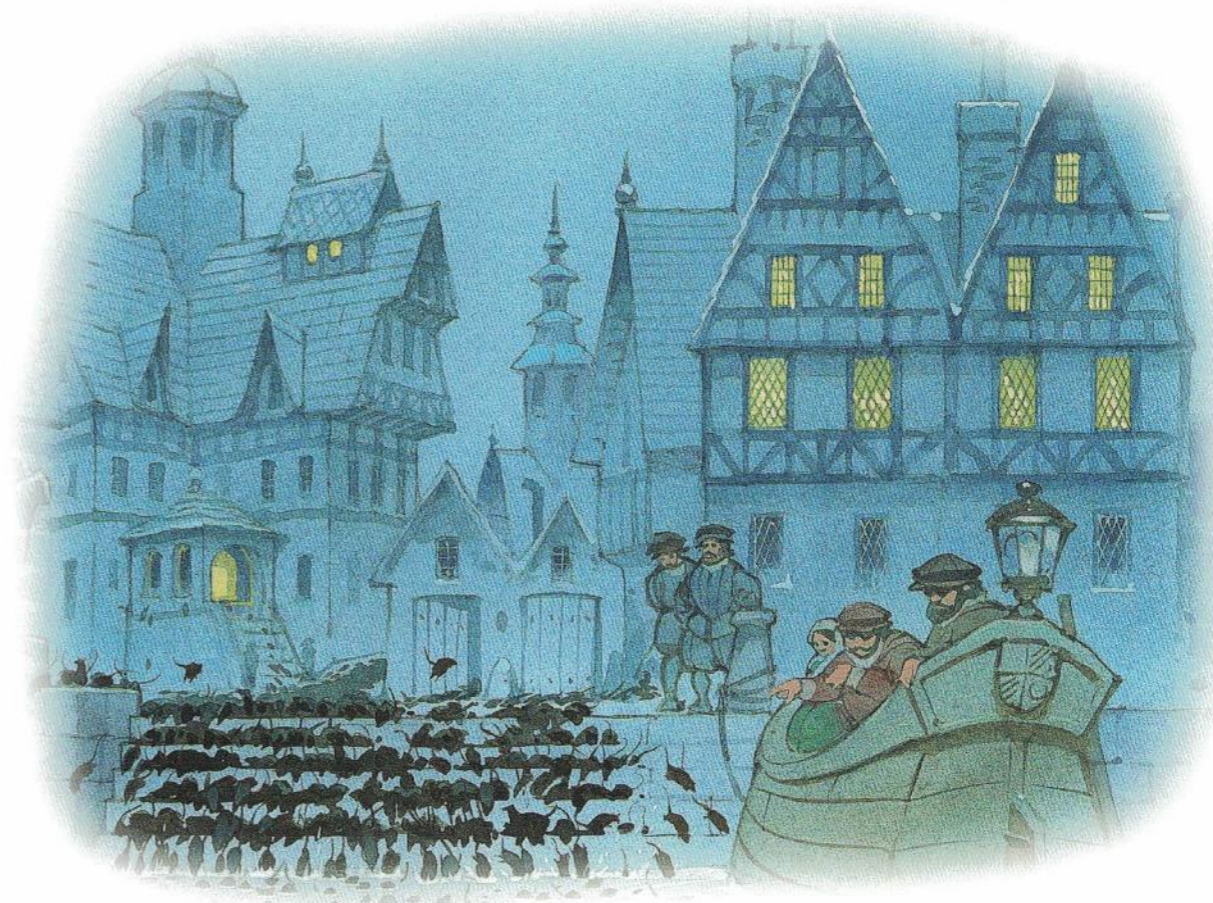




The rats came out of all the houses in Hamelin. More and more and more of them came out through the windows and under the doors until there was a sea of rats everywhere. Soon there were hundreds and hundreds of rats in the street. They all followed the Pied Piper.

The Pied Piper played and played until it was very late and quite dark in the street. In the houses, the people of Hamelin lit their candles and looked everywhere for rats. Not one person could find a rat anywhere. They were all in the street.



'But how will you kill the rats?' asked the people. 'Be patient, you'll see,' said the Pied Piper.