

# The Two Rats

They were about the same size and looked much alike. They were great friends.

One was a wise, old rat and the other was a young rat, who thought that he was wise.

The wise, old rat was called Crafty and the young rat was called Simple. Their home was in Farmer Bryden's cellar. One night, about twelve o'clock, Crafty and Simple started out together to see what they could find. Having poked into every corner of Farmer Bryden's cellar, without getting anything better than raw potatoes, they made their way upstairs. Just at the top of the stairs, they came upon a cage in which there was a most tempting bit of cheese. The door of the cage was open.

"Here's a feast," said Simple, and he was about to dart into the cage.

"Stop, my young friend," said Crafty, sitting bolt upright on his back legs. "That cheese has been put there on purpose for us."

"Well, then, why shouldn't we take it?" said Simple.

"Take my advice," said Crafty, "and leave the cheese alone."



1. ...he was about to **dart** into the cage...

Which word means the same as 'dart'?

throw

roll

run

point



2. Why do you think Crafty tells Simple to 'leave the cheese alone'?

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3. What do you think Simple will do next?

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4. Number the events from the story from 1 to 5 in the order they occur.  
The first one has been done for you.

Crafty and Simple got to the top of the stairs.

The two rats are introduced.

Simple started to go towards the cheese.

The rats found raw potatoes.

Crafty told Simple to stop.



# The Two Rats Answers

1. ...he was about to **dart** into the cage...

Which word means the same as 'dart'?

throw

roll

run

point

2. Why do you think Crafty tells Simple to 'leave the cheese alone'?

**Accept any reasonable answers relating to the following themes:**

- **Crafty was old and wise – he may have seen this before and knows it's a trap.**
- **Crafty was unsure if it was safe to take the cheese.**
- **Crafty wanted to sneak back for the cheese on his own later.**

3. What do you think Simple will do next?

**Accept any reasonable prediction about what Simple may do next, e.g.:**

- **Simple will sneak back for the cheese later.**
- **Simple and Crafty will leave the cheese alone.**
- **Simple will not listen to Crafty and try to get the cheese anyway.**

4. Number the events from the story from 1 to 5 in the order they occur. The first one has been done for you.

**3**

Crafty and Simple got to the top of the stairs.

**1**

The two rats are introduced.

**4**

Simple started to go towards the cheese.

**2**

The rats found raw potatoes.

**5**

Crafty told Simple to stop.