



The pied piper of Hamelin

Once upon a time there was a small town called Hamelin, set in a beautiful valley among green mountains and clear rivers. Its people were welcoming, but they had a serious problem: their streets and houses were full of rats.

The rats ran everywhere, ate the food, damaged clothes and made noise all night. The townspeople tried every solution they could think of, but nothing worked. Little by little, they began to lose hope.

One sunny day, a stranger arrived. He was tall and thin, with a long beard, a pointed hat and a flute hanging at his side. He stood in the square and introduced himself as a magical piper.

"I have heard about your problem," he announced. "I can lead the rats away, but I must receive a fair reward in return."

Eager for a solution, the townspeople agreed.

"Free us from the rats and we will pay you what we have promised," they said.

The piper smiled, lifted his flute and began to play an enchanting melody. As the music travelled along the streets, the rats came out of



their hiding places and followed him as if in a dream.

He walked through the town and led them to a nearby river. There they went into the water and disappeared without a trace. Hamelin filled with celebrations. At last the rats were gone!

A broken promise

But when the piper returned to collect his reward, the townspeople changed their minds.

“Now that the rats have gone, why should we pay you?” they asked.

Hurt and disappointed by their betrayal, the piper warned them:

“If you do not keep your word, you will lose something you love very dearly.”

That night, while the town slept, he played a different tune, soft and mysterious. The children woke and came outside to follow him. He led them towards a mountain, far from their homes.

At dawn, the adults discovered with horror that the children were missing. They hurried from place to place, searching everywhere, but could not find them.

Meanwhile, the children followed the piper through enchanted woods and flower-filled fields. In this version of the tale, they reached a wonderful world where animals spoke, trees sang and flowers danced.

They had adventures there and listened as the musician spoke about caring for nature, valuing friendship and keeping promises. Yet they also began to miss their families. Seeing their sadness, the piper



understood that they should return.

Returning to Hamelin

Full of regret, the townspeople had gathered the promised reward. They travelled to the mountain and found the piper with the children.

With tears in their eyes, they apologised and gave him the payment they had agreed. The musician accepted their apology, and the children returned to the relieved embraces of their families.

From that day on, the people of Hamelin tried hard to keep their word. The piper left, but the memory of his music stayed with them.

This retelling with a happy ending invites us to talk about honesty and the consequences of breaking a promise. Giving our word means taking responsibility, and admitting a mistake is the first step towards putting it right.