

FAMILY BOOK CLUB



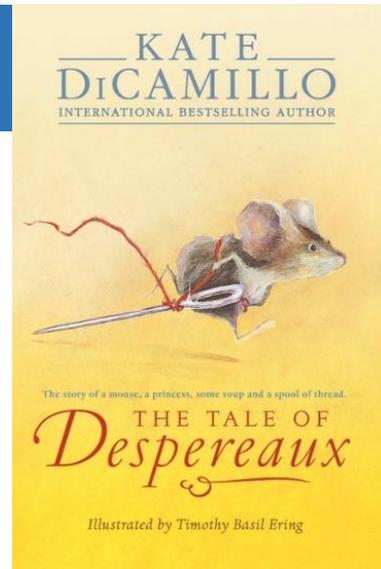
1

READ ALOUD

The Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo

This is the story of a small mouse with very large ears, a rat who lives in darkness but craves experiences with light, and a simple serving girl with an impossible wish. It is about a glittering castle, a horrible dungeon, and an unforgettable journey...

*This book can be enjoyed by all the family. Mrs Arnold is reading a chapter a week which is on the KS3/4 section of the website. The book is available in libraries (once they reopen!) and on Amazon. Or, listen to it free with an **Audible** trial.*



2

SHARE AN EXPERIENCE

“There ain’t no point in making soup unless others eat it.

Soup needs another mouth to taste it, another heart to be warmed by it.”

Soup!

Soup plays a central role in the hope and healing woven throughout the story. What better way to share an experience about Despereaux’s adventures than over a simmering pot of soup?

On a day that works for you, once you have enjoyed the story, make a pot of soup together to share. During your meal, use the questions in section 3 to talk about the book.

You can make any soup your children enjoy, but if you’d like to make one similar to the soup described in the book, try **Roasted Garlic and Watercress Soup** from thehappyfoodie.co.uk.

3

TALK ABOUT IT

Ask kids of any age one or more of these questions to spark a conversation. Remember, enjoying good questions is more important than getting good answers.

- How is Miggery Sow like the Princess? How are they different?
- How is Despereaux like Roscuro? How are they different?
- Who shines the most light, and who carries the most darkness in this story?
- What story does *The Tale of Despereaux* remind you of?
- Despereaux tells the jailor stories and that brings a little light. What stories have been light for you?
- What surprised you most about this story?

Related Reading & Exploring

Watch *The Tale of Despereaux* film (rated U) and discuss the similarities and differences between the film and the book.

Another film to watch that compares and contrasts well with *The Tale of Despereaux* is *The Princess Bride* (rated PG).

Enjoy more books by **Kate DiCamillo**, the author of

The Tale of Despereaux, such as:

- *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*
- *Because of Winn-Dixie*
- *The Magician's Elephant*
- *Flora & Ulysses*

Visit her website at katedicamillo.com.

