The Amazing Maurice and His Educated Rodents

by Terry Pratchett

Book Report by Trey Butler - March 19, 2014
My Book Report

This book is about a cat named Maurice and tons of rats that figure out how rats and humans could work together so rats and humans would not have to fight each other. This story comes from the story of the Pied Piper, but in this story, it’s not just about the Pied Piper leading the rats into the river to drown. Instead, it’s about rats and a kid whose name is Keith, a girl named Malicia and the cat named Maurice.

Maurice is a cat that is not owned. He’s sort of like a wild cat. Maurice is special because this cat can be trusted with rats. This cat is trusted with rats because it’s not like other cats. The rats and the cat can talk and think because the rats ate magic potions from the garbage dump that got thrown out by magical people who wear pointy hats, or as we would say: wizards. After the rats ate the magic garbage, they made up a language that the rats could speak so they wouldn’t have to squeak. The rats got their names by what was on the cans of food in the garbage. There was Dangerous Beans, Hamnpork, Sardines, Peaches, Darktan, Nourishing, and Additives. Maurice got smart because he ate one of the smart rats before he was smart and realized that he shouldn’t eat things that could talk. If a rat didn’t talk and just squeaked, he would eat it. Maurice, the rats and the “stupid looking kid” named Keith go around from town to town tricking people into thinking they have rats so Maurice can earn money when Keith makes the rats go away.

Maurice and the rats go to a town called Bad Blintz, but there’s something wrong with the town. After they realize that this is a strange town, they find out that the rat catchers in the town are making a Rat King that is called Spider. Spider was blind, and the only way he could see is if he took someone’s mind away and made it his own, which is what he does to Maurice. (A Rat King is tons of rats that have their tails tied together.)
The rats start an army and they find the Rat King, who tries to get Dangerous Beans (who is also blind) to join his side. The rest of the story is about fighting the Rat King and finding a way for humans and rats to live together.

**Should You Read This Book?**

I thought this book was good, so if you think you would like it and you want to read it, you can buy it from the bookstore or check it out from the library, or you could borrow ours. My favorite part of the book is when Hamnpork, the rat leader, talks about how rats should always go around widdling on things like jam, bushes, and cream. (Widdling means peeing.)