

# QUICK CARD: MRS. FRISBY & THE RATS OF NIMH



Reference	<i>Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH</i> . Robert C. O'Brien. (1971) ISBN-13: 978-0689710681
Plot	Mrs. Frisby, a widowed mouse, must move her family before Farmer Fitzgibbon plows the field in which she makes her home; however, her sick son, Timothy, can't be moved. Looking to her neighbors for wisdom and help, she discovers more than she had expected.
Setting	The Fitzgibbon Farm, including the field in which Mrs. Frisby lives; the Rosebush under which the rats build their home, and the riverbank upon the banks of which the field animals make their homes in summer months; The Woods outside the farm; Thorn Valley; the NIMH Laboratory
Characters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs. Frisby – widow mouse of Jonathan Frisby and mother of a brood of children</li> <li>• Timothy – Mrs. Frisby's sickly son</li> <li>• Mr. Ages – the local mouse doctor and companion of the Rats of NIMH</li> <li>• Nicodemus – leader of the Rats of NIMH</li> <li>• Jeremy – a black crow whom Mrs. Frisby befriends when she helps him evade the farm cat</li> <li>• The Owl – the local dispenser of wisdom and advice</li> <li>• Jenner – a rebel rat dissenter who leaves the community</li> <li>• Justin – a Rat from NIMH who was the friend of Jonathan Frisby and whose vision and self-sacrifice save both Mrs. Frisby and the rat community</li> <li>• Brutus – the sentry rat who survives the exterminators</li> <li>• Dragon – the farm cat</li> <li>• Mr. Fitzgibbon and family – the farmer</li> <li>• Dr. Schultz, Julie and George – scientists and lab workers at NIMH</li> <li>• The Toy Tinker – when he dies in the woods, the Rats make use of the tools he leaves behind</li> </ul>
Conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Man v. Nature - Mrs. Frisby struggles against time and sickness</li> <li>• Man vs. Self – Mrs. Frisby struggles against fear</li> <li>• Man vs. Man – she also struggles against other characters in her attempt to move her family home to a safe place before spring planting.</li> </ul>

<p style="text-align: center;">Theme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determination</li> <li>• Courage</li> <li>• Self-Sacrifice</li> <li>• Faithful Friendship</li> <li>• Cooperation between unlikely creatures in the face of a common threat.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;">Literary Devices</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anthropomorphism – ascribing human characteristics to non-human creatures.</li> <li>• Foreshadowing – subtle clues to coming plot development . For example, when Mrs. Frisby tells the Owl her name, his recognition and change of tone suggest that there are things Mrs. Frisby doesn't yet know about her husband. His instructions to go to the rats further this mystery. (p. 55-56) Again, the story of the rats in the hardware store foreshadow trouble for the Rats of NIMH. (p.191)</li> </ul>