

HERO KIDS



ADVENTURE: BASEMENT O RATS

ENCOUNTERS: FIVE

DIFFICULTY: EASY

DURATION: 30 MINUTES

DESIGNED AND MAPPED

BY

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Hero Kids Adventure

This adventure requires a copy of the *Hero Kids* RPG to play. The core game and this adventure include:

- Hero Cards for each player
- Monster Cards for the unique monsters in this adventure (king rat) and the standard *Hero Kids* monsters (giant rats)
- Print-outs of the encounter maps
- Stand-up minis for the heroes and monsters

Additionally, these extra materials are required:

- Six-sided dice (d6s)
- Pencil and eraser

Background

You all live in the same village, Rivenshore, which is nestled in a tight valley beneath a towering mountain. A river runs past the village and flows into a small bay. Rivenshore would be a beautiful place to live, if it weren't beset by an endless series of calamities.

Adventure Overview

This five-encounter adventure takes place in the basement and caves beneath the town's tavern.

The hero kids start the adventure having a dinner at the tavern. When the tavern's muck-boy is carried off by oversized rats, the hero kids spring into action to get him back.

Adventure Intro

Today's trouble starts in mundane circumstances – dinner at the Block and Tackle, which is the village's tavern. The meal is interrupted by a shriek of alarm from the innkeeper's wife.

You are enjoying your weekly family dinner at the Block and Tackle tavern after a hard day of training.

"HELP, HELP!"

Everyone in the tavern stops eating and drinking as Maeve, the innkeeper's wife, bursts into the dining room from the basement.

"Rats, RATS, ENORMOUS RATS" and then, "and they've taken Roger!"

You know Roger, he's Maeve's son and he helps out in the tavern.

"They've taken him down their hidey hole. Please, get down there and get him back for me!"

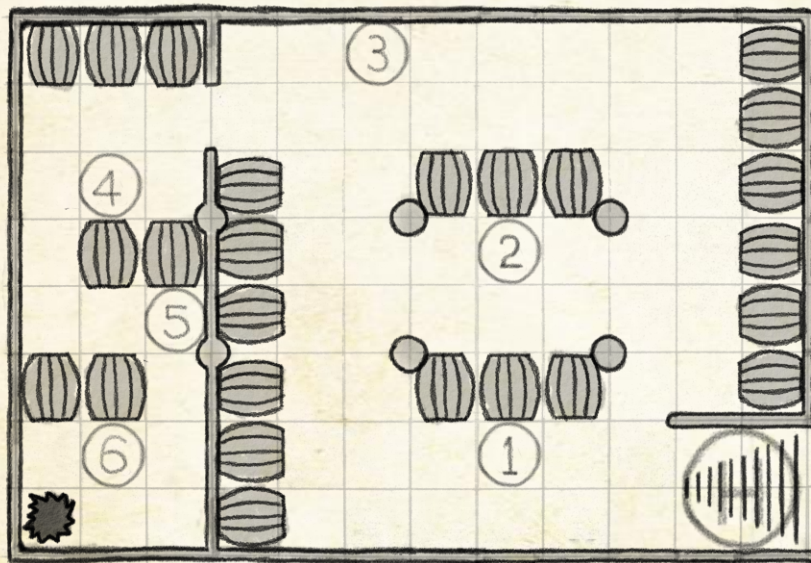
There's a moment of silence as everyone looks to you. Your parents encourage you.

"I hope you're ready for your first adventure."

Encounter 1: Basement Full-O' Rats

The first encounter in the tavern's basement. The heroes start on the stairs and fight their way to the hole in the floor in the bottom-left corner of the map.

Map



Encounter Intro

Following the adventure intro, the heroes are poised to head to the basement to rescue Roger:

You put down your cutlery and pick up your weapons and equipment then follow Maeve to the entrance to the tavern's basement.

The stairs descend into the dimly lit basement. You immediately smell the putrid stink of rats, even before you hear the patter of their unusually large paws.

As you step down into the basement you see flashes of movement as the rats scurry between the stacks barrels and sacks of grain that are stored in the basement.

Encounter Features

The main area of the basement has two stacks of barrels that cannot be climbed over or shot through (with ranged attacks). The second room has a narrow path that forces the players to think about the positions of their heroes.

Ability Tests

The players can have their heroes perform a number of ability tests:

- Intelligence test (Perception) at difficulty 4 to let them hear Roger's shouts in the distance.
- Intelligence tests (Knowledge/Lore) at difficulty 5 to let the heroes know that the basement is often overrun by rats (but not usually this big).

Monsters

This encounter features giant rats, weak minions that use melee attacks against the heroes.

- 1 Hero: 3 x Giant Rats ① ② ③
2 Heroes: 4 x Giant Rats ① ② ③ ④
3 Heroes: 5 x Giant Rats ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
4 Heroes: 6 x Giant Rats ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥

Use these health boxes to mark off damage:

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| ① Giant Rat | <div>KO</div> |
| ② Giant Rat | <div>KO</div> |
| ③ Giant Rat | <div>KO</div> |
| ④ Giant Rat | <div>KO</div> |
| ⑤ Giant Rat | <div>KO</div> |
| ⑥ Giant Rat | <div>KO</div> |

Tactics

The rats are gorging themselves on food scraps and won't attack the heroes until they are attacked first. Once a rat is attacked, it and any other rats nearby attack the heroes.

Conclusion

Once all of the monsters are KO'd, read (or paraphrase) this:

With a screech, the final rat falls to the ground and then there is silence in the basement.

The silence is short-lived as you hear a distant call for help. The cry seems to come from the broken floorboards in the south-west corner of the basement.

You look through the broken boards and see a dirt tunnel underneath the tavern's basement. Surely it leads to the rats' den.

Allow the players to rest and remove damage from their heroes, then hint/nudge/encourage them to take their heroes through the hole in the floor at the bottom left of the map.

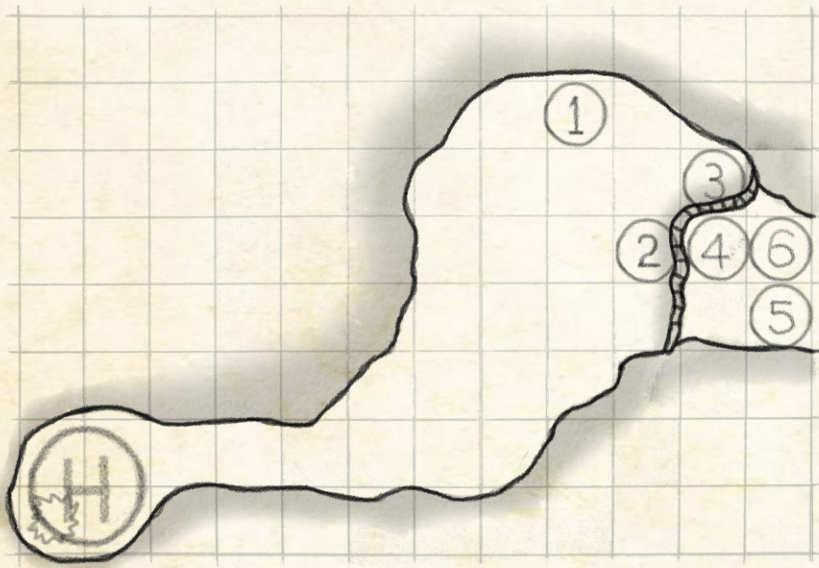
If you want to challenge the players a bit, you could have the tunnel down be quite deep, so players need to use a rope (or some other improvised equivalent) to continue to the next encounter.

Encounter 2: Where Does This Cave Go!

The second encounter takes our heroes underground into the caves and caverns beneath the town.

The heroes enter from the bottom-left, and the monsters are not immediately visible.

Map



Encounter Intro

When the heroes enter this area, read this:

You carefully climb down into this tunnel beneath the tavern. The ground is hard-packed under your feet, and the whole place smells like a giant rat's toilet.

Large fungi grow from the walls and give off a soft blue light that illuminates a narrow tunnel to your east.

Encounter Features

A tight tunnel leads from the heroes' starting location into a larger cave. As the first hero enters the large room they will see the first three rats. There is a raised ledge at the far east of the large cave. This ledge is about 10' high, so the heroes will need to come up with a way of climbing up it to continue deeper into the caves.

Additional rats can enter the fight from this ledge and jump down onto the heroes.

Ability Tests

The players can have their heroes perform an Intelligence test (Tracking) at difficulty 4 which lets them see rat footprints that they can track to the east.

Monsters

This encounter features more giant rats. Feel free to add more rats for extra challenge.

- 1 Hero: 2 x Giant Rats ① ②
2 Heroes: 3 x Giant Rats ① ② ③
3 Heroes: 4 x Giant Rats ① ② ③ ④
4 Heroes: 5 x Giant Rats ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Use these health boxes to mark off damage:

① Giant Rat	<div>KO</div>
② Giant Rat	<div>KO</div>
③ Giant Rat	<div>KO</div>
④ Giant Rat	<div>KO</div>
⑤ Giant Rat	<div>KO</div>
⑥ Giant Rat	<div>KO</div>
⑦ Extra Giant Rat	<div>KO</div>
⑧ Extra Giant Rat	<div>KO</div>

Tactics

All of these rats engage the heroes with melee attacks. This should be an easy fight, but if things get crowded, you can hold a few of the rats off until a couple of the first ones have been KO'd. The rats that start up on the ledge can jump down to the lower level without penalty.

Conclusion

Once all of the rats are KO'd, read this:

The rats stop their shrieking as you finish off the last of their number, but the place still stinks like a dirty sock. You look up and see a high ledge on the east side of the cave.

Again, allow the players to have their heroes take a short rest to recover damage.

To escape this room the players will need to work out a way of getting their heroes up to the ledge. Here are a few ideas for you:

- An agile character climbs up the wall
- The heroes form a pyramid and lift someone up
- A hero throws his or her rope and climbs up
- A strong hero lifts (or throws) another hero

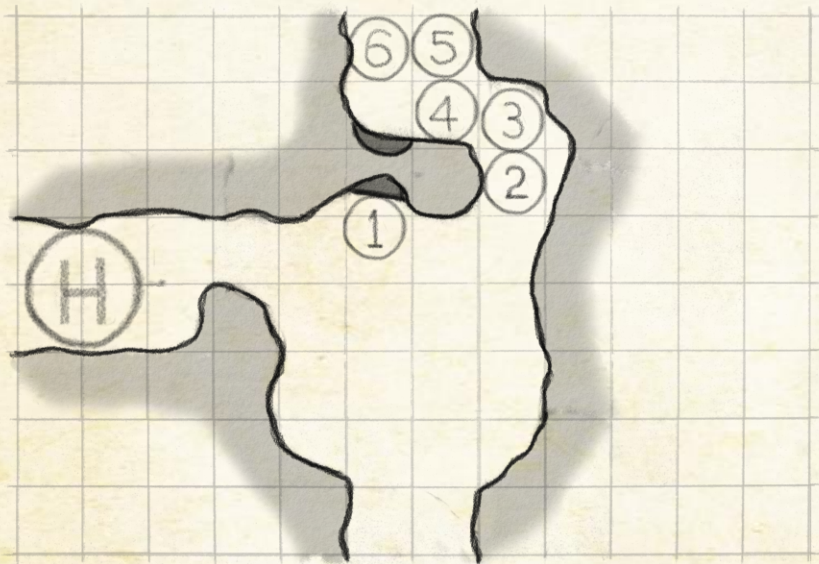
If you use an ability test, use a difficulty of 4.

Encounter 3: Underground Choices!

The third encounter features a fight and then a choice for our heroes.

Here the heroes encounter more rats, and then once the rats have been defeated they can decide to continue to the north or the south.

Map



Encounter Intro

When the heroes enter this area, read this:

The high ledge leads to short narrow tunnel which shortly opens out into another large underground chamber. You see tunnel exits from the chamber to the north and south, and a small dark hole in the north wall of the cave.

As you watch, a rat emerges from the hole, takes one look at you and then charges towards you with a ferocious shriek!

Encounter Features

The main unusual feature of this area is the short rat-hole between the main cavern and the small cave in the north.

You can use this cave to bring rats into the fight, or even to have rats run and hide from the heroes.

Ability Tests

The players can have their heroes perform an Intelligence tests (Tracking) at difficulty 4 that lets them see rat footprints that they can track to the north (this will give them a hint that the rats' den is to the north, not the south).

Monsters

This encounter features more giant rats. Bring the extra rats on from the north cave during the fight.

- 1 Hero: 2 x Giant Rats ① ②
2 Heroes: 3 x Giant Rats ① ② ③
3 Heroes: 4 x Giant Rats ① ② ③ ④
4 Heroes: 6 x Giant Rats ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥

Use these health boxes to mark off damage:

① Giant Rat	<div>KO</div>
② Giant Rat	<div>KO</div>
③ Giant Rat	<div>KO</div>
④ Giant Rat	<div>KO</div>
⑤ Giant Rat	<div>KO</div>
⑥ Giant Rat	<div>KO</div>
⑦ Extra Giant Rat	<div>KO</div>
⑧ Extra Giant Rat	<div>KO</div>

Tactics

All of these monsters engage the heroes with melee attacks. Even with the extra rats this should be an easy fight, but if things get crowded, you can hold a few of the rats off until a couple of the rats have been KO'd. For fun, you can run the rats in and out of the connecting rat-hole.

Conclusion

Once all of the monsters are KO'd, read this.

You dispatch the final rat and spend a few moments investigating the caves. You find that the rat hole connects the small northern cave section with the main cavern.

Again, allow the players to have their heroes take a short rest to recover damage.

If the players investigate further, read this:

The horrid smell of rats is strong from the north, and from the south you can hear the faint trickle of water.

Once the players are ready, they can decide which way they want to go:

- Heading south takes them to **Encounter 4**
- The north passage takes them to **Encounter 5**

Encounter 4: A Momentary Detour!

This fourth encounter area is actually empty. Feel free to keep it empty, or to try something like this:

- There's a monster in the water
- Old man Jenkins has been stuck down here for years
- The water is magical (refills potions, increases strength, something else)
- The heroes see something sparkling at the bottom of the pool of water
- The stalagmites contain the frozen figures of monsters/commoners

Map



Encounter Intro

When the heroes enter this area, read this:

The rocky tunnel turns left and then right before opening into a larger cavern.

The soft blue light from the fungi is reflected in the surface of the pool of water, and the light dances and sparkles on the roof of the cavern.

Encounter Features

This area has two main features, the pool of water and the stalagmites in the middle of the cavern.

Ability Tests

Any ability tests that the players can perform are up to you. Maybe they need to be dexterous to pick up the shiny thing from the bottom of the pool, or maybe a giant tentacle grabs one of the heroes and tries to drag him or her into the water.

If you do use an ability test, here are the standard difficulty targets:

- Easy: 4
- Normal: 5
- Hard: 6

Monsters

There may or may not be monsters here, so here are some random boxes for damage!

Use these health boxes to mark off damage:

① Mystery Monster	<div>KO</div>	<div>Hurt</div>	<div>Bruised</div>
② Mystery Monster	<div>KO</div>	<div>Hurt</div>	
③ Mystery Monster	<div>KO</div>	<div>Hurt</div>	
④ Mystery Monster	<div>KO</div>		
⑤ Mystery Monster	<div>KO</div>		
⑥ Mystery Monster	<div>KO</div>		

Tactics

Up to you really.

Conclusion

If they heroes have had a fight, allow them to rest to recover damage.

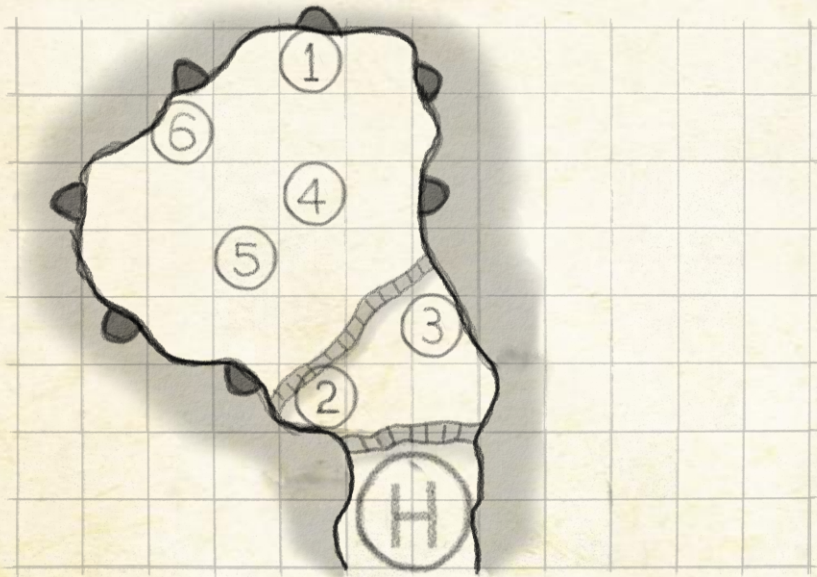
Once the players are ready, they should head back to the north, through the cavern of **Encounter 3**, and onwards to **Encounter 5**.

Encounter 5: Rat Den!

The final encounter is the rats' den.

This climactic battle sees the heroes defeat the rats and their king rat and rescue Roger.

Map



Encounter Intro

When the heroes enter this area, read this:

The stench of rats is almost overwhelming as you push further down the tunnel.

Ahead of you there is a low ledge, perhaps four feet high, and another ledge further along.

You see mangy rats scurrying back and forth on the ledge and you realize that you have entered their filthy den!

Encounter Features

The main features of this area are the two ledges, which are easily scaled (but cost 1 extra square of movement), and the rat holes in all of the walls. The rats can move into these holes and emerge out of any other hole.

Ability Tests

The players can have their heroes perform an Intelligence test (Tracking) at difficulty 4 to see that the rat holes are interconnected.

Monsters

This encounter features the king rat, plus one extra giant rat for each hero.

1 Hero:	1 x King Rat	①
	1 x Giant Rat	②
2 Heroes:	1 x King Rat	①
	2 x Giant Rats	② ③
3 Heroes:	1 x King Rat	①
	3 x Giant Rats	② ③ ④
4 Heroes:	1 x King Rat	①
	4 x Giant Rats	② ③ ④ ⑤

Use these health boxes to mark off damage:

① King Rat	<input type="checkbox"/> KO	<input type="checkbox"/> Hurt	<input type="checkbox"/> Bruised
② Giant Rat	<input type="checkbox"/> KO		
③ Giant Rat	<input type="checkbox"/> KO		
④ Giant Rat	<input type="checkbox"/> KO		
⑤ Giant Rat	<input type="checkbox"/> KO		
⑥ Extra Giant Rat	<input type="checkbox"/> KO		

Tactics

All of these rats (including the king rat) use melee attacks against the heroes. If they've got room, the rats can retreat into the rat holes and emerge from any of the other holes.

Conclusion

Once all of the monsters are KO'd, read this:

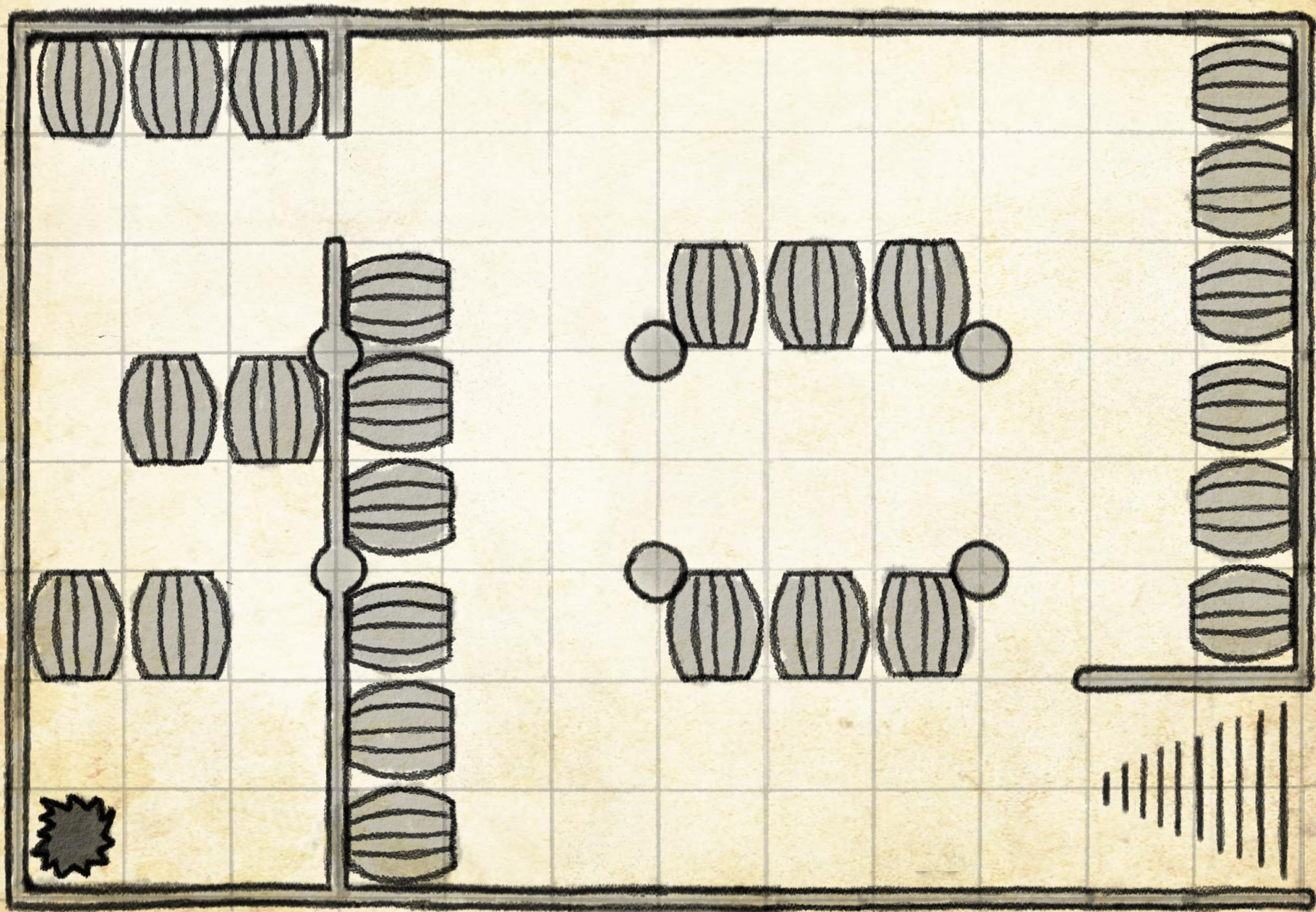
After an epic battle you finally strike down the king rat and his horde of stinky vermin.

In the silence you hear muffled cries from one of the rat holes. You quickly investigate and find Roger hiding in the hole. He's dirty and scared, but relieved to see you:

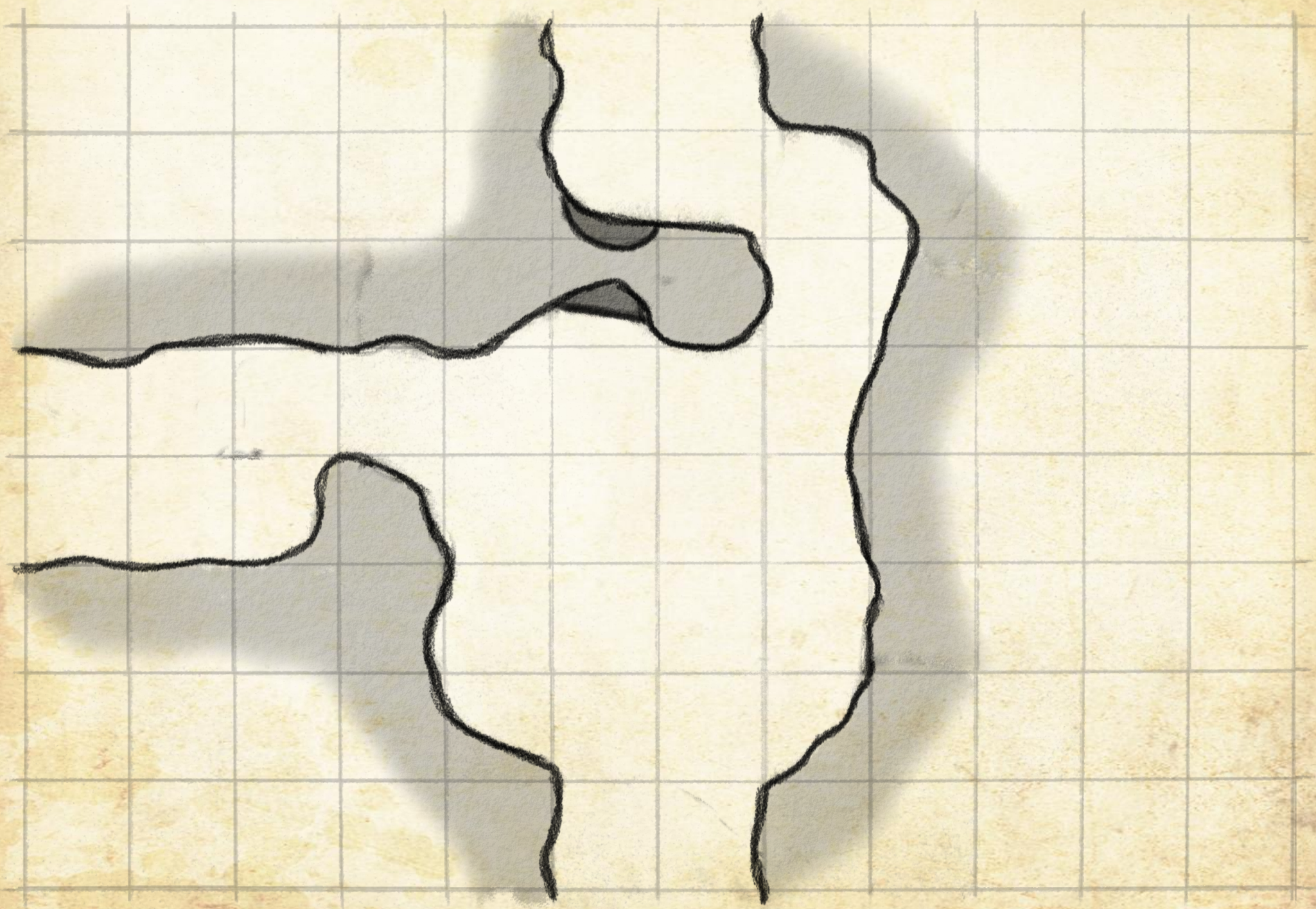
"Thanks! I thought I was a goner for sure. I'd got away from those blighters and hid in the hole, but they woulda got me out sooner or later if you hadn't shown up to get me out!"

He gives you a big hug, which you reluctantly accept because he is pretty filthy.

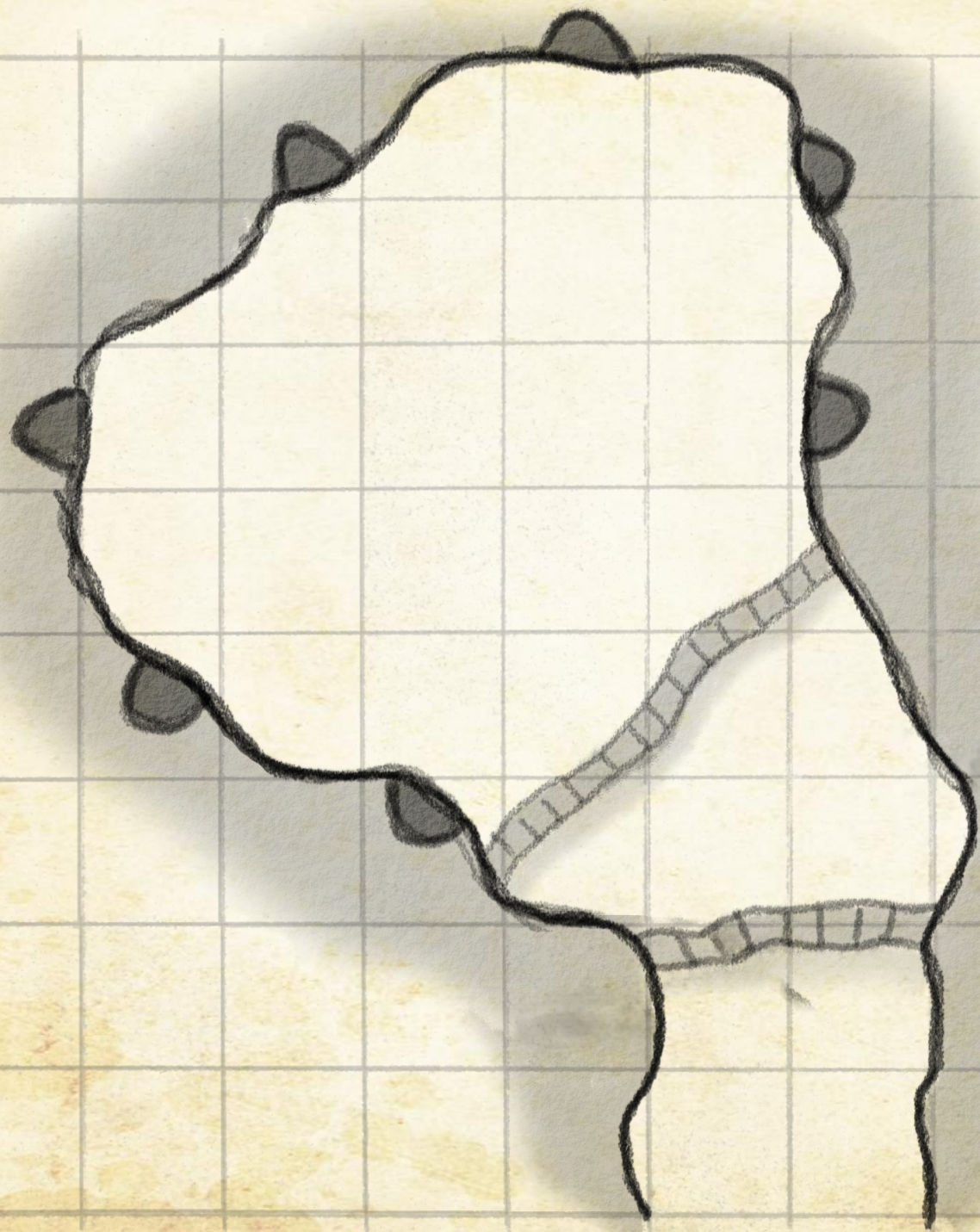
"I reckon you deserve an extra serve of ice-cream for at least a whole week!"













HERO KIDS



Giant Rat



Melee Attack: Horrid Bite
Melee attack at an adjacent target.

Special Action: Pack Attack
If an adjacent target is engaged by an ally, you can make a melee attack at it with 1 extra dice.

Bonus Ability: Coward
Move up to 8 squares if you've been attacked since your last turn.

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HERO KIDS



King Rat



Melee Attack: Horrid Bite
Melee attack at an adjacent target.

Special Action: Pack Attack
If an adjacent target is engaged by an ally, you can make a melee attack at it with 1 extra dice.

Bonus Ability: Coward
Move up to 8 squares if you've been attacked since your last turn.

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