

## Whole-class Guided Reading

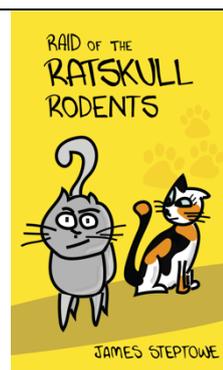
Chapter 1 – *Raid of the Ratskull Rodents* (can be downloaded from [www.jamessteptowe.com](http://www.jamessteptowe.com) for free)

### Reading domains covered

*2a – word meanings in context*

*2b – retrieve and record information*

*2d – make inferences from the text*



### Intro

Show image of the front cover (shown above) and discuss some of the following questions:

- What can we learn from the front cover?
- What sort of characters do the cats look like?
- Does the title give us any information?
- What does the word 'Raid' mean? What are Rodents?

*Optional: complete the cover predictor activity (see attached)*

### Vocab warm up

Talk to the children about the footnotes and how on certain pages, words and phrases are in bold and then highlighted at the bottom. Put the following words on the board:

*pesky*

*shaggy*

*shrill*

*despised*

*mischievous*

Does anyone think they know what these words mean? Discuss, then tell them to keep a look out for them in the text.

Read Chapter 1 together as a class.

Discuss the meanings of the words above. Are there any other words in the chapter we are unsure about? Discuss and talk about using the context of a sentence to help work out word meaning.

**Raid of the Ratskull Rodents is out now!**  
**Paper back (£7.99) ISBN: 978-1-9160966-0-8**  
**eBook (£2.99) ISBN: 978-1-9160966-1-5**  
**[www.jamessteptowe.com](http://www.jamessteptowe.com)**

## Main

Retrieval – answer these with a partner then come up with your own retrieval question from chapter 1

1. How old is Kaiden?
2. What superhero does Kaiden love?
3. Where is Gus' favourite place to be scratched?
4. What goes missing for Kaiden?

**Share any self-made retrieval questions**

Inference - answer these with a partner then come up with your own retrieval question from chapter 1

1. How would you describe Gus and Ember's relationship at the start of the story? Back up your answer with evidence.
2. Gus is a very loyal cat to Kaiden. Find three bits of evidence to support this statement.
3. Kaiden is so upset at the end of the chapter because...
  - a) He needs the Kara for his presentation
  - b) There is another reason why he's so upset

Choose an answer and support it.

**Share any self-made inference questions**

## Final thinker

We've only just met the two cats in the story, Gus and Ember, but if you were asked to describe one of them, using only three words, what words would you use?

## Conclusion

Discuss any predictions for the next chapter and or rest of the story.

*Optional follow up: there is a writing task which could be done after this initial lesson for chapter 1 at the end of this document.*

If you enjoyed this lesson please let me know at [hello@jamessteptowe.com](mailto:hello@jamessteptowe.com) and don't forget to sign up for my mailing list to get notifications of when I post new resources or events for my book.

I am available for author visits this Autumn term and am always happy to be contacted by schools for postcards, letters or general writing/author questions, so please feel to get in touch.

**And don't forget that my book is now available from Amazon (paperback and eBook), Waterstones, can be ordered into bookshops and is available to order wholesale through distributors such as Bertrams and Gardners.**

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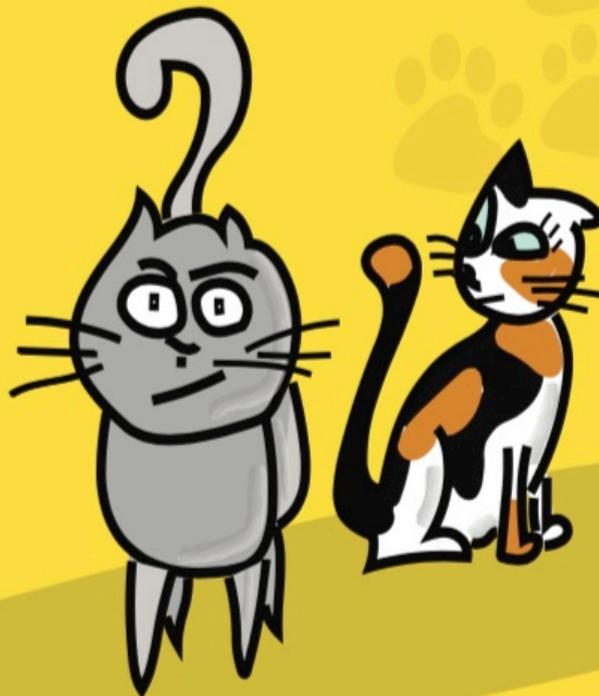
Book Cover predictor

What type of story do you think this will be?

RAID OF THE  
RATSKULL  
RODENTS

What type of readers do you think it's aimed at?

What stands out for you in the cover?



Look at the two cats on the front. What type of characters do you predict they will be?

Write a prediction for the story based on this cover.

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**Writing activity - Imagine you lost something that was precious to you**

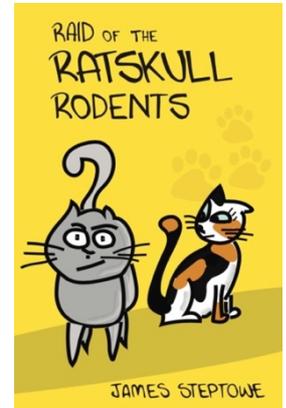
In *Raid of the Ratskull Rodents* Gus the cat has to try and find something precious for his beloved owner.

*IMAGINE* that you are in Gus' paws, but this time YOU have lost something precious; what would you do?

Think about...

- How would you feel?
- Who would you tell?
- Would you get in trouble for losing it?
- Where would you start looking?
- Would you need an outfit to help you find it?

You could write a diary entry or letter to get your feelings out.



Make some notes first: planning is **such** an important part of any writing.

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