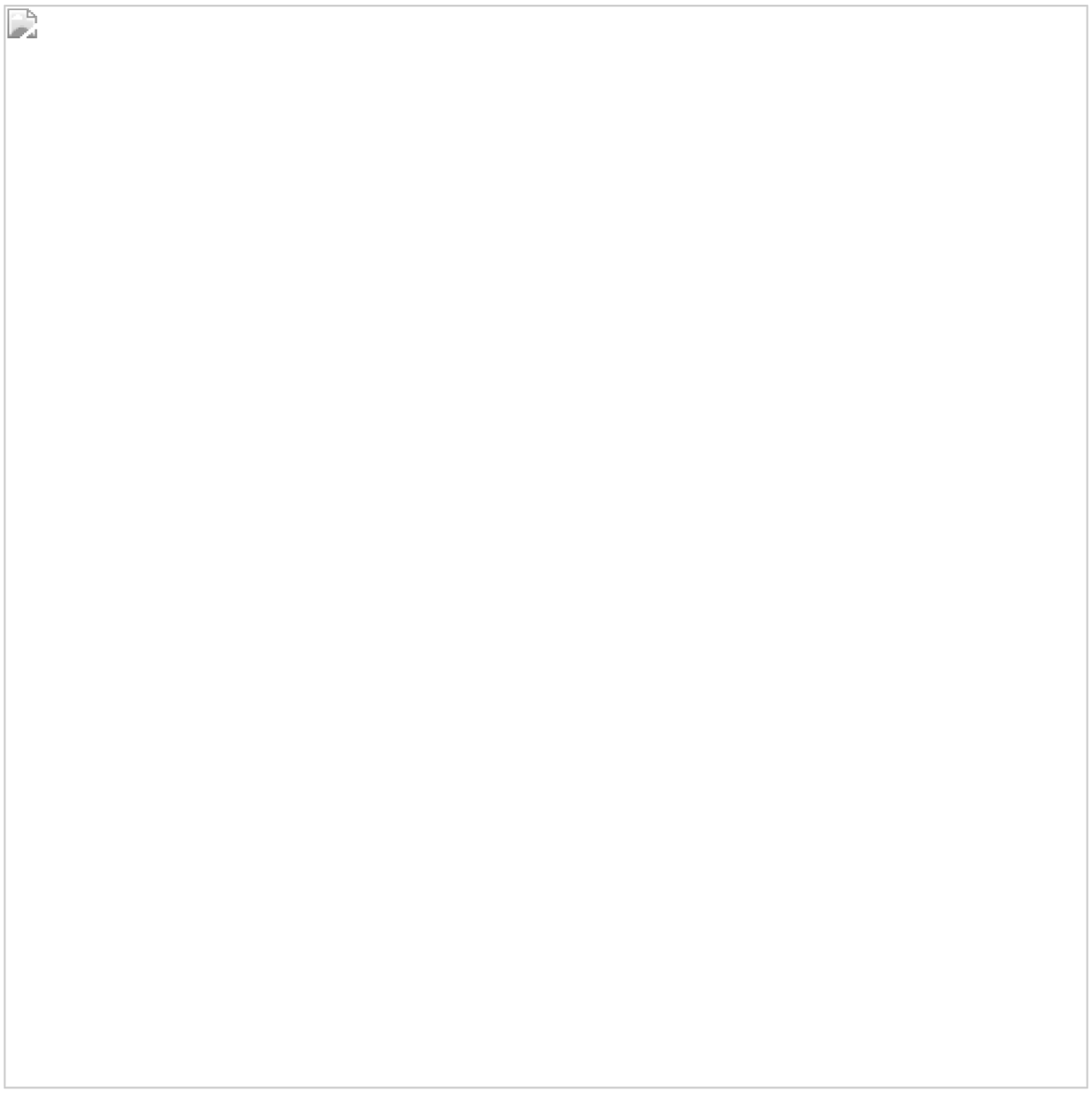
COLORING THE CLASSICS

The Iliad

The Anger of Achilles



“Sing, O goddess, the anger of Achilles.” So begins one of the oldest stories in the world.

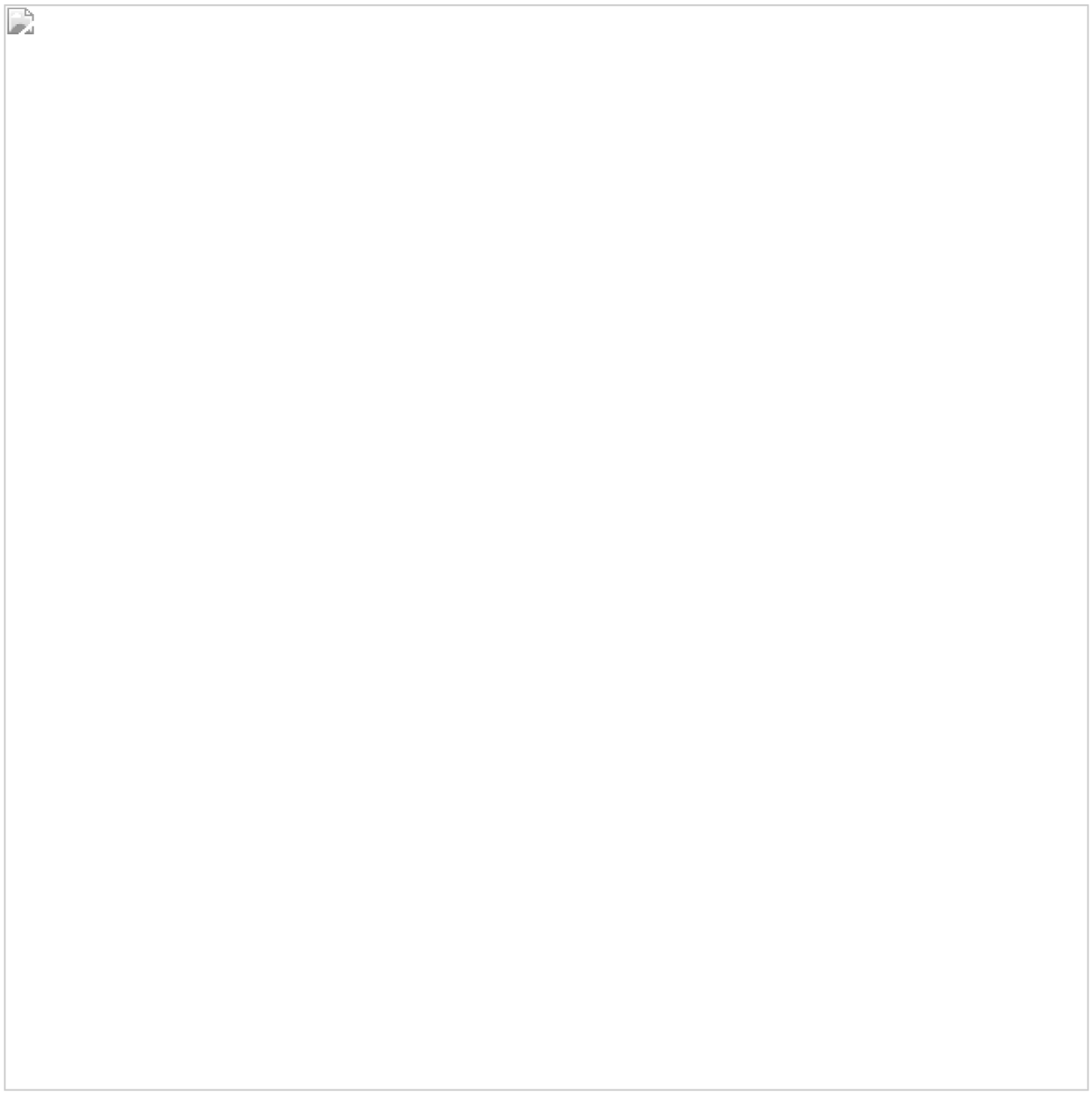
It is the story of an anger that burned like a fire, and of the night that fire went out.

TALK ABOUT IT

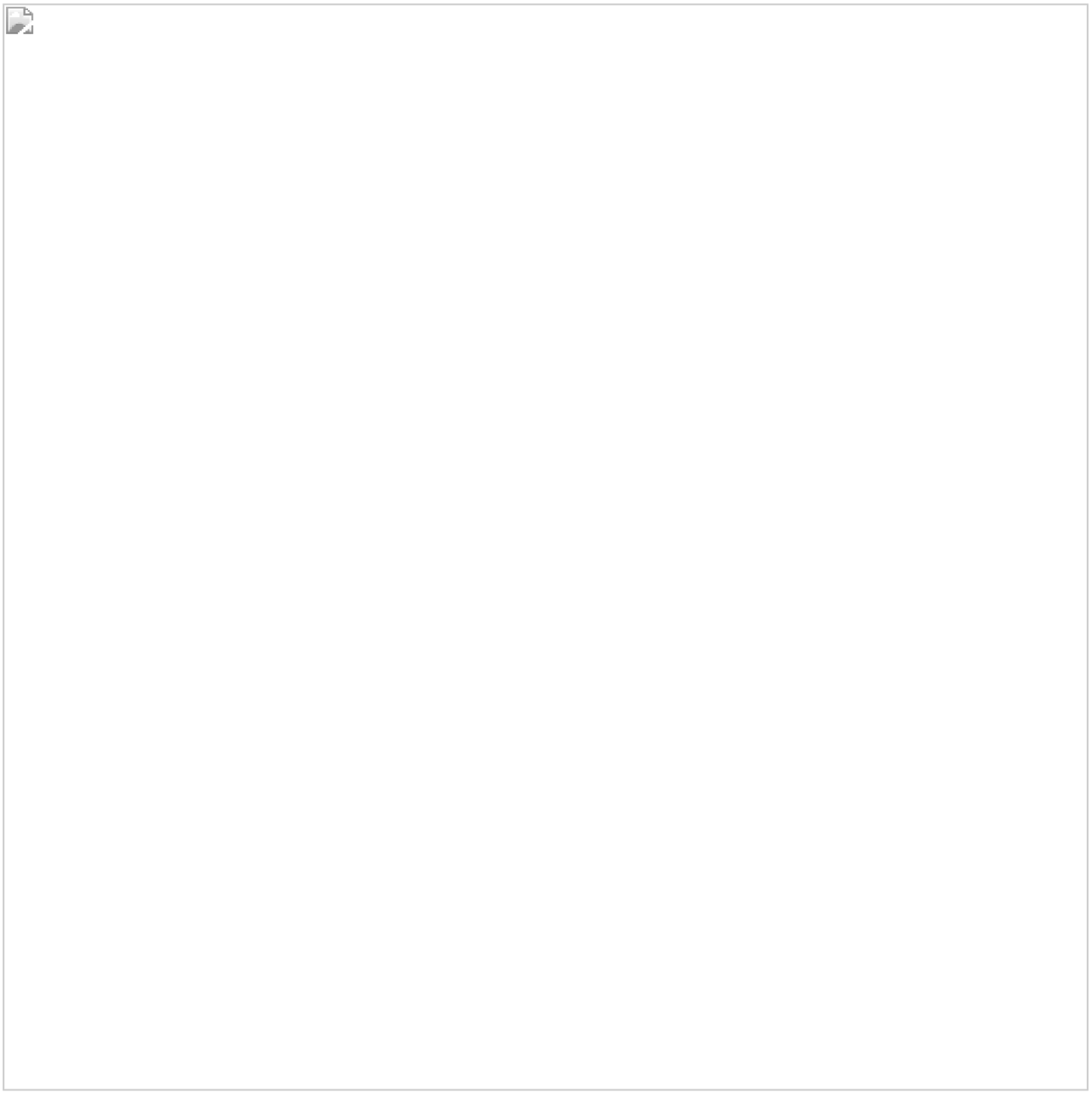
What makes you angry? What helps your anger cool down?

This book belongs to _____

The Iliad · another picture



The Walls of Troy



Long ago, a prince of Troy named Paris carried away Helen, the wife of a Greek king. So the Greeks sailed across the sea in a great many ships to bring her back.

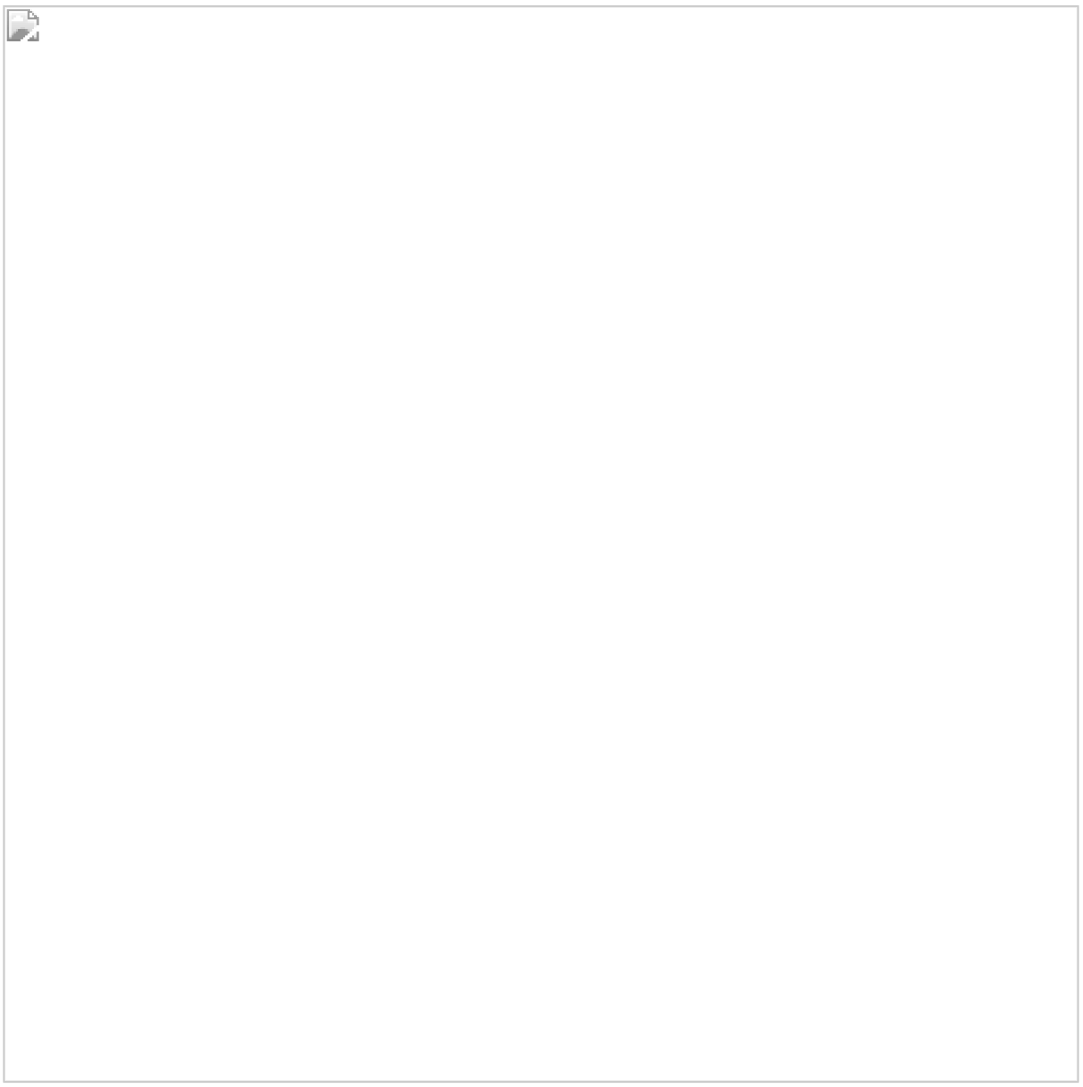
Troy had high, strong walls. Inside lived old King Priam, Queen Hecuba, and their brave son Hector, who guarded the city.

For nine long years the Greeks camped by the sea, and the war went on and on.

TALK ABOUT IT

Nine years is longer than some of you have been alive! What is the longest you have ever had to wait for something?

The Walls of Troy · another picture

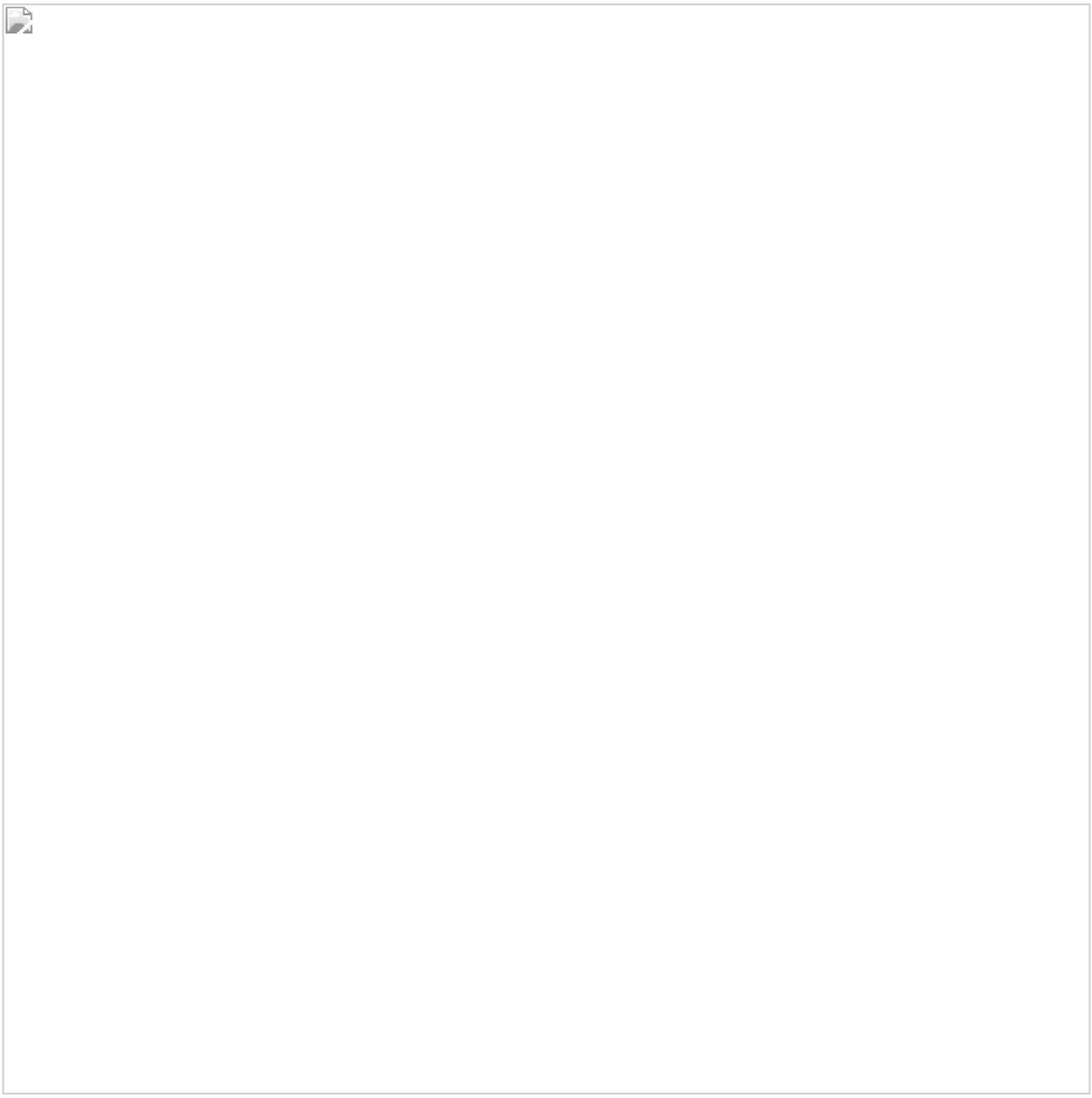


Think about it

1. Who guarded the city of Troy?

- ○ Achilles
- ○ Hector
- ○ Helen

Best Friends



The strongest of all the Greeks was Achilles. He ran so fast that people called him Achilles, fleet of foot. His mother was Thetis, a goddess of the sea.

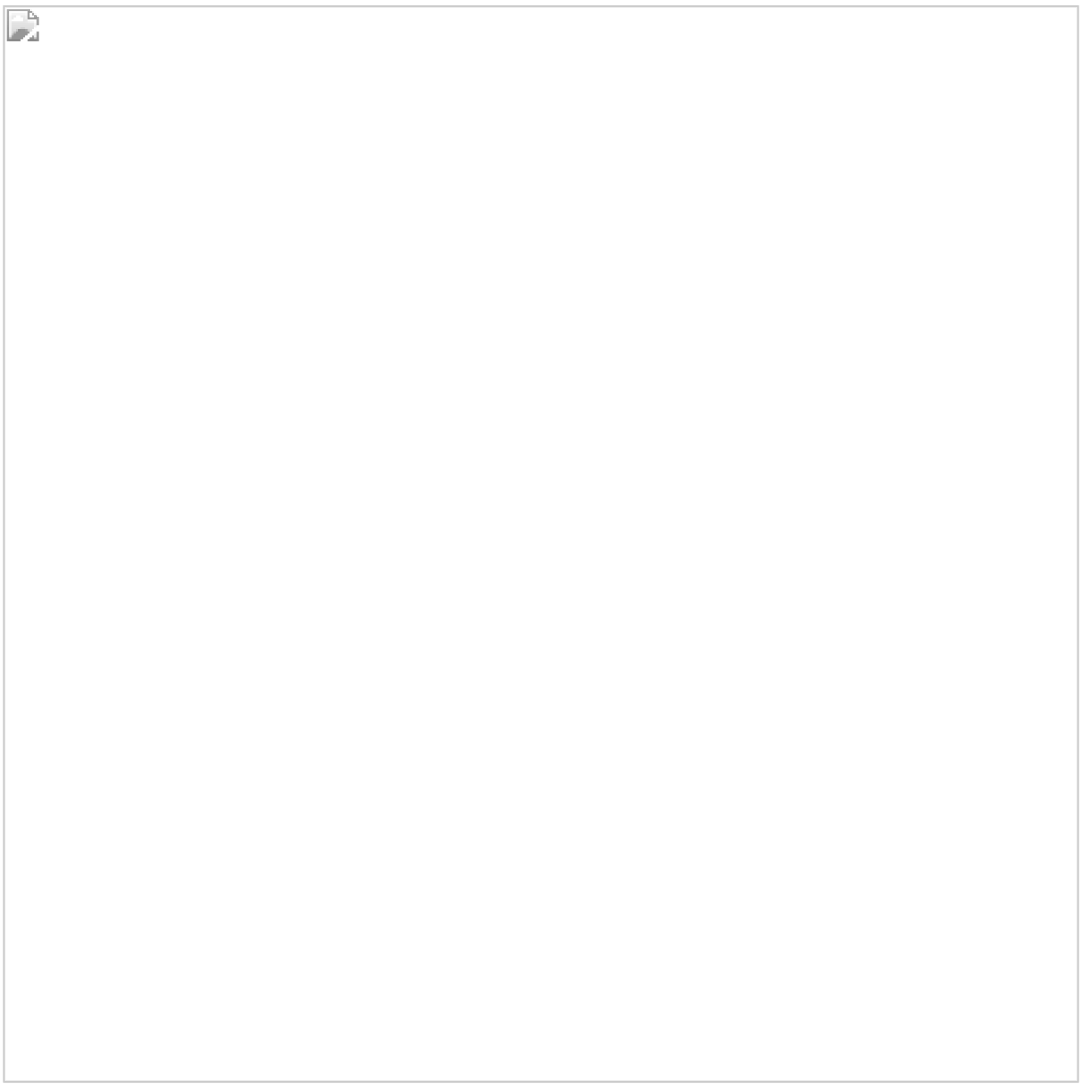
Achilles had a hot temper. When he grew angry, it blazed up like a fire.

But he had a best friend named Patroclus, who was gentle and kind. They had grown up together, and they went everywhere side by side.

TALK ABOUT IT

Who is your best friend? What do you love to do together?

Best Friends · another picture

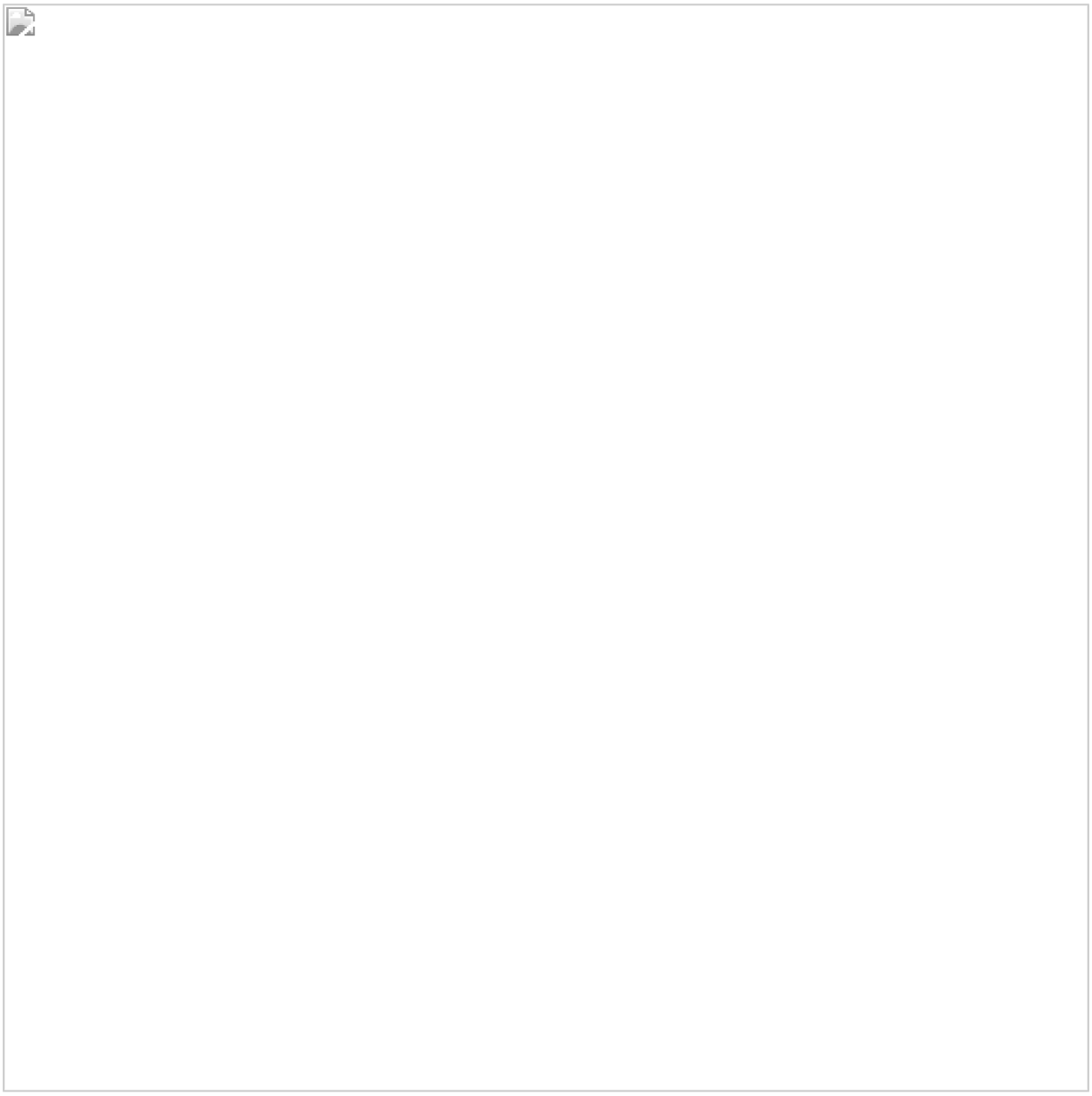


Think about it

1. Who was Achilles' best friend?

- ○ Hector
- ○ Patroclus
- ○ Priam

The Fire Starts



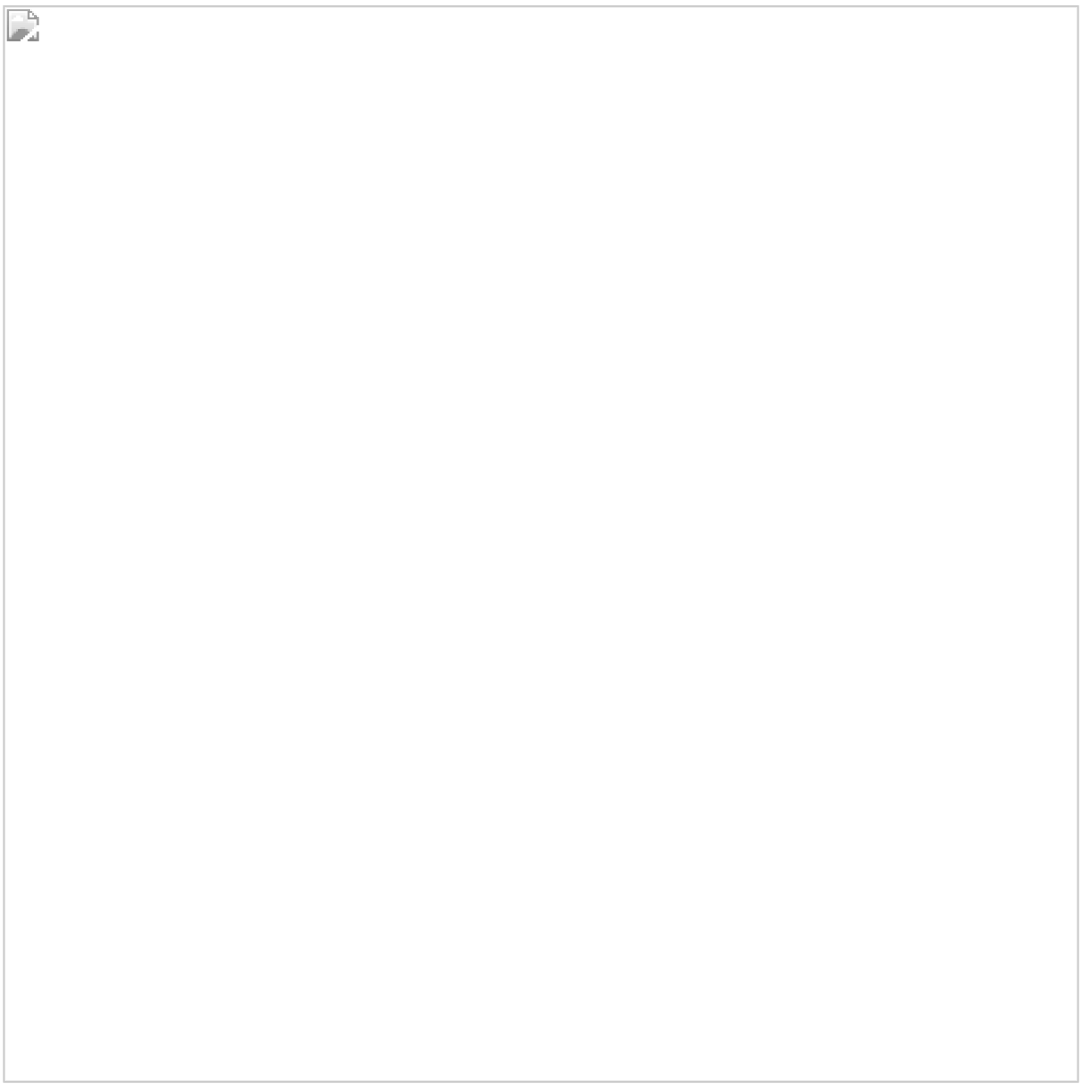
Agamemnon was the king who led the Greeks. One day he and Achilles had a terrible quarrel, and Agamemnon took away Briseis, a young woman Achilles cared about.

Achilles' anger blazed up. He said he would not fight for Agamemnon anymore. He sat in his tent by the sea.

His mother rose out of the waves like a mist to comfort him. Then she went to ask Zeus, king of the gods, to help her son.

TALK ABOUT IT

Have you ever been so mad that you wouldn't play anymore? What happened next?

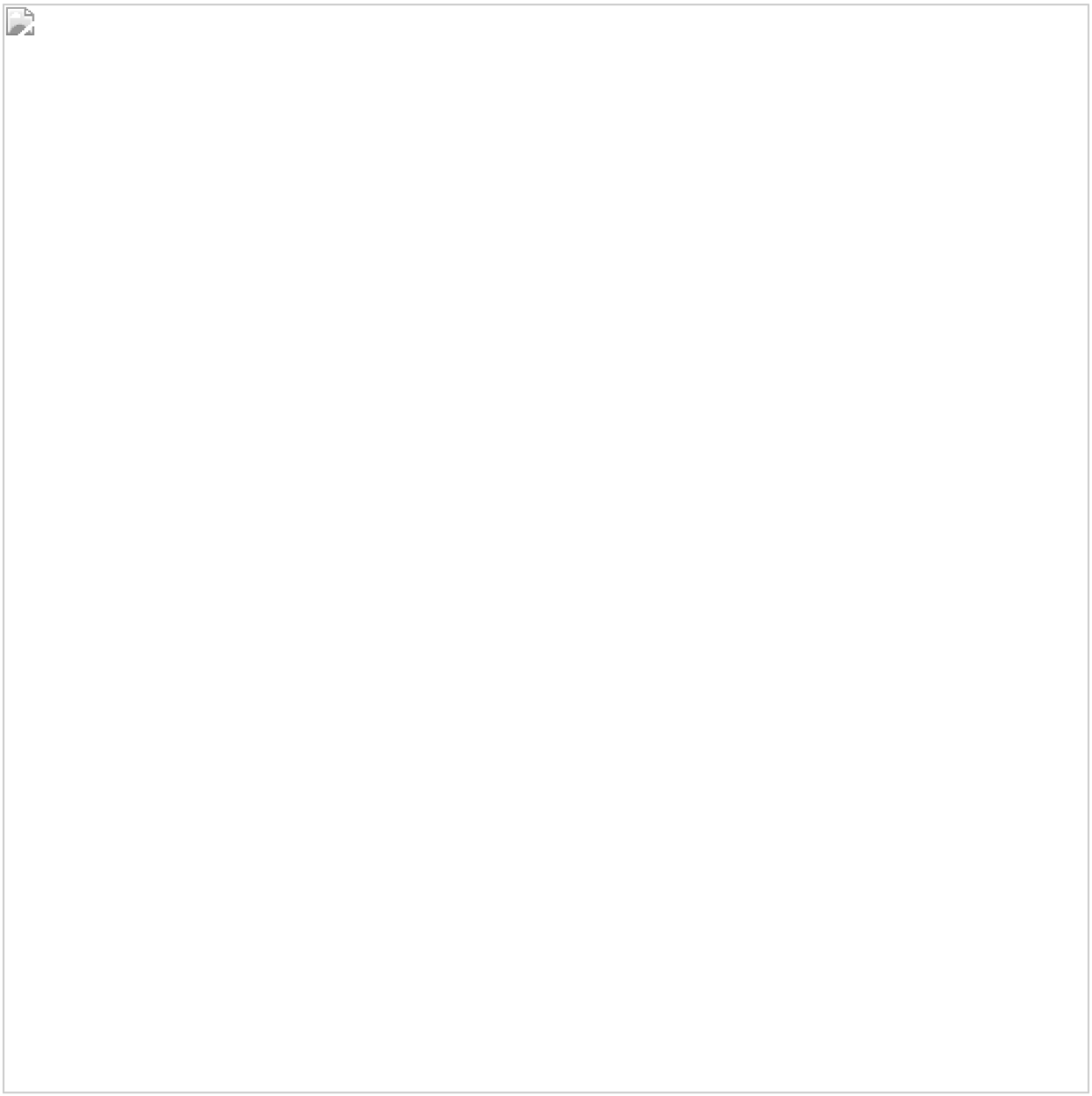


Think about it

1. What did Achilles do when he was angry?

- ○ He said sorry
- ○ He stayed in his tent and would not fight
- ○ He sailed home

The Nodding Plume



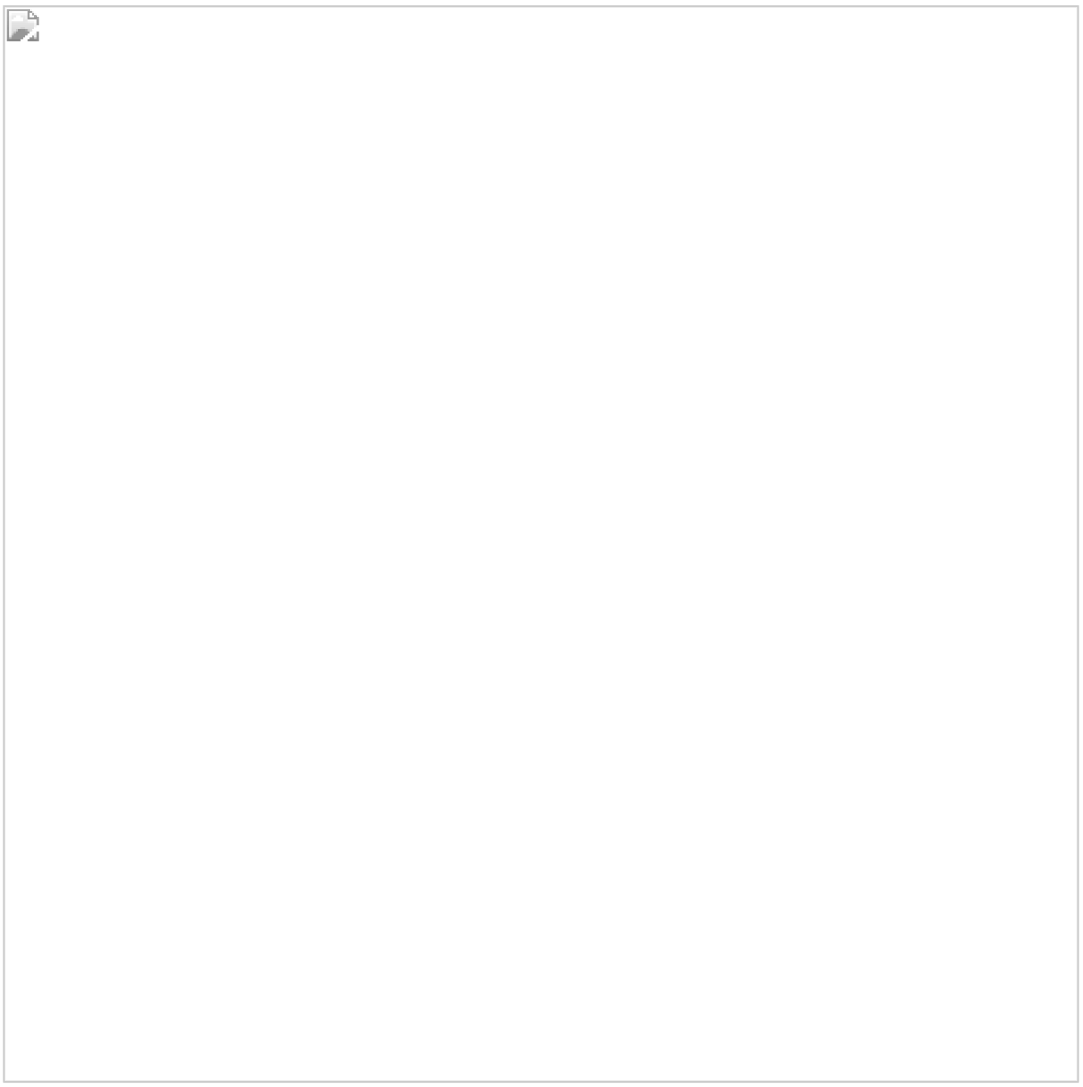
Inside Troy, Hector came home for a moment to see his wife, Andromache, and their baby son.

Hector held out his arms. But the baby cried and hid in his nurse's arms. He was scared of his father's big helmet, with its horse-hair plume that nodded fiercely.

His father and mother laughed. Hector took off his helmet and laid it on the ground. Then he kissed his little son, held him close, and prayed for him.

TALK ABOUT IT

Hector took off his scary helmet so his son would not be afraid. How do the grown-ups who love you help you feel safe?

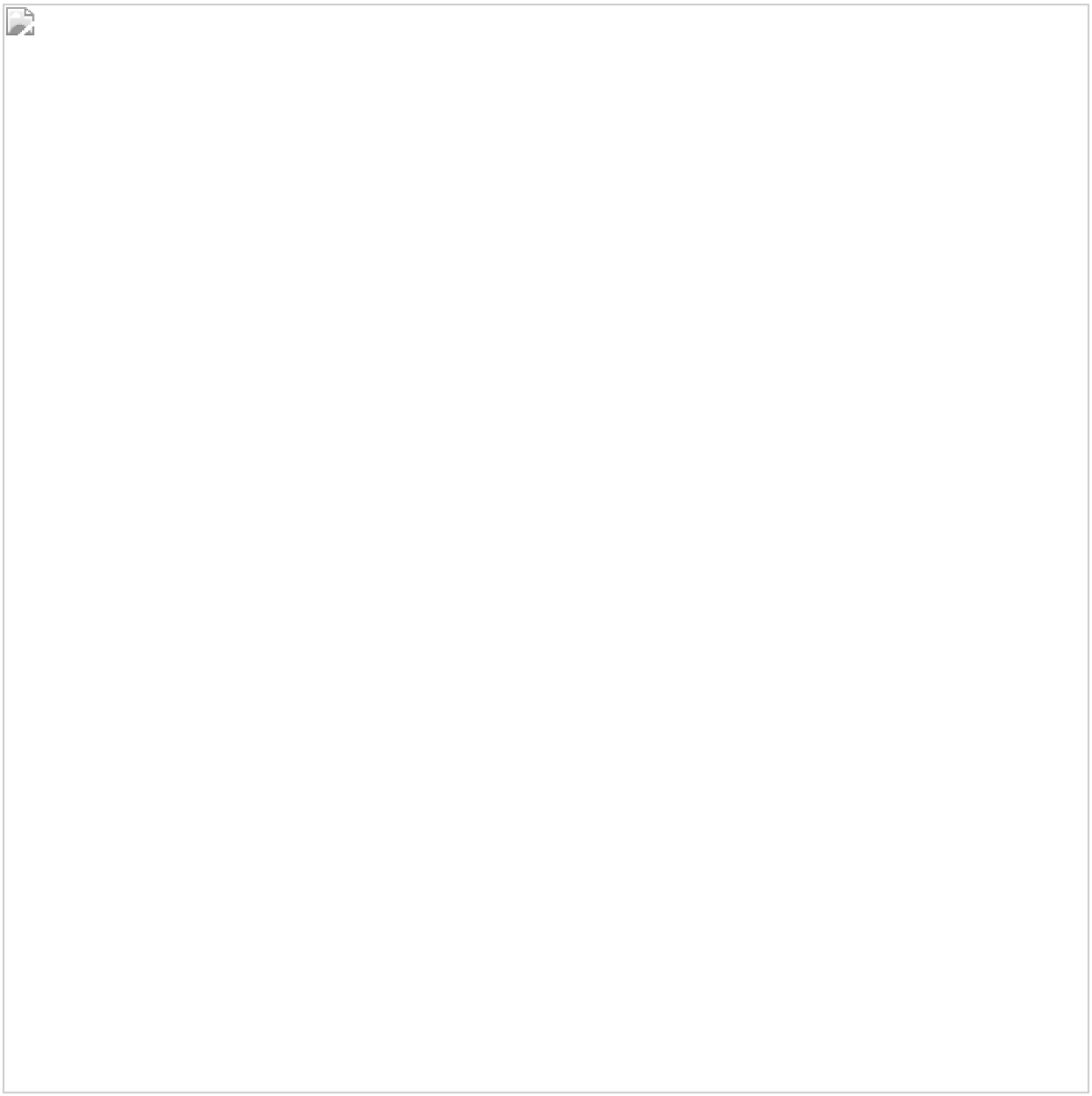


Think about it

1. What scared the baby?

- ○ A thunderstorm
- ○ His father's helmet
- ○ A big dog

The Ships Are Burning



Without Achilles, the Greeks began to lose. Hector and the Trojans drove them all the way back to their ships on the shore.

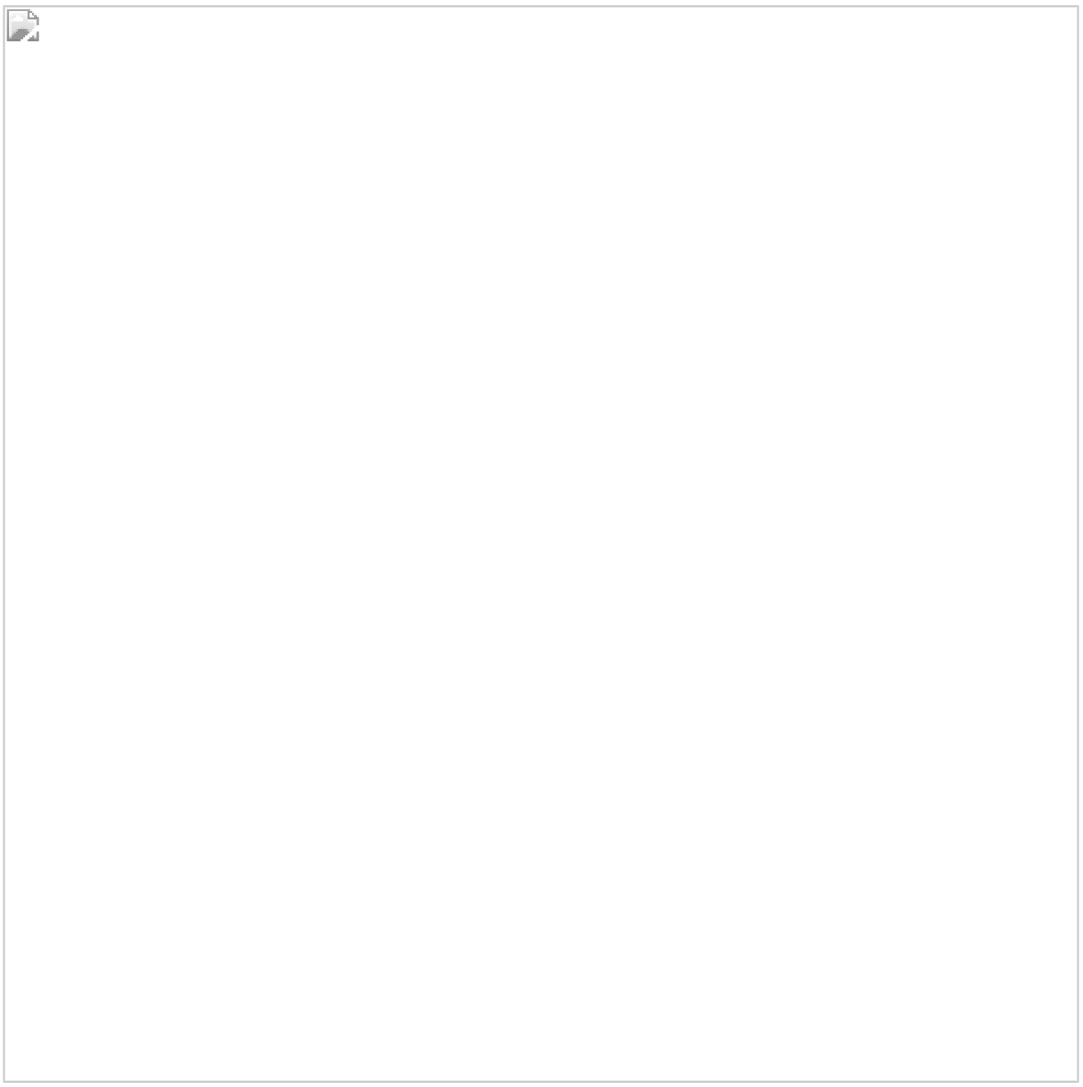
Achilles' friends came to his tent. Agamemnon even sent gold and horses to say sorry, and they begged him to help.

But the fire in Achilles' heart was still burning. He said no. Then smoke rose along the shore. The Trojans had set one of the ships on fire!

TALK ABOUT IT

Achilles' friends needed him, but he was still too angry to help. Is it hard to help someone when you are still mad?

The Ships Are Burning · another picture

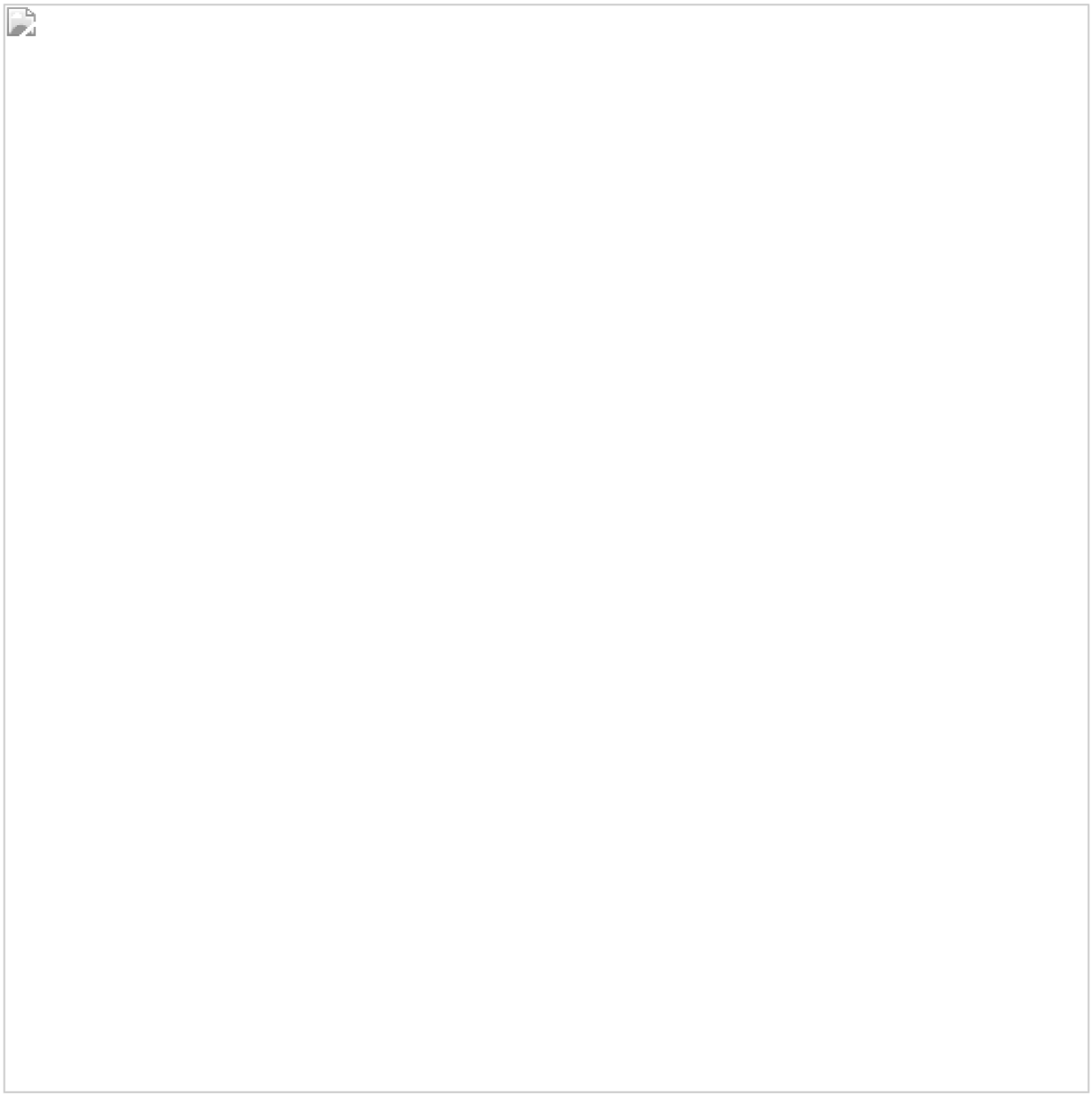


Think about it

1. What did Achilles say when his friends begged him to help?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Maybe tomorrow

Borrowed Armour



Patroclus could not bear to see his friends in trouble. He came to Achilles in tears.

He asked to wear Achilles' armour. Then the Trojans would think Achilles had come back, and they would run.

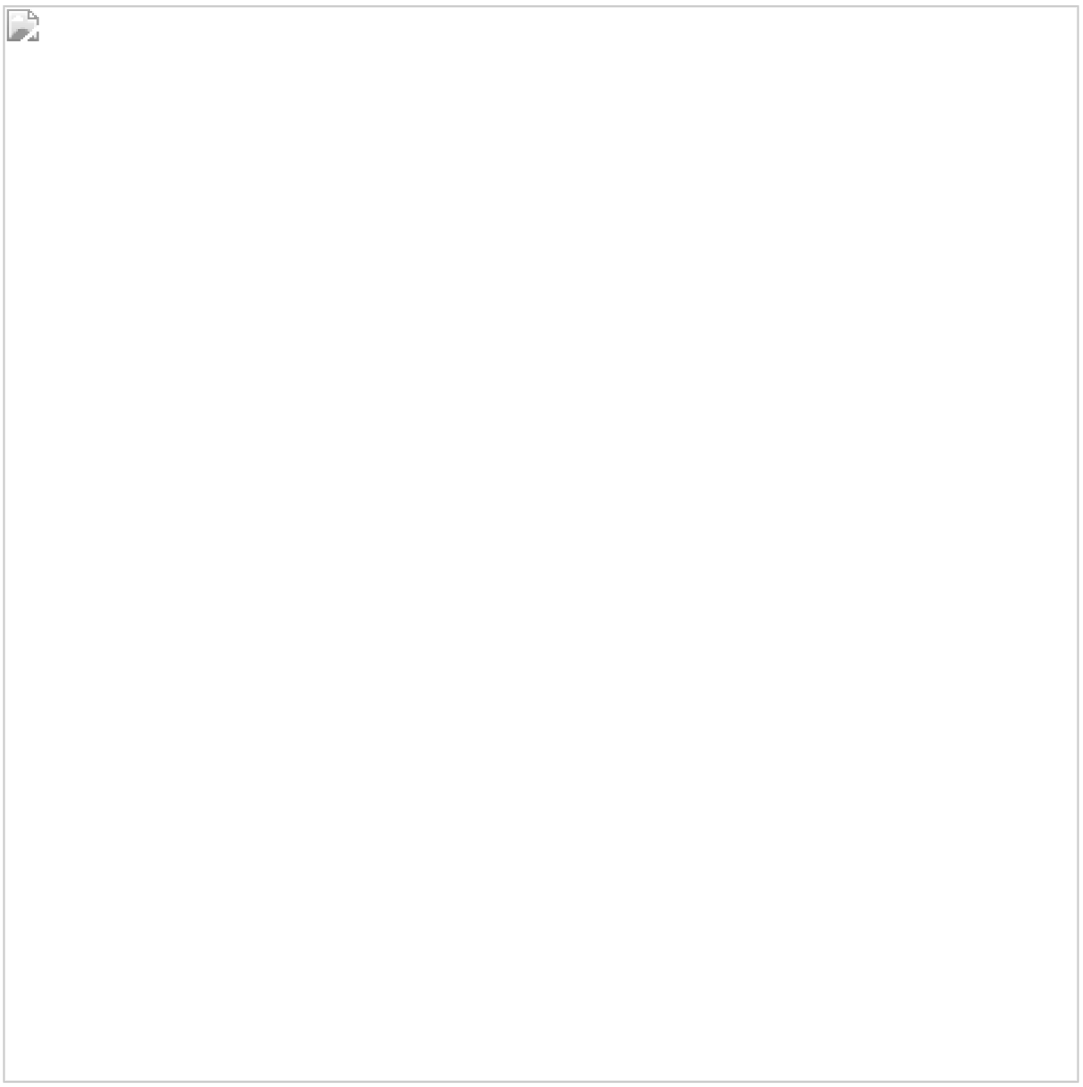
Achilles said yes. “When you have driven the Trojans from the ships, come back again,” he told him.

So Patroclus put on the shining armour and rushed out, and the Trojans fled.

TALK ABOUT IT

Patroclus cried because his friends were in trouble. Why do you think he cared so much?

Borrowed Armour · another picture

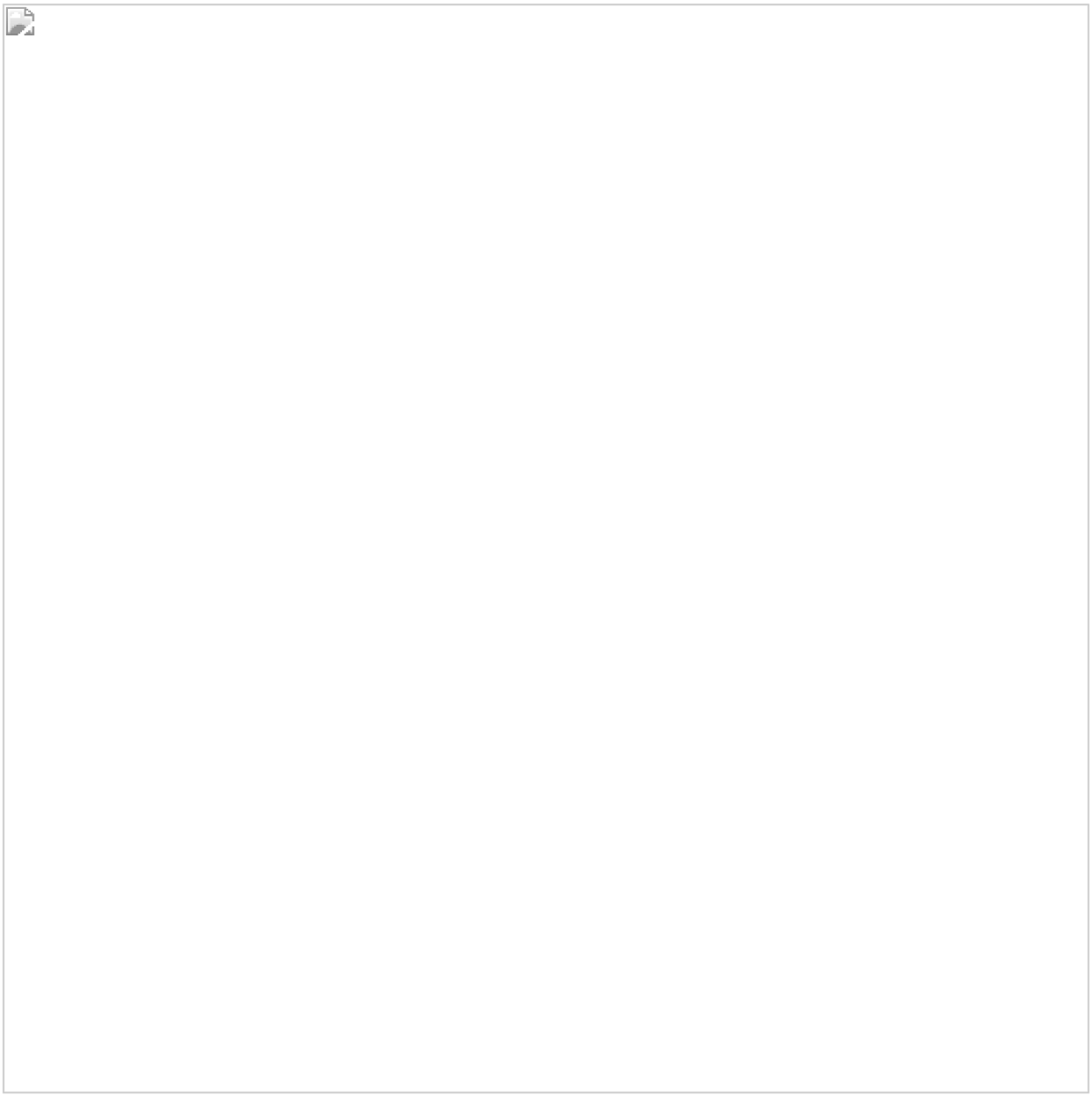


Think about it

1. What did Patroclus borrow?

- ○ A ship
- ○ Achilles' armour
- ○ A horse

Too Far



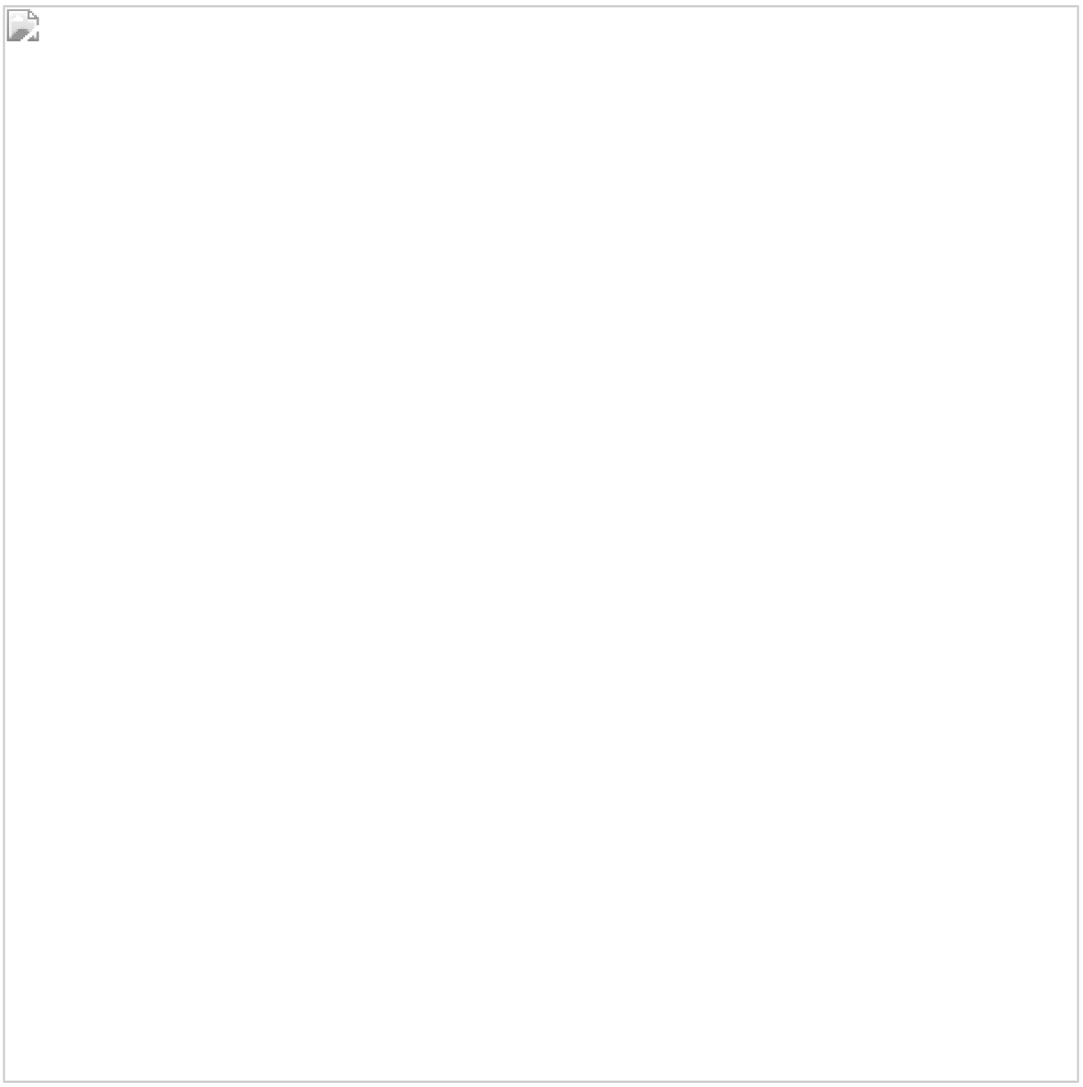
But Patroclus forgot what Achilles had told him. He chased the Trojans all the way to the walls of Troy.

There the god Apollo stood against him, and Hector met him, and Patroclus was killed.

The Greeks carried him back to the ships, and a messenger ran, weeping, to tell Achilles.

TALK ABOUT IT

Achilles told Patroclus when to stop. Why do the people who love us sometimes tell us to stop?

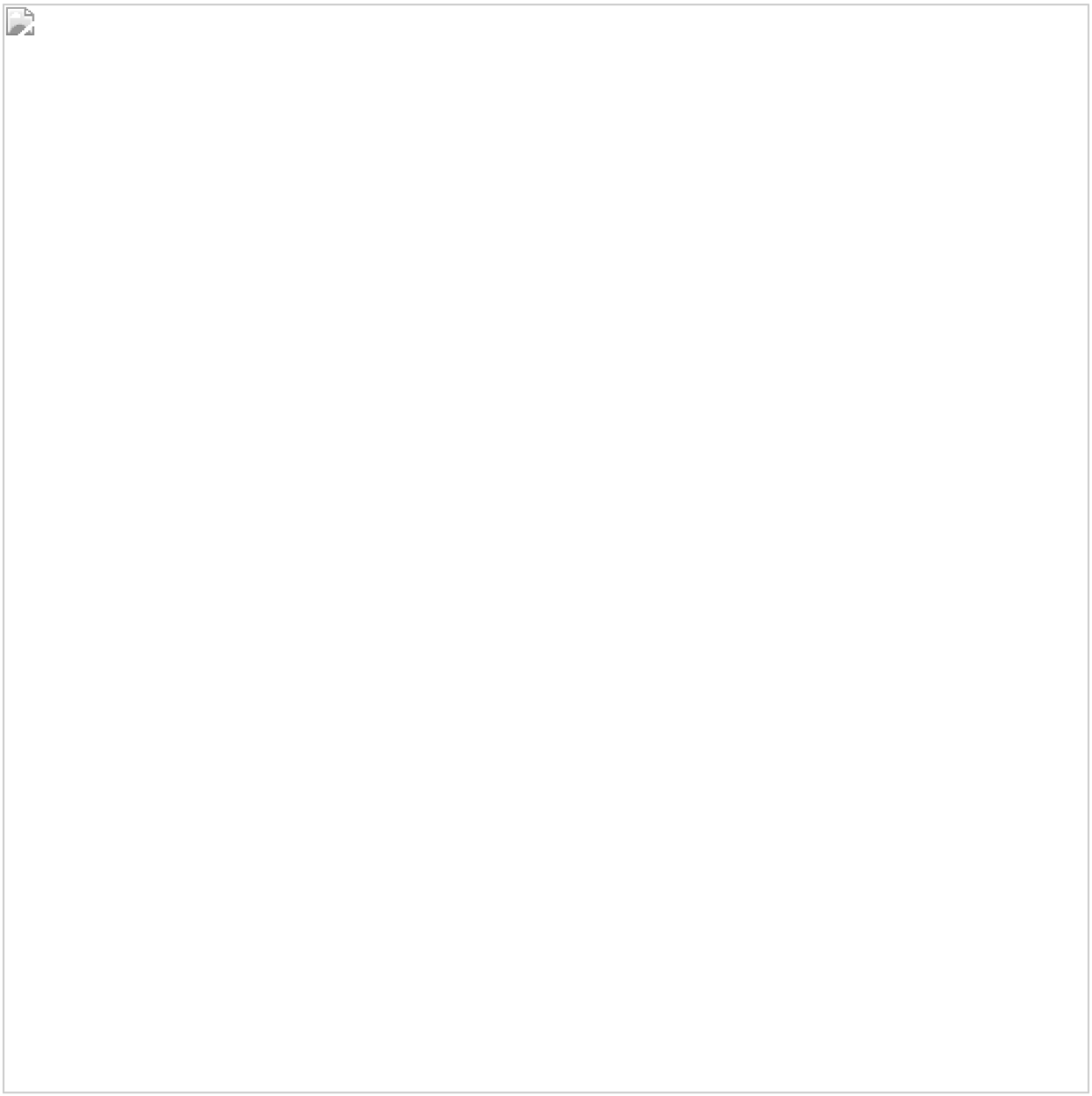


Think about it

1. What had Achilles told Patroclus?

- ○ Go all the way to Troy
- ○ Drive the Trojans from the ships, then come back
- ○ Stay in the tent

The Fire Turns



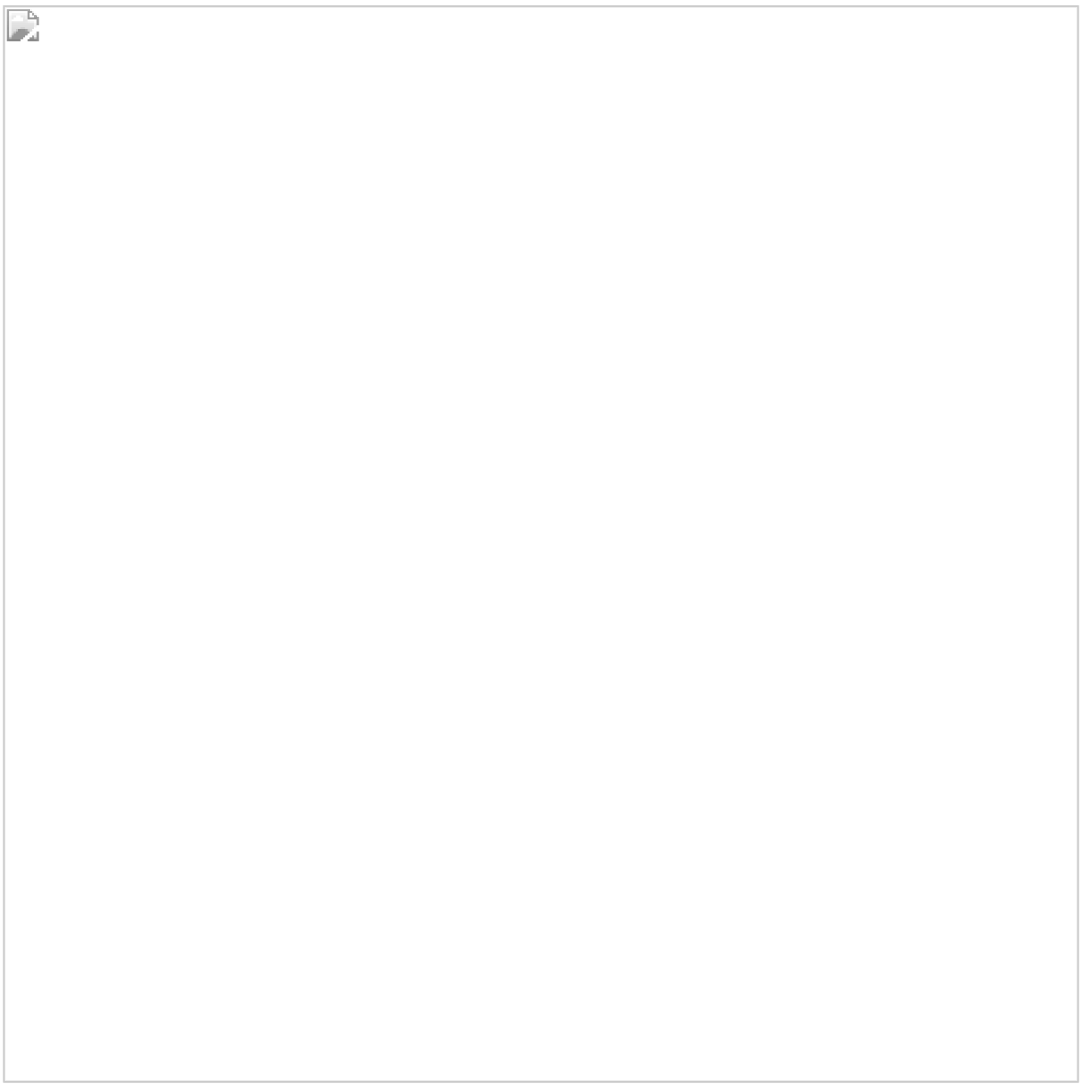
When Achilles heard, he cried out so terribly that his mother heard him deep under the sea. He poured dust on his head and wept for his friend.

Now he wished he had never quarrelled with Agamemnon, and that old anger went out.

But a new fire blazed up in its place, hotter than before. This time it burned against Hector.

TALK ABOUT IT

Achilles' sadness turned into a new anger. Have you ever been sad and mad at the same time? What was that like?

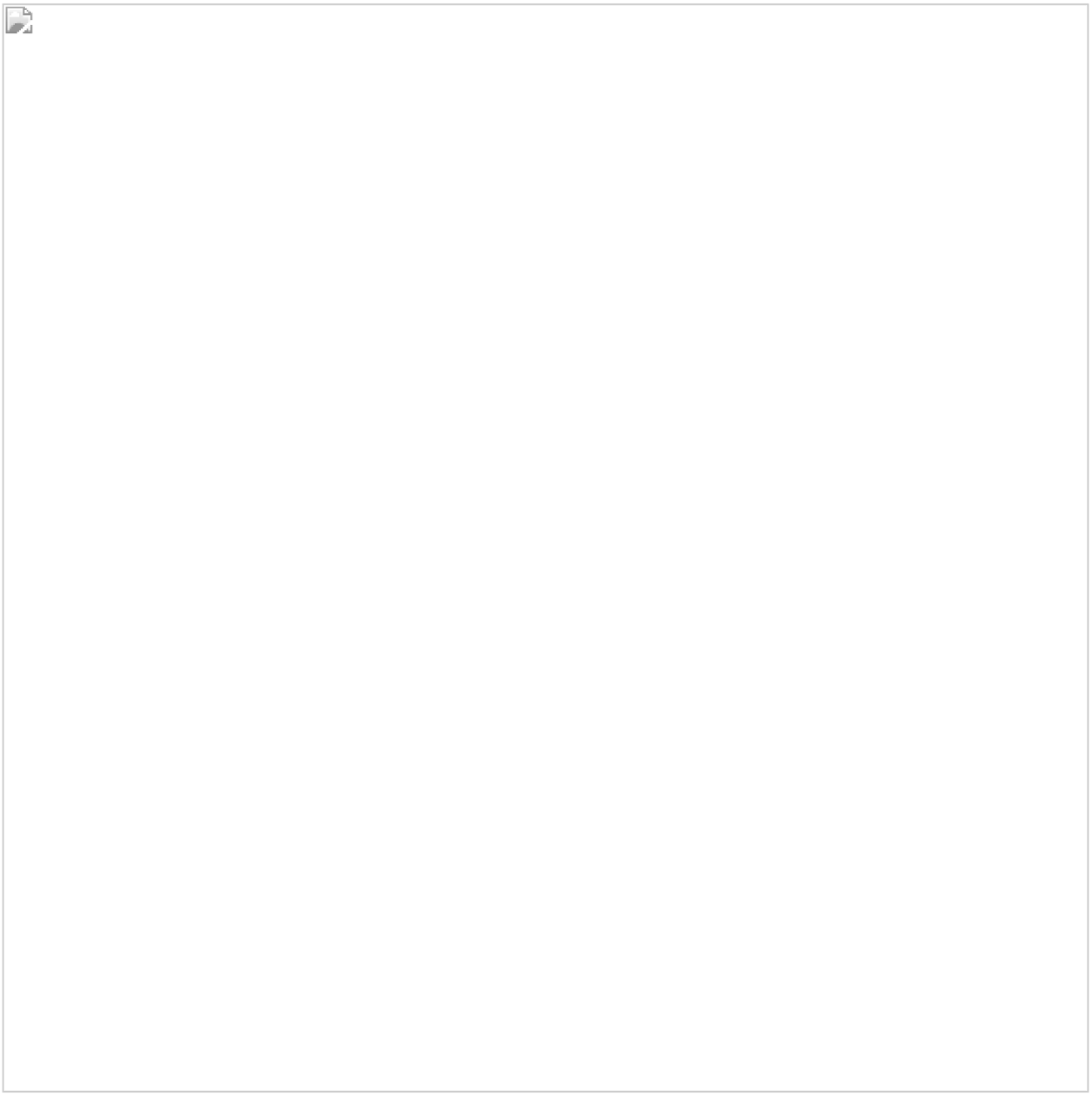


Think about it

1. Who was Achilles angry at now?

- ○ Agamemnon
- ○ Hector
- ○ Patroclus

The Shield



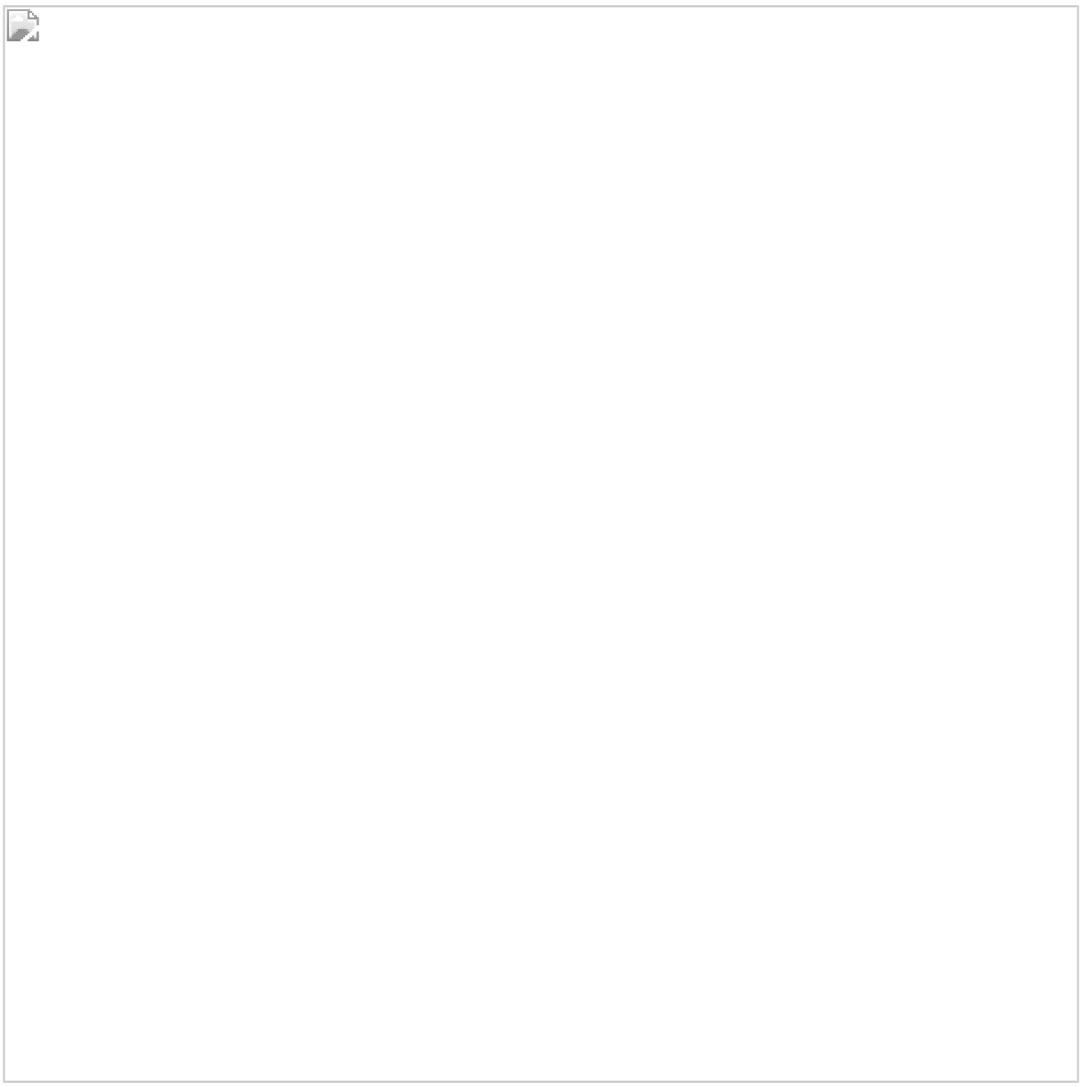
Achilles' armour was gone, so his mother went to Hephaestus, the god who made things in fire. All night he hammered at his forge.

He made new armour for Achilles, and a great, shining shield. In the morning, his mother carried it to him.

TALK ABOUT IT

When Achilles needed help, his mother went to find it. Who helps you when you need it?

The Shield · another picture

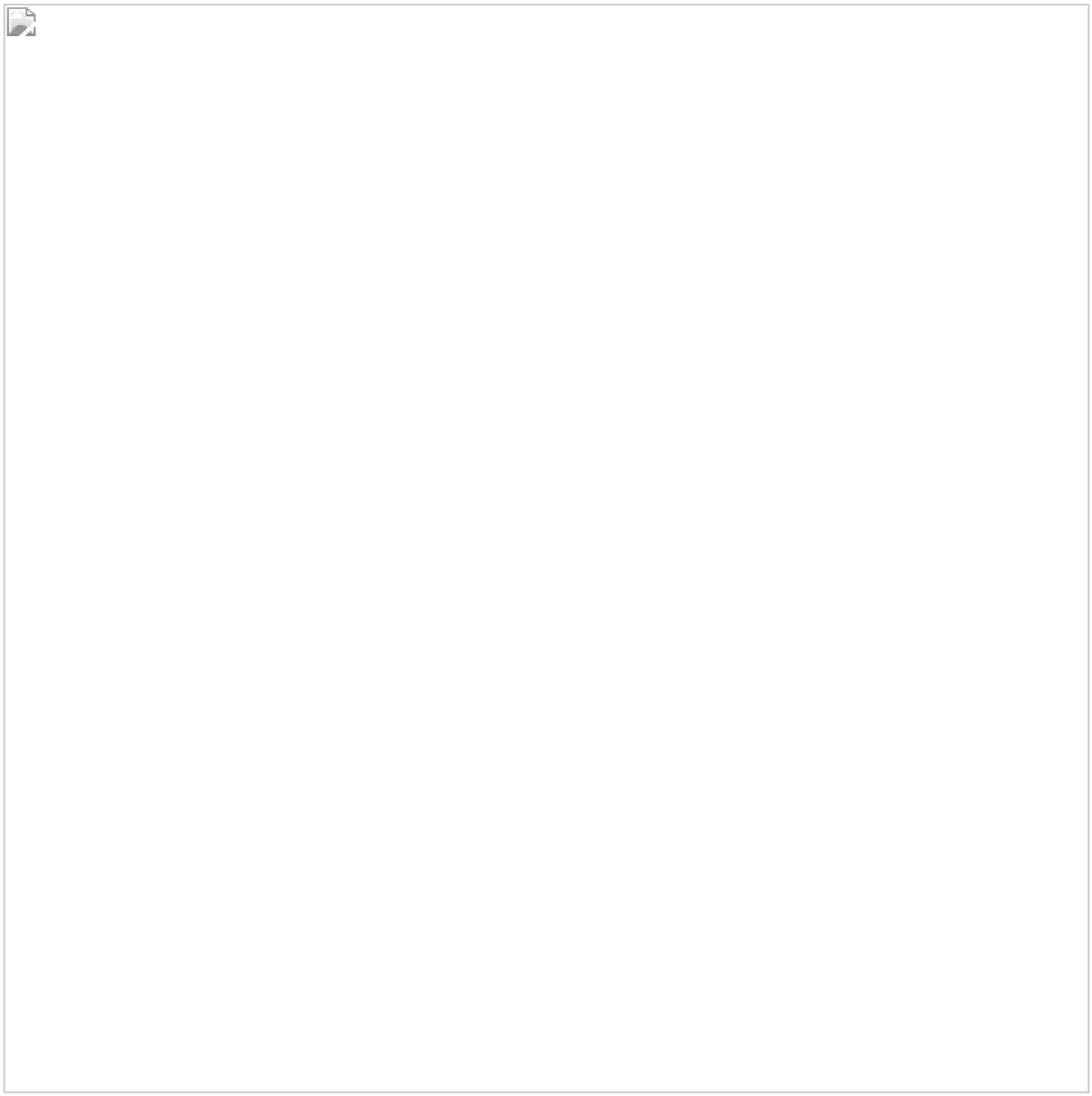


Think about it

1. Who made Achilles' new shield?

- ○ Agamemnon
- ○ Hephaestus
- ○ Patroclus

Three Times Around the Walls



Achilles went back to battle, and the Trojans ran inside their gates. Only Hector stayed outside.

From the wall, King Priam and Queen Hecuba begged him to come in. But he would not.

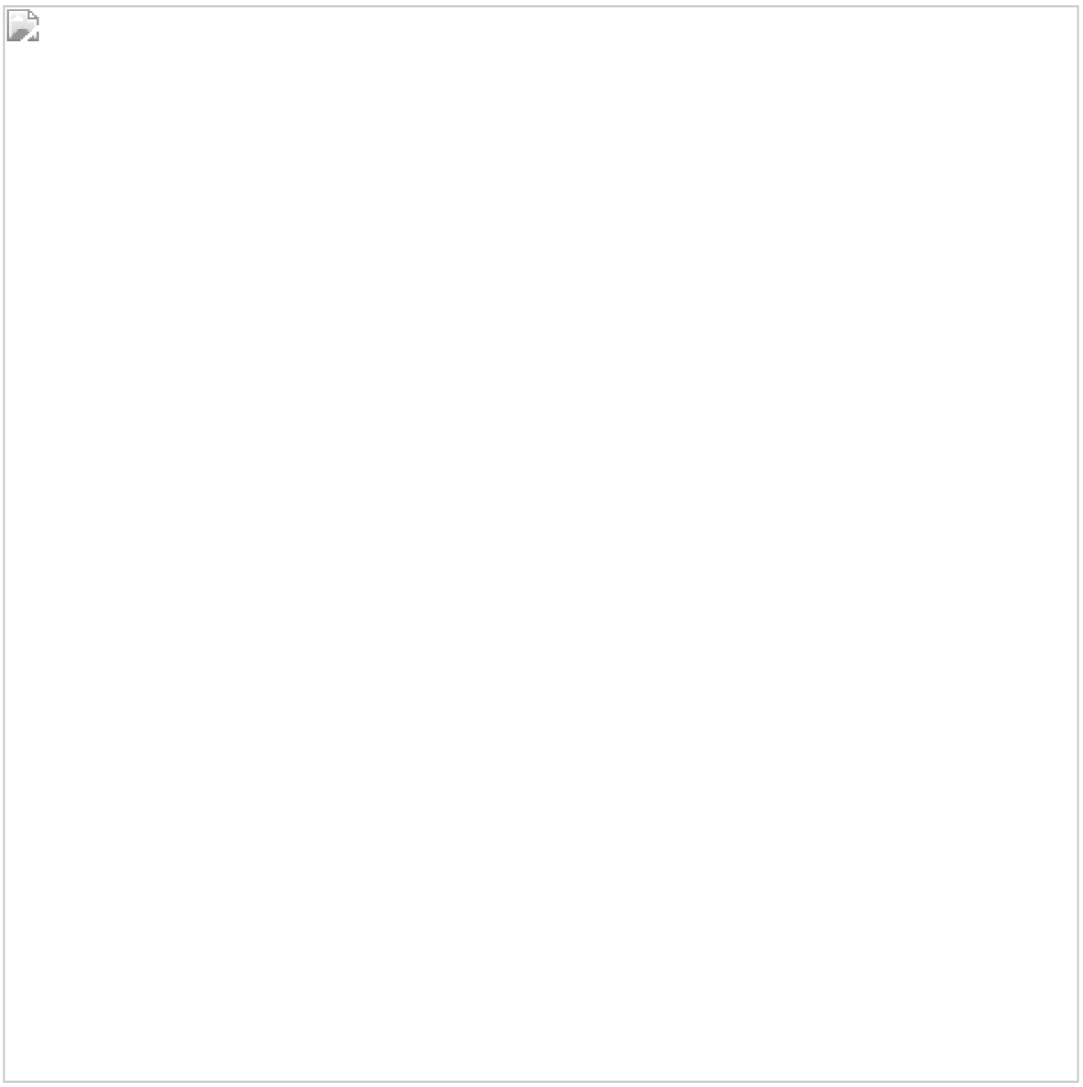
When Achilles came near, shining like fire, Hector was afraid, and he ran. Three times they ran around the walls of Troy.

Then Hector turned to face him, and Hector fell.

TALK ABOUT IT

Hector's mother and father begged him to come inside. Why do you think he stayed?

Three Times Around the Walls · another picture

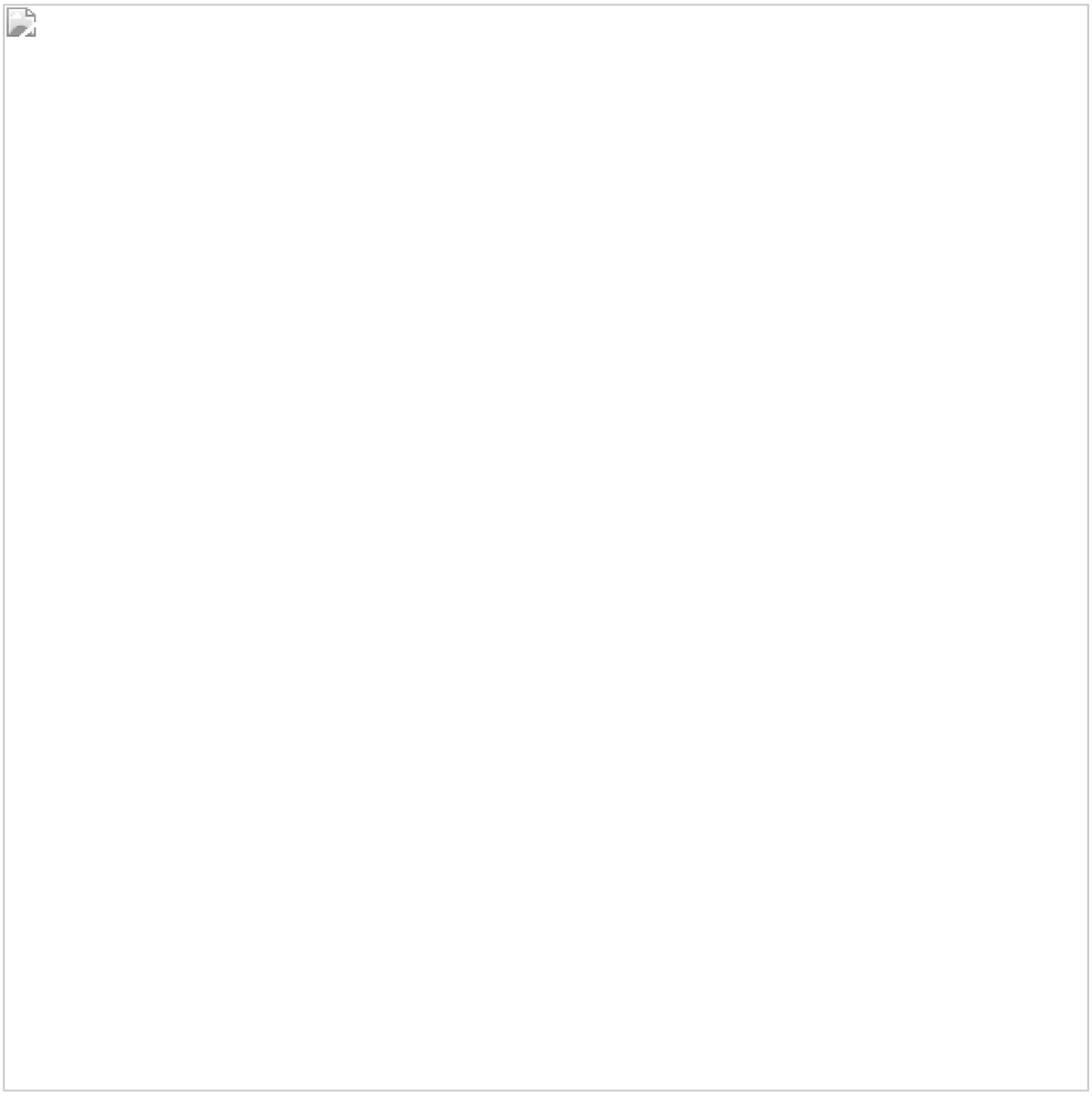


Think about it

1. How many times did they run around the walls?

- ○ One
- ○ Three
- ○ Ten

A Cruel Fire



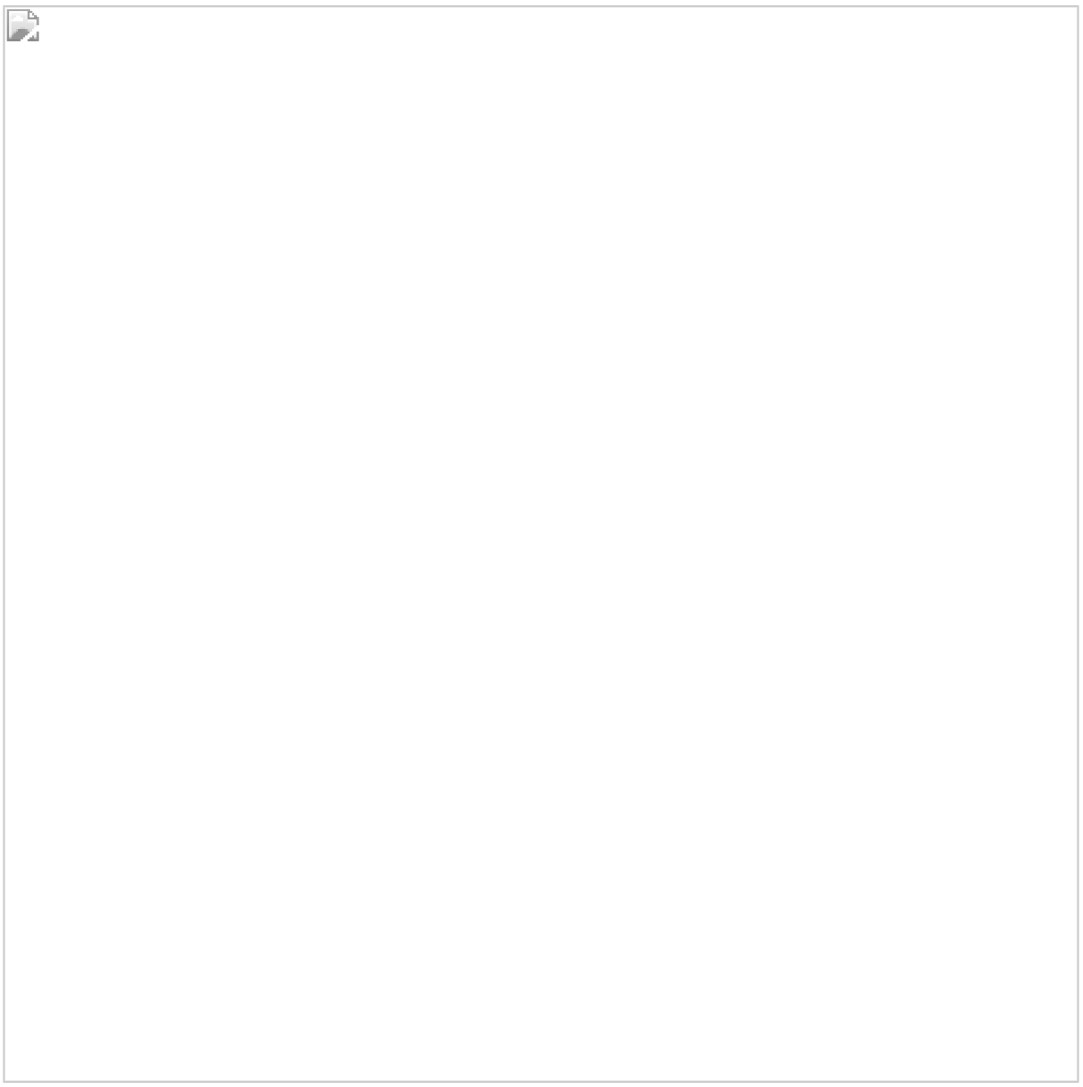
Even now, Achilles' anger did not stop. He tied Hector to his chariot and dragged him away to the ships.

Up on the walls, all of Troy wept: Hector's mother, his father, and his wife Andromache.

Day after day, Achilles stayed angry. But the gods kept Hector's body safe from harm. And the god Apollo told the other gods that Achilles had “flung aside all pity.”

TALK ABOUT IT

Anger can make people do cruel things they would never do otherwise. What can you do when your anger starts to feel too big?

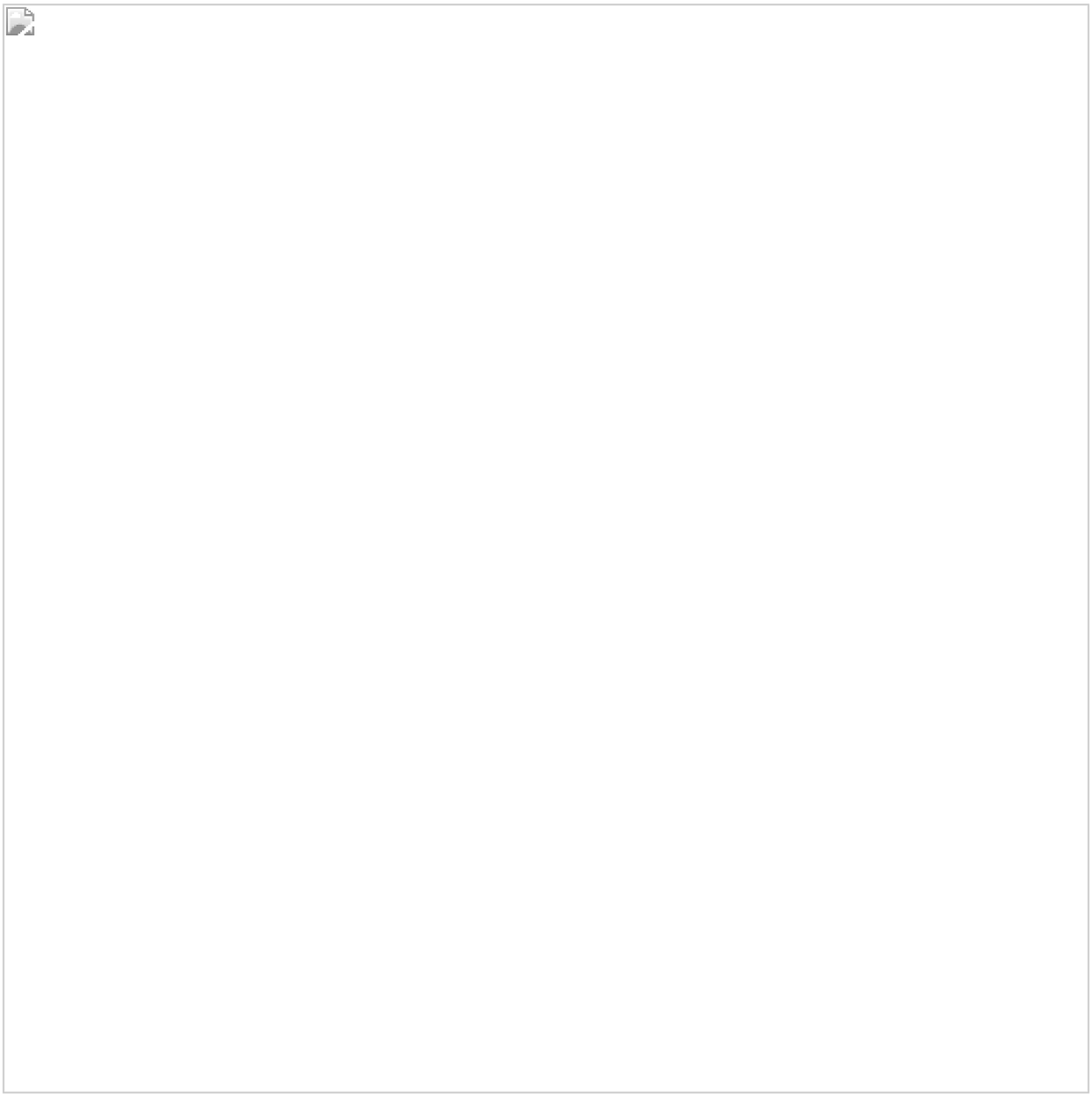


Think about it

1. Who kept Hector's body safe?

- ○ The gods
- ○ Agamemnon
- ○ Nobody

An Old Man in the Night



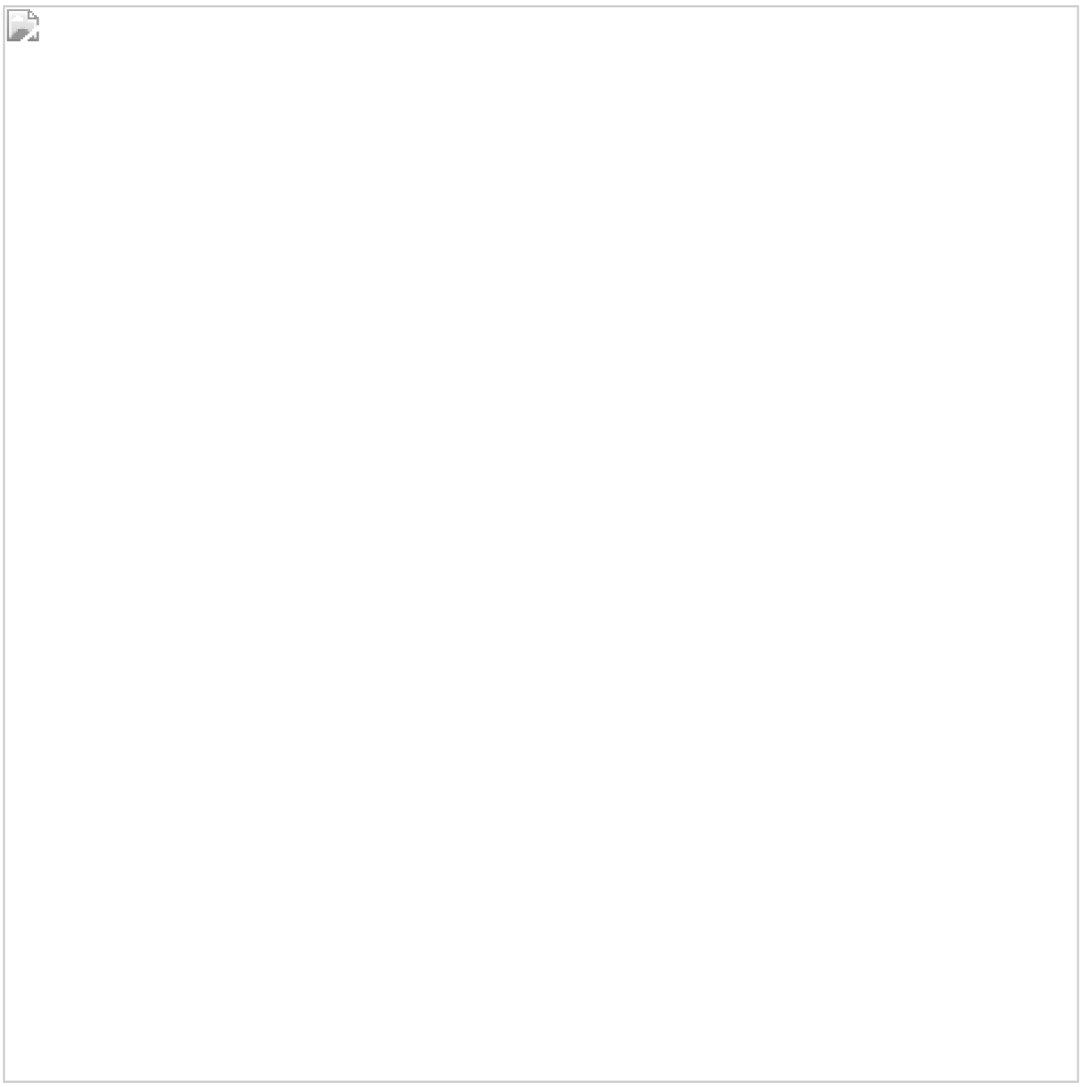
At last Zeus sent word to Achilles' mother: Achilles must give Hector back.

He sent word to old King Priam, too: go to Achilles, and bring gifts. Queen Hecuba begged him not to go. But Priam filled a wagon with treasures and drove out into the dark.

Zeus sent the god Hermes to guide him. Hermes put the guards to sleep, and Priam came safely through the Greek camp to Achilles' tent.

TALK ABOUT IT

Priam was old, and he went alone into his enemies' camp at night. What made him brave enough to go?

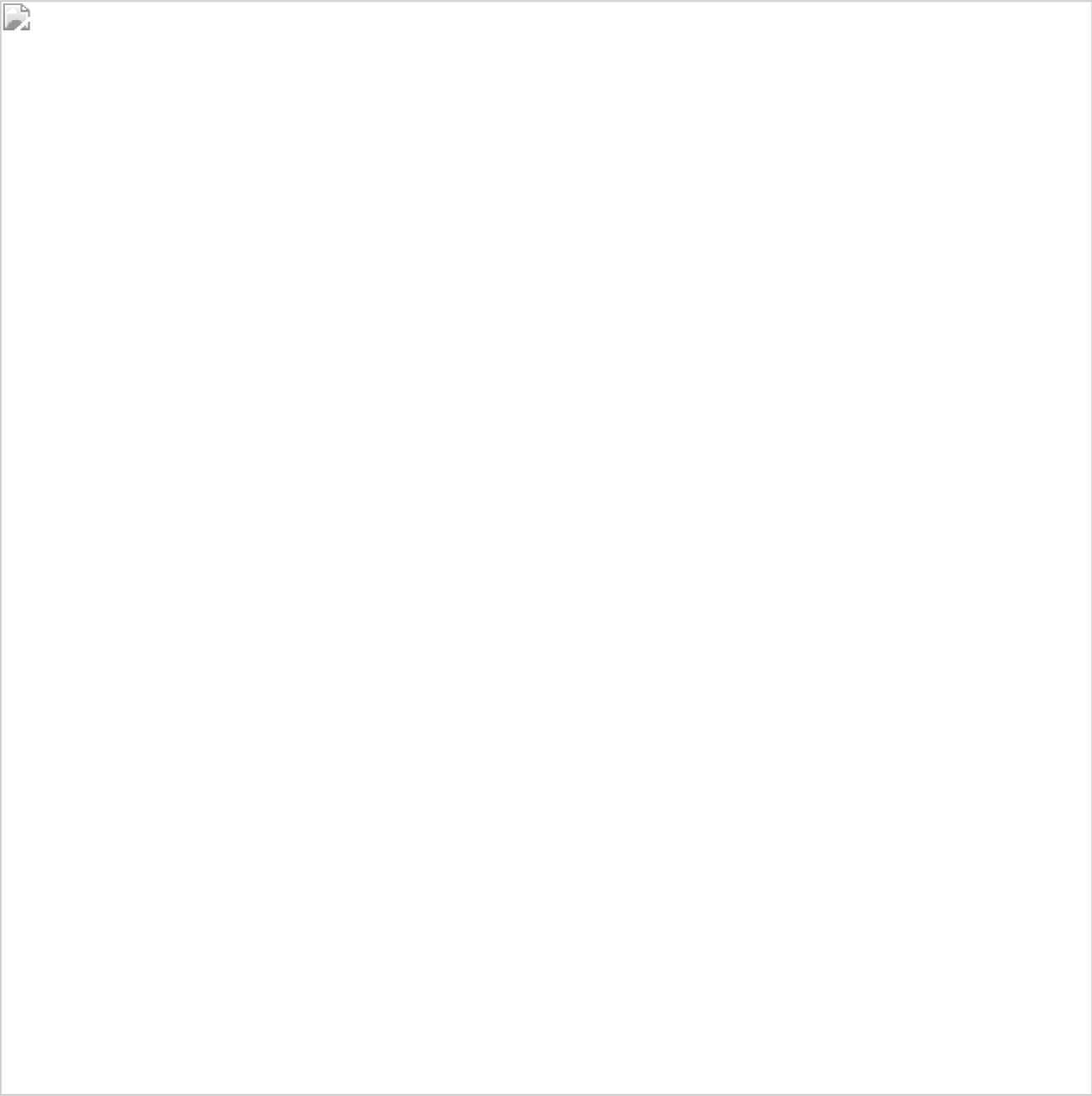


Think about it

1. Who guided Priam through the camp?

- ○ Hector
- ○ The god Hermes
- ○ Agamemnon

“Think of Your Father”



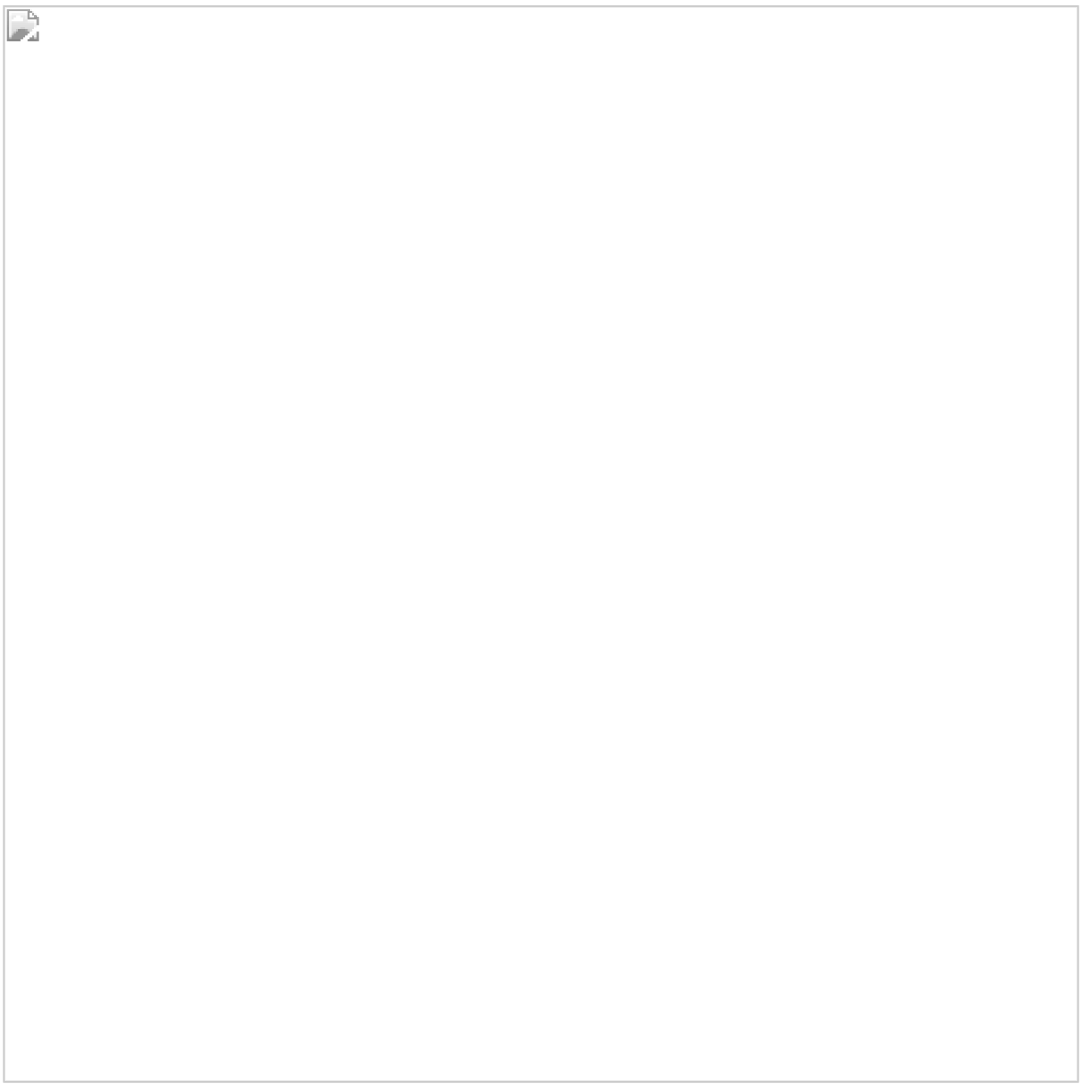
Priam went straight in and knelt at Achilles' feet. Then he kissed the hands of the man who had killed his son.

Achilles' own father was old like Priam, far away across the sea, hoping every day that his son would come home.

“Think on your own father,” said Priam, “and have compassion upon me.”

TALK ABOUT IT

Was it hard for Priam to be kind to Achilles? Why do you think he did it anyway?

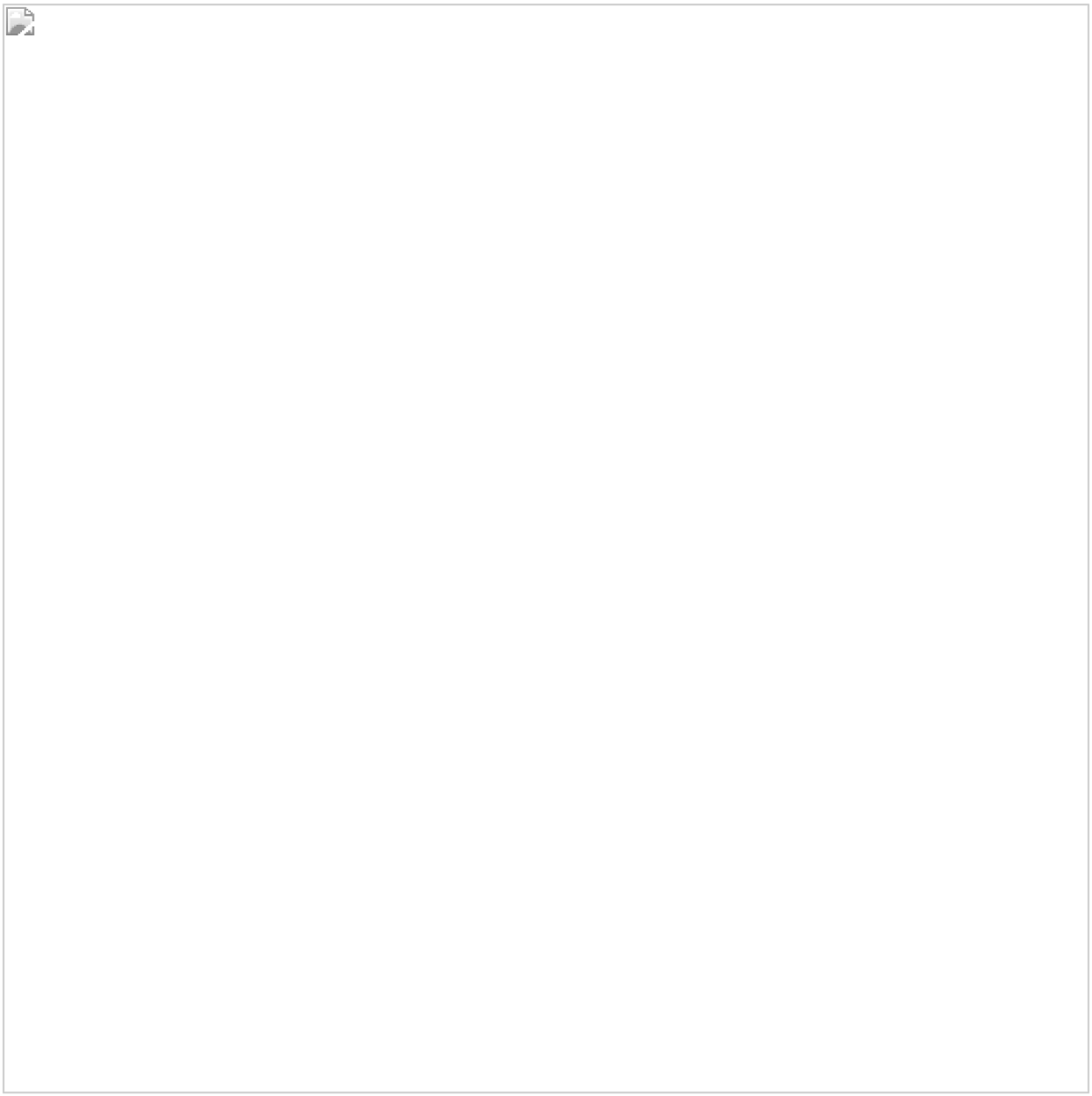


Think about it

1. Who did Priam ask Achilles to think of?

- ○ His father
- ○ His horses
- ○ Agamemnon

Two Enemies Weep



Achilles thought of his own father, and his heart was touched. He took the old man's hand.

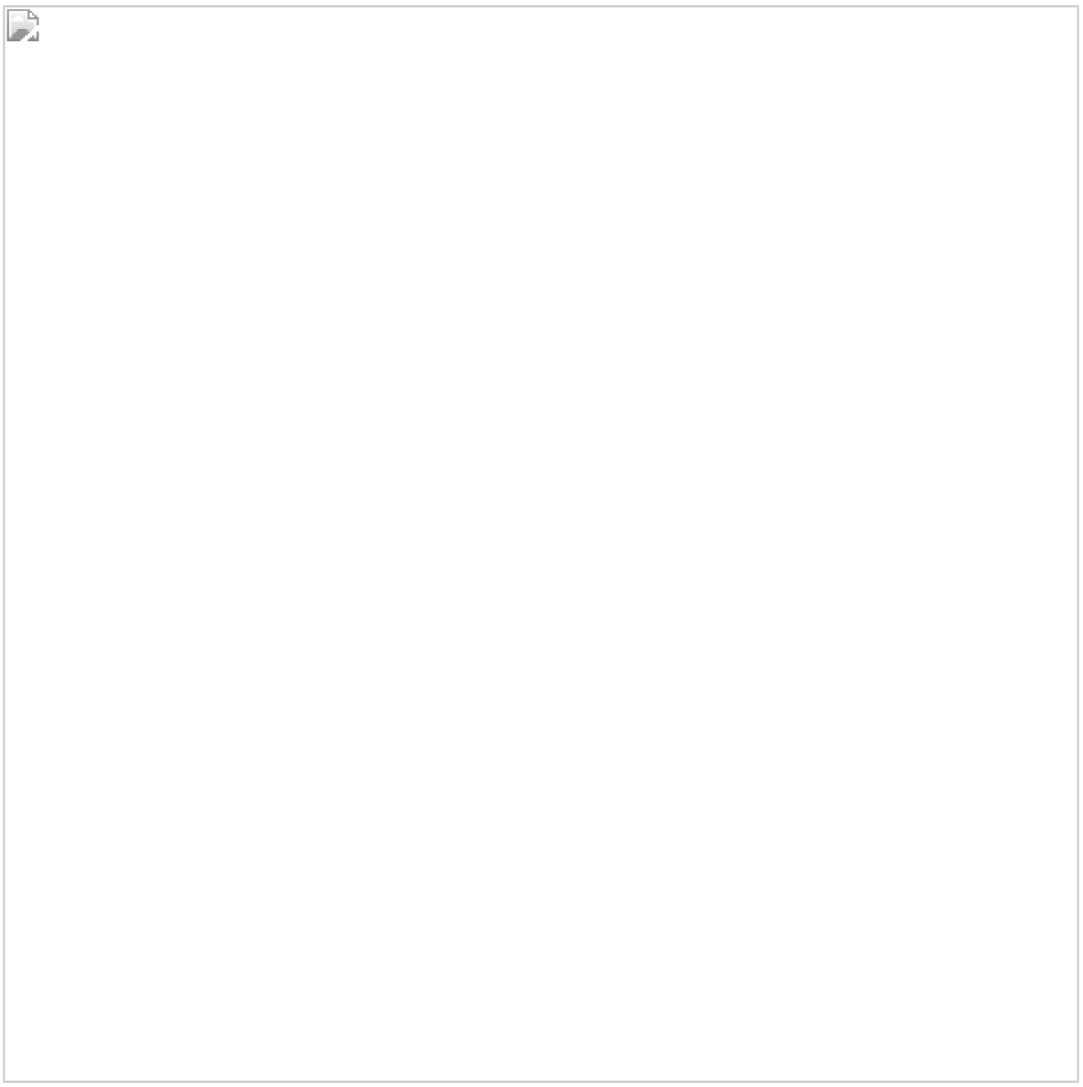
Then the two of them wept together. Priam wept for his son Hector. Achilles wept for his father, and for Patroclus, his friend.

They were enemies, but they knew the same sorrow. At last Achilles stood and raised the old man by the hand, “in pity for his white hair and beard.”

TALK ABOUT IT

Achilles and Priam were enemies, but they cried together. How can being sad together bring people closer?

Two Enemies Weep · another picture

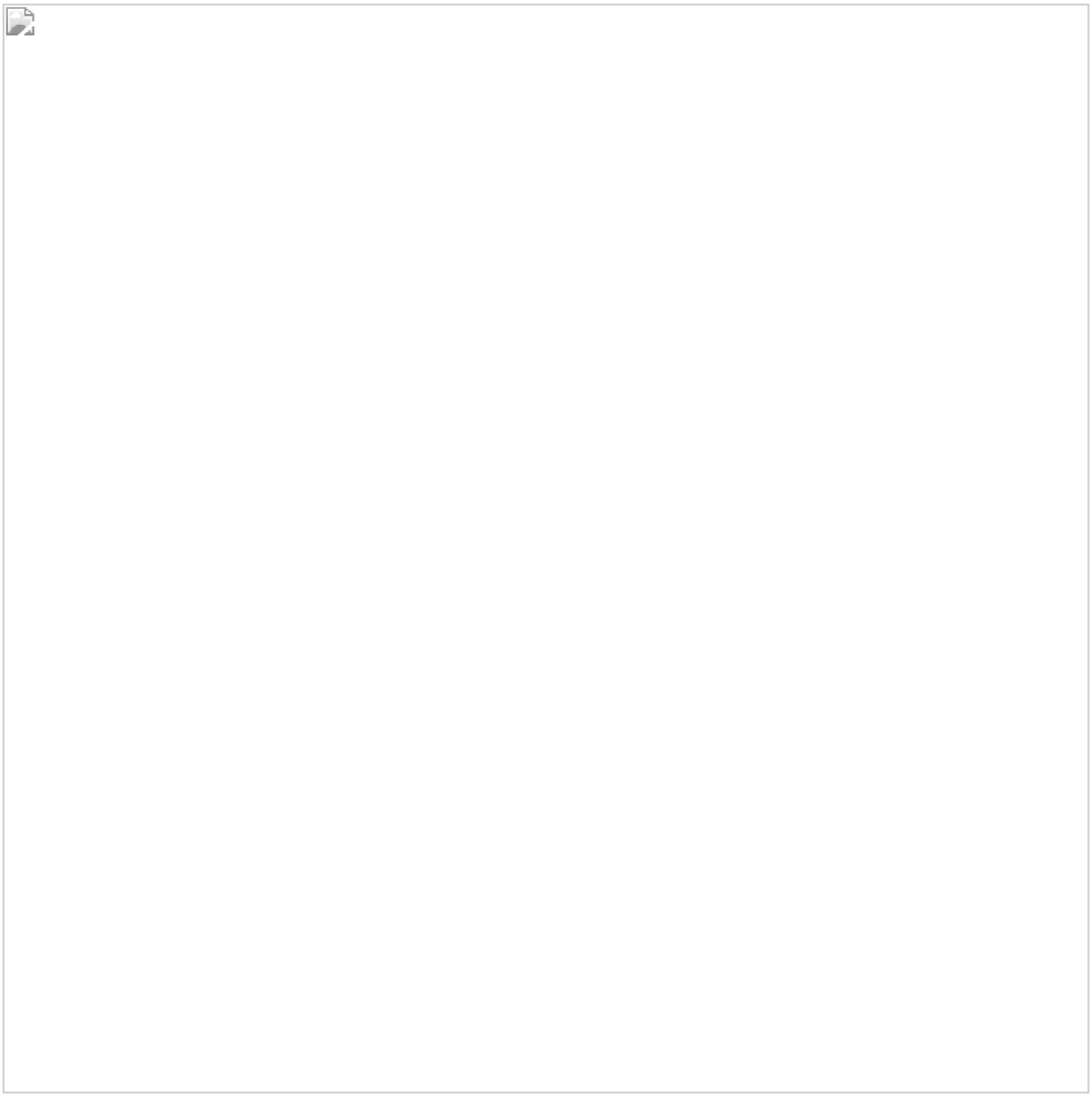


Think about it

1. Who did Achilles weep for?

- ○ His father and Patroclus
- ○ Agamemnon
- ○ Nobody

The Fire Goes Out



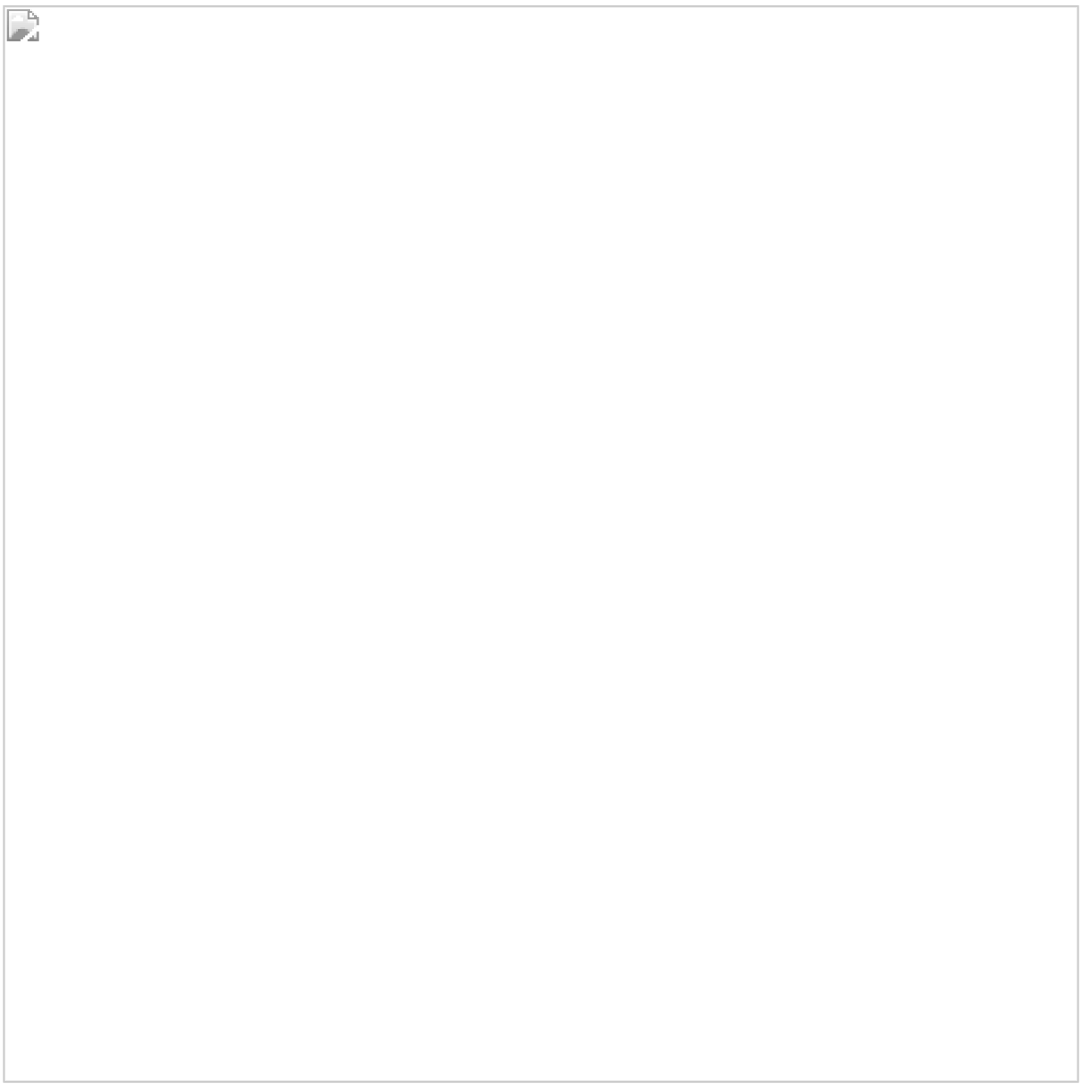
Achilles' anger was gone at last. He had Hector washed and wrapped in a soft cloak, and he lifted him onto the wagon himself.

Then Achilles and Priam ate bread together. Priam marvelled at Achilles, and Achilles marvelled at Priam.

Achilles asked how many days Troy needed to say goodbye to Hector. Then he promised that for eleven days, no one would fight.

TALK ABOUT IT

Achilles and Priam ate together after being enemies. Is there someone you could make peace with?

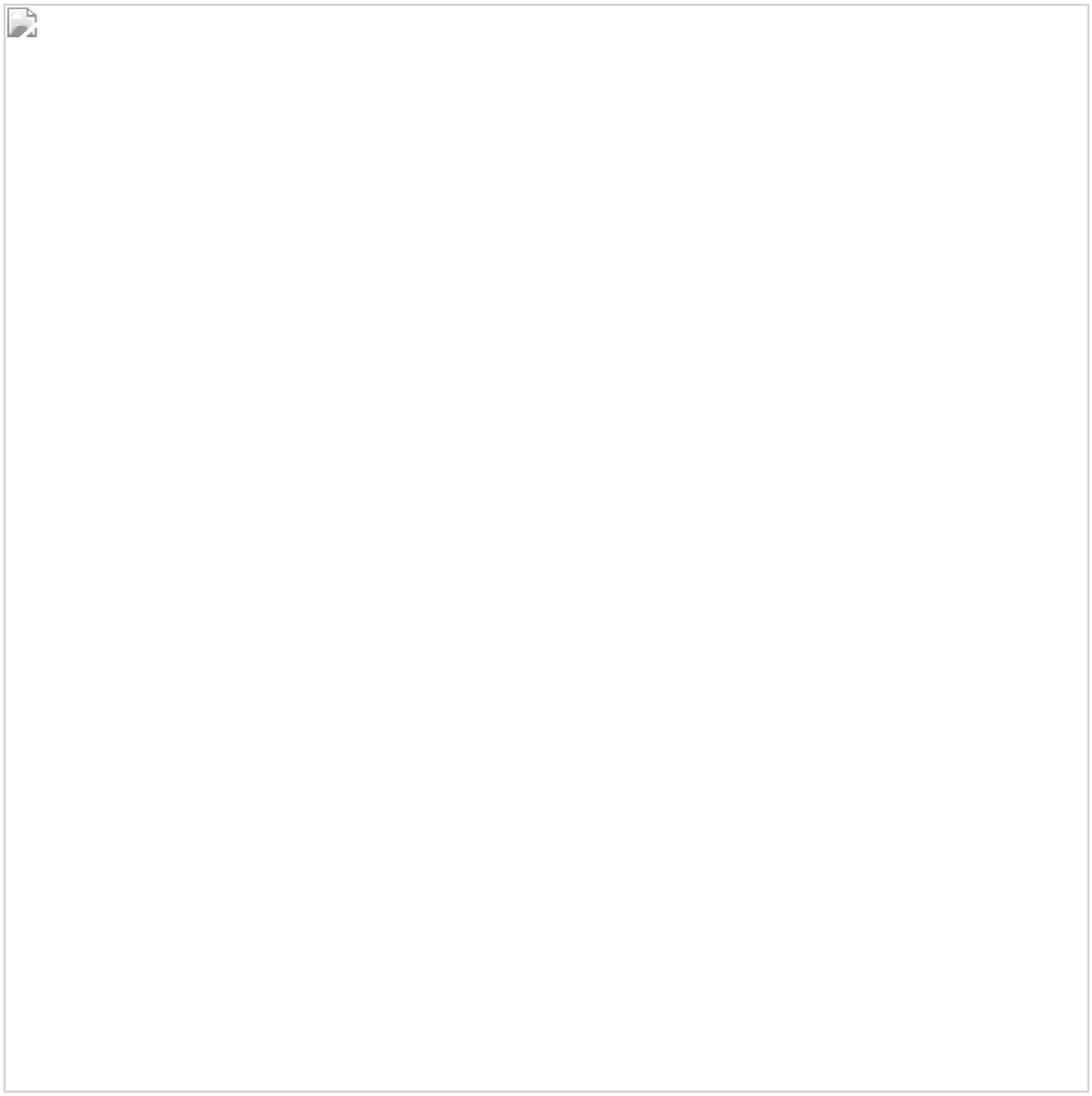


Think about it

1. How many days of peace did Achilles promise?

- ○ One
- ○ Eleven
- ○ A hundred

Hector Comes Home



Priam brought Hector home, and all of Troy came out to weep: Andromache, his mother Hecuba, and Helen too.

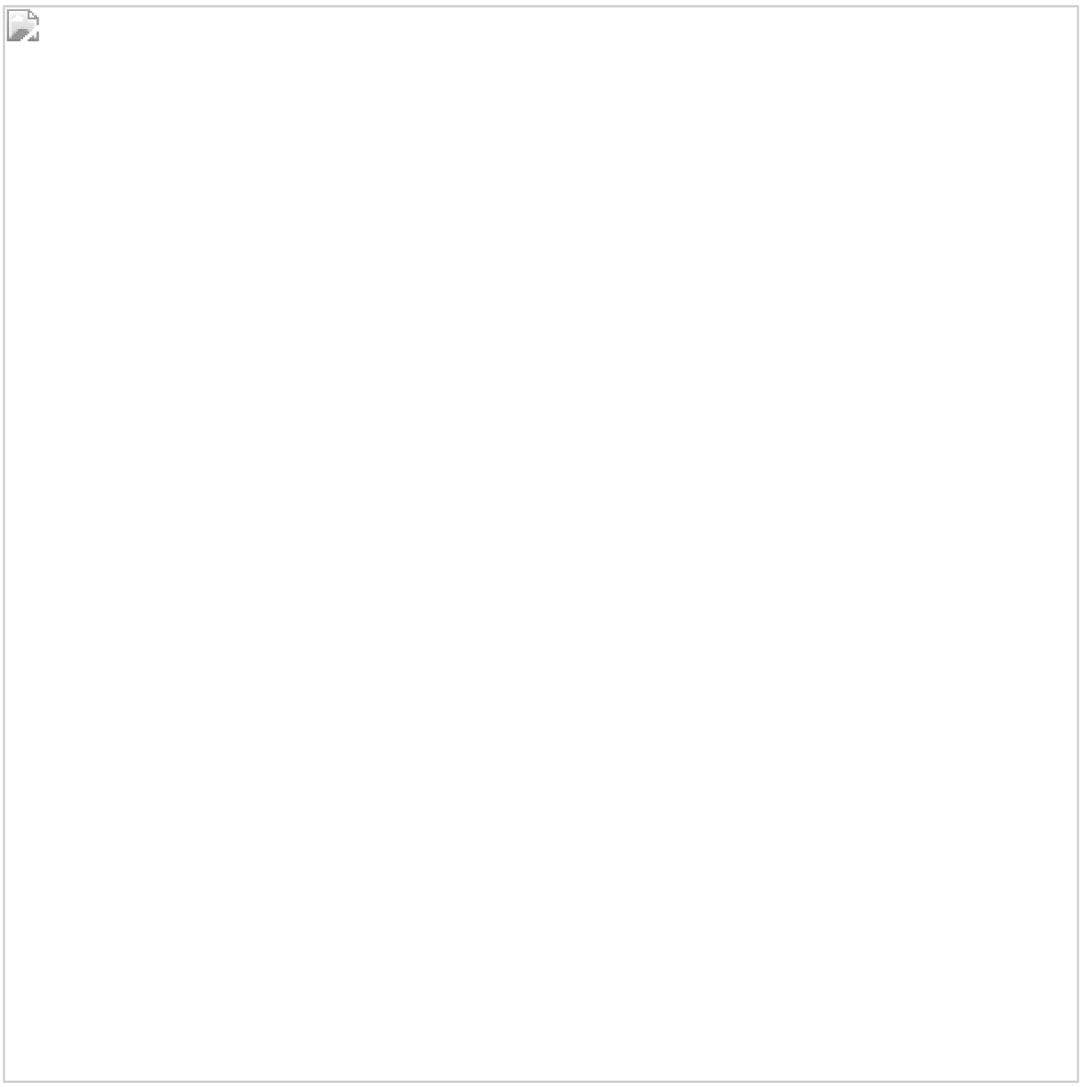
In all her years in Troy, said Helen, she had “never heard one word of insult or unkindness” from Hector.

For eleven days there was peace. “Thus, then, did they celebrate the funeral of Hector tamer of horses.”

Anger made Achilles cruel. Love made him kind again, even to his enemy.

TALK ABOUT IT

Helen remembered Hector's kind words. What kind words do you want people to remember about you?



Think about it

1. What did Helen remember about Hector?

- ○ He was always kind to her
- ○ He was very tall
- ○ He had fast horses

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

— Yeshua HaMashiach

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