**Fourteen days trapped on an ice floor**

**Klaas Bording. Father**

**Klaas. Son**

**Jacob. Son**

**Narrator**

**Voice:** The story starts in 1849 when Klaas Bording and his two sons, Klaas and Jacob, went fishing. It was cold, very cold and the Zuiderzee was completely frozen. So instead of normal fisherman’s work, they were able to perform a very special fishing technique: "Bot kloppen", knocking Flounder, a flatfish, out of the water.

They made some holes in the ice at several places and with wooden poles and fishing nets they made a construction under the ice. Then they took a very big and heavy wooden pole, they attached a rope at one end and placed their foot on the other end. With their weight they elevated the pole until high enough and then dropped it on the ice. The shock made the fish "jump away", flying directly in the nets! That is called "bot kloppen".

*Back to the story*:While they were already late and had to go far onto the ice, they did not notice that is was slowly getting warmer and that the ice began melting. At a certain moment they experienced that they were surrounded by water and ice. They could not go home.

Maybe it would work out somewhere else. They turned the sleigh around and rushed south through the dark night, only to find water there again. The large ice floor had started to tear and huge cracks appeared everywhere. It was impossible to reach the shore. The men decided to stay the night on the ice. They were hiding under the sail they had used during fishing to shield themselves from the wind. They tried to get some sleep during the night, which of course did not work out. It was raining, it was cold and they only had a little bit of lukewarm coffee. They had nothing to get warm, apart from each other.

**Voice**:For fourteen full days the three fishermen wandered across the Zuiderzee. It was extremely heavy. Cold rains, dense fog and only sometimes a bit of sunshine. They went in all directions. Then back north, then east or south and sometimes towards the west. They needed to jump a few times onto a larger ice floe. They were hungry and thirsty. They caught rainwater in a piece of sailcloth and ate raw fish.
In Vollenhove the people looked forward to the end of the winter. The fishing industry was quiet and poverty was prevalent in the town. Every day the fishermen went to the sea to see if it was possible to sail.

**Second group:**On Saturday morning, January 27, two boats left the port of Vollenhove. The fishermen where happy to find open water. On the way to the open water, they saw some black dots in the distance. When they got close, they heard calling for help. They found three men on a sleigh, who tried to get their attention. A red handkerchief was tied to the mast on the sled and the coffee kettle was hanging from the top. The exhausted men were carefully transferred from the sledge onto the boat. It was just in time, because immediately after that, the ice floe with the sleigh disappeared under water. The rescued men were brought to Vollenhove and welcomed by the villagers with loud cheers.