

BIG CHEESE *(turns to audience, folding arms severely)* Discipline! That's what they need. *(hands on hips)* What do they need?

AUDIENCE Discipline!

BIG CHEESE *(cupping ear)* I said what do they need?

AUDIENCE *(louder)* Discipline!

BIG CHEESE *(smoothly, with a big smile)* Yes! My point exactly. And now I'll show you how it's done. *(turns round sharply)* Company... March!

*[BIG CHEESE & RATS march on the spot.]*

Hup, 2, 3, 4! Hup, 2, 3, 4!  
 Keep it up, 2, 3, 4! Keep it up, 2, 3, 4!  
 Keep going! Pick those feet up! Come on!

*[While they continue to march on the spot, BIG CHEESE goes into the leader-response cadence when ready.]*

Be prepared to do this a few times if the audience is un-responsive!

**THE RAT PACK (unaccompanied)** ( ⦿ Track 4 )

Big Cheese WE ARE FEARLESS, CHAMPION RATS  
 Rats WE ARE FEARLESS, CHAMPION RATS  
 Big Cheese WE AIN'T SCARED OF DOGS OR CATS.  
 Rats WE AIN'T SCARED OF DOGS OR CATS.

Big Cheese WHEN WE EAT YOUR SMELLY CHEESE  
 Rats WHEN WE EAT YOUR SMELLY CHEESE  
 Big Cheese WE LEAVE GERMS THAT SPREAD DISEASE!  
 Rats WE LEAVE GERMS THAT SPREAD DISEASE!  
 Big Cheese DON'T SAY THANK YOU, DON'T SAY PLEASE!  
 Rats DON'T SAY THANK YOU, DON'T SAY PLEASE!  
 Big Cheese WIPE YER NOSES ON YER SLEEVES.  
 Rats WIPE YER NOSES ON YER SLEEVES.

*[Wipe noses with slurping sound, first with left arm then with right.]*

Big Cheese LISTEN UP TO LEADER RAT.  
 Rats LISTEN UP TO LEADER RAT.  
 Big Cheese KEEPIN' FIT AND FIGHTIN' FAT.  
 Rats KEEPIN' FIT AND FIGHTIN' FAT.

BIG CHEESE Left... Left... Left, right, left! Left... Left... Left, right, left!  
 Company... Halt!

*[RATS halt raggedly, bumping into each other. PETER enters.]*

Human alert! Assume natural positions.

*[RATS drop to all fours, scampering to sides and upstage.]*

PETER *(sighing)* I guess the others will be back soon.

*[RAT 1 goes to sniff around PETER, who shoos him away.]*

Ugh! Get lost, you horrible thing! *(sits on the floor)* Oh, here they are...

*[CHILDREN begin to enter. BRUNO speaks over the music.]*

**WELCOME TO HAMELIN - incidental** ( ⦿ Track 5 / 27 )

### SCENE 3 The Town Square

BRUNO (pointing at PETER) There he is!

*[PETER folds his arms, sulking. BRUNO goes to sit with him, mimes saying sorry they left him behind. ALVIN goes to sit upstage, hunched over as if ill. Meanwhile, ASTRID organises the rest of the CHILDREN to sit in pairs, Centre, for the clapping game. When the music stops she delivers her line.]*

ASTRID Let's do it all together!

*[CHILDREN play clapping game in pairs, using this rhyme.]*

CHILDREN 1 rat, 2 rats, 3 rats, 4,  
5 rats, 6 rats, 7 rats more.  
More and more and more and more!  
Hamelin's got them by the score!

*[MR BRÜMHANDEL enters, sweeps. CITIZENS enter - MR & MRS BRANDT with biscuits - all miming conversation in twos.]*

ASTRID Faster!

CHILDREN 1 rat, 2 rats, 3 rats, 4,  
5 rats, 6 rats, 7 rats more.  
More and more and more and more!  
Hamelin's got them by the score!

*[While MR AMSEL speaks, extra CHILDREN casually move aside or upstage, leaving only named children sitting Centre.]*

MR AMSEL (calling) Hey, you kids, why isn't Alvin with you?

ASTRID I don't know...

AXEL He was here a minute ago... (calling) Alvin? Where are you?

ALVIN (groaning) I'm over here. I don't feel too good.

*[As MRS AMSEL speaks, MR & MRS BRANDT open biscuits. BRUNO goes to get one. The others also get up and join 'parents'.]*

MRS AMSEL Really? (bustles over to ALVIN, feels forehead) Oh nonsense, you're fine.  
(pulls him up briskly) Come on.

*[MRS AMSEL takes ALVIN back to join MR AMSEL, ASTRID & AXEL. Meanwhile, BRUNO moves downstage, eating biscuit.]*

BRUNO (pulling a face) Eurgh, this biscuit's stale. (throws biscuit on ground)

MR BRÜMHANDEL (pointing at BRUNO) Hey, you! Pick that up and put it in the bin!

BRUNO Me? But that's your job!

[CHILDREN point & laugh as they watch. RAT 1 heads for the dropped biscuit & mimes eating it.]

MR BRÜMHANDEL (waving broom at BRUNO) Ya cheeky brat!  
[Spots CHILDREN laughing at him and turns on them.]  
(wagging finger) It's no laughing matter! Behave yourselves!

CHILDREN (sniggering) Yes Mr Brümhandel! (laugh)

[MR BRÜMHANDEL turns back, notices RAT 1 with biscuit.]

MR BRÜMHANDEL (chasing RAT 1 away with broom) Get away with ya!  
(shakes head, resuming sweeping) It's no wonder we have rats.  
Rubbish 'n' rats go hand in hand. (sighs, leans on broom)  
I dunno... What do they teach kids in school these days?

[BESS creeps up behind MR BRÜMHANDEL with biscuit.  
BRUNO & others point & laugh as they watch.]

BESS (taps his shoulder cheekily) Mr Brümhandel? I picked up this for you!  
(drops it blatantly) Oops! How did that happen? (runs back to 'parents')

MR BRÜMHANDEL (enraged) Oi! Do you do that at home? Come back here!  
[He notices MR & MRS BRANDT as they drop biscuit.]  
(to audience) Mind you, it's no wonder that girl's a disgrace.  
(points at MR & MRS BRANDT) Look at her parents!  
See what I mean? Hamelin's one big health hazard.  
(wagging finger) Mark my words, there's trouble ahead.

### **TROUBLE AHEAD (Short) – incidental (☉ Track 6 / 28)**

[MR BRÜMHANDEL sweeps furiously. RATS move downstage as CHILDREN & CITIZENS move upstage. 'Easy Pickin's' should be performed with RATS standing upright. Plenty of movement, finger clicks, a few rats 'walking the square', etc.]

BIG CHEESE I love Hamelin!

RAT 1 Me too.

### **EASY PICKIN'S**

**(☉ Track 7 / 29)**

**Big Cheese** The garbage round here is great!

**Rats** (thumbs up) And so easy to find!

**Rats** EASY PICKIN'S! **Big Cheese / Rat 1** Eee-asy pickin's!

**Rats** EASY PICKIN'S! **Big Cheese / Rat 1** (slow drawl) Yeah!

**Rats** EASY PICKIN'S HERE IN GOOD OLD HAMELIN TOWN!

**Big Cheese / Rat 1** We keep comin' back for more!

**Rats** THERE'S SO MUCH TO EAT  
RIGHT HERE ON THE STREET  
IN HAMELIN!

Rub bellies Point to ground Sweep arms
--

[RATS intermingle with CITIZENS, heading upstage and to sides.  
MR BRÜMHANDEL goes downstage. CITIZENS 1 & 2 exit.]

**All** EASY PICKIN'S!      **Citizens Group 1**    There's rats everywhere!  
**All** EASY PICKIN'S!      **Citizens Group 2**    Look at them! Eurgh!  
**All** EASY PICKIN'S HERE IN GOOD OLD HAMELIN TOWN!

**Mr Brümhandel**    I said there'd be trouble...

*[MR BRÜMHANDEL exits, sweeping.]*

**All** THERE'S SO MUCH TO EAT  
RIGHT HERE ON THE STREET  
IN HAMELIN!

Rub bellies Point to ground Sweep arms
--

*[AMSEL family return. ALL sing next section as one, whether RATS or CITIZENS.]*

COME ON DOWN TO HAMELIN TOWN,  
MORNING, NOON OR NIGHT.  
COME ON DOWN AND HANG AROUND  
WHEN YOU'RE IN THE MOOD  
AND HAVE THE APPETITE.

Beckon Click on off-beat Click on off-beat  Rub tummies
---

EASY PICKIN'S!  
EASY PICKIN'S!  
EASY PICKIN'S HERE IN GOOD OLD HAMELIN TOWN!  
THERE'S SO MUCH TO EAT  
RIGHT HERE ON THE STREET  
IN HAMELIN!

*[RATS form a high-kicking chorus line for last section.]*

**Rats** THIS WHOLE TOWN'S A RAT CAFÉ!  
**All** EASY PICKIN'S COMIN' YOUR WAY!  
*(mute trumpet style)* MWA-MWA-MWA-MWA-MWAH!  
**Rats** EASY PICKIN'S COMIN' YOUR WAY!  
*(mute trumpet style)* MWA-MWA-MWA-MWA-MWAH!  
**All** EASY PICKIN'S COMIN' YOUR WAY!  
**Rats** OH YEAH!

RATS finish with jazz hands
--------------------------------

**BIG CHEESE**      *(military style)* Company... *(RATS stand to attention sharply)* Scavenge!

*[RATS drop to all fours and 'scavenge' ad lib during following dialogue. AXEL joins BRUNO, BESS joins ASTRID. MR & MRS AMSEL take ALVIN to D/stage Right.]*

**ALVIN**      *(arms wrapped around himself)* Mum, I just want to sleep...

**MRS AMSEL**      Don't be so lazy, Alvin. Go and play like all the others. *(shoos him away)*

*[ALVIN goes and sits miserably, Downstage Left. PETER'S MOTHER joins MR & MRS AMSEL.]*

**MR AMSEL**      These rats are beginning to take over.

**MR BRANDT**      Yeah, someone ought to do something about them.

*[As PETER'S MOTHER speaks, MR & MRS BRANDT cross to join them.]*

**PETER'S MOTHER**      Where's Brümhandel? He's supposed to keep Hamelin clean!

**MRS BRANDT**      It's his fault we've got rats!