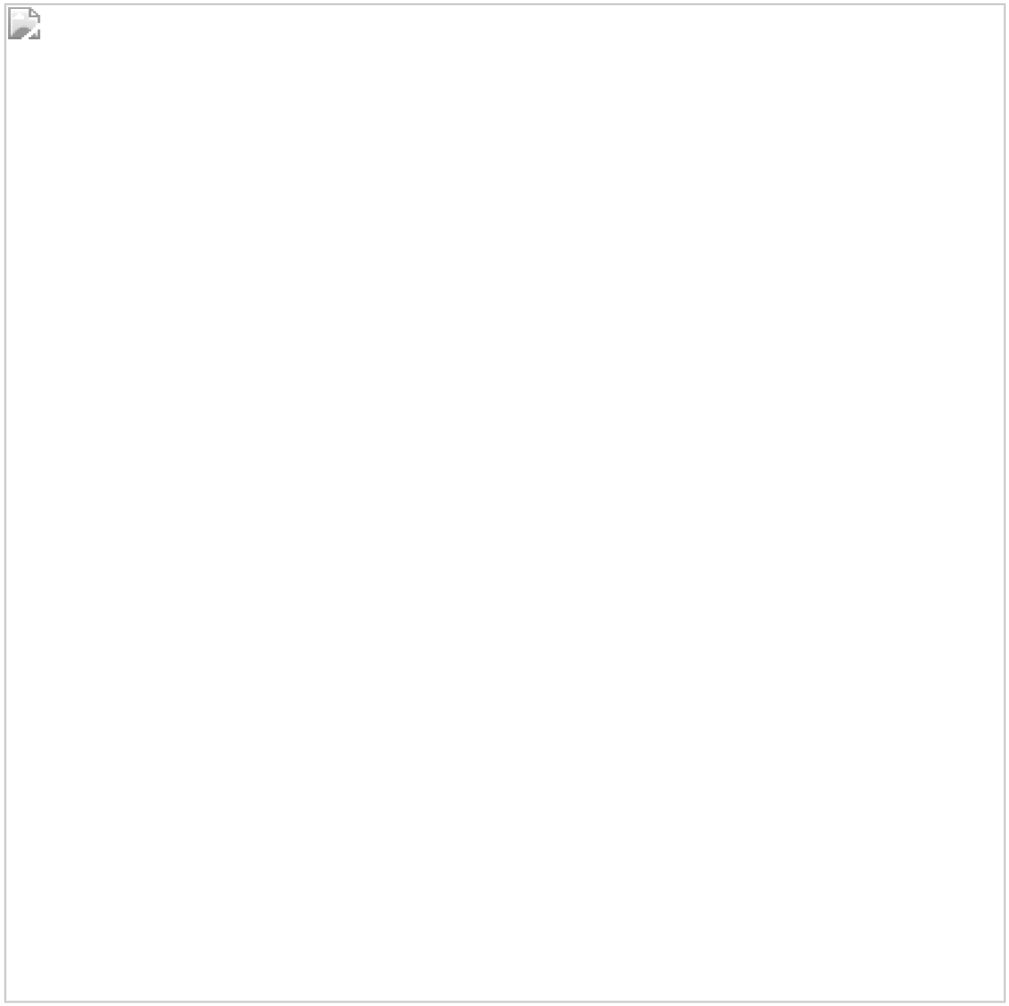
COLORING THE CLASSICS

Why Spiders Are Always Found in the Corners of Ceilings

A Tale from West Africa



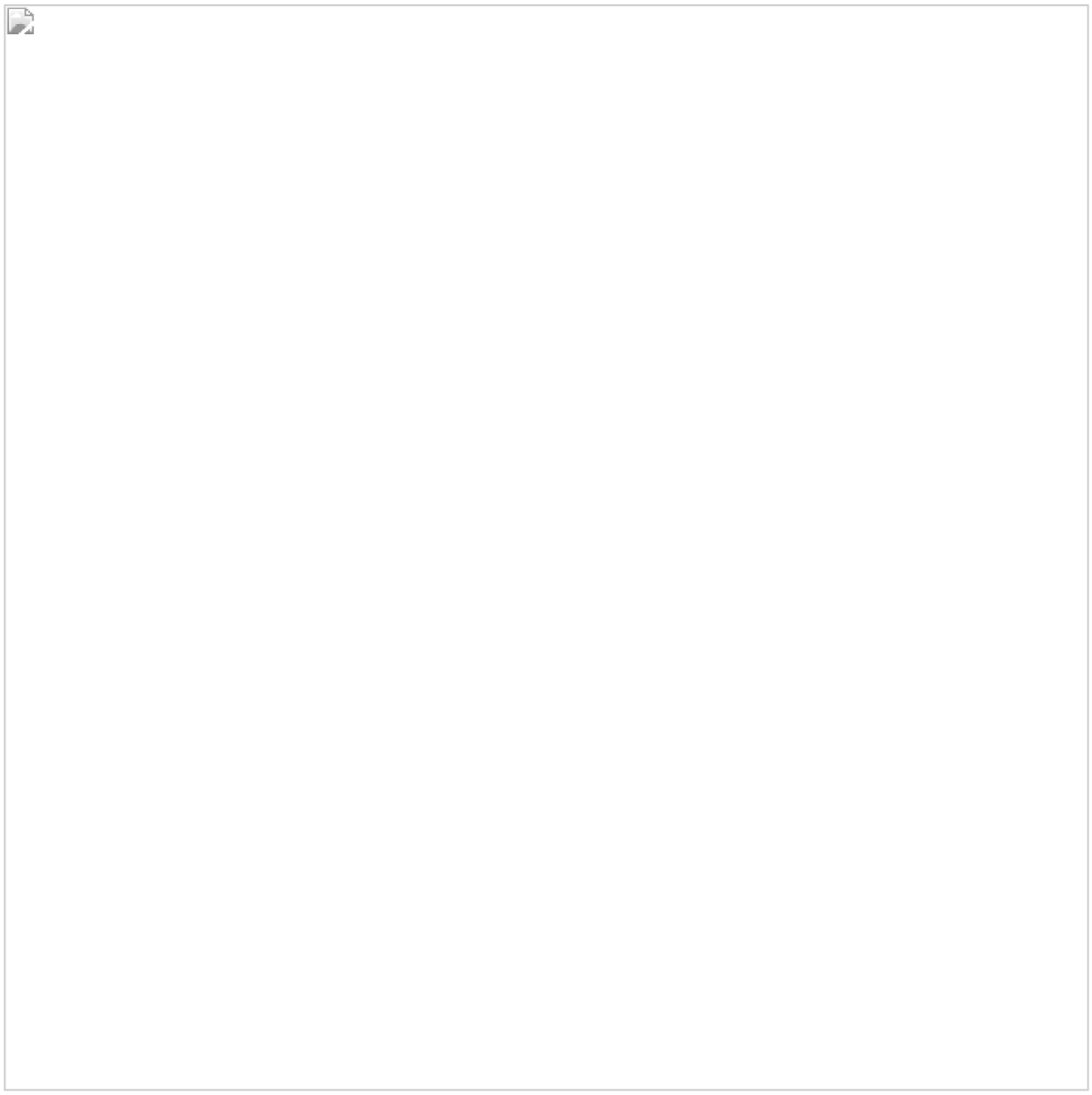
Egya Anansi was a very skilful farmer. One year he, his wife and his son set to work to prepare a farm much larger than any they had worked before.

TALK ABOUT IT

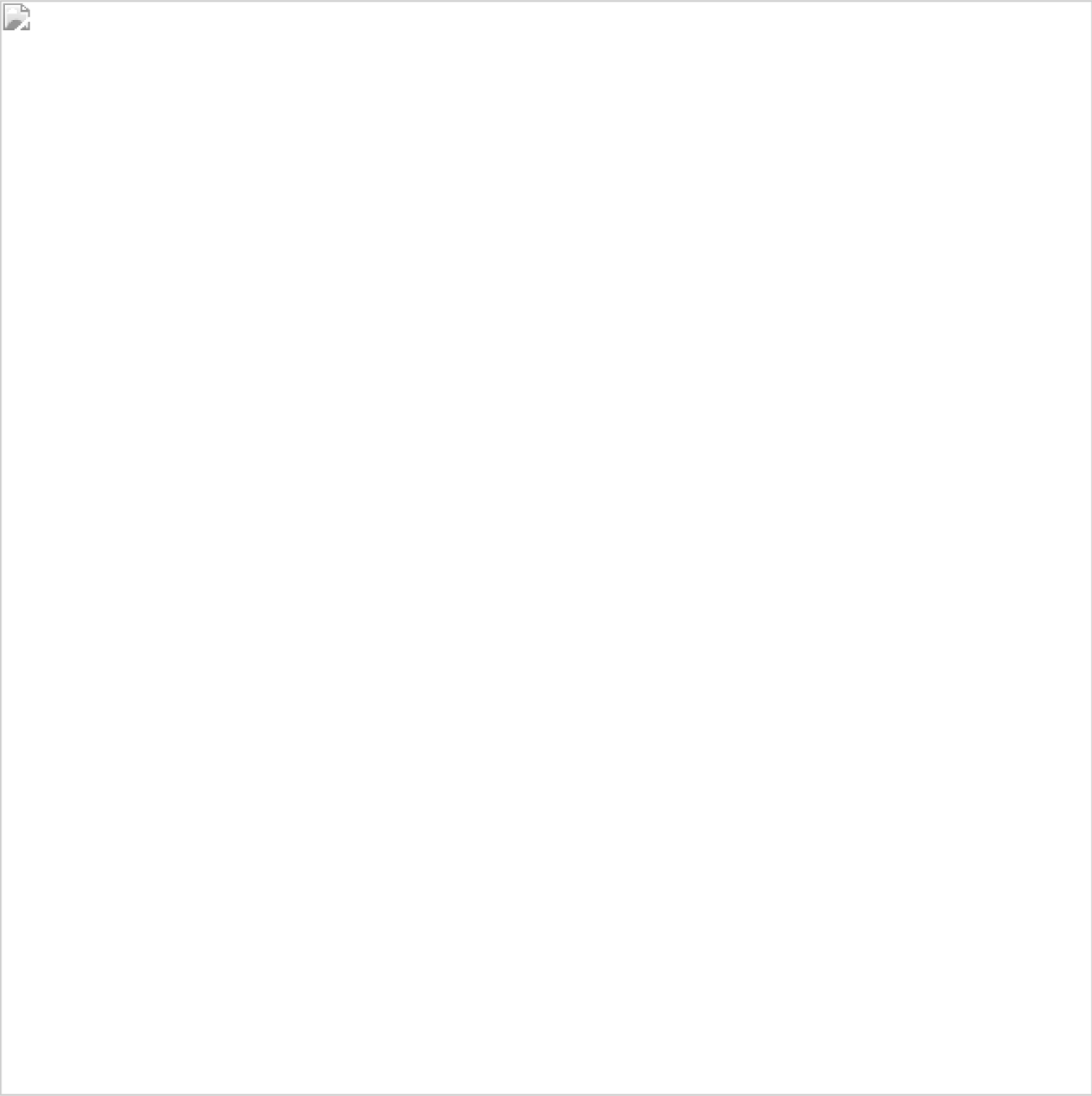
What is something you have helped a family member make or grow?

This book belongs to _____

Why Spiders Are Always Found in the Corners of Ceilings · another picture



A Rich Harvest

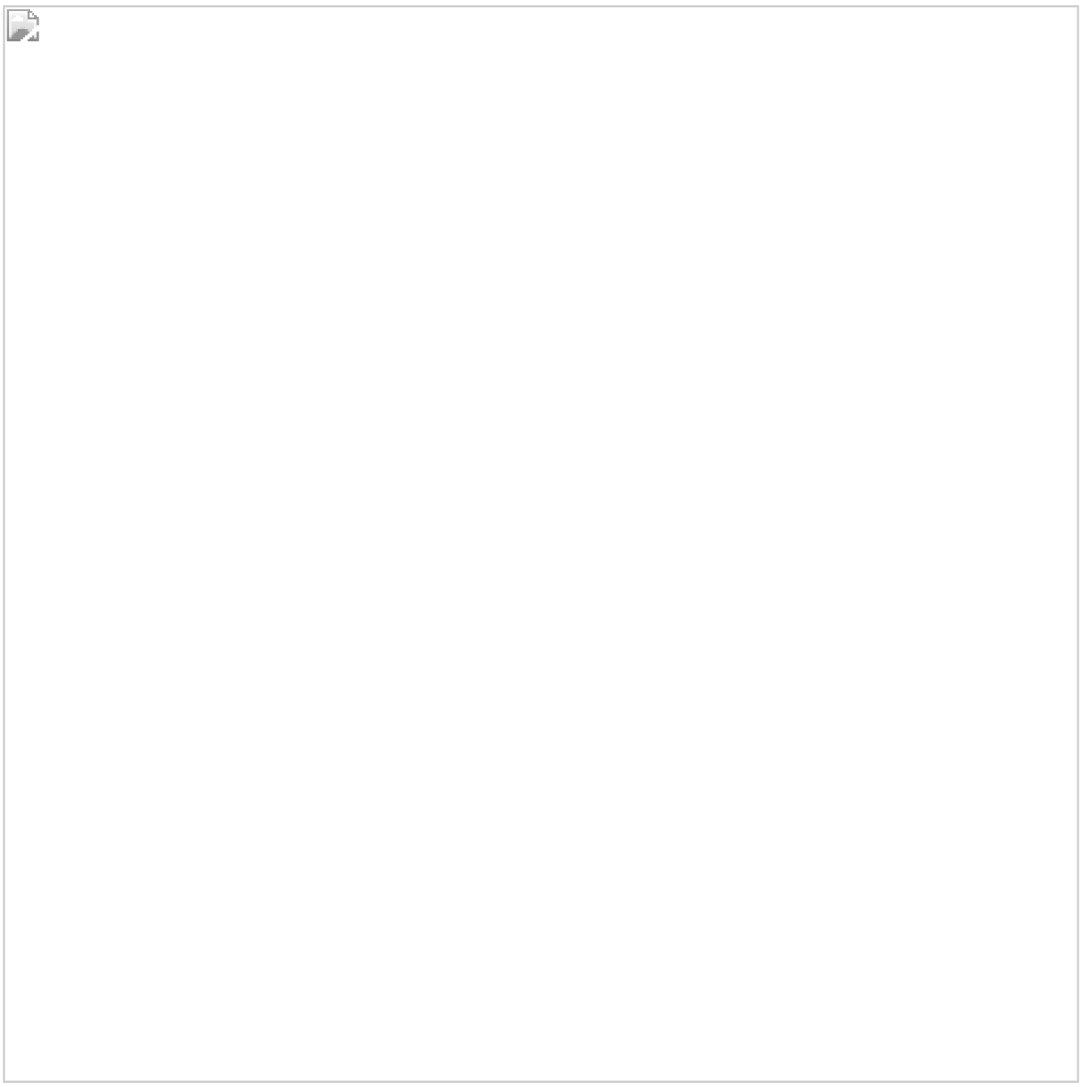


They planted yams, maize and beans. They were rewarded with a very rich crop, quite ten times greater than any harvest they had ever had.

Egya Anansi was very well pleased when he saw his wealth of corn and beans.

TALK ABOUT IT

All three of them worked hard on the farm. What do you think should happen to the harvest?

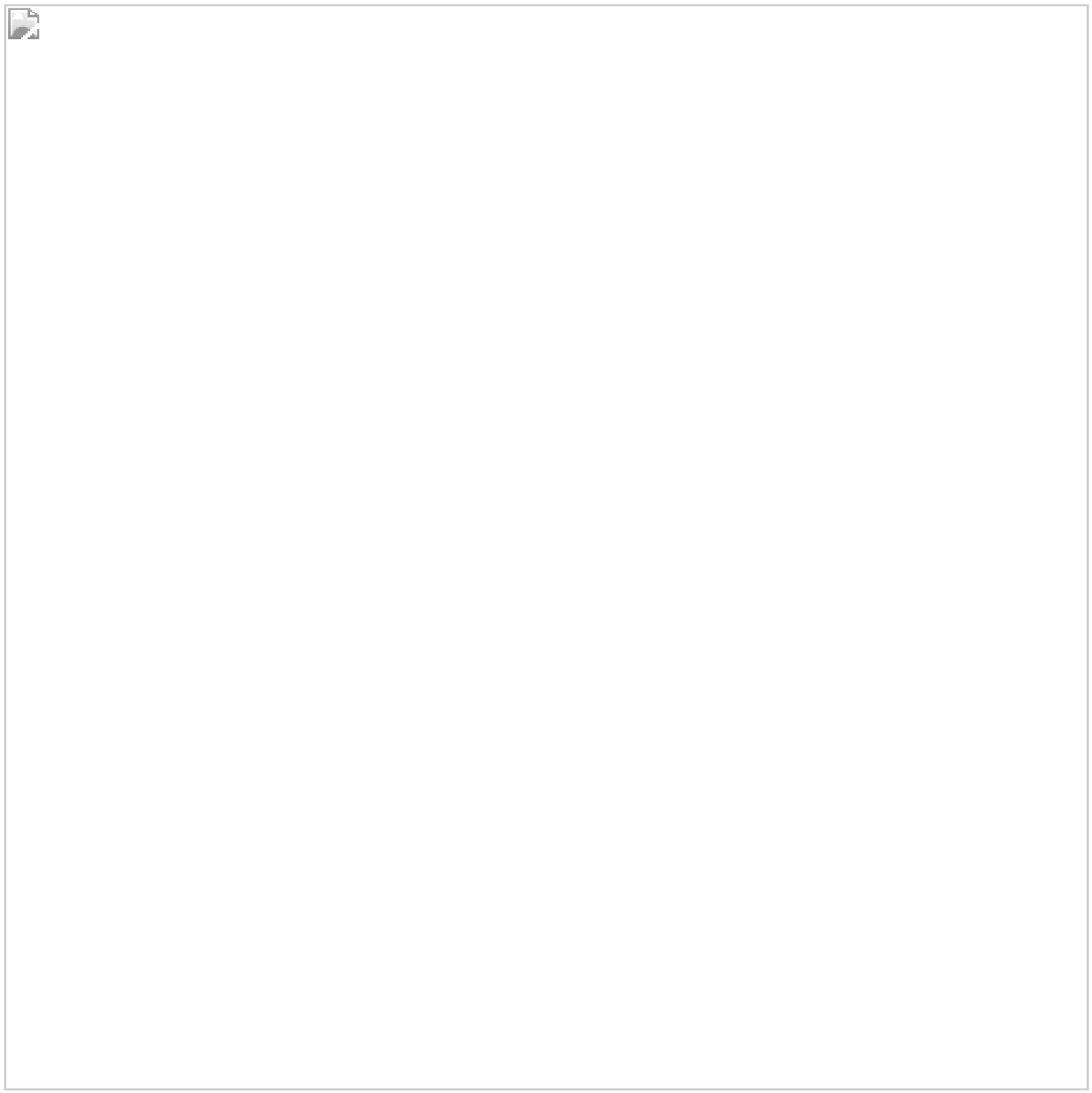


Think about it

1. Which food was NOT planted on the farm?

- ○ Yams
- ○ Rice
- ○ Beans

Anansi Has a Plan



But Anansi was selfish and greedy. He never liked to share anything, not even with his own wife and son. He thought of a plan so that he alone would have the harvest.

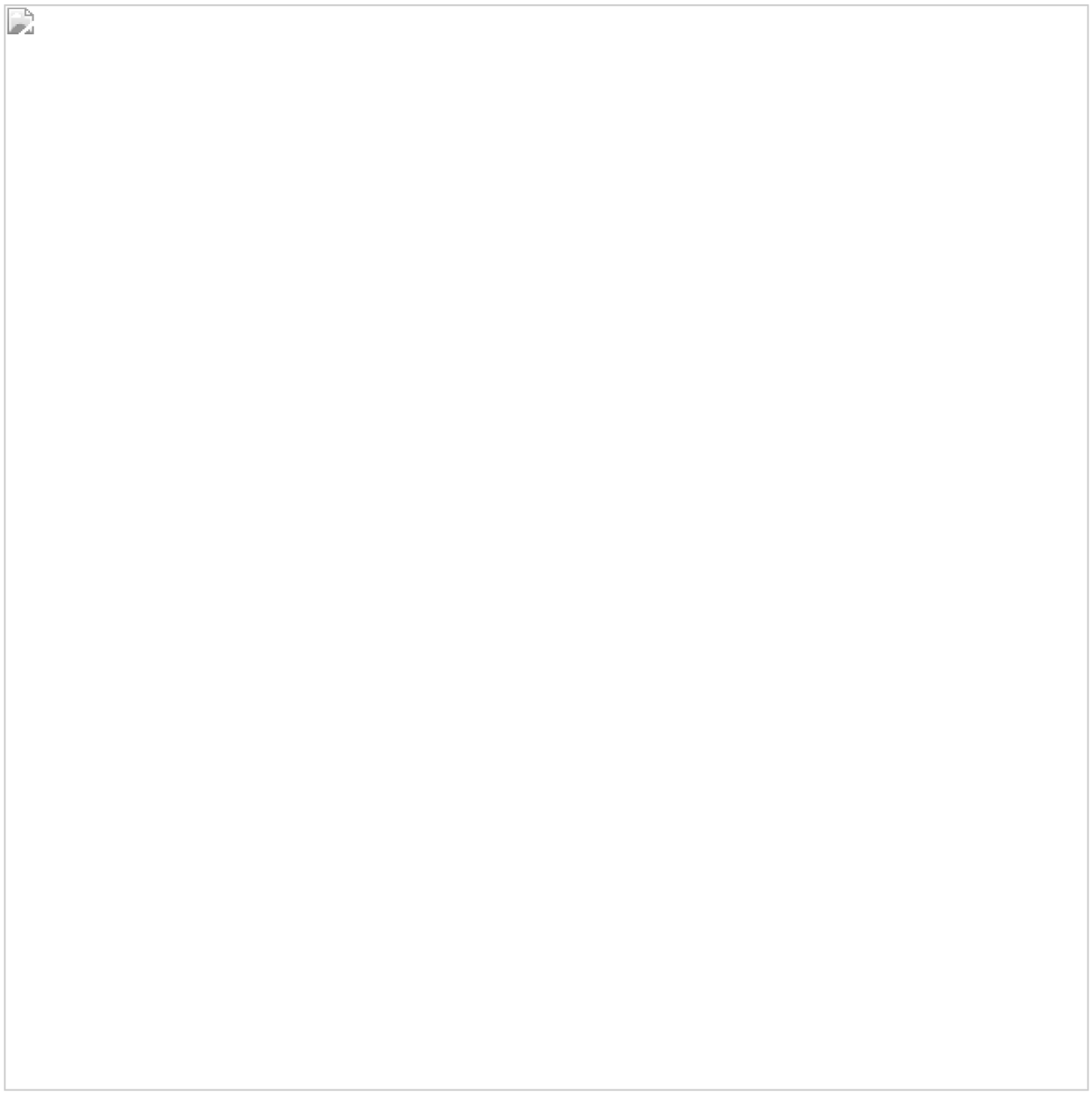
He called them to him. “We have all three worked exceedingly hard to prepare these fields,” he said. He told them to gather in the harvest and pack it away in the barns. Then he said they should go home to the village and rest for two or three weeks.

“I have to go to the coast on very urgent business. When I return we will all come to the farm and enjoy our well-earned feast.”

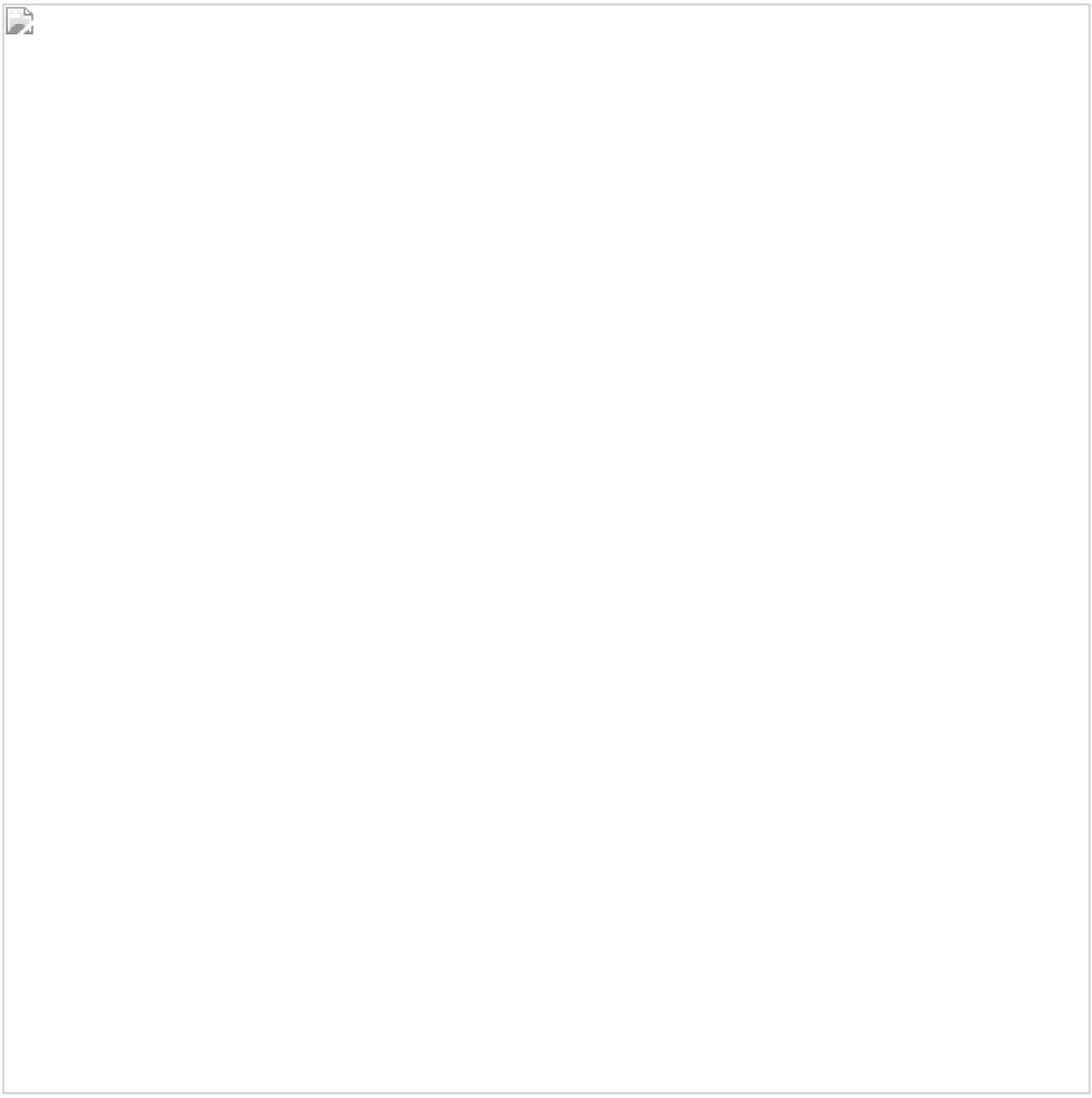
TALK ABOUT IT

Do you think Anansi was telling the whole truth? What makes you think so?

Anansi Has a Plan · another picture



The Hut by the Farm



His wife and son thought this was a good, sensible plan. They went straight back to the village.

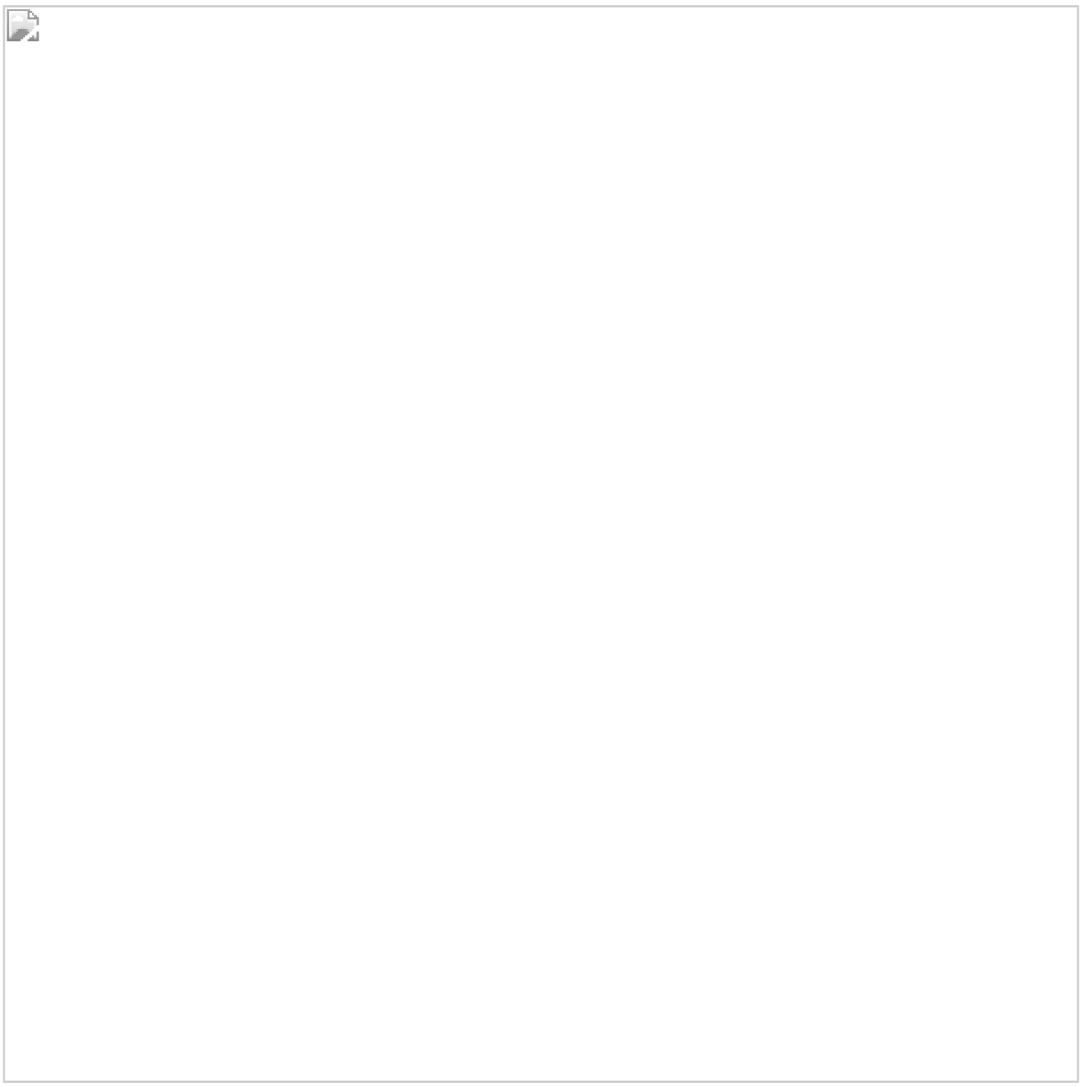
But Anansi had no intention of going to the coast. He built himself a comfortable hut near the farm. He filled it with cooking pots and carried in a large store of corn and vegetables from the barn.

Then he prepared for a feast all by himself.

TALK ABOUT IT

Anansi's family believed him. How do you think they would feel if they knew?

The Hut by the Farm · another picture

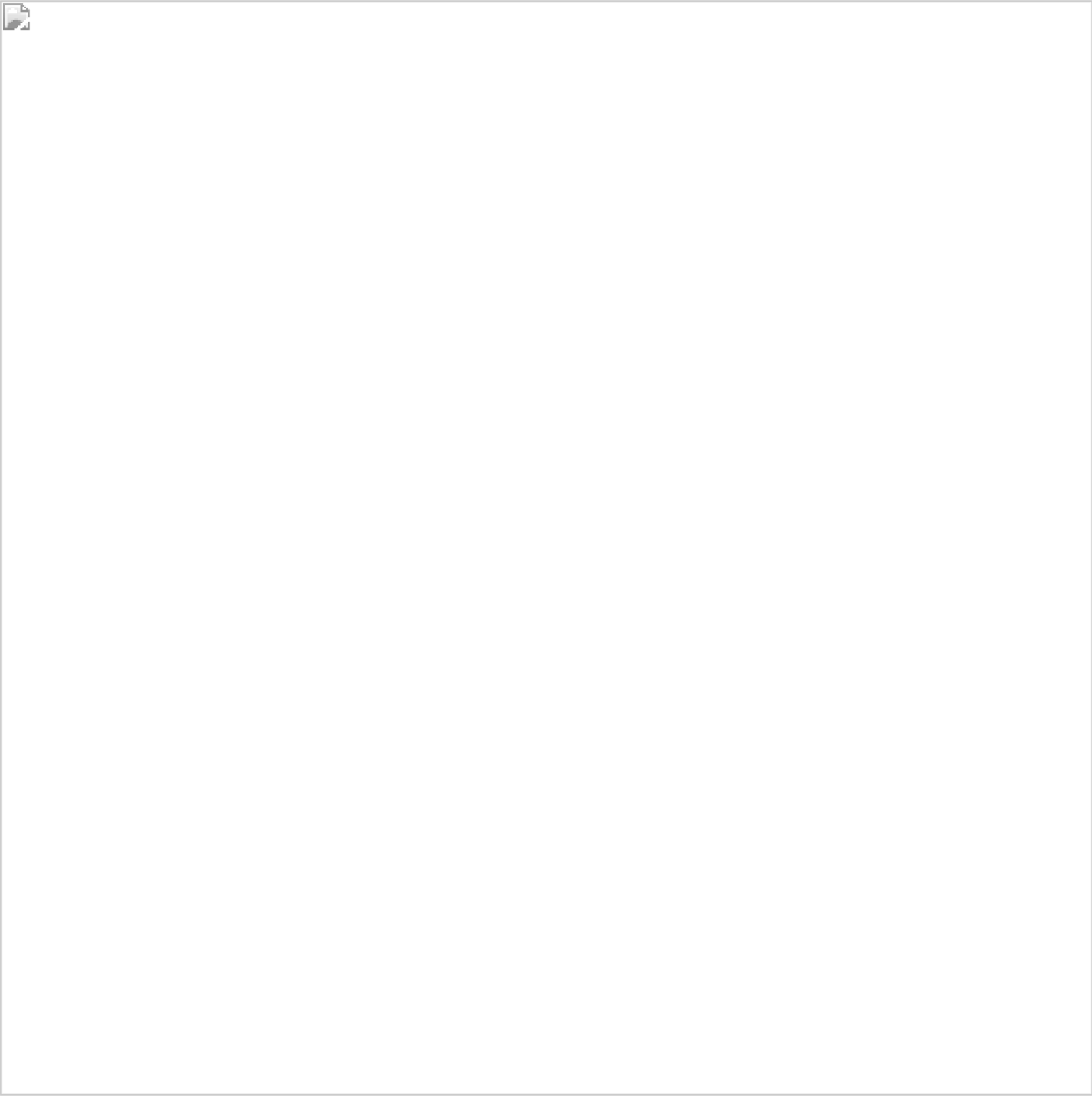


Think about it

1. Where did Anansi really go?

- ○ To the coast
- ○ To a hut near the farm
- ○ To the village

The Empty Barn



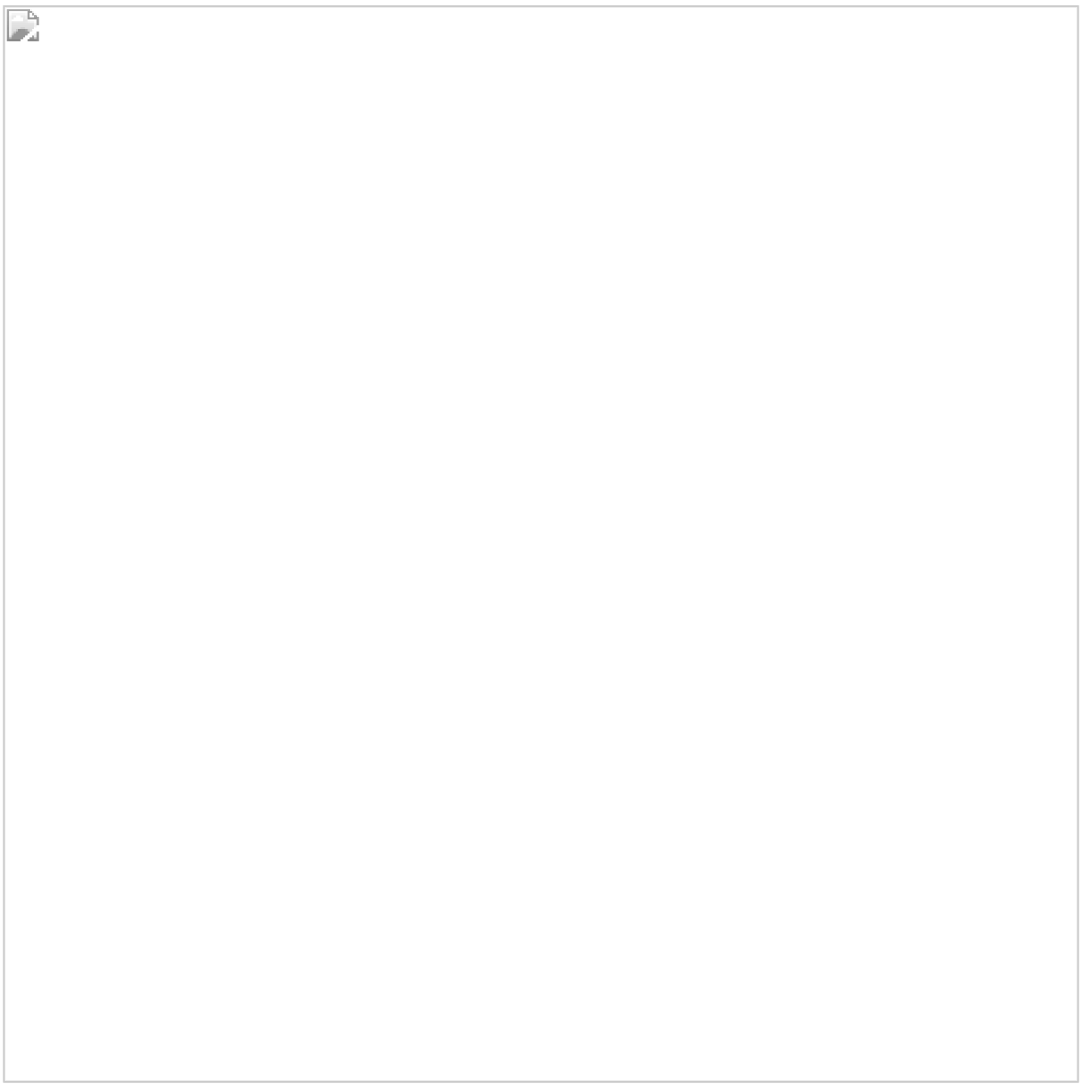
This went on for a fortnight. Then Anansi's son thought it was time to go and weed the farm, so the weeds would not grow too high.

He worked there for several hours. Passing the barn, he looked in. More than half of their splendid harvest was gone!

He was greatly disturbed. He thought robbers had been at work.

TALK ABOUT IT

What would you do if you found half your food gone?

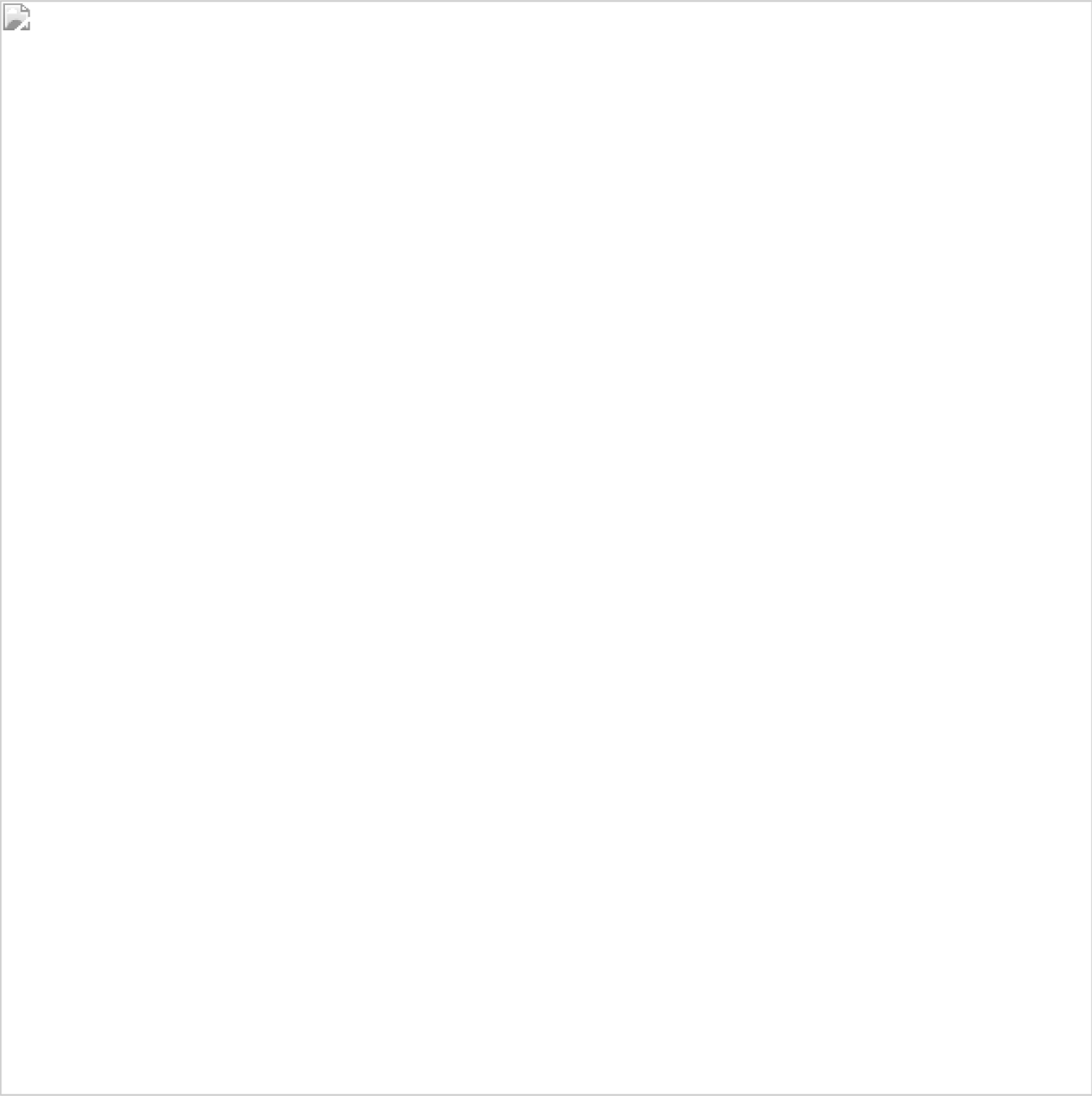


Think about it

1. Who did the son think had taken the harvest?

- ○ His mother
- ○ Robbers
- ○ The birds

The Rubber-Man



The son went back to the village and told the people what had happened. They helped him make a rubber-man.

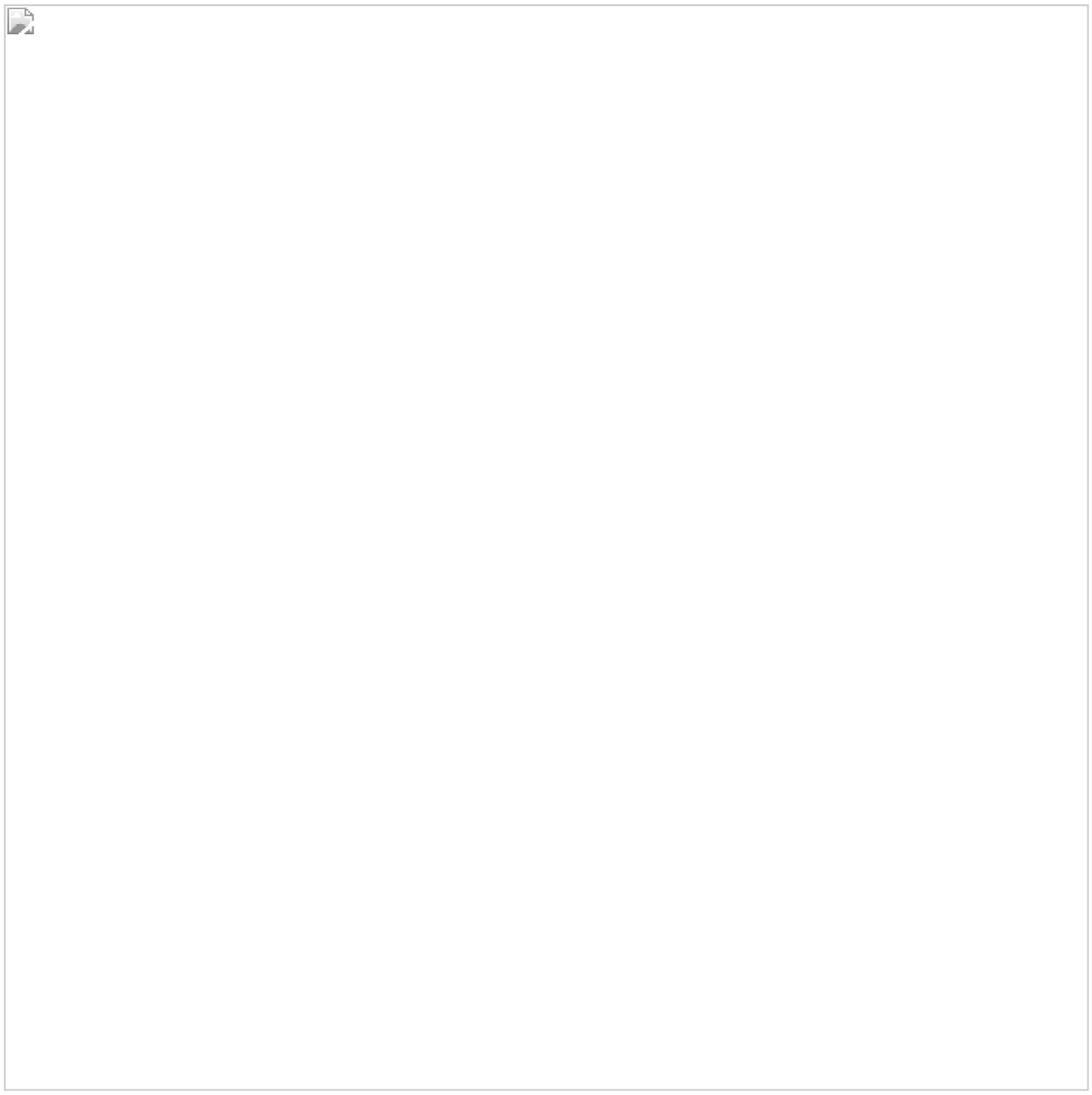
When evening came, they carried the sticky figure to the farm and set it in the middle of the fields, to frighten away the thieves.

Some of the young men stayed with Anansi's son to watch in one of the barns.

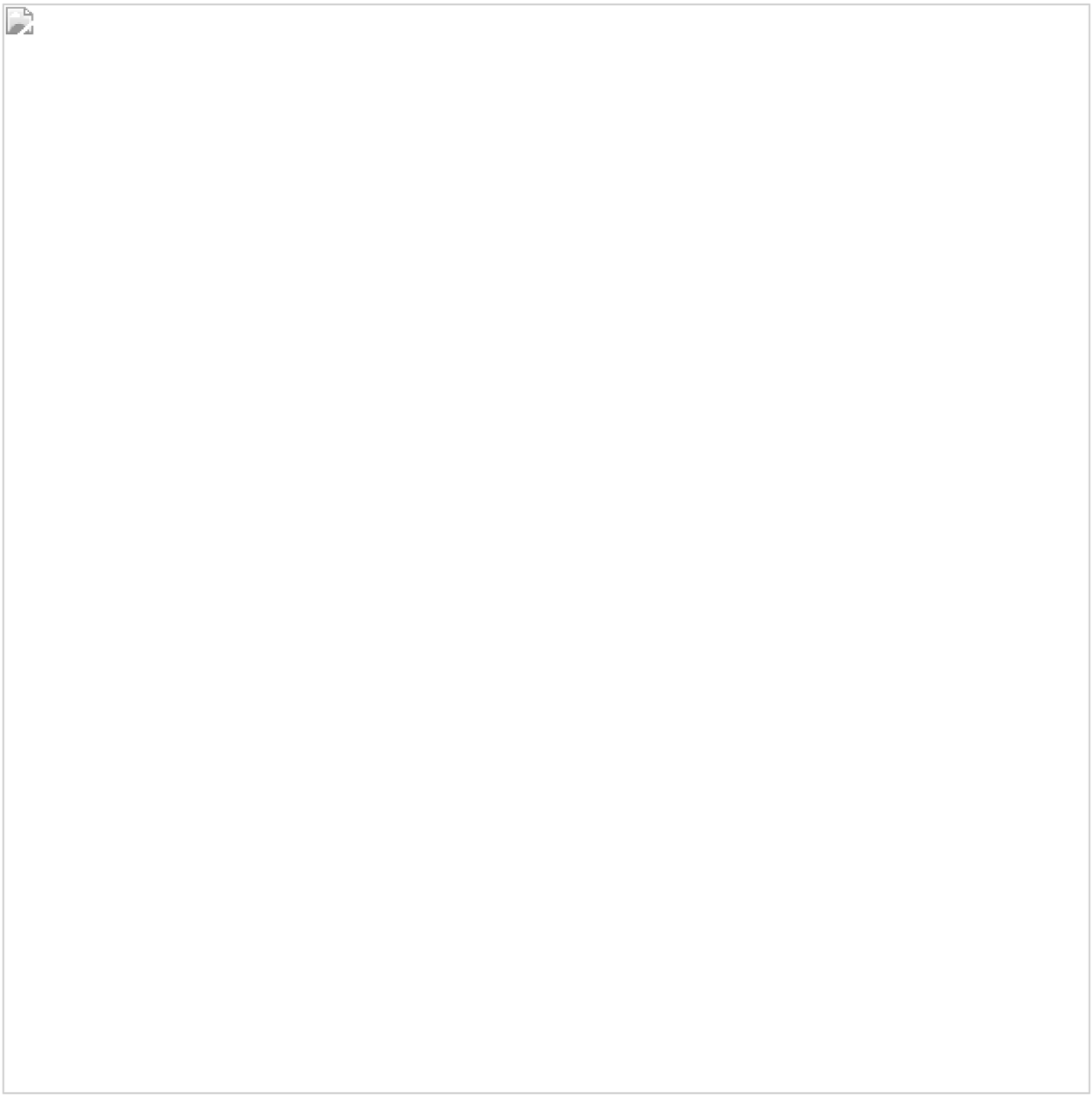
TALK ABOUT IT

The villagers helped the son. When has a neighbour or friend helped you with a problem?

The Rubber-Man · another picture



Anansi Comes Out



When all was dark, Egya Anansi, knowing nothing of this, came out of his hiding place to fetch more food.

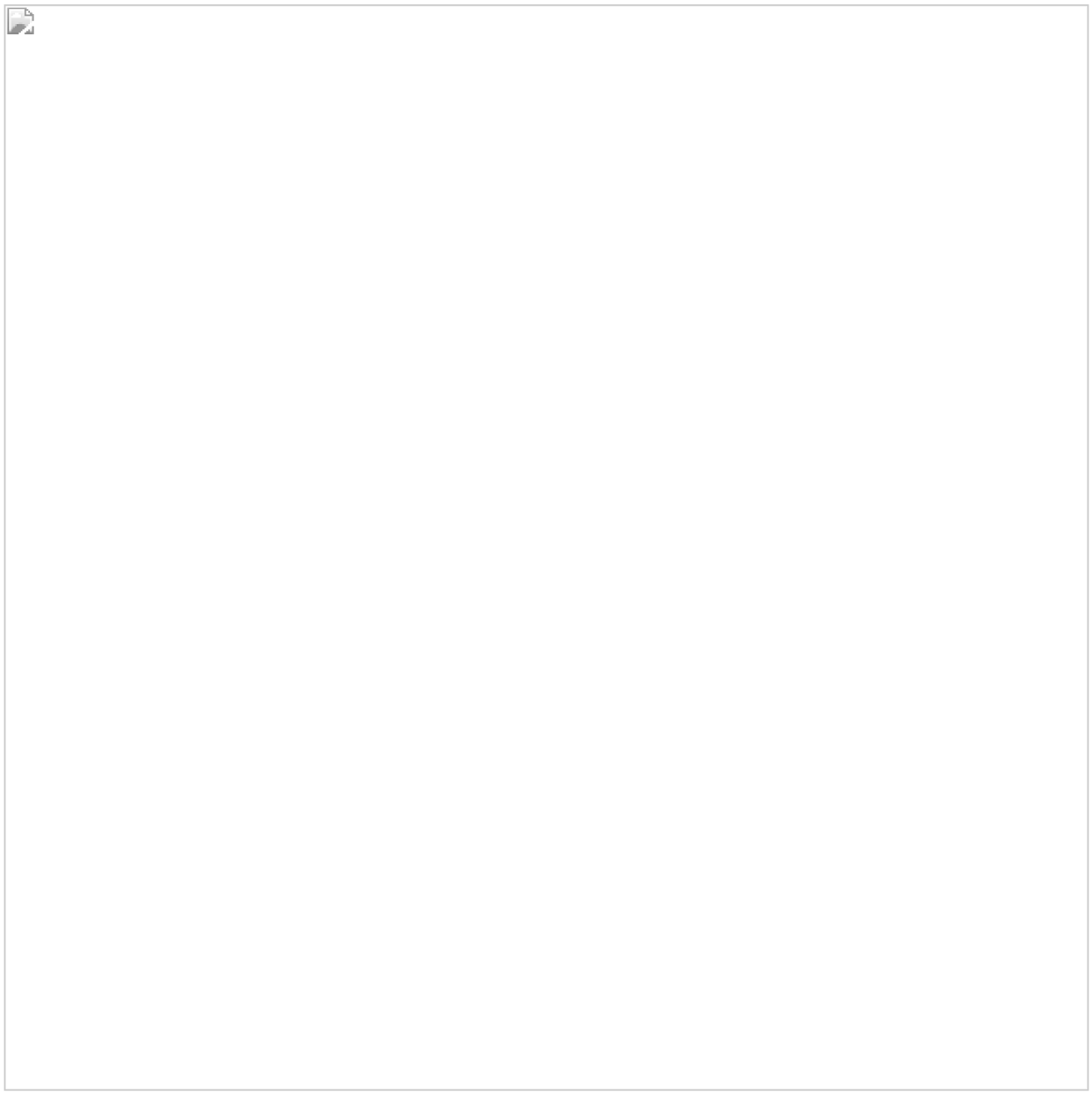
On his way to the barn he saw a man's figure in front of him. At first he felt very frightened. But the man did not move, so he gained courage and went up to him.

“What do you want here?” he said. There was no answer. He asked again, and there was still no answer.

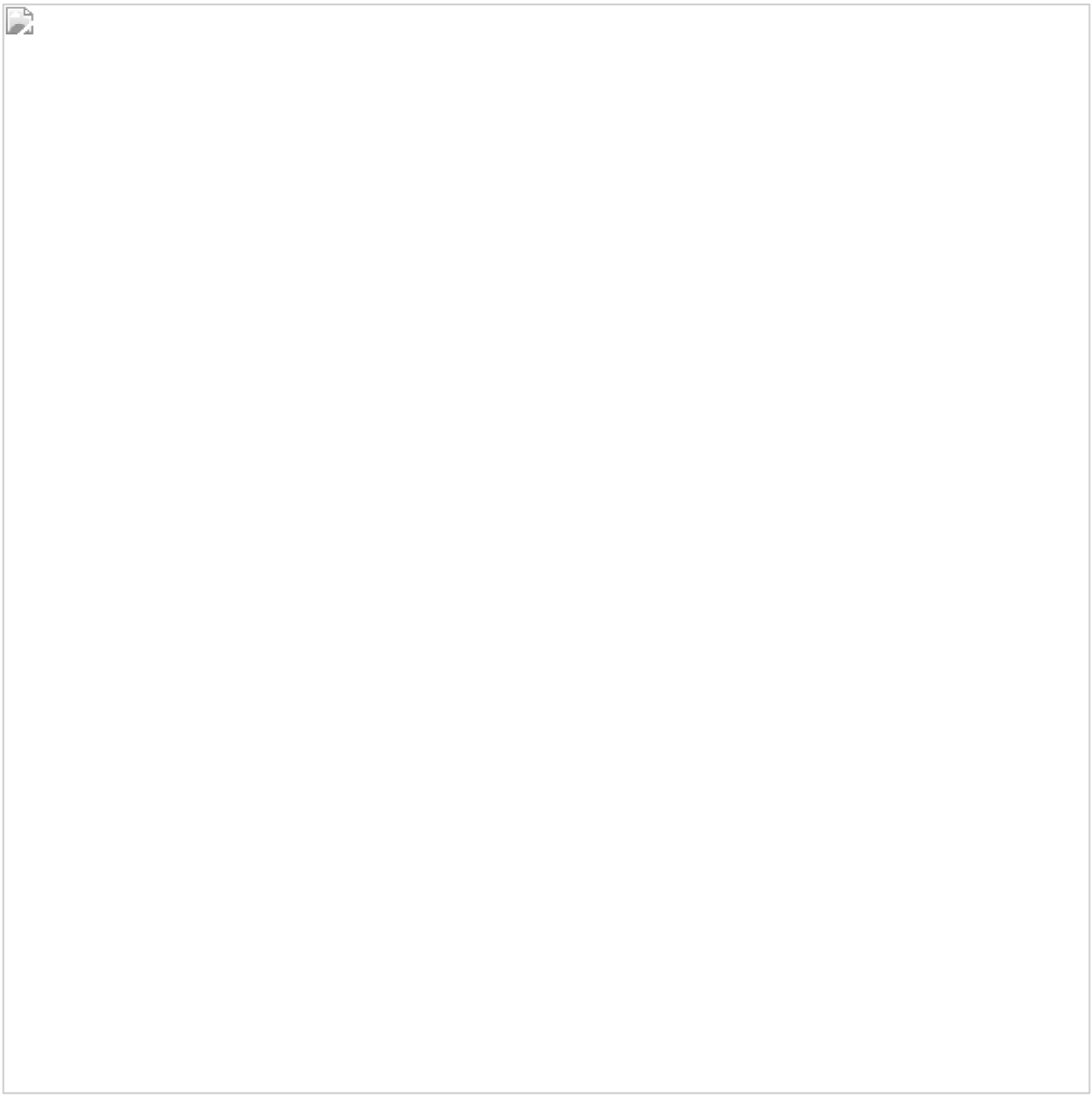
TALK ABOUT IT

Who do you think the figure really was?

Anansi Comes Out · another picture



Stuck Fast



Anansi grew very angry. He hit the figure on the cheek with his right hand, and his hand stuck fast to the rubber.

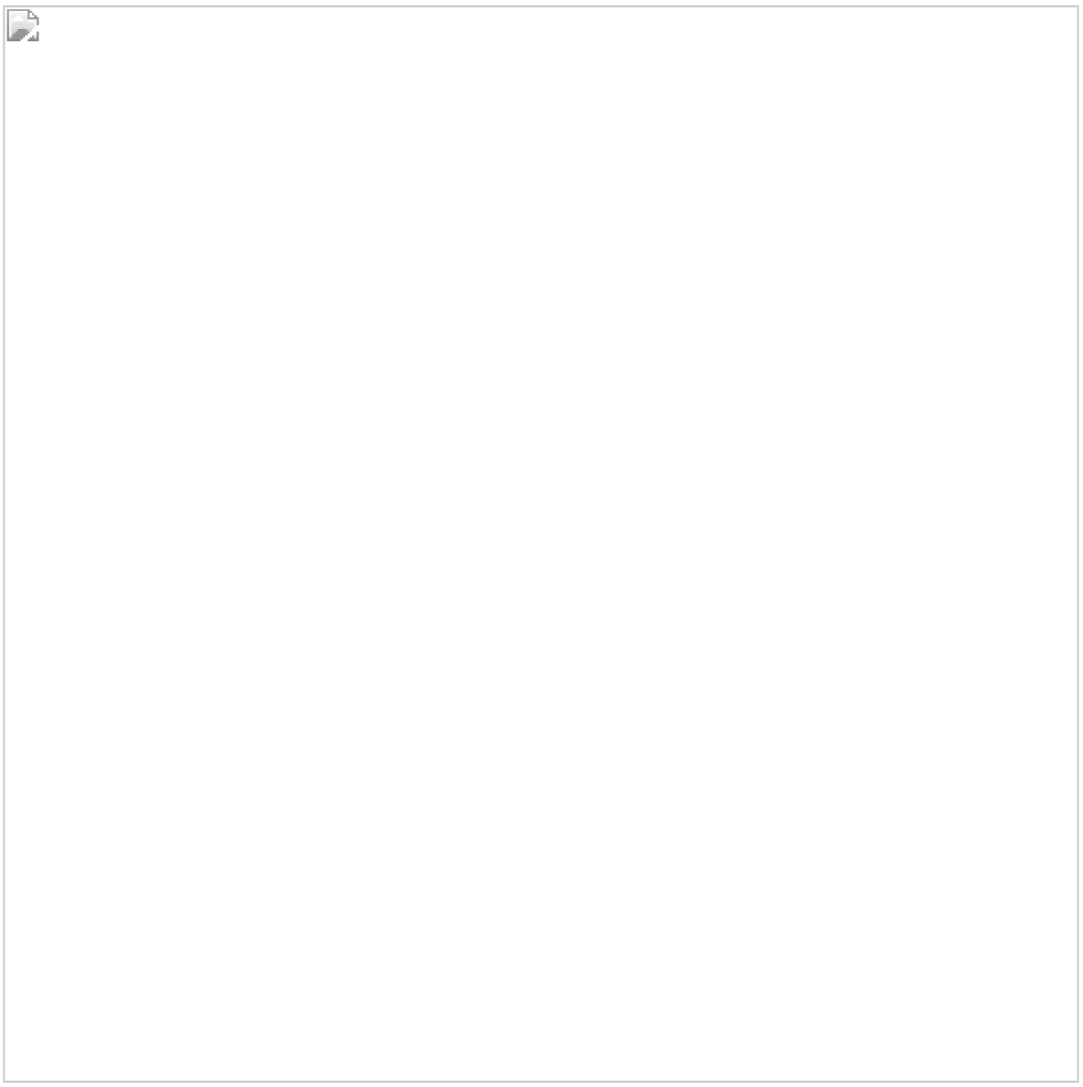
“How dare you hold my hand?” he cried. “Let me go at once or I shall hit you again.” Then he hit it with his left hand, and that stuck too.

He tried to get free by pushing with his knees and his body. At last his knees, body, hands and head were all firmly stuck to the rubber-man.

TALK ABOUT IT

Anansi kept pushing and hitting. What do you think would have helped him more?

Stuck Fast · another picture

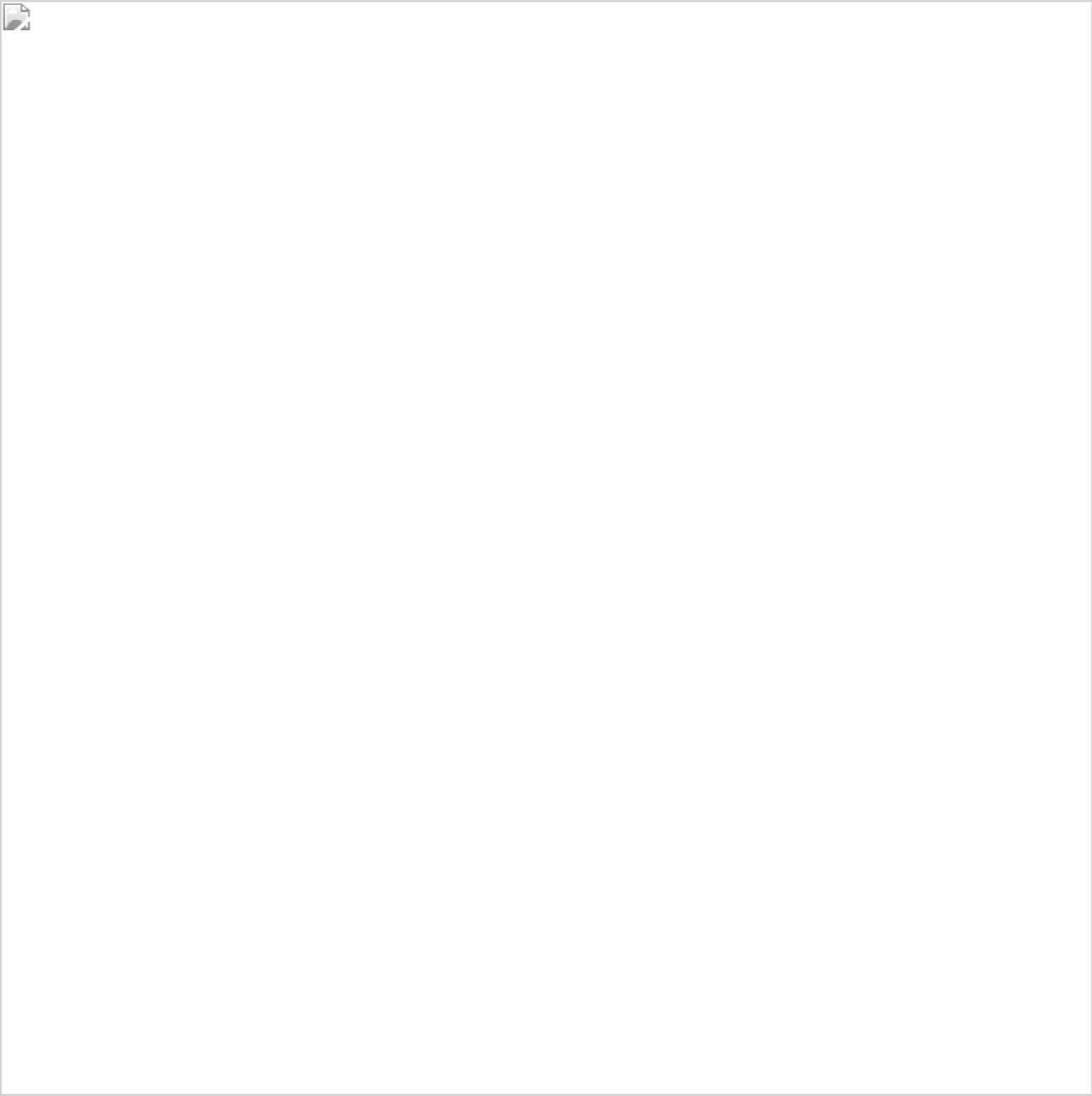


Think about it

1. What happened when Anansi hit the figure?

- ○ It fell down
- ○ His hand stuck fast
- ○ It ran away

Daybreak

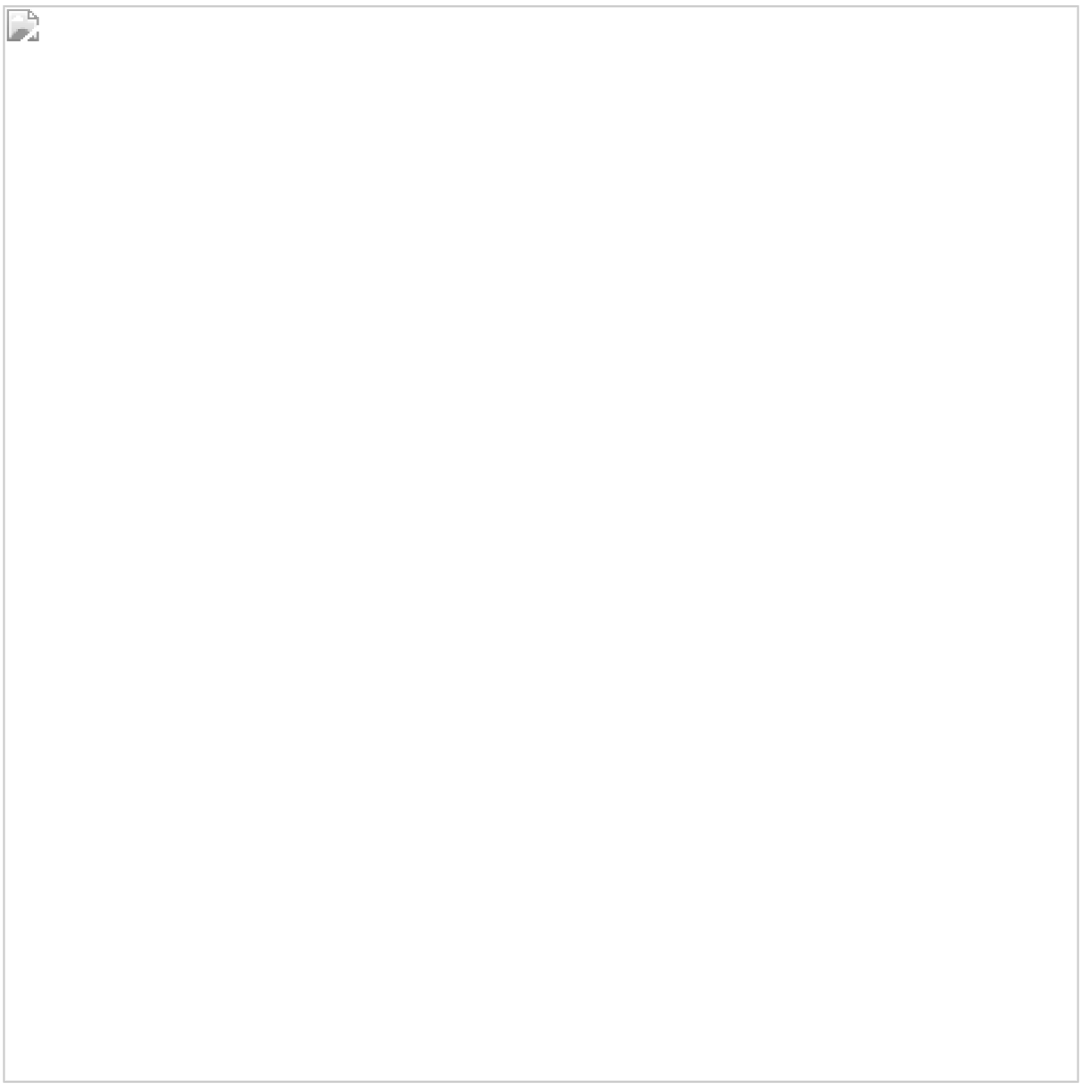


There Egya Anansi had to stay until daybreak. Then his son came out with the other villagers to catch the robber.

They were astonished. The one doing wrong was Anansi himself!

TALK ABOUT IT

How do you think the son felt when he saw it was his father?

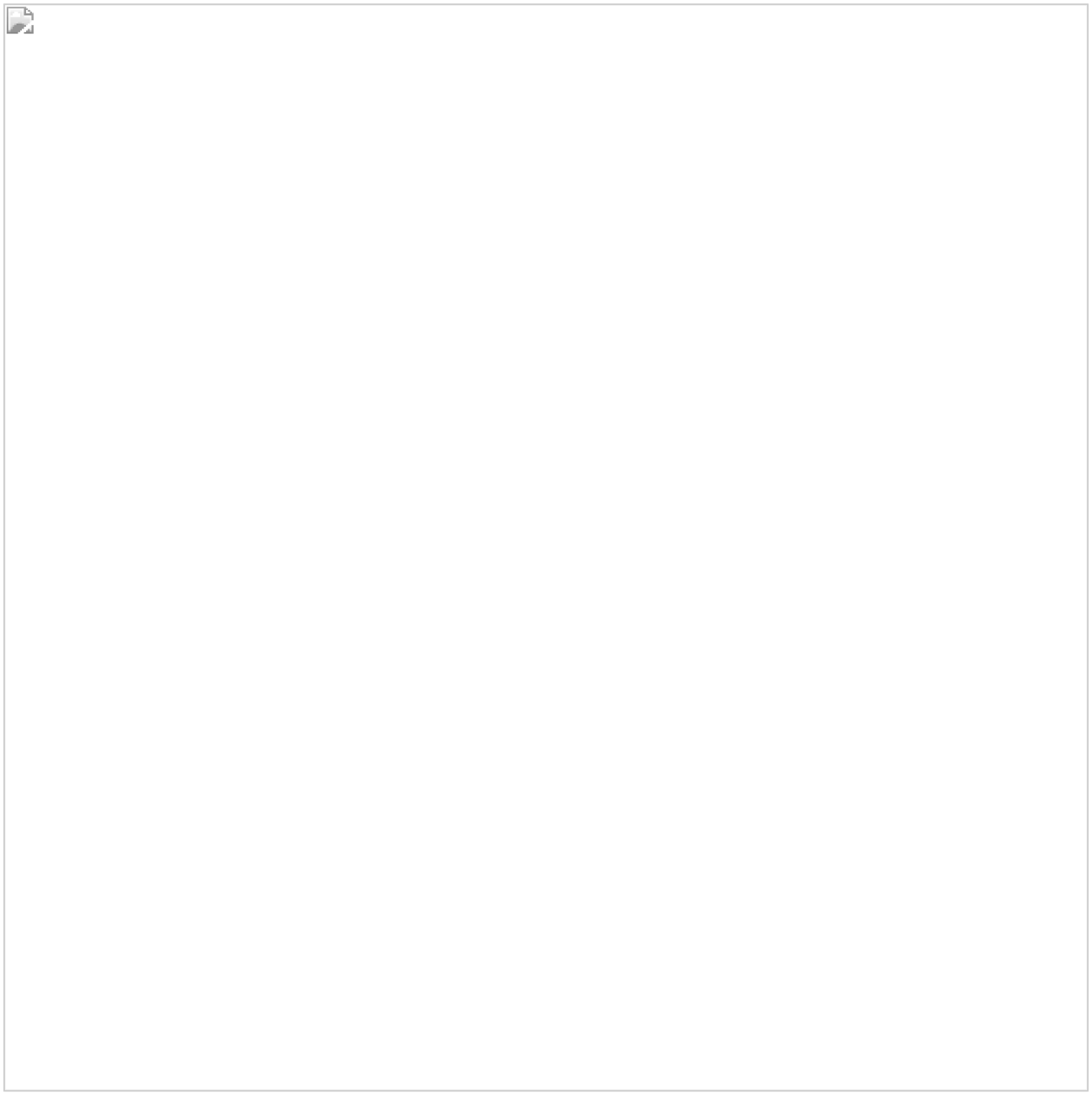


Think about it

1. Who did the villagers find stuck to the rubber-man?

- ○ A robber from far away
- ○ Anansi himself
- ○ A monkey

The Corner of the Ceiling



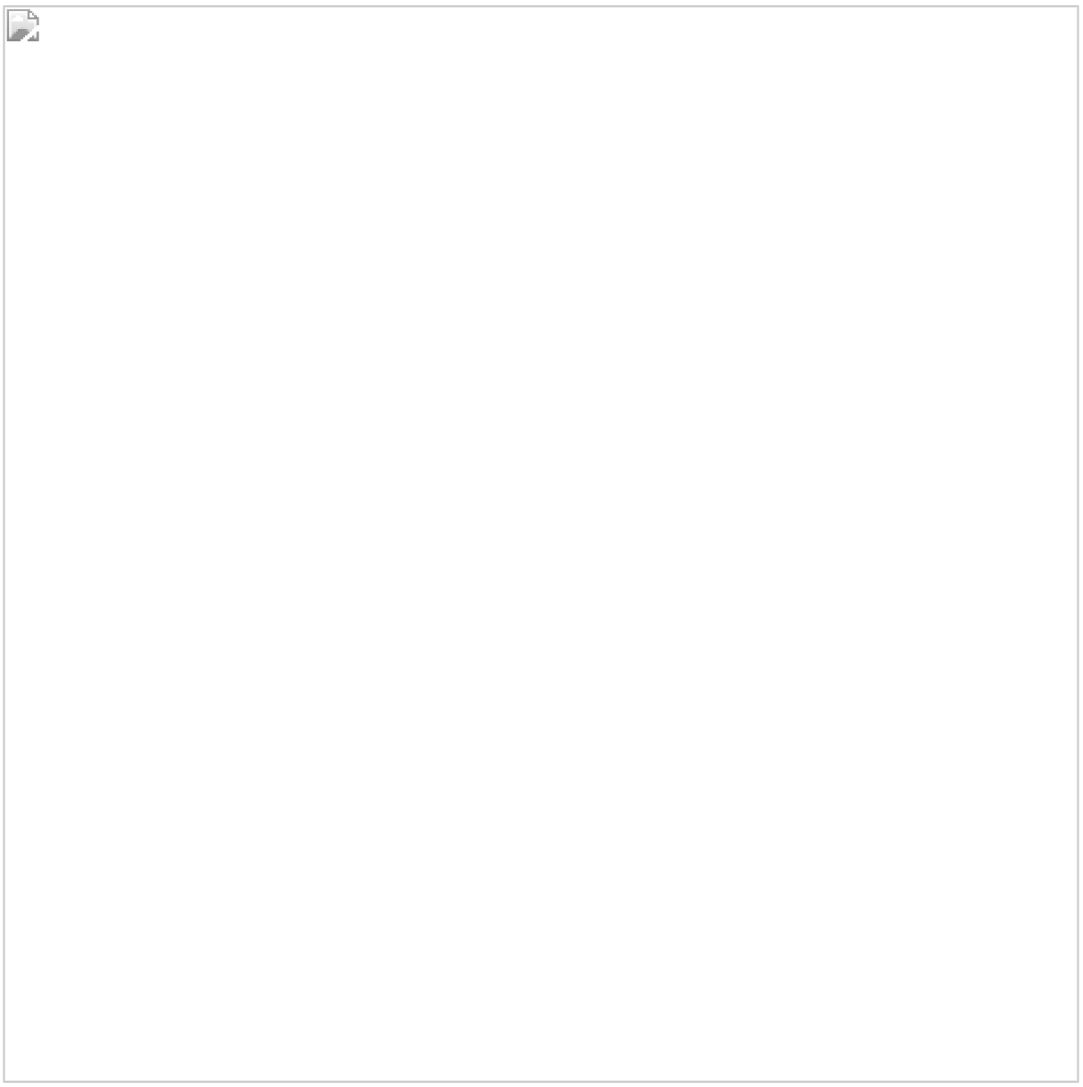
Anansi was so ashamed to be caught in the act of greediness that he changed into a spider. He took refuge in a dark corner of the ceiling, so that no one would see him.

Since then, spiders have always been found in dark, dusty corners, where people are not likely to notice them.

TALK ABOUT IT

Anansi hid because he was ashamed. What do you think he could have done instead of hiding?

The Corner of the Ceiling · another picture



Think about it

1. Where did Anansi hide when he became a spider?

- ○ In the river
- ○ In a dark corner of the ceiling
- ○ In the barn

2. Do you think it was fair that Anansi became a spider? Why or why not?

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

— Yeshua HaMashiach

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