

Name :

Date :

## THE MOUSE TOWER

Long ago in Germany there lived a wicked ruler called Hatto. He was very cruel to his people, and made them pay high taxes that he could be rich. One year, there was a very bad harvest in the surrounding country, and the shortage of food was made worse because Hatto had bought all the previous year's corn. The unhappy people begged him to lower the price of the corn in his storehouse, but it was in vain. His advisers begged him to have pity, but he refused.

One day a crowd of hungry beggars came to Hatto's palace crying for food. Hatto and his guests were just sitting down to a fine feast and Hatto told them he thought it would be a good thing to get rid of these beggars altogether. So when the ragged crowd of men, women and children came in and threw themselves at his feet, he greeted them with smile and promised them corn. They were led outside the town to a barn, where each one was to receive as much corn as he wished. They hurried on, full of gratitude, but when they were all in the barn Hatto ordered the doors to be locked and the barn to be set on fire. The screams of the poor people were terrible, and could be heard even in the ruler's palace. "Listen!" cried Hatto. "The mice are squeaking in the corn."

Suddenly, thousands of mice came out of the burning barn. They ran to the palace and filled every room and corner. The more they were killed, the more they multiplied. Hatto was frightened. He realized that this was God's punishment, so he fled from the town and got into a boat hoping to escape to a tower that he had built in the middle of the river. But the mice swam after him in thousands, and when he reached the tower the mice followed him. They tore holes in the door with their sharp teeth, and at last reached him. The cruel man was eaten by the mice. The tower still stands in the middle of the River Rhine in Germany, and people call it the Mouse-Tower.

### Answer The Question

1. What is the lesson that the writer wants you to understand from this story?

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2. Underline the most important information in each paragraph.

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3. Write a summary. Tell what is most important.

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