

Rascal Rat



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SIL International

English
USA

Rascal Rat is an adaption of a story developed by Scott Breaden for use in Papua New Guinea. It is for use with family groups and individuals to encourage new readers in their communities. Scott Breaden is happy for others to adapt the story into their language and use his illustrations. It should not be sold for profit.

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One day during a long rainy season, a grandfather rat sat down in the house and told stories to his grandchildren. The following story was one of his favorites.

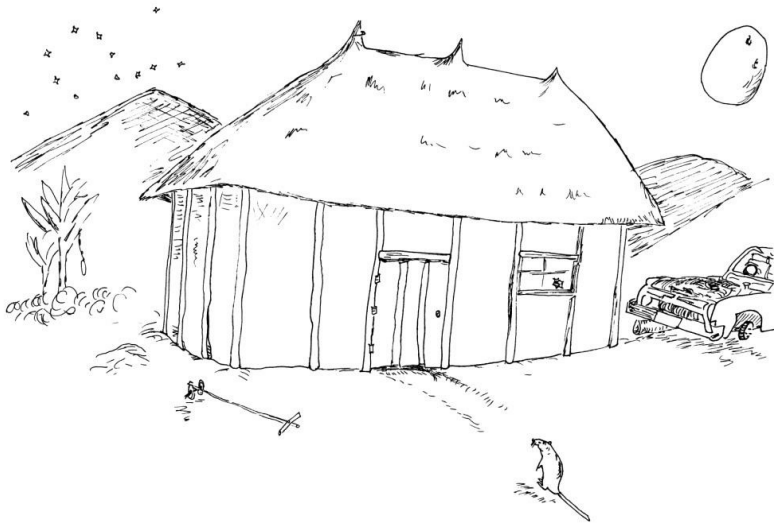
A long time ago when I was just a little fella, it had not rained for a very long time. It was very hard to find food. So I decided to leave my home and find another place where there was plenty of food.





I walked, and walked, and walked.
For three days I walked. My legs
became very tired and sore. Then my
whole body became tired and sore.

Finally, in the middle of one long night, I saw a very large house with a thatched roof.



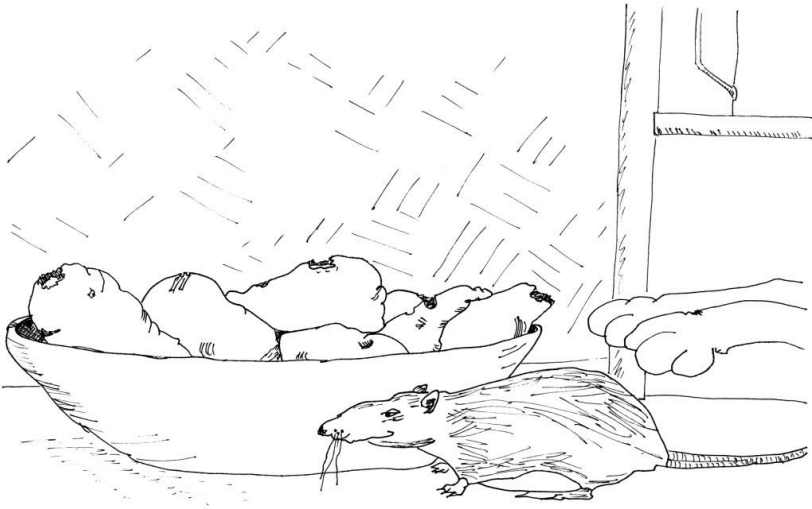
My nose smelled some very sweet food. My ears did not hear any sound.

I was really, really hungry, so I crept along and entered the house. Very carefully, I searched for what my nose was smelling.



Then I found it. There was plenty of food, and even biscuits to eat. I ate and ate until my stomach was full and tight.

After eating so much, my eyes became very heavy. I went to find a spot to sleep. Ai- i-i-i-i



All of a sudden something huge jumped up and grabbed my backside. My eyes opened wide. My heart pounded. I thought I was going to die.



I was caught in the paws of a cat! I pretended to be dead. Then the cat turned its head, and I planted my teeth into its big paw.

The cat screamed, "Yiaow!" and jumped. I sprung free and ran like mad.

The noise woke up all the people that were sleeping in the house. They were very cranky, and yelled angrily at the cat.



I was able to escape, and ran swiftly to safety outside the house.

