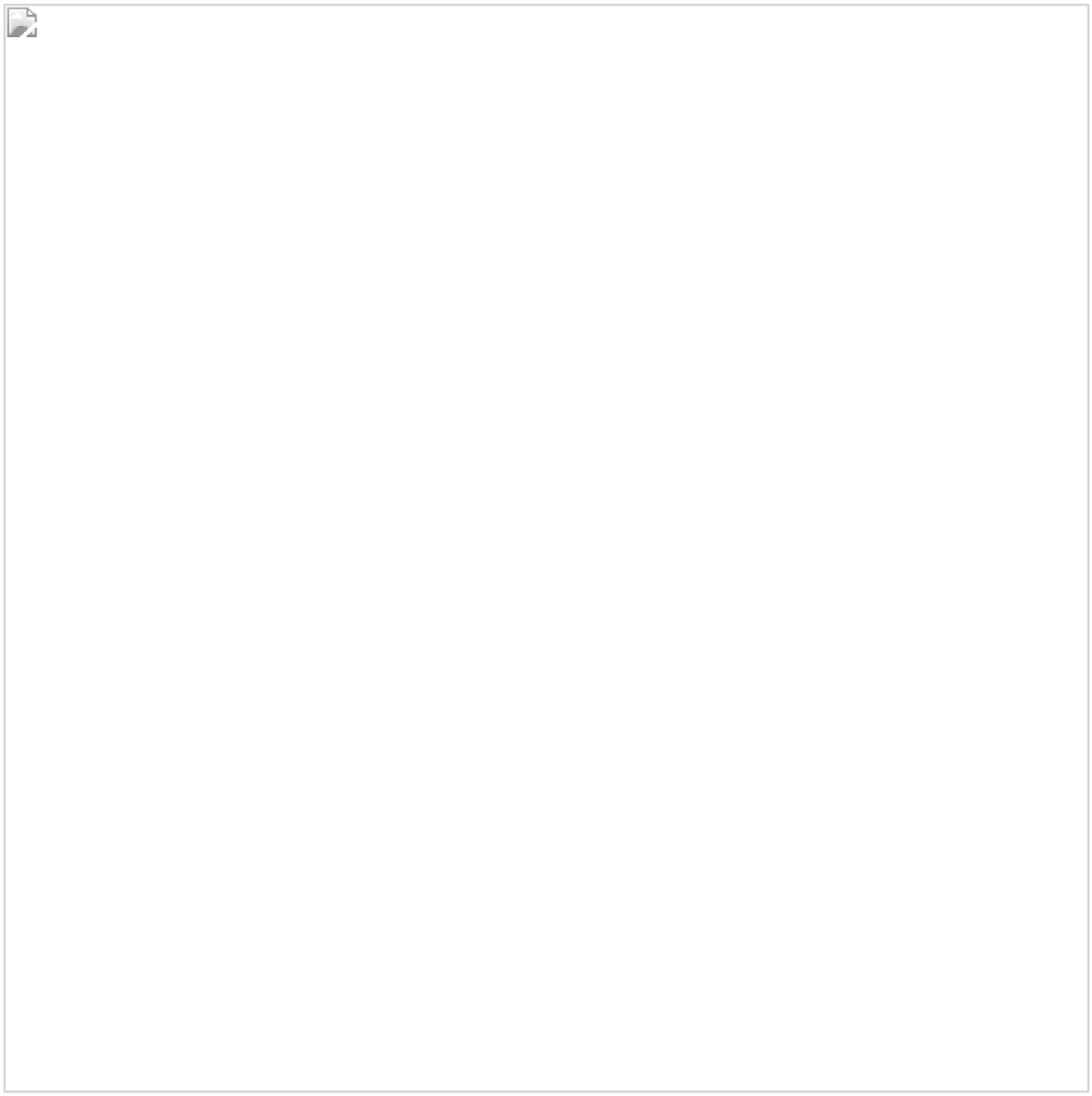


Think about it

1. Who told Gerda that Kay was not dead?

- ○ The roses
- ○ The old woman
- ○ The river

A Crow in the Snow



Gerda ran out through the garden gate. Autumn had come, and her little feet were sore. A large crow came hopping across the snow. “Caw! Caw! Goo’ day! Goo’ day!” he said. He could not say it any better, but he was kind.

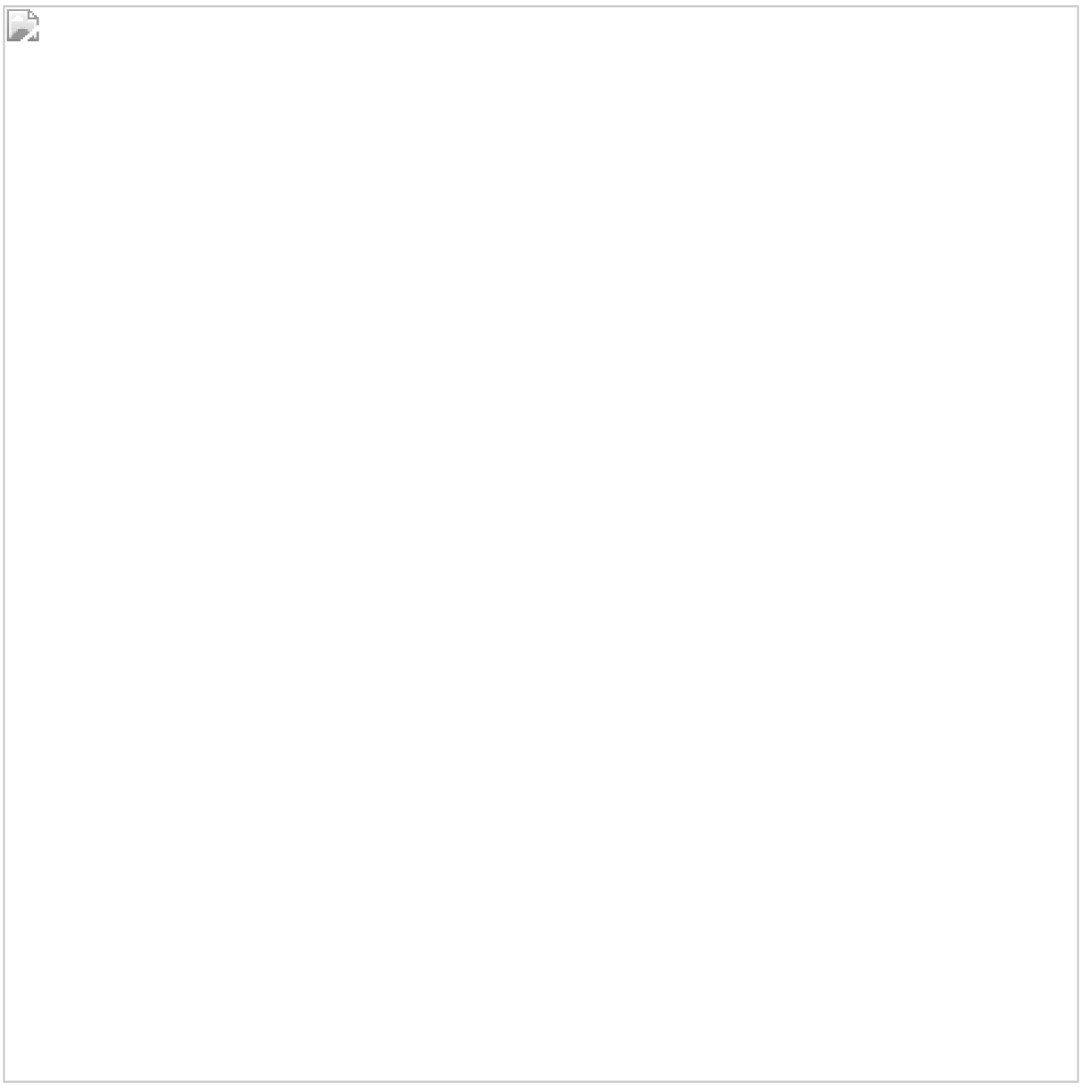
Gerda asked if he had seen Kay. The crow nodded thoughtfully. “Perhaps I have! Perhaps I have!” he said.

He told her of a wise princess who wanted a husband who could answer well when spoken to. A small person came marching up to the palace, with bright eyes and boots that creaked dreadfully. “That must have been Kay!” said Gerda.

TALK ABOUT IT

The crow was kind even though he could not speak well. Who has been kind to you?

A Crow in the Snow · another picture

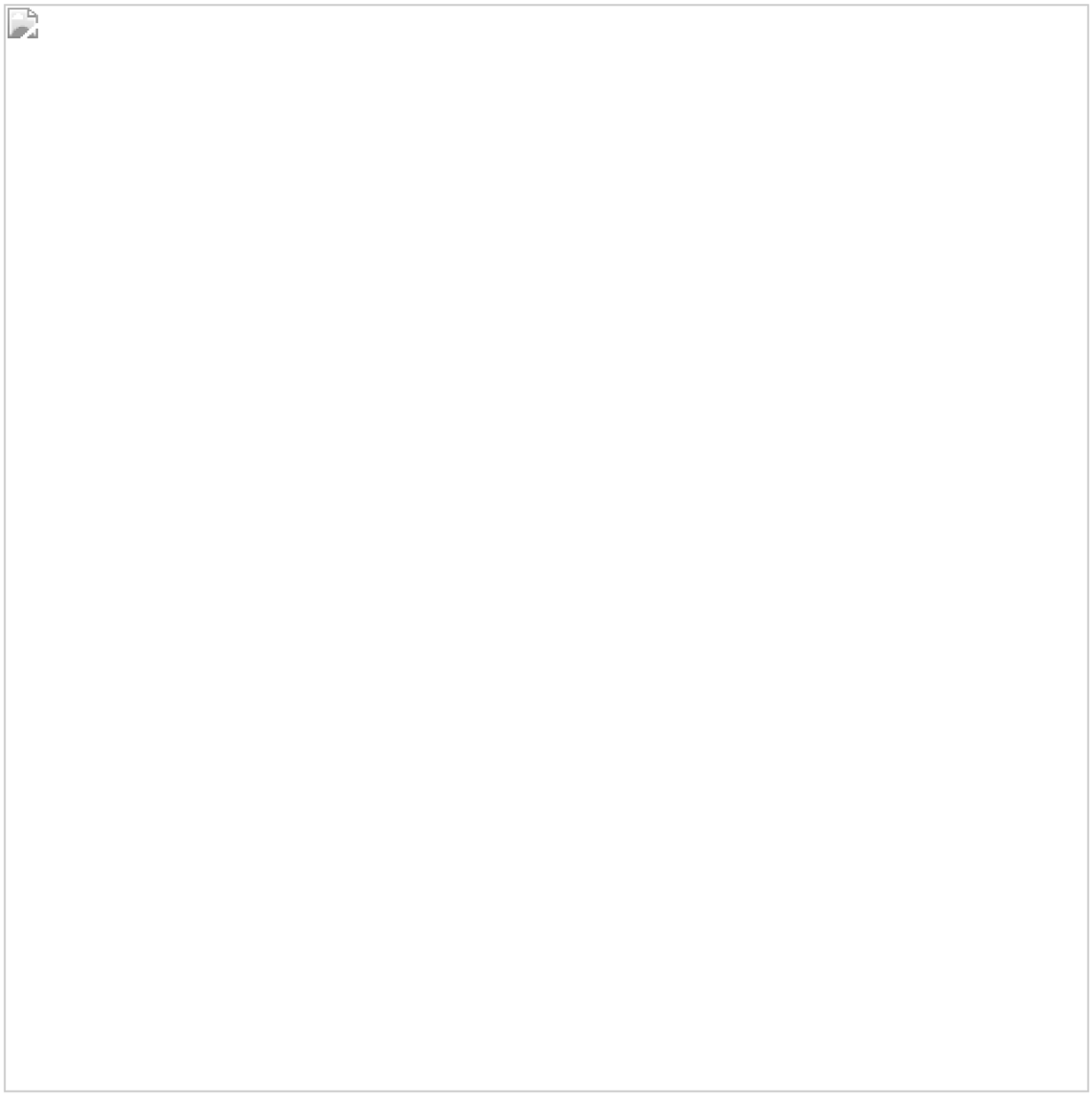


Think about it

1. What did the crow say when Gerda asked about Kay?

- ○ “I have never seen him!”
- ○ “Perhaps I have! Perhaps I have!”
- ○ “He is lost forever!”

Into the Palace



The crow's sweetheart, who lived at the palace, found a back staircase and took Gerda up by lamplight. Dreams went rushing past like shadows of horses.

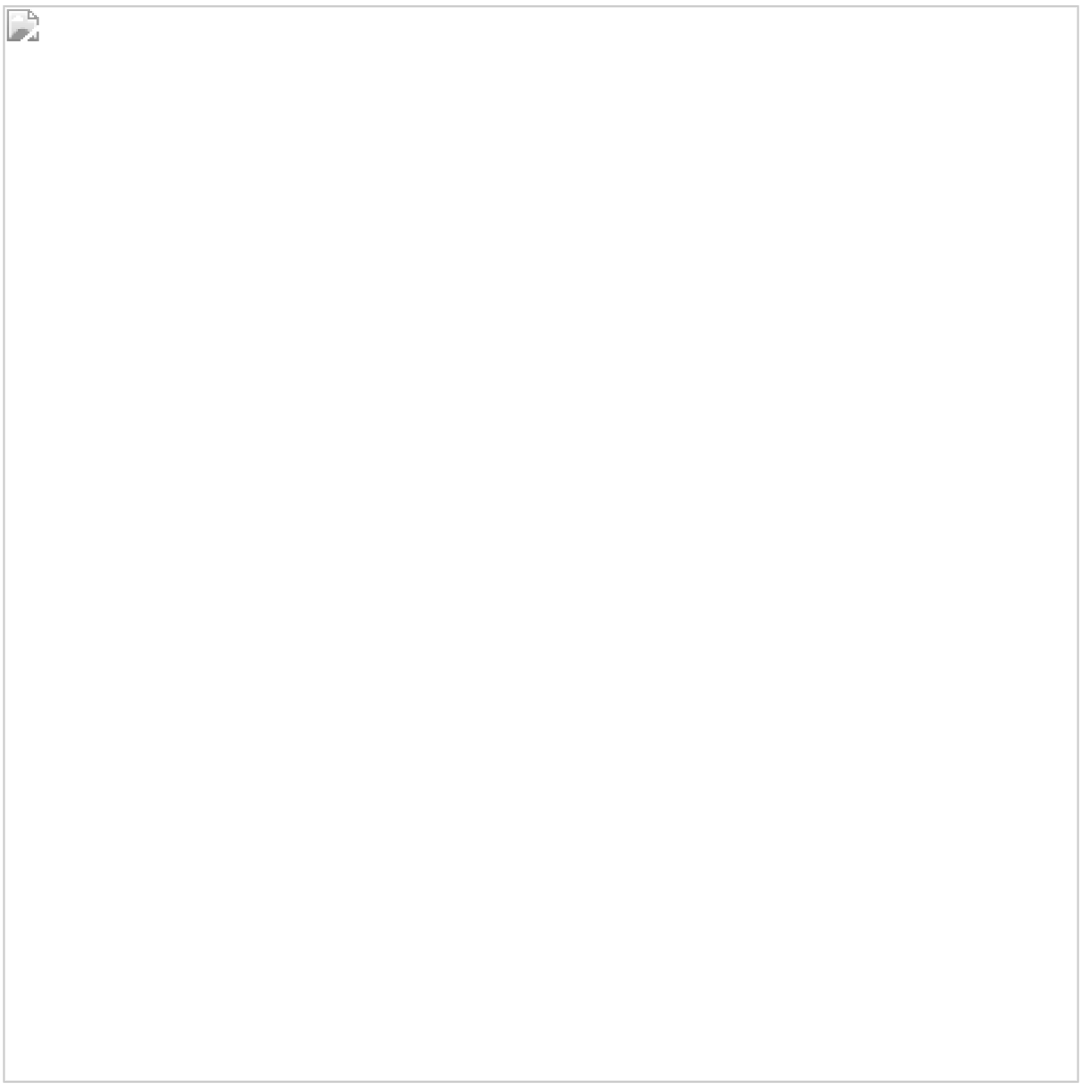
In the bedroom hung two beds like lilies. Gerda pulled aside a red leaf, called Kay's name, held the lamp over him, and he turned his head, and "it was not little Kay." It was the prince.

The prince and princess were kind. They let her sleep in a soft bed, gave her fine clothes and a new coach of pure gold. "Farewell! farewell!" cried the prince and princess, and little Gerda wept, and the crow wept.

TALK ABOUT IT

Gerda was disappointed, but the prince and princess helped her anyway. Why do you think they helped?

Into the Palace · another picture

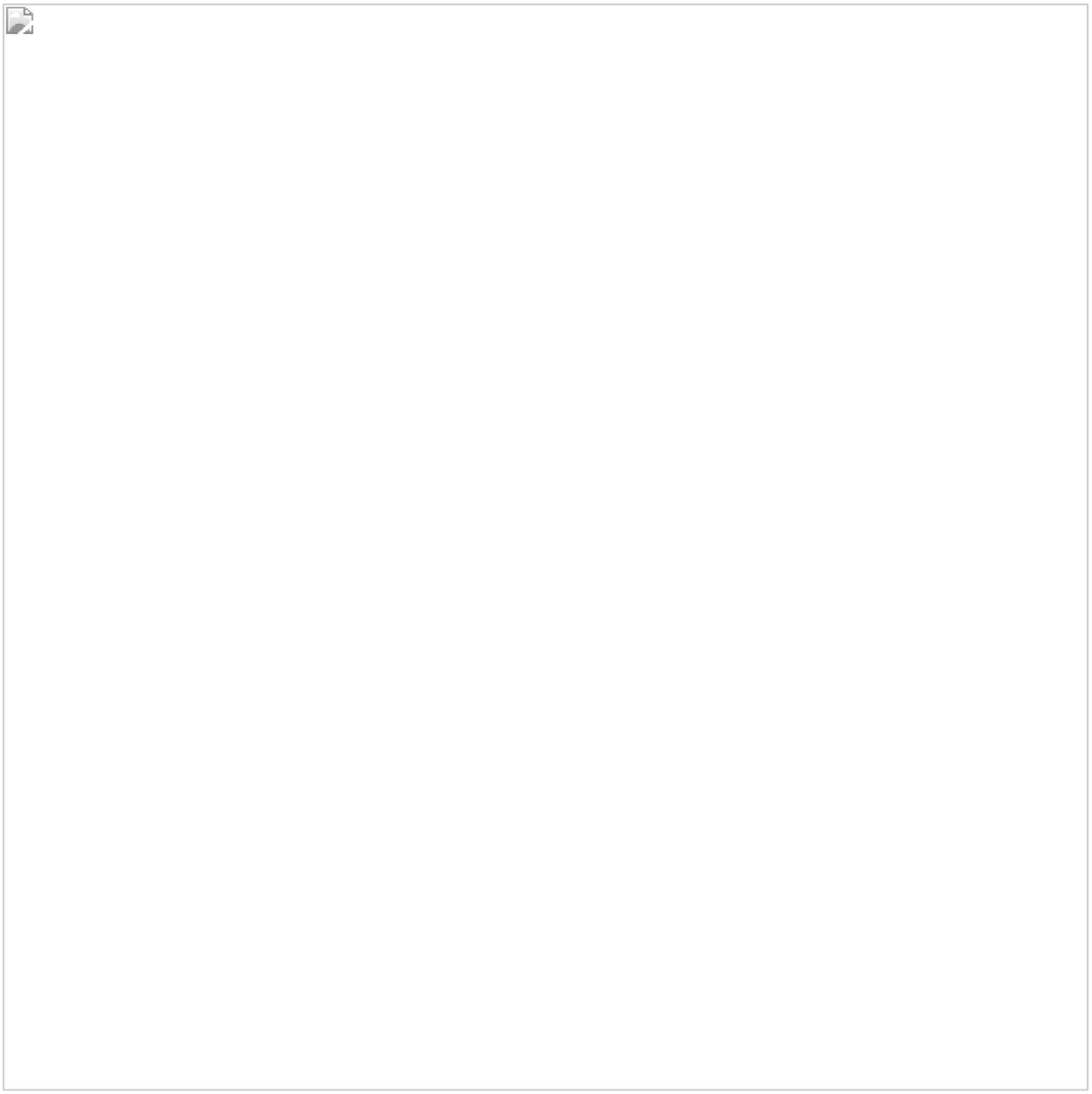


Think about it

1. Who was in the bed when Gerda looked for Kay?

- ○ Kay
- ○ The prince
- ○ The Snow Queen

The Robbers

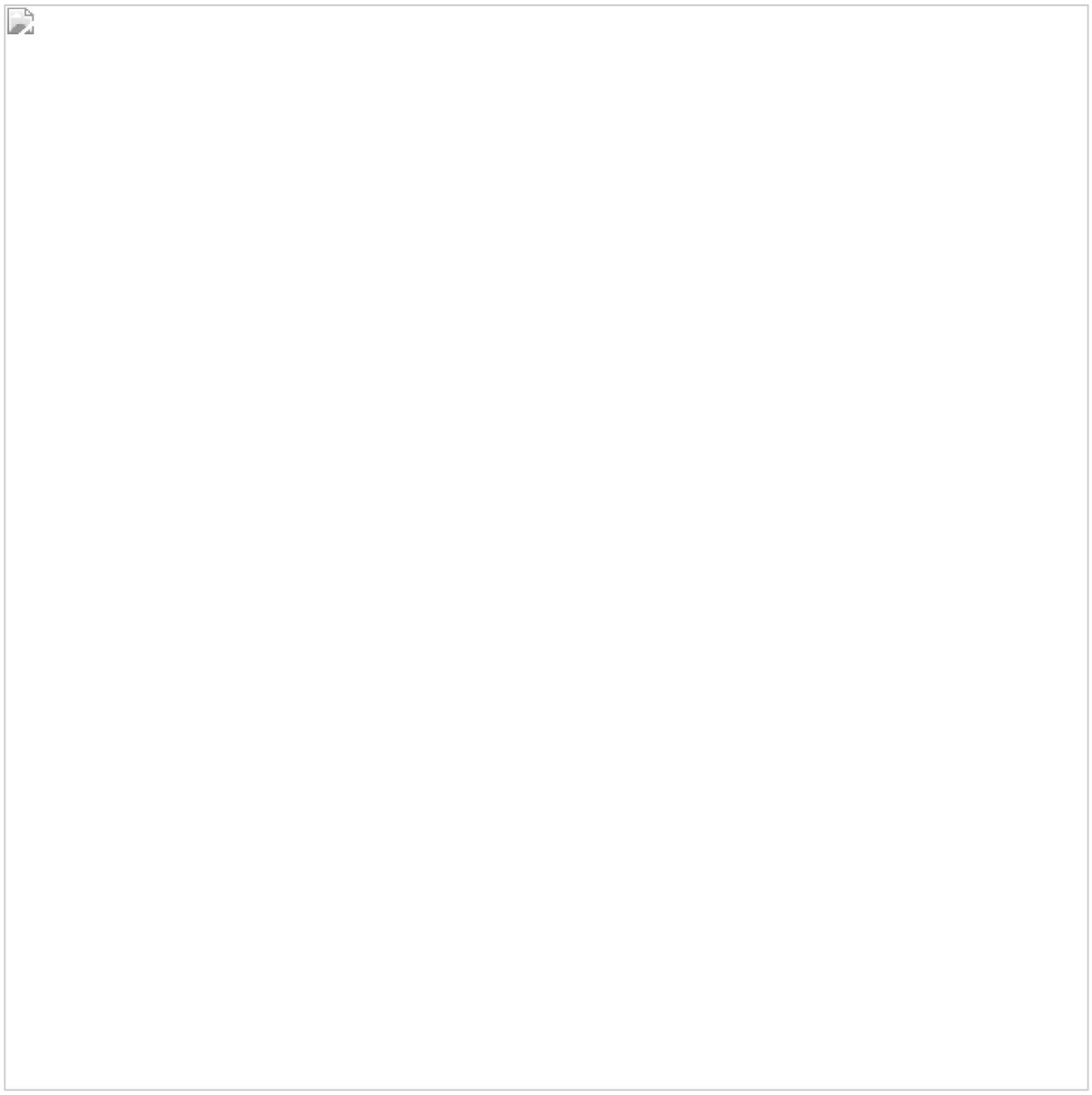


Gerda's gold coach shone through the dark forest like a bright light. "It's gold! It's gold!" cried the robbers as they rushed out and seized the horses. They drove the coachmen away and dragged little Gerda out.

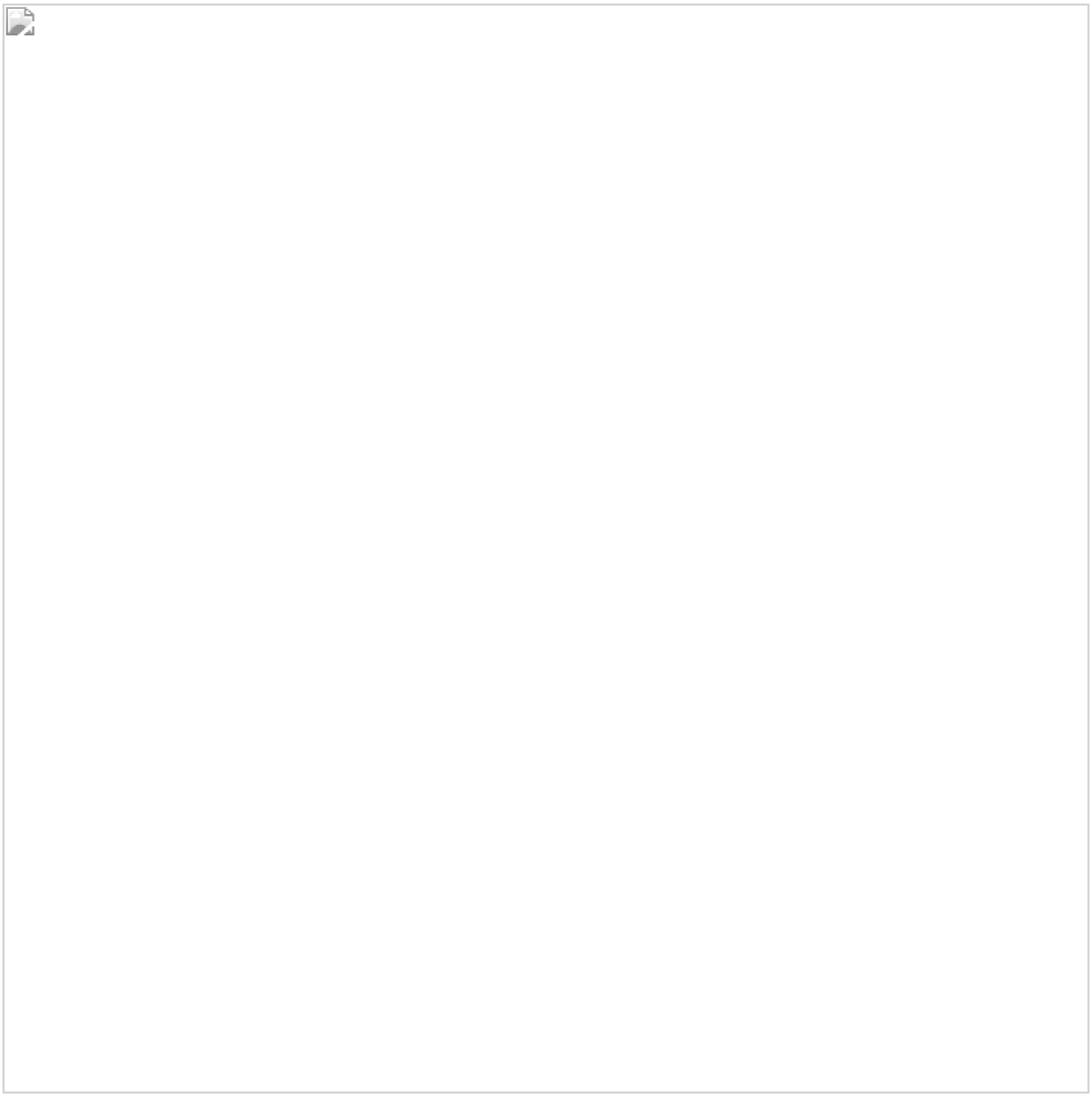
An old robber woman wanted to keep her, but the old woman's little daughter bit her mother's ear. "She must play with me!" said the little robber girl. "She must give me her muff and her pretty frock, and sleep with me in my bed!"

TALK ABOUT IT

The robber girl was wild and bossy. What would you do if she grabbed your hand?



In the Robbers' Castle



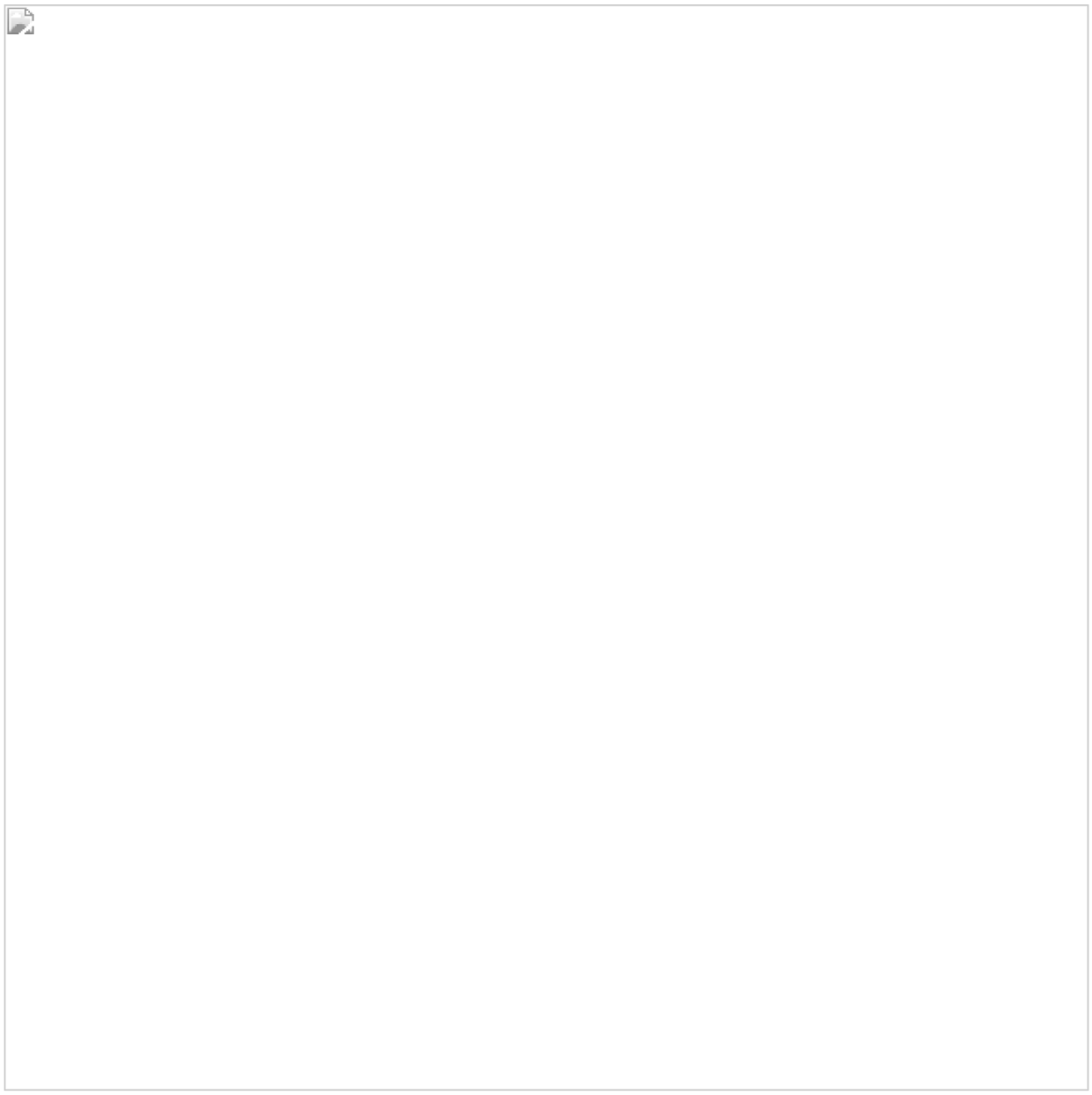
In the courtyard of a robbers' castle the little robber girl took Gerda inside. "I always sleep with a knife," said the little robber girl. Gerda told her story again, but she could not sleep.

Then the wood-pigeons in their cage suddenly cried, "Coo! Coo! we have seen little Kay!" They said the Snow Queen had driven by with him in her sledge, bound for Lapland, where there is always snow and ice. The reindeer who stood tied there said that was true.

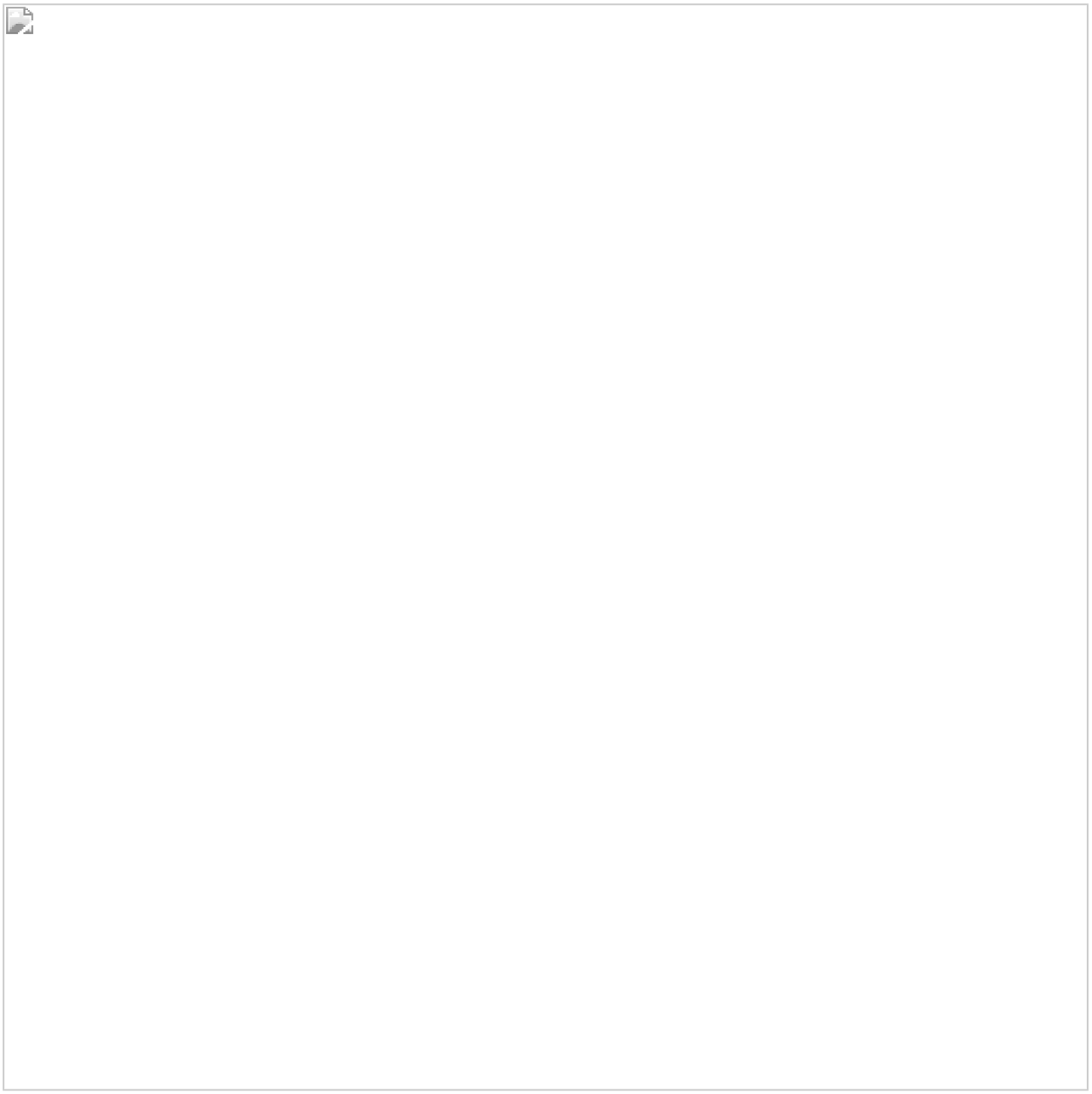
TALK ABOUT IT

Gerda could not sleep. What helps you fall asleep when you are worried?

In the Robbers' Castle · another picture



The Reindeer Ride

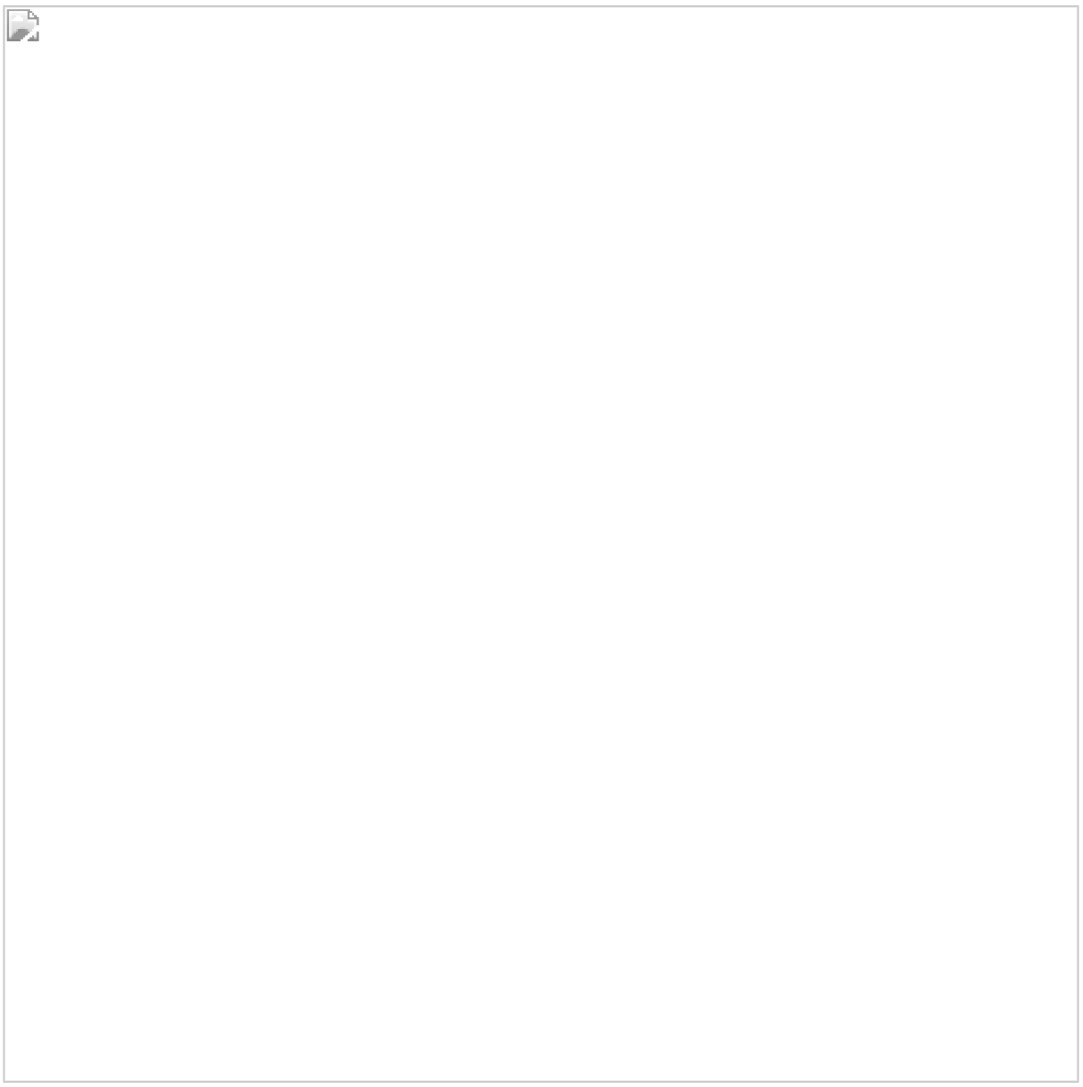


In the morning the little robber girl took pity. She lifted Gerda on the reindeer's back and tied her fast, with a cushion to sit on. She gave her warm boots and her mother's large gloves.

Then she cut the rope and said to the reindeer, "Be off! But look well after the little girl." Away they ran over forests and moors, and the Northern lights blazed above them, till they came to Lapland.

TALK ABOUT IT

The robber girl was rough, but she helped in the end. Can someone be rough and kind too?

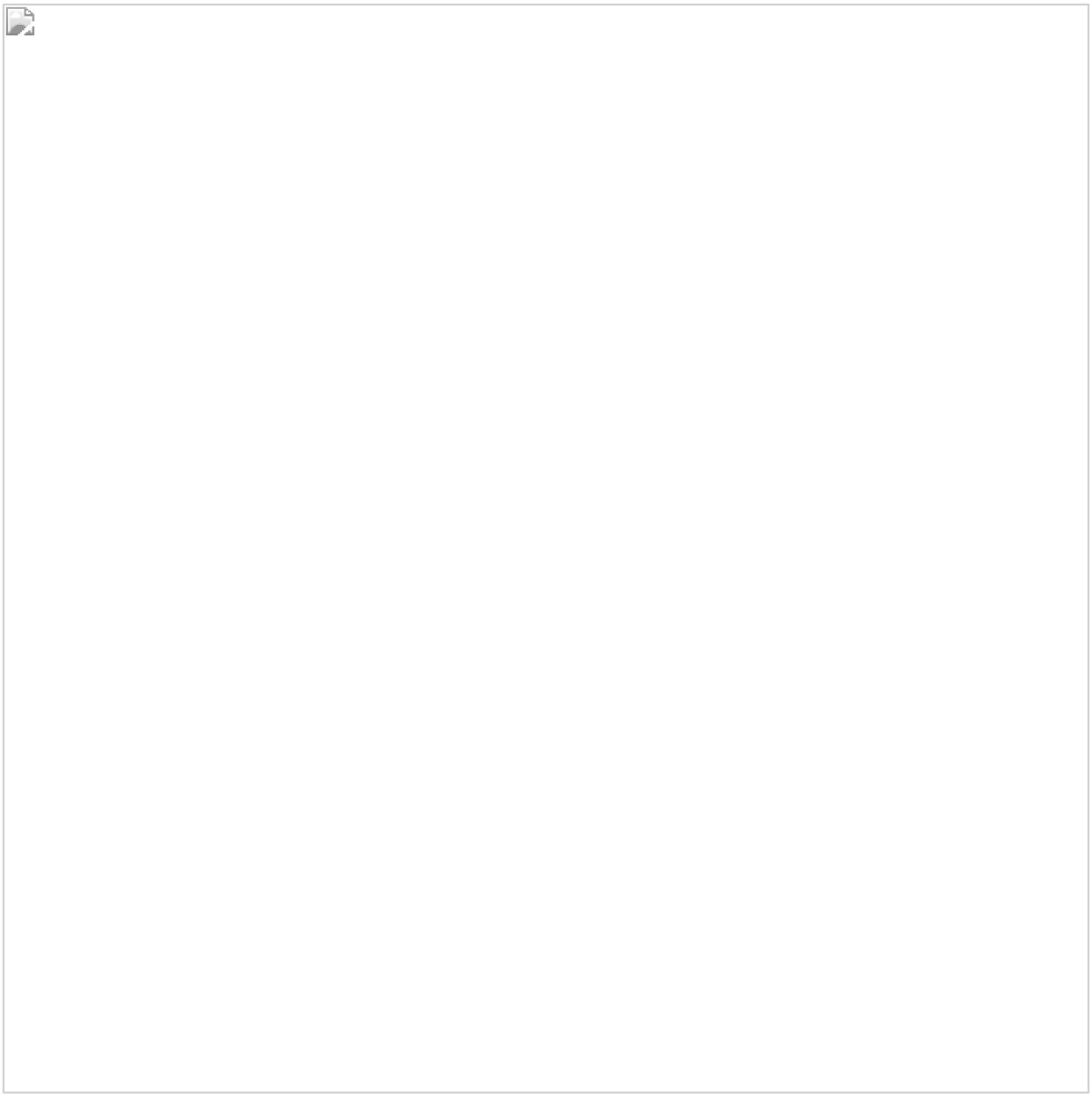


Think about it

1. What did the little robber girl say to the reindeer?

- ○ “Be off! But look well after the little girl.”
- ○ “Run to the sea!”
- ○ “Come back by morning!”

The Lapwoman and the Finwoman



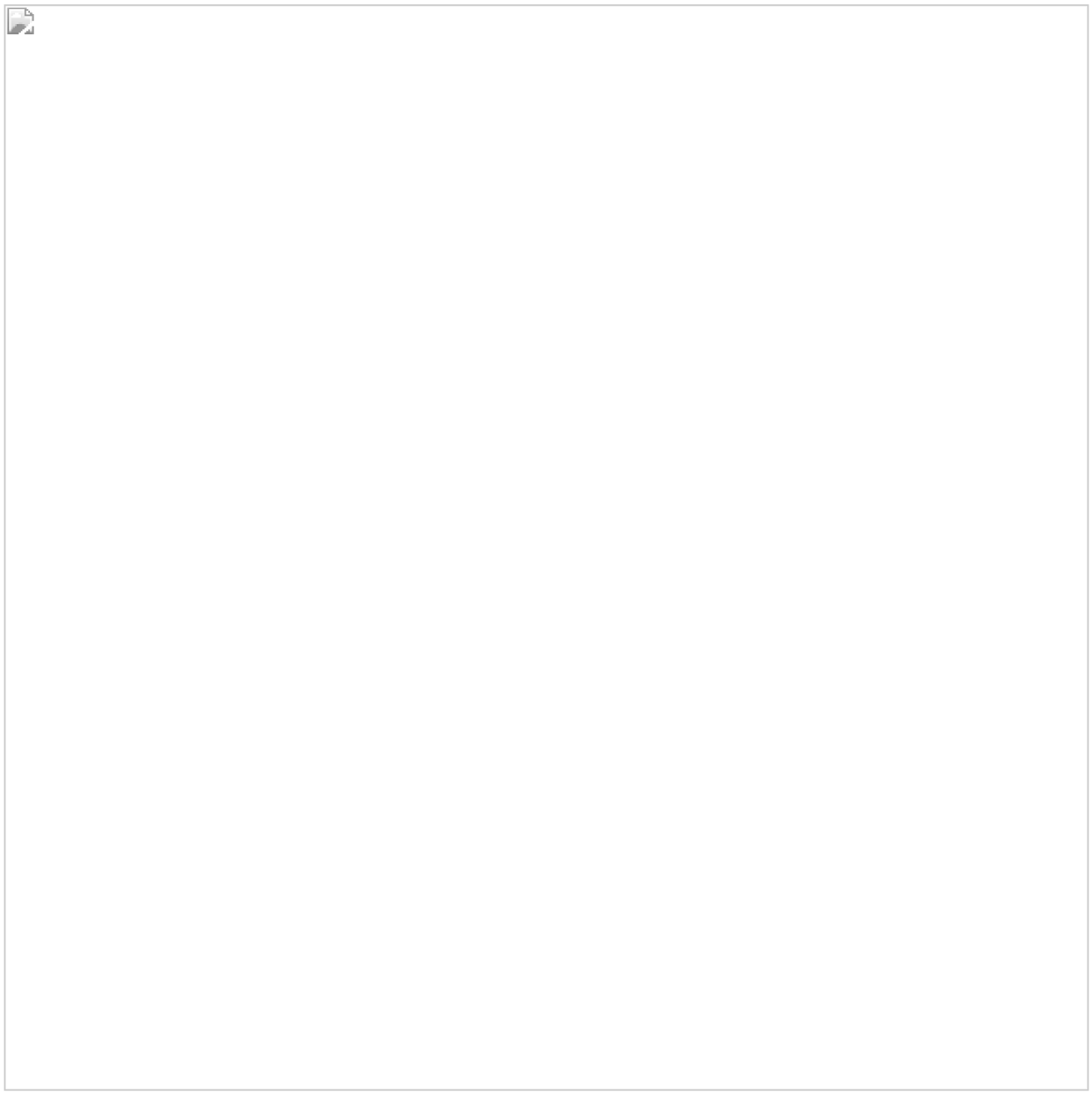
The Lapwoman wrote a few words on a dried codfish and sent them on to the Finwoman, who lived four hundred miles farther north. The Finwoman read a long roll of skin until the sweat ran down her forehead.

“Little Kay is with the Snow Queen sure enough,” she said. The reindeer begged her to give Gerda strength. “I cannot give her greater power than she already possesses,” said the Finwoman. “it consists in her being such a sweet and innocent child.”

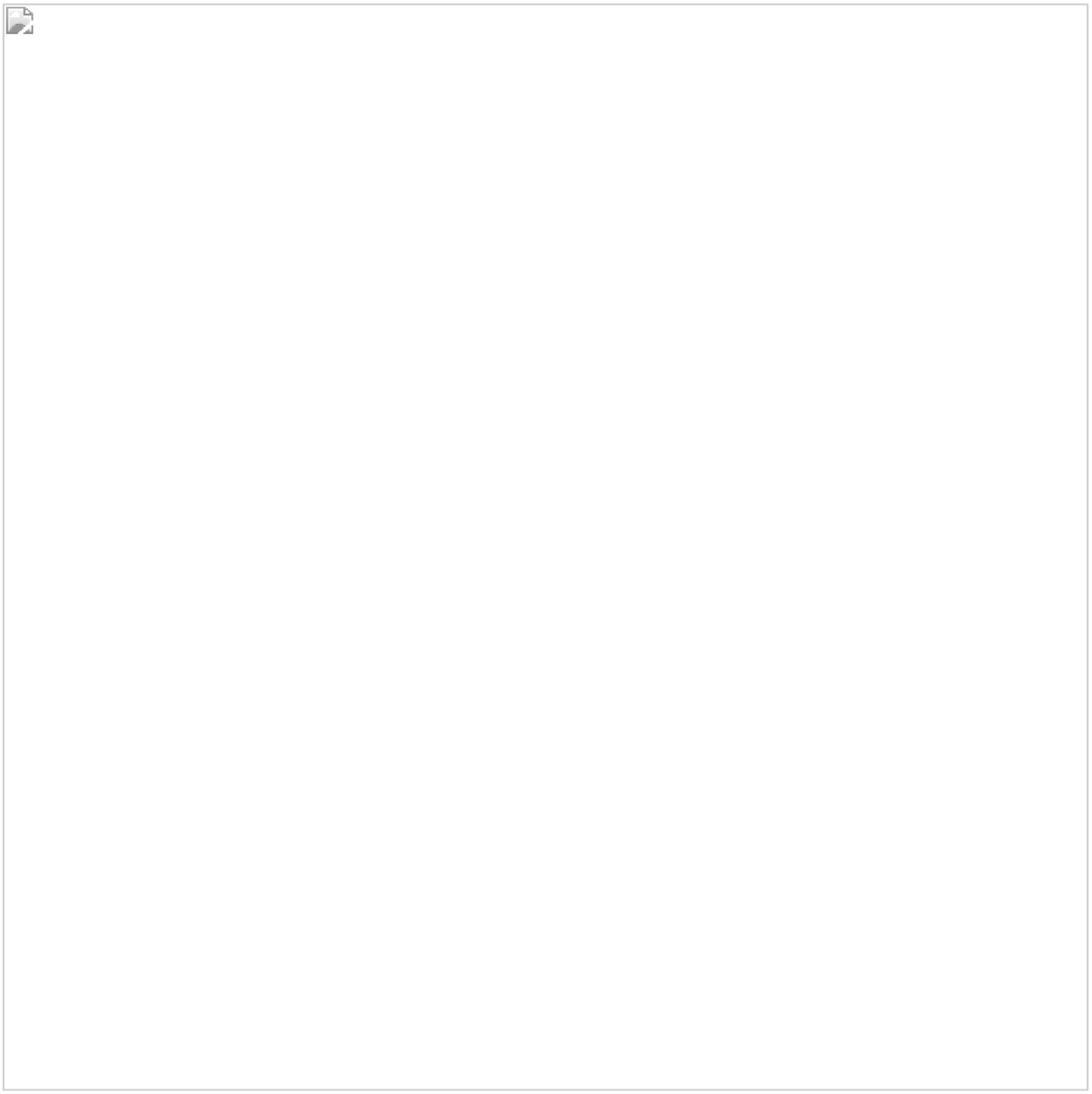
TALK ABOUT IT

The Finwoman said Gerda’s power was in her heart. What do you think she meant?

The Lapwoman and the Finwoman · another picture



Gerda and the Angels



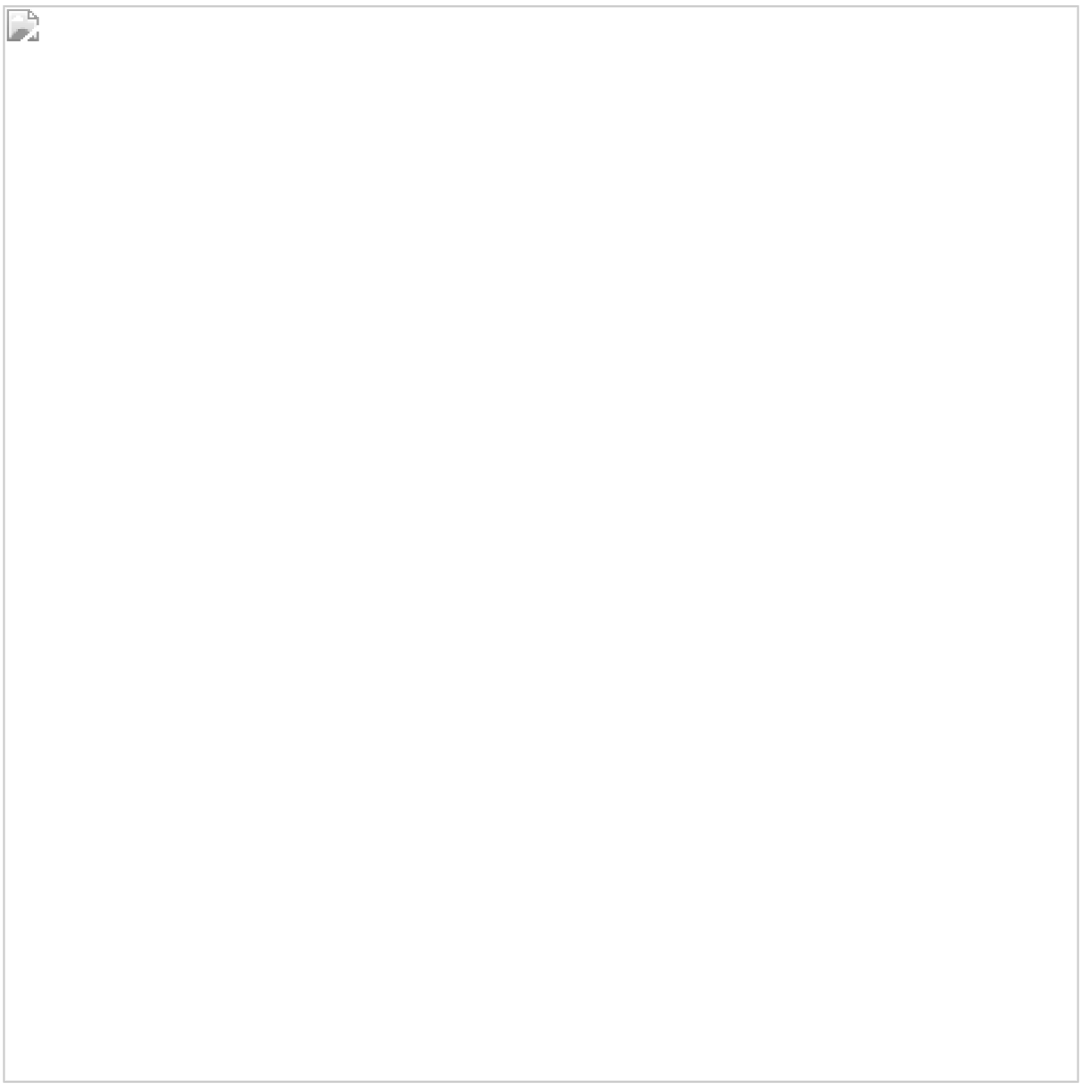
The reindeer set Gerda down by a bush full of red berries and hurried back. Gerda had no boots and no gloves, and she ran as fast as her legs could carry her.

Then a whole regiment of great snowflakes came at her. Little Gerda said the Lord's Prayer, and her breath turned into little bright angels with helmets, spears and shields. They shattered the snowflakes, and "little Gerda could then proceed safely and cheerfully on her way."

TALK ABOUT IT

Gerda was brave and she asked for help. When do you ask for help?

Gerda and the Angels · another picture

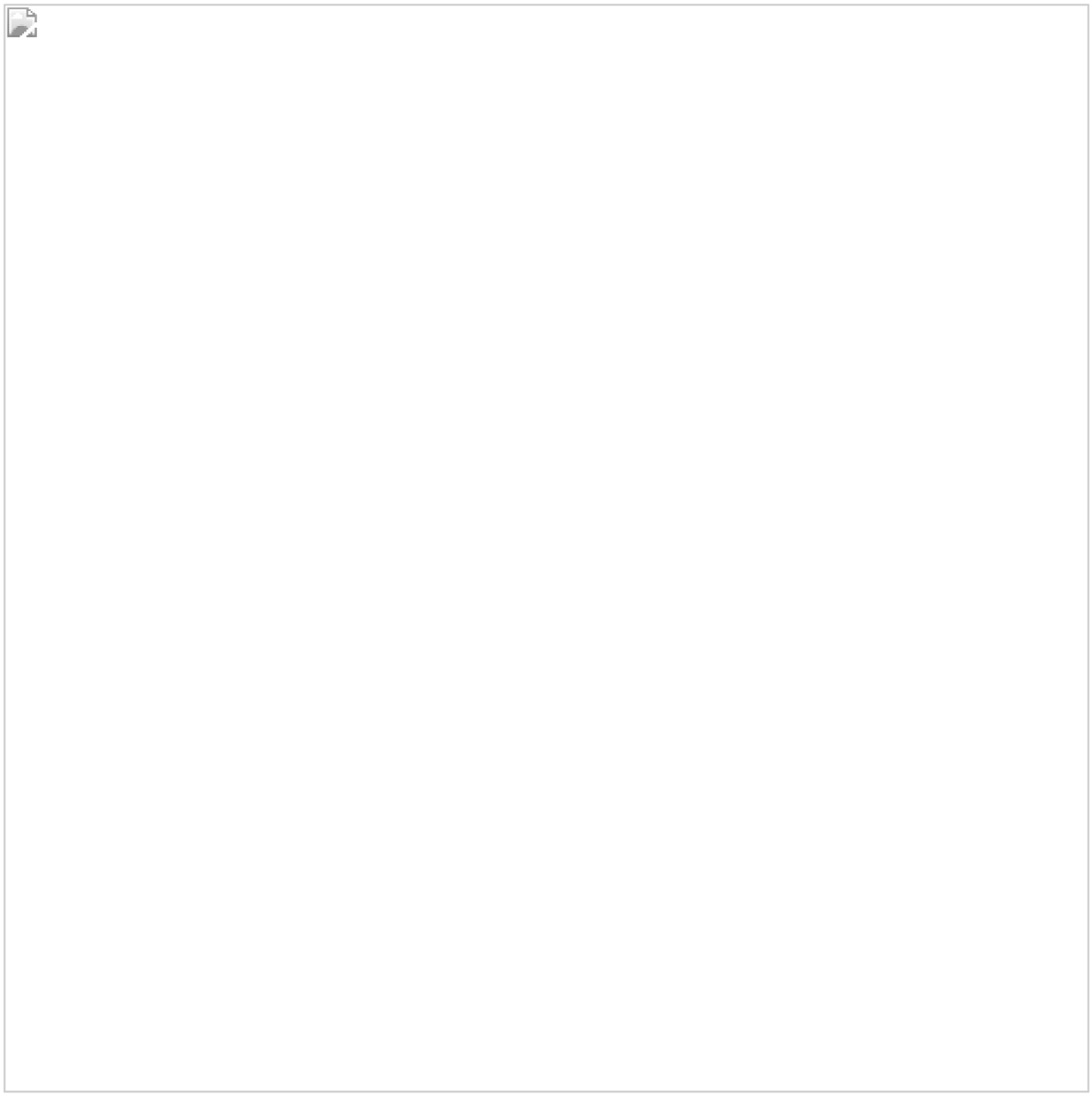


Think about it

1. What did Gerda's breath turn into?

- ○ Little bright angels
- ○ Snowmen
- ○ Birds

The Ice Palace



The Snow Queen's castle was vast and empty and icy cold. Little Kay was quite blue with cold, but he did not feel it. He was dragging flat pieces of ice into shapes, trying to spell one word: "Eternity." He never could.

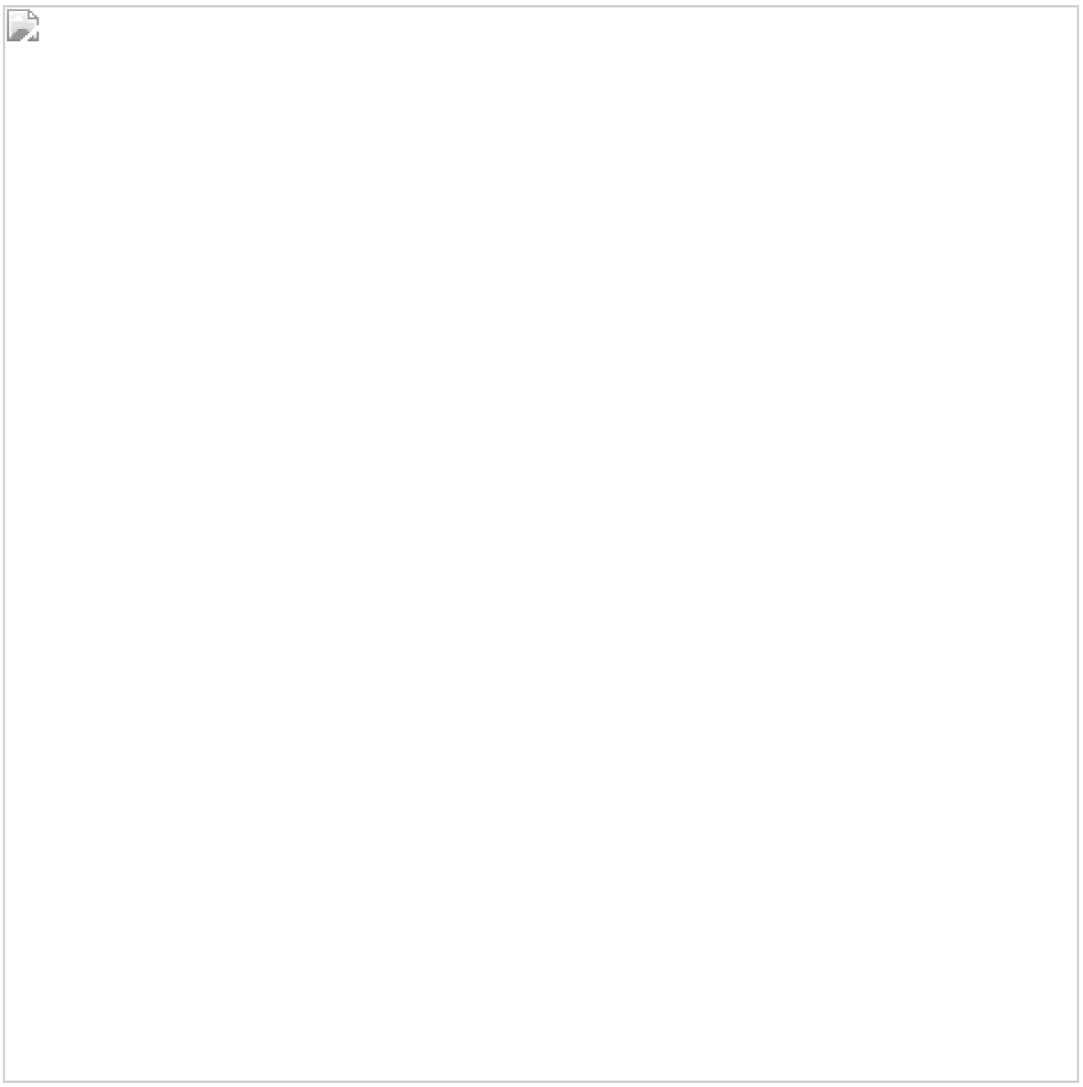
Gerda threw her arms round his neck. "Kay! dear little Kay! So I have found you at last!" she cried. But he sat stiff and cold.

Her hot tears fell on his breast and thawed the lump of ice in his heart, and the splinter rolled out of his eye. "Gerda! dear, little Gerda! Where have you been so long?" he shouted joyfully.

TALK ABOUT IT

Gerda's tears melted Kay's frozen heart. What melts a cold heart, do you think?

The Ice Palace · another picture

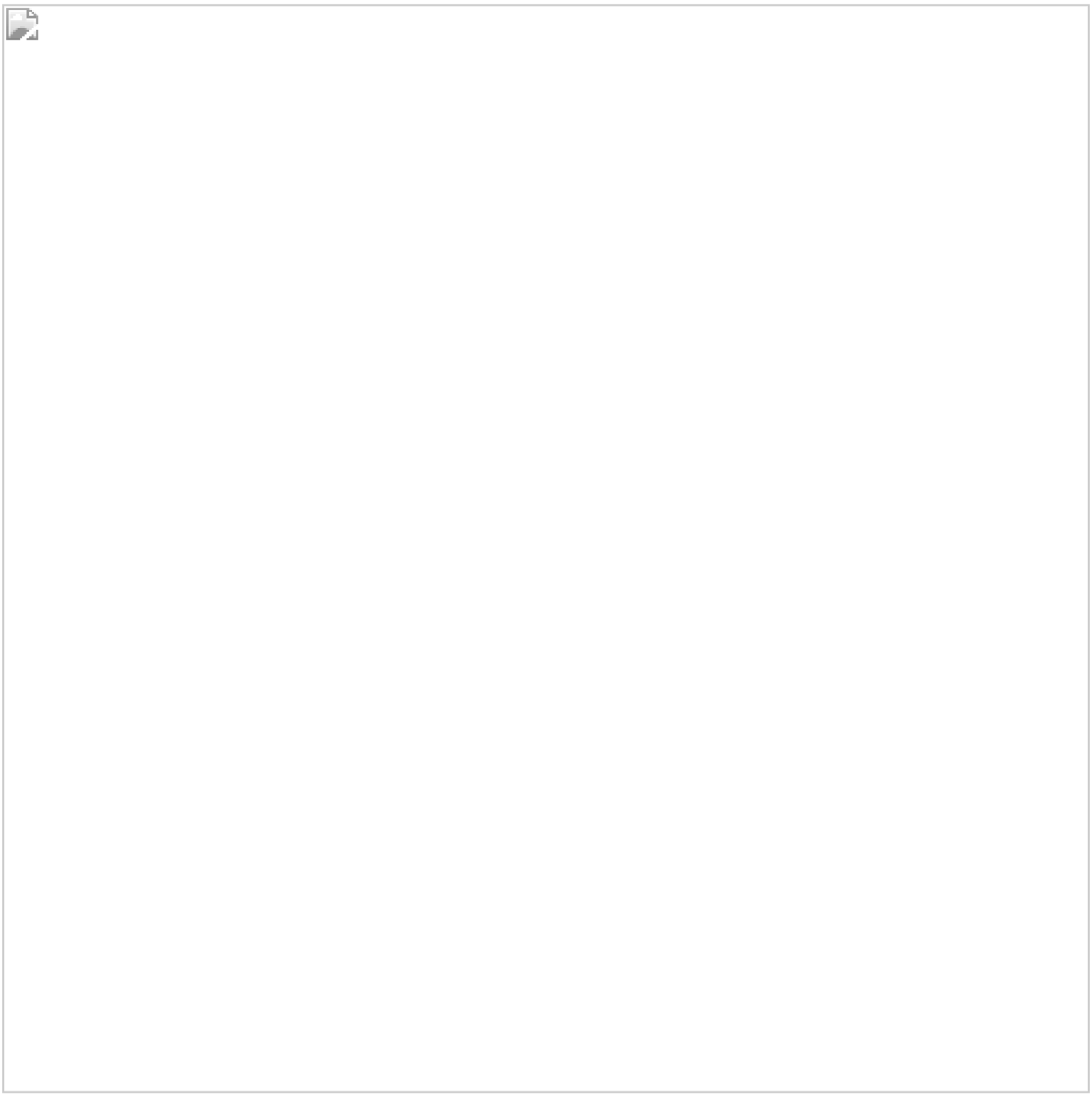


Think about it

1. What melted the ice in Kay's heart?

- ○ A warm fire
- ○ Gerda's hot tears
- ○ The sun

Home Again



The blocks of ice danced for joy and spelled the very word the Snow Queen had said Kay must find. That set him free. Gerda kissed his cheeks and their bloom came back, and the two went out hand in hand.

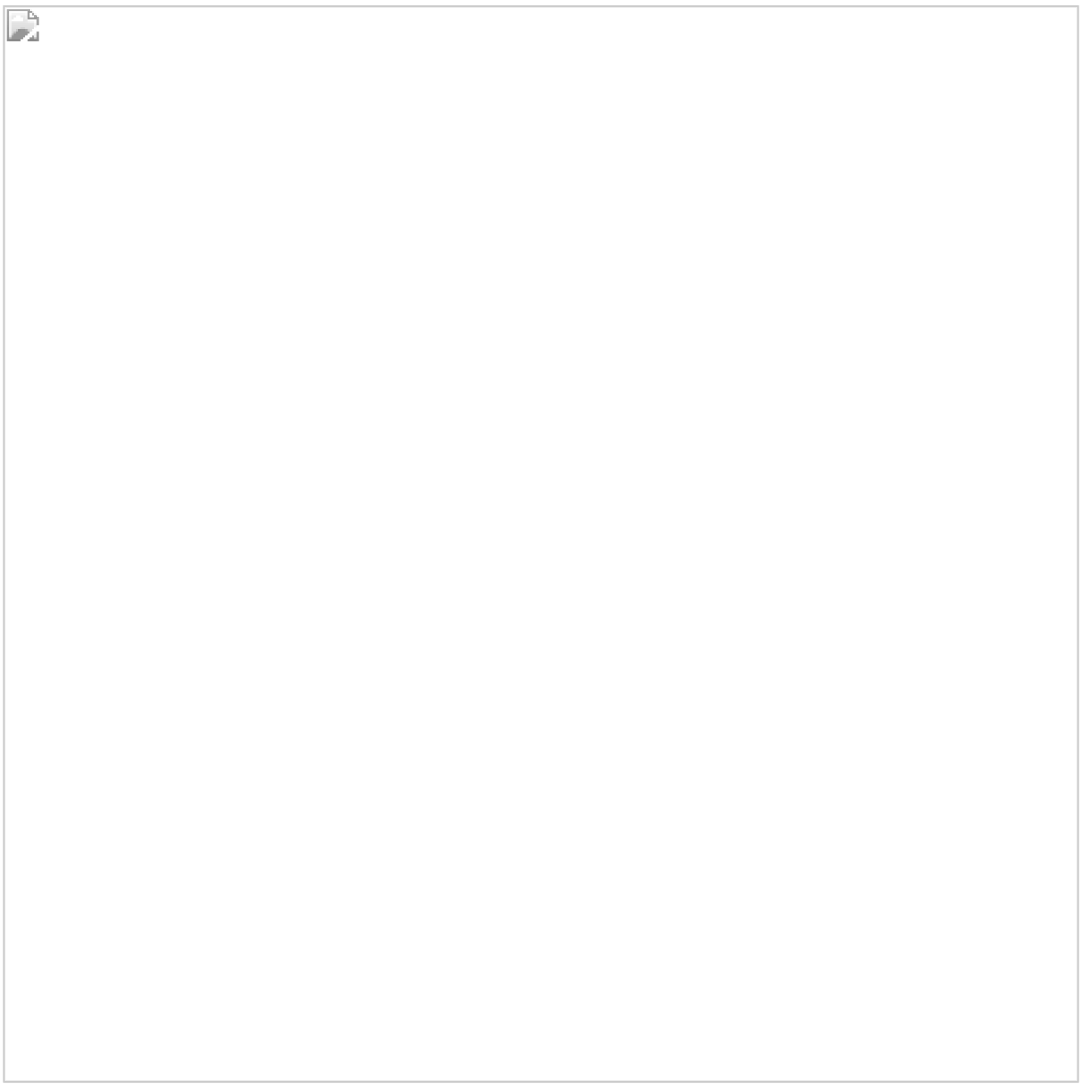
The reindeer carried them home past the Finwoman and the Lapwoman. On the road they met the little robber girl, riding off to see the world. "They have gone to foreign lands," she said of the prince and princess.

They came to their grandmother's door and found they were grown up. "There they both sat, grown up, yet children in heart, and it was summer—the warm, blessed summer."

TALK ABOUT IT

Kay and Gerda came home grown up but still children in heart. What does that mean to you?

Home Again · another picture



Think about it

1. How does the story end?

- ○ Kay and Gerda stay at the ice palace
- ○ Kay and Gerda are home, grown up but children in heart
- ○ Gerda goes off alone

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

— Yeshua HaMashiach

Free to read, color, and print in the Book Library

Made with love by Love is a Habit