

## Tender Heart High School, Sector 33 B Chandigarh

Subject: English Literature

Class: VI

### Chapter: 9 “The Pied Piper of Hamelin”

*Good morning students,*

*Today let us read and understand the story ‘The Pied Piper of Hamelin’ Chapter-9 in your English Reader.*

Germany, known for its wealth of folklore, has many cities connected to famous stories, with **Hamelin** being the most closely associated with the Pied Piper legend. The story, which dates back to **1284**, revolves around a mysterious rat catcher dressed in a multi-coloured coat.

The word "**Pied**" means "multi-coloured," and the Pied Piper is a man who wore a colourful coat and played a pipe (a musical instrument).

The story takes place in the year **1284**. The town of Hamelin had a problem with too many rats. The Pied Piper offered to help get rid of the rats in exchange for a large sum of money. The town's mayor agreed, and the Piper played his pipe, which made all the rats come out and follow him. He led them to a river where they drowned.

However, when the Piper returned to collect his payment, the mayor refused to give him the full amount they had promised. Angry at the betrayal, the Pied Piper returned to exact revenge. The Pied Piper left but returned later. This time, he played his pipe again, but instead of rats, he lured **130 children** out of the town. They followed him into a mountain and were never seen again, except for three children who were left behind but couldn't fully explain what happened.

This story has been told for centuries, and though there is no solid proof that it really happened, it has been passed down through generations. Hamelin still celebrates this tale today with plays, shows, and events where people dress up as the Pied Piper.

In simple terms, the story warns about the consequences of breaking promises, and it remains a popular legend in Germany.

Today, the city of **Hamelin** still commemorates this legend with open-air shows, story sessions, and performances, particularly during the summer months. The town transforms into a tourist attraction, with people dressed as the Pied Piper re-enacting the tale in the streets.

The tale is both a reflection of Germany's cultural history and a cautionary story about broken promises and their consequences.

---