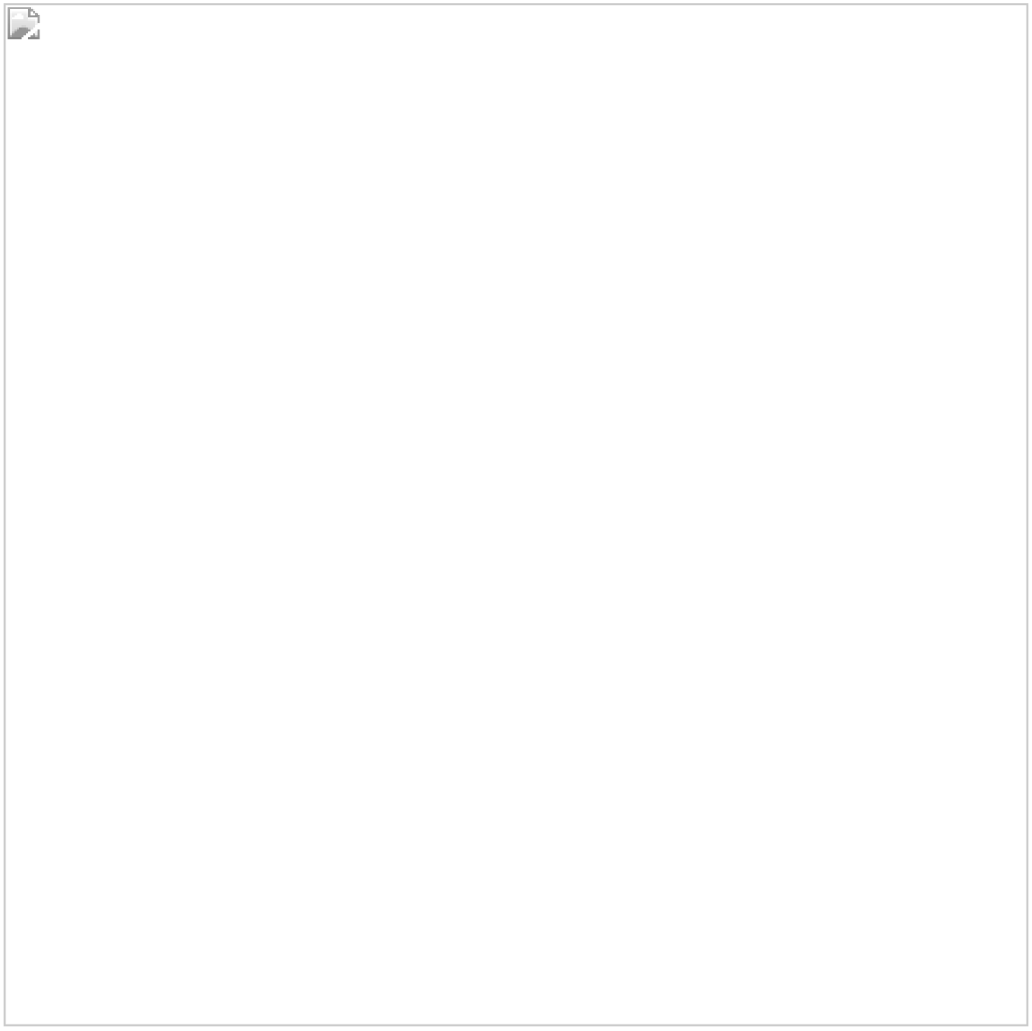
COLORING THE CLASSICS

Whittington and His Cat

A Hero of England



In the days of King Edward the Third, there was a little boy named Dick Whittington. His mother and father had died when he was so young that he could not remember them at all.

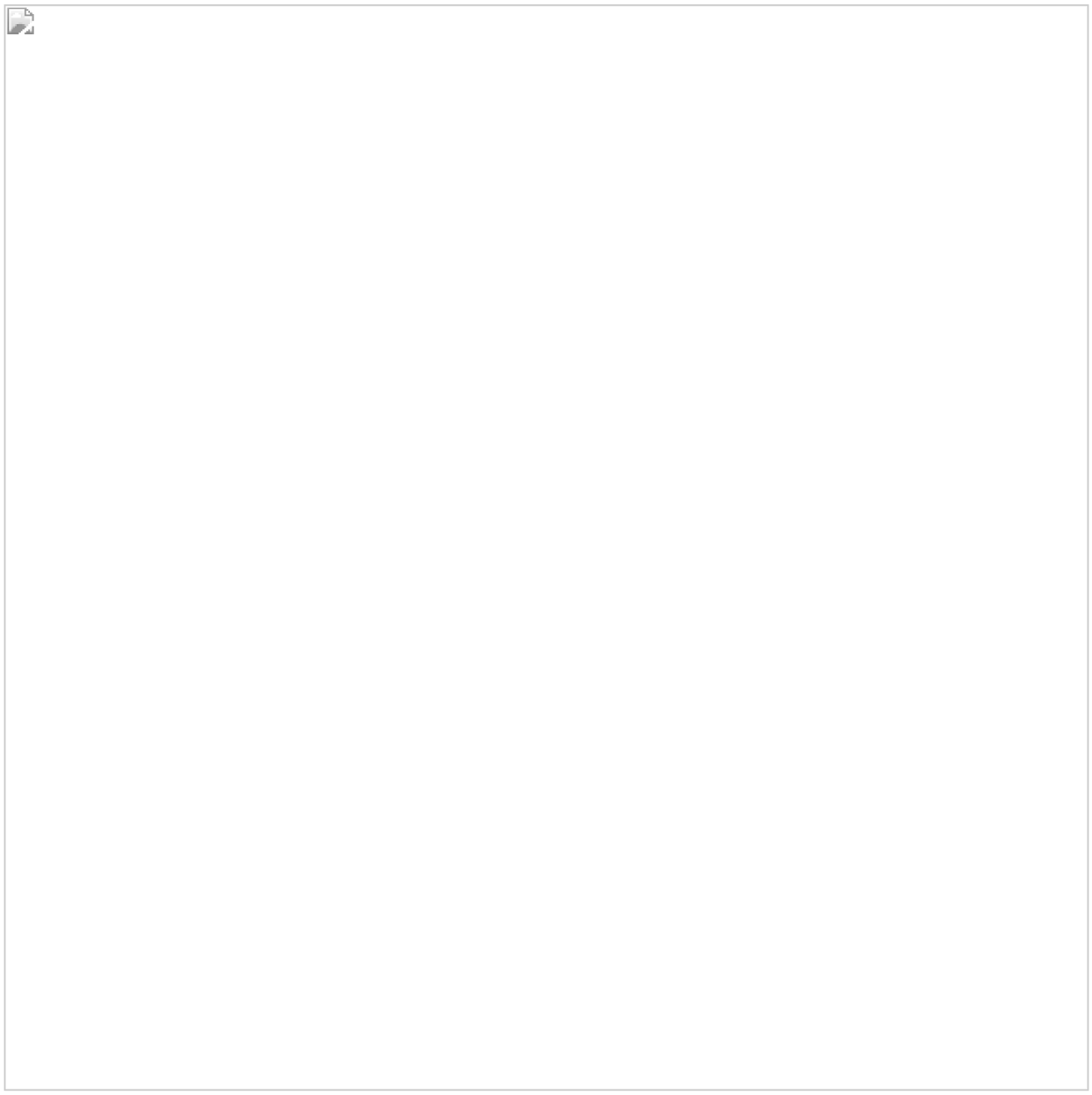
So Dick ran about a country village in ragged clothes, with very little to eat.

TALK ABOUT IT

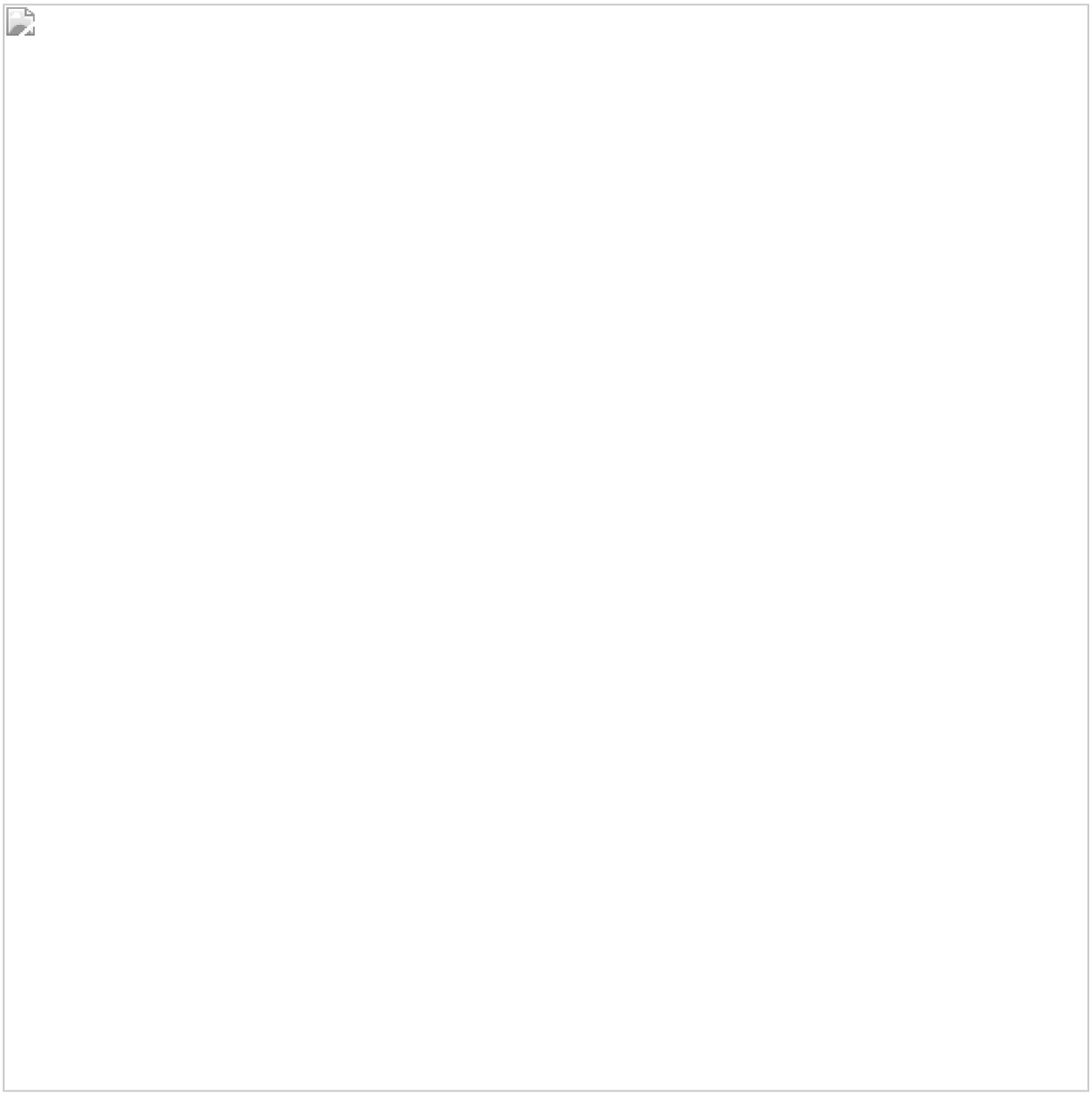
Dick had no family to look after him. What do you think he might wish for most?

This book belongs to _____

Whittington and His Cat · another picture



A Sharp Little Listener



The village people were poor, and could spare him only potato peelings and a hard crust of bread now and then.

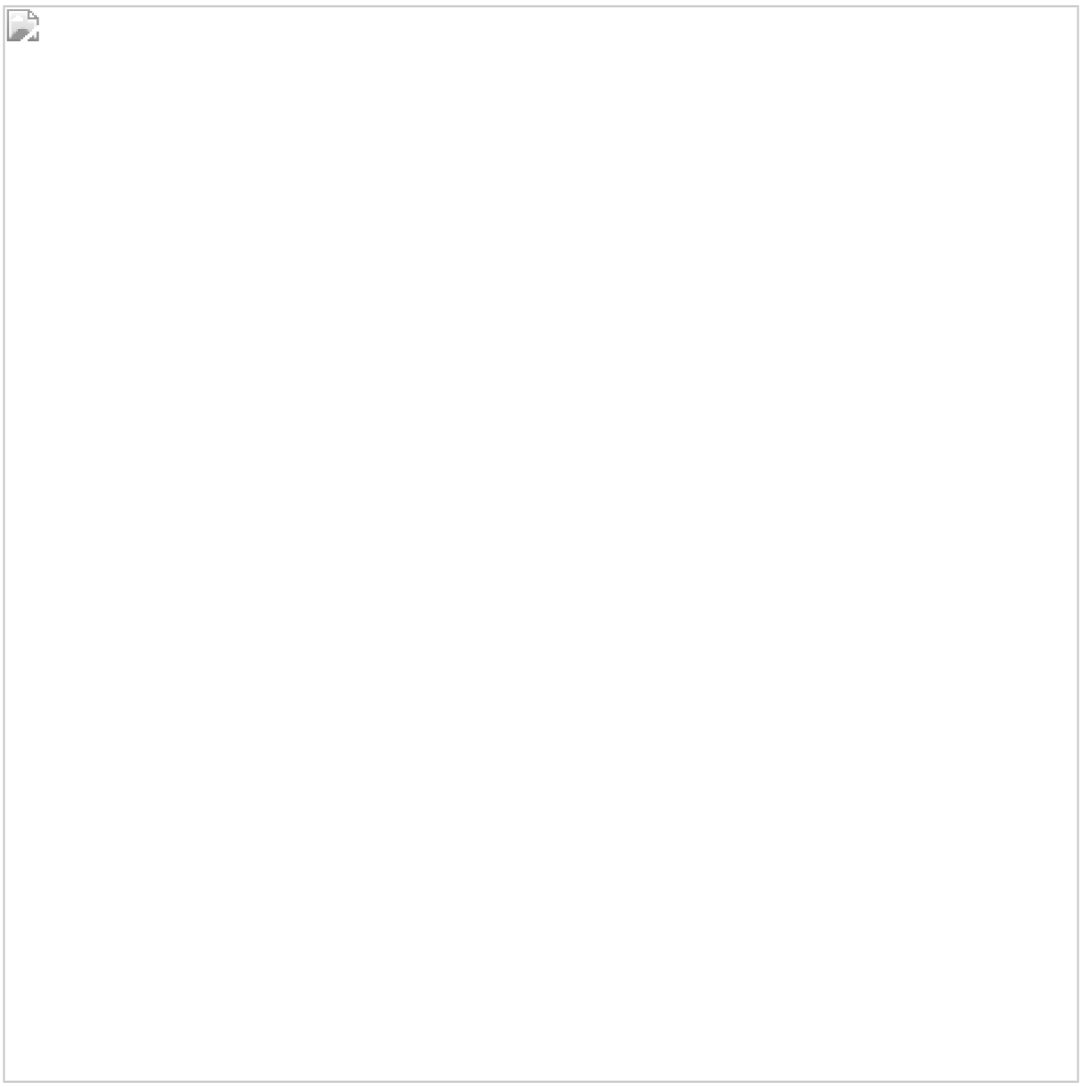
But Dick was a sharp boy, and he was always listening. He listened to the farmers talking in the churchyard on Sunday. He listened at the sign-post, and at the barber's door.

That is how he heard about the great city of London. The country people said that the streets there were paved with gold!

TALK ABOUT IT

Dick learned a lot just by listening. What is something you learned lately by listening?

A Sharp Little Listener · another picture

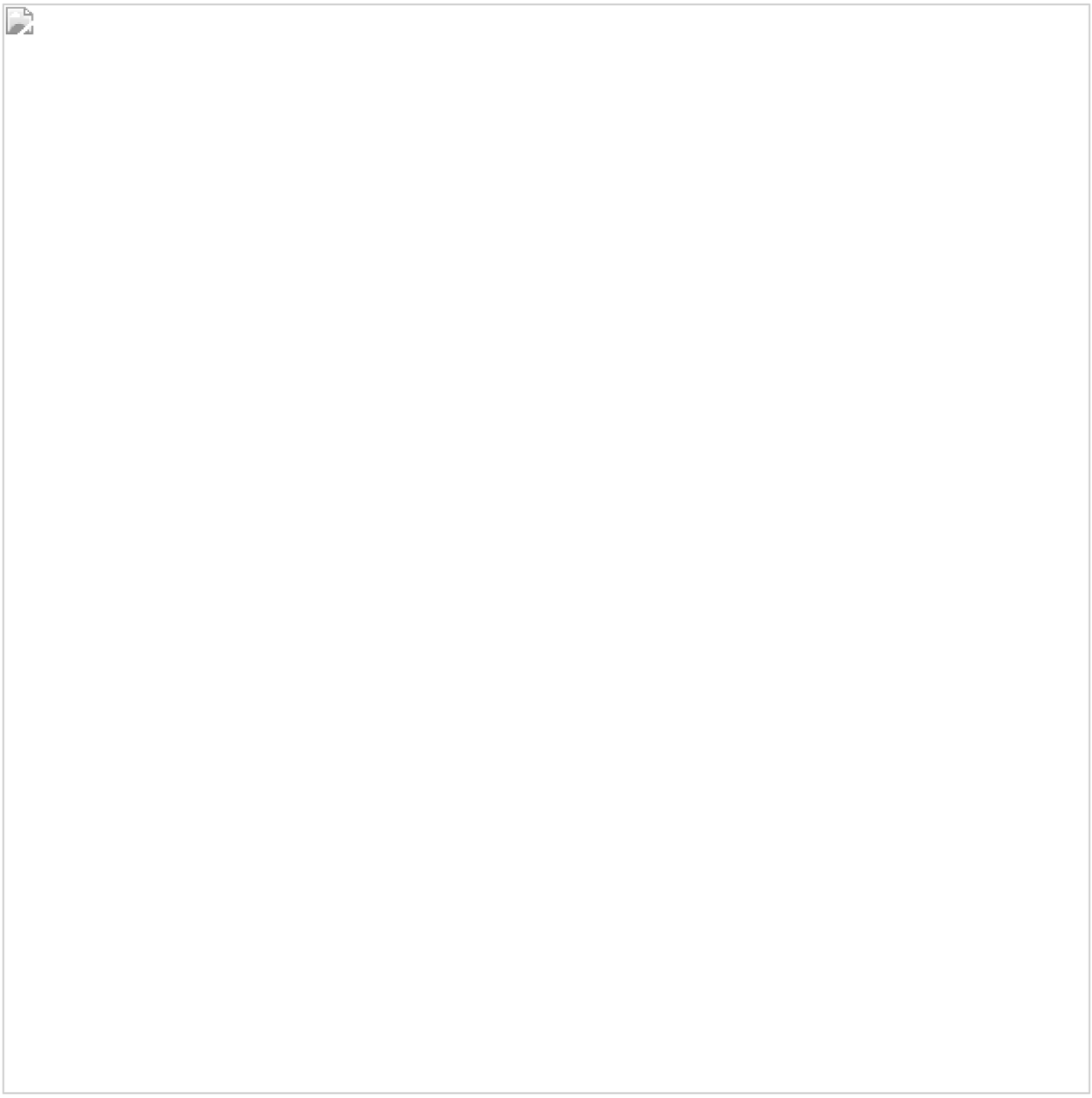


Think about it

1. What did the village people say about the streets of London?

- ○ They were full of puddles
- ○ They were paved with gold
- ○ They were made of ice

The Wagon with Bells



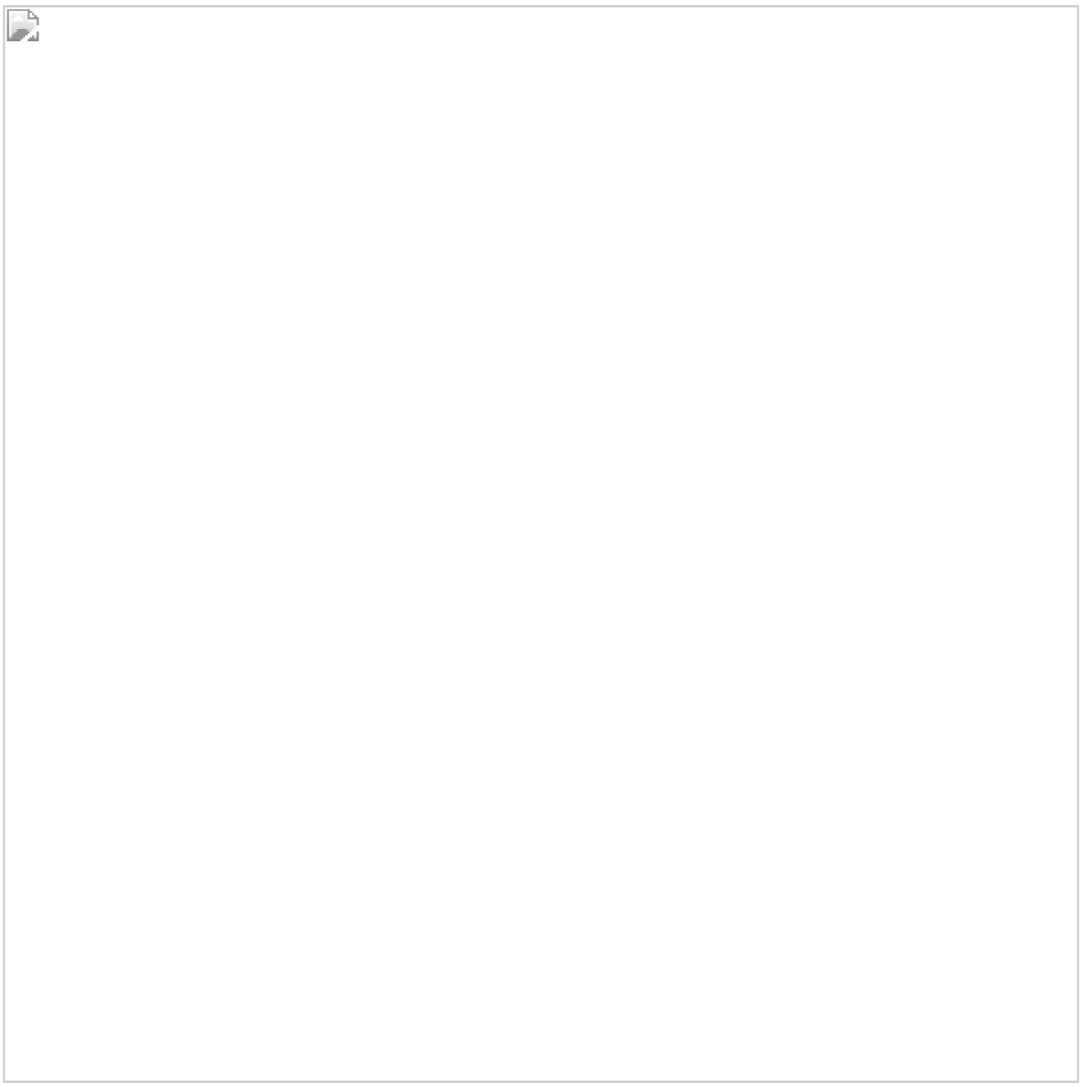
One day a big wagon drove through the village, pulled by eight horses with bells on their heads. Dick thought it must be going to London.

He took his courage in both hands and asked the wagoner if he might walk beside it.

When the wagoner heard that Dick had no father or mother, he said yes. And off they went together.

TALK ABOUT IT

It took courage for Dick to ask. Is there something you were brave enough to ask for once?

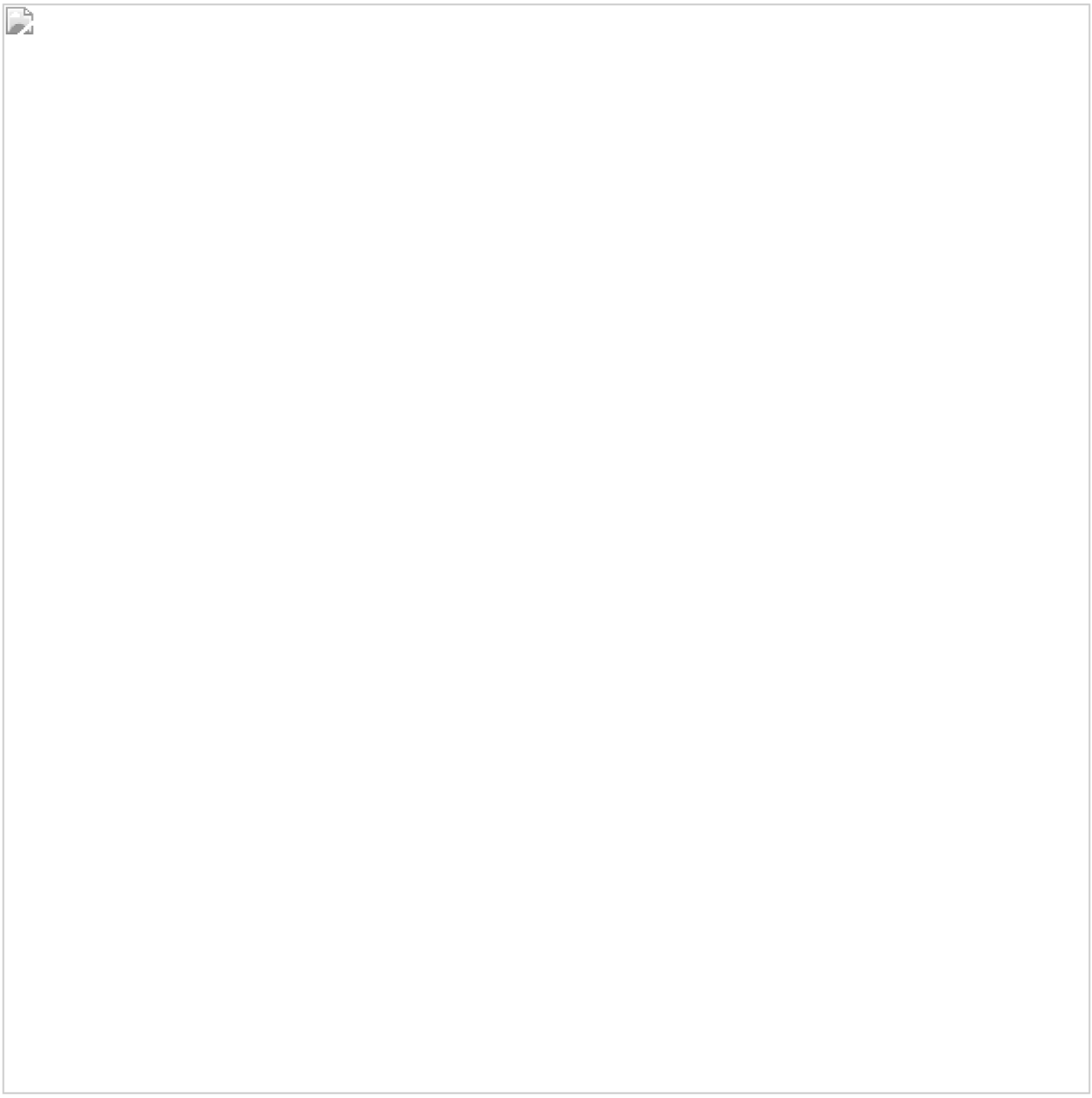


Think about it

1. Who let Dick walk along beside the wagon?

- ○ The barber
- ○ The parson
- ○ The wagoner

Dirt Instead of Gold



Dick was in such a hurry to see the golden streets that he ran off into London without even stopping to thank the kind wagoner.

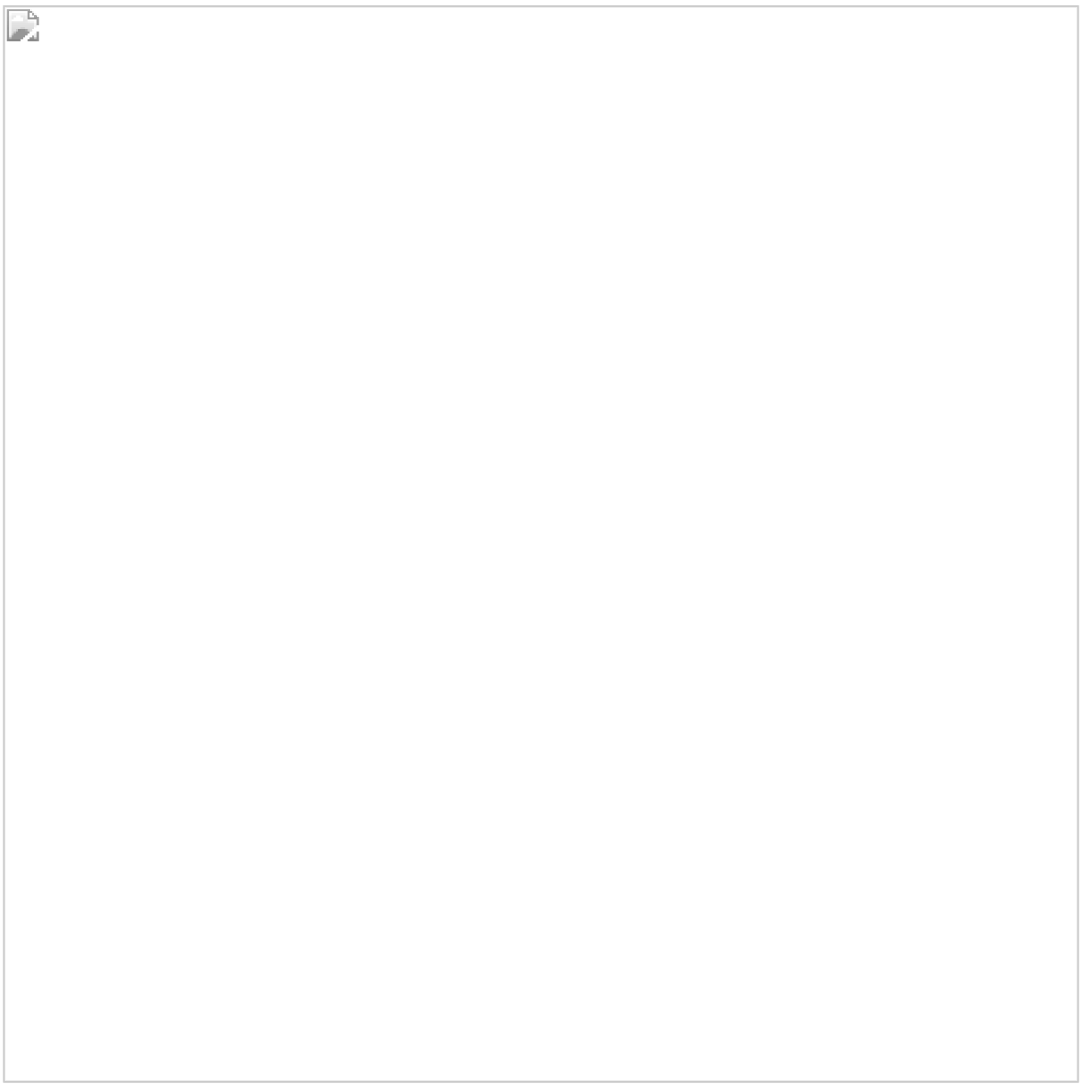
He ran and ran. But every way he turned, he saw nothing but dirt. When it grew dark, he sat down in a corner and cried himself to sleep.

In the morning he was so hungry that he asked people for a halfpenny. Hardly anyone stopped.

TALK ABOUT IT

Dick forgot to say thank you in his hurry. Who is someone you would like to thank?

Dirt Instead of Gold · another picture

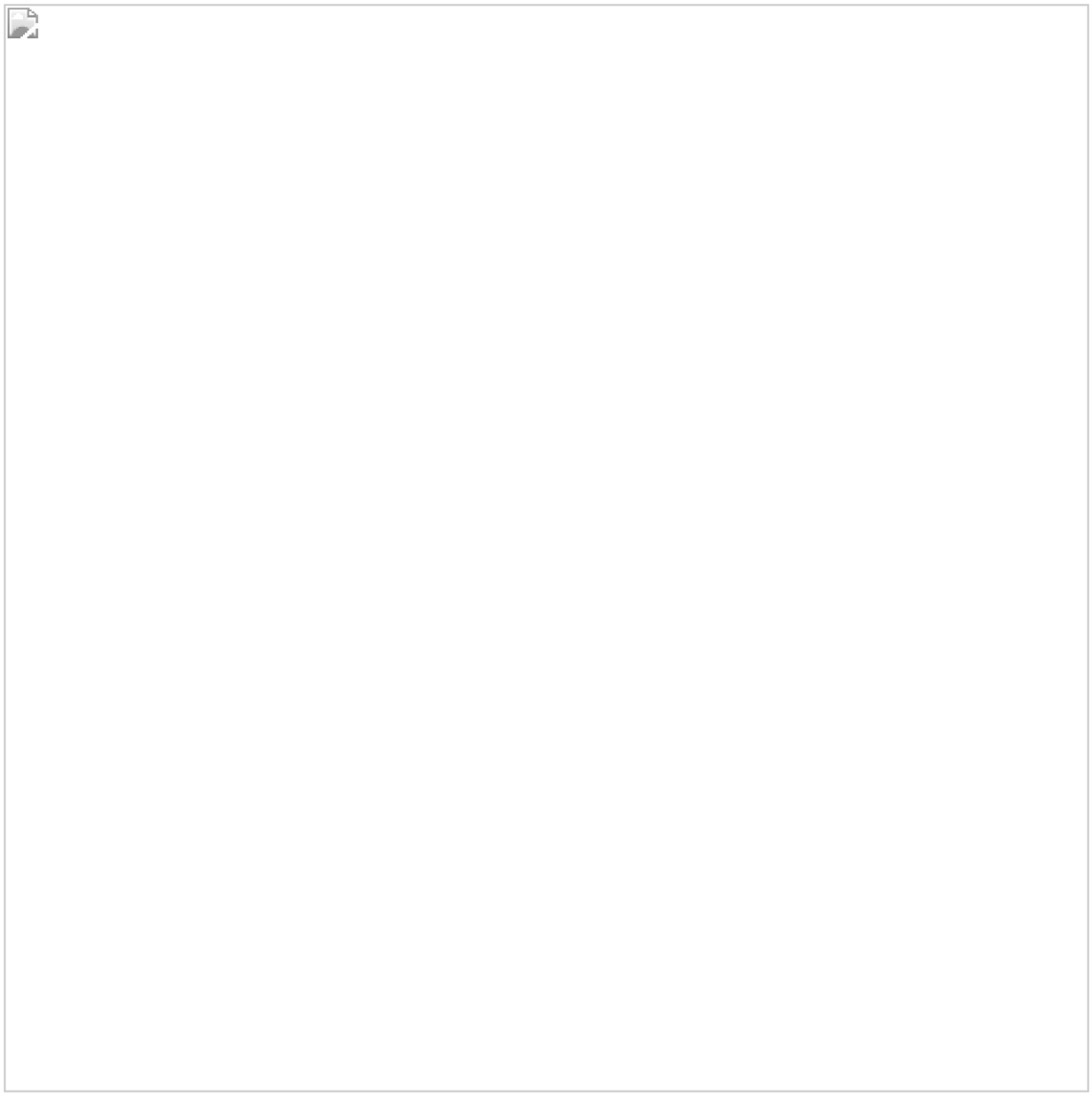


Think about it

1. What did Dick find in the streets of London?

- ○ Dirt
- ○ Gold
- ○ Flowers

A Door and a Kind Merchant



A good-natured gentleman asked, “Why don't you go to work, my lad?” “That I would, but I do not know how to get any,” said Dick. The gentleman took him to a hay-field, where Dick worked hard until the hay was made.

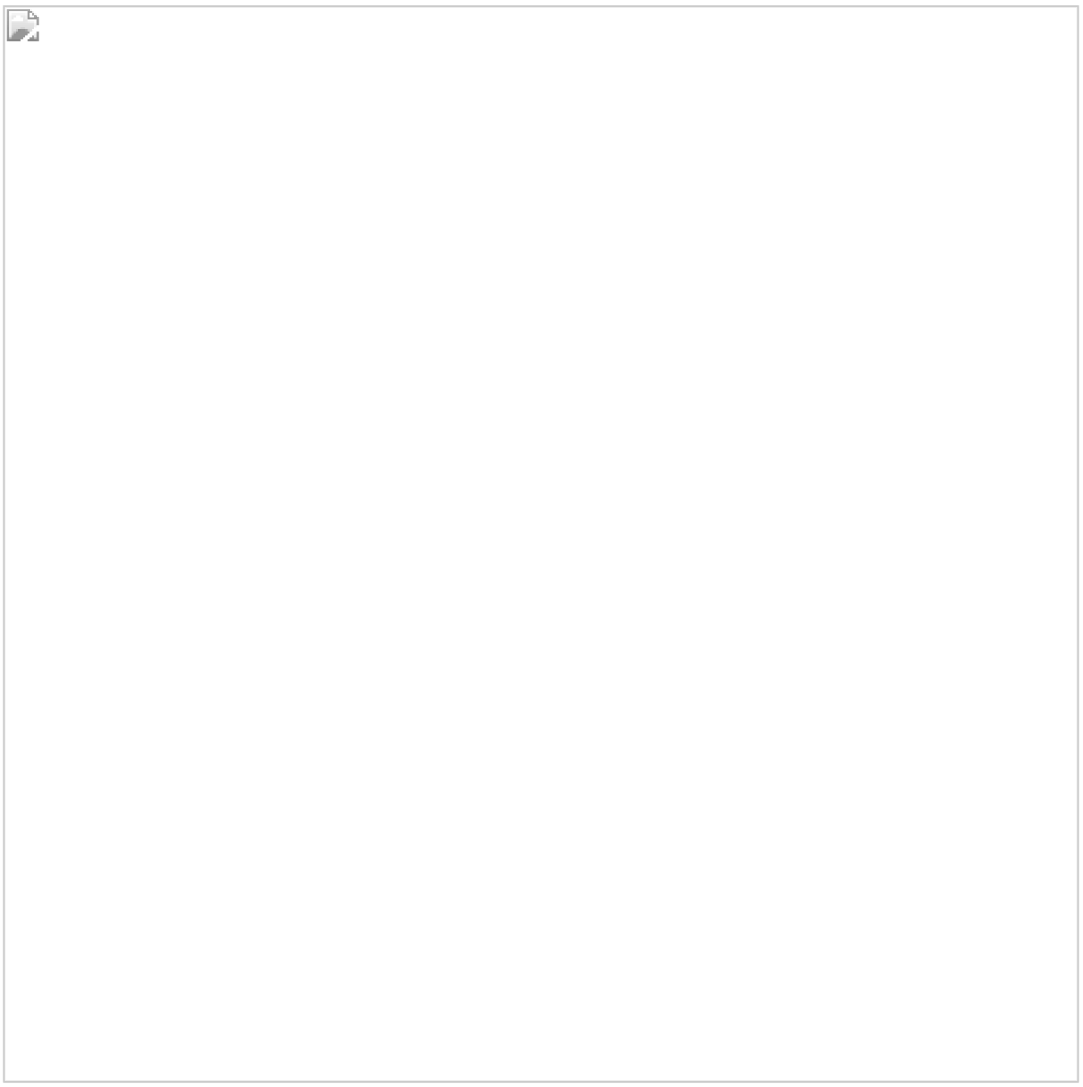
Then he was hungry again. He lay down at the door of a rich merchant, Mr. Fitzwarren, and the cross cook shouted at him to go away.

But Mr. Fitzwarren came home and saw how weak the boy was. “Poor fellow, get up; let me see what ails you.” Dick had not eaten for three days. The merchant took him in and gave him a good dinner.

TALK ABOUT IT

The cook told Dick to go away, but the merchant took him in. Which of the two would you like to be?

A Door and a Kind Merchant · another picture

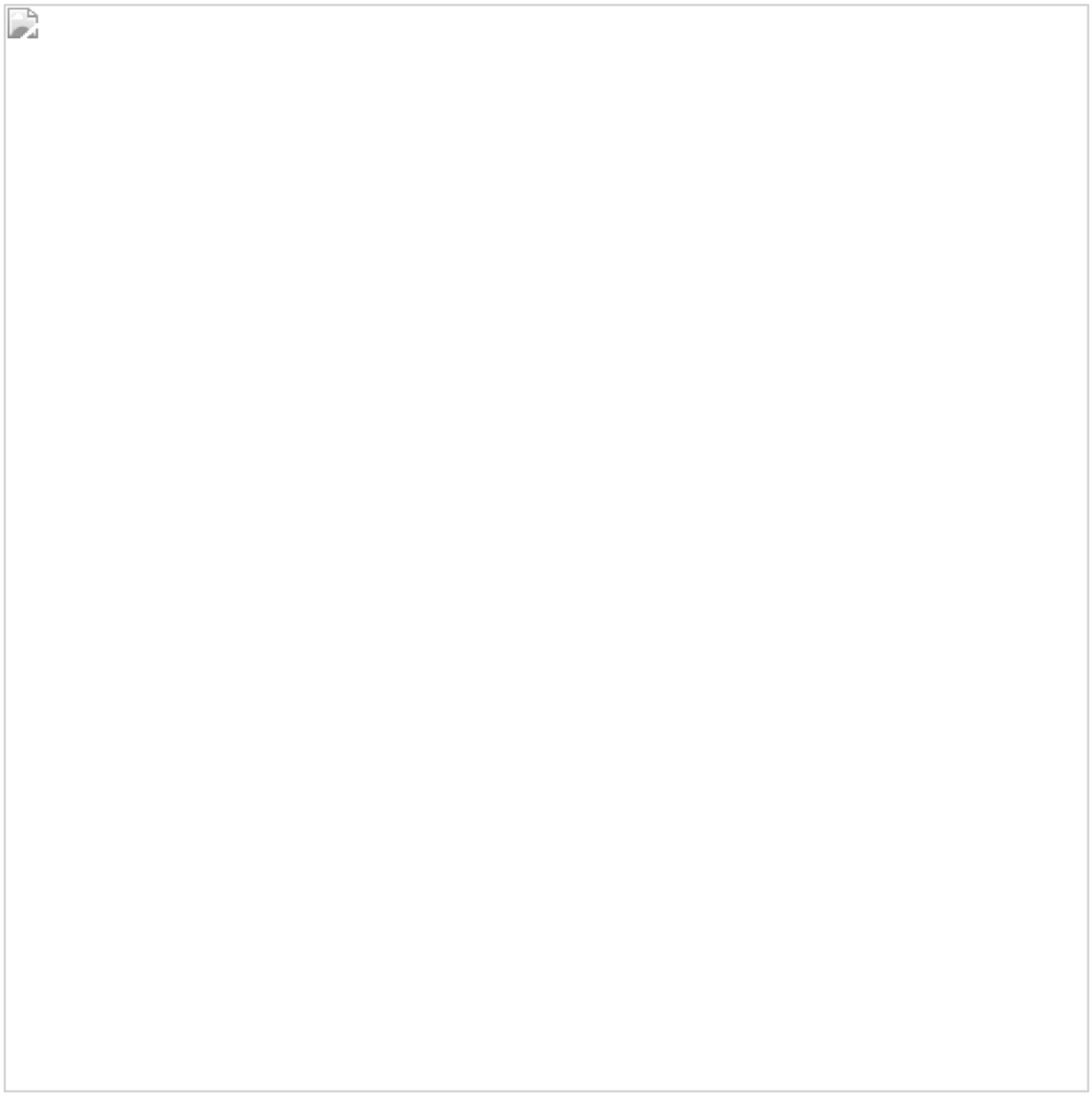


Think about it

1. What did Mr. Fitzwarren do when he saw Dick lying at his door?

- ○ He sent Dick away
- ○ He took Dick in and fed him
- ○ He did not notice

A Penny for a Cat



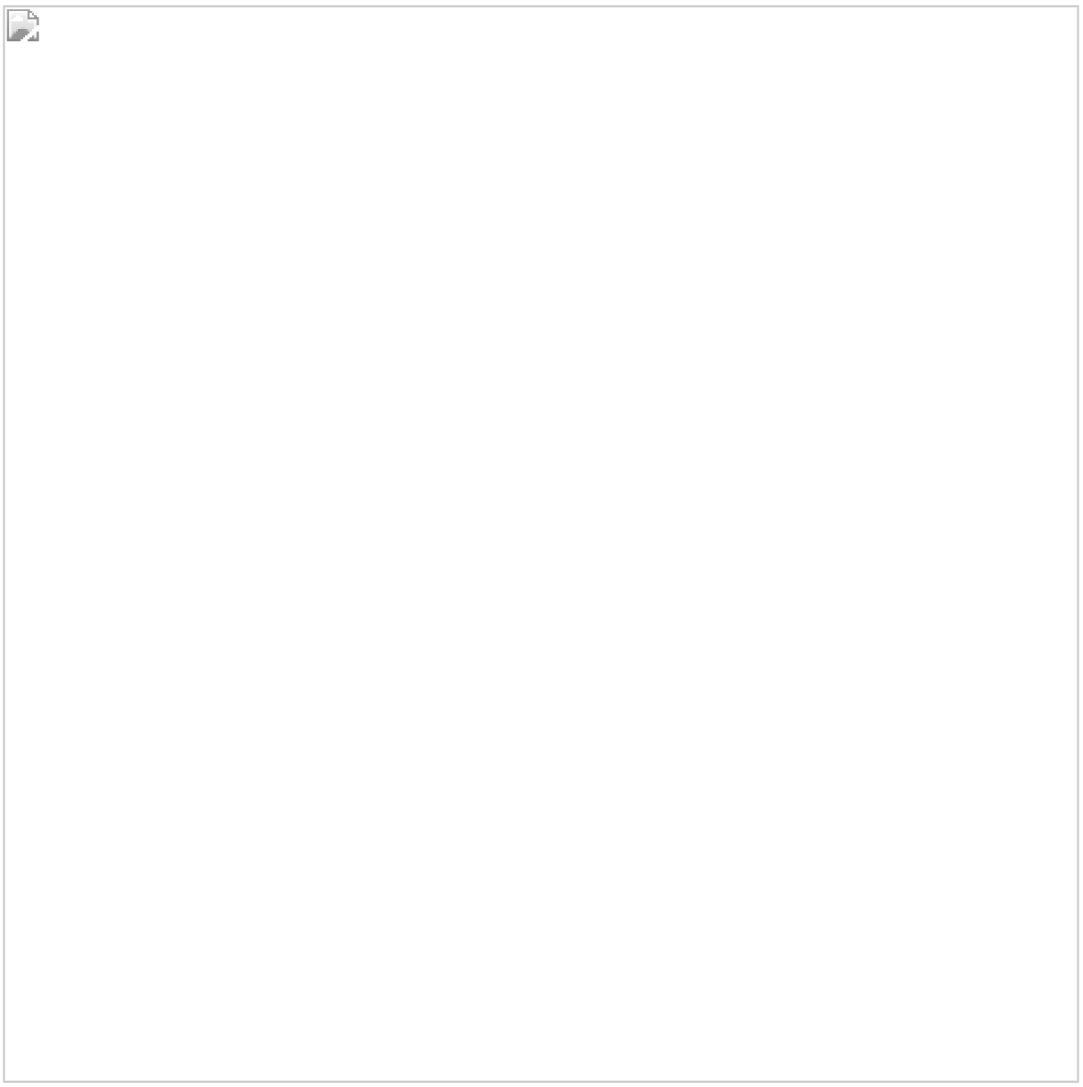
Dick was given dirty jobs in the kitchen, and the cook was cross with him from morning to night. When Miss Alice, the merchant's daughter, heard of it, she told the cook to be kinder.

Dick's bed was up in a garret with holes in the walls, and every night the rats and mice tormented him.

One day a gentleman gave him a penny for cleaning shoes. Dick bought a cat with it. She was an excellent mouser, and from then on he slept soundly. He always saved her a bit of his dinner.

TALK ABOUT IT

Dick shared his dinner with his cat even though he did not have much. Why do you think he did?

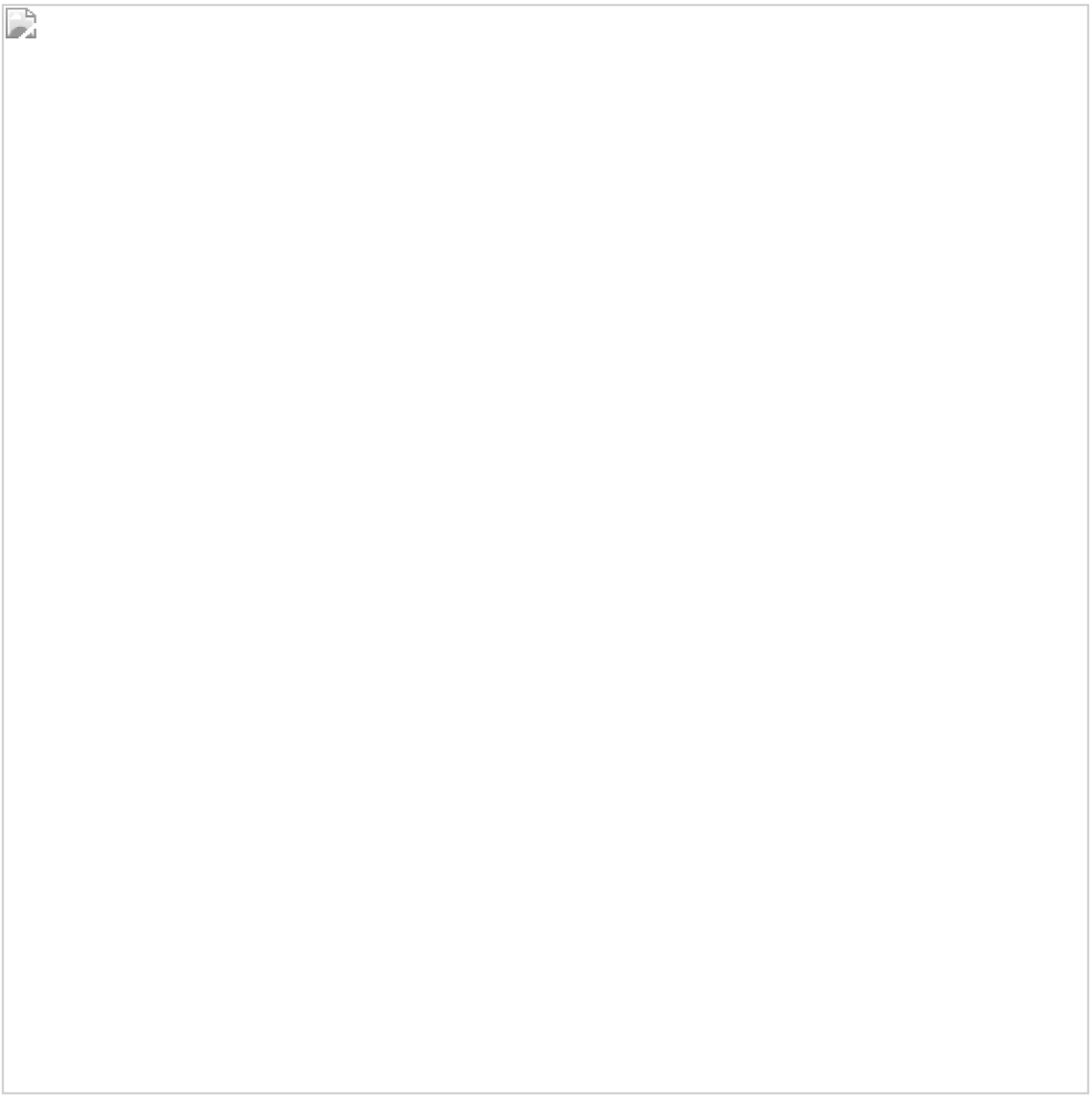


Think about it

1. How did Dick pay for his cat?

- ○ With a penny he earned cleaning shoes
- ○ With a gold coin
- ○ He traded his hat

A Ship Sails Out



Soon Mr. Fitzwarren had a ship ready to sail. He thought all his servants should have a chance at some good fortune, so he asked each of them what they would send along to sell.

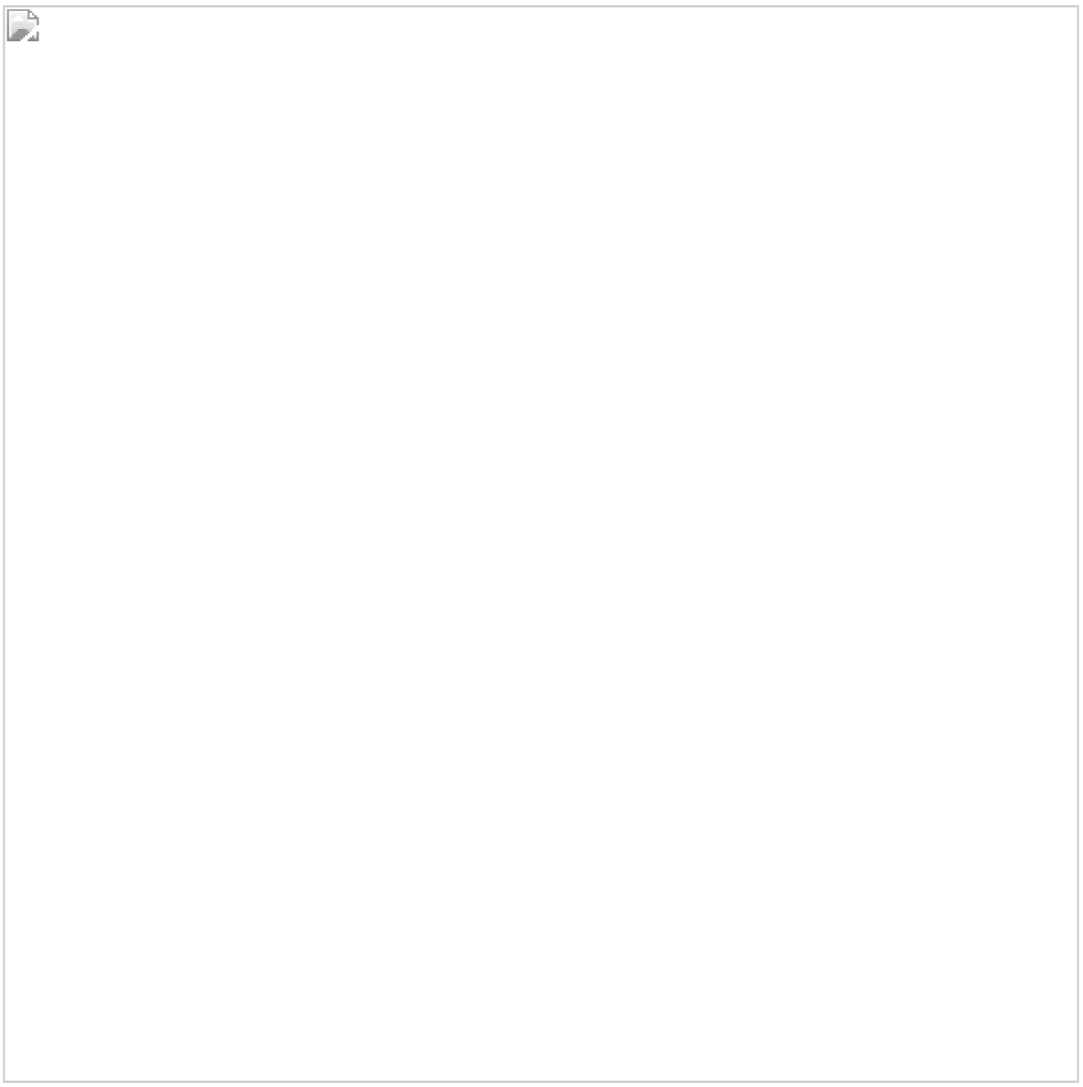
Poor Dick had no money and no goods, so he stayed away. But Miss Alice guessed why, and had him called in. She offered to put in some money for him. Her father said it must be something of Dick's own.

“Fetch your cat then, my good boy,” said Mr. Fitzwarren. Dick went upstairs and brought her down with tears in his eyes.

TALK ABOUT IT

Dick gave away the one thing he loved. Have you ever given something up that was hard to let go of?

A Ship Sails Out · another picture

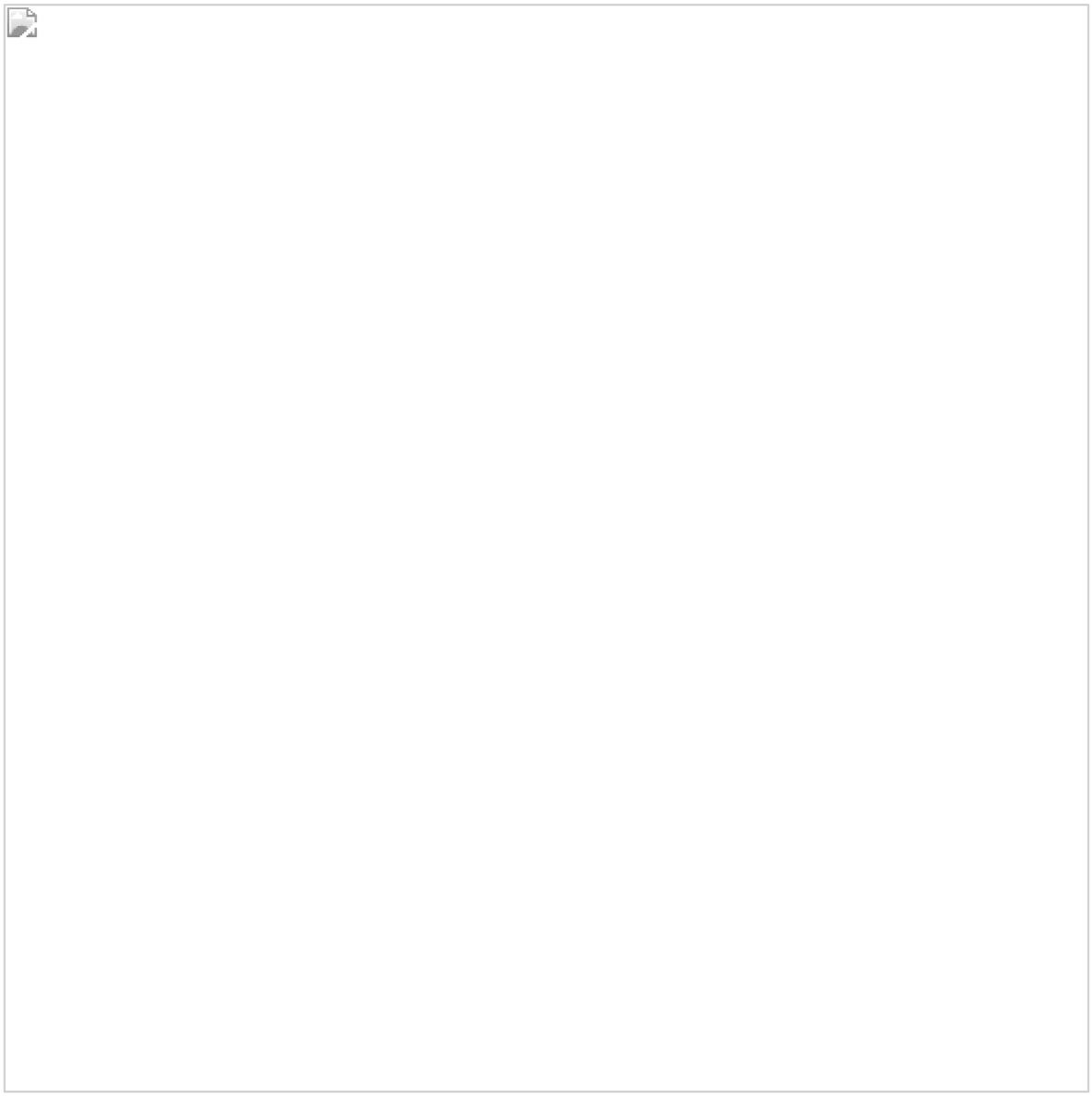


Think about it

1. What did Dick send on the ship?

- ○ His boots
- ○ A bag of hay
- ○ His cat

The Bells of Bow



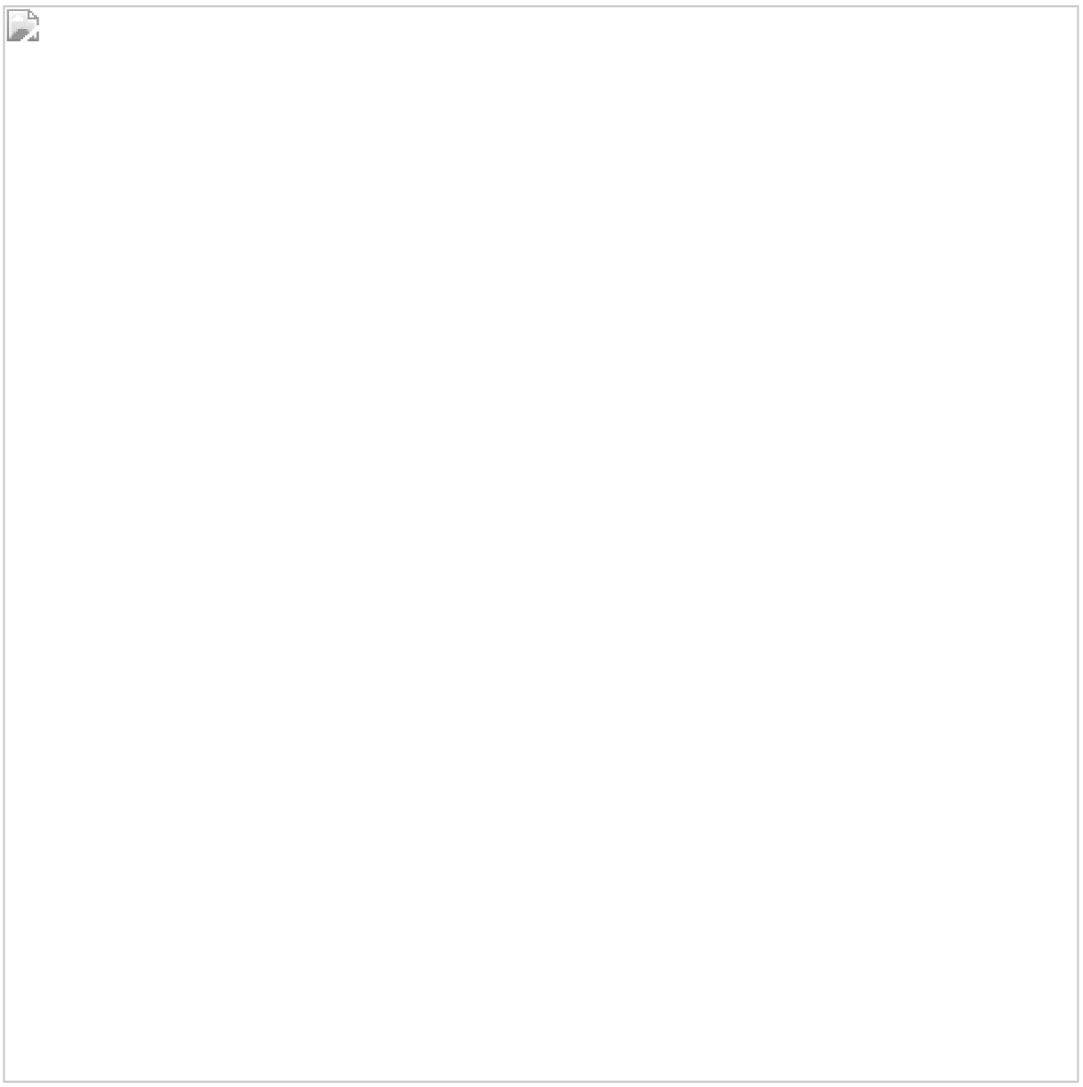
The cook teased Dick for sending his cat to sea, and was crueler than ever. At last Dick could not bear it. Very early on All-hallows morning, he packed up his few things and left.

He sat down on a stone at Holloway to think which road to take. Then the bells of Bow Church began to ring, and he thought they said: “Turn again, Whittington, Lord Mayor of London.”

Dick thought about it. Then he got up, went back, and was at his work before the cook came downstairs.

TALK ABOUT IT

Dick turned around and went back. Why do you think he did? What would you have done?



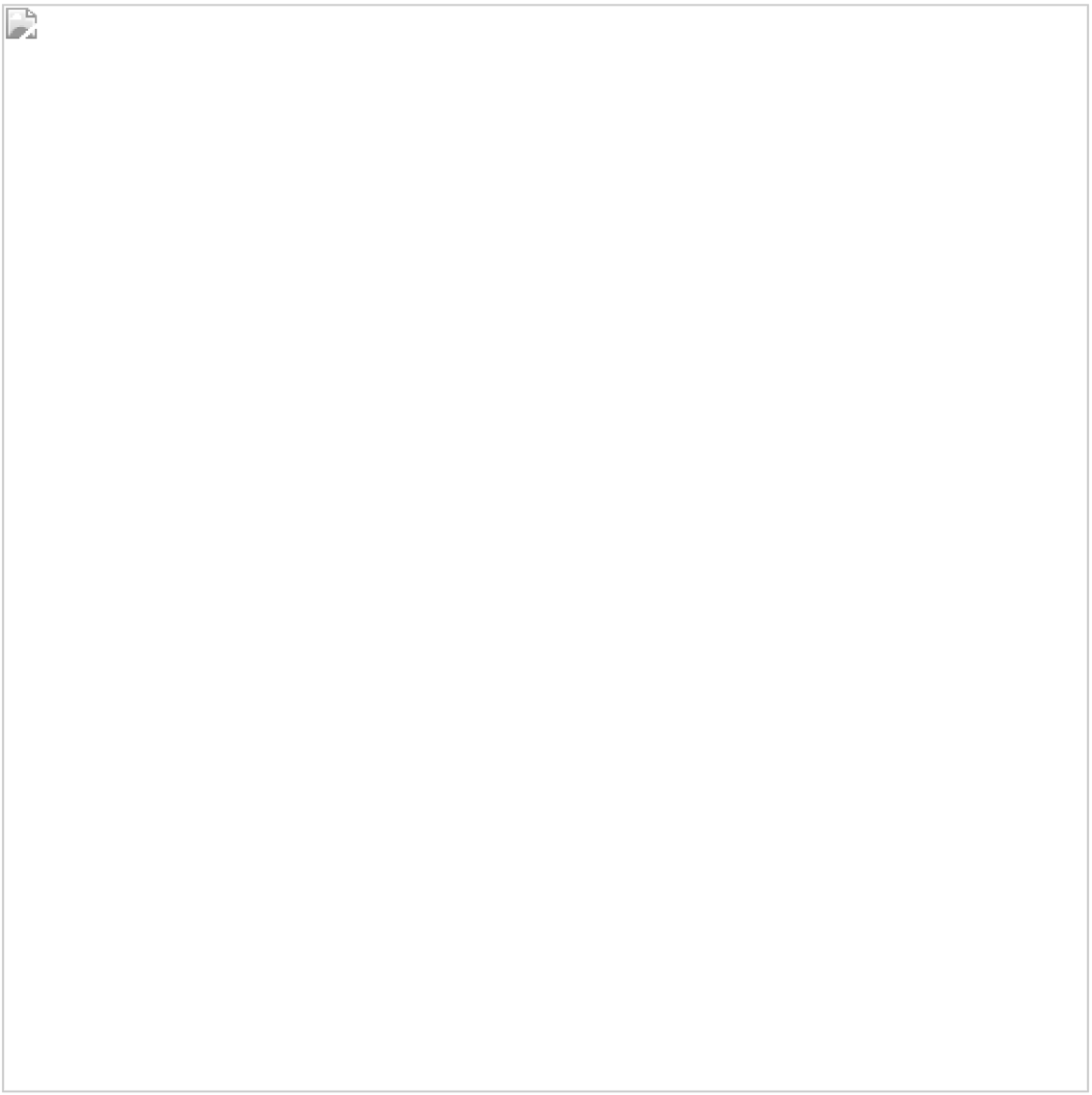
Think about it

1. What did Dick think the bells said?

- ○ Go home, Dick.
- ○ Dinner is ready.
- ○ Turn again, Whittington, Lord Mayor of London.

2. Is there a time something helped you keep going when you wanted to quit?

A King Across the Sea



The ship was at sea a long time. At last the winds blew it to a far-off land where no English ship had been before.

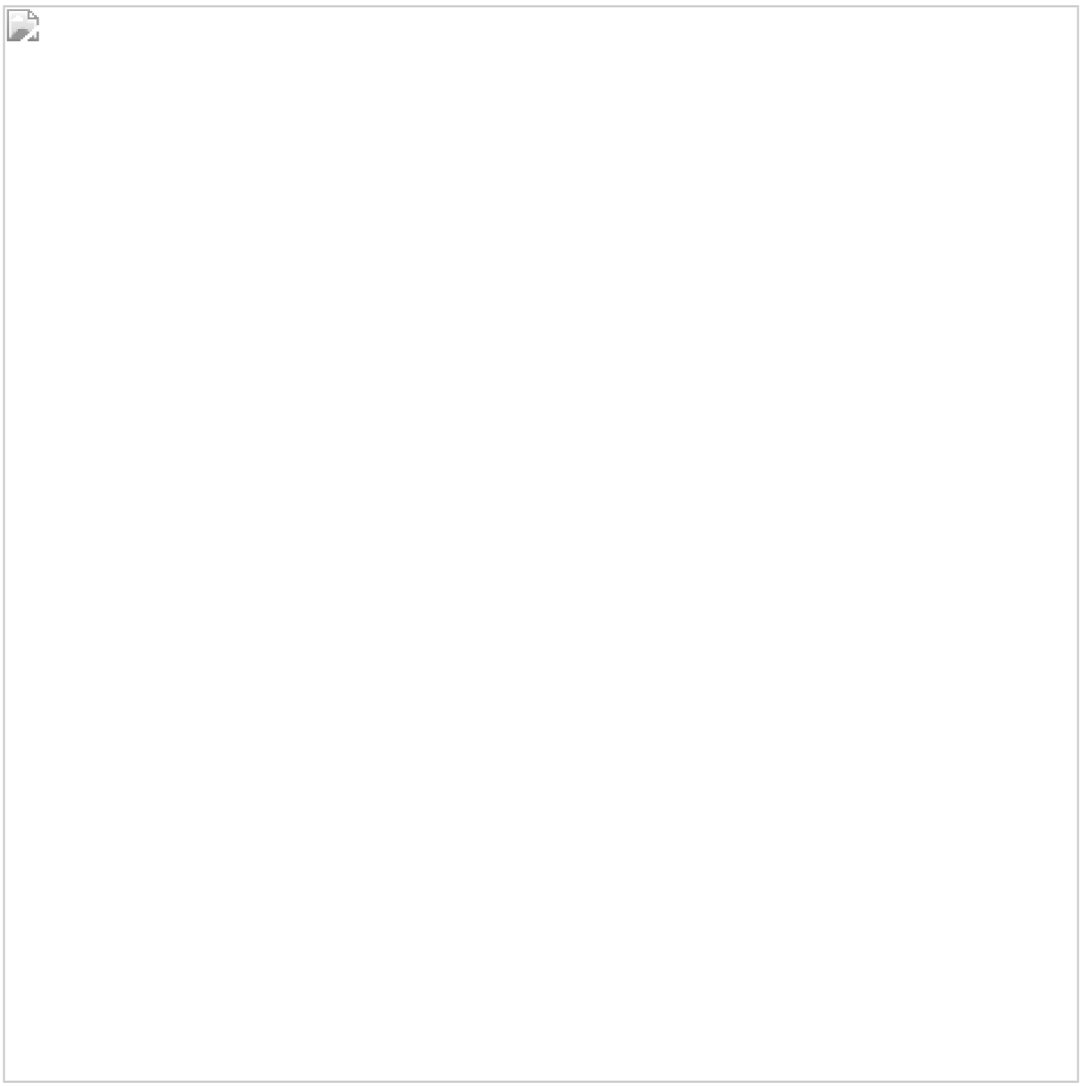
The people there were kind to the sailors and eager to buy their fine goods. The captain showed samples to their king, who invited him to dinner at the palace.

But as soon as the food was set out, a great swarm of rats and mice rushed in and helped themselves from every dish!

The rats were a dreadful plague, even in the king's bedchamber. The king would give half his treasure to be rid of them.

TALK ABOUT IT

The king had everything but could not get rid of his rats. What do you think the captain remembered?

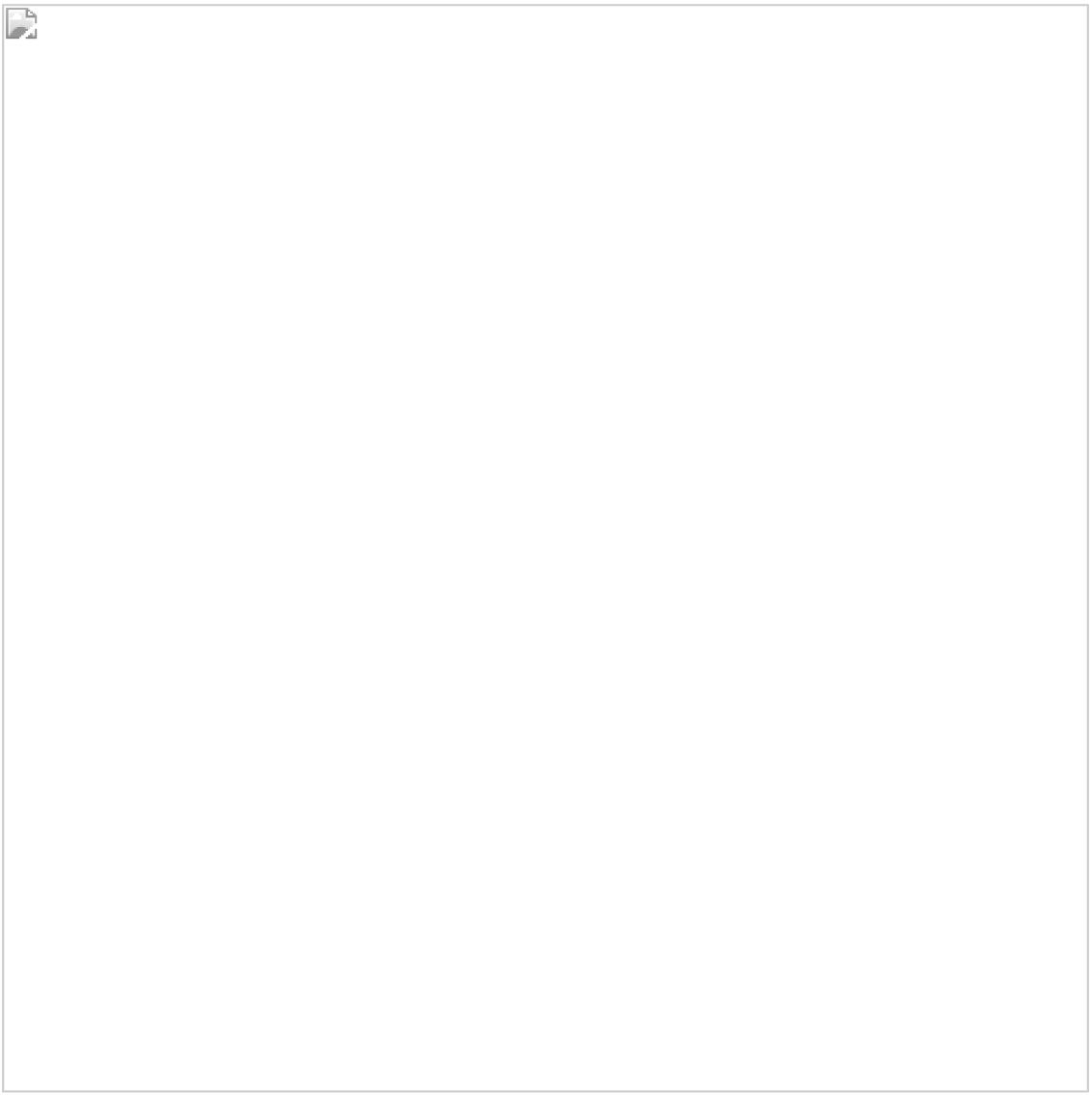


Think about it

1. What came rushing into the palace at dinner?

- ○ Birds
- ○ Rats and mice
- ○ Dancers

Puss at the Palace



The captain jumped for joy. He remembered Dick Whittington and his cat!

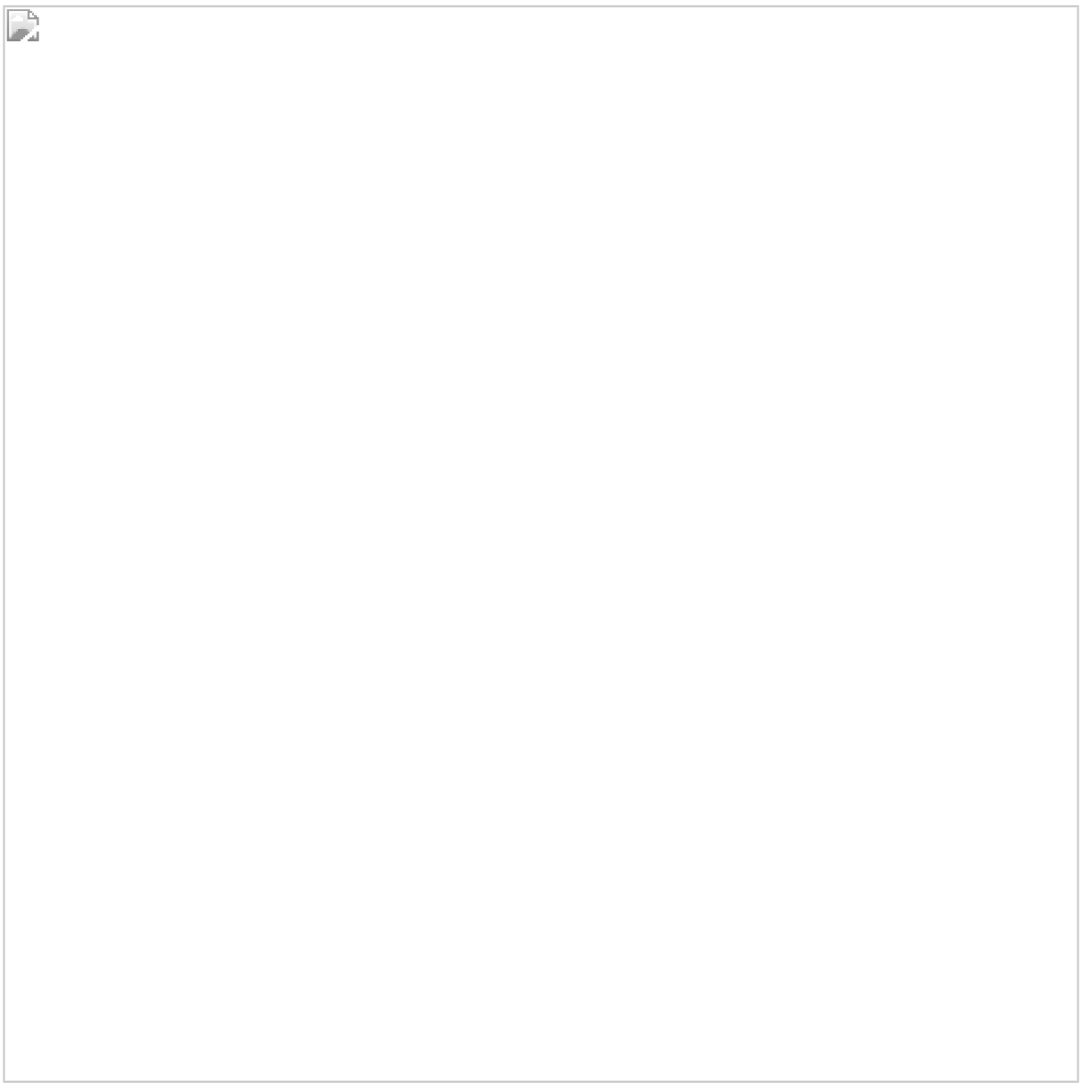
He brought her from the ship under his arm. When she saw the rats, she did not wait to be asked. In a few minutes they were chased away.

The queen was afraid to touch such a clever hunter at first. But when the captain stroked the cat, the queen touched her too and said, “Putty, putty,” for she had not learned English. The cat purred on the queen's lap and sang herself to sleep.

The king bought the whole cargo, and gave ten times as much for the cat as for all the rest.

TALK ABOUT IT

The thing Dick almost could not give away turned out to be just what someone far away needed. What do you think about that?

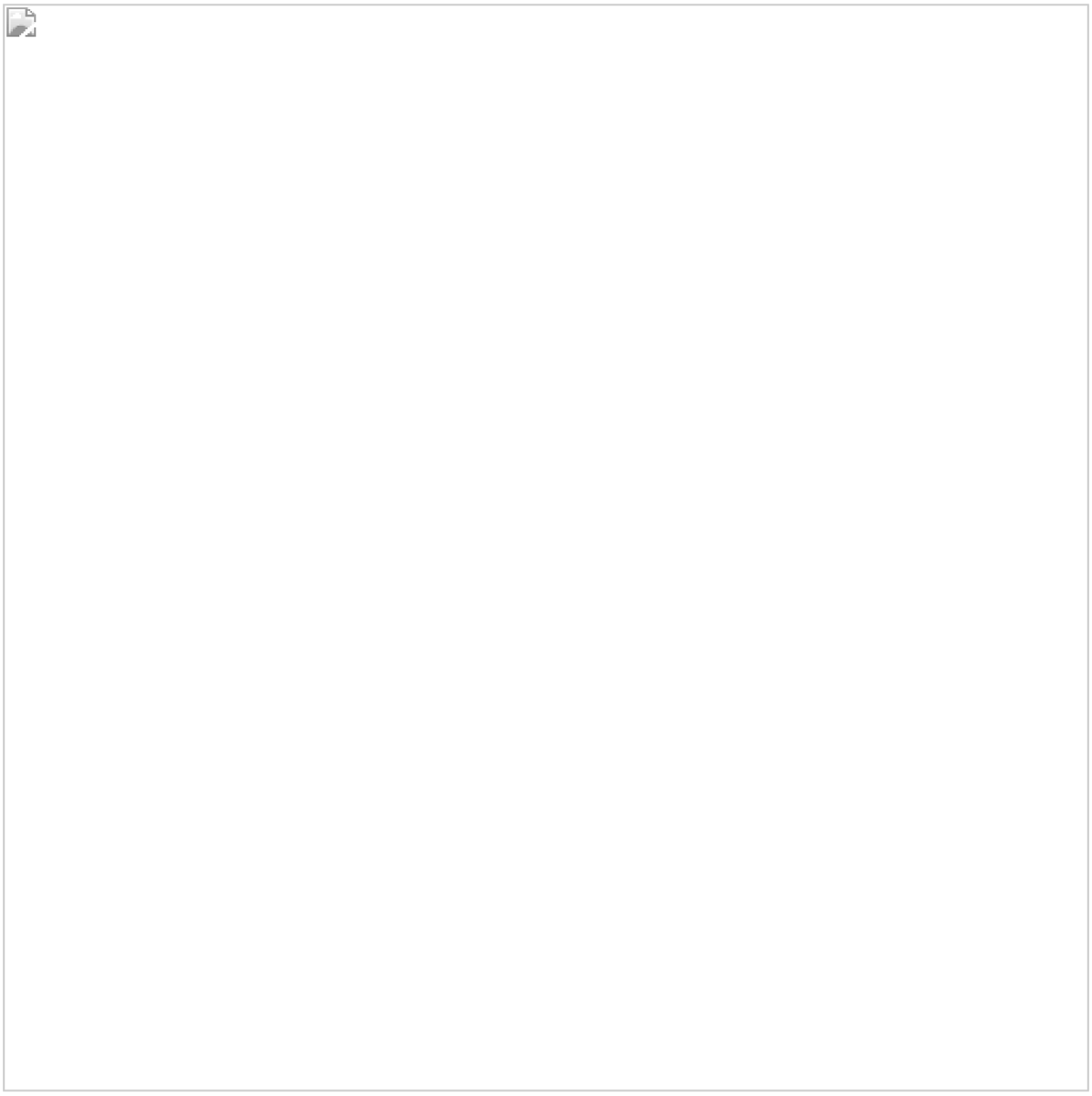


Think about it

1. How did the queen say “pussy”?

- ○ Putty, putty
- ○ Kitty, kitty
- ○ Meow, meow

Tap, Tap at the Door



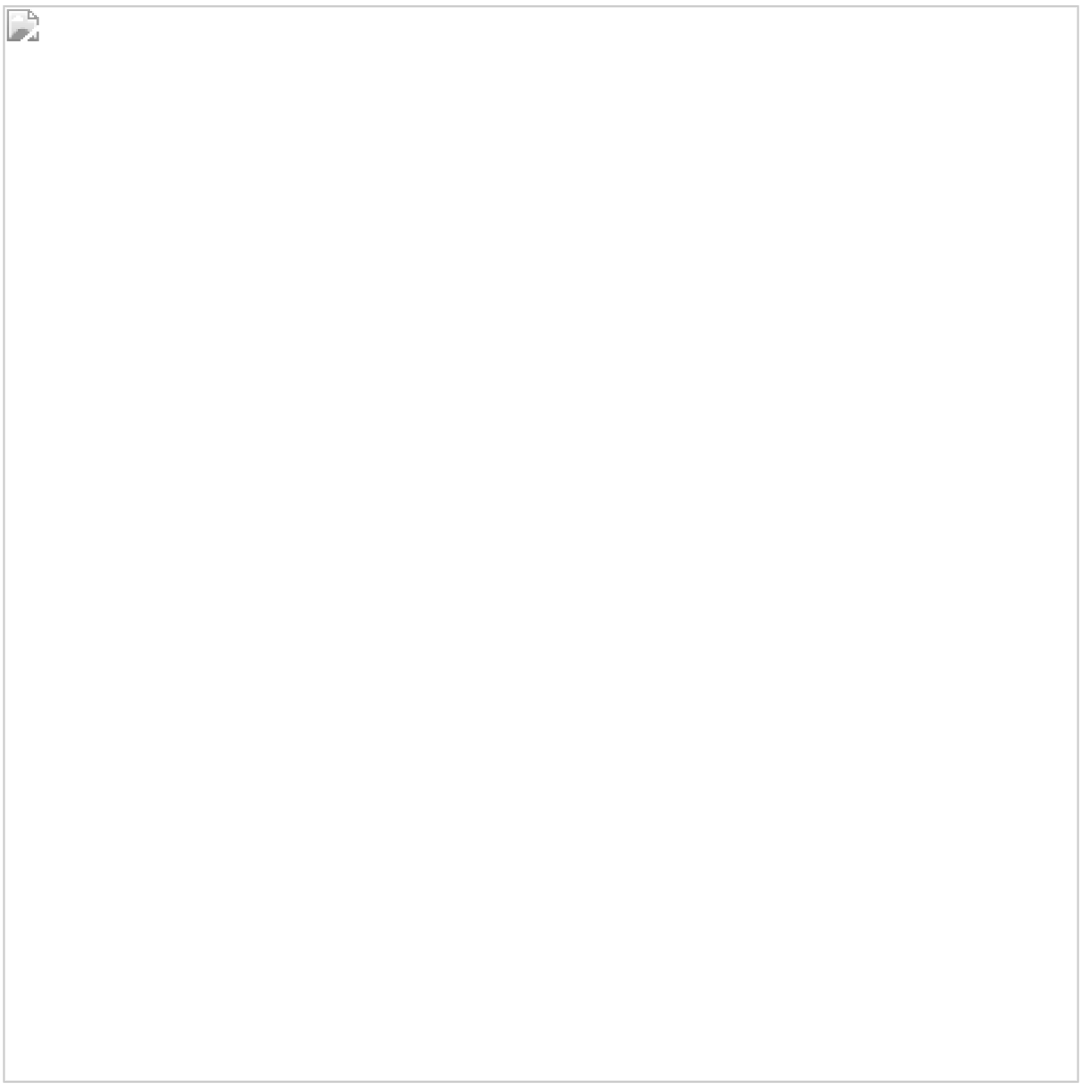
The ship sailed home safely. One morning Mr. Fitzwarren was at his desk when someone came tap, tap at the door. “A friend,” said a voice. He said he came to bring good news of the ship Unicorn.

The captain came in with a chest of jewels, and told the whole story of the cat. They had come to bring Dick his share, which was a great treasure.

Some of the servants said it was too much for a scullion. But Mr. Fitzwarren answered, “God forbid I should deprive him of the value of a single penny.”

TALK ABOUT IT

Mr. Fitzwarren could have kept some for himself, and no one would have known. Why do you think he did not?

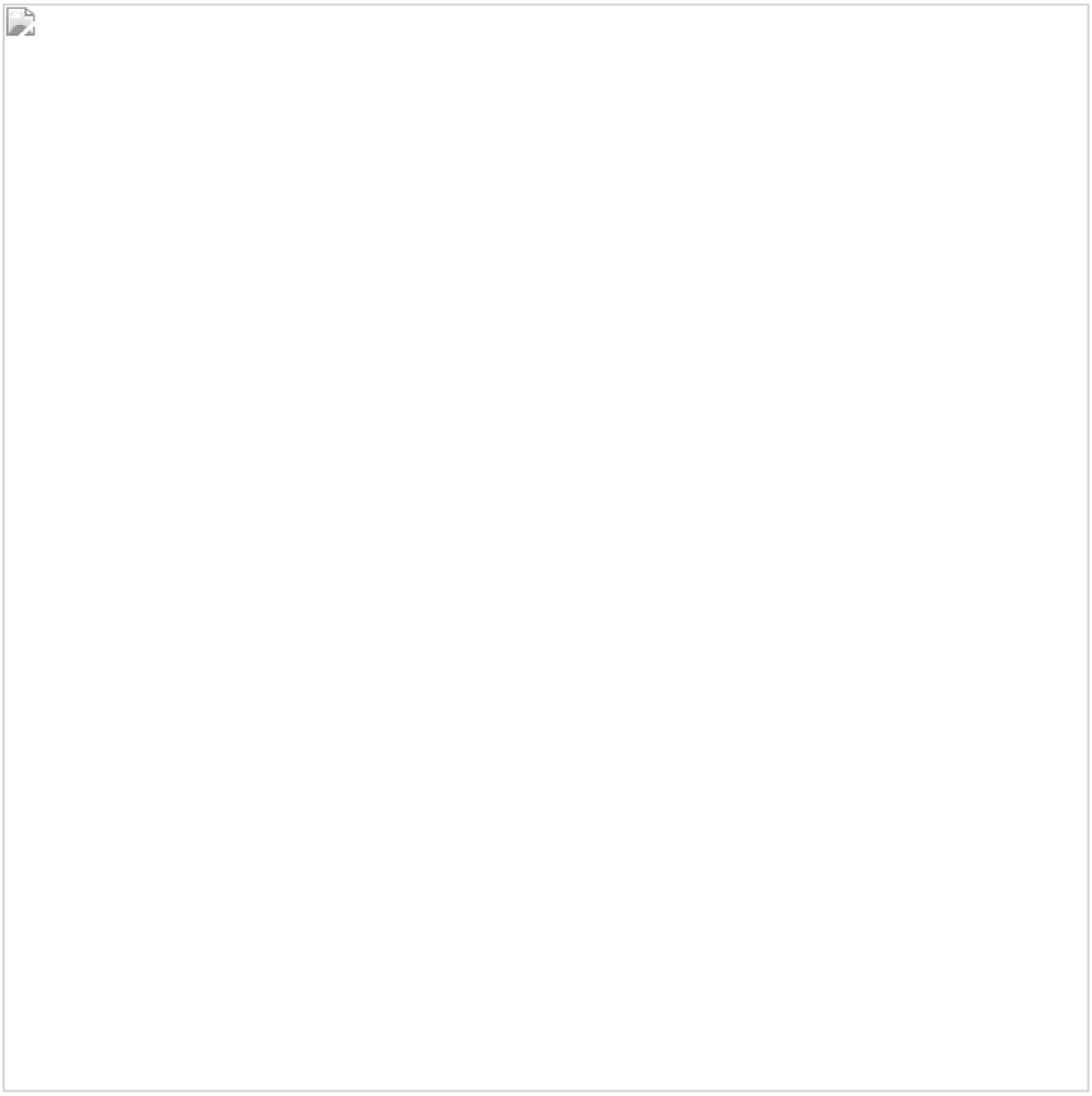


Think about it

1. What did Mr. Fitzwarren say about Dick's treasure?

- ○ That he should keep half of it
- ○ That every penny belonged to Dick
- ○ That Dick was too young

Poor Dick Cannot Believe It



Dick was in the kitchen scouring pots, quite dirty, when he was sent for. They set a chair for him, and he thought they were making fun of him. He asked them not to play tricks on a poor simple boy, and to let him go back to his work.

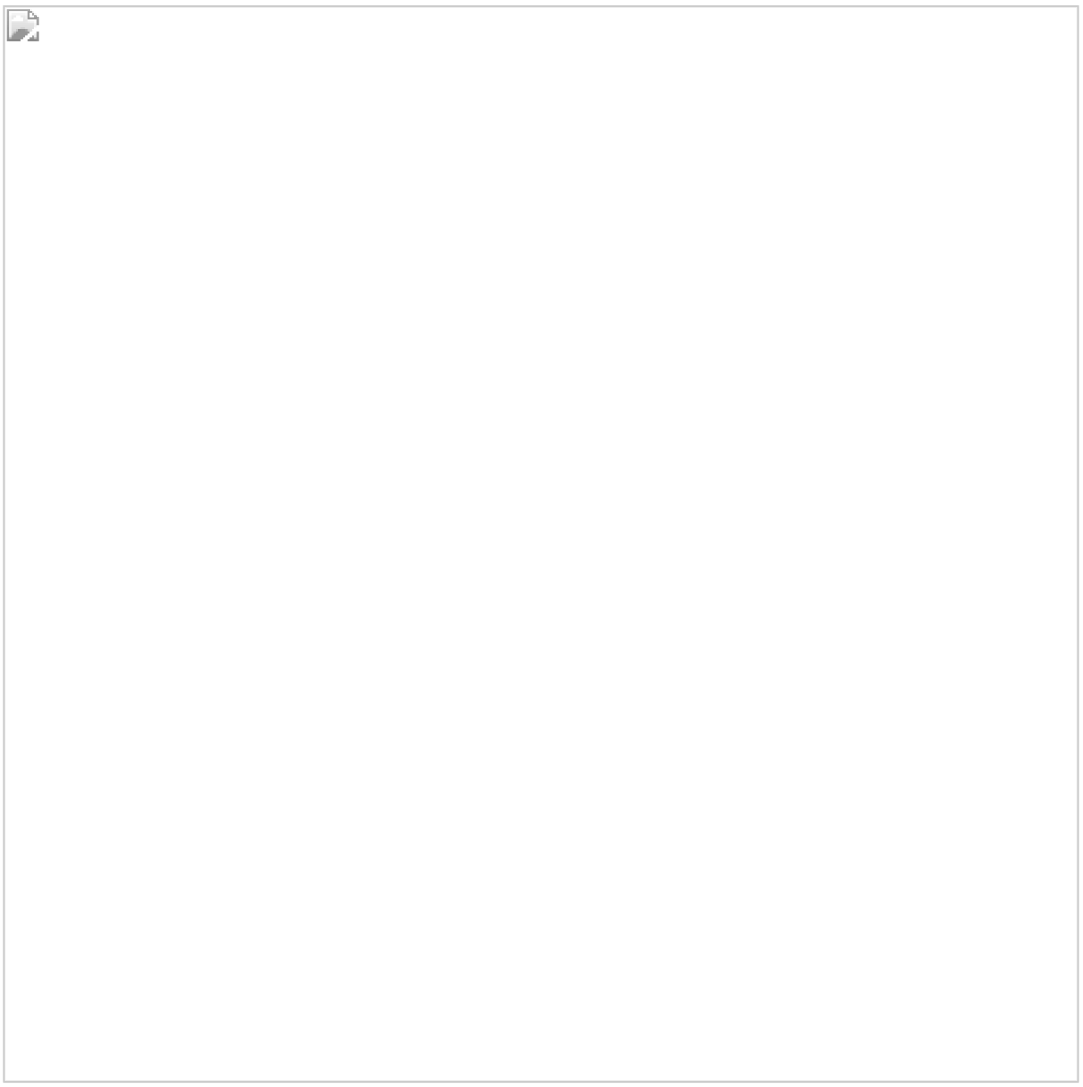
“Indeed, Mr. Whittington,” said the merchant, “we are all quite in earnest with you.”

Mr. Fitzwarren said the captain had sold Dick's cat to the king, and brought back more riches than the merchant owned in the whole world.

TALK ABOUT IT

Why do you think Dick could not believe it at first?

Poor Dick Cannot Believe It · another picture

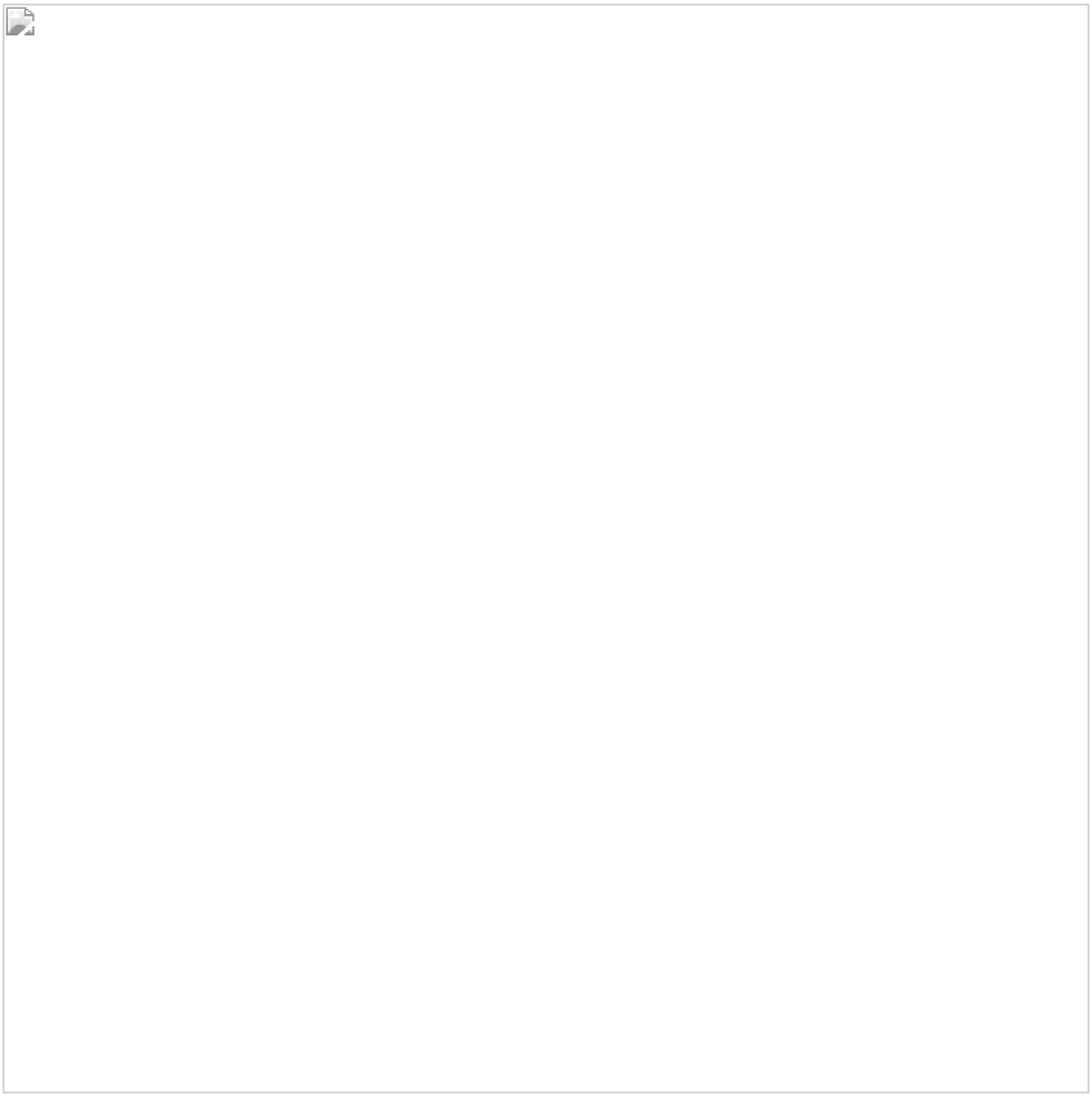


Think about it

1. What was Dick doing when they sent for him?

- ○ Sleeping
- ○ Walking to Holloway
- ○ Scouring pots

Presents for Everyone



Dick begged his master to take some of the treasure. “No, no,” said Mr. Fitzwarren, “this is all your own; and I have no doubt but you will use it well.” Miss Alice would not take any either. She was only glad for him.

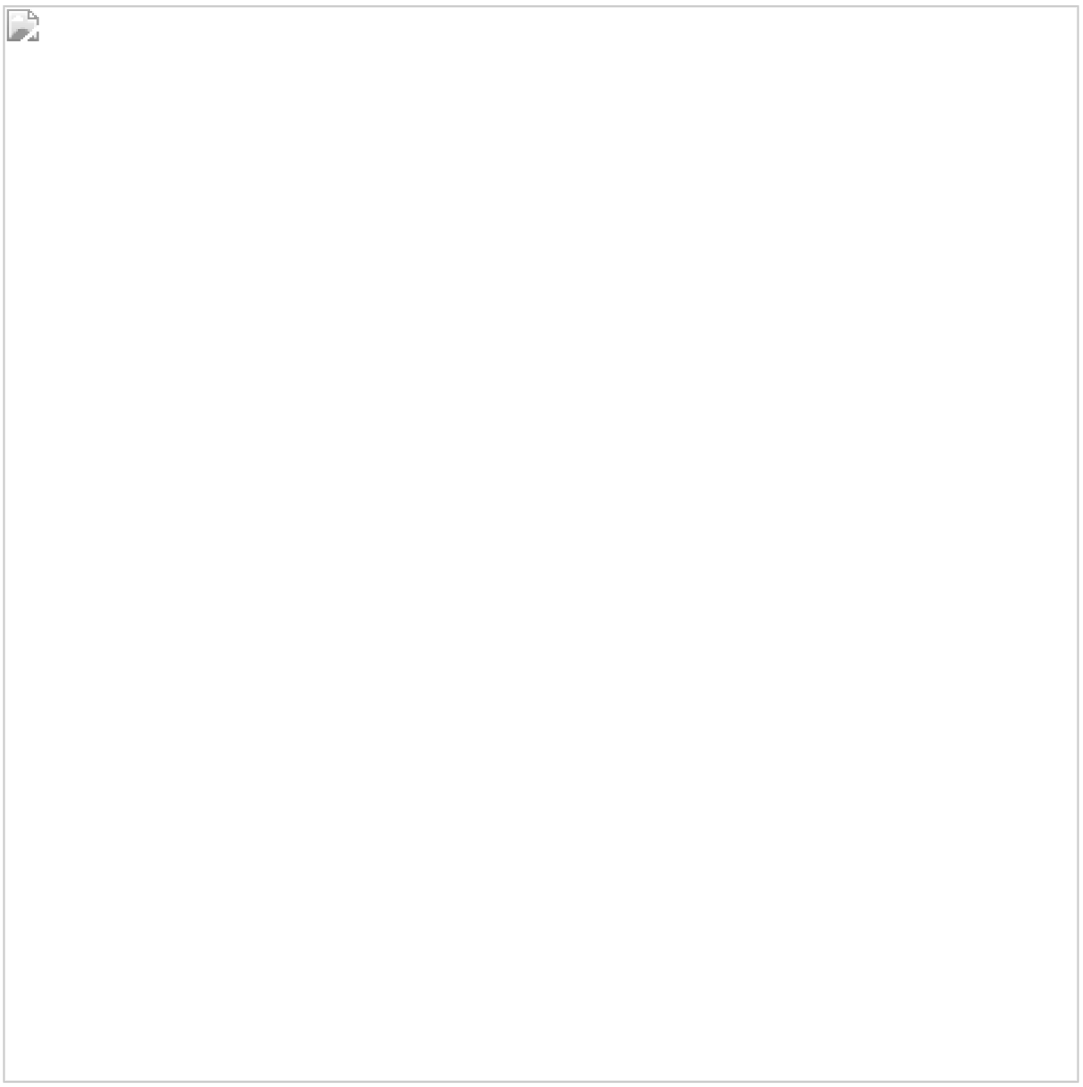
So Dick, who was too kind-hearted to keep it all himself, gave presents to the captain, to the mate, and to all of Mr. Fitzwarren's servants.

He even gave a present to the ill-natured old cook.

TALK ABOUT IT

Dick gave a present even to the cook who had been so unkind to him. What do you think about that?

Presents for Everyone · another picture



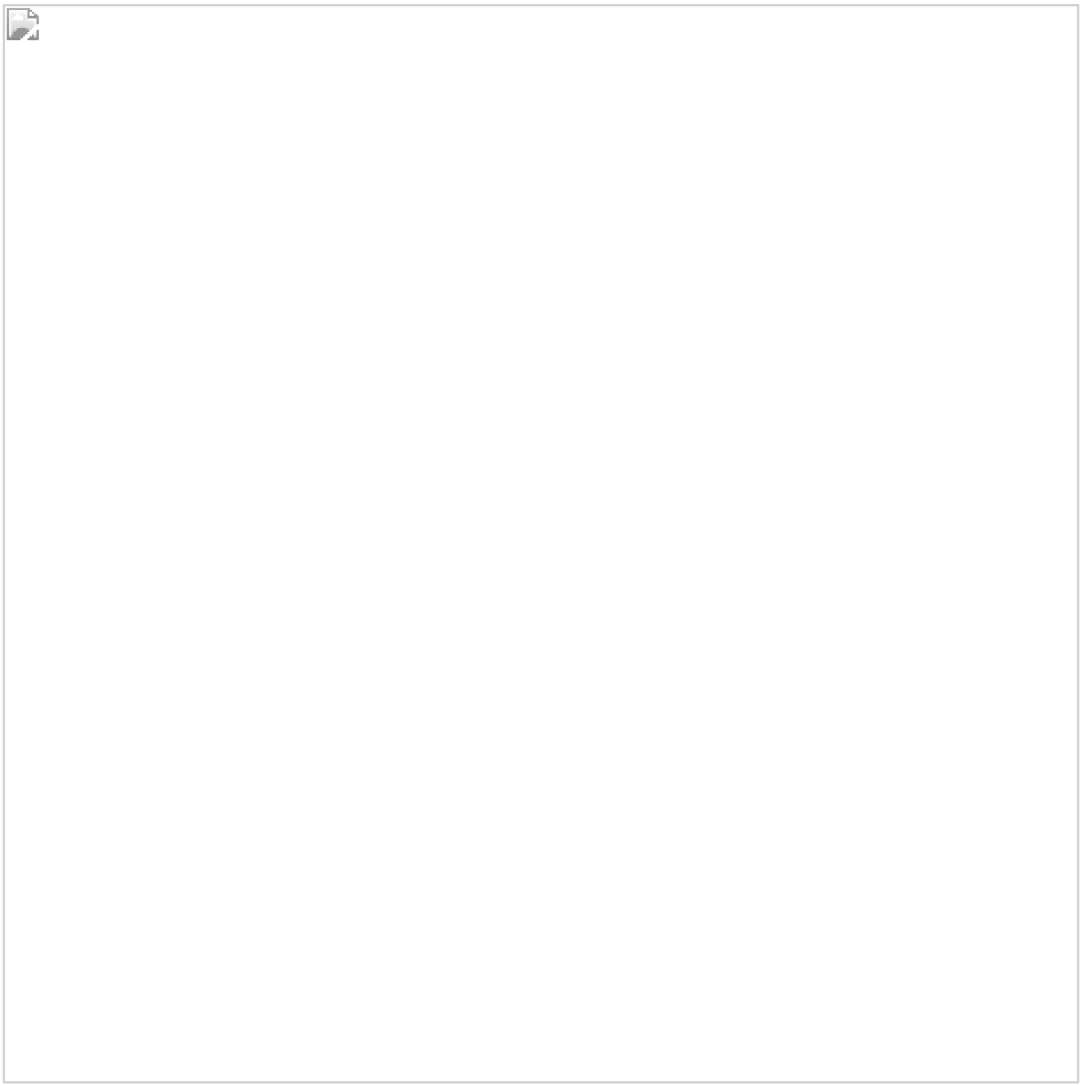
Think about it

1. Who got a present from Dick?

- ○ Everyone, even the cook
- ○ Only Miss Alice
- ○ Nobody

2. Why might it be hard to be kind to someone who was unkind to you?

Lord Mayor of London



Dick had his face washed, his hair combed, and a fine new suit. Miss Alice, who had been so kind when he was poor, now found him a friend to love. Dick was always thinking of ways to please her.

Mr. Fitzwarren saw that they loved each other, and they were married. The Lord Mayor himself came to the wedding.

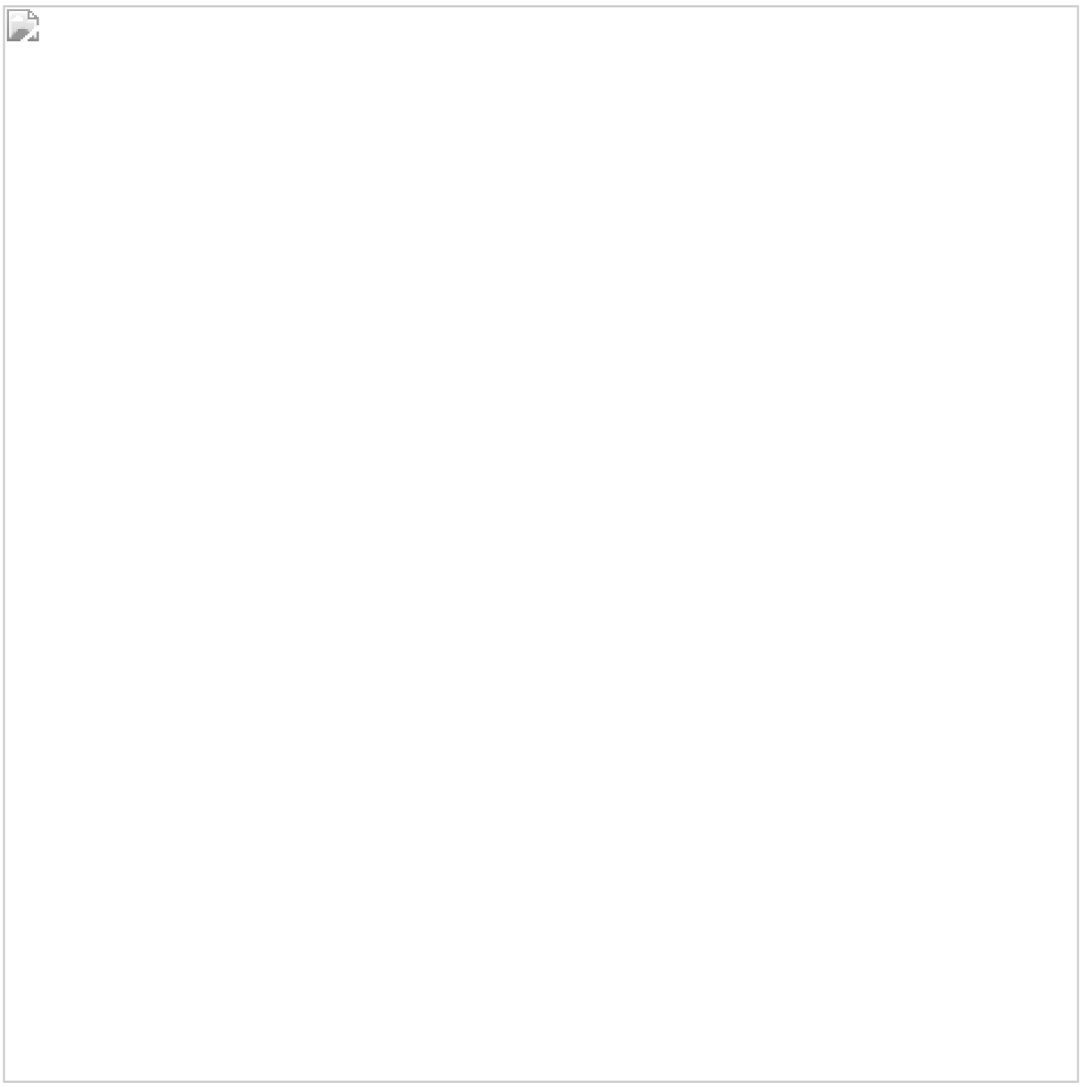
History says Mr. Whittington and his lady lived happily and had children. He was Sheriff of London, and Mayor, and the king made him a knight.

For a long time, a stone carving of Sir Richard Whittington with his cat in his arms stood over the old Newgate.

TALK ABOUT IT

Dick went from a hungry boy at a door to Lord Mayor of London. What do you think helped him most along the way?

Lord Mayor of London · another picture



Think about it

1. What was carved in stone over the archway?

- ○ A ship
- ○ Whittington with his cat
- ○ The Bells of Bow

2. Who helped Dick on his way? Name one person, and how they helped.

“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