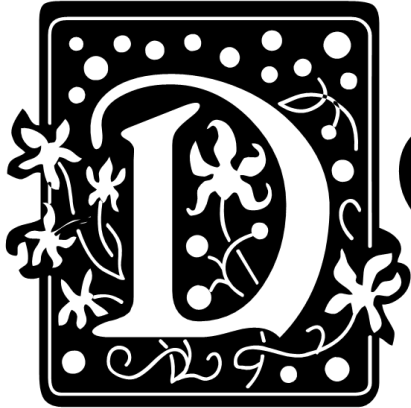


The Tale of



# DESPEREAUX

by Kate DiCamillo

**MACARTHUR**  
FUNDAMENTAL INTERMEDIATE

## *7<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading Activity*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ID: \_\_\_\_\_

During the 2022 Summer Recess, all continuing seventh-graders will read *The Tale of Despereaux* by Kate DiCamillo. The following questions are to help guide readers through the novel and focus their understanding on important details.

Students, please answer each of the following questions in complete sentences. Do your best to find the correct information from the book. Notice that every two chapters has a question to answer. It will help if you read the question before beginning the chapters, so you know what to look for. Also, respond as soon as you find the right answer.

All packets will be collected by your language arts teacher during the first two weeks of school. Besides the packet, students will take an *Accelerated Reader* test. Completing this packet and passing the *Accelerated Reader* test will make sure students have a successful beginning to MacArthur language arts class!

# The Tale of ESPÉREAUx

## Chapters 1-10

While reading The Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo, answer each of the following questions in complete sentences.

**Connection before reading** – Chapter three of this novel is titled “Once Upon a Time”. What kind of stories begin with the phrase “once upon a time”? What type of story do you expect this is?

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**Chapter 1-2)** What physical traits makes Despereaux stand out as a baby mouse? Why do you think his mother named him Despereaux?

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**Chapter 3-4)** How did Despereaux end up meeting Pea?

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**Chapter 5-6)** Why did Lester Tilling, Despereaux's father, call a meeting of the Mouse Council? What does Antoinette, Despereaux's mother, think about calling the council?

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**Chapter 7-8)** Why did Despereaux tell the princess "I honor you"? Where did he learn this phrase? Why is it important?

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**Chapter 9-10)** What did the Mouse Council want Despereaux to do? What action did Despereaux decide instead?

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# The Tale of ESPÉREAU

## Chapters 11-20

While reading The Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo, answer each of the following questions in complete sentences.

**Connection before reading** – In chapters 11-20, the characters will face situations that are different from their expectations. Think about a time when you faced a situation that was different than what you expected. Maybe you were disappointed by a movie, or maybe you ended up loving a new food that you thought you would hate. Write a few sentences below about a time when your expectations weren't met.

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**Chapter 11-12)** Why is it important that Despereaux's mother said "adieu" to him as he went to the dungeon. What does the author explain about the word "adieu"?

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**Chapter 13-14)** How does Despereaux try to comfort himself when he ends up in the dungeon? What causes him to faint?

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**Chapter 15-16)** In chapter 16, the reader is introduced to a new character and a new point of view. Who is the new character? What is his name? How is he different from Despereaux?

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**Chapter 17-18)** Boticelli asks Roscuro to go and torture the prisoner. How does Roscuro do so? What does he take and why was it important to the prisoner?

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**Chapter 19-20)** Where does Roscuro escape to when he exits the dungeon? Who does he meet?

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# The Tale of ESPÉREAU

## Chapters 21-30

While reading The Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo, answer each of the following questions in complete sentences.

**Connection before reading** – What is one of your favorite meals? Describe your favorite meals or food below, and try to explore why you like it so much.

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**Chapter 21-22)** What does Churasco take from the banquet hall? Why does he take it?

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**Chapter 23-24)** What consequences did Roscuro's journey to the banquet have? How did it change the kingdom?

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**Chapter 25-26)** Who is the new character, Mig, that the reader is introduced to? To which other character might she be related?

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**Chapter 27-28)** How does Mig find herself going to the castle?

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**Chapter 29-30)** What challenges does Mig have working at the castle? Why does she get assigned delivering meals to the dungeon?

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# The Tale of ESPÉREAU

## Chapters 31-40

While reading The Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo, answer each of the following questions in complete sentences.

**Connection before reading** – How often do you dream? Every night? Once in a while? Below, record some of your thoughts and experiences you've had with dreams.

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**Chapter 31-32)** How did Mig's disabilities make delivering food to the dungeon easier?

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**Chapter 33-34)** Despereaux is able to find his way out of the dungeon. How did he do it? Where does he end up?

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**Chapter 35-36)** What seems to be Roscuro's plan for revenge on the princess? Why? What is his motivation?

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**Chapter 37-38)** What was the princess dreaming of? What about King Phillip? Despereaux? The Cook?

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**Chapter 39-40)** Why did the Mouse Council confuse Despereaux for a ghost? Why was it important for Lester to receive forgiveness?

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# The Tale of ESPÉREAU

## Chapters 41-52

While reading The Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo, answer each of the following questions in complete sentences.

**Connection before reading** – Similar to the beginning of the novel with the phrase “Once Upon a Time”, the end of the novel has a chapter titled “Happily Ever After”. Has this story, so far, lived up to a fairy tale? Why or why not?

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**Chapter 41-42)** Who is Hovis? What does Despereaux get from Hovis? Why?

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**Chapter 43-44)** Why does the cook let Despereaux go, in spite of threatening his life earlier in the novel?

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**Chapter 45-46)** How does Despereaux give himself courage when entering the dungeon? When else has he used this technique?

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**Chapter 47-48)** What is Boticelli's reason for "helping" Despereaux? What does he actually intend to do?

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**Chapter 49-50)** What did Mig want more than anything? How does that connect her to Pea?

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**Chapter 50-52)** How did the princess convince Roscuro to lead her out of the dungeon?

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