

# Scratch Rat Scratch

Name .....

Date .....

## Student Response

My score for this book is ...../10.

It was a ..... book.

### 1. Write a Poem

Scratch, scr....., scr..... .

A ..... is in our bin.

Scream, scream, scr.....!

I can not look in the ..... .

Frown, frown, frown.

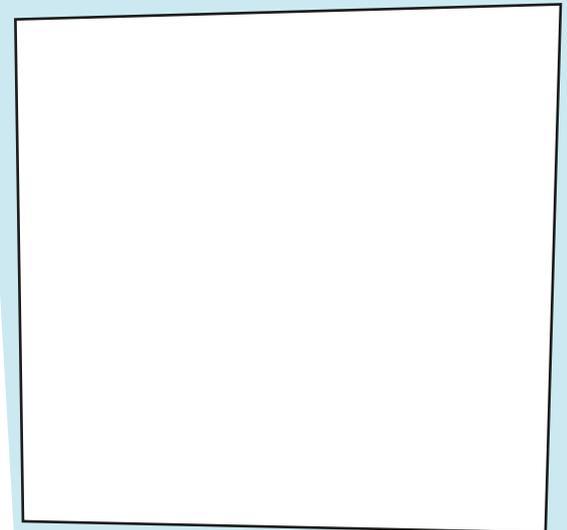
Th..... rat is not a mouse.

Run, ....., run,

Right now into th... house!



### 2. Draw a big rat scratching in a bin.



### 3. Read, cover, spell!

Read	Cover	Spell
and	 nd	.....
bin	 in	.....
get	 et	.....
in	 n	.....
look	 ook	.....
run	 an	.....
runs	 ans	.....
rat	 at	.....
that	 hat	.....
the	e	.....



You've finished!  
What will you read next?

Grusilda



Inside Front Cover: Glossary

Title Page: Story Introduction

## Teaching Ideas

### Scratch Rat Scratch

Level 6 Fiction – Narrative Verse

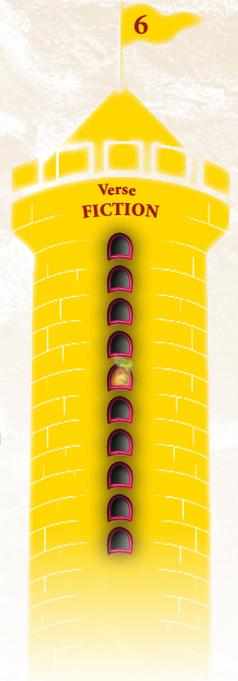
**Curriculum Topics:** English; Sustainability; Health; Biological Sciences.

**Book Synopsis:** A fun verse about a family that discovers a big rat inside their compost bin, which causes them to scream and run away from the rat.

**Non-High Frequency Words:** All words are decodable and supported by clear images.

**High Frequency Words:** *Scratch Rat Scratch* has an above average percentage of high frequency words.

**Comprehension:** The Teaching Unit's focus is on seven areas of comprehension – connection, inference, importance, questioning, summarising, synthesis and visual. We advise teachers to tailor literal comprehension questions for each group.



#### Page 2

##### Narrative Verse – Orientation

Introduce a character, place and purpose.

##### Language Features

Possession: Dad's night

Repeated words: peel

Words starting with "p": peel, potatoes

##### Comprehension – Inference, Visual

Why might Dad be peeling the potatoes?

Is he peeling the potatoes safely? Why?

##### Literature, Health and Arts Activity

Discuss some health benefits of cooking potatoes with their skin on. Students draw two potatoes – one peeled and one unpeeled. Write a caption.



Peel, potatoes, peel.  
It is Dad's night to cook.

Scrape, scrape, in the bin.  
A rat pops up to look.

#### Page 3

##### Narrative Verse – an Event

Dad puts the potato peel into the bin, but does not see the rat.

##### Language Features

Repeated words: scrape

Revise words starting with "p": peel, potatoes ("pops" new word)

Rhyming words: in, bin

##### Comprehension – Visual, Connection

Why didn't Dad see the rat? If you were the rat, explain why you didn't scare Dad.

##### Literature, Arts, and Health and Safety Activity

Discuss the reasons for Dad scraping the peels away from his body. Students draw a rat smiling at Dad from inside the bin.



#### Pages 4 and 5

##### Narrative Verse – Complication

Mum gets a fright and screams upon seeing the rat.

##### Language Features

Rhyming words: fright, might

Words starting with "scr": scratch, scream

Words ending with "s": looks, gets, runs

##### Comprehension – Visual, Inference, Synthesis

Do you think Mum has seen a rat in the bin before? Why? If the rat was a talking character, what might it say? How might it speak to Mum?

##### Literature and Arts Activity

Discuss what Mum might be screaming on page 4. Students draw Mum screaming.

Write a speech bubble, e.g. "A rat is in the bin."



Scratch, rat, scratch.  
Mum looks and gets a fright.

Scream, Mum, scream.  
She runs with all her might.



The narrative continues with Mum retelling the complication to Dad. Dad shouldn't laugh!



Laugh, Dad, laugh.  
"It may be just a mouse."

Frown, Mum, frown.  
"It's bigger than this house!"

### Pages 6 and 7

#### Narrative Verse – an Event

Mum explains why she is so upset to Dad.

#### Language Features

Punctuation: speech and exclamation marks

Repeated words: laugh, frown

Rhyming words: mouse, house

#### Comprehension – Synthesise, Visual

Why do you think Dad doesn't believe Mum?

What's another way he could have reacted?

#### Literature and Mathematics Activity

Imagine the rat was bigger than the house.

Students draw a rat that's bigger than a house.

The narrative ends. I love this ending because it is really funny seeing Dad running away from the rat!



Quick, Dad, quick!  
Get that rat right now.

"No, no, no!" he says.  
"It's bigger than a cow!"

### Page 8

#### Narrative Verse – Resolution and Coda

The rat problem is not resolved immediately. Instead, Dad runs away in fright when he discovers the rat is bigger than he thought.

#### Language Features

Repeated words: no, quick

Revise punctuation: speech and exclamation marks

Rhyming words: now, cow

#### Comprehension – Connection, Synthesise

Is that how you expected the verse to end? What lesson did Dad learn? What might he do next time Mum is upset about something?

#### Literature and Arts Activity

Students form groups of three and dramatise the verse.



### SCIENCE

#### Rats or Rattus?

The scientific name for rats is *Rattus*. Rats are scavengers with a good sense of smell, taste and memory! They have strong teeth that can grow up to 10 centimetres each year.

## Student Activity Group Activity

Student activity sheet  
(free download/PDF)



### Chart: "Our Rat Verse"

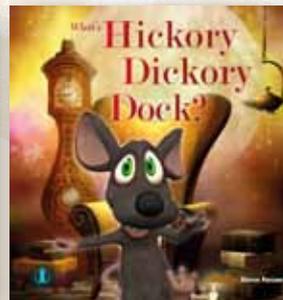
Students draw a sequence of pictures to accompany the verse, or an adaptation of it – by changing character names.



Check out these other books for projects on mice and pests.



**Ricketty Tickety Tock**  
Level 9: Fiction,  
Verse



**Hickory Dickory Dock**  
Level 9: Non-fiction,  
Explanation



**A Sandwich for a Cockroach**  
Level 10: Fiction,  
Verse



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