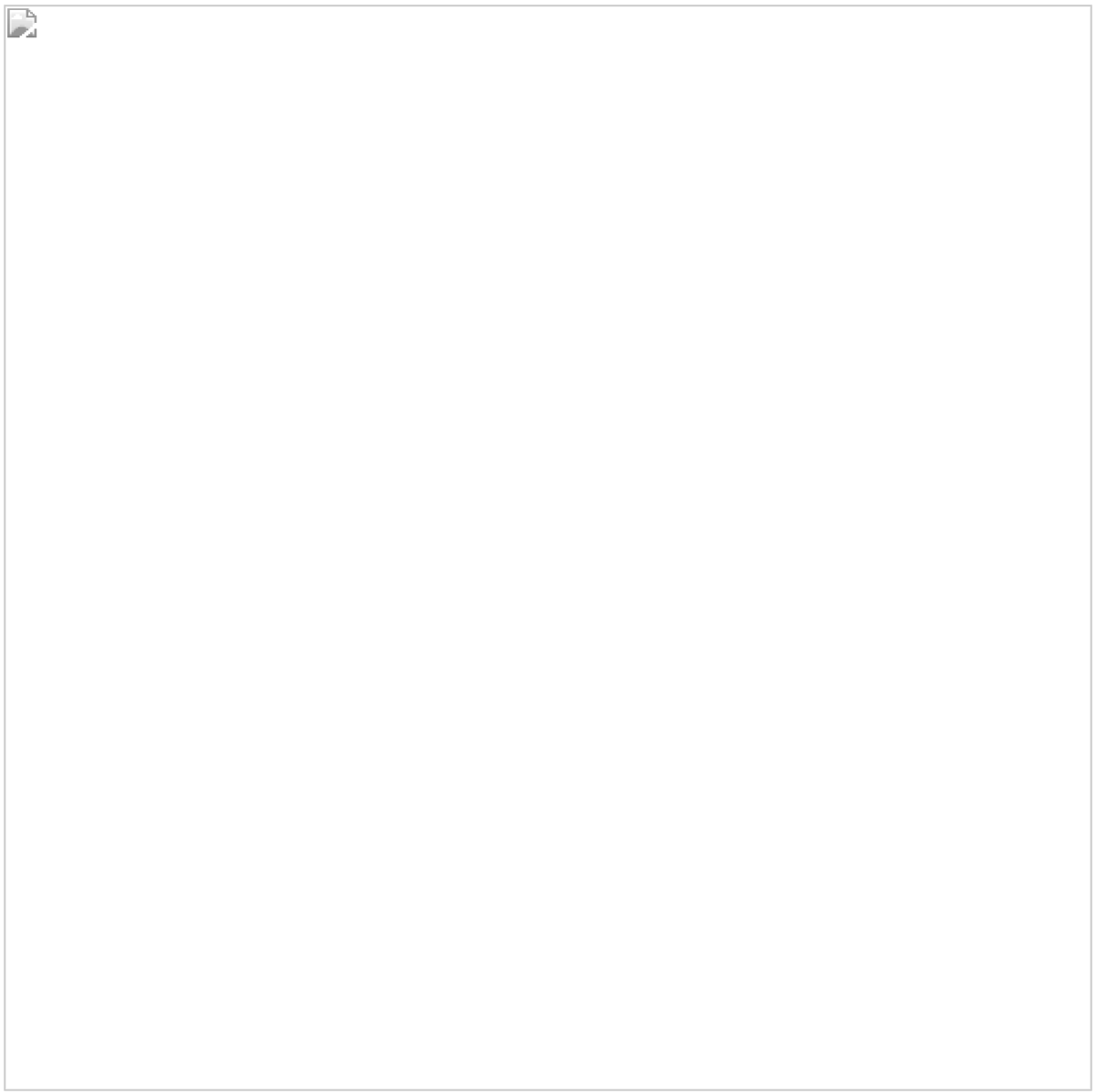
COLORING THE CLASSICS

Thor and the Giants

A Norse Myth



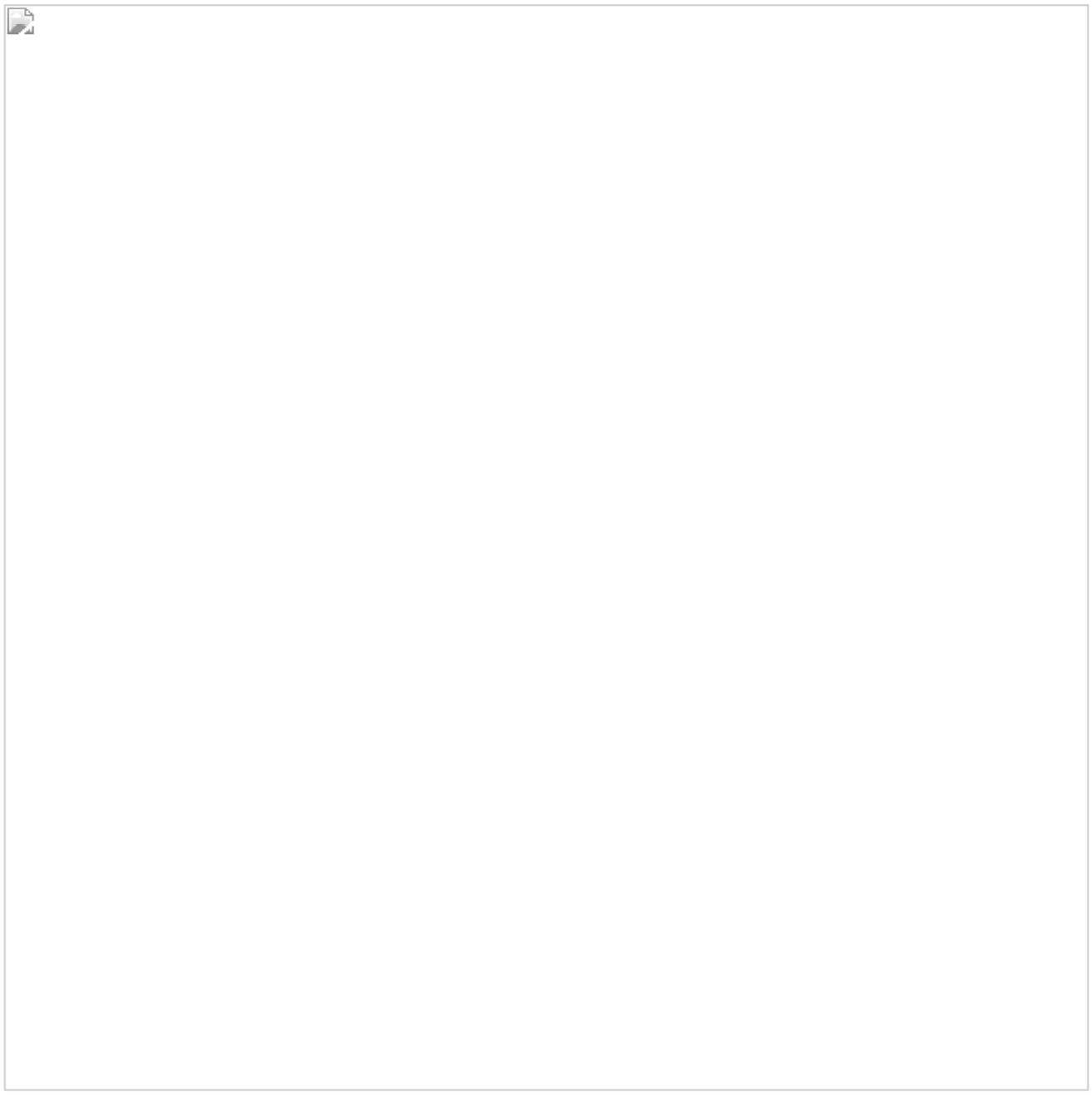
One day Thor, the god of thunder, set out on a journey in his chariot, pulled by two strong goats. He took Loki the trickster along, for Loki, mischief and all, was often a help.

TALK ABOUT IT

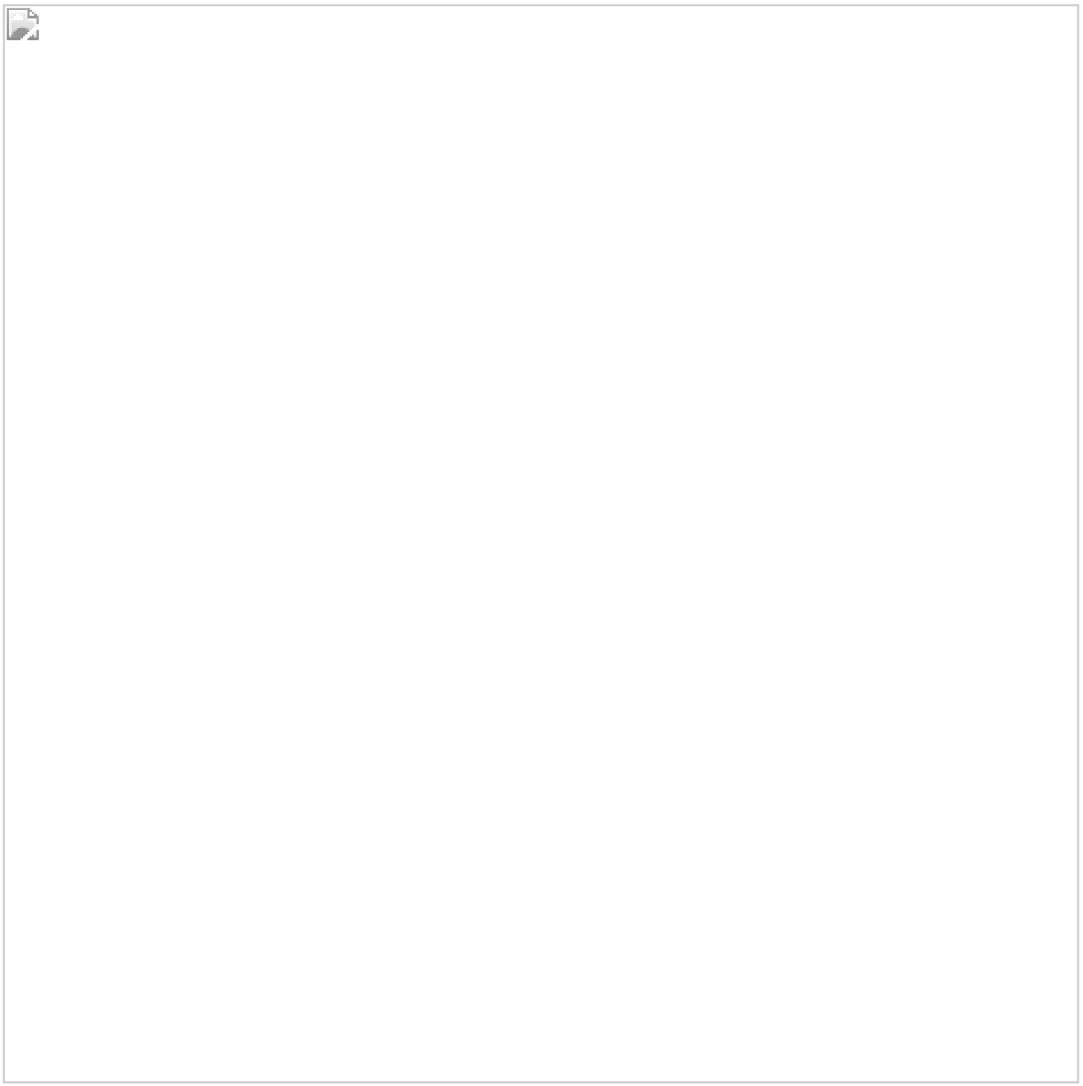
If you could take one friend on a long trip, who would it be? What would you bring?

This book belongs to _____

Thor and the Giants · another picture



A Poor Man's Hut



At nightfall Thor and Loki stopped at a peasant's hut and asked for food and a place to sleep.

“Food I have none to give you,” said the peasant. “I am a poor man and not able even to give supper to my children, but if you like to rest under my roof you are welcome to do so.”

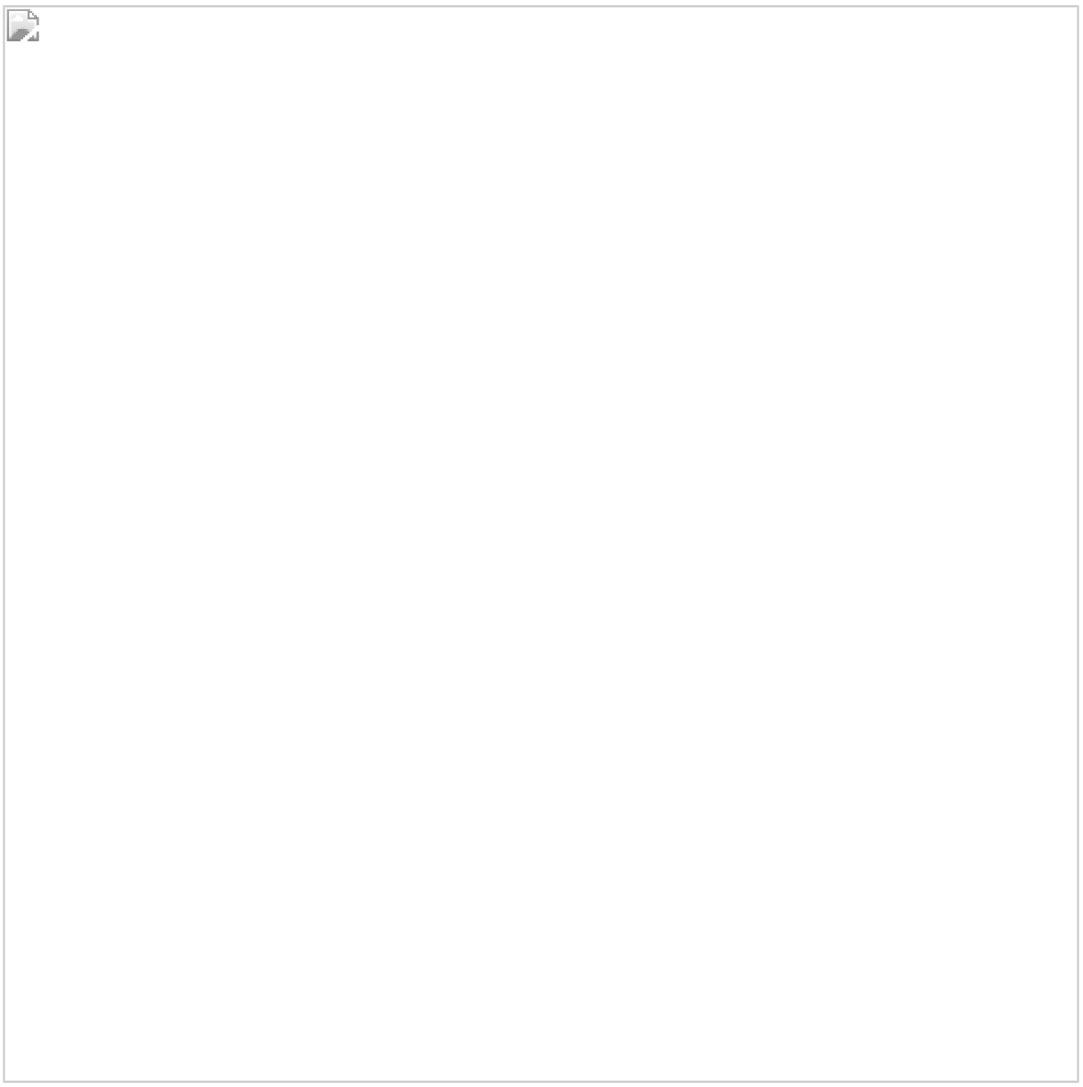
“Never mind the food; I can manage that,” said Thor. “You can kill the goats; they will make us an excellent meal.”

The peasant and his daughter Raska cooked the supper, and the family had a bigger meal than they had had in a long time.

TALK ABOUT IT

The poor man had no food, but he offered his roof. What can you share when you do not have much?

A Poor Man's Hut · another picture

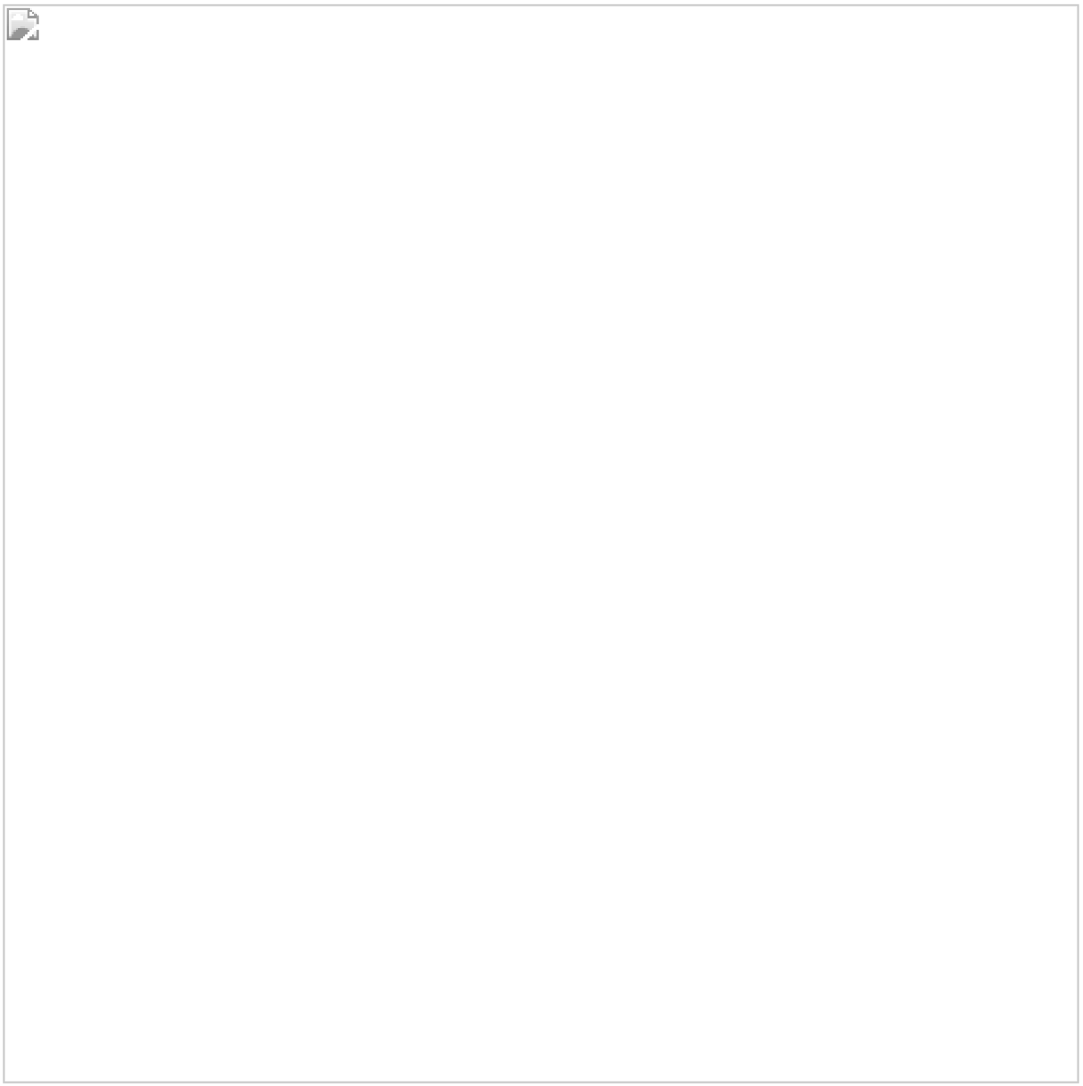


Think about it

1. What did the peasant offer Thor and Loki?

- ○ A feast
- ○ A roof to sleep under
- ○ A boat

The Goats Come Back



After supper, Thor had the peasant put all the bones into the goatskins and tie them in a bundle.

In the morning, Thor raised his hammer, and there stood the two goats, as fresh and lively as ever! But one of them limped a little.

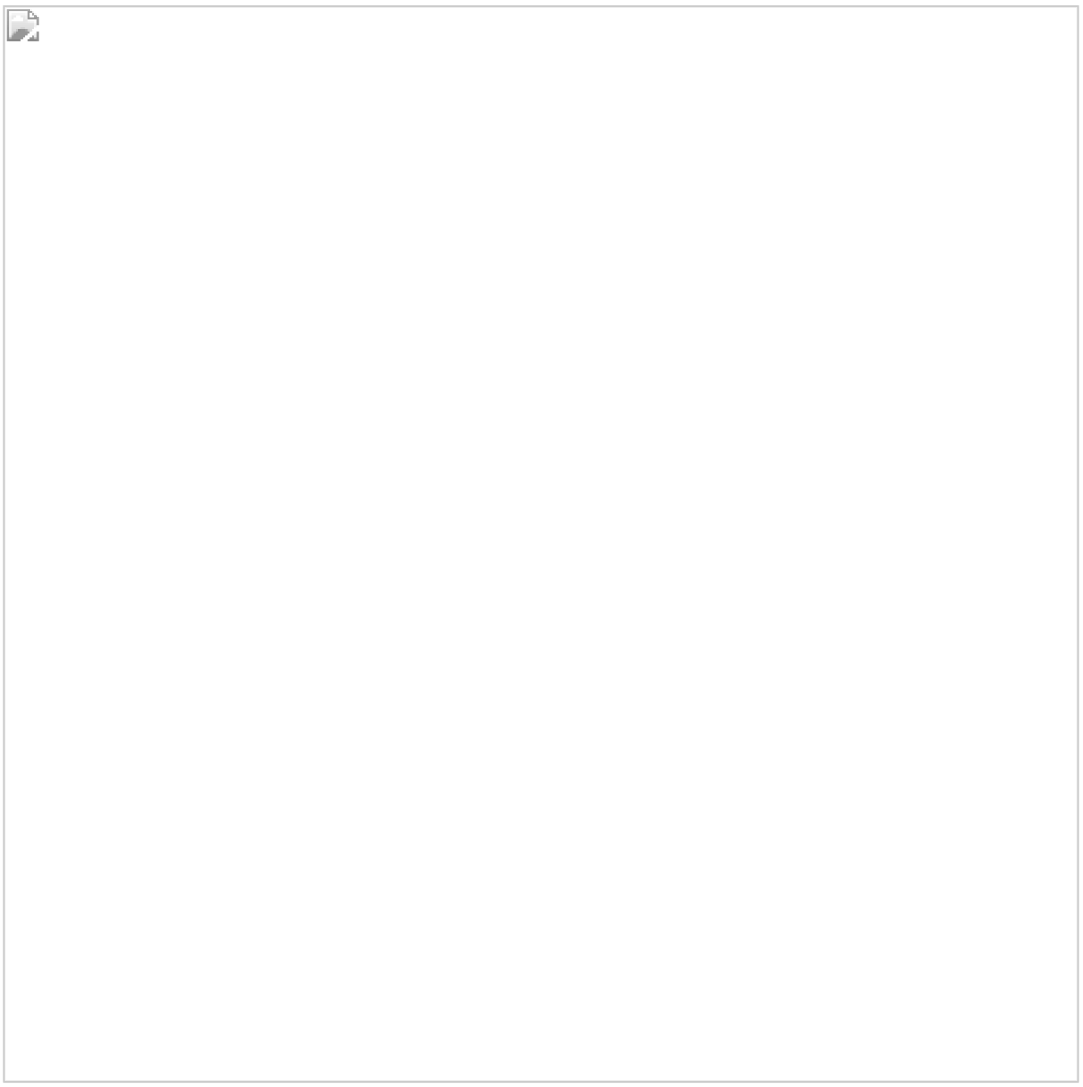
The peasant's son, Thialfe, had broken a bone to get at the marrow inside. Thor was very angry. But the family begged him to forgive them, and he agreed that Thialfe and Raska should come along on his travels.

Thor left his chariot and goats with the peasant, and he gave Thialfe, who was a very fast runner, his wallet to carry.

TALK ABOUT IT

Thialfe broke the bone, and the whole family asked for mercy. Have you ever needed someone to forgive you? What happened?

The Goats Come Back · another picture

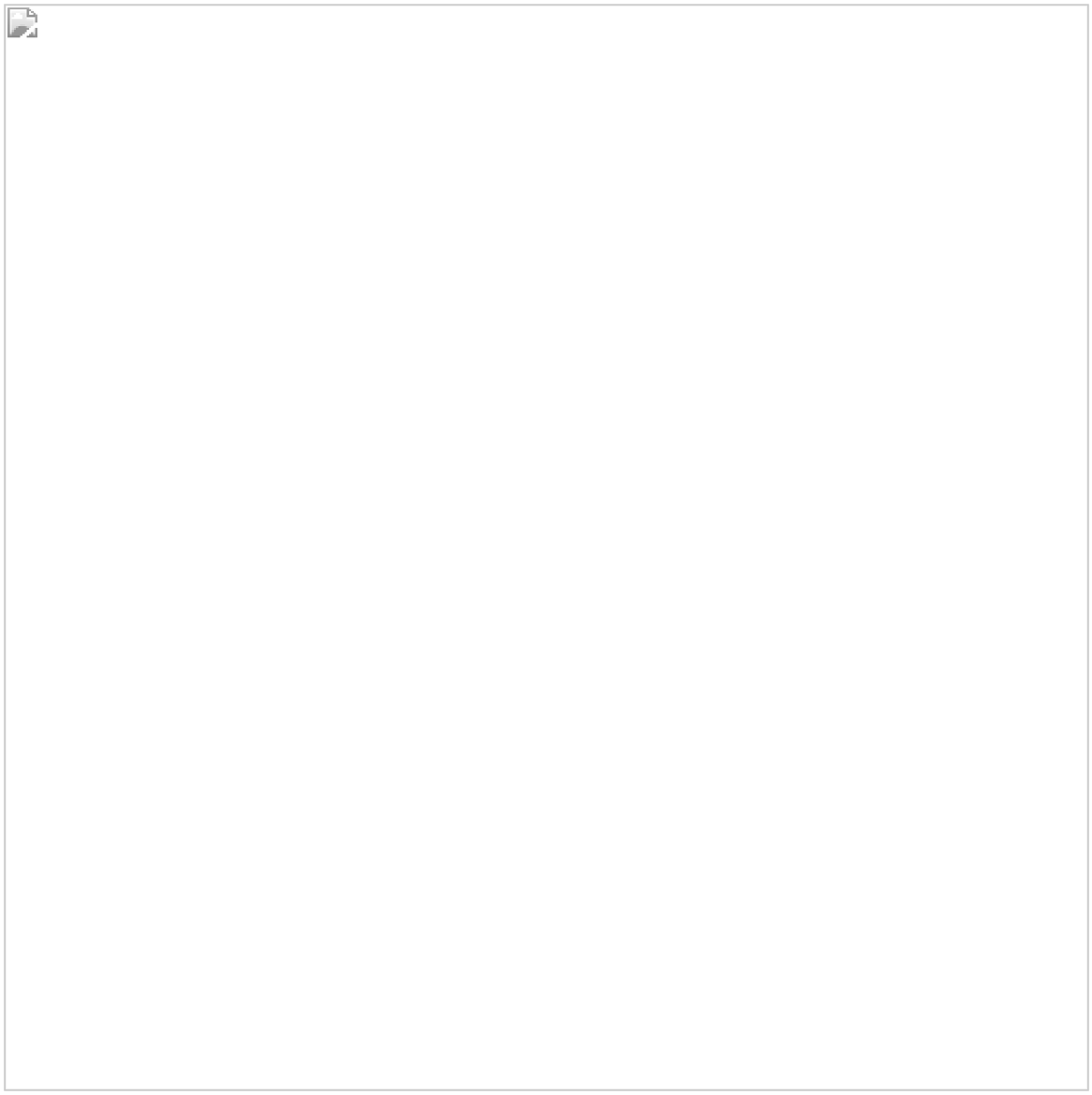


Think about it

1. Why did one goat limp?

- ○ It was tired from running
- ○ It was very old
- ○ Thialfe had broken one of the bones

Across the Sea



On and on they went until they came to a great sea. “How are we to get over this?” asked Loki.

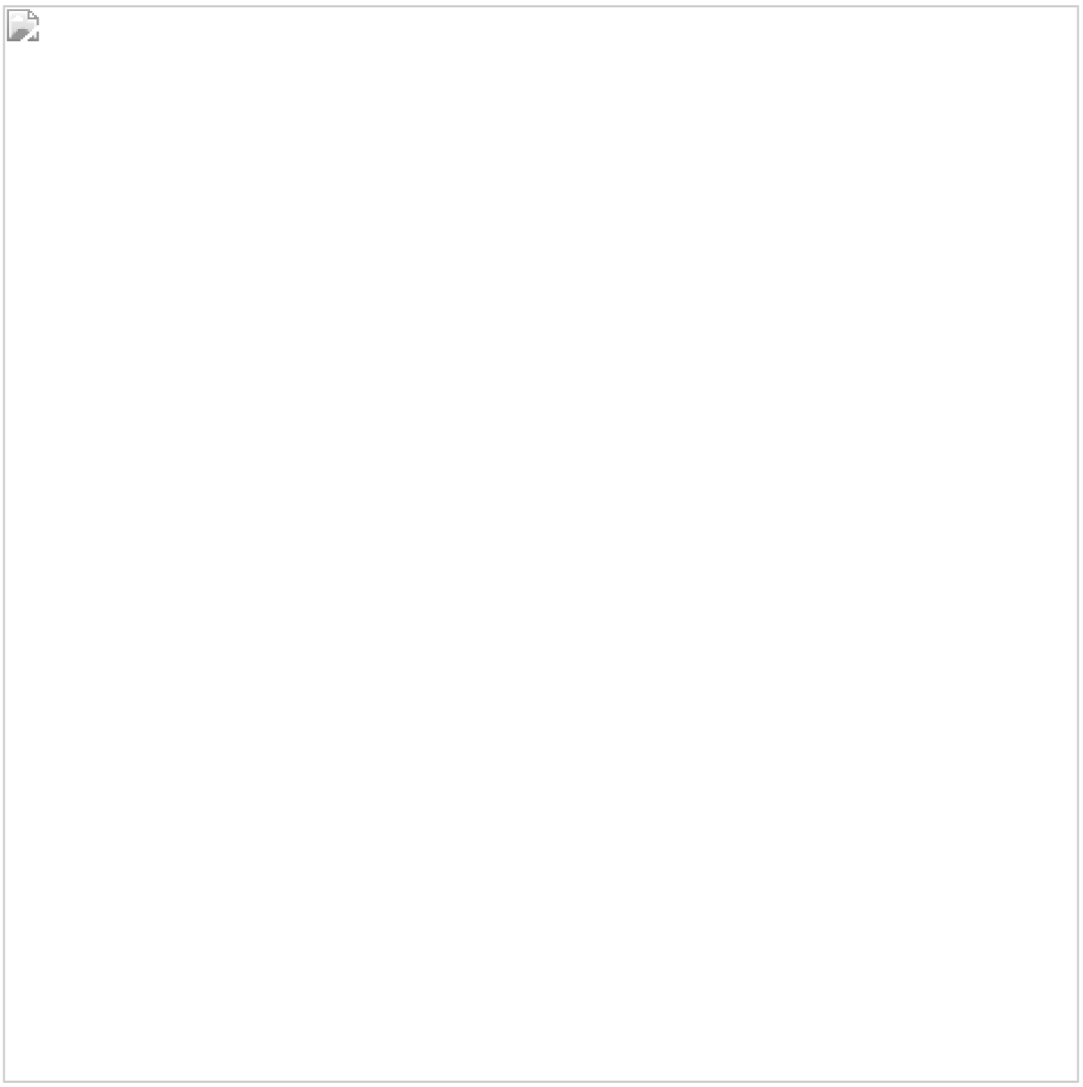
“Swim across it,” said Thor. And in they all plunged, and they reached the far shore.

The land beyond was gray and bare. There were huge rocks and no trees, except for a dark forest far away. “It looks not well,” said Thor, “but we must push on.”

Night was coming, so they hurried toward the forest. By the time they reached it, it was so dark that Loki only knew by bumping his head on a low branch.

TALK ABOUT IT

How would you cross a great sea if you had no boat? What would you do?

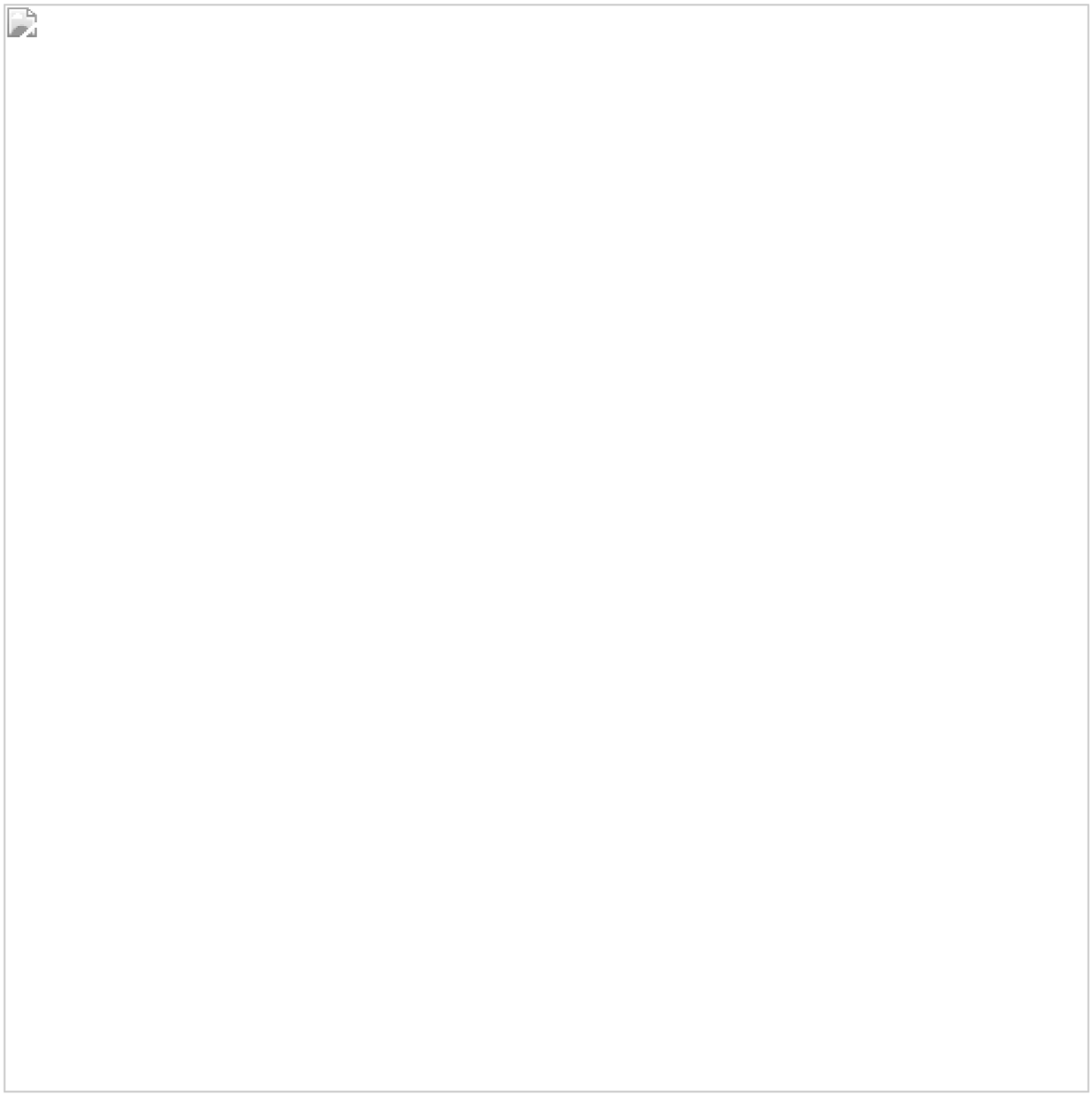


Think about it

1. How did Thor and his friends cross the sea?

- ○ They swam
- ○ They flew
- ○ They built a raft

A Very Big House



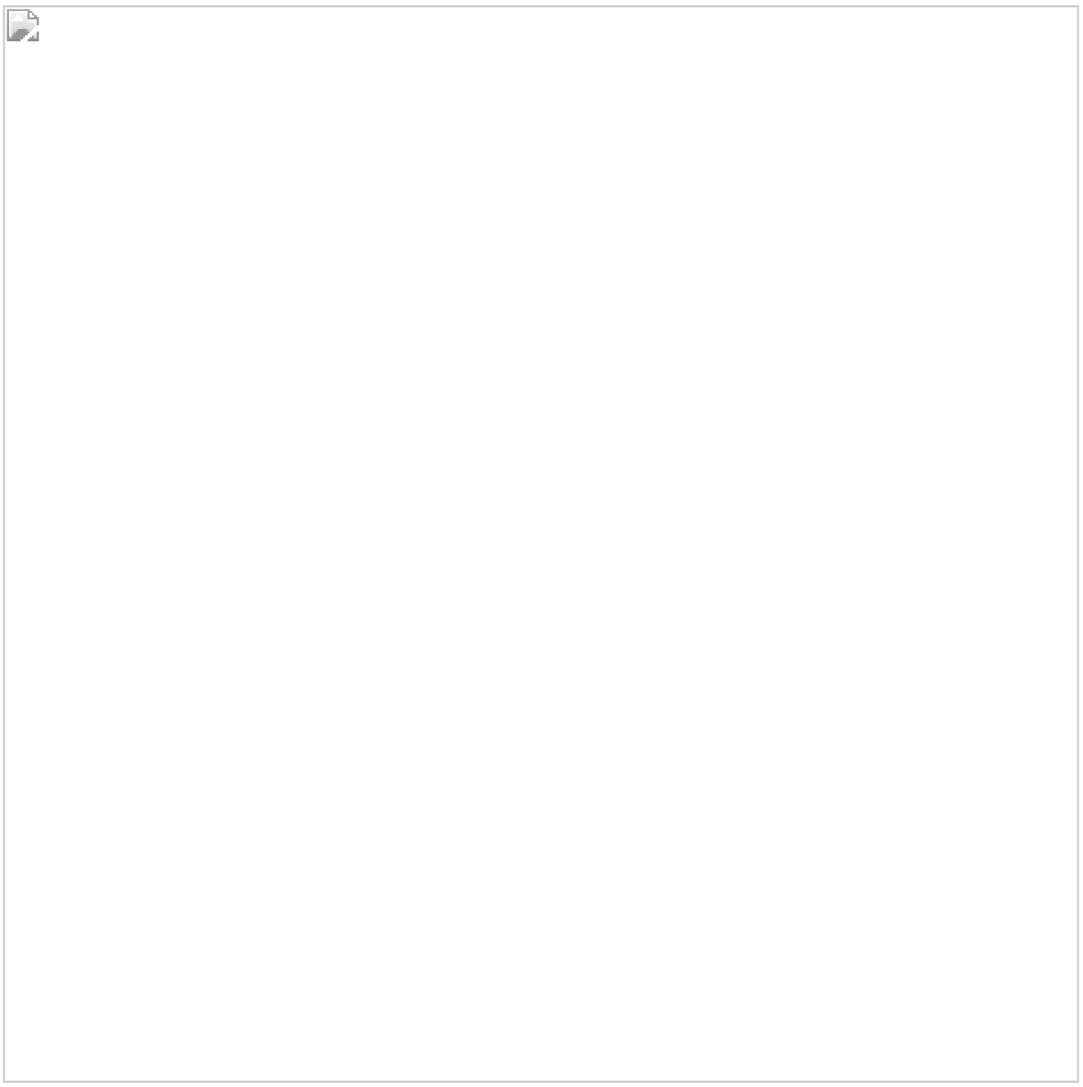
In the dark, Thor found what felt like a wall. “Good luck! I have found a house,” he said. They felt their way along, holding on to each other, until they found a huge doorway.

They went inside to a large empty room and lay down on the hard floor. But in the night, there was a rumble like an earthquake. The walls shook, and peals of thunder rang through the hall.

Thor sent the others to a smaller side room, and he stood in the doorway to keep watch. Nothing happened, and when morning came they were tired but safe.

TALK ABOUT IT

What is the strangest noise you have ever heard in the night? What do you think it was?

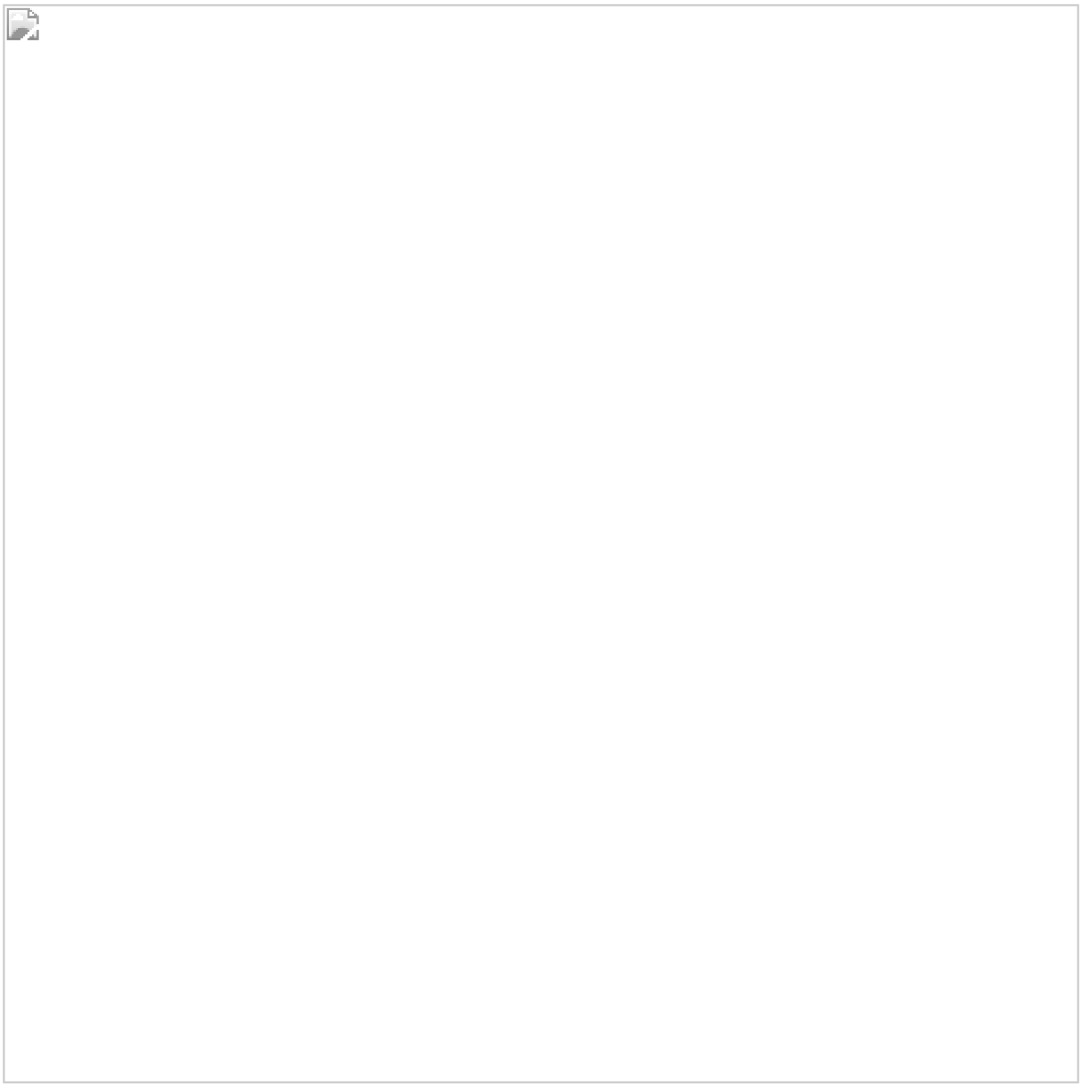


Think about it

1. What did Thor do when the noise began?

- ○ Ran away
- ○ Stood watch at the doorway
- ○ Went back to sleep

The Giant Skrymner



In the morning Thor walked out and saw a huge giant, fast asleep on the grass. The thunder in the night had only been his snoring!

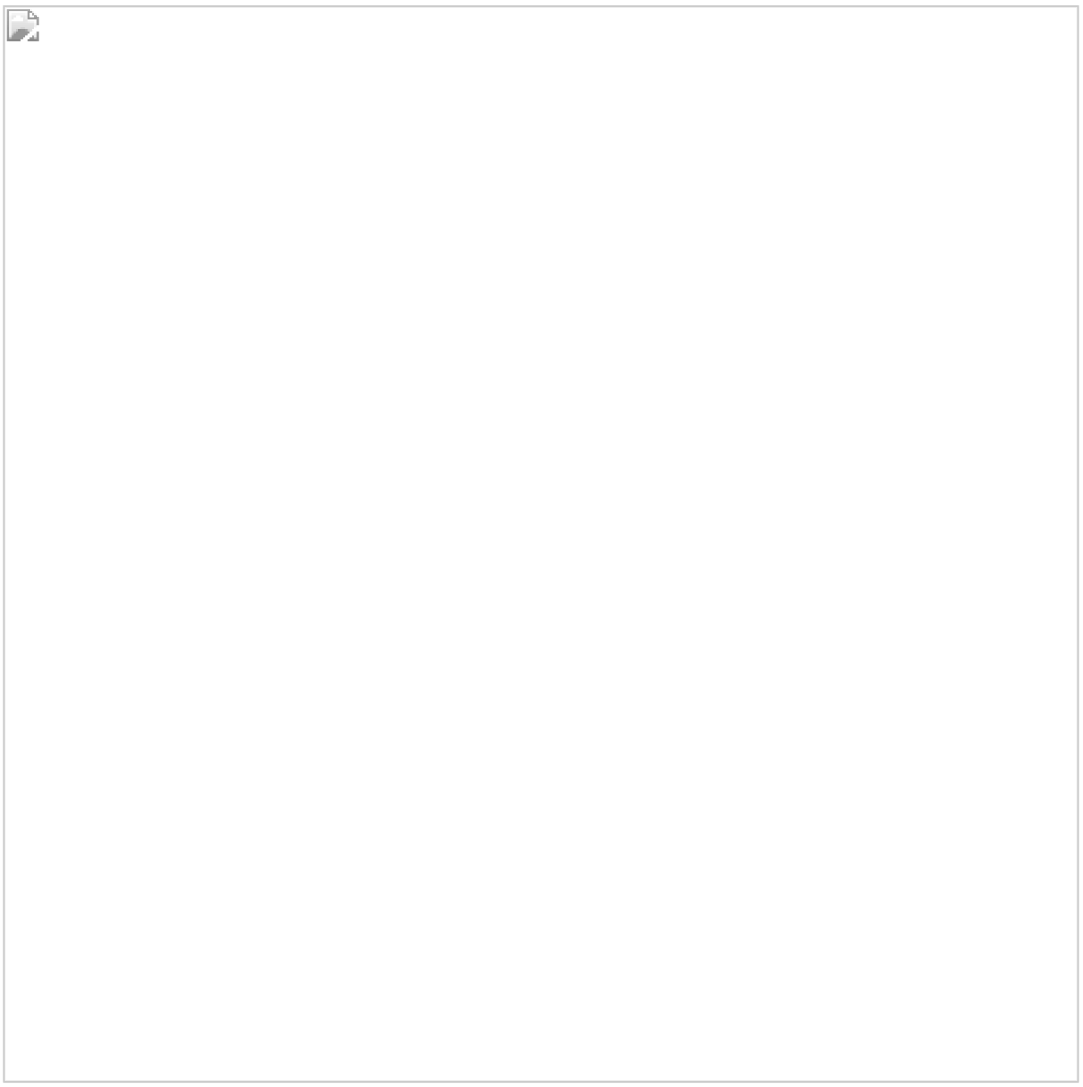
Thor was cross that he had been afraid of a snore. He put on his belt of strength and went toward the giant with his sword. But the giant opened his great round eyes and stared, and Thor could do nothing but stare back.

“What is your name?” asked Thor at last.

The giant said his name was Skrymner. Then he asked, “Do you happen to have picked up my glove?” The great house they had slept in was only the giant's glove.

TALK ABOUT IT

How big would a giant's glove have to be for you to sleep in it? What would you do with such a big glove?



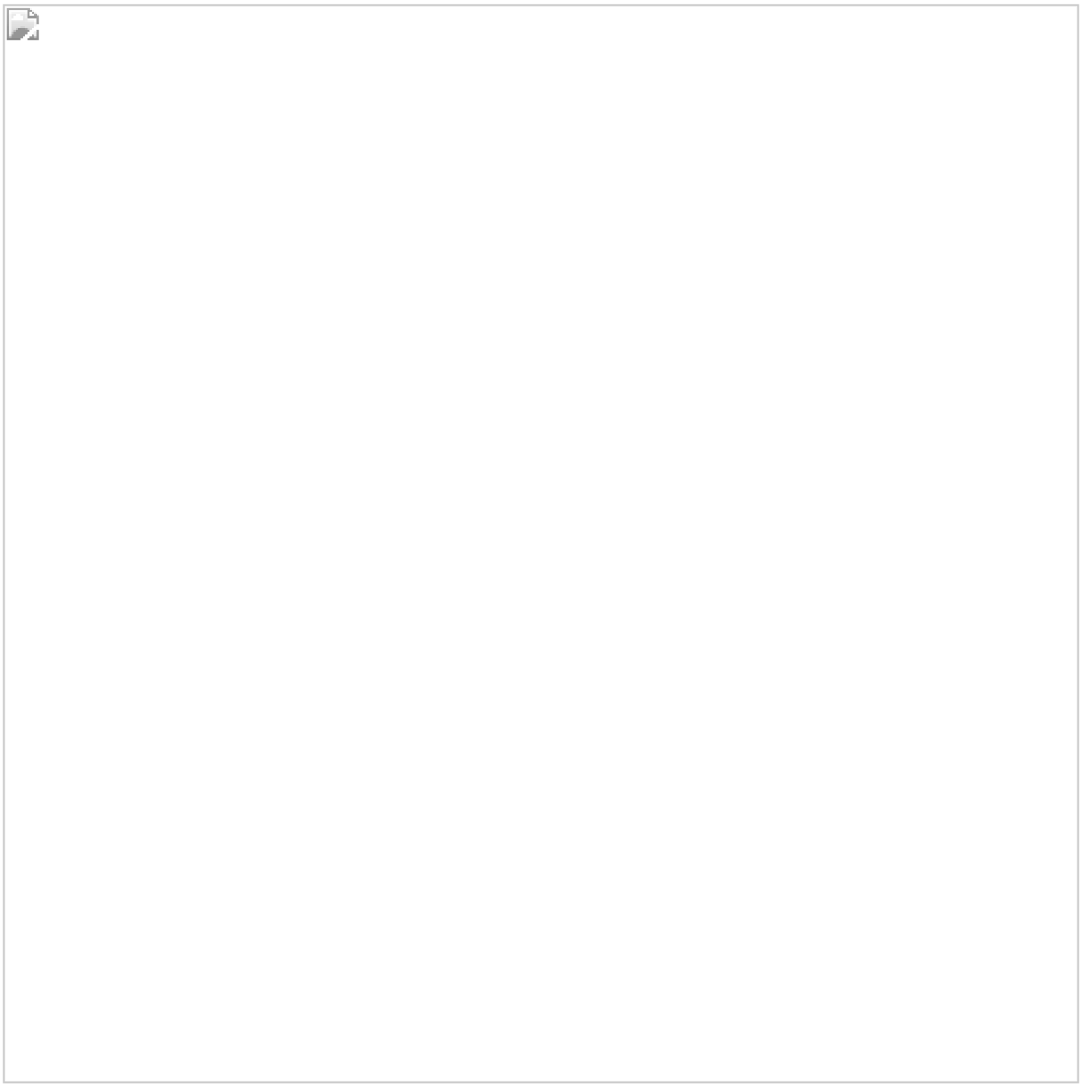
Think about it

1. What was the big house they slept in?

- ○ A giant's glove
- ○ A castle
- ○ A cave

2. How do you think Thor and his friends felt when they found out?

The Wallet and the Warning



Skrymner walked with them toward Utgard and carried their bag of meal.

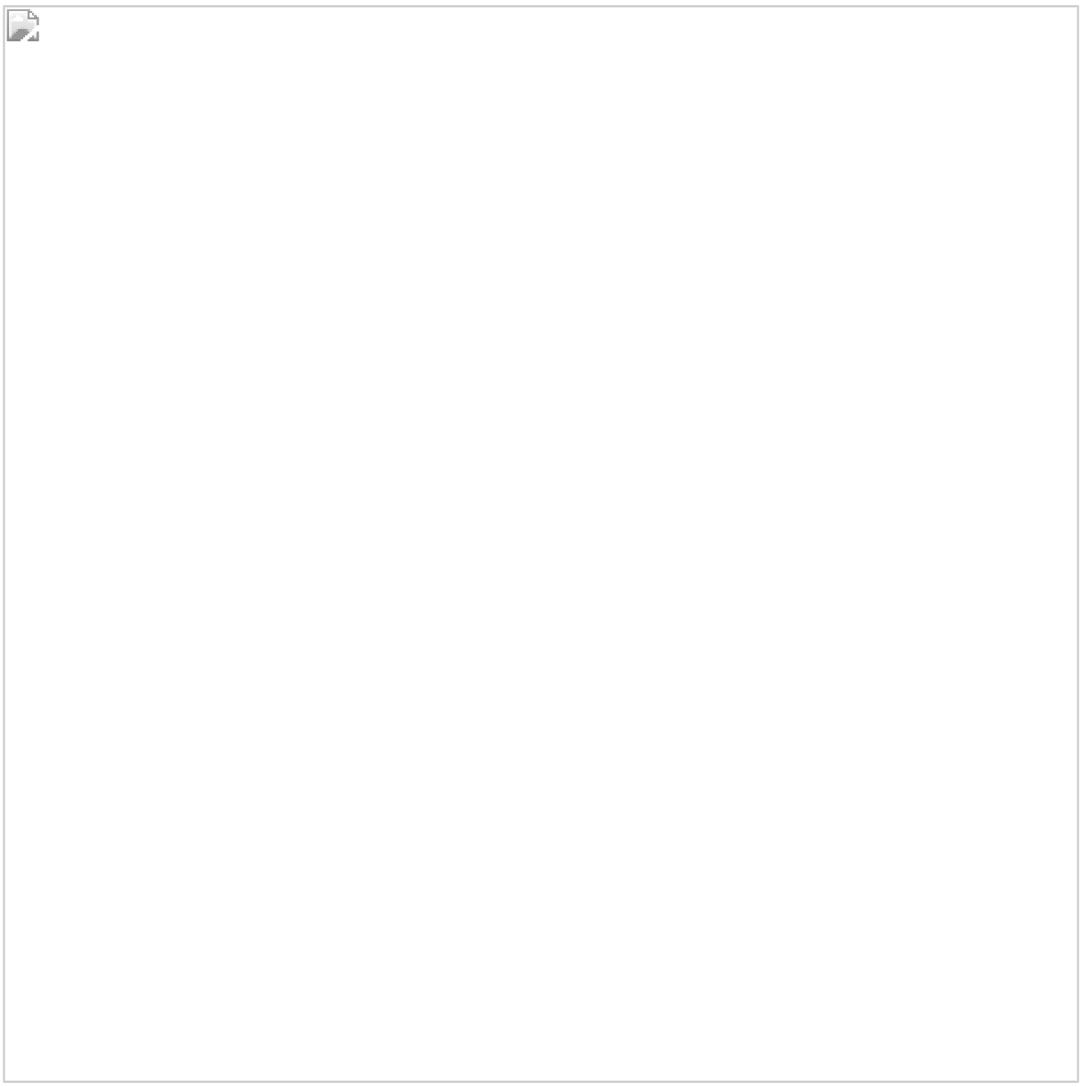
That night he gave them his wallet and fell asleep, but they could not undo a single knot. Angry, Thor struck the sleeping giant three times with his hammer. Each time the giant only murmured, “I suppose there are birds about, for I fancied I felt a feather fall.”

In the morning Skrymner warned that the people of Utgard were bigger even than he. “You are rather apt to think too much of yourself,” he told Thor. “Be wise while there is time, and don't go near the city.”

“But I will go there,” shouted Thor.

TALK ABOUT IT

Skrymner gave Thor a kind warning, and Thor did not listen. Why is it hard to listen when someone tells us to be careful?

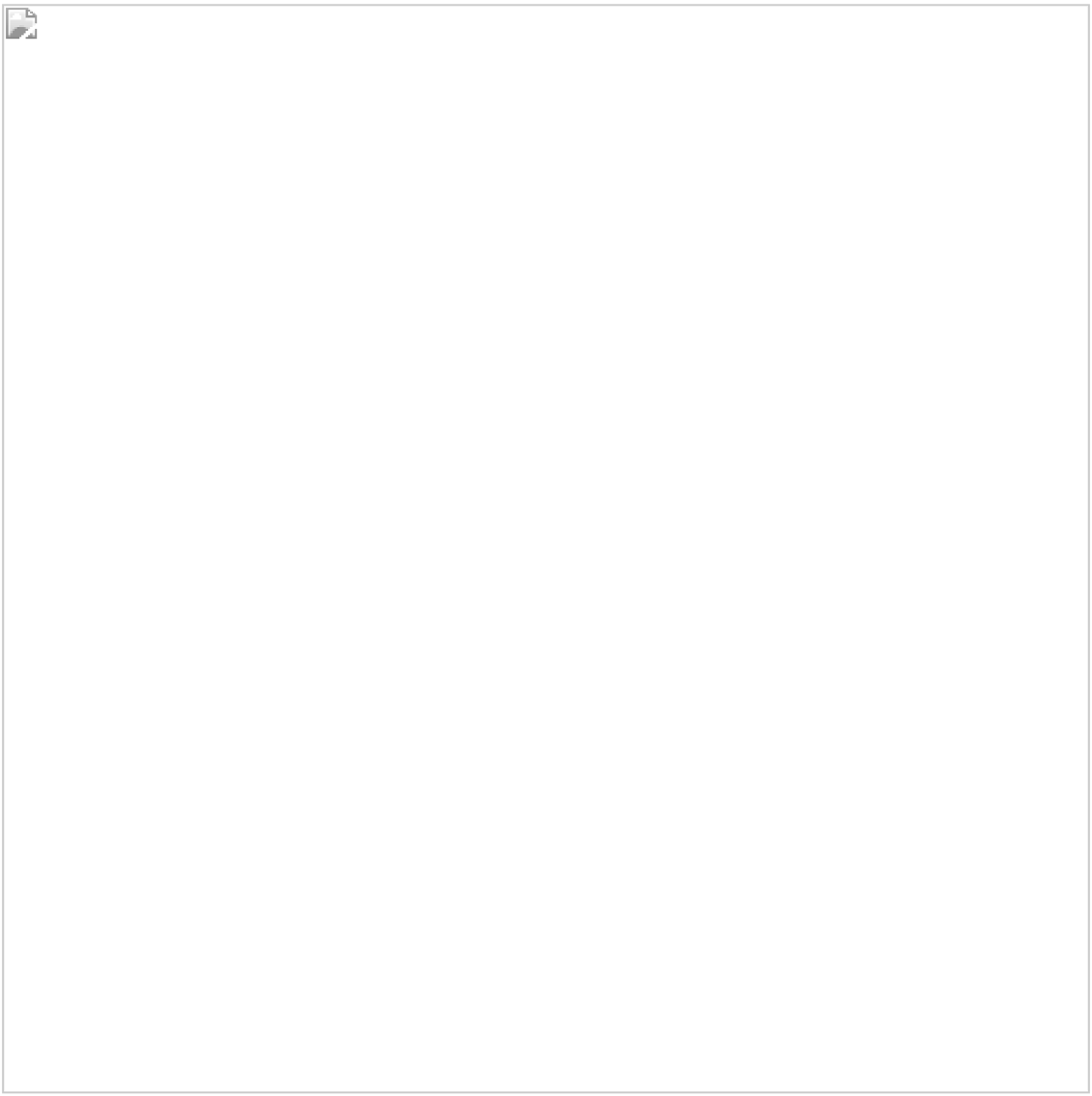


Think about it

1. What did Skrymner tell Thor not to do?

- ○ Eat the bread
- ○ Swim in the sea
- ○ Go to Utgard

The City of Giants



The city of Utgard had gates so high that Thor and his friends looked like grasshoppers beside them. The gates were shut, so they crept through the bars.

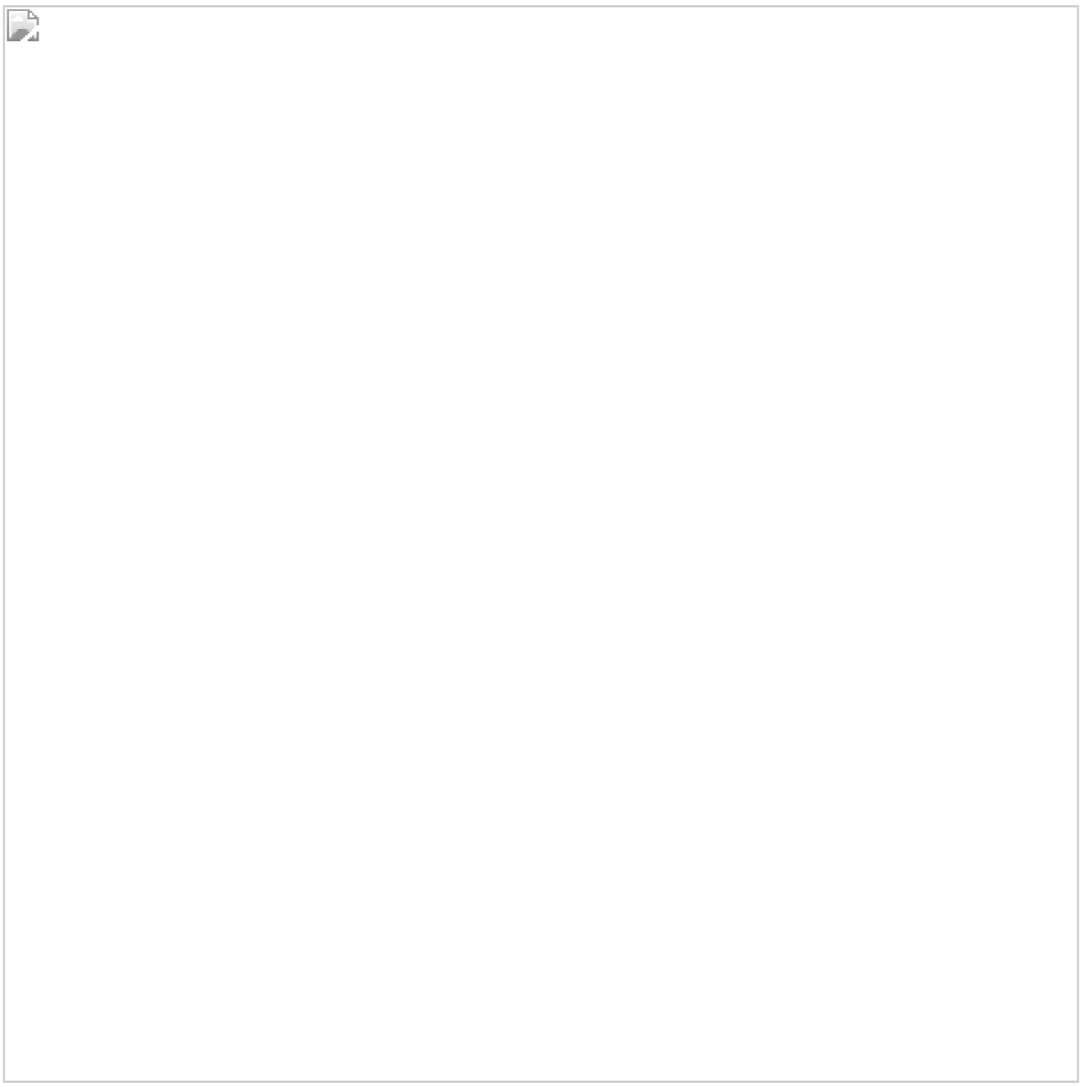
The houses were so tall that they had to cross the street to see the top windows. Raska screamed at a mouse, because she thought it was a bear.

At the palace they bowed to the king, Utgarda Loke, but he did not see them until he looked down. Then he burst out laughing, and so did his courtiers.

“We are by no means to be despised,” said Thor angrily. But the king only laughed louder.

TALK ABOUT IT

Thor was used to being the biggest and strongest. How do you think it felt to be the smallest in the room?

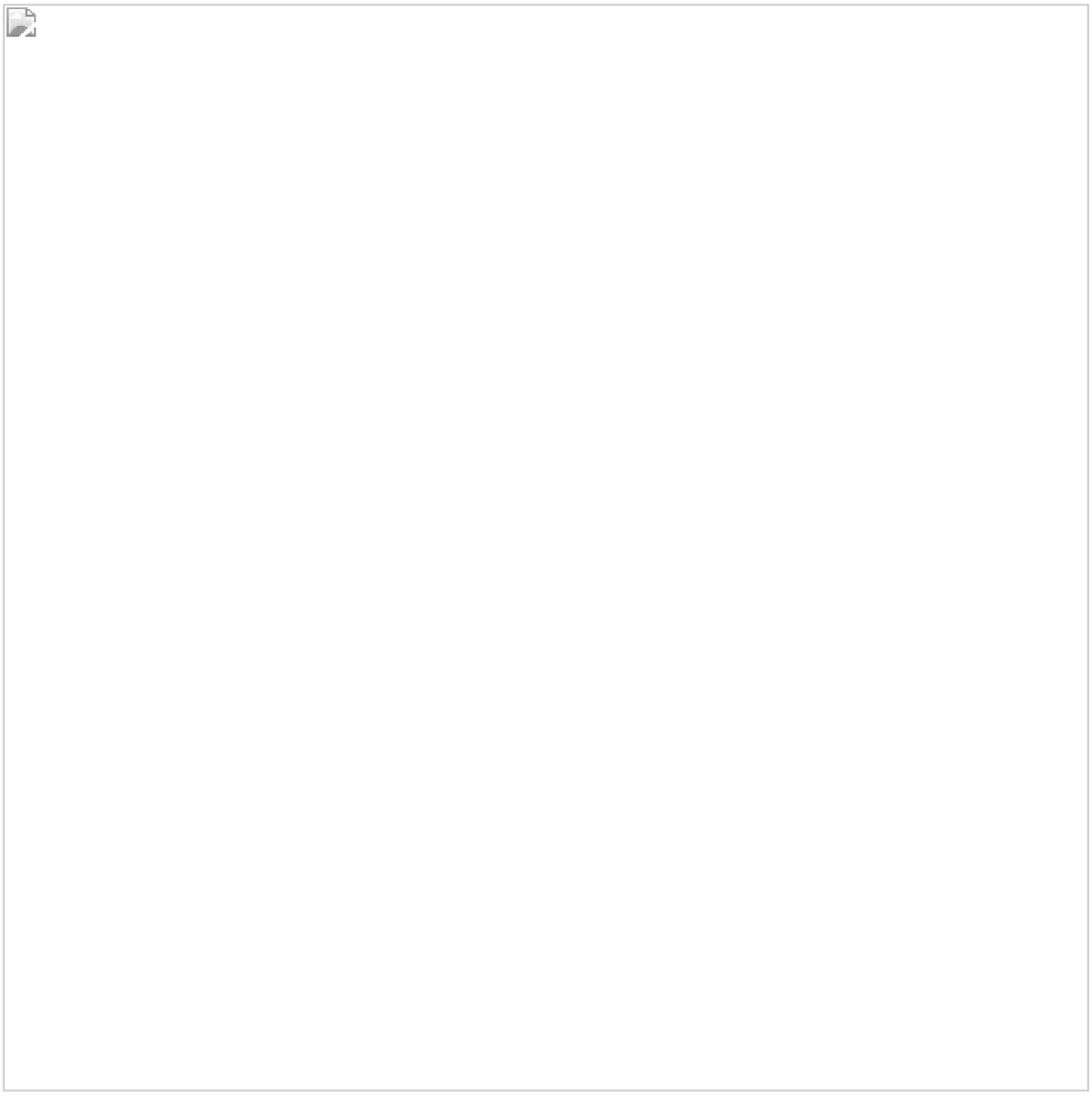


Think about it

1. What did Raska think the mouse was?

- ○ A cat
- ○ A horse
- ○ A bear

Loki's Eating Contest



The king said he would give the visitors a fair trial. He pointed to Loki. “What can this one do?”

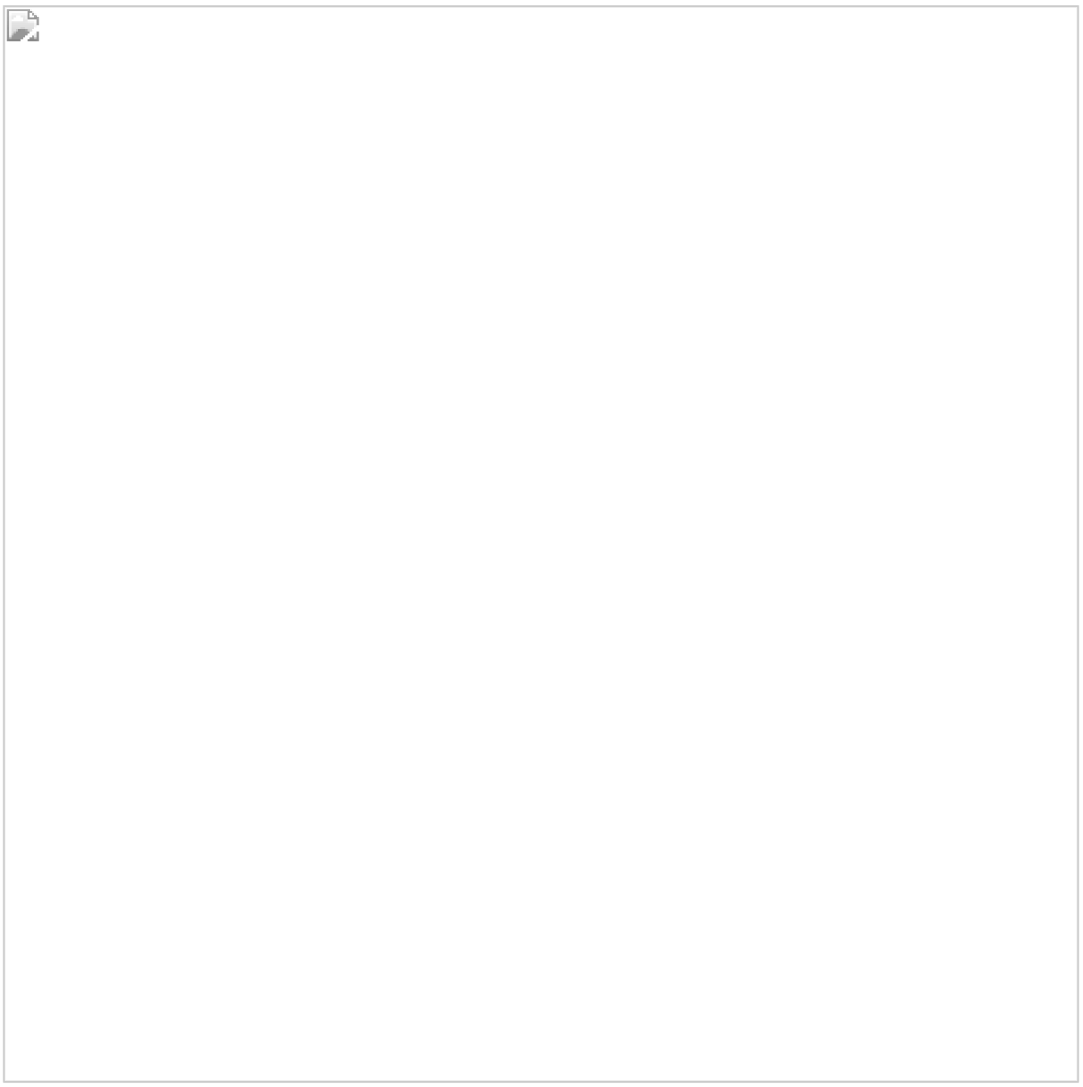
“Please your Majesty, I am very great at eating,” said Loki.

They set a long trough of food between Loki and a courtier named Loge. Each began at one end and ate toward the middle. They met in the center. But Loki had eaten only the meat, and Loge had eaten the meat, the bones and the trough too! Loki had lost.

TALK ABOUT IT

Loki bragged about eating, and then he lost. Have you ever bragged about something? How did it go?

Loki's Eating Contest · another picture

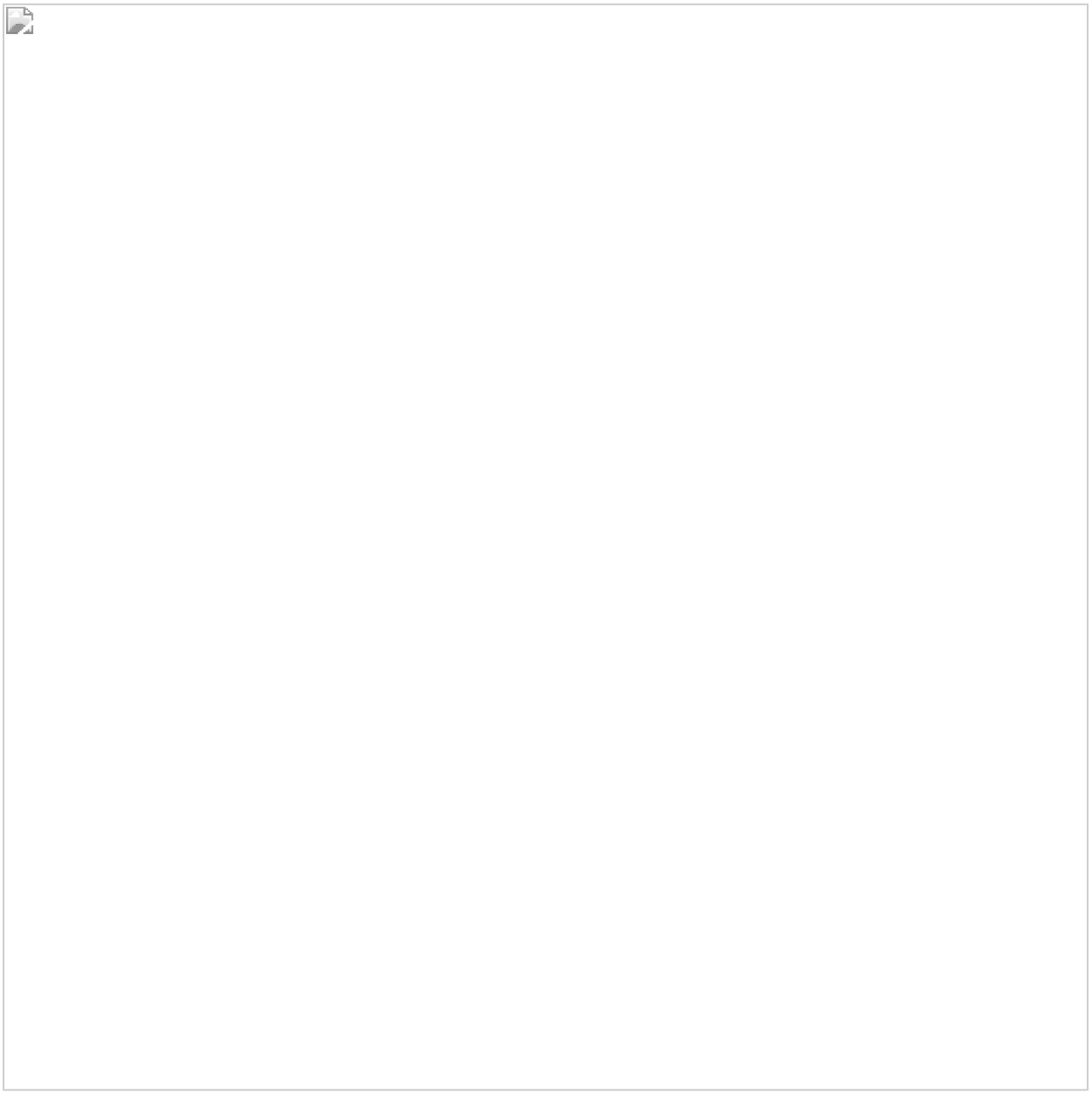


Think about it

1. What was Loki good at, he said?

- ○ Racing
- ○ Eating
- ○ Singing

Thialfe's Race



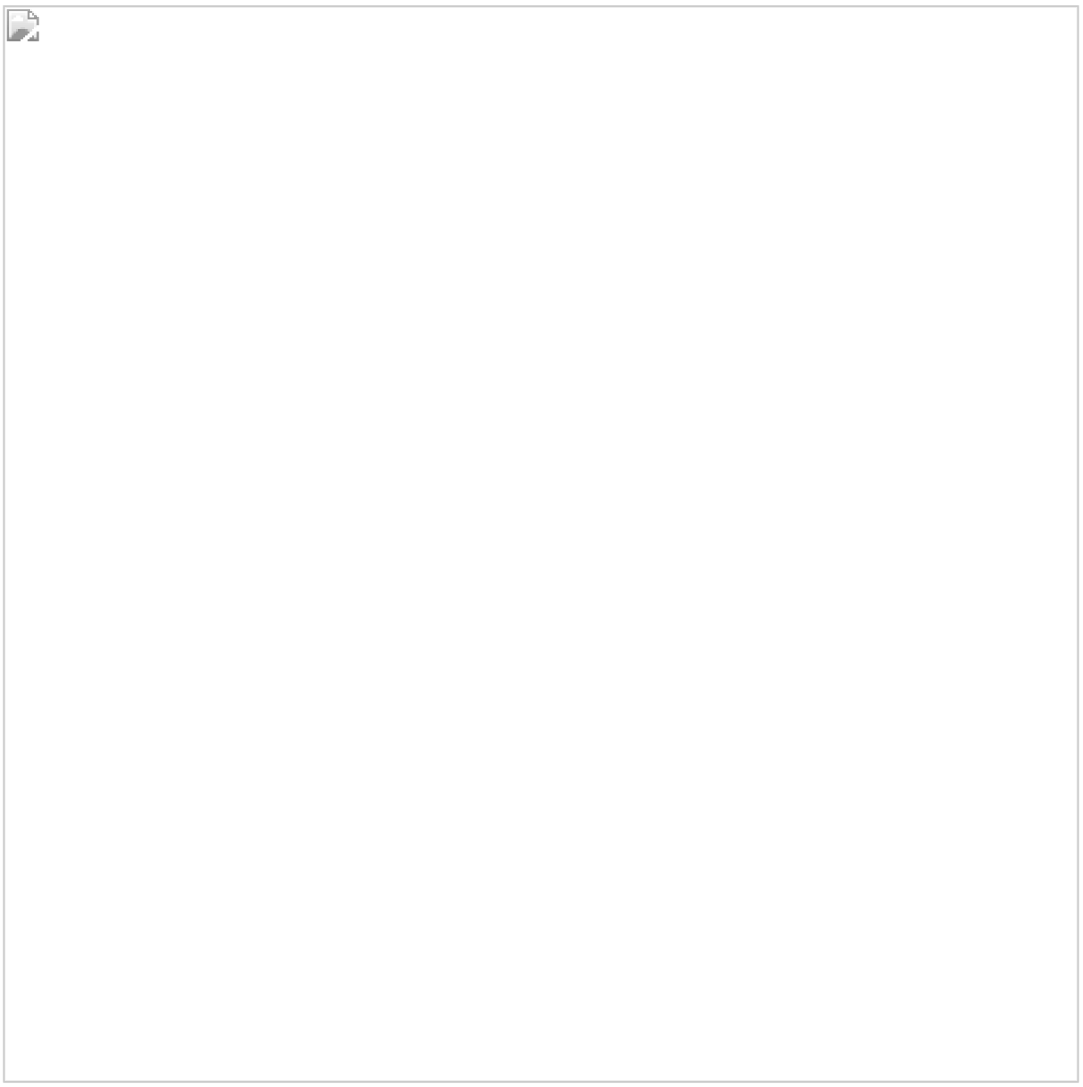
Next came Thialfe. “I am a swift skater,” he said. They took him to a plain of smooth ice and set a runner named Hugr against him.

But Hugr ran so fast that he was back at the start before Thialfe had gone a quarter of the way.

Three times they raced, and three times Thialfe lost.

TALK ABOUT IT

Thialfe was the fastest runner of them all, and he lost three times. What do you say to a friend who lost a race?

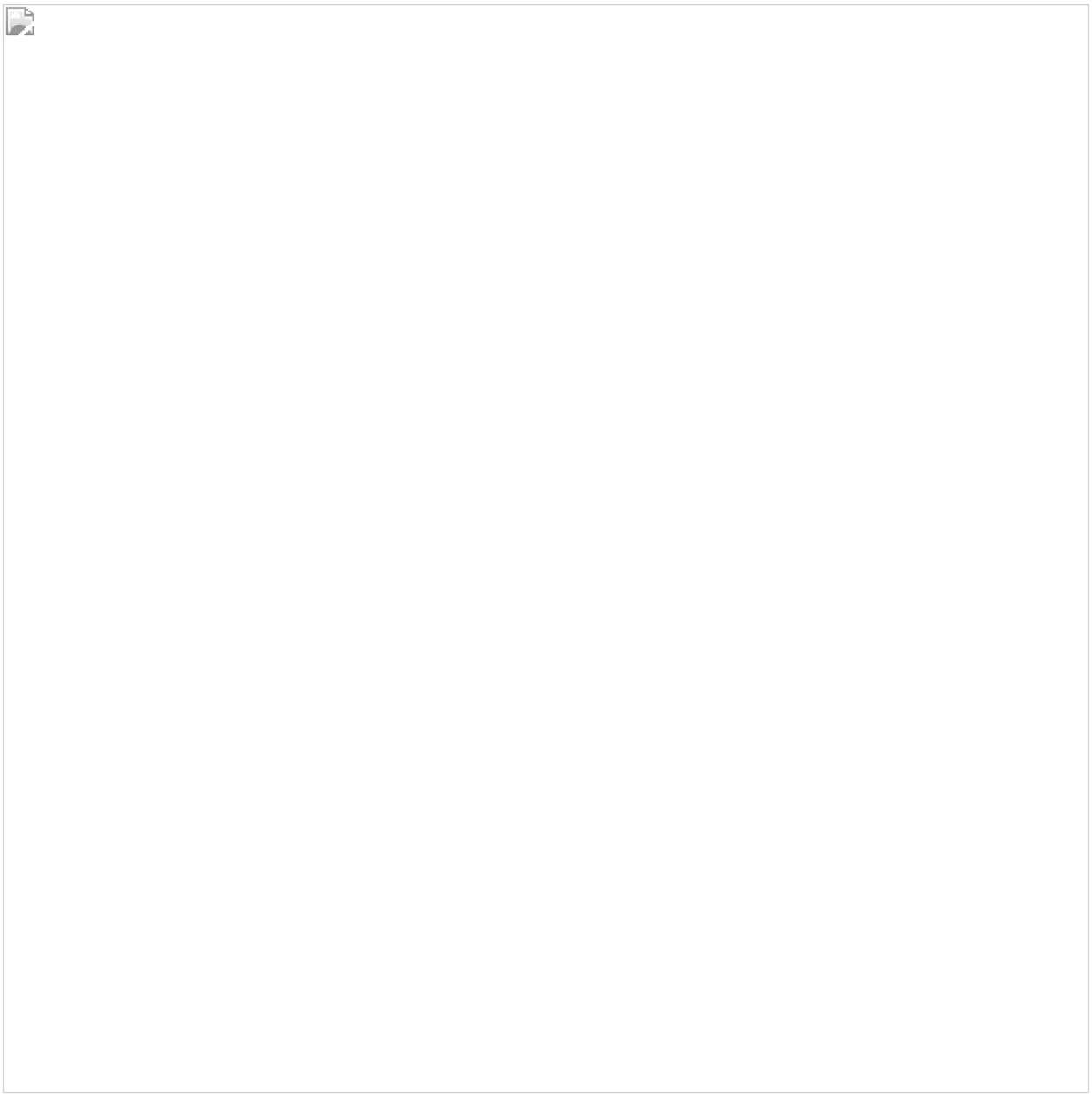


Think about it

1. How many times did Thialfe race?

- ○ Three
- ○ One
- ○ Ten

The Drinking Horn



Then the king asked Thor what he could do. “I can drain a wine-cup with any one,” said Thor.

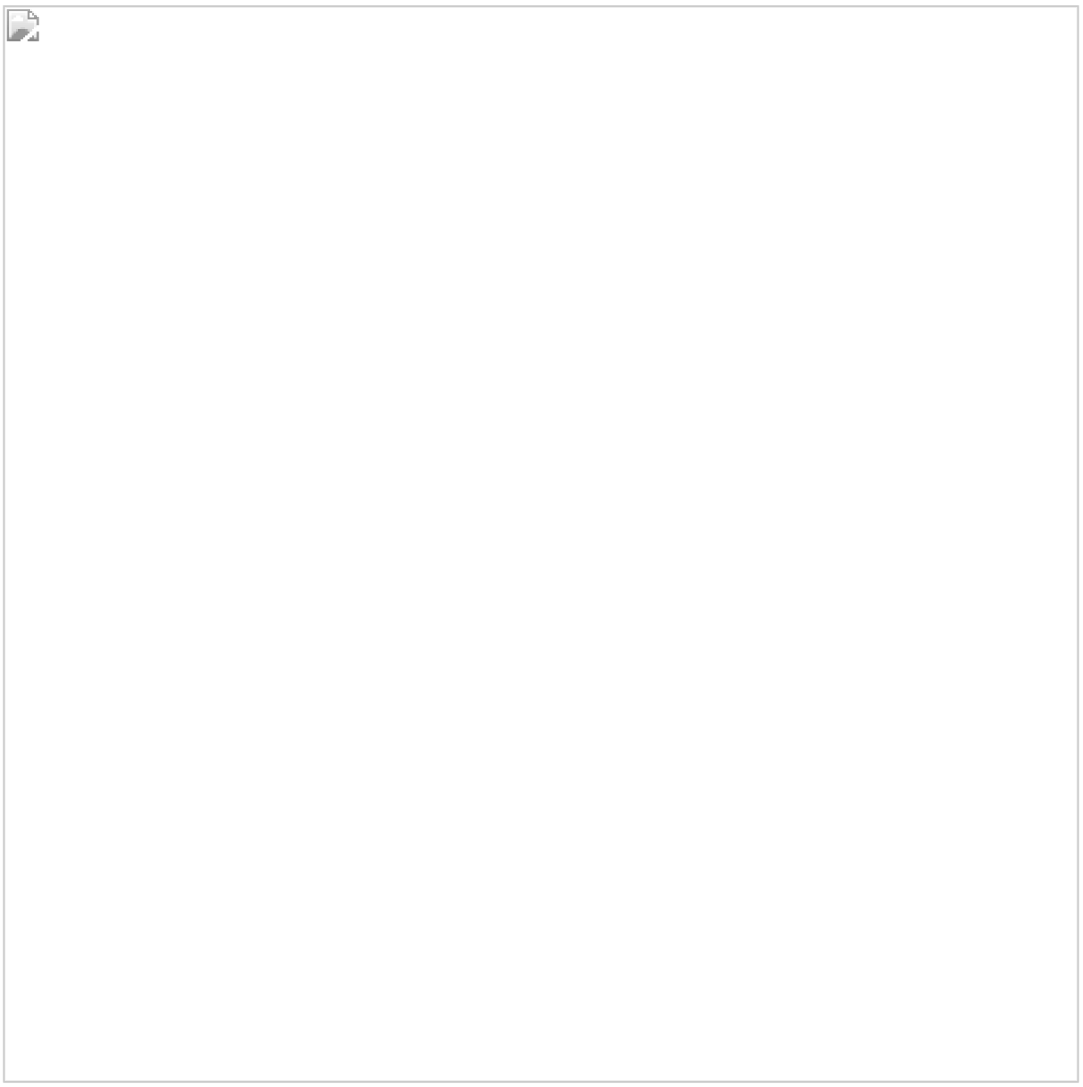
A cupbearer brought a drinking horn. “Some people take two pulls at it,” said the king, “but the weakest among us can manage it in three.”

Thor took a long pull, and then another, and then a third. But the horn was still nearly full. He set it down and said he could not finish it.

TALK ABOUT IT

Thor was sure he could do this. What do you do when something you are sure about turns out to be hard?

The Drinking Horn · another picture

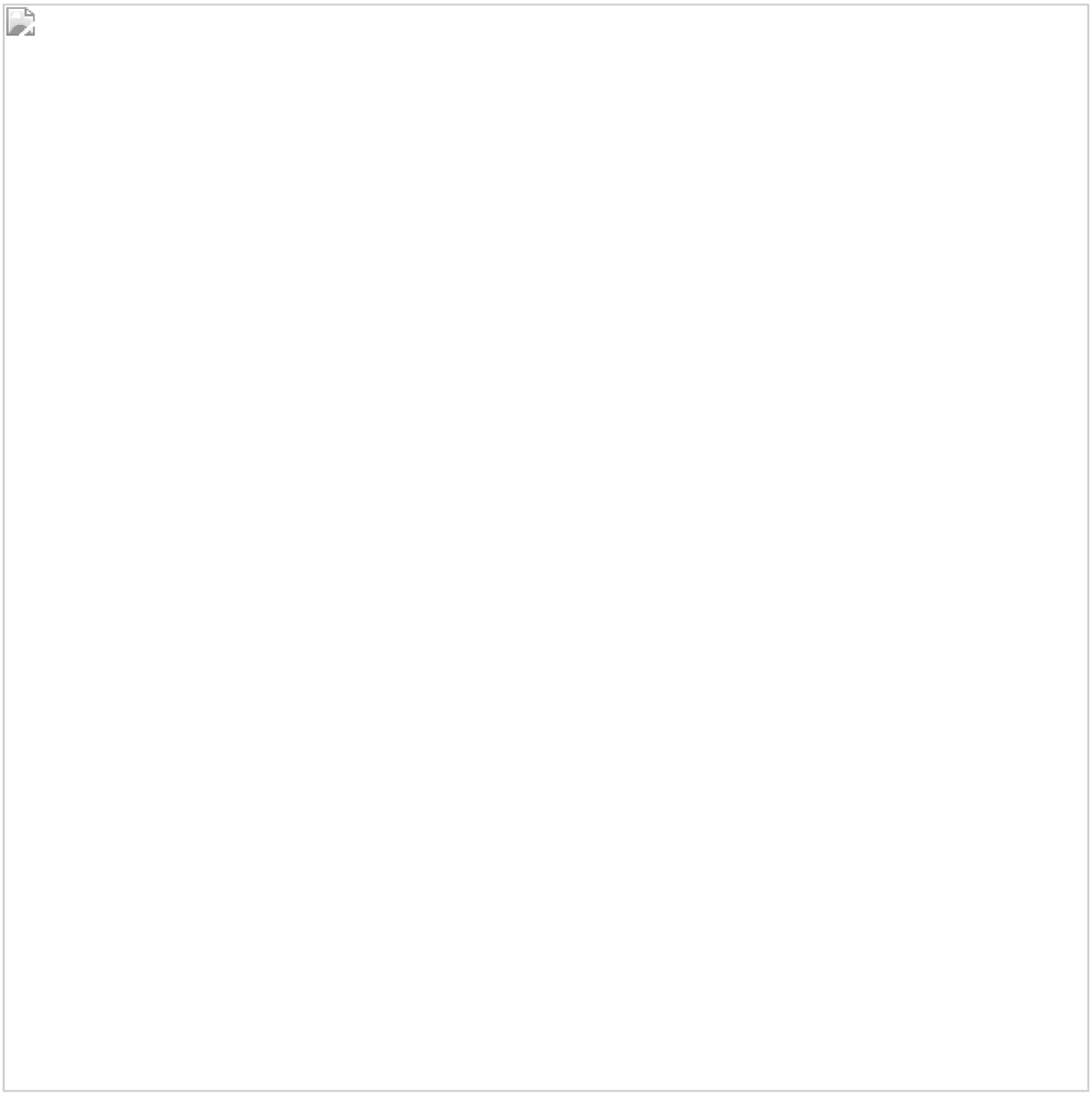


Think about it

1. How many drinks did Thor take?

- ○ Seven
- ○ Three
- ○ None

The Cat and the Wrestler



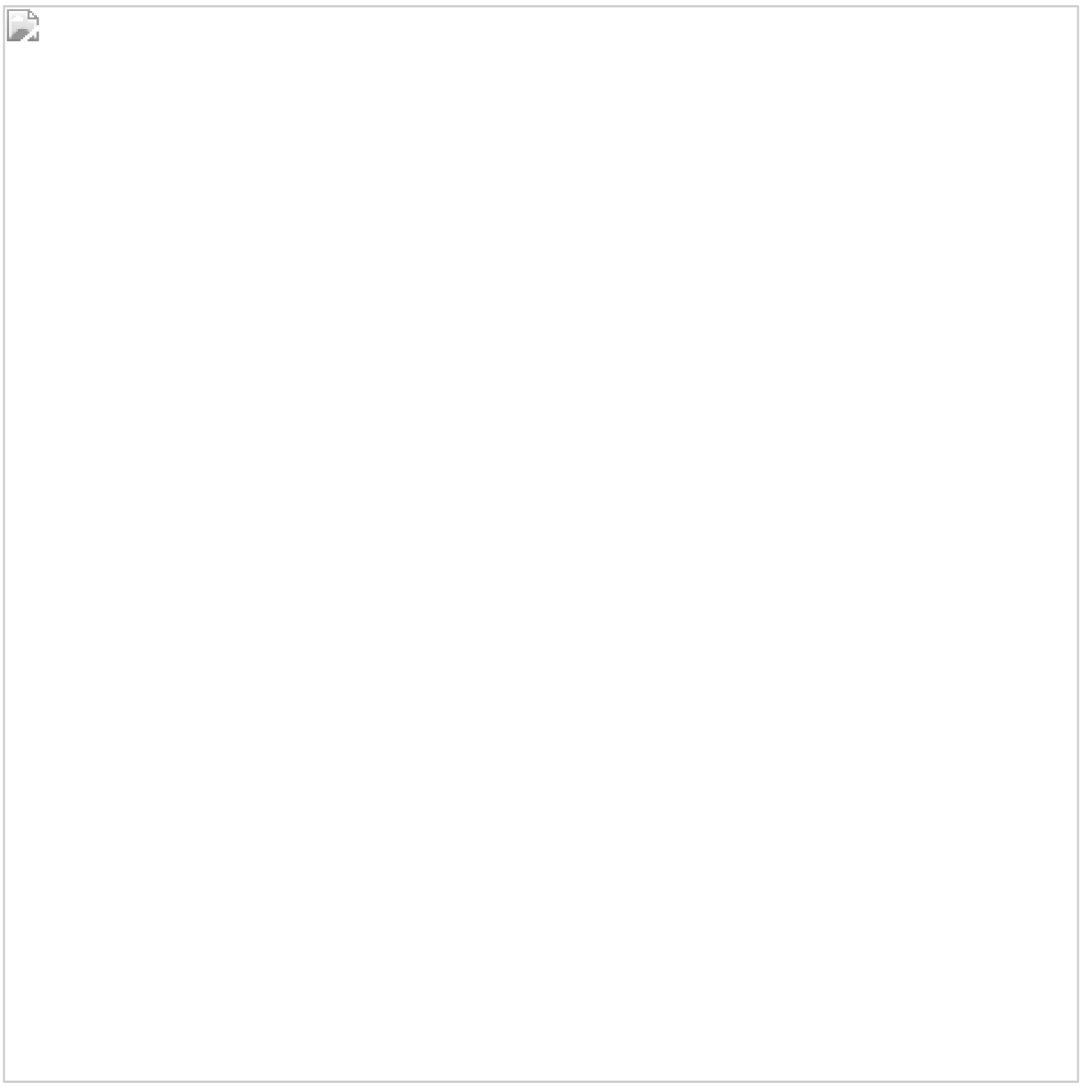
“I am disappointed in you,” said the king. He said they would try a child's game instead: Thor must lift the king's cat off the ground.

A big gray cat came leaping up. Thor took hold of it and pulled with all his might. But he could lift only one of its paws.

Then the king said that even his old nurse Hela could beat Thor. Out stepped a bent old woman with white hair. She wrestled with Thor. He held out for a long time, but in the end she brought him down on one knee.

TALK ABOUT IT

Thor lost to a cat and to an old woman. Why do you think the king picked those two?

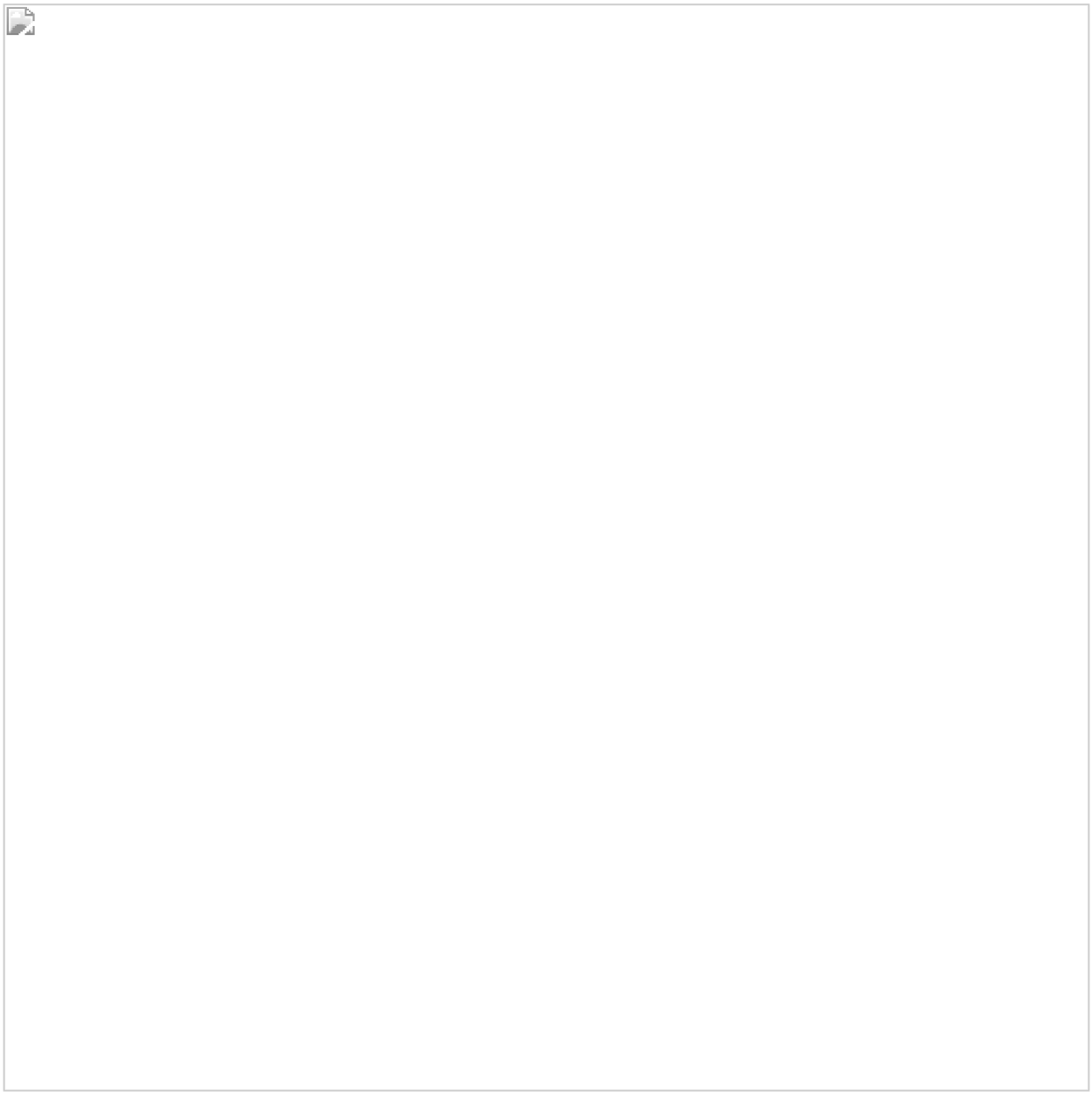


Think about it

1. How much of the cat could Thor lift?

- ○ The whole cat
- ○ Only its tail
- ○ One paw

A Humbled God



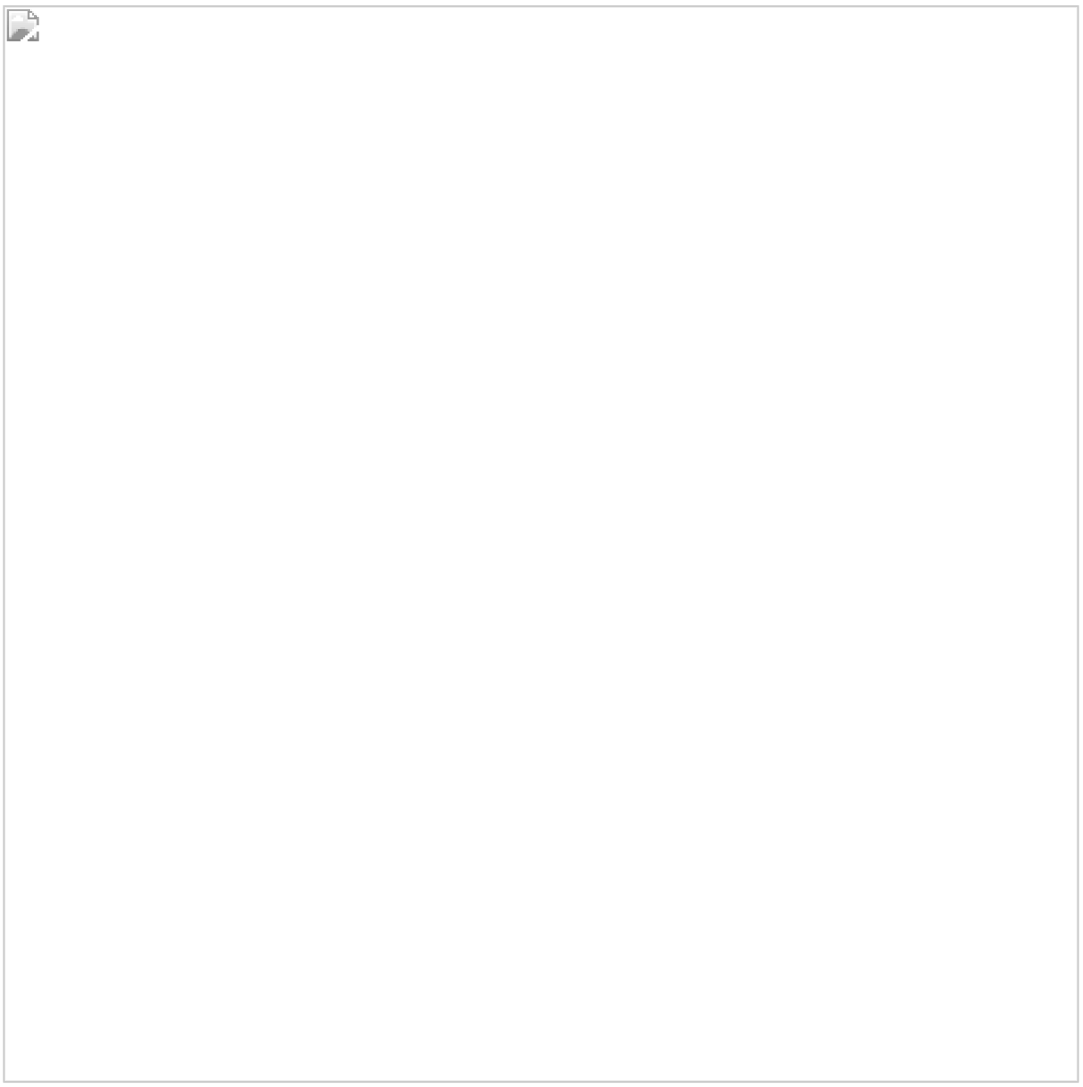
Thor and his friends slept at the palace and next morning got ready to leave quietly. But the king invited them to a splendid feast and walked with them to the city gates.

“Now tell me honestly,” he said, “what do you think of your success?”

“I am beyond measure astounded and ashamed,” said Thor.

TALK ABOUT IT

Thor said out loud that he was ashamed. Is that hard to do? An old book says, “When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom” (Proverbs 11:2). What do you think that means?

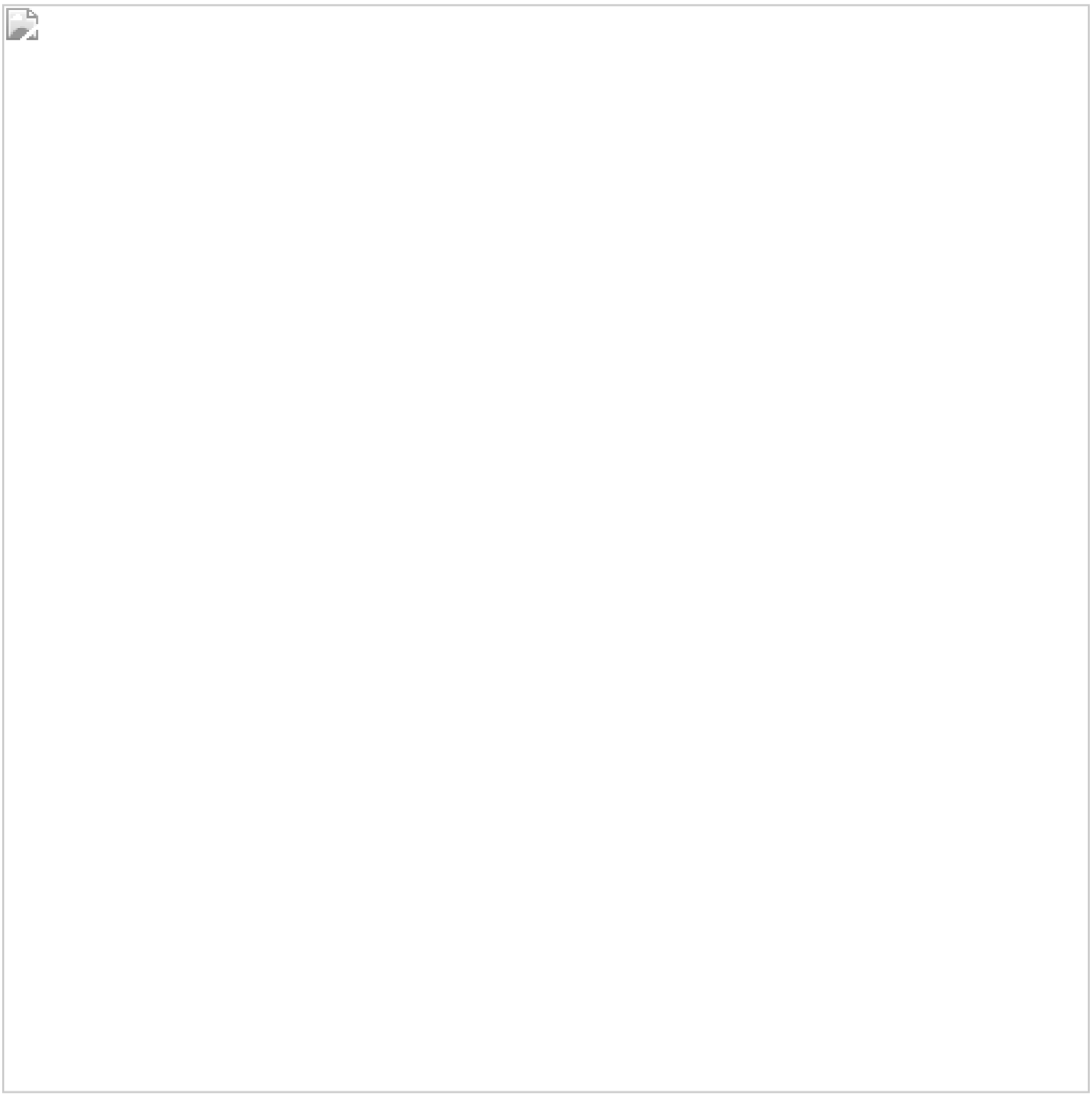


Think about it

1. What did Thor say when the king asked about his success?

- ○ That he was astounded and ashamed
- ○ That he had won
- ○ That he wanted to try again

The Secrets



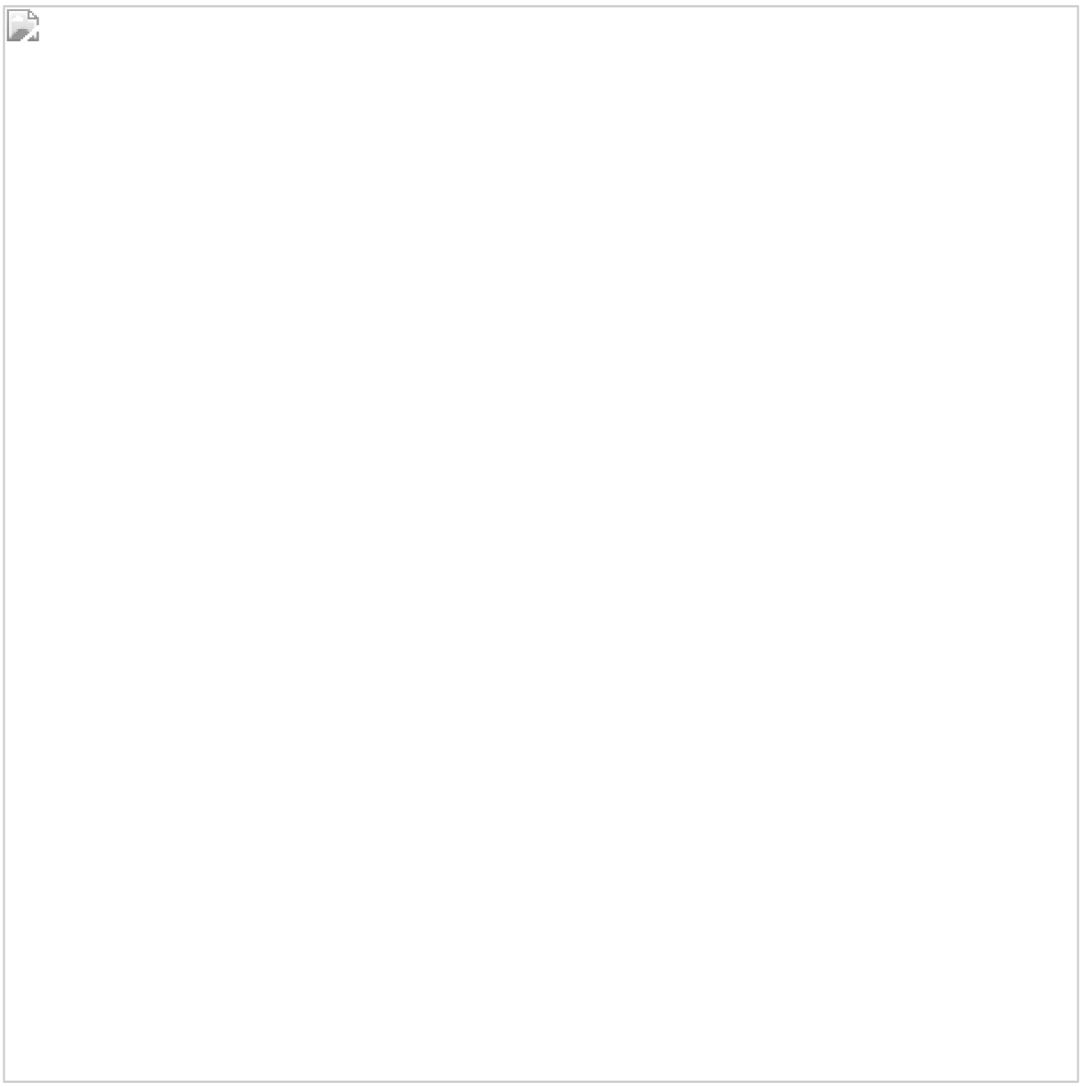
“Ha! ha!” laughed the king. He was Skrymner, and all had been tricks. Thor's three blows had made three valleys in a mountain. Magic had tied the wallet shut.

Loge was wild fire, which eats everything. Hugr was Thought, which no one can outrun. The horn reached the sea, and Thor had drunk it lower. The cat was the great Serpent that twines round the world. And Hela was Death. “Never did I see any one before over whom Death had so little power.”

Thor raised his hammer, but the king and his city vanished. Only a green pasture lay there. Thor and his friends turned for home.

TALK ABOUT IT

Thor lost every contest, but he did much more than he knew. What do you think is more important, winning or being brave and honest?



Think about it

1. What was the cat, really?

- ○ A mountain
- ○ The great Serpent of Midgard
- ○ A giant's pet

2. What would you tell Thor about his day in Utgard?

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

— Yeshua HaMashiach

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