

READER 6: Once, a King Rat and a Queen Rat lived in the walls of an old stone church in Montreal. The king and queen had one daughter whom they called "Rat Princess" and they were extremely proud of her. To them, she was the most beautiful, most intelligent, and most talented rat daughter in the world.

READER 5: Now, when the Rat Princess became old enough to marry, the king and queen were determined to help her find a husband who was worthy. No everyday rat would do! The king and queen decided that their daughter should marry only the most powerful in all the world. But the queen said,

2/QUEEN: "Who IS the most powerful in all the world?"

READER 3: And the king said,

1/KING: "I will ask the old wise rat who lives under the choir loft! Surely he will know who is the most powerful in all the world."

READER 4: But the old wise rat wasn't sure about the answer to that question. He considered many possibilities. Finally, however, he made a suggestion.

7/OLD RAT: "Yes, I believe the most powerful in the world is the sun which shines in the sky. For without the sun, the corn would not grow in the fields. Yes, yes! The most powerful in the world must be the sun."

1/KING: "Then it's to the sun I must travel!"

READER 6: And the king started off on his travels! He travelled pitter patter, pitter patter, across Montreal, across the farmers' fields, and up, up, up to the top of the highest peak in the Laurentian Mountains, and there he decided to STOP!

READER 5: From the top of the mountain, the King Rat jumped upon one of the sun's rays and scurried pitter patter until he found himself face to face with the mighty sun.

READER 5: The king bowed low and waited for the sun to speak first. Finally, the sun said,

3/SUN: "What do you want, little brother?"

1/KING: "I have come to offer you the hand of my daughter, the Rat Princess, in marriage - oh sun - for you are the most powerful in all the world and no one else will do!"

READER 5: The sun laughed!

3/SUN: "If it is the most powerful you seek, I will not do at all. The cloud is more powerful than I, for when he floats in front of me, he blocks my rays from reaching the farmers' fields. Yes, if it is the most powerful you seek, you must find the cloud!"

1/KING: "Then you will NOT DO AT ALL! It's to the cloud I must travel."