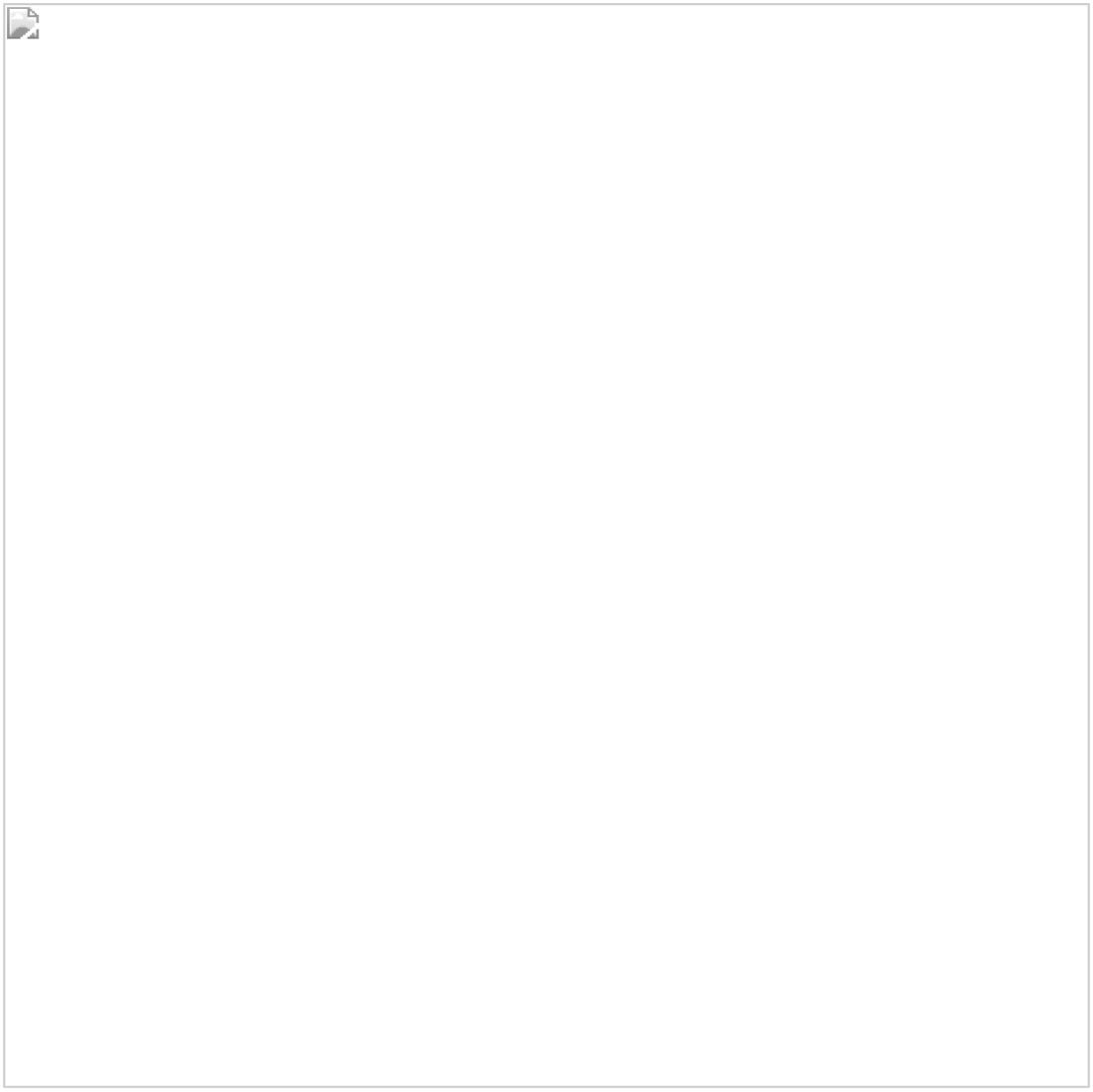
COLORING THE CLASSICS

The Story of Atalanta

A Myth of Greece and Rome



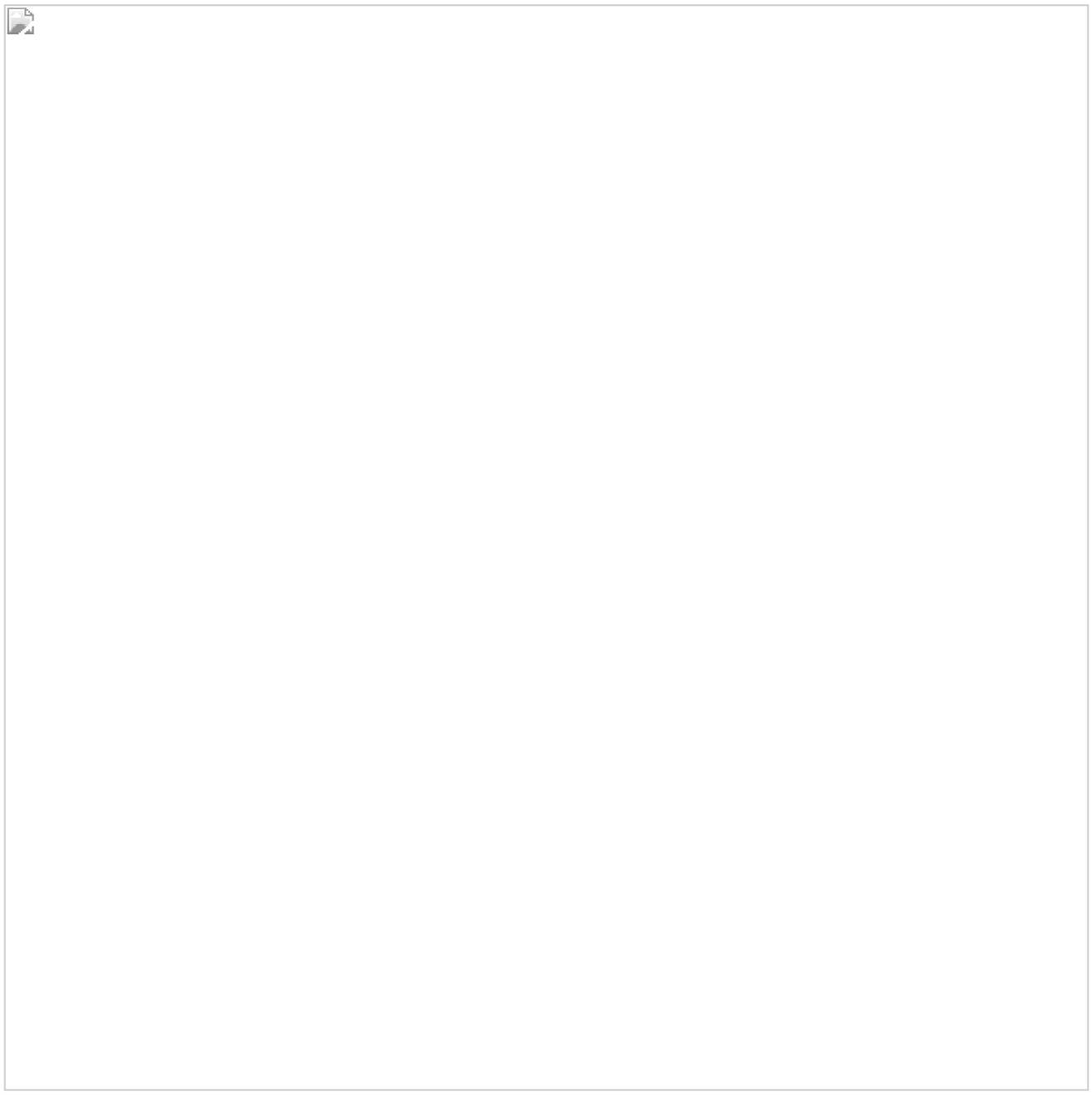
Long ago there was a young woman named Atalanta, who loved the woods and the chase and could run faster than anyone.

TALK ABOUT IT

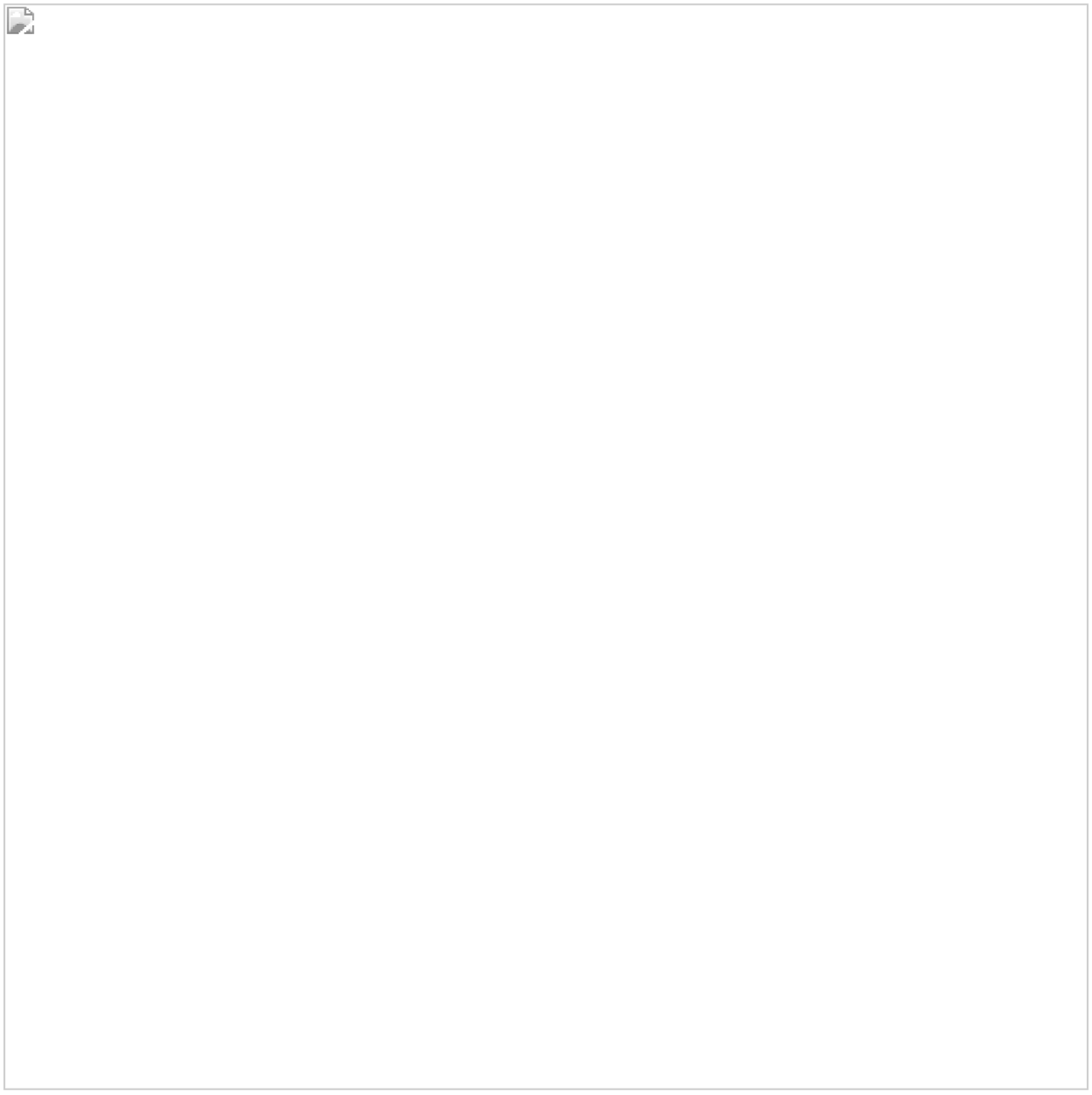
Atalanta could run faster than anyone. What is something you love to do so much that you could do it all day?

This book belongs to _____

The Story of Atalanta · another picture



The Swift Huntress



Atalanta spent her days among the trees, hunting.

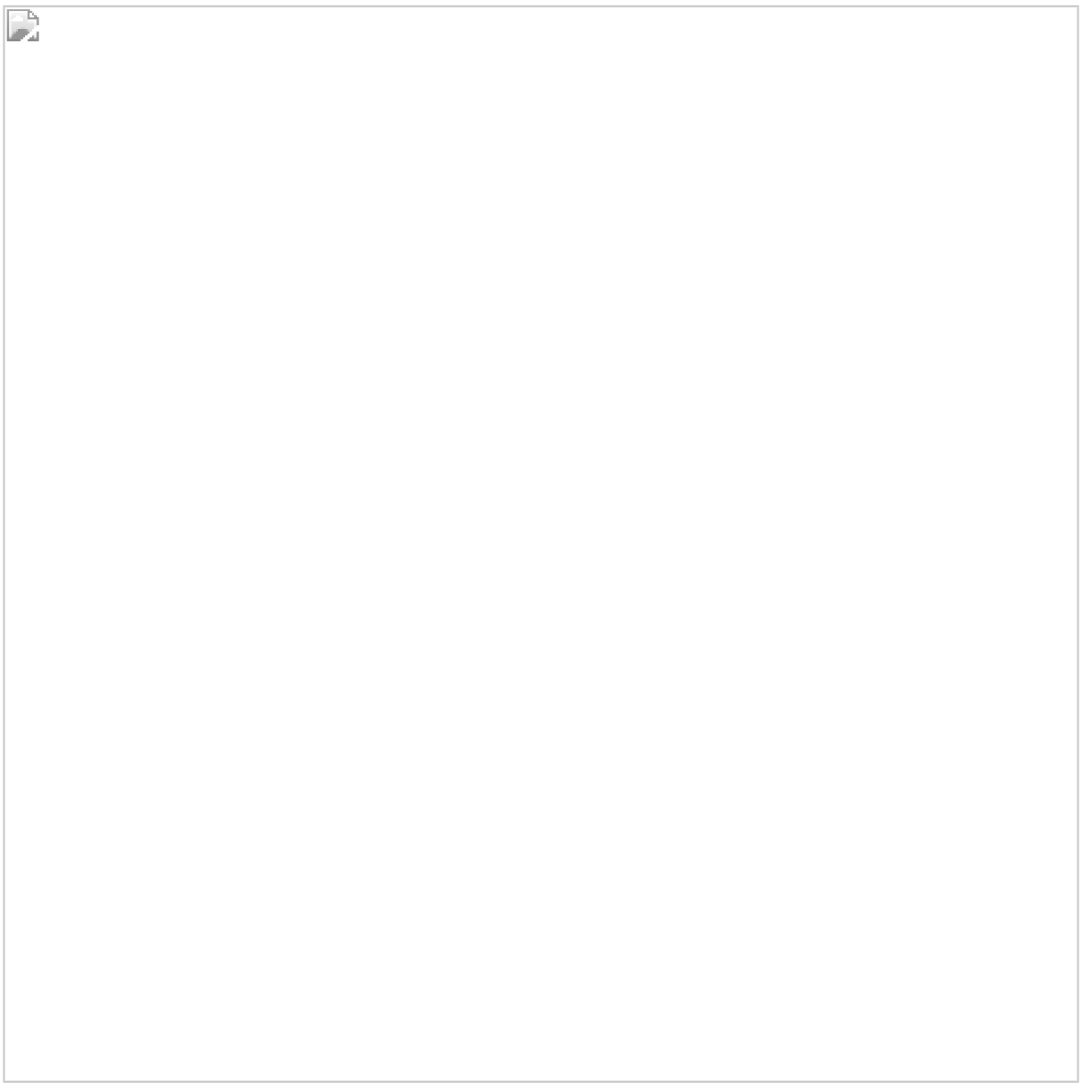
Someone had told Atalanta her fortune. It said, “Atalanta, do not marry; marriage will be your ruin.”

The words frightened her. So she stayed away from other people and kept to the woods.

TALK ABOUT IT

Atalanta ran away from what she was afraid of. What do you do when something worries you?

The Swift Huntress · another picture

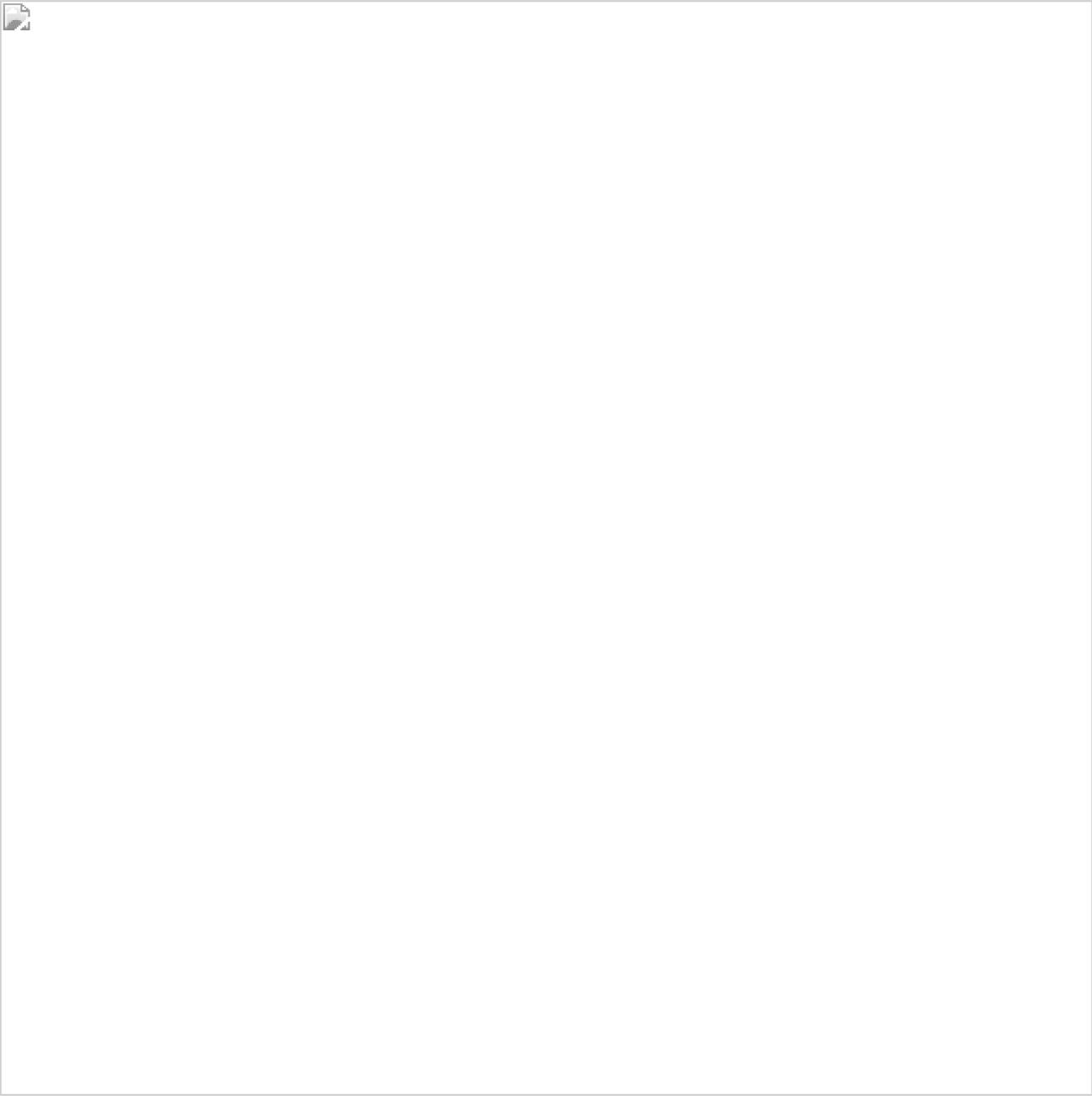


Think about it

1. What did Atalanta love to do?

- ○ Sew by the fire
- ○ Hunt and run in the woods
- ○ Sail on the sea

A Race to Win

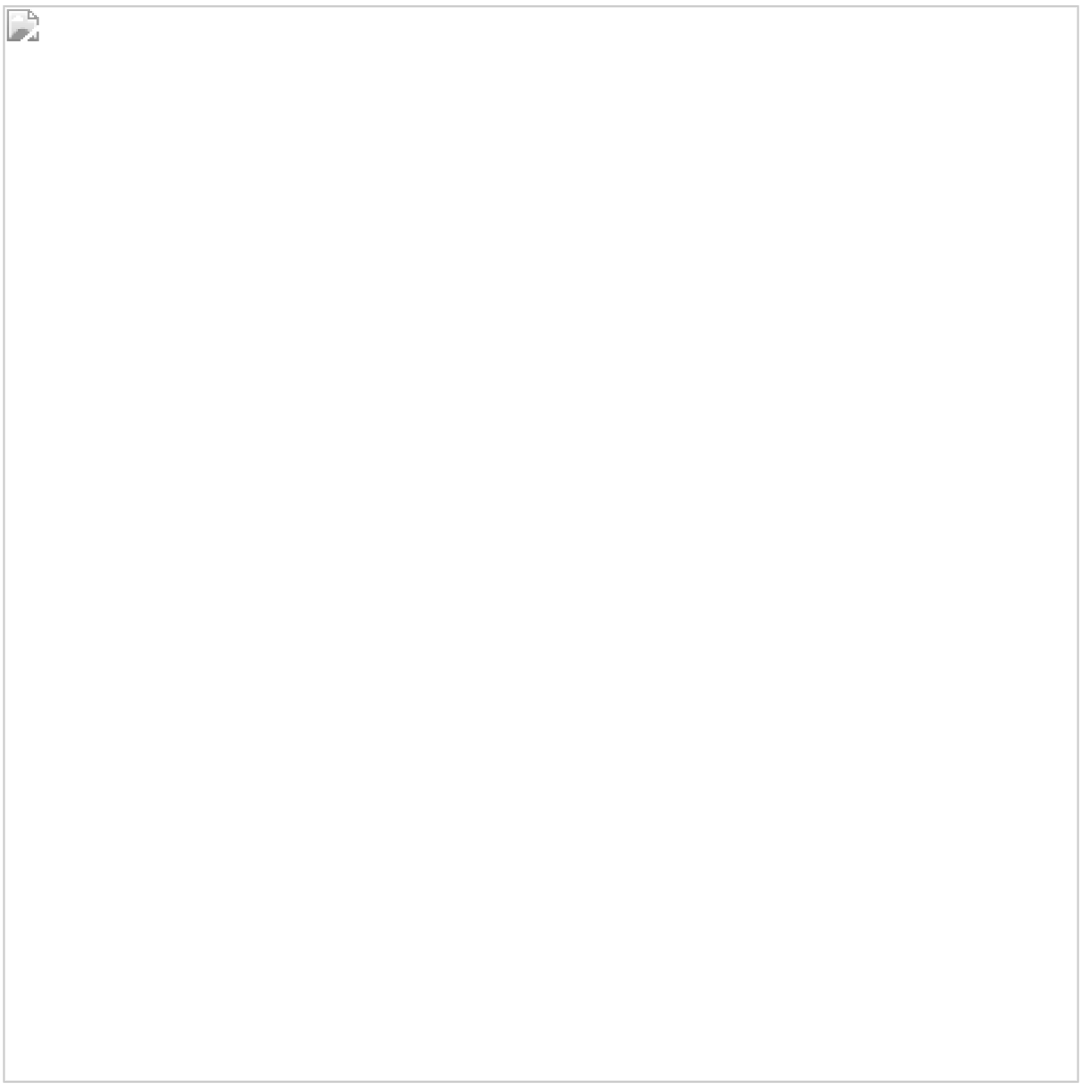


Many young men wanted to marry Atalanta, and they would not leave her alone. So she made a rule. “I will be the prize of him who shall conquer me in the race.” She was so fast that it was a hard rule to beat. Still, some young men came to try.

TALK ABOUT IT

Atalanta made a rule so she could be left in peace. Do you think it was a good rule? Why or why not?

A Race to Win · another picture

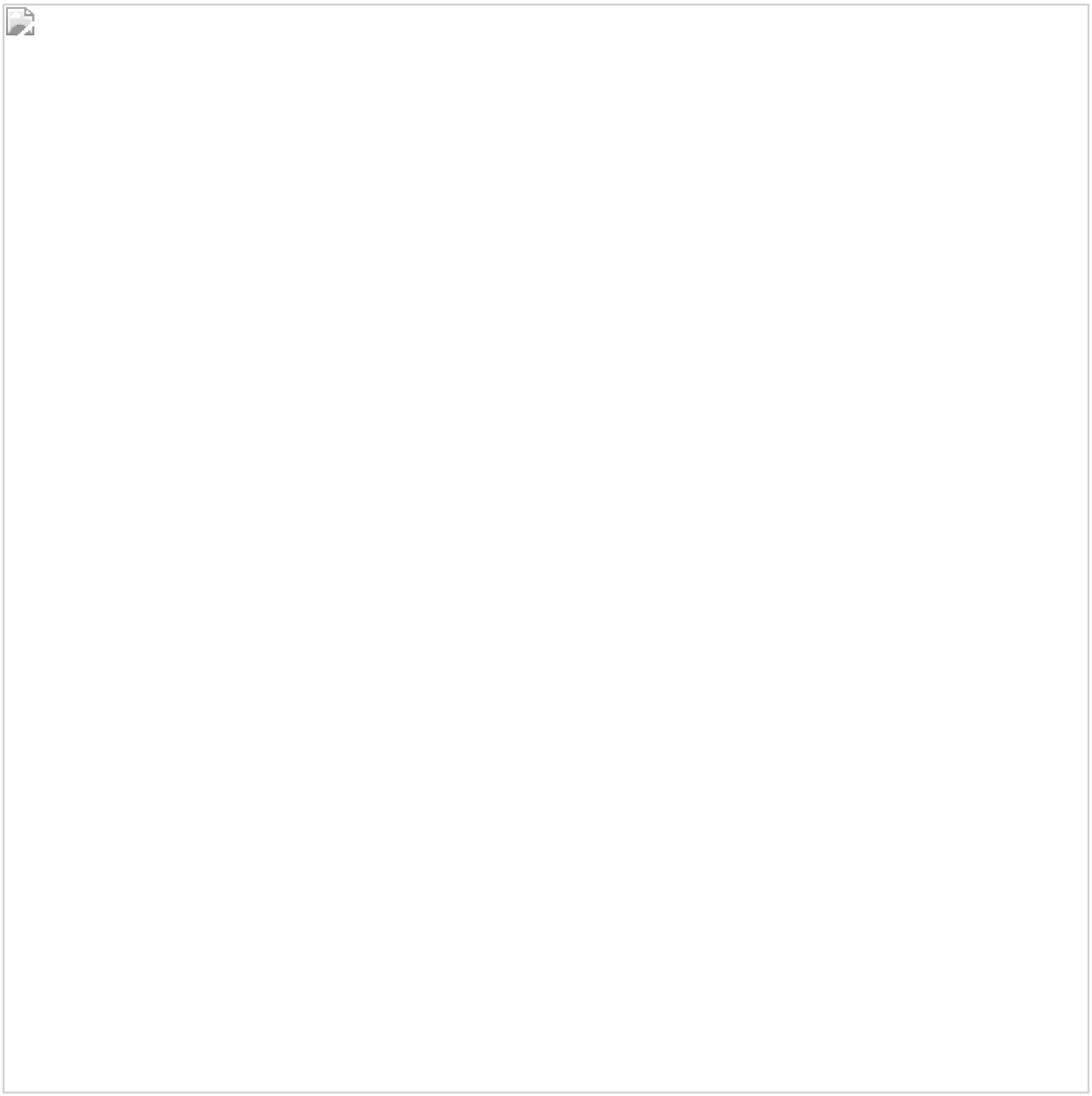


Think about it

1. How could someone win Atalanta?

- ○ By singing the best song
- ○ By beating her in a race
- ○ By bringing her gold

The Judge of the Race



A young man named Hippomenes was chosen to be the judge of the races.

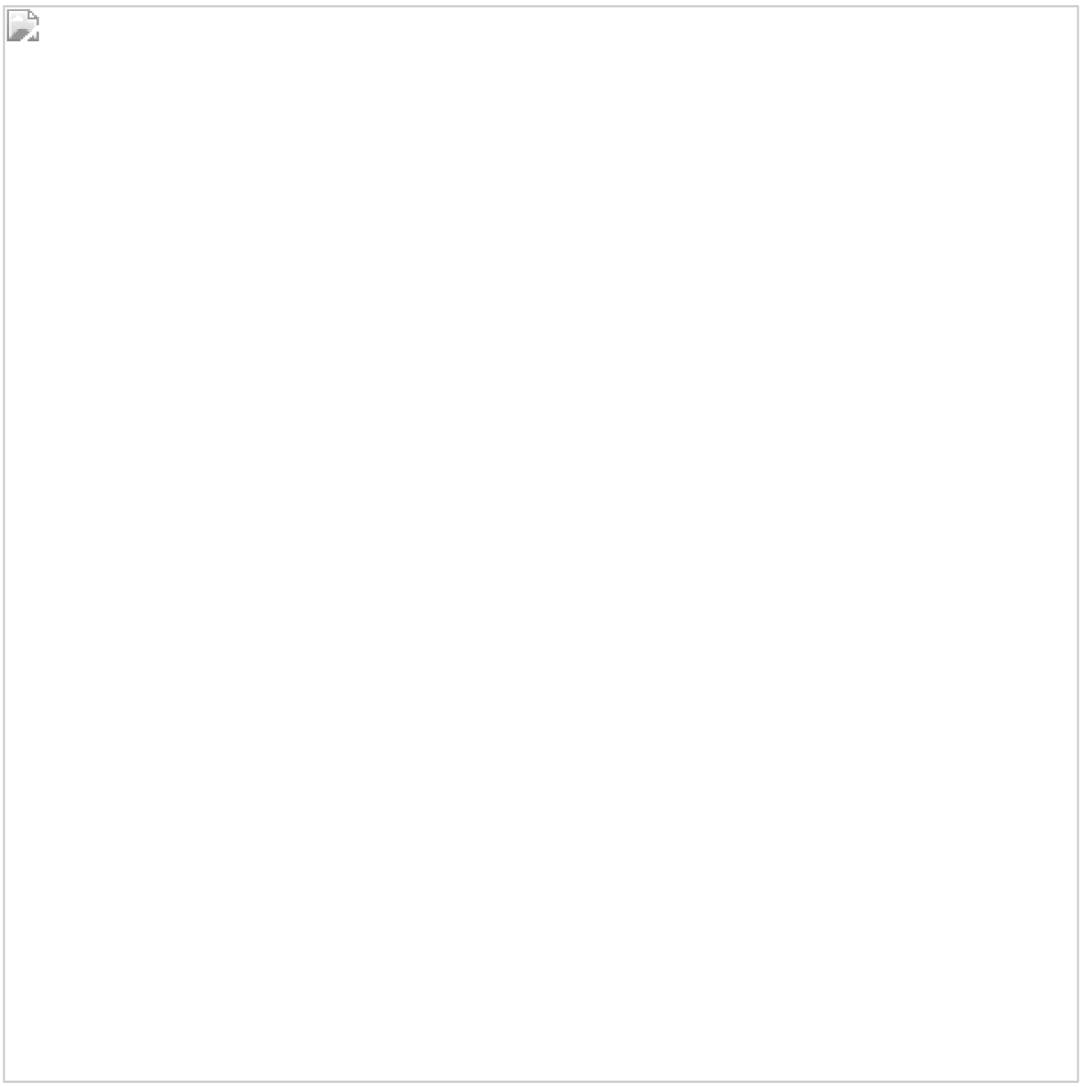
At first he wondered why anyone would try. But then he saw Atalanta get ready to run, and he said, “Pardon me, youths, I knew not the prize you were competing for.”

Then the race began. “The breezes seemed to give wings to her feet,” and her hair flew behind her. One by one, the young men fell far behind and lost.

TALK ABOUT IT

Hippomenes changed his mind when he saw Atalanta. What do you think made him change it?

The Judge of the Race · another picture

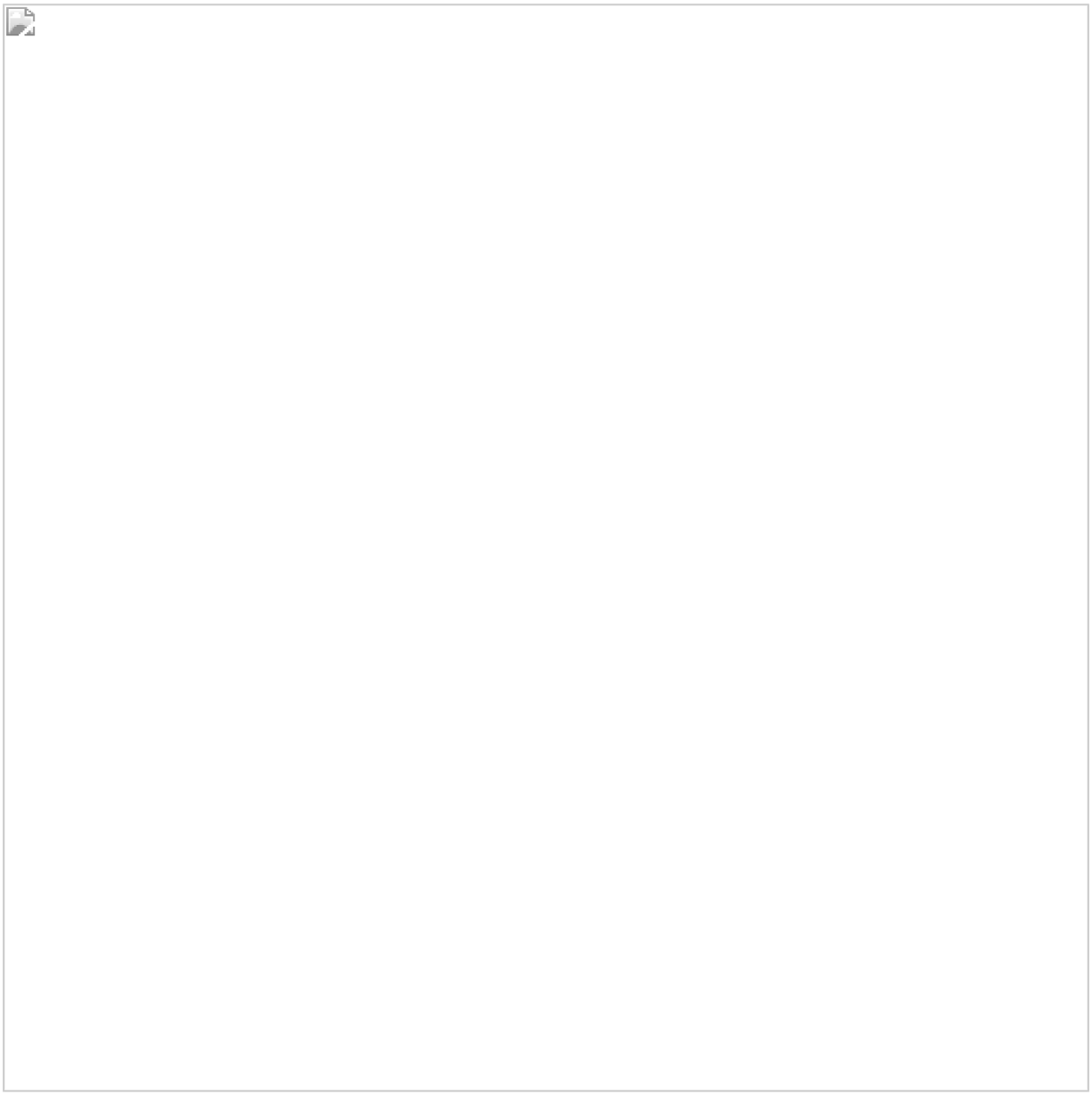


Think about it

1. What was Hippomenes asked to do at first?

- ○ Run the race
- ○ Judge the race
- ○ Feed the horses

Hippomenes Steps Forward



Hippomenes stood up. “Why boast of beating those laggards? I offer myself for the contest.”

Atalanta looked at him and hardly knew whether she would rather beat him or not. He was very young.

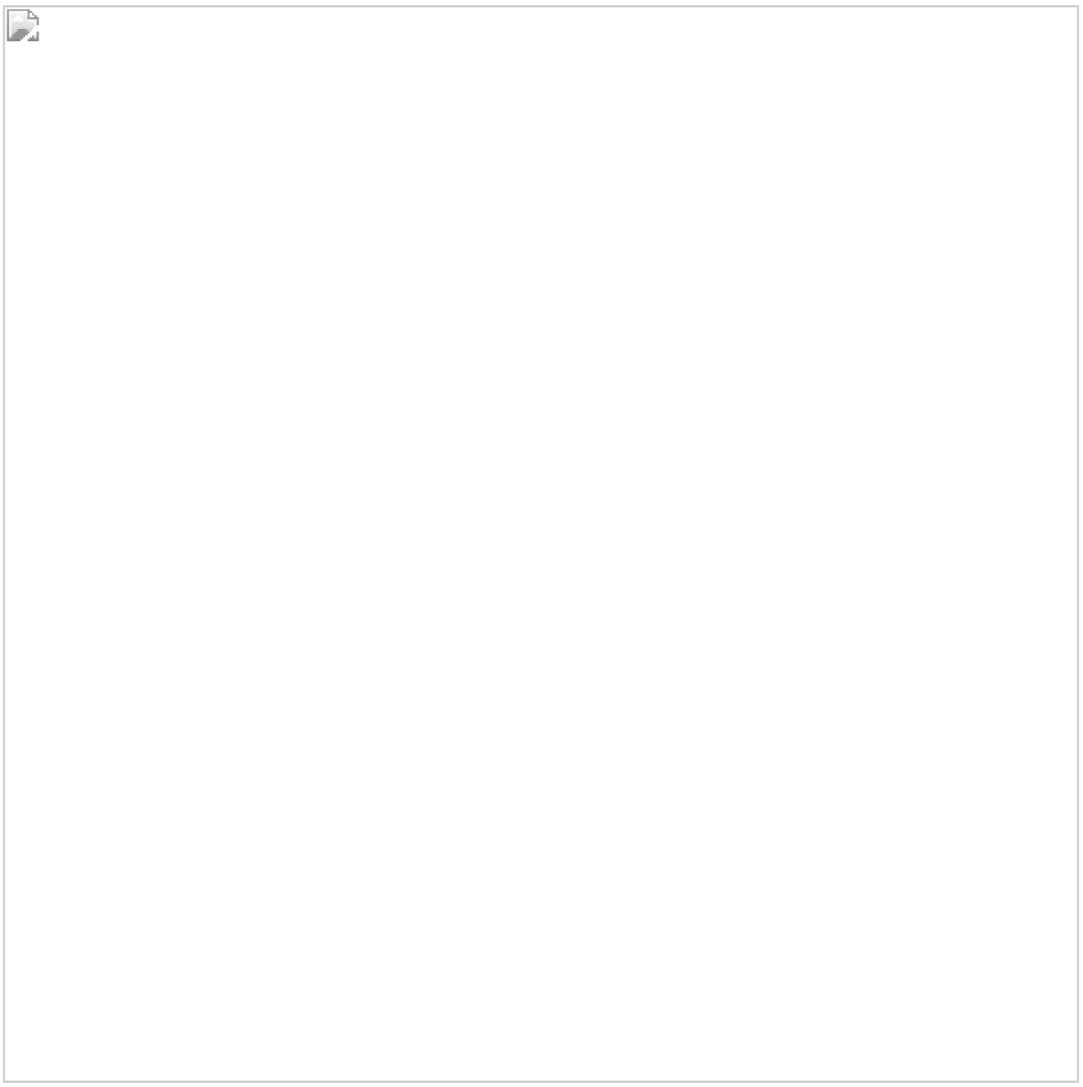
“I hope he may outrun me,” she said to herself.

But the crowd was growing restless, and her father told her to get ready.

TALK ABOUT IT

Atalanta was the fastest, and still she hoped he might win. What do you think that tells us about her?

Hippomenes Steps Forward · another picture

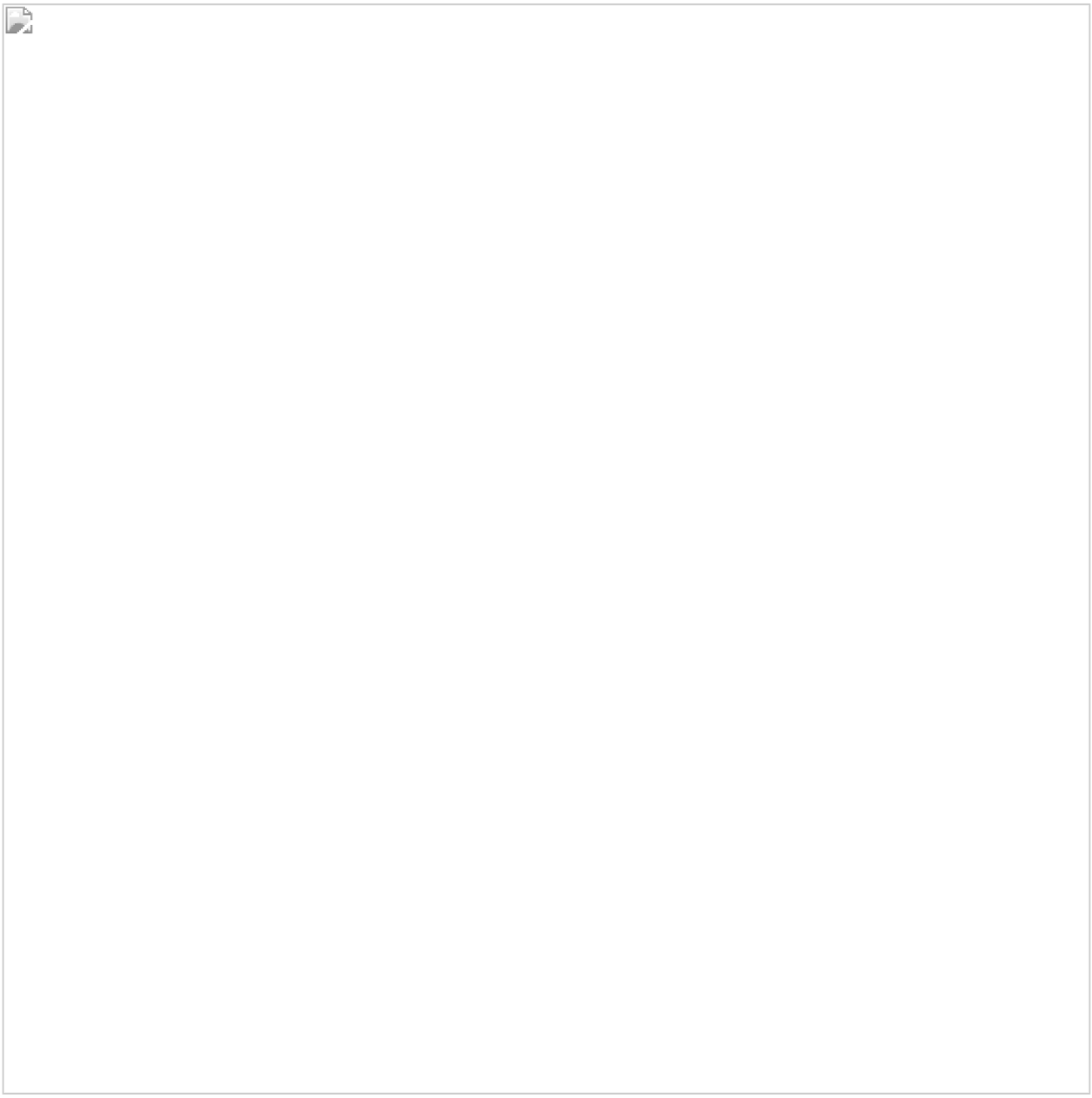


Think about it

1. What did Hippomenes say he would do?

- ○ Offer to run the race himself
- ○ Leave town
- ○ Judge a second race

A Prayer for Help

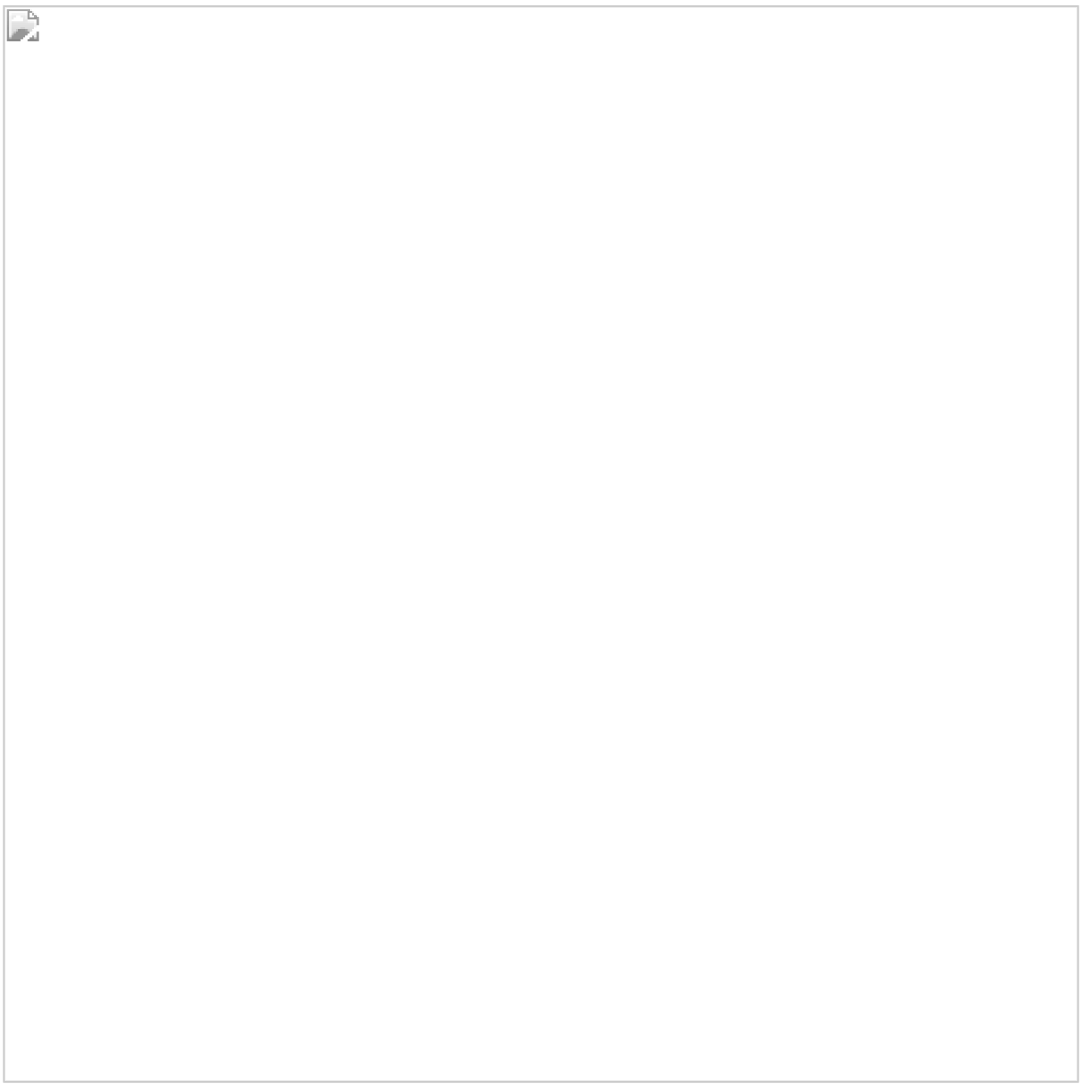


Before the race began, Hippomenes prayed to Venus, the goddess of love. “Help me, Venus, for you have led me on.”

And Venus heard him.

TALK ABOUT IT

Hippomenes asked for help instead of pretending he did not need it. When is it hard for you to ask for help?

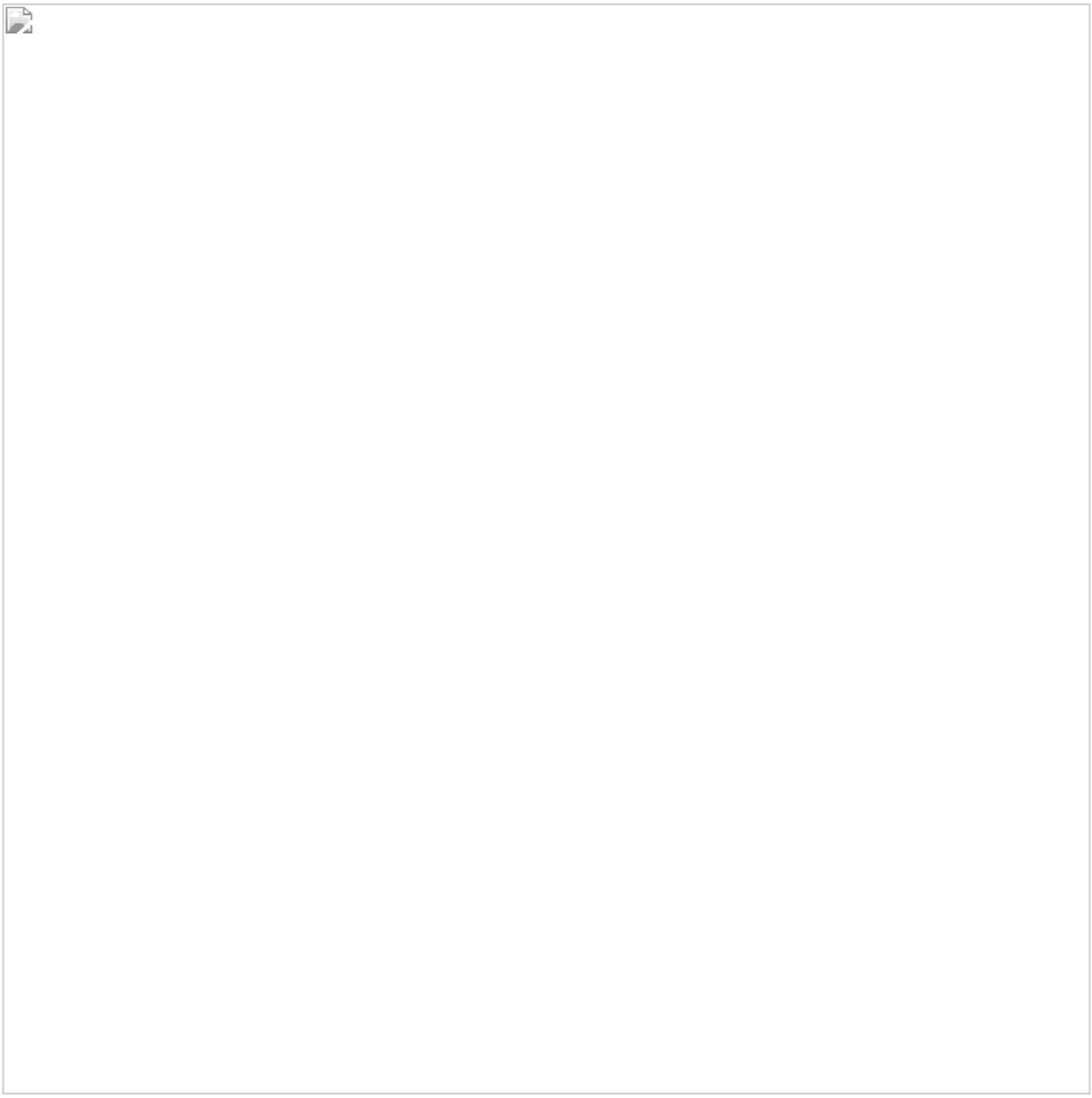


Think about it

1. Whom did Hippomenes ask for help?

- ○ Venus
- ○ His father
- ○ The crowd

Three Golden Apples



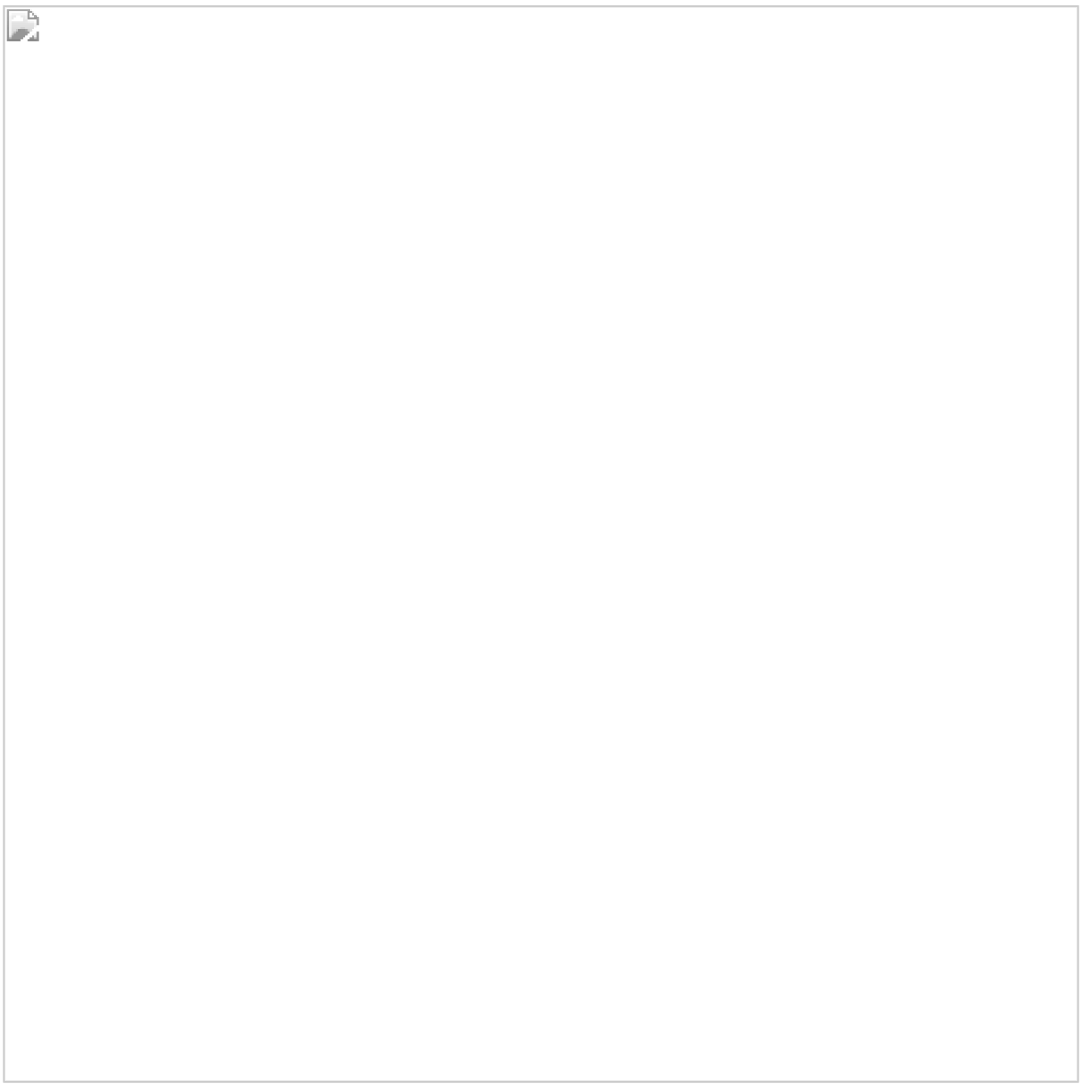
On the island of Cyprus, in the garden of Venus's own temple, there grew a tree with yellow leaves, yellow branches and golden fruit.

Venus picked three golden apples from it. Without anyone else seeing, she gave them to Hippomenes and told him how to use them.

TALK ABOUT IT

How would you use three golden apples in a race? What do you think Venus told him?

Three Golden Apples · another picture

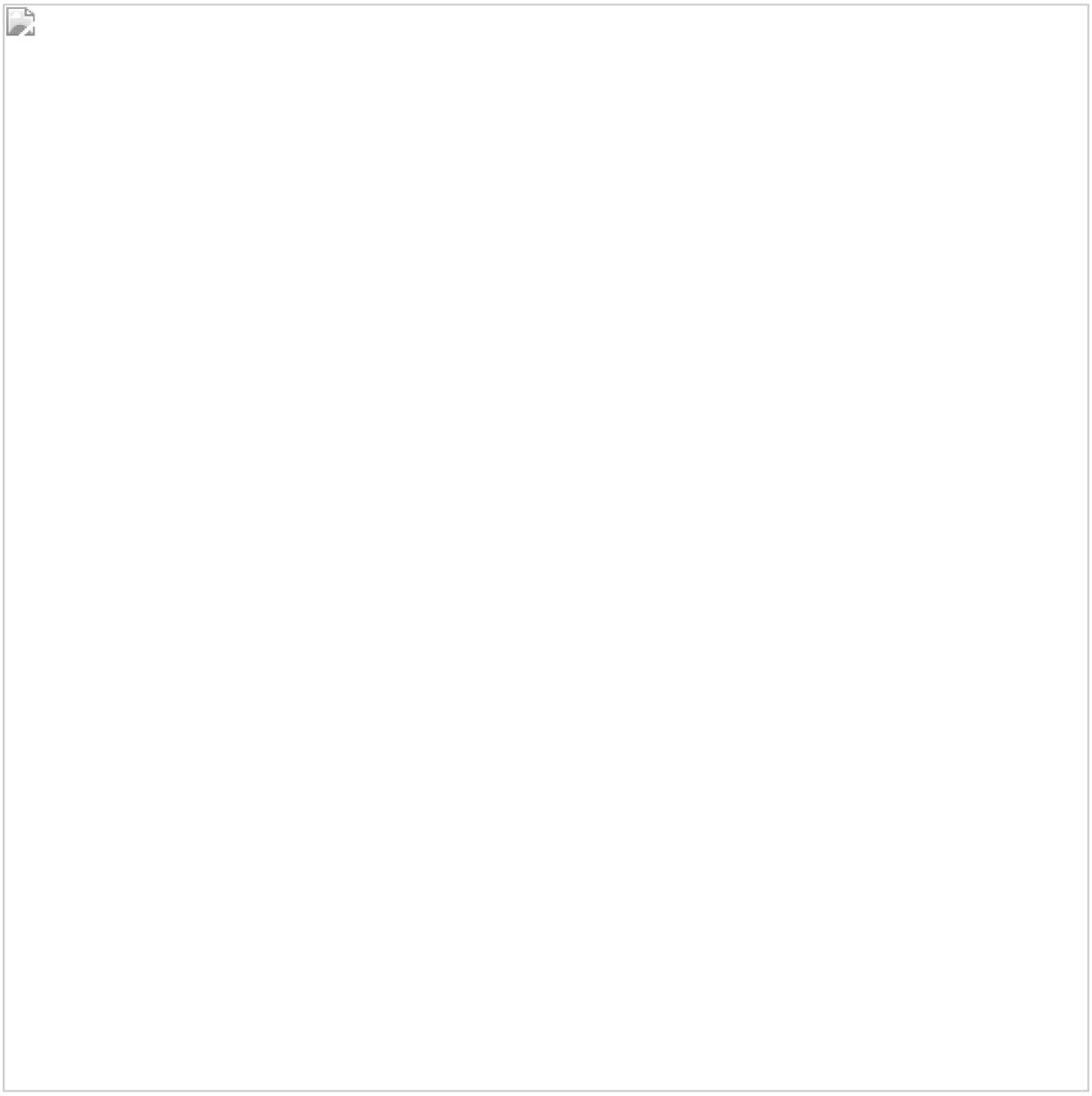


Think about it

1. How many golden apples did Venus give Hippomenes?

- ○ One
- ○ Three
- ○ Ten

The Race Begins



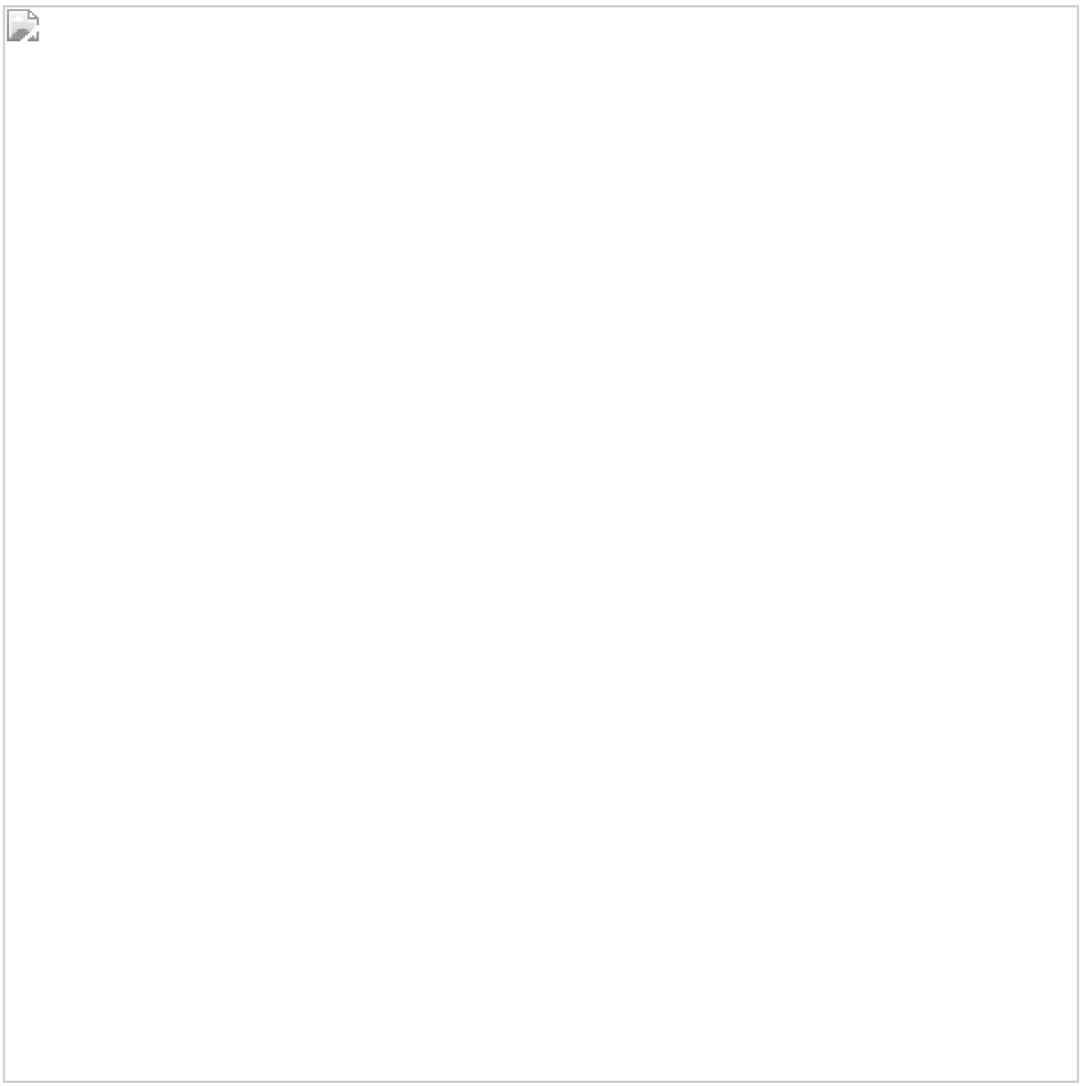
The signal was given. Atalanta and Hippomenes sprang from the starting line and skimmed over the sand. They ran so lightly that you might think they could run over the top of water, or over a field of grain without bending a stalk.

The crowd cheered for Hippomenes: “Now, now, do your best! haste, haste! you gain on her!”

But soon his breath began to fail him, his throat was dry, and the finish line was still far away.

TALK ABOUT IT

Have you ever been tired in the middle of a race or a hard job? What helped you keep going?

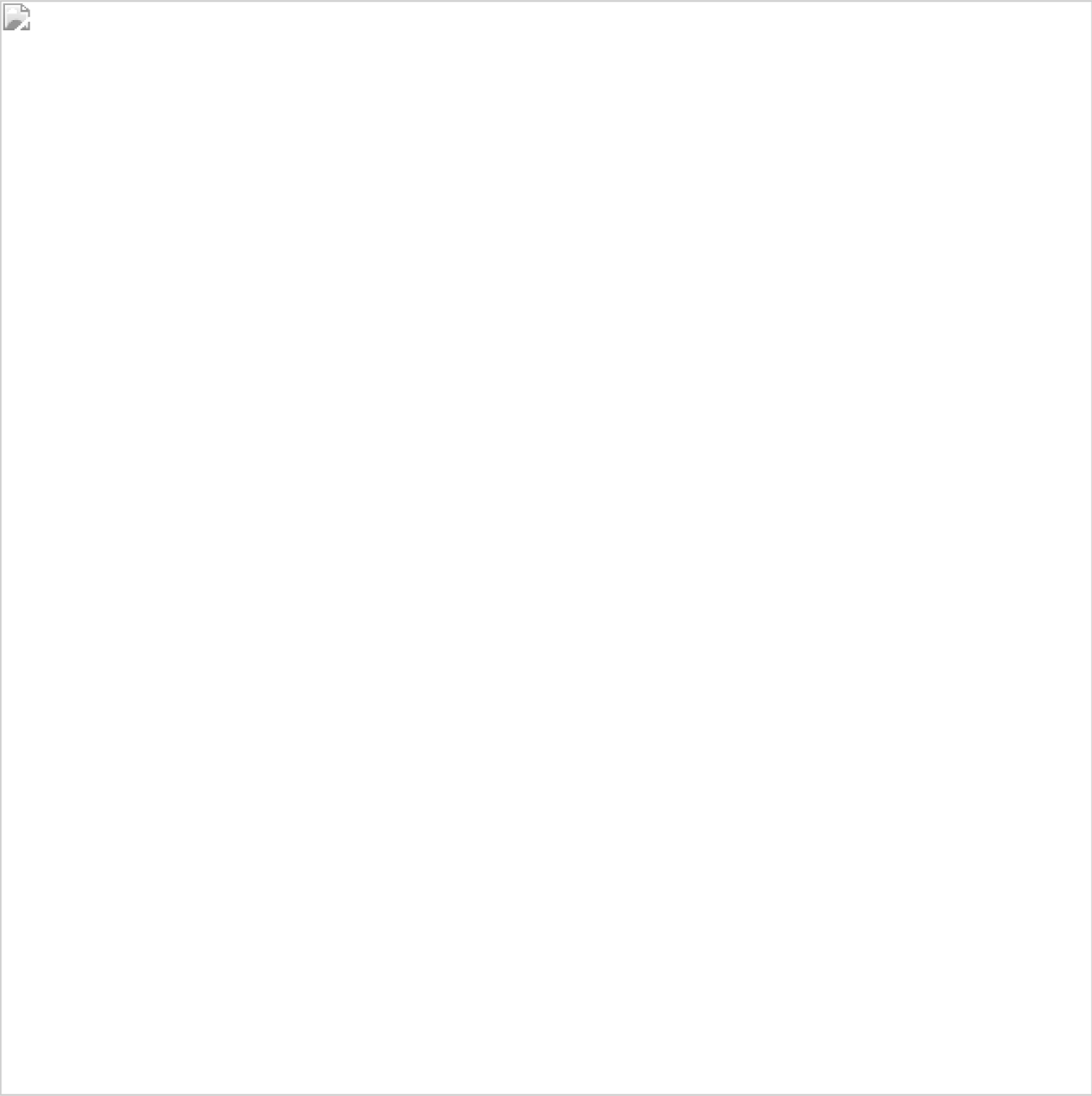


Think about it

1. What began to happen to Hippomenes as he ran?

- ○ He ran out of breath
- ○ He found a shortcut
- ○ He fell asleep

The First Apple



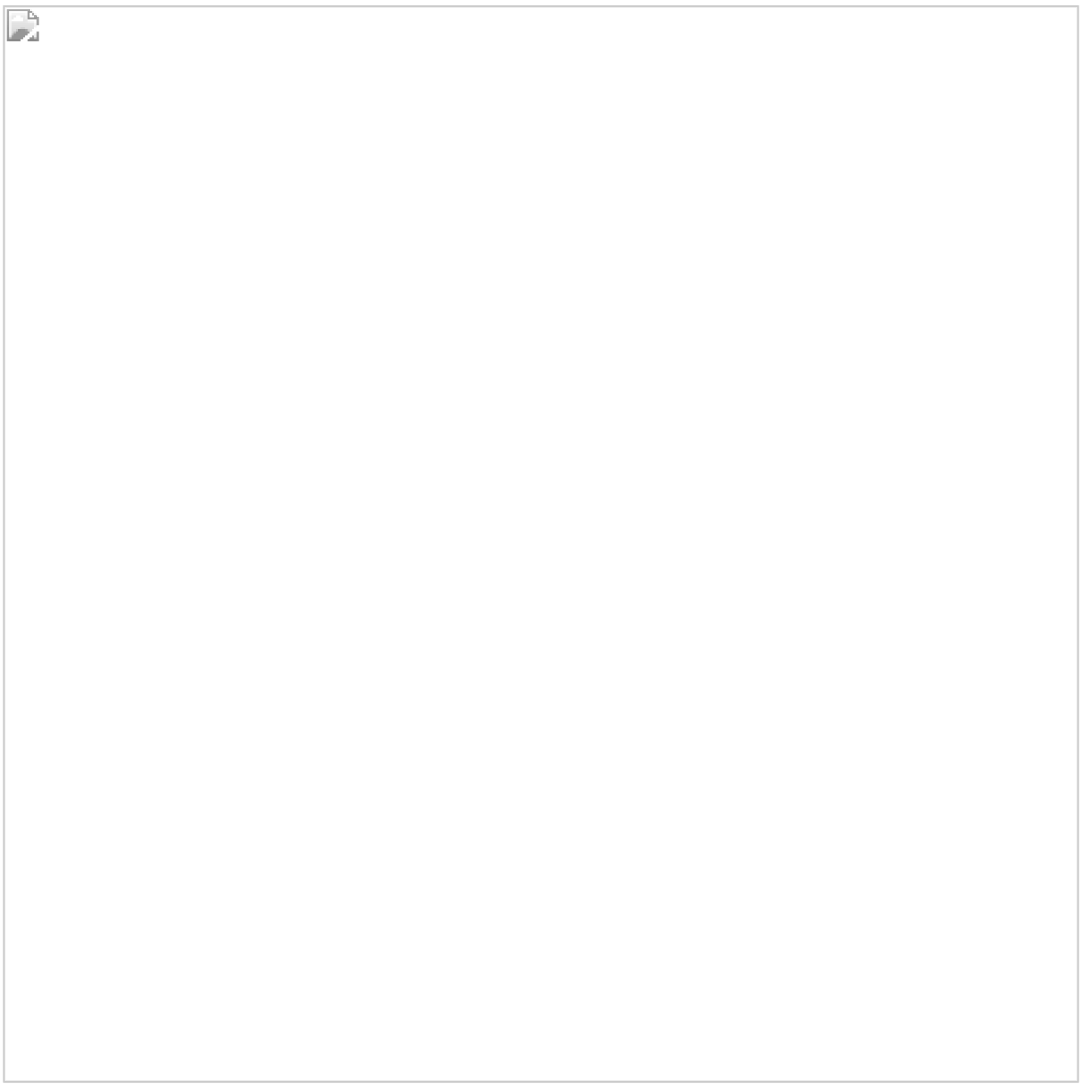
Just then Hippomenes threw down one of the golden apples.

Atalanta was amazed. She stopped to pick it up, and Hippomenes shot ahead. The crowd roared.

But Atalanta ran harder than ever, and soon she caught up with him. So he threw down the second apple. Again she stopped, and again she caught up.

TALK ABOUT IT

Why do you think Atalanta stopped for the apple, even in the middle of a race?

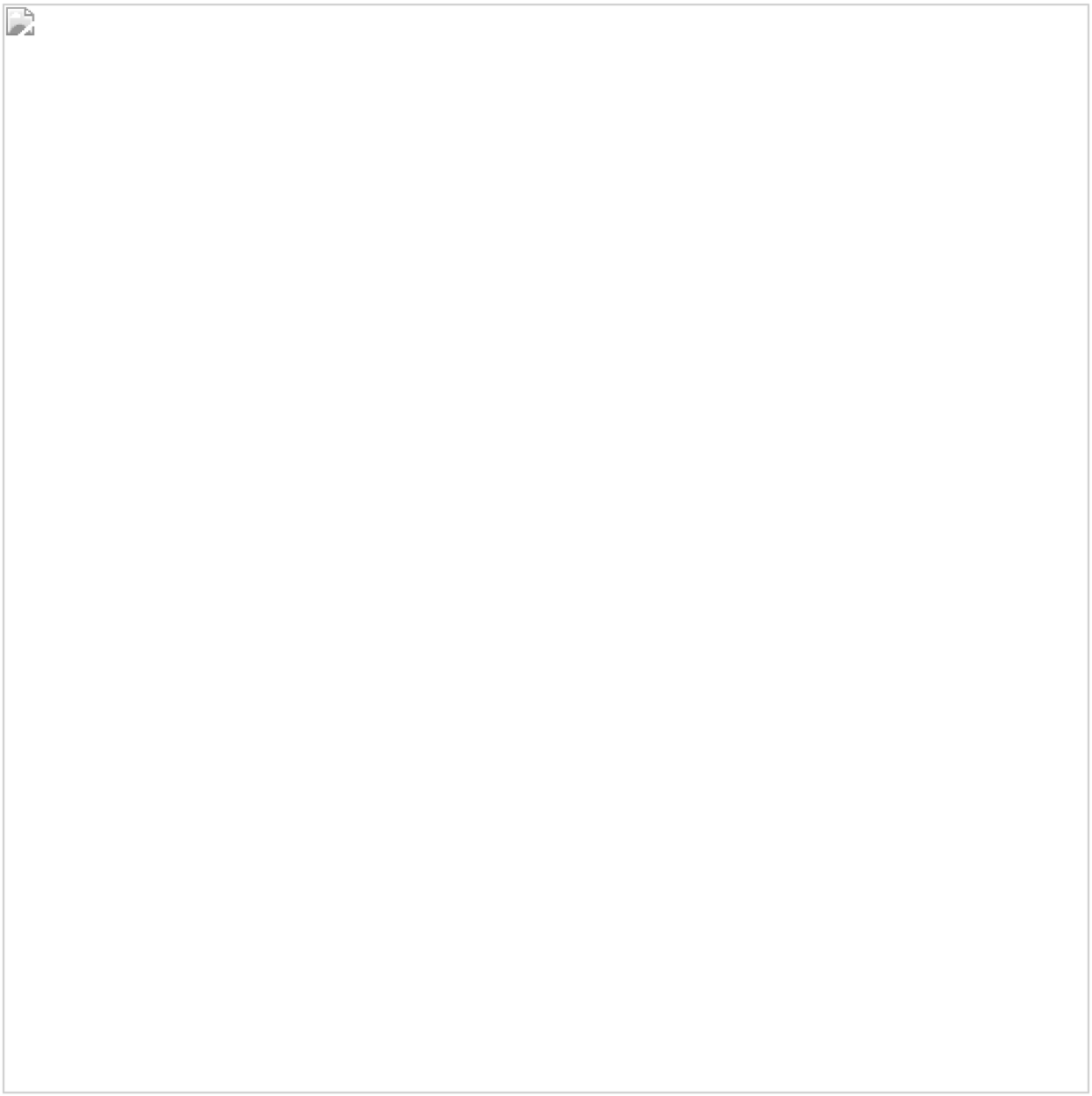


Think about it

1. What did Atalanta do when the first apple rolled in front of her?

- ○ She ran past it
- ○ She stopped to pick it up
- ○ She threw it back

The Last Apple



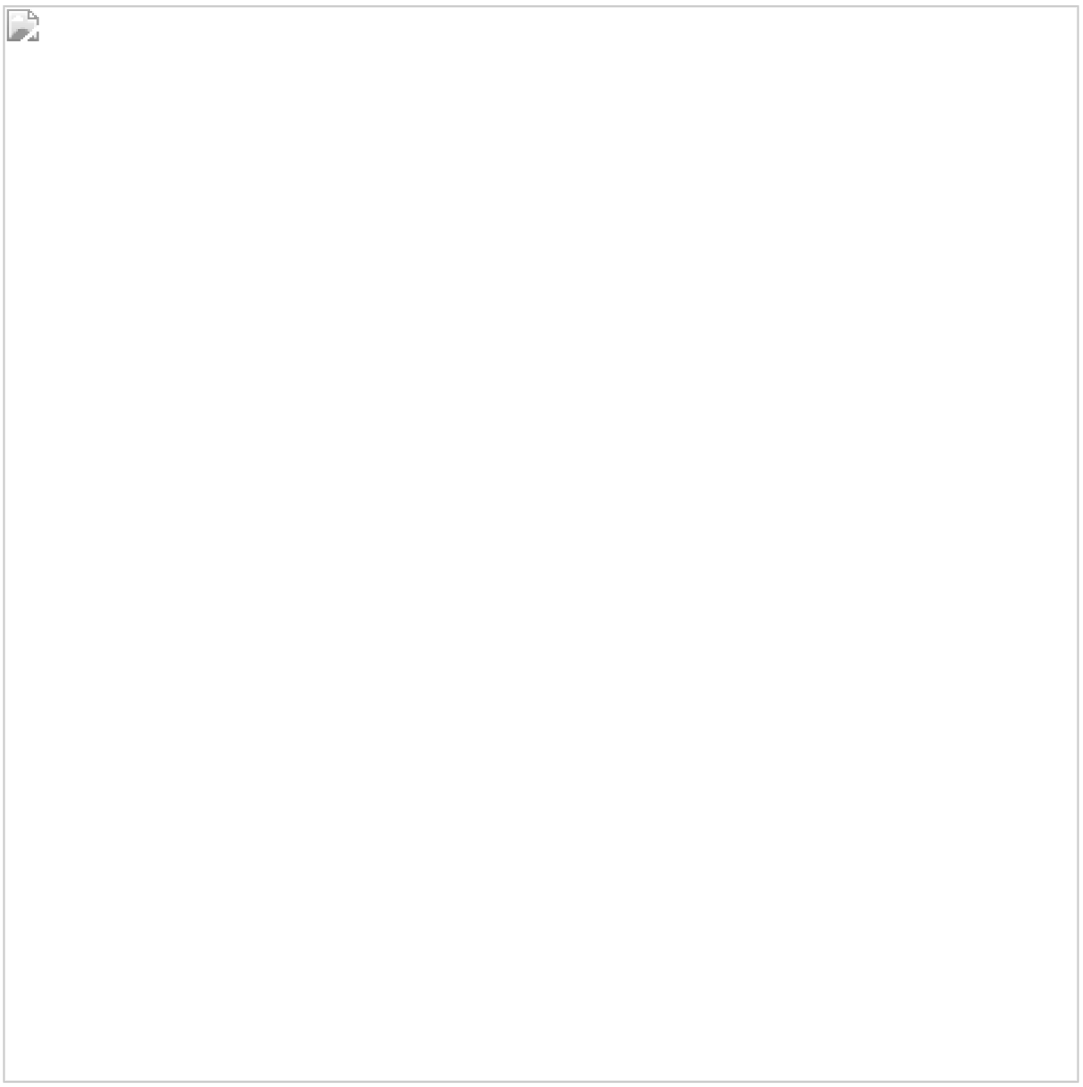
The finish line was near, and Hippomenes had only one apple left. “Now, goddess,” he said, “prosper your gift!”

He threw the last apple off to one side. Atalanta looked at it, and she hesitated. And then Venus made her turn aside to get it.

That was all the time Hippomenes needed. He crossed the line first. He had won the race.

TALK ABOUT IT

Hippomenes won with help, and with a trick. What do you think about how he won? Is there a better way he could have done it?



Think about it

1. Where did Hippomenes throw the last apple?

- ○ Straight ahead
- ○ Off to one side
- ○ Into the crowd

2. Atalanta had said she would belong to whoever beat her. What do you think matters most when two people decide to spend their lives together?

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

— Yeshua HaMashiach

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