

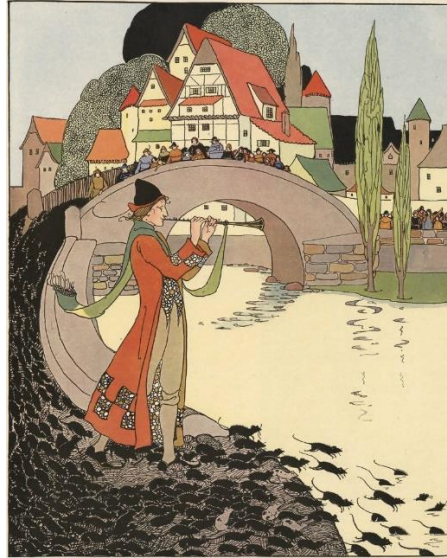
The Pied Piper

Read the story, look at the illustration and then answer the questions.

There were rats everywhere in Hamelin - rats in the corn silos, rats in the wheat silos, rats in the bakeries, rats in the shops, rats in the streets, and rats in the houses. The rats bred and grew and bred and soon there were so many rats that life became quite miserable for the citizens of Hamelin. They couldn't bake a cake, take a bath, or sleep in their beds without the rats joining in to. The rats even nibbled on the ears of babies sleeping in their cots. Something had to be done.

The very next day a stranger appeared in Hamelin. He was different to everyone else. His clothes were colorful and seemed to come from many different places. He wore a hat covered with feathers and shells and bones. From a long scarf hung a silver pipe.

He stood in the Square and looked quietly around. He took a deep breath and blew a note on his silver pipe that spoke to the rats of far off places, of woods and forests and rocks and mountains. He blew another note that spoke to the rats of foxes and wolves and hawks and eagles. He blew a third note and all of the rats in Hamelin started to scurry towards the Pied Piper. They scurried out of doors, out of windows, out of drains and out of holes. They scurried down the lanes and streets towards the square. Now the Pied Piper started to play a dancing tune and he danced out of the square and the rats followed along behind. They moved out of the town and towards the port. At the river side the Piper stopped and he placed just one toe in the water and, as he continued playing, the rats continued dancing across the wharves and into the river. Rats by their thousands danced out of the town, across the wharves and splashed into the river where they were drowned. When the last one had disappeared beneath the waters of the Weser the Pied Piper stopped.



1. Which part of the story is the illustration telling? _____

2. Do you think that you would understand the story just by looking at the illustration? Why or why not? _____

3. Why do you think it is helpful to have an illustration with this story? _____

4. Do you think the story or the illustration has more detail? Why? _____
