

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,

(QUEEN STANDS AND DIRECTS HER SENTENCE TO THE AUDIENCE. SHE SITS WHEN FINISHED).

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."

(OLD RAT STANDS, LOOKS AROUND SHEEPISHLY, THINKS, SCRATCHES HEAD AS FOLLOWING LINES ARE READ).

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.

Page 2/ Teacher Script/ THE RAT PRINCESS

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."

(OLD RAT SITS, NODDING HIS/HER HEAD, AND MUMBLING "Yes, yes - the sun!").

(KING RAISES FINGER HIGH INTO THE AIR AND MAKES THE FOLLOWING PROCLAMATION):

1/KING:

"Then it's to the sun I must travel!"

(SEATED READERS PLACE THEIR FOLDERS UPON THE FLOOR AND BEGIN TO TAP OUT A "PITTER PATTER, PITTER PATTER" SOUND BY DRUMMING UPON THEIR LAPS OR LEGS WITH OPEN HANDS. DRUMMING BEGINS AFTER THE LINE "And the king started off on his travels!" AND CONTINUES UNTIL THE WORD "STOP!").

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!

(READERS PICK UP FOLDERS AND THE READING CONTINUES).

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.

(AS ABOVE LINES ARE READ, THE KING TAKES TWO FINGERS OF ONE HAND AND SCURRIES THEM ALL THE WAY UP OPPOSITE ARM - FROM FINGERS TO SHOULDER. THEN OPENS EYES WIDE AS HE FINDS HIMSELF FACE TO FACE WITH THE SUN).

VARIATION: (KING RUNS IN PLACE AND MIMES THE TRAVEL SCENE, THEN OPENS EYES WIDE AS HE FINDS HIMSELF FACE TO FACE WITH THE SUN. KING BOWS).

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

(SUN STANDS).

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!

(SUN LAUGHS).

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!"

(SUN SITS).

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

(SEATED READERS PLACE THEIR FOLDERS UPON THE FLOOR AND BEGIN TO TAP OUT A "PITTER PATTER, PITTER PATTER" SOUND BY DRUMMING UPON THEIR LAPS OR LEGS WITH OPEN HANDS. DRUMMING BEGINS AFTER THE LINE "It's to the cloud I must travel." AND CONTINUES UNTIL THE WORD "STOP!").

READER 7: And he began to travel! He travelled pitter patter, pitter patter, across the face of the sun, out along another of the sun's rays, until he reached the very tip and there he decided to STOP!

(READERS PICK UP FOLDERS AND THE READING CONTINUES).

READER 6: The King Rat waited for the cloud to drift by. When it finally drifted close, the king jumped from the top of the sun's ray onto the passing cloud. Then he scurried pitter patter, pitter patter, until he reached the cloud's face.

(AS ABOVE LINES ARE READ, THE KING USES FINGERS TO MIME THE JUMP FROM RAY TO CLOUD. THEN SCURRIES FINGERS UP OPPOSITE ARM. KING OPENS EYES WIDE AS HE FINDS HIMSELF FACE TO FACE WITH THE CLOUD).

VARIATION: (KING MIMES SCENE BY RUNNING IN PLACE BEHIND THE MUSIC STAND. HE BOWS).

READER 2: The king bowed low and waited for the cloud to speak first. Finally, the cloud said,

(CLOUD STANDS).

4/CLOUD: "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 cloud - for you are the most powerful in all the world and no one else will do!"

READER 3: The cloud giggled!

(CLOUD GIGGLES).

4/CLOUD: "If it is the most powerful you seek, I will not do at all. The wind is more powerful than I, for when he blows at me, I must go wherever he commands. Yes, if it is the most powerful you seek, you must find the wind!"

(CLOUD SITS).

1/KING: "Then you will NOT do at all! It's to the wind I must travel."

(SEATED READERS PLACE THEIR FOLDERS UPON THE FLOOR AND REPEAT DRUMMING SOUNDS AS BEFORE. DRUMMING CONTINUES UNTIL THE WORD "STOP!").

READER 2: And he began to travel! He travelled pitter patter, pitter patter, around the face of the cloud. Pitter patter, pitter patter, he ran. The cloud slowly drifted to the edge of the world where the wind lives. The king ran, pitter patter, pitter patter, right to the edge of the cloud, and there he decided to STOP!

(READERS PICK UP FOLDERS AND THE READING CONTINUES).

READER 3: The King Rat saw the wind rushing past them at an impossibly high speed. But the king was determined! He jumped upon the back of the speeding wind. Then, he scurried pitter patter, pitter patter to the front of the racing wind, bent down, and looked the wind right in the eye.

(AGAIN, MIME KINGS JOURNEY WITH THE ALREADY ESTABLISHED FINGER PLAY OR ASK READER ONE TO MIME SCENE FROM BEHIND MUSIC STAND).

READER 2: The king couldn't bow, because his head was already low. But the wind looked up and shouted.