

## The Rat and the Elephant

Some people say that rats are ugly creatures. When they see a rat running along, they go ee-yuck! Well I don't know about you, but I've always thought that this was rather rude. Rats can have hurt feelings too you know! In any case, when I catch sight of my reflection in a stream, I think I'm rather cute.

**Question 1:**

Who is the narrator in the story?

*Respond here:*

**Question 2:**

What does the narrator think of himself?

*Respond here:*

Just recently, I was trotting along the King's Highway, in my sweet little way, when I heard a great commotion on the road up ahead. Who or what is causing all that fuss? I wondered.

When I got closer, I saw the King himself, riding along on top of a great fat lump of an elephant. The crowd of onlookers were ooo-ing and aah-ing full of admiration for that stupid beast with a nose that's far too big for her face. She's much uglier than me, I thought. So I started to spring up and down and say: "Hey everyone! Why not look at me? I'm such a cutie-pie! I could join the King's household and be a royal rat, if only there was any justice in the world."

**Question 3:**

What was making the commotion in the road?

*Respond here:*

**Question 4:**

What does the rat think of the elephant?

*Respond here:*

At first, nobody noticed me. They were all too busy looking at that stupid elephant. Little did I know that riding behind the elephant in a carriage, was the princess, and she was holding a beastly cat in her arms. When he caught sight of me, the cat leapt out of the carriage and started to chase me. I had to run for my life, and popped down a hole just in time before the cat could eat me up.

Now I've changed my mind about wanting people to notice me and admire me. I've decided that sometimes, it's far better not to draw attention to yourself, but just to get on quietly with your own business.

**Question 5:**

What did the rat learn?

*Respond here:*

---