

Writer's Ideas and Craft

(a) Prediction

Read to the end of the last **full** paragraph on page 10: "...get aa that cheese somehow"
Discuss in groups where you think the story will go fae here!

(b) Creation of Character

Katey : In the story, the character of Katey, is quite well developed. In other words, we are given a fairly full picture of the sort of person she is. By looking closely particularly at pages 6 to 11, find evidence to back up each of these descriptions of her.

Proud	Cheeky	Clever	Confident
Brave	Reliable	Bossy	Speaks her Mind

(c) The Rat King

Look closely at the last paragraph of page 7 (it ends on page 8). In the form of **quotes** write down how the writer describes the Rat King

fingers	thin, cauld, wee raspy hairs on them
legs	
height	
hair	
fizz (face)	
eyes	
tail	
teeth	

Now look closely at the descriptions. Clearly the writer wants to create the Rat King as a sinister, unattractive character. Discuss which ideas, if any, are unattractive in each of the descriptions you have quoted.

(a) **Adjectives** : words which are used to describe nouns. Go through the list of quotes and find six adjectives. What do adjectives add to a piece of writing?

(b) **Similes** : Look at the descriptions of the fizz (face), the tail and the teeth. In each of these descriptions the writer is comparing the main idea to another idea to help the reader get a clearer picture. The whiskers are compared to “black knittin needles”. Why? What could whiskers and black knittin needles have in common? The colour? The thickness? The sharpness? Is it a better description than, say, “the whiskers were black, thick and pointy”? Why?

Object	Compared to	Things in Common
whiskers	black knittin needles	colour thickness sharpness

Imaginative Writing

A Strange Creature

Just as W N Herbert created the Rat King you are going to create a weird creature and write a vivid description of it. Your beast might be made up of parts of a variety of familiar animals, or it may be the product of your wild imagination.

Here's how you could go about it :

Stage 1 Draw and colour in your imaginary beast.

Stage 2 Label the different parts of the body that you'll need to describe.

Stage 3 Make some notes under the following headings:

- how it communicates
- how it moves and the noises it makes when it moves
- other noises it makes
- what it eats
- what it smells like
- personality
- likes / dislikes
- what it bides
- special features

Stage 4 Write a detailed description of your beast. It might be helpful to imagine that you've just come face tae face with it. Most importantly, make the description really vivid, so that the reader feels that he can see and hear and smell it!!! (Remember adjectives and similes.)

Stage 5 When you think you've finished, read it carefully. Have you included **all** your ideas? Tick each part of the drawing and all the notes that you prepared if you've included them.

Stage 6 Give your piece of writing to someone else to read. They could try drawing what they think your creature looks like from your description.

Stage 7 Discuss what needs to be changed/ added to make the description even more vivid.

Imaginative Writing : Extension

- (a) Try creating a setting for your beast to live in. It could be magical, or dreich, or spooky, or ??
Again, concentrate on detail : colours, sights, sounds, smells etc.
- (b) Like Katey, imagine ye're oot fer a daunder yin day when ye come across yer beast! Make up a story about whit happens. Try tae include yer ideas oan the beast's personality and appearance, as well as the setting.

Talking in Groups

The Cheesman (bottom of p11 - top of p12)

It's funny tae think that the wee man who sells cheese at the supermarket has some strange, magical powers. There's a lot more tae him than meets the eye! However, mibbe there are some clues that he's a **wee** bit different. Can you find any in the way that he's described or the way that he behaves?

Also, his strange powers and knowledge **do** have something to do with his job - in the story onyway! He sells cheese; rats like cheese (in the story); he kens about rats and cheese.

Who's the least likely person you ken for a "hero" of a story? Who'd be least likely to save-the-day? Agree on someone you all ken and work out their secret life. Then see if you can come up with a storyline in which this person plays an important part.

Mibbe you'd like to write the story!