STAGE 2

The Pied Piper

Many years ago, there was a piper. He grew up in a small town in Germany and often wore clothes with a checkered pattern. This pattern is often called pied, and so he became known as the Pied Piper. For many years, he travelled the country. It was said that his flute was magical and would attract any thing that heard it.

Soon he became known as a famous rat catcher. Towns and villages would pay him handsomely to use his flute to lead all of the rats away. Nobody ever asked where he took the rats. Back then, people were worried about the plague. They were just glad to see the end of the rats. Nor did they ask what else his pipe could be used to lure away.

One day, the people of Hamlin woke up to find that there were rats everywhere. They were on the walls in the park. They were in the cellars. They were scurrying along the roof of the town hall. The mayor wouldn't stand for it. He sent out a message to the Pied Piper and offered to pay him whatever he wanted to rid the town of the pests.

Sure enough, the piper soon arrived and spoke to the mayor. "It will cost you one hundred gold pieces."

"Of course," said the mayor happily. "We will pay whatever it takes."

RETRIEVAL FOCUS

1. In which country did the piper grow up?
2. What type of pattern is also called "pied"?
3. What job was the Pied Piper famous for?
4. How much money did the Pied Piper want from the mayor?
5. Find two places that the people found rats.

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That night, the Pied Piper played a magical tune on his instrument. The people heard the melody playing softly and slept peacefully. They awoke to find the town completely free of rats.

At lunchtime, the piper made his way to the mayor and asked for his payment. Now that the rats were gone, the mayor didn't want to spend so much money. He refused. The piper went away. He was very cross.

He returned to the mayor two more times that day. Each time he asked for his payment. Each time the mayor sent him away. That night, the piper played his tune once more. This time, it wasn't the rats who followed him out of the city. It was the town's children.

The following day, the Pied Piper went to see the mayor. This time he handed over one hundred gold pieces. True to his word, the piper returned each and every child unharmed.

VIPERS QUESTIONS

V What word means "to tempt them"?

V Find the paragraph that starts "That night..." Find a word that means the same as "tune".

I Why was the Pied Piper cross?

S What did the Pied Piper do to try to get his money in the end?

P What do you think the mayor did the next time they had rats?

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Answers:

1. Germany
2. Checkered
3. Being a rat catcher
4. One hundred gold pieces
5. The park, the cellars and the town hall

V: Lure

V: Melody

I: The mayor wouldn't pay

S: Stole the children

P: Any prediction based around the idea of paying on time.

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