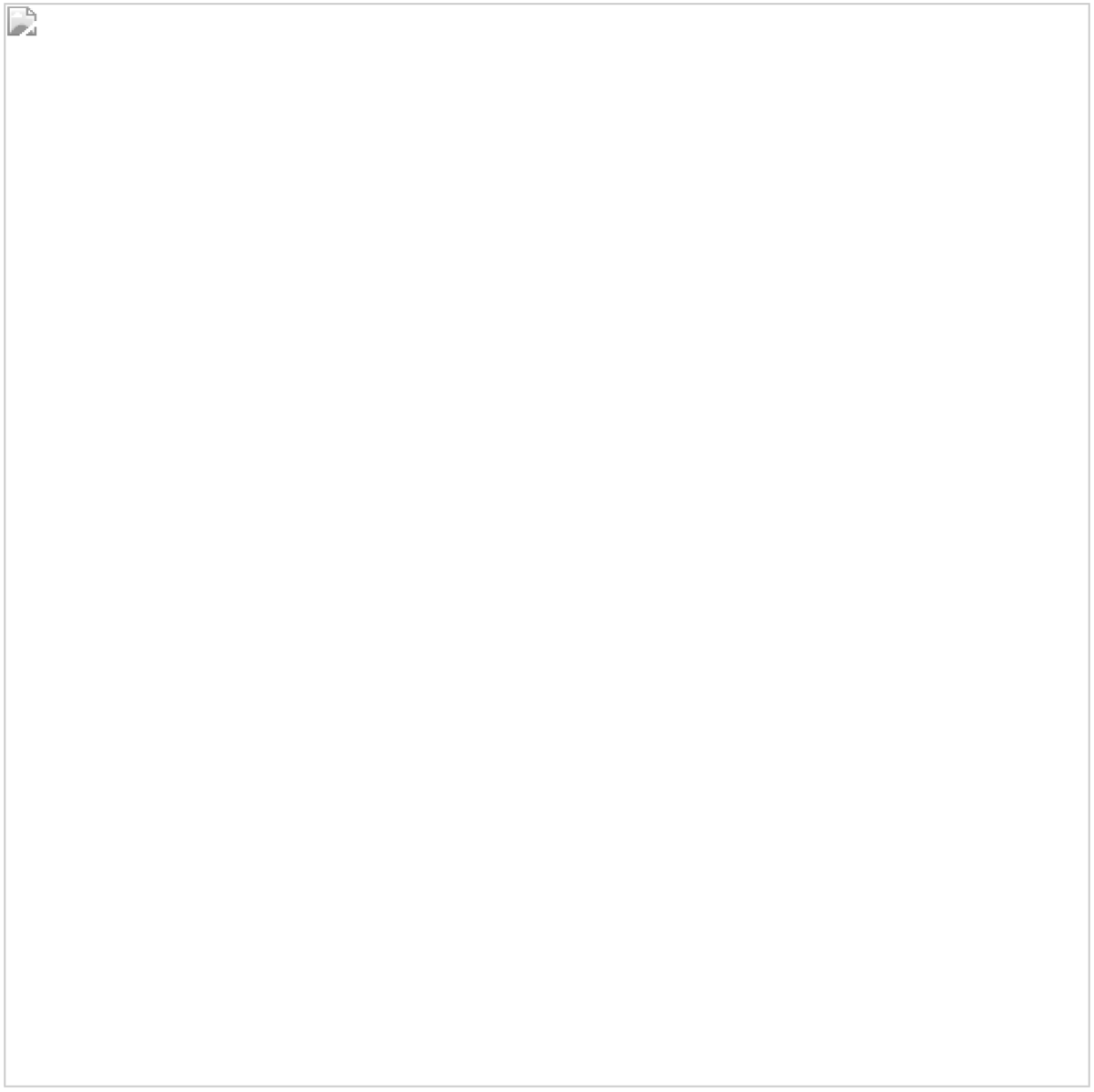
COLORING THE CLASSICS

The Tale of Peter Rabbit

A Naughty Little Rabbit in Mr. McGregor's Garden



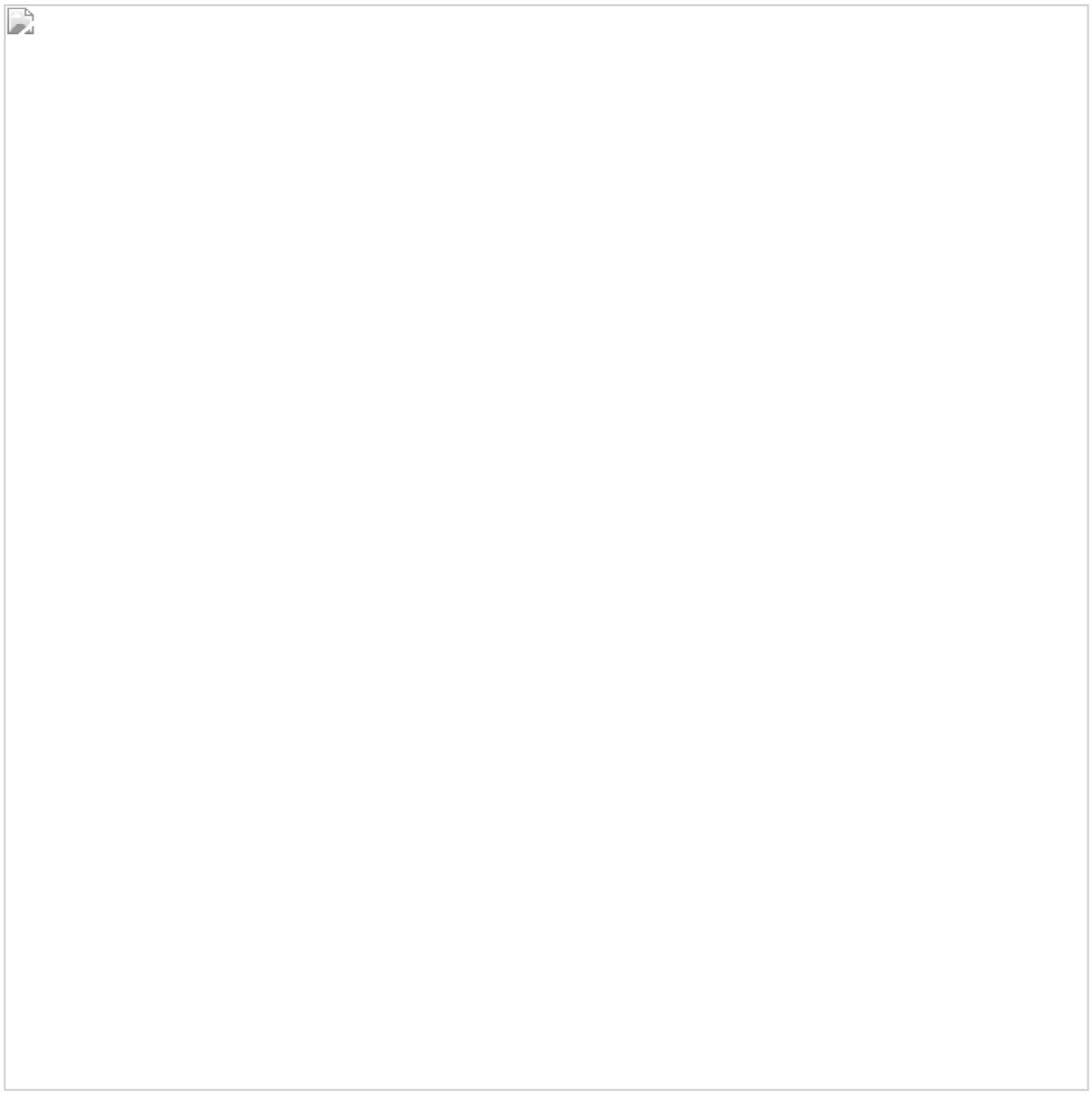
By Beatrix Potter

TALK ABOUT IT

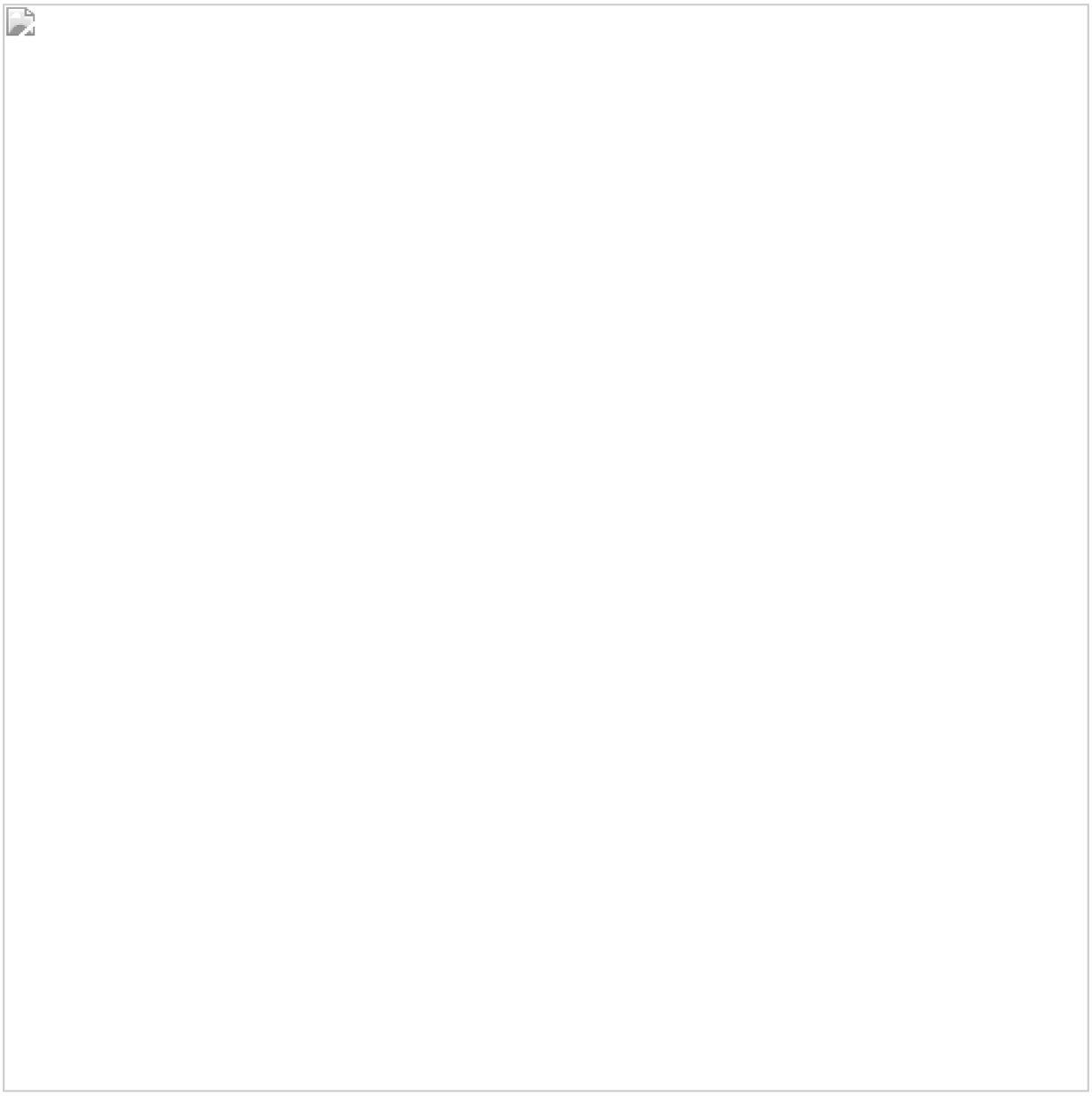
Have you ever been told not to do something? What was it?

This book belongs to _____

The Tale of Peter Rabbit · another picture



Four Little Rabbits



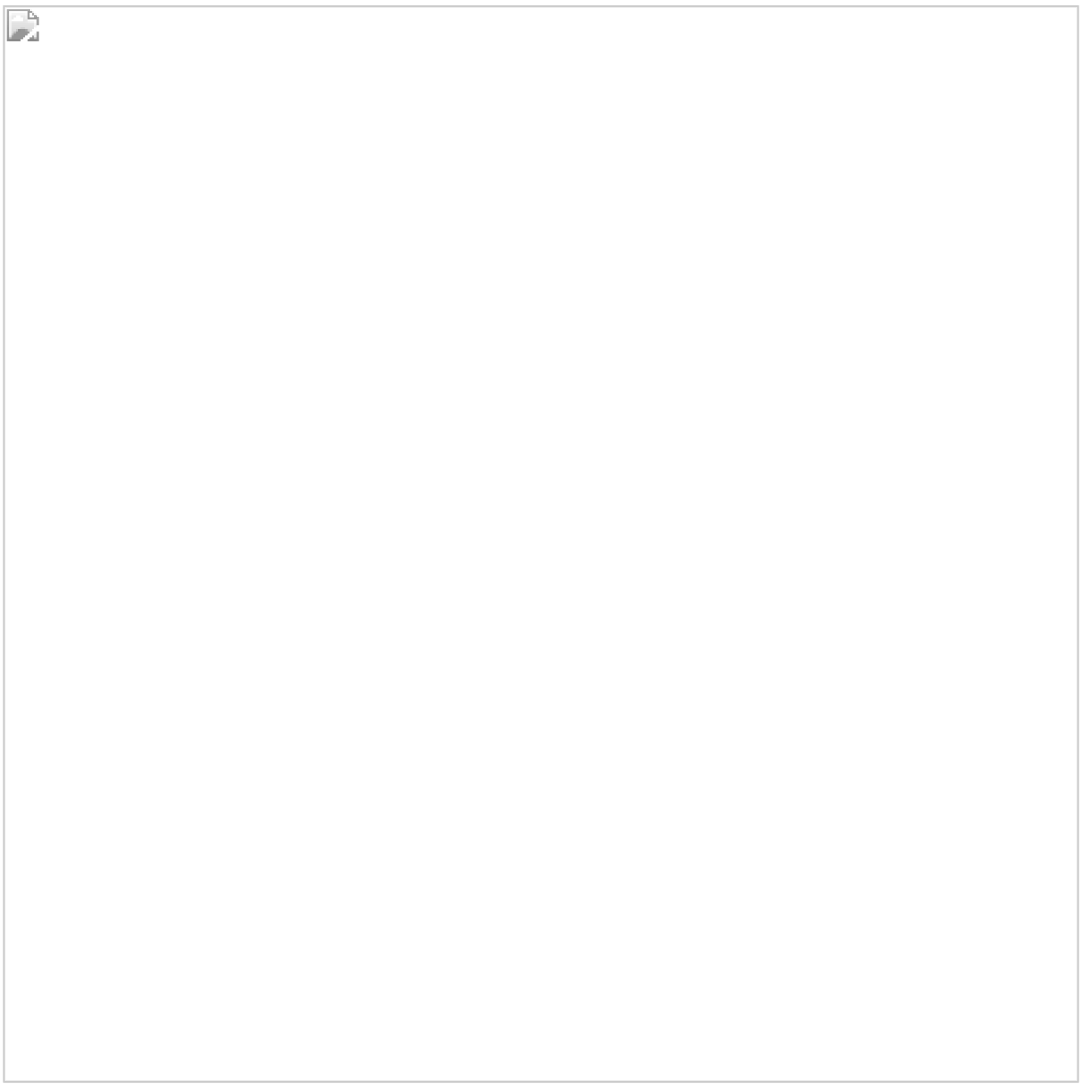
“Once upon a time there were four little Rabbits” — their names were Flopsy, Mopsy, Cotton-tail, and Peter.

They lived with their Mother in a sand-bank, underneath the root of a very big fir-tree.

“Now my dears,” said old Mrs. Rabbit one morning, “you may go into the fields or down the lane, but don’t go into Mr. McGregor’s garden”. She told them that their Father “had an accident there”.

TALK ABOUT IT

Why do you think Mrs. Rabbit did not want her children in that garden?



Think about it

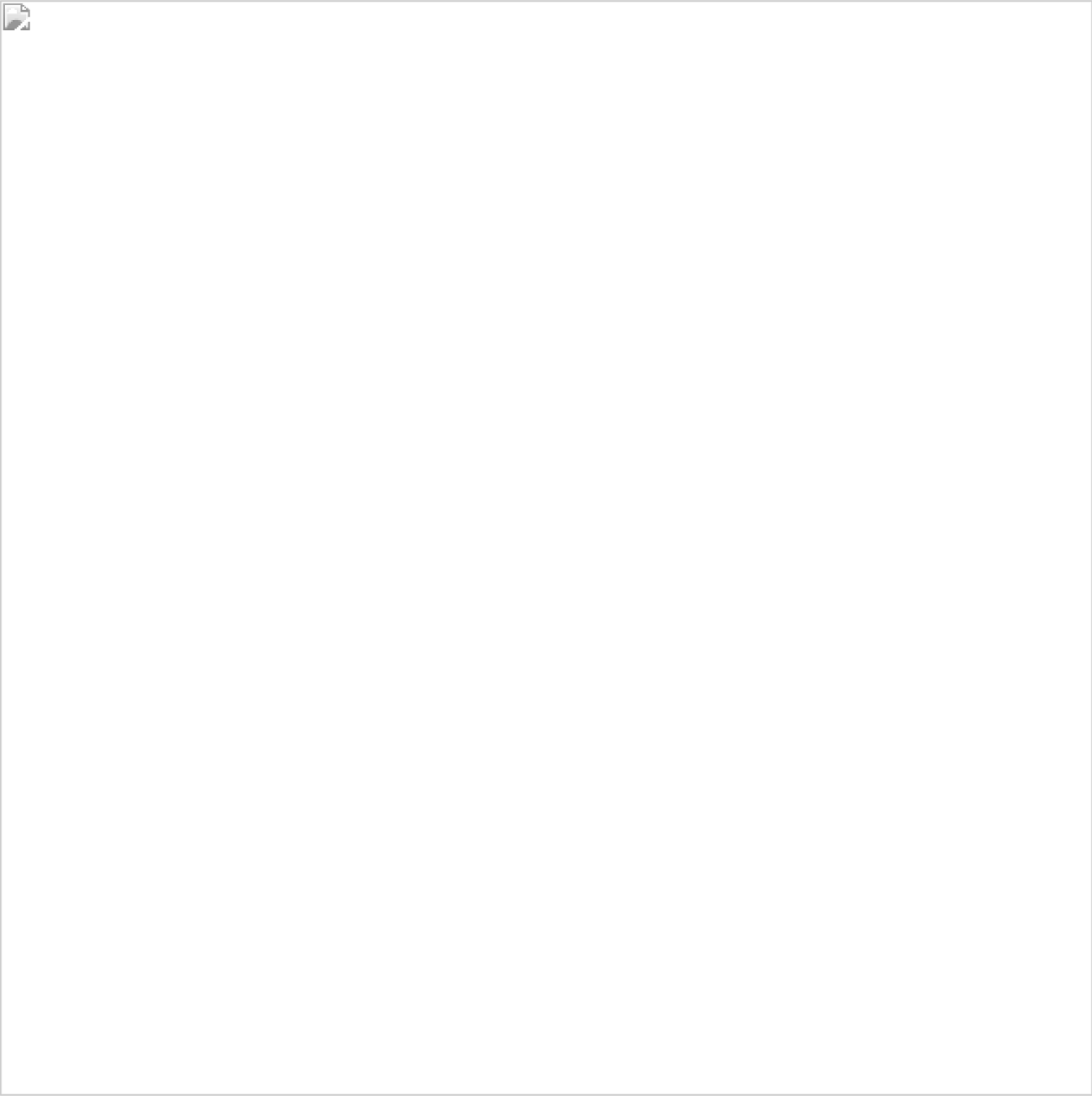
1. Where did the four little Rabbits live?

- ○ In a sand-bank under a big fir-tree
- ○ In a tall house
- ○ In a boat

2. Where did Mrs. Rabbit say they must not go?

- ○ Into Mr. McGregor’s garden
- ○ Down the lane
- ○ Into the fields

Mother Goes Out



“Now run along, and don’t get into mischief. I am going out.”

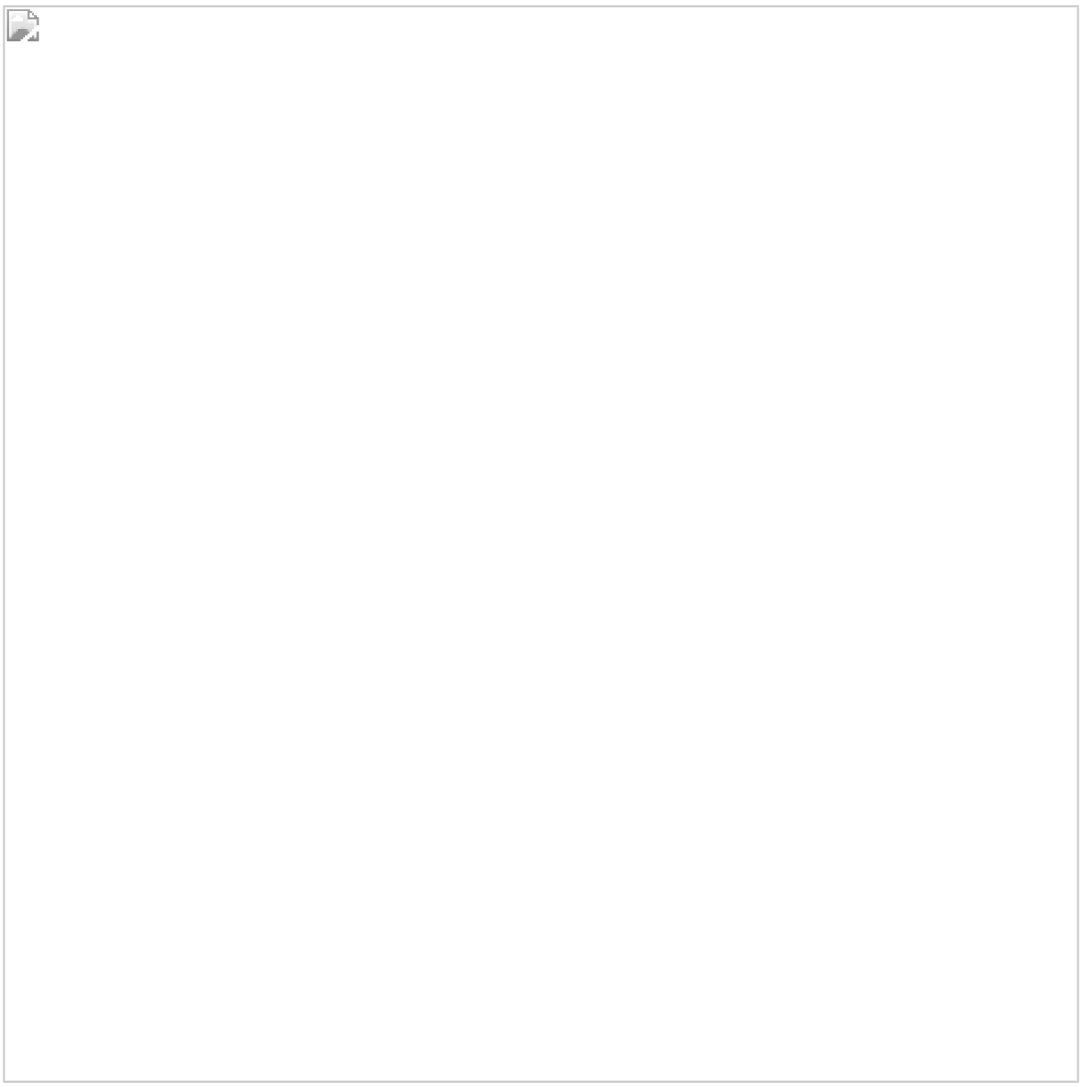
Then old Mrs. Rabbit took a basket and her umbrella, and went through the wood to the baker’s. She bought a loaf of brown bread and five currant buns.

Flopsy, Mopsy, and Cotton-tail, who were good little bunnies, went down the lane to gather blackberries.

TALK ABOUT IT

What would you have done if you were Peter, with your mother out of sight?

Mother Goes Out · another picture



Think about it

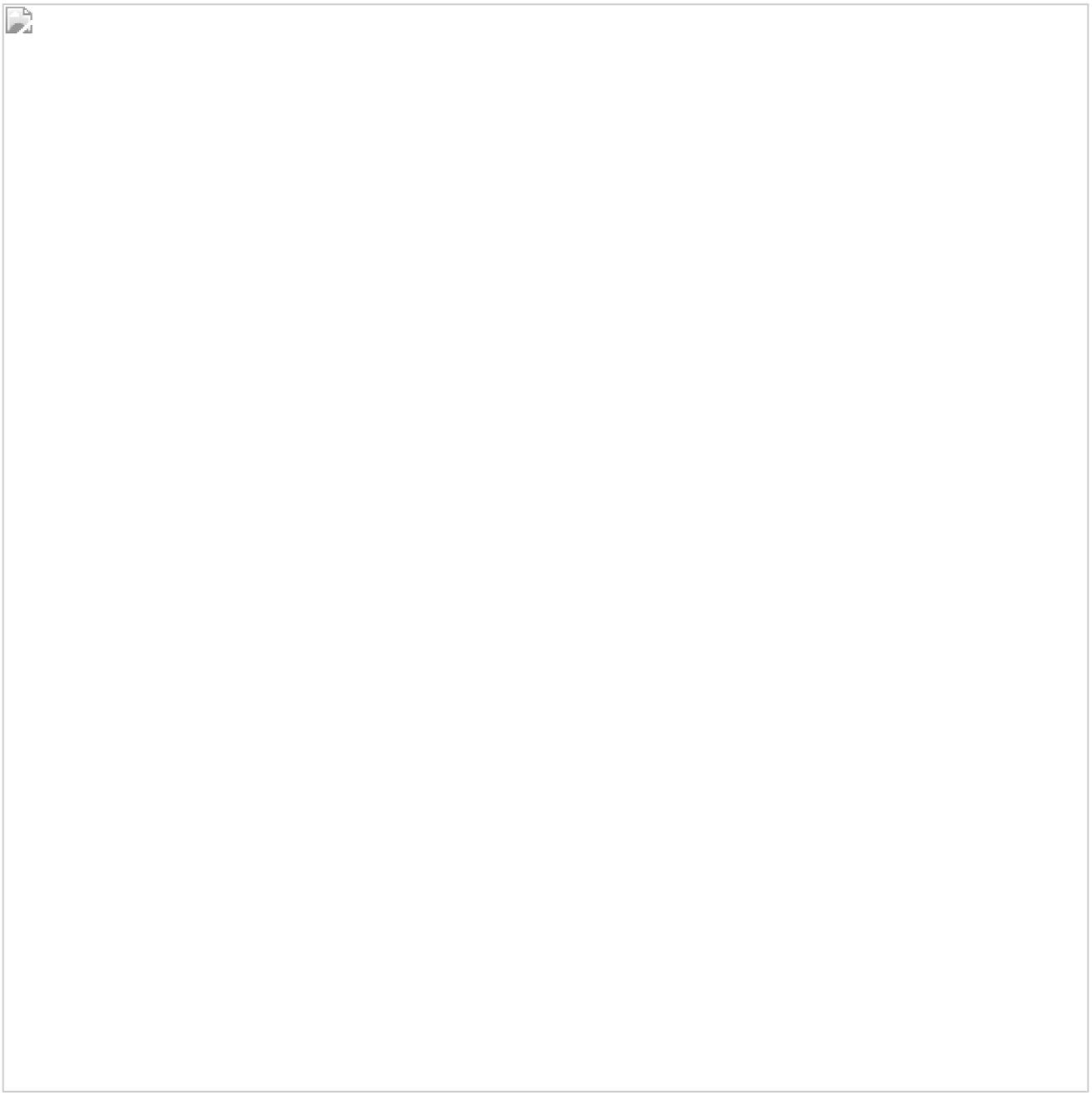
1. Where did Mrs. Rabbit go?

- ○ To the baker's
- ○ To the pond
- ○ To the garden

2. What did Flopsy, Mopsy, and Cotton-tail go to do?

- ○ Gather blackberries
- ○ Plant cabbages
- ○ Visit the baker

Under the Gate



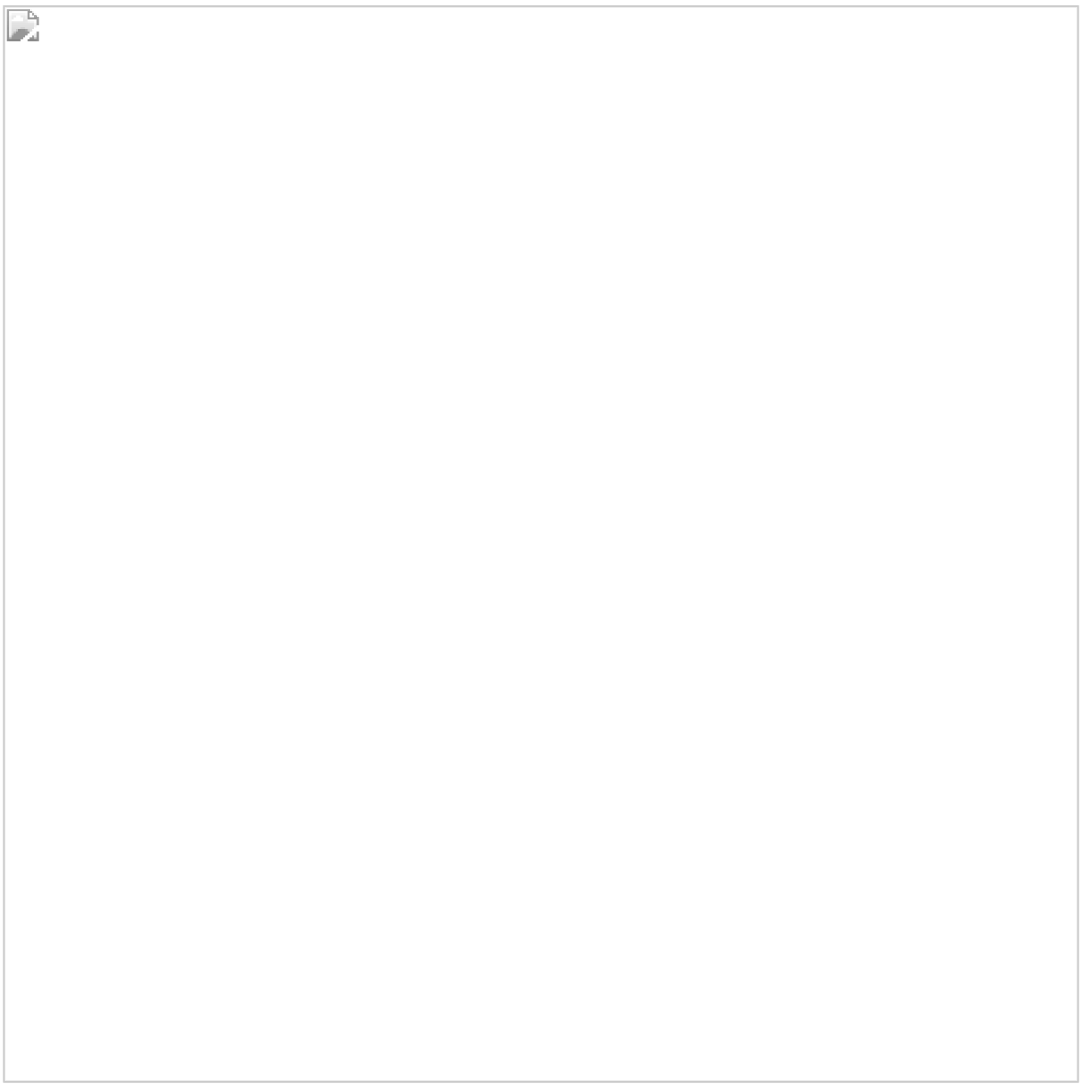
But Peter, who was very naughty, ran straight away to Mr. McGregor's garden, and squeezed under the gate!

First he ate some lettuces and some French beans, and then he ate some radishes.

And then, feeling rather sick, he went to look for some parsley.

TALK ABOUT IT

Peter ate and ate. What do you think happens when we eat too much?



Think about it

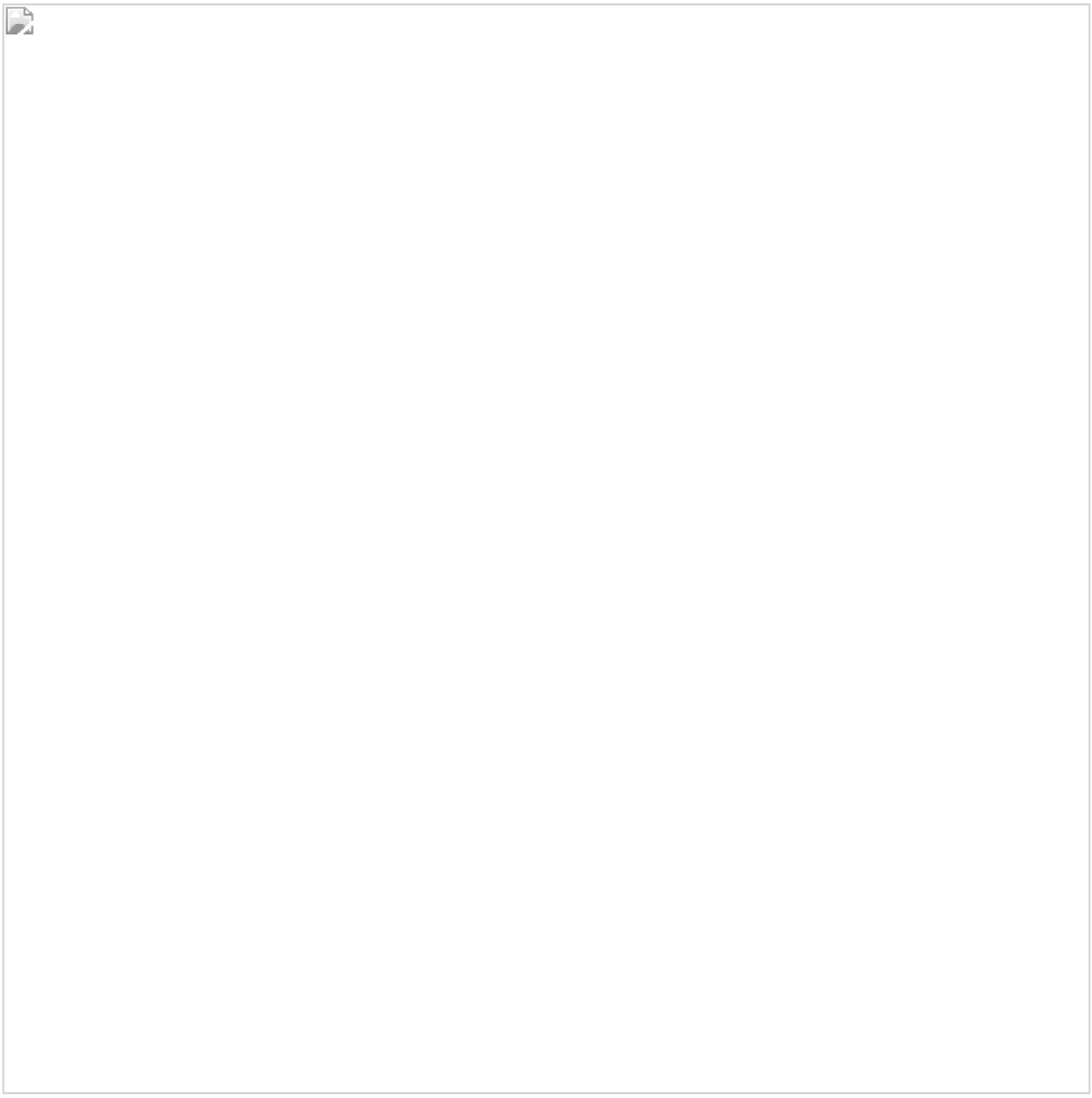
1. How did Peter get into the garden?

- ○ He squeezed under the gate
- ○ He climbed a tree
- ○ He jumped over a wall

2. Why did Peter go looking for parsley?

- ○ He was feeling rather sick
- ○ He wanted a snack for his mother
- ○ He was playing a game

Mr. McGregor!



But round the end of a cucumber frame, whom should he meet but Mr. McGregor!

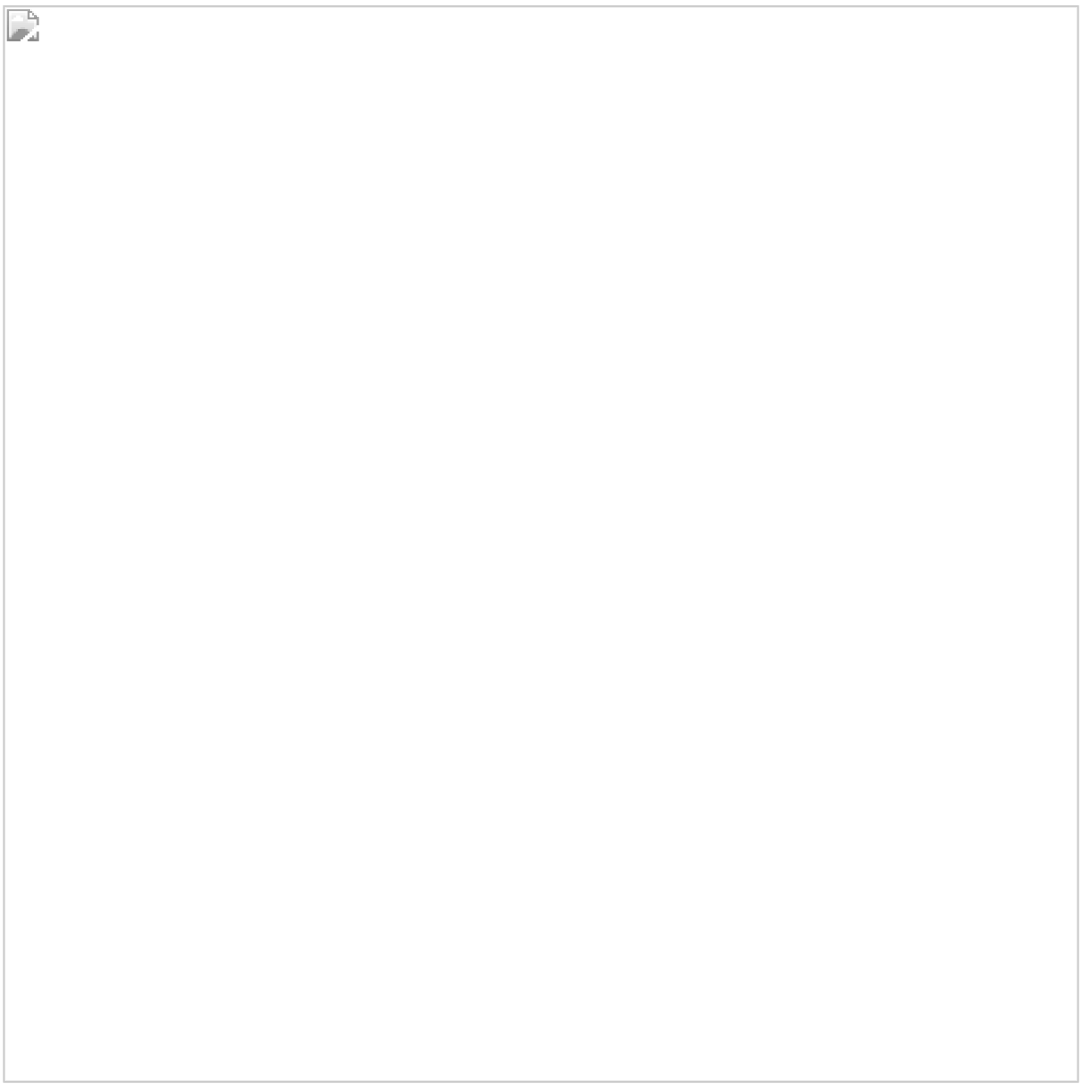
Mr. McGregor was on his hands and knees planting out young cabbages. He jumped up and ran after Peter, waving a rake and calling out, “Stop thief!”

Peter was most dreadfully frightened. He rushed all over the garden, for he had forgotten the way back to the gate.

TALK ABOUT IT

Peter forgot the way out. Has anything ever made you forget where you were going?

Mr. McGregor! · another picture



Think about it

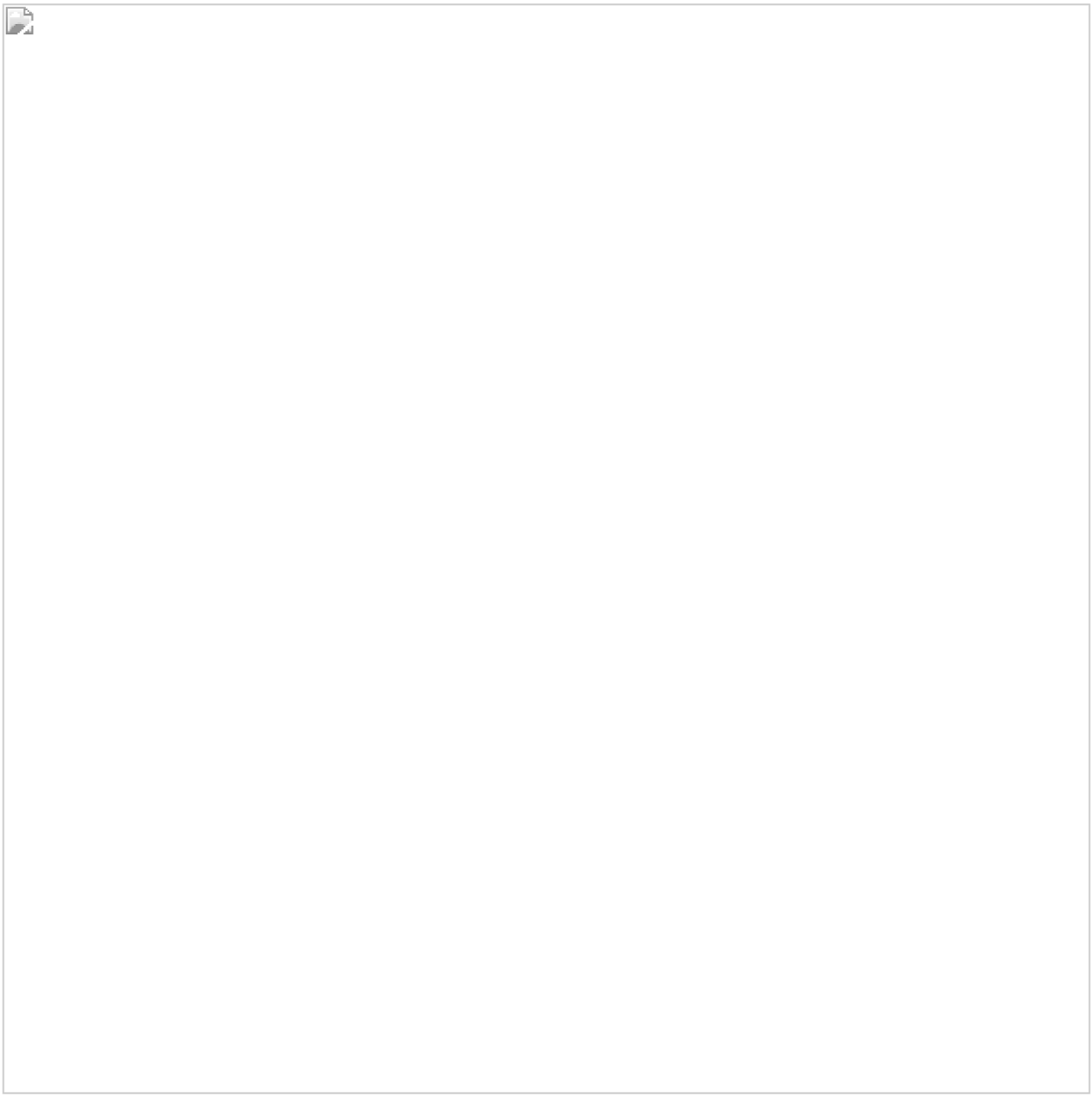
1. What was Mr. McGregor doing when Peter met him?

- ○ Planting young cabbages
- ○ Eating lunch
- ○ Fixing the gate

2. Why couldn't Peter find the gate?

- ○ He had forgotten the way
- ○ It was locked
- ○ Someone moved it

Caught in the Net



Peter lost one of his shoes among the cabbages, and the other shoe amongst the potatoes.

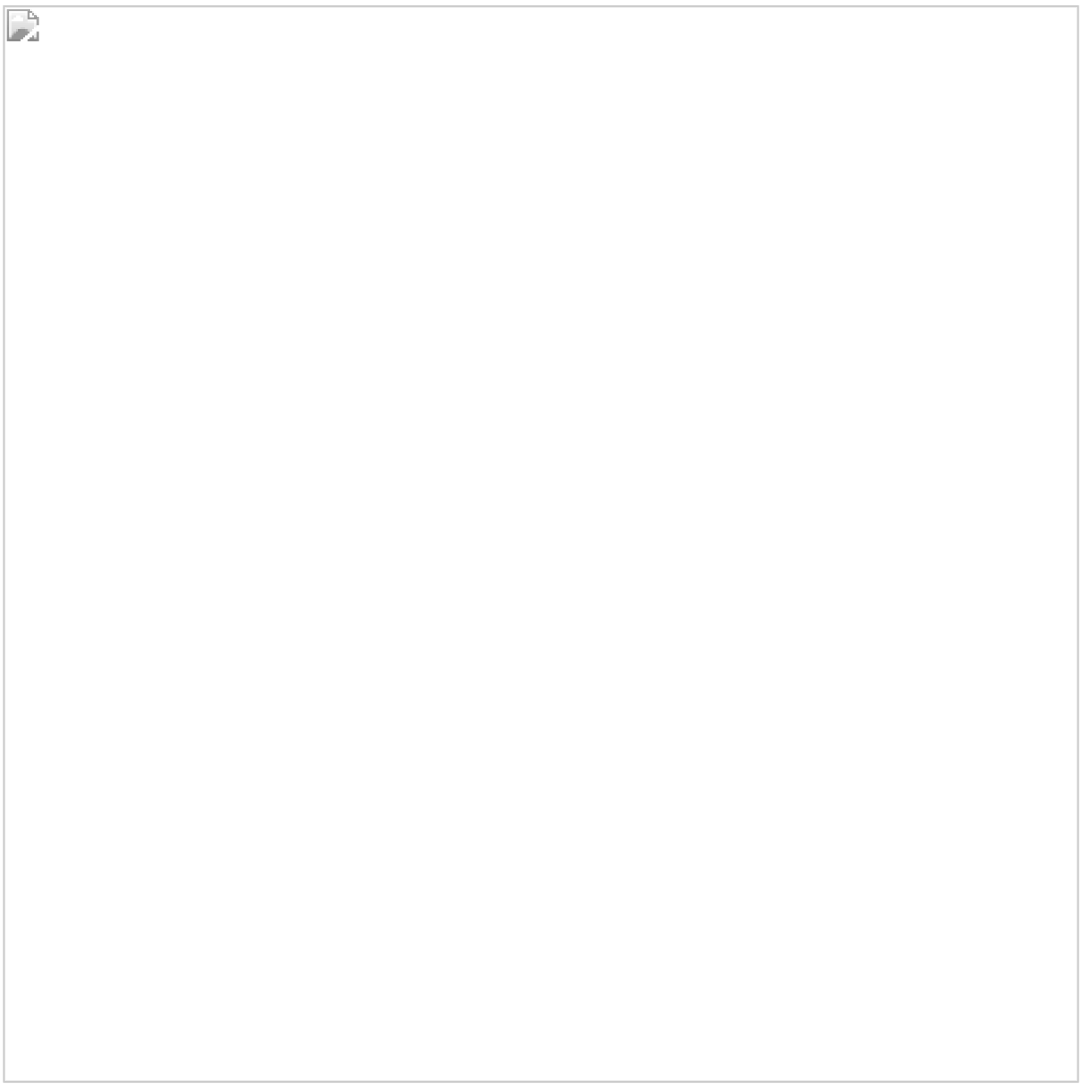
After losing them, he ran on four legs and went faster, and I think he might have got away altogether, if he had not unfortunately run into a gooseberry net.

He got caught by the large buttons on his jacket. It was a blue jacket with brass buttons, quite new.

TALK ABOUT IT

Why do you think Peter went faster on four legs?

Caught in the Net · another picture



Think about it

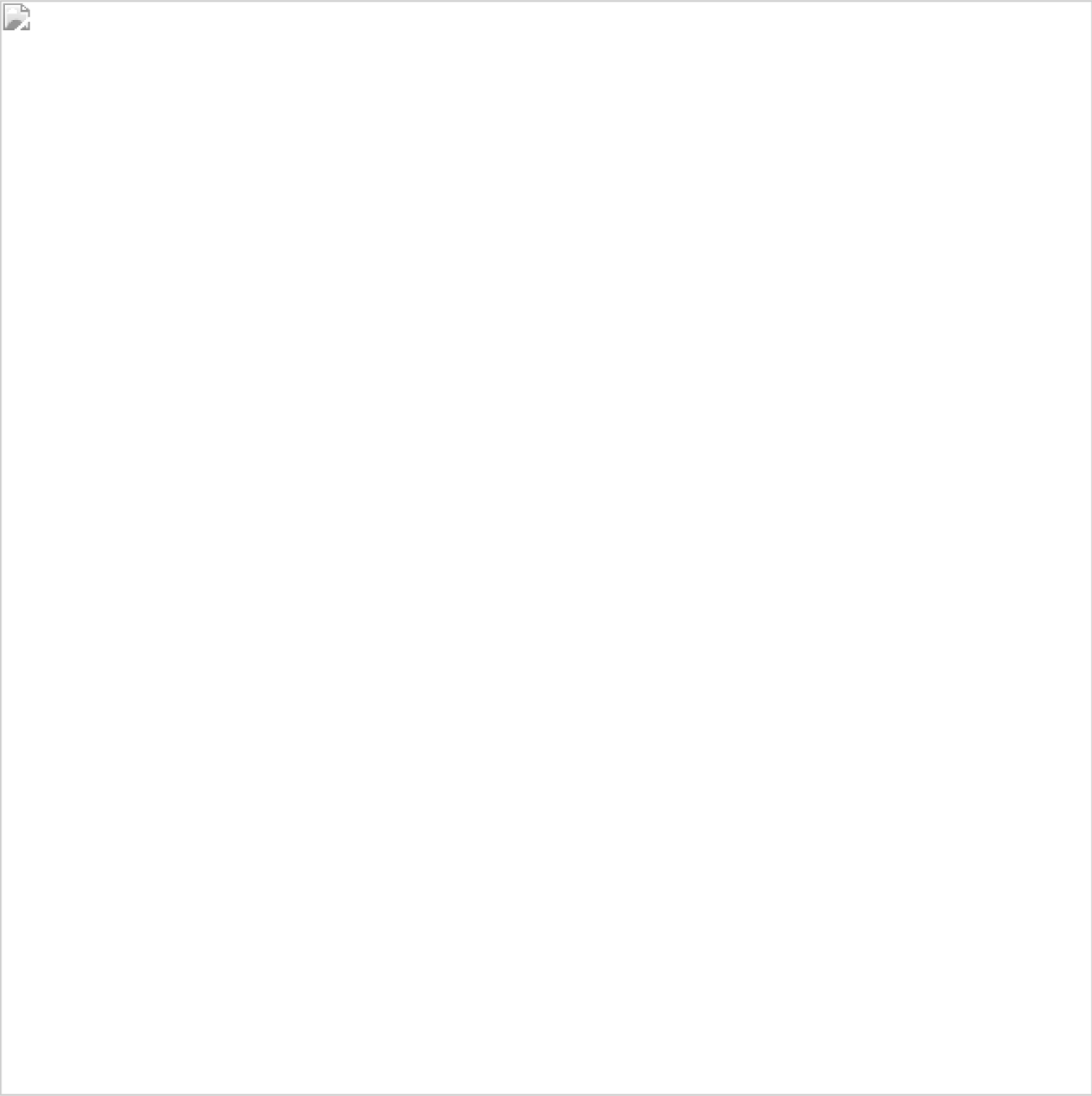
1. Where did Peter lose his two shoes?

- ○ Among the cabbages and the potatoes
- ○ In the pond
- ○ At home

2. What caught Peter's jacket?

- ○ A gooseberry net
- ○ A fence
- ○ A rake

The Friendly Sparrows

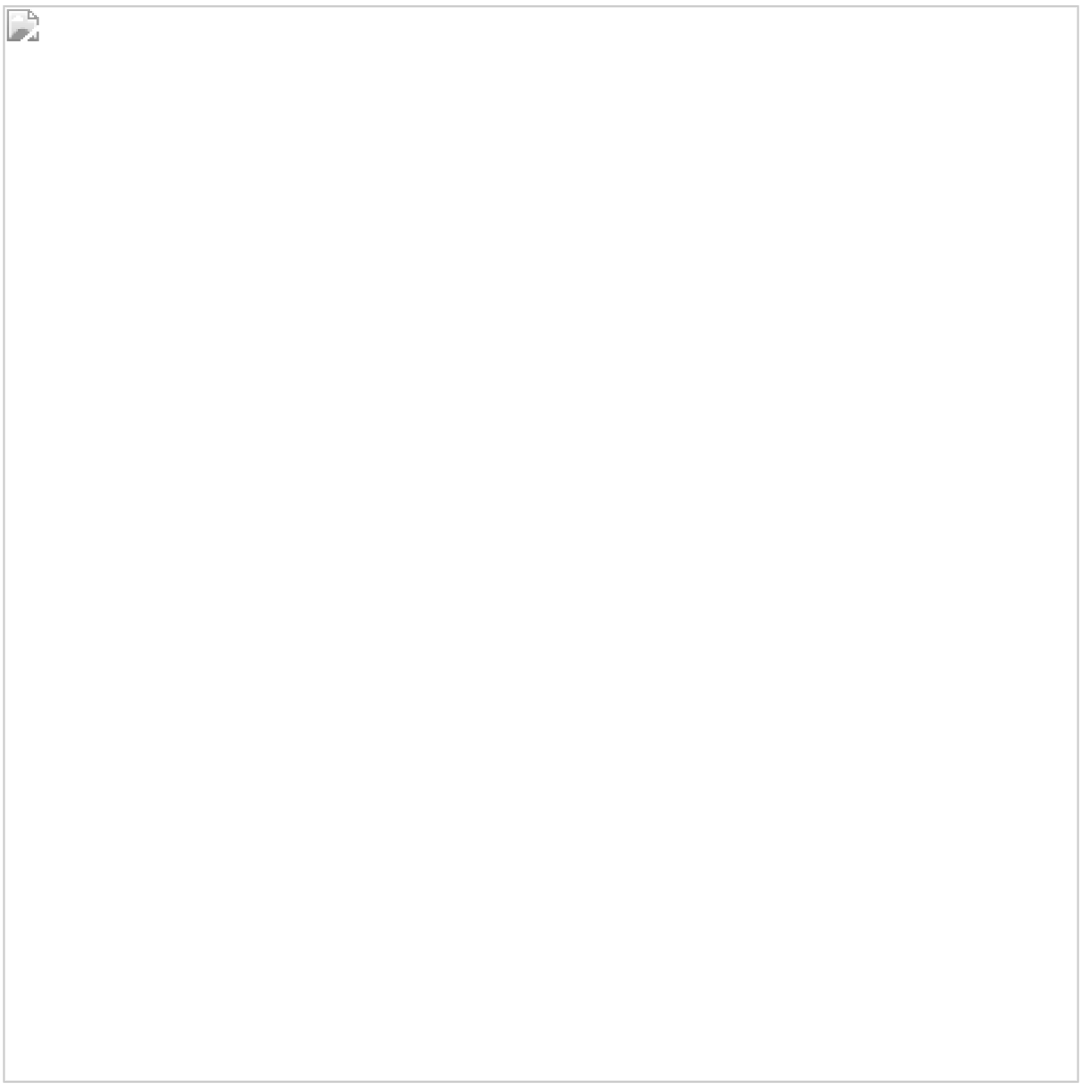


Peter gave himself up for lost, and shed big tears. But his sobs were overheard by some friendly sparrows, who flew to him in great excitement, and implored him to exert himself.

Mr. McGregor came up with a sieve, which he intended to pop upon the top of Peter. But Peter wriggled out just in time, leaving his jacket behind him.

TALK ABOUT IT

The sparrows cheered Peter on. Who helps you keep trying when something is hard?



Think about it

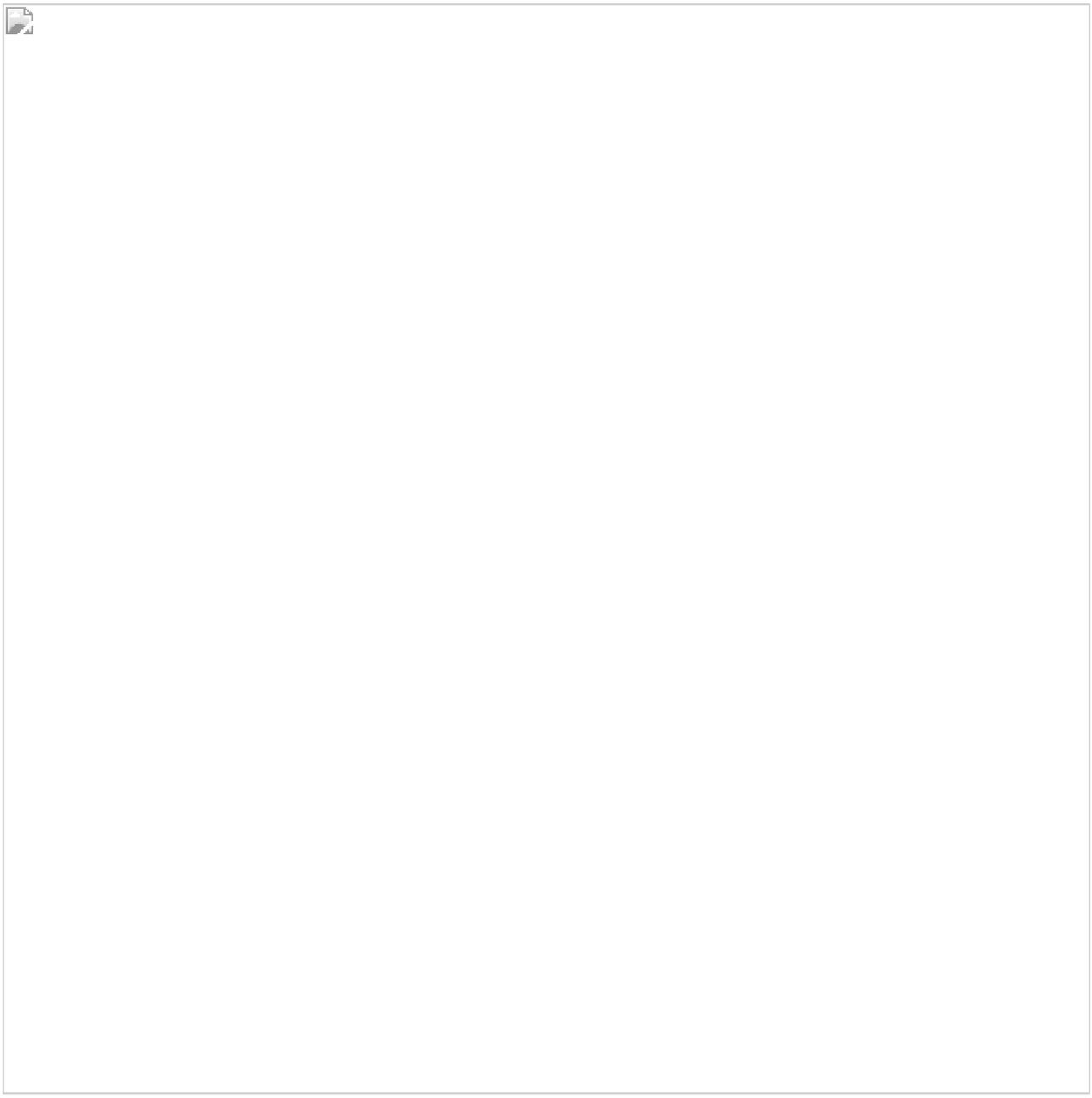
1. Who came to help Peter when he was crying?

- ○ Some friendly sparrows
- ○ His brothers and sisters
- ○ Mr. McGregor

2. What did Peter leave behind when he wriggled free?

- ○ His jacket
- ○ His umbrella
- ○ His basket

The Tool-Shed



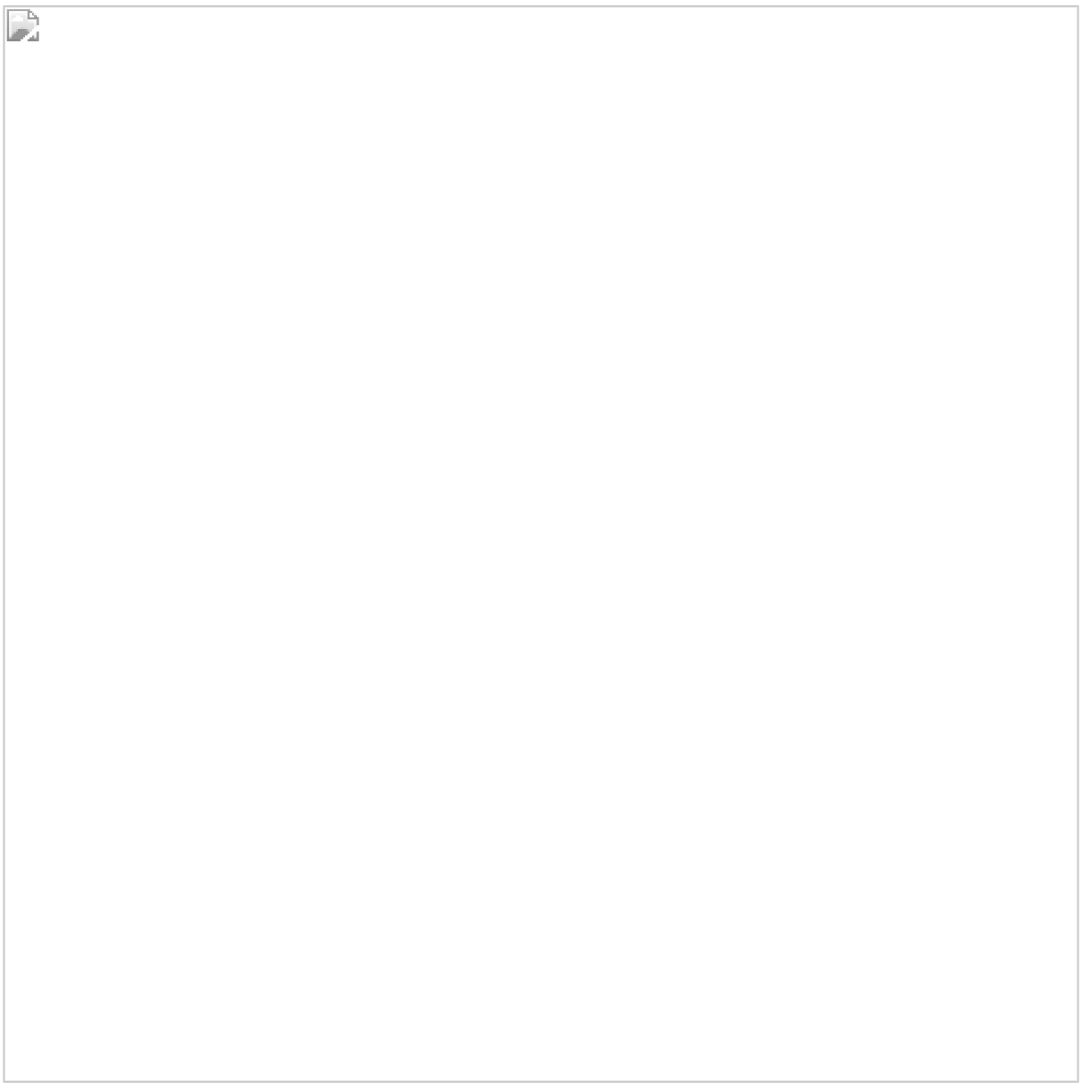
Peter rushed into the tool-shed, and jumped into a can. It would have been a beautiful thing to hide in, if it had not had so much water in it.

Mr. McGregor was quite sure that Peter was somewhere in the tool-shed, perhaps hidden underneath a flower-pot. He began to turn them over carefully, looking under each.

Presently Peter sneezed. “Kertyschoo!” Mr. McGregor was after him in no time.

TALK ABOUT IT

What was wrong with Peter’s hiding place?



Think about it

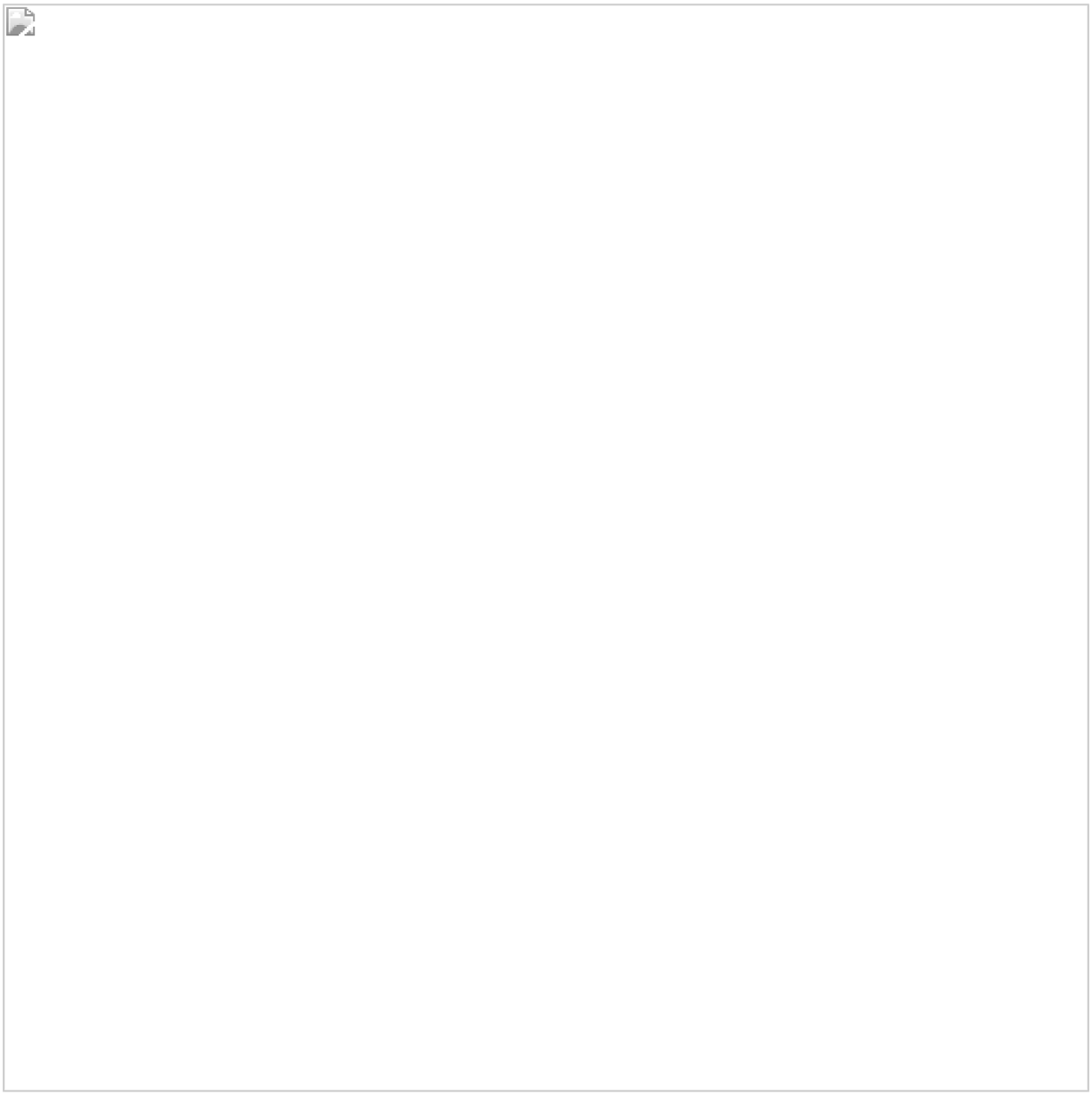
1. Where did Peter try to hide?

- ○ In a can
- ○ Under a bed
- ○ In a tree

2. What gave Peter away?

- ○ He sneezed
- ○ He sang
- ○ He dropped a flower-pot

Out of the Window



Mr. McGregor tried to put his foot upon Peter, who jumped out of a window, upsetting three plants.

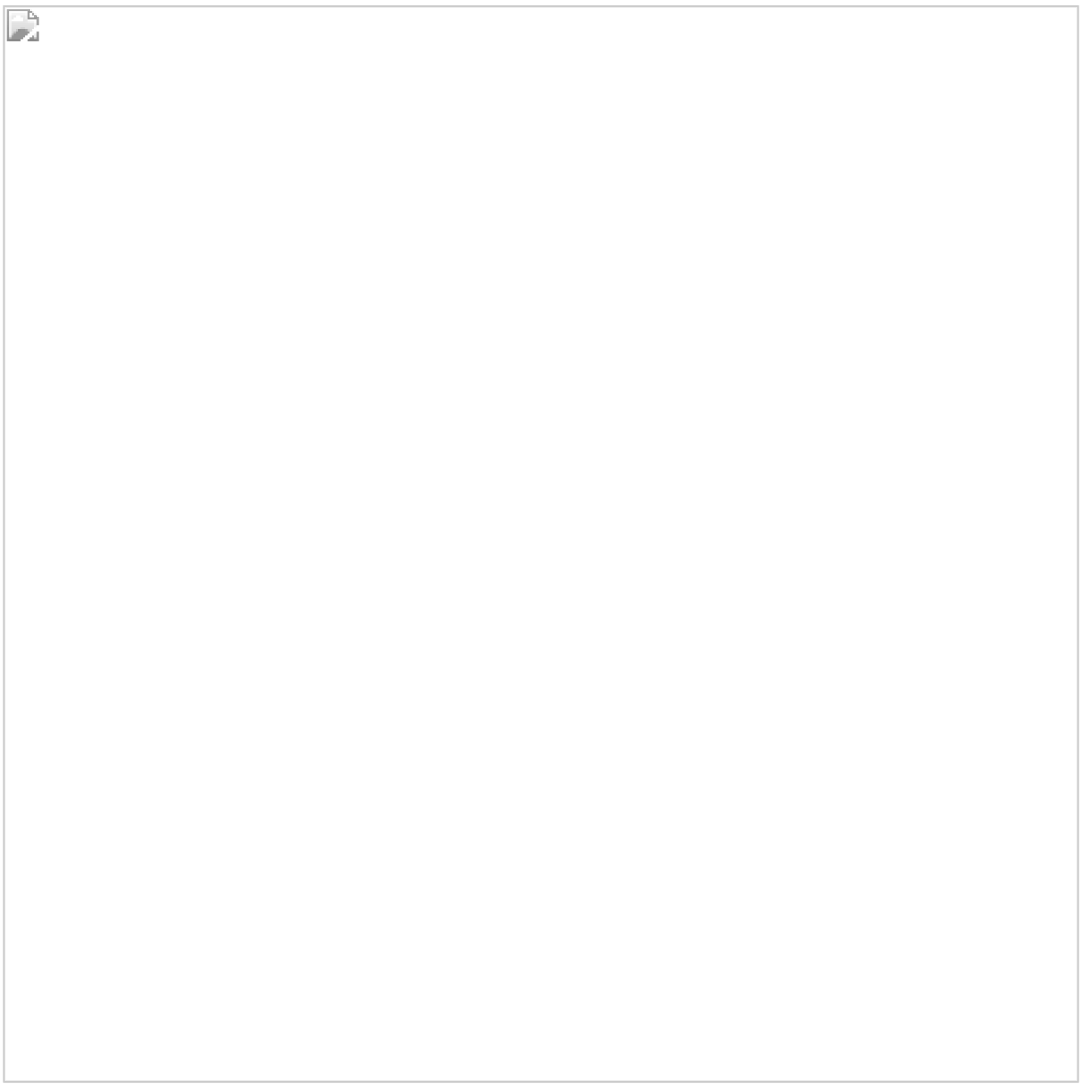
The window was too small for Mr. McGregor, and he was tired of running after Peter. He went back to his work.

Peter sat down to rest. He was out of breath and trembling with fright, and he had not the least idea which way to go. Also he was very damp with sitting in that can.

TALK ABOUT IT

Why couldn't Mr. McGregor follow Peter through the window?

Out of the Window · another picture



Think about it

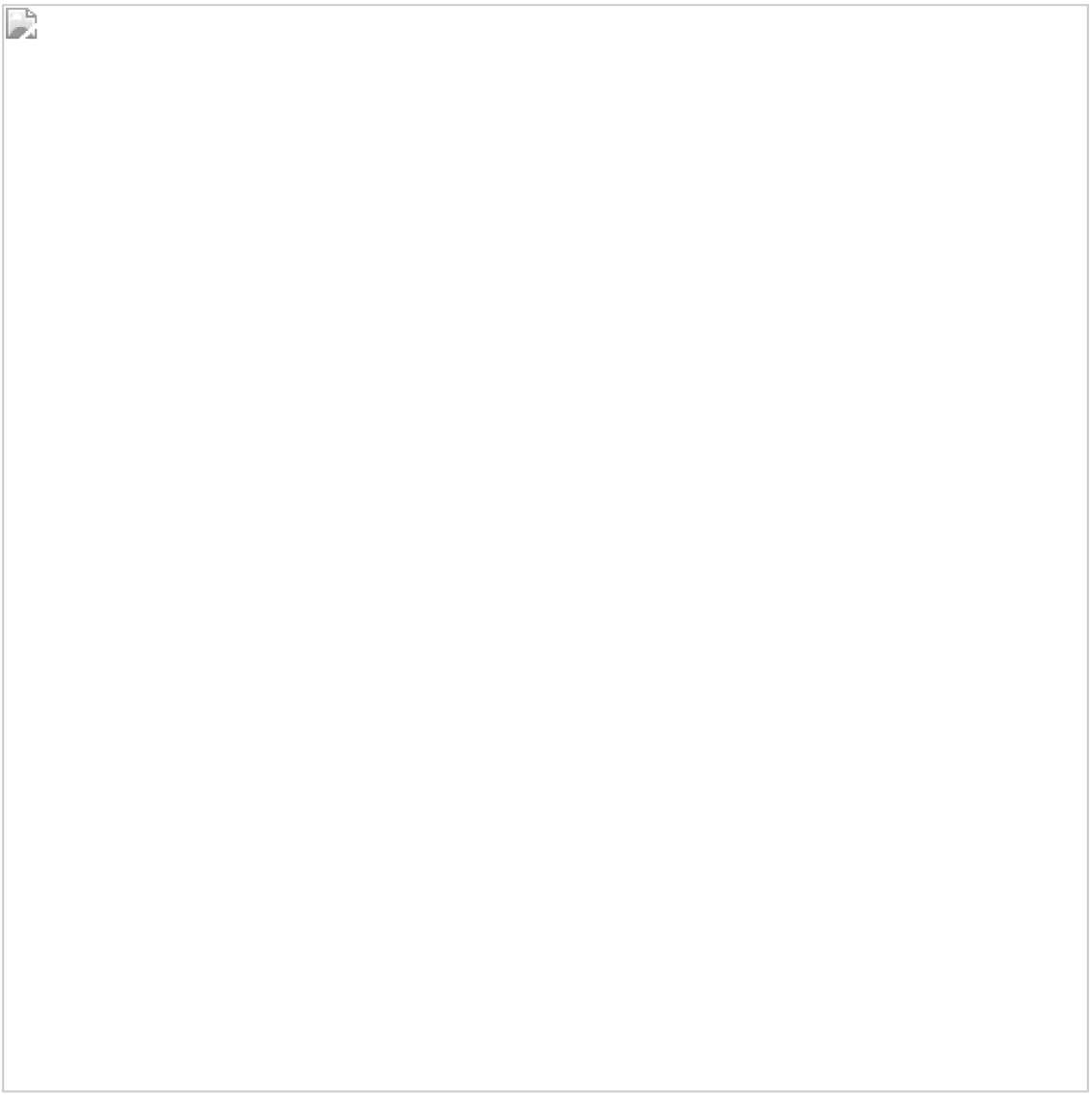
1. How did Peter get away from the tool-shed?

- ○ He jumped out of a window
- ○ He went through the door
- ○ He dug a hole

2. Why did Mr. McGregor go back to his work?

- ○ The window was too small, and he was tired of the chase
- ○ He gave Peter a present
- ○ He heard his wife calling

Lost in the Garden



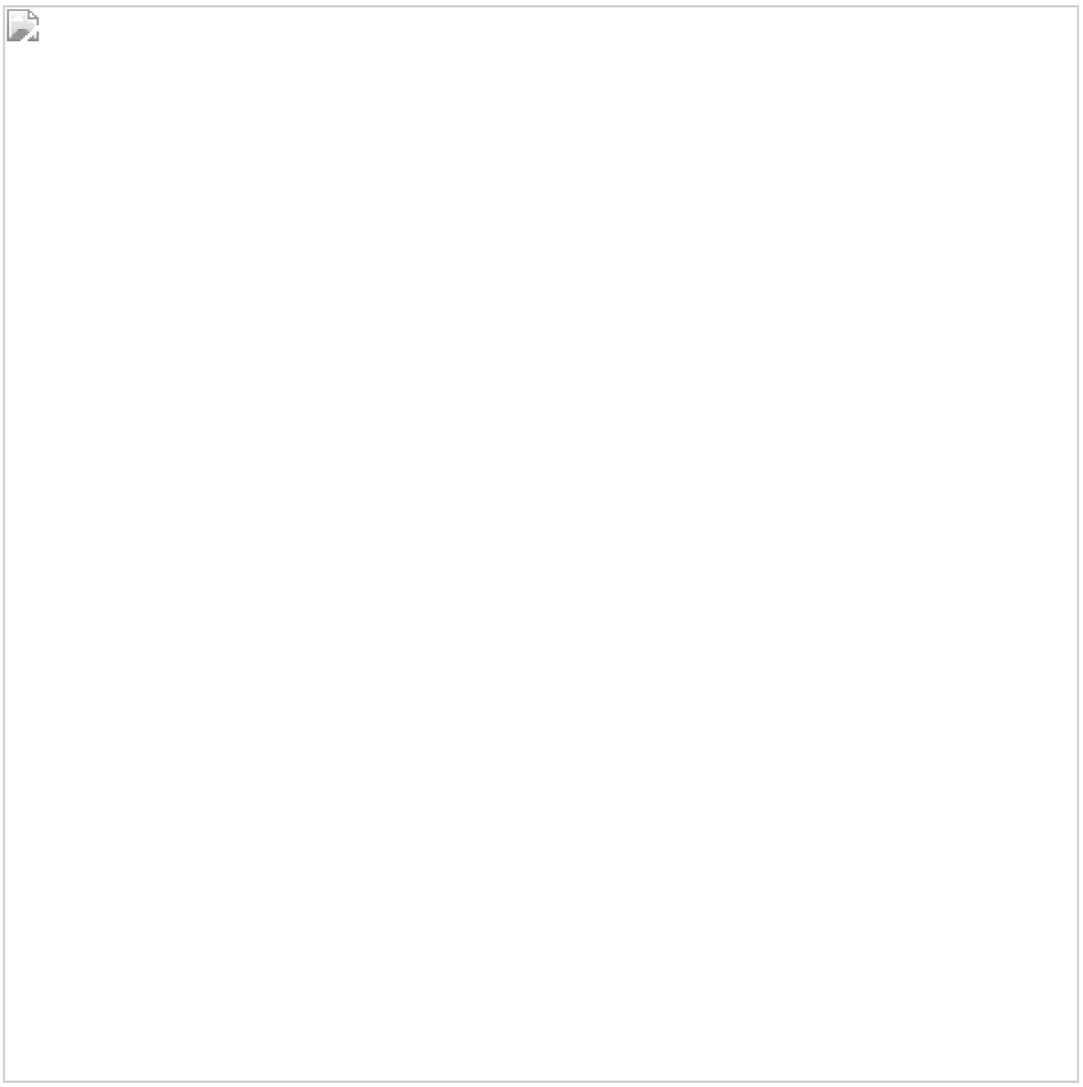
After a time Peter began to wander about, going “lippity—lippity”, looking all round.

He found a door in a wall, but it was locked. An old mouse was running in and out over the stone doorstep. Peter asked her the way to the gate, but she had such a large pea in her mouth that she could not answer. She only shook her head. Peter began to cry.

Then he came to a pond. A white cat sat very, very still, staring at some gold-fish; only the tip of her tail twitched. Peter thought it best to go away without speaking to her.

TALK ABOUT IT

Peter asked the mouse for help. What do you do when you are lost and need help?



Think about it

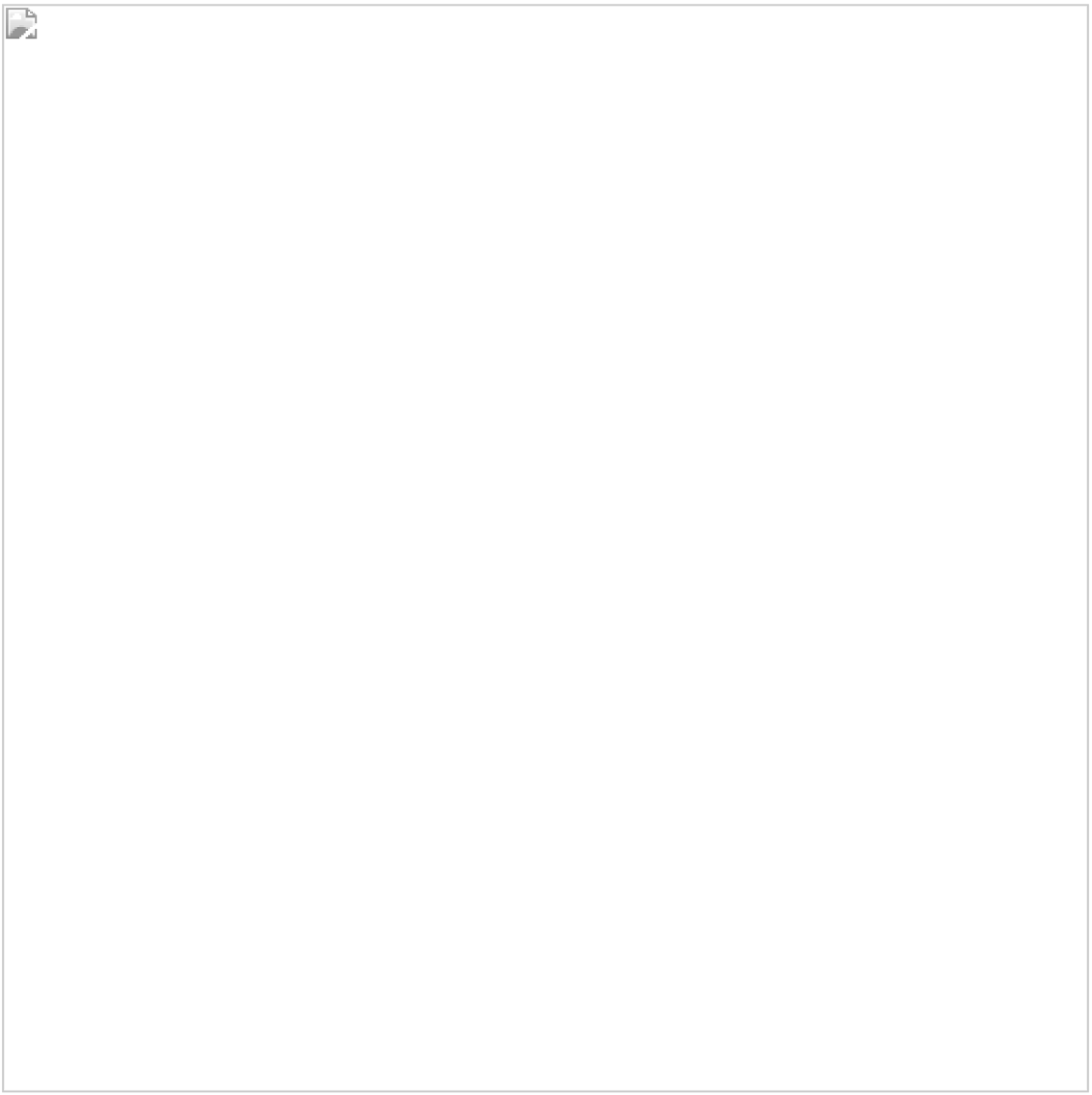
1. Why couldn't the old mouse tell Peter the way to the gate?

- ○ She had a large pea in her mouth
- ○ She was asleep
- ○ She did not like rabbits

2. What was the white cat watching by the pond?

- ○ Some gold-fish
- ○ A bird
- ○ Peter's jacket

Safe at Last



Peter went back towards the tool-shed, but suddenly, quite close to him, he heard the noise of a hoe. He scuttered underneath the bushes. But presently, as nothing happened, he came out, and climbed upon a wheelbarrow and peeped over.

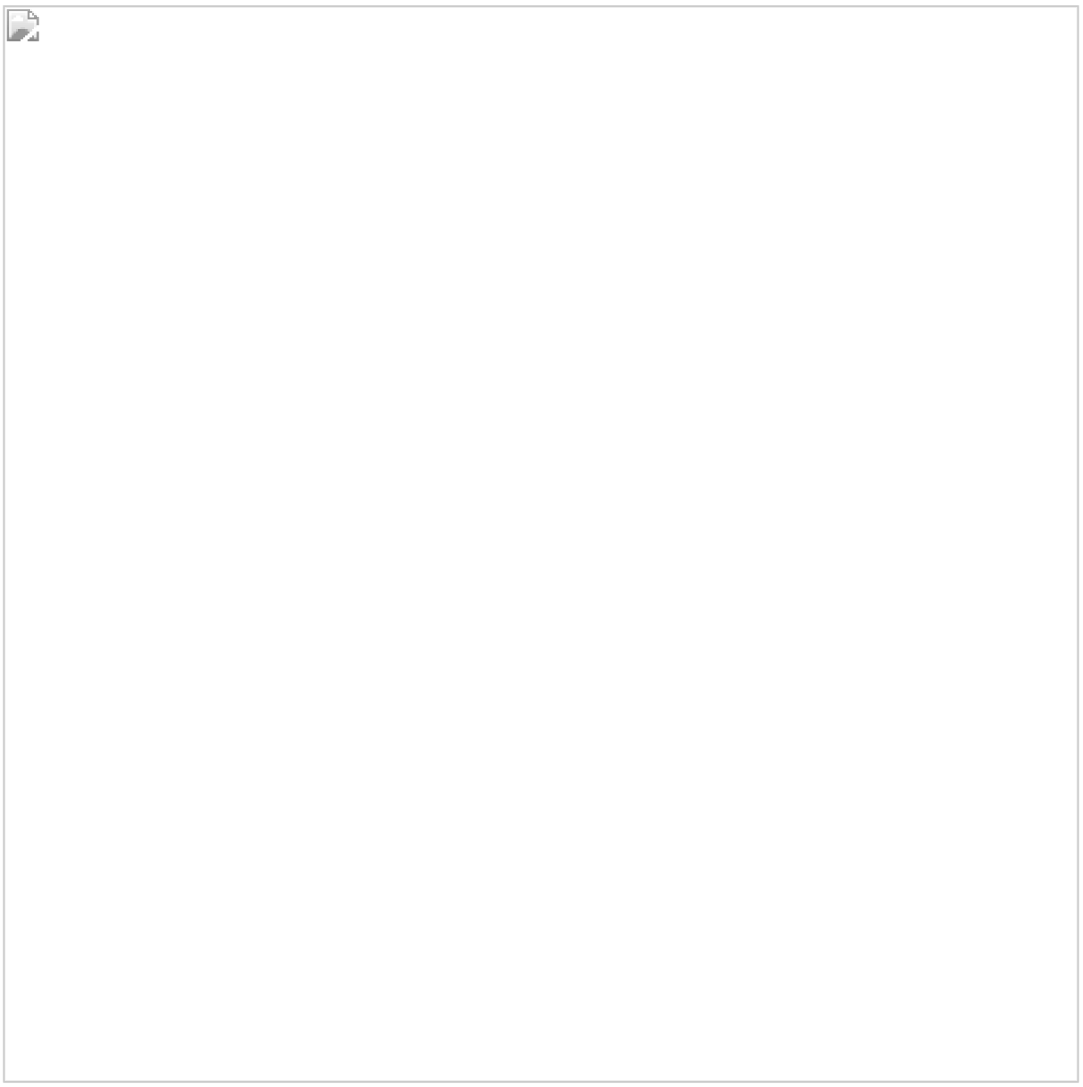
The first thing he saw was Mr. McGregor hoeing onions. His back was turned towards Peter, and beyond him was the gate!

Peter got down very quietly and started running as fast as he could go. Mr. McGregor caught sight of him at the corner, but Peter did not care. He slipped underneath the gate, and was “safe at last in the wood outside the garden.”

TALK ABOUT IT

What did Peter do that was clever on this page?

Safe at Last · another picture



Think about it

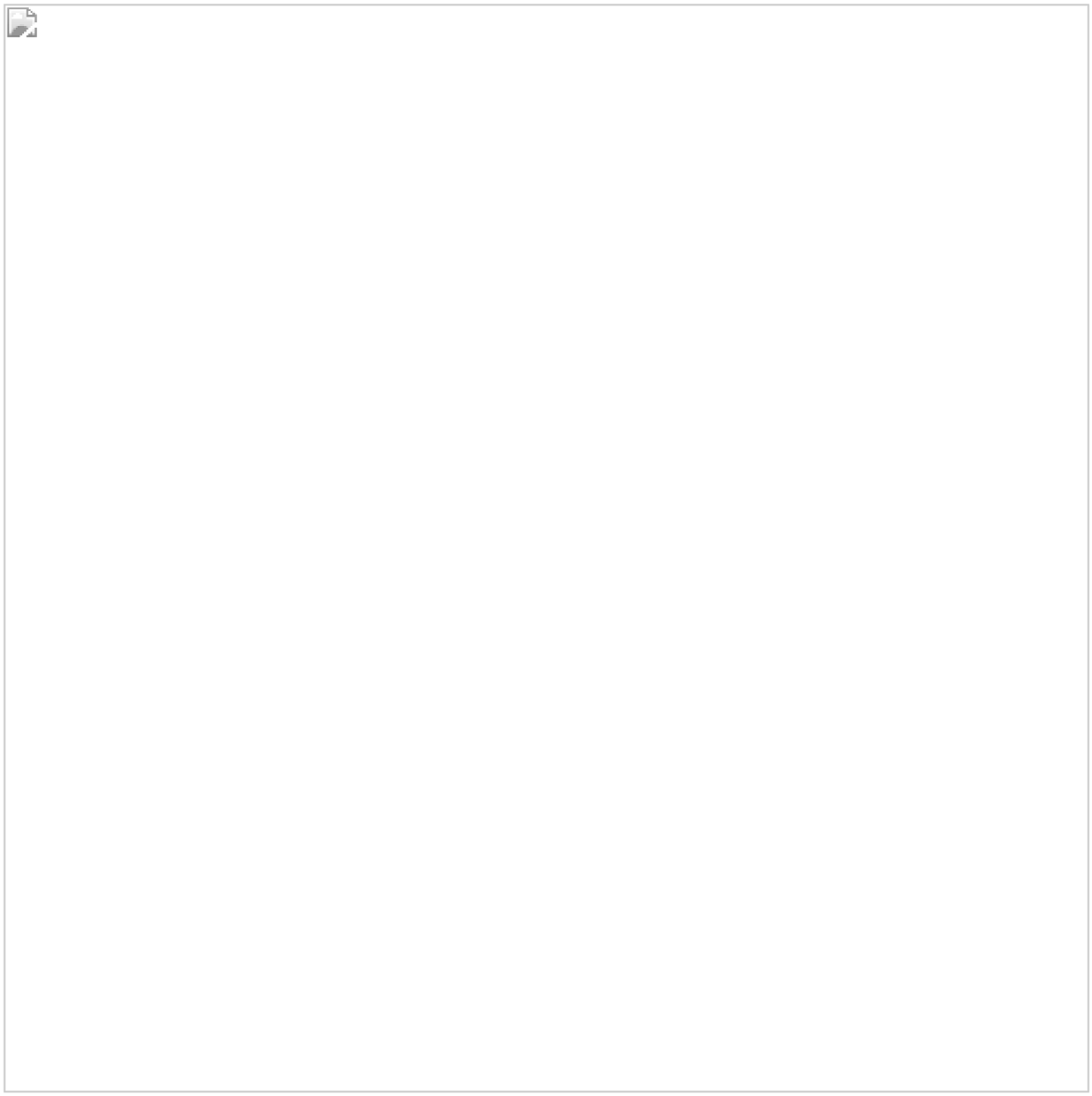
1. What did Peter climb on to peep over?

- ○ A wheelbarrow
- ○ A ladder
- ○ A fence post

2. What did Peter see beyond Mr. McGregor?

- ○ The gate
- ○ His mother
- ○ The baker

Home to Mother



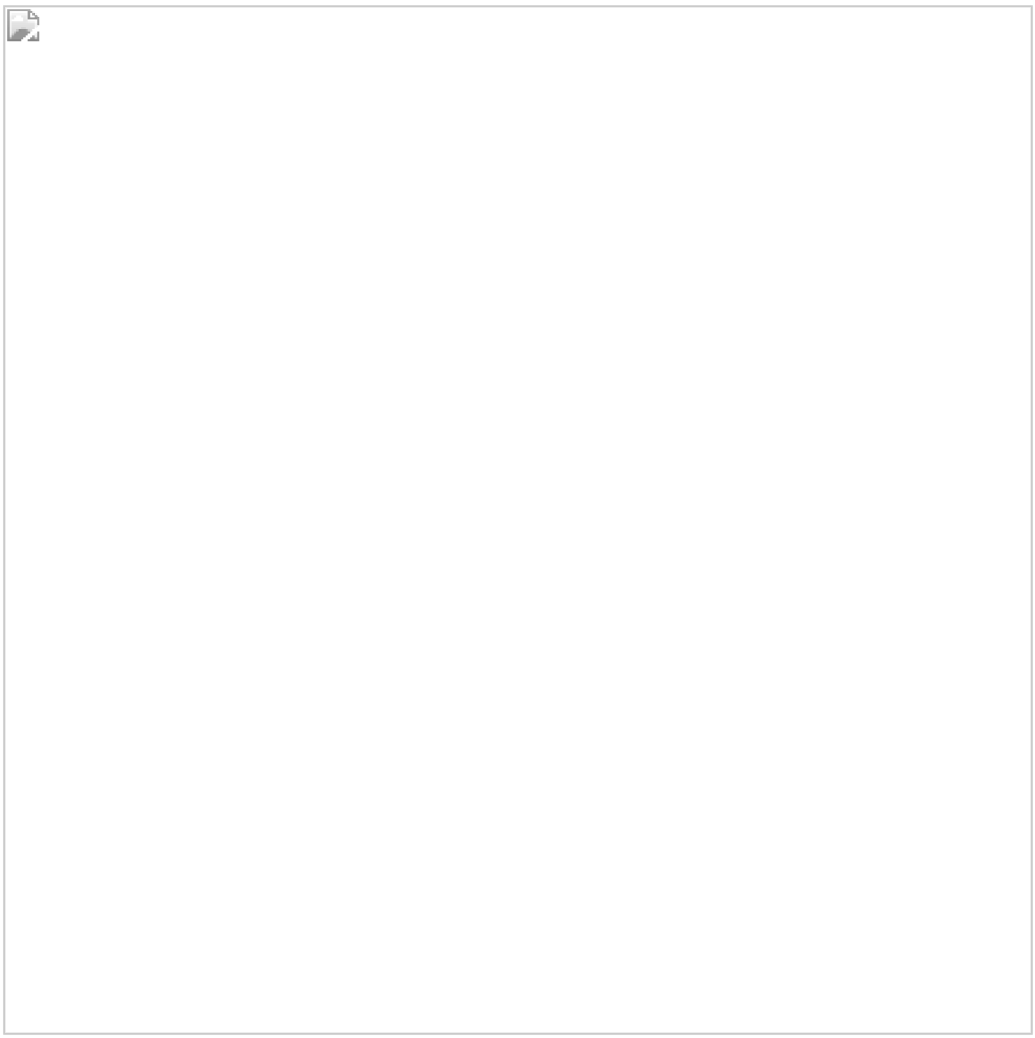
Mr. McGregor hung up the little jacket and the shoes for a scare-crow to frighten the blackbirds.

Peter never stopped running or looked behind him till he got home to the big fir-tree. He flopped down on the soft sand of the rabbit-hole and shut his eyes. It was the second little jacket and pair of shoes that Peter had lost in a fortnight!

Peter was not very well during the evening. His mother put him to bed, made some camomile tea, and gave a dose of it to Peter. But Flopsy, Mopsy, and Cotton-tail had bread and milk and blackberries for supper.

TALK ABOUT IT

How was Peter's evening different from his sisters'? Why do you think that was?



Think about it

1. What did Mr. McGregor do with Peter's jacket and shoes?

- ○ Hung them up for a scare-crow
- ○ Gave them back
- ○ Threw them in the pond

2. What did Peter's mother give him at bed-time?

- ○ Camomile tea
- ○ Blackberries
- ○ Currant buns

3. Where did Peter run without stopping?

- ○ Home to the big fir-tree
- ○ Back to the baker's
- ○ Down the lane

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

— Yeshua HaMashiach

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