



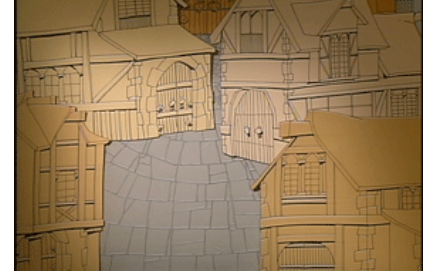
Pied Piper

This book Belongs To: _____

www.filmideas.com '07

Welcome to Hamelin!

As you can see, Hamelin is a peaceful, pleasant town. It's also a very pretty place with its cobblestone streets where children play, its wooden houses, a river and a Main square where the Town Hall stands and the Mayor lives.



This is the Mayor, a friendly, cheerful man who always keeps his word and pays his debts. And it's a good thing because all the townsfolk of Hamelin still sadly and



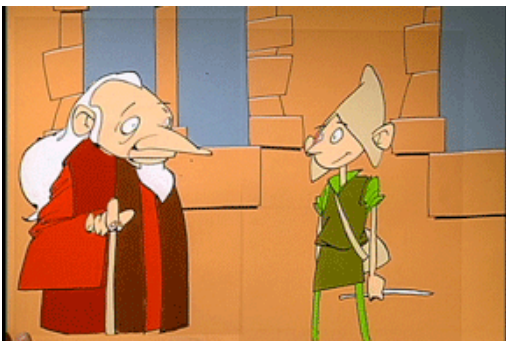
fearfully remember the time when all of the town's children had vanished. Can you imagine that? Hamelin, a place with no children!

It all started one dark night a few years ago. Rats appeared from out of the blue and invaded the whole town. There were hundreds of them. No, no, not hundreds, thousands, maybe even millions of rats. The whole town was swarming with them. Hamelin was infested with rats!

The Mayor met with the members of the Town Council to find a solution to this terrible problem. They decided to dust the streets and squares, the houses and rooms, with rat poison. But it got them nowhere. On the contrary, the rats were multiplying by the day.



One day, when they were at their wits' end, a traveling minstrel stopped at the town gates. He was tall and thin. He was dressed in green and carried a sack on his back. He



went straight to the Town Hall and asked to speak with the Mayor. At first the Mayor was distrustful of him, but when the young minstrel told him that he could rid the town of the rats all by himself, the Mayor's eyes beamed with hope.

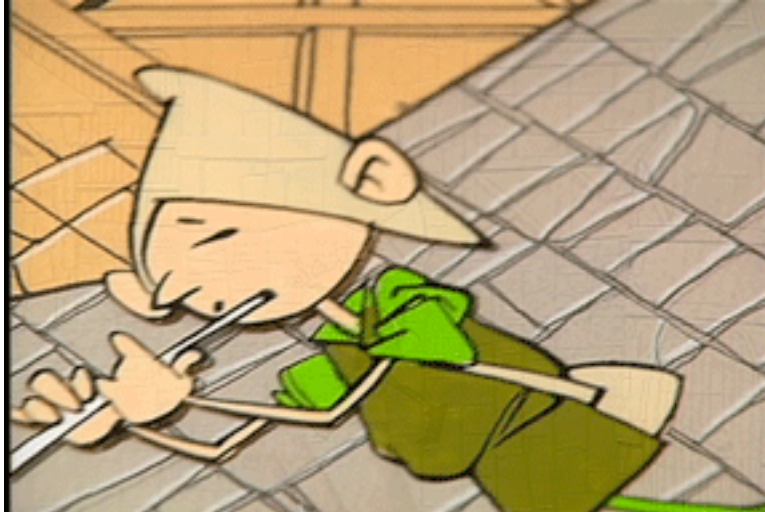
"You say you can do that all by yourself?" asked the Mayor.

"That's right. But to do the job, I want to be

paid 1,000 gold crowns,” answered the minstrel.

Naturally, the Mayor agreed without hesitation.

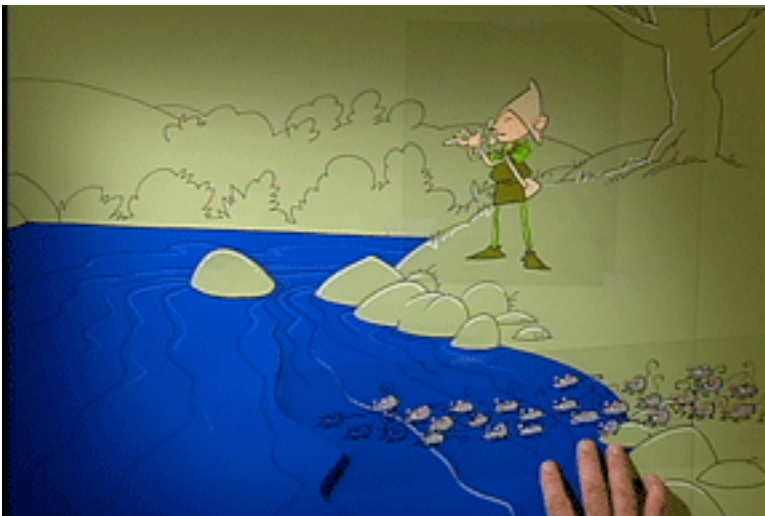
So the minstrel walked out into the town’s Main square, took a pipe from his sack and began to play it. He played a strange, magical, very sad tune as he walked along. No



sooner had he played the first notes than hundreds and thousands of rats started emerging from every nook and cranny in the town and they all followed behind the piper.

Finally, when all the rats were following behind him, he climbed the road to the river. And when the minstrel reached the river bank, he stopped but kept on playing his pipe.

The rats kept on advancing until they fell into the water and they all drowned. Not a single rat was left. Not one could be found in all of Hamelin.

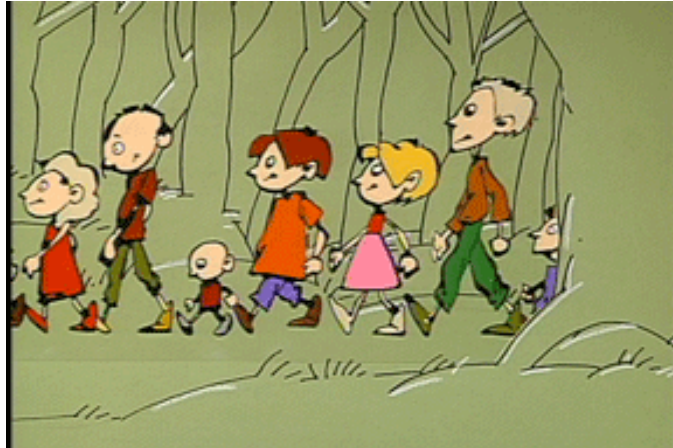


Once the rats were all dead, the mysterious piper returned to the Town Hall for his payment. But the Mayor didn’t keep his word and flatly refused to pay the thousand crowns.

“One thousand crowns to play the pipe!” exclaimed the Mayor. “Never! Here, take 100 crowns and consider yourself generously paid!”

The minstrel was very disappointed by the Mayor's refusal to keep his promise. He turned around and walked out into the square. When he was outside, he took out his pipe again and began playing, but this time he played a very cheerful tune.

And it wasn't rats that followed him through the town's narrow streets, but all the girls and boys of Hamelin. They came out of their houses, out of school, they stopped playing and they all joined the parade behind the piper's music. No one could stop them.



Then the piper left the city and took all the girls and boys of Hamelin with him. You can't imagine how distressed the townsfolk were. The children's parents couldn't stop crying as they begged the Mayor to go and look for the piper and ask him to let the children go home.



The Mayor set out to find the mysterious minstrel whose magical flute had cast a spell on all the children. When he found him, he begged for his forgiveness. He paid him what he was due without a word of protest and this was how all the girls and all the boys returned to Hamelin making it a happy place once again.

Ever since then, the Mayor and all the townsfolk of Hamelin have been known for always keeping their word. Everyone knows that if they say they'll do something, they do it and they always dutifully pay all their debts!

And thanks to the mysterious piper, Hamelin is now a very happy town.

THE END

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