



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## RATS

If you want to keep rats out of your house, there are a number of important things to remember.

First, pet food and pet dishes should be removed. When your pet is finished eating, take the dish away. Pet dishes that are outside attract rats. If you have to leave pet dishes outside, make sure they are properly sanitized.

Second, all trash should be put inside trashcans. Metal and heavy plastic cans are good places for trash. Make sure to close the lid. Trash should never be left in the yard. Remember to pick it up right away. Put it in the can and close the lid tightly. Trash blowing around the yard will bring unwanted furry creatures to visit.

Keep bird feeders on raised stands. Rats can eat birdseed that is close to the ground. Also, pile up any pieces of wood. Wood that is stacked will keep rats from building a nest. It should be stacked at least 18 inches above the ground. Put away pipes. These are places for rats to crawl in and out of and where they may build nests.

Last, keep windows closed tightly. Make sure windowpanes are unbroken. Rats love to crawl in cracked, broken windows. If they get in, it is hard to get them out. They will dig through everything and get into anything.

Your neighborhood can be rat free if you just follow these simple steps.

### STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is this passage teaching us?
  - how to keep rats out of our yard and homes if we live in a neighborhood
  - how to keep rats out of our yard and homes if we live in a foreign country
  - how to keep rats out of our yard and homes if we live on the moon
  - how to keep rats out of our yard and homes if we live in Texas
2. Why is it important to take the pet dish inside when your pet is finished eating?
  - Pet food spoils and smells.
  - The dish could break outside.
  - It isn't important.
  - Rats will come to eat pet food.
3. In the text, "properly sanitized" means . . .
  - organized.
  - paid for.
  - cleaned.
  - dirty.
4. What information could be added to the text above?
  - Bird feeders may be placed on the ground.
  - Remove all cans or pet bowls that may catch the rain. Rats drink rainwater.
  - Leave yards full of rubbish and garbage piles.
  - Cracked or broken windows should not be replaced for two months.