

5-7 Years Home Learning Pack

A wanted rat!

Objectives

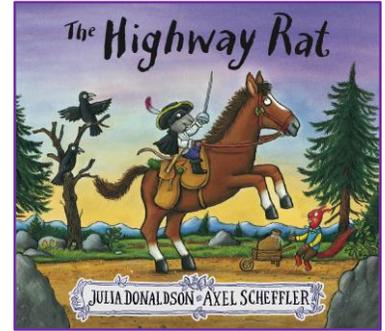
- To make simple inferences from a book that has been read to them
- To write sentences based on a book
- To use a simple computer program to draw a picture

Resources

- *The Highway Rat* by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler
- *Resource Sheet 1: Return to owner*
- *Resource Sheet 2: Police report*

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Outcomes

- Children will write a police report about the Highway Rat
- Children will use shapes and/or brushes to create a picture on a computer or tablet

Introduction

Show the front cover of the book to your child. Ask them to guess what the character on the front is going to be like. Is he going to be kind or mean? Suggest that they look at the squirrel and the crows on the front cover to give them some clues.

Read *The Highway Rat* with your child. Encourage them to join in with the repeated refrain that begins 'I am the Rat of the Highway...'.

After reading the story, discuss whether your child was right about the Rat of the Highway. Invite your child to recall some of the terrible things he has done in the story. Focus on the creatures that travelled the highway and how the Highway Rat's stealing made them feel – use words and pictures from the story to give examples, such as the crying rabbit on page 5.

Together, make a list of words that describe how the Highway Rat's behaviour made the other creatures feel. For example, scared, sad, worried, hungry, etc.

Give your child a copy of *Resource Sheet 1: Return to owner* and explain that these are the things that the Highway Rat stole. Can they complete the labels to ensure they are given back to their rightful owner?

Main task

Explain that your child is now going to be a Police Constable and complete a 'Police Report', which is a list of the naughty things that the Highway Rat has done.

Your child can write their own sentences to explain what the Highway Rat has done on *Resource Sheet 2: Police report*. Give your child time to talk about and plan their writing, and read their sentences aloud to you.

Extension

Using a computer, laptop or tablet, challenge your child to draw a picture of the rat to make a 'Wanted' poster to go alongside their Police Report. If using a computer, Paint is a simple program that children can access, or there are several drawing apps that can be used on tablets. Keep a copy of the book close by, so that your child can see Axel Scheffler's picture while they create their drawing. Can they type one of their sentences from the Police Report onto their poster to tell people of the Highway Rat's naughty behaviour?

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Resource Sheet 1: Return to owner

Can you remember who the Highway Rat stole these items from? Write their names on the name tags, so the items can be returned to their owner.



Clover

Return to:

.....



Nuts

Return to:

.....



Leaf

Return to:

.....



Hay

Return to:

.....

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Resource Sheet 2: Police report

Can you write the things the Highway Rat has done in a police report?

Culprit name:

Crimes committed:

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Reporting officer:

Signed:

Date:

Wanted rat!

Curriculum links

KS1 English: Pupils should be taught to:

Reading

- develop pleasure in reading, motivation to read, vocabulary and understanding by:
 - listening to and discussing a wide range of poems, stories and non-fiction at a level beyond that at which they can read independently
 - recognising and joining in with predictable phrases
- understand both the books they can already read accurately and fluently and those they listen to by:
 - discussing the significance of the title and events
 - drawing on what they already know or on background information and vocabulary provided by the teacher
 - making inferences on the basis of what is being said and done
- explain clearly their understanding of what is read to them

Writing

- Write sentences by:
 - saying out loud what they are going to write about
 - composing a sentence orally before writing it
 - sequencing sentences to form short narratives
 - re-reading what they have written to check that it makes sense
- discuss what they have written with the teacher or other pupils
- read aloud their writing clearly enough to be heard by their peers and the teacher

KS1 Computing: Pupils should be taught to:

- use technology purposefully to create, organise, store, manipulate and retrieve digital content