

***The Pied Piper of Hamelin*
by Robert Browning
Set A/B**



Rats!

**They fought the dogs and killed the cats,
And bit the babies in the cradles,
And ate the cheeses out of the vats.
And licked the soup from the cook's own ladles,
Split open the kegs of salted sprats,
Made nests inside men's Sunday hats,
And even spoiled the women's chats,
By drowning their speaking
With shrieking and squeaking
In fifty different sharps and flats...**

**Into the street the Piper stept,
Smiling first a little smile,
As if he knew what magic slept
In his quiet pipe the while;
Then, like a musical adept,
To blow the pipe his lips he wrinkled,
And green and blue his sharp eyes twinkled...**

**And out of the houses the rats came tumbling.
Great rats, small rats, lean rats, brawny rats,
Brown rats, black rats, grey rats, tawny rats,
Fathers, mothers, uncles, cousins,
Cocking tails and pricking whiskers,
Families by tens and dozens,
Brothers, sisters, husbands, wives—
Followed the Piper for their lives.
From street to street he piped advancing,
And step for step they followed dancing,
Until they came to the river Weser
Wherein all plunged and perished!**

Questions for *The Pied Piper of Hamelin* Set A

Vocabulary

1. Where did the rats find the cheese?

in boxes

in nests

Tick one.

in vats

in kegs

2. Look at the third verse. **Find and copy one** word that shows the rats rushed out of the houses.

3. Match the words from the poem with their meaning.

plunged

died

perished

fell

wrinkled

creased

Retrieval

4. Look at the first verse. Write **three** bad things that the rats did.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

5. Using information from the poem, tick **one** box in each row to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

	True	False
The rats were a nuisance.		
The rats were scared of the piper.		
The rats swam away.		

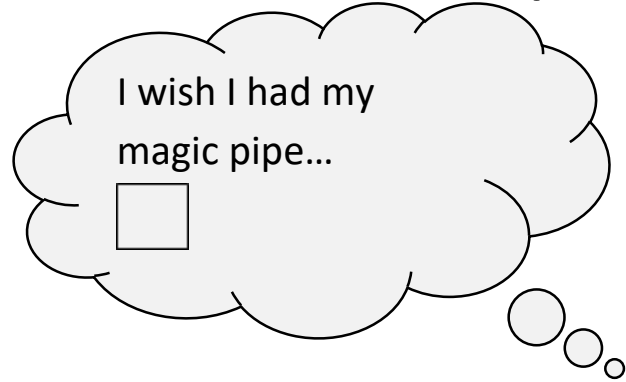
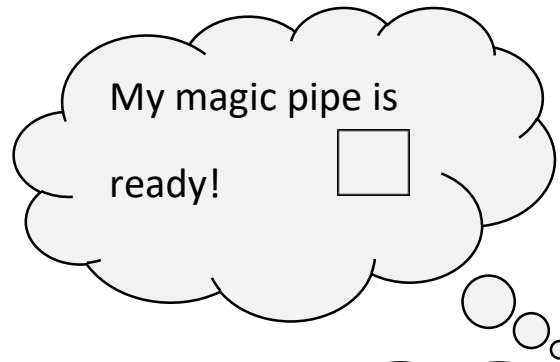
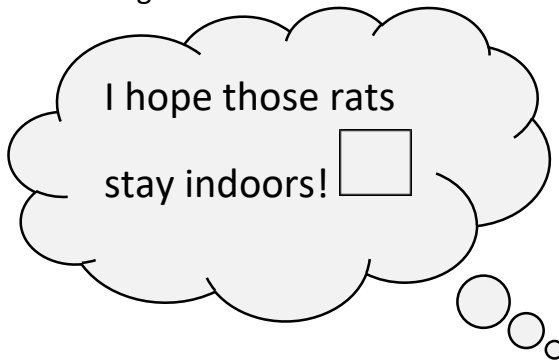
6. What colour were the Piper's eyes?

Inference

7. Look at the first verse. How does the poem tell us that the rats were very noisy?

8. What was the piper thinking as he went into the street?

Tick **one** thought.



9. Was the Piper right to drown the rats? Explain your answer.

Summarise

10.

And out of the houses the rats came tumbling.
Great rats, small rats, lean rats, brawny rats,
Brown rats, black rats, grey rats, tawny rats,
Fathers, mothers, uncles, cousins,
Cocking tails and pricking whiskers,
Families by tens and dozens,
Brothers, sisters, husbands, wives—
Followed the Piper for their lives.

Rewrite this part of the poem in your own words.

Predict

11. What do you think is most likely to happen next?

The rats will attack the village again.

The piper will go to prison for killing the rats.

The piper will be treated like a hero for killing the rats.

The piper will dive into the river Weser.

Tick two.

Compare

12. The rats in the poem caused lots of trouble. Look at two of the things they did and then explain which is the worst and why.

made nests in men's hats

biting the babies

—

Questions for *The Pied Piper of Hamelin* Set B

Vocabulary

1. *Into the street the Piper stept...*

Which of the sentences below best describes what this means?

Tick one.

The Piper was in a very steep street.

The Piper went from a step into the street.

The Piper stepped into the street.

2. Look at the third verse. Different adjectives are used to describe the rats. Write the words in the correct section of the table below. Two have been done for you.

Great rats, small rats, lean rats, brawny rats,
Brown rats, black rats, grey rats, tawny rats...

words that describe size	brawny,
words that describe colour	tawny,

3. Which two words are used to describe the noises the rats make?

1. _____ 2. _____

Retrieval

4. Which of these statements shows that the rats were dangerous? Add a tick or a cross.

	v or X
They fought the dogs and killed the cats.	
They licked the soup.	
They bit the babies.	
They ate the cheese.	

5. How did the Piper get rid of the rats?

Inference

6. Look at the second verse. Which of these statements describes the Piper?

He enjoys his work.

He is very old.

Tick one.

He is scared of rats.

He hasn't played his pipe for a long time.

7. Why did the rats follow the Piper?

8. Look at the third verse. Which of these statements is true?

There was one family of rats.

There were many rats.

Explain how you know using evidence from the poem.

Meaning as a whole

9. Retell what happened in the poem in your own words.

Authorial intent

10. The rats...

...even spoiled the women's chats,
By drowning their speaking
With shrieking and squeaking

Why has the poet used the words '*by drowning their speaking*'?

Compare

11. How does life in the village of Hamelin change throughout the poem?

Answers for The Pied Piper of Hamelin

Set A:

Vocabulary:

1. in vats
2. tumbled
3. plunged – fell; perished – died; wrinkled – creased

Retrieval:

4. Pupils should choose one of the relevant examples from the first verse. E.g. fought the dogs
5. The rats were a nuisance – True; The rats were scared of the piper – False; The rats swam away – False.
6. green and blue

Inference:

7. It says that the rats were 'shrieking and squeaking'. Also accept that their noise was like 'fifty different sharps and flats', referring to musical notation.
8. My magic pipe is ready!
9. Pupils should explain their answer clearly. They may make a case that he was either right or wrong. E.g. He was right to drown the rats because they were being a real nuisance, biting babies etc., or he was wrong because it is not right to kill living things; he could have just taken them far away from the village.

Summarise:

10. Pupils should rewrite the relevant section of the poem, without using the amount of repetition used in the original.

Predict:

11. The piper will be treated like a hero for killing the rats.

Compare:

12. biting the babies

Pupils should explain this clearly, using comparative language. E.g. Biting the babies is worse than hiding in men's hats because it will hurt the babies, scare them and upset their parents, and it might give them a germs, but hiding in men's hats is just making a bit of a mess, and the hats don't have feelings.

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Answers for The Pied Piper of Hamelin

Set B:

Vocabulary:

1. The Piper stepped into the street.
2. words that describe size: great, small, lean; words that describe colour: brown, black, grey
3. shrieking and squeaking

Retrieval:

4. They fought the dogs and killed the cats – ✓
They licked the soup – X
They bit the babies – ✓
They ate the cheese – X
5. Pupils should explain that the Piper used a magic pipe to make them follow him, and then led them to a river where they jumped in and drowned.

Inference:

6. He enjoys his work.
7. Because he used a magic pipe that enchanted them.
8. There were many rats. Pupils should use evidence from the poem, E.g. 'Families by tens and dozens'

Meaning as a whole:

9. This should be a retelling that includes a beginning where the rats attacked the village, a middle where the Piper appears with his pipe, and an ending where the rats follow the Piper and are drowned.

Authorial intent:

10. to show us how noisy the rats actually were/to show that the rats were so noisy the women couldn't hear each other

Compare:

11. Pupils should expand on the basic sequence of the village being chaotic and scary at the beginning, then becoming calm once the rats had been taken away.

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