

Friday 27th March 2020 - I was a Rat! By Philip Pullman (Taken from TES)

Guided reading – Follow-up task

### Design a book cover for the story

1. First, read the text 'I Was a Rat!' by Phillip Pullman again.
2. Next, read the prediction you wrote previously.
3. Then, fold an A4 sheet of paper in half and draw your illustration.
4. After that, write a blurb on the back.
5. Lastly, colour in your design.

### **I was a Rat!**

By Philip Pullman

Old Bob and his wife Joan lived by the market in the house where his father and his grandfather and great grandfather had lived before him, builders all of them, and building was Bob`s job too. Joan was a cleaner, like her mother and her grandmother and her great-grandmother, back as far as anyone could remember.

And if they`d had a son, he would have become a builder in his turn, and if they`d had a daughter, she would have learned the cleaning trade, and the world would have gone on. But they never had a child, whether boy or girl, and now they were getting old, it seemed less and less likely that they ever would, as much as they would have liked to.

One evening as old Joan wrote a letter to her niece and old Bob sat sharpening his tools, there came a knock at the door. Bob looked up with a jump. "Was that someone knocking?" he said. "What's the time?" The cuckoo clock answered him before Joan could: ten o'clock. As soon as it had finished cuckooing, there came another knock, louder than before. Bob lit a candle and went through the dark house to unlock the front door.

Standing in the moonlight was a little boy in a page's uniform. It had once been smart, but it was sorely torn and stained, and the boy's face was scratched and grubby. "Bless my soul!" said Bob. "Who are you?"

"I was a rat," said the little boy.

"What did you say?" said Joan, crowding in behind her husband.

"I was a rat," said the little boy again.