

# FAMILY BOOK CLUB



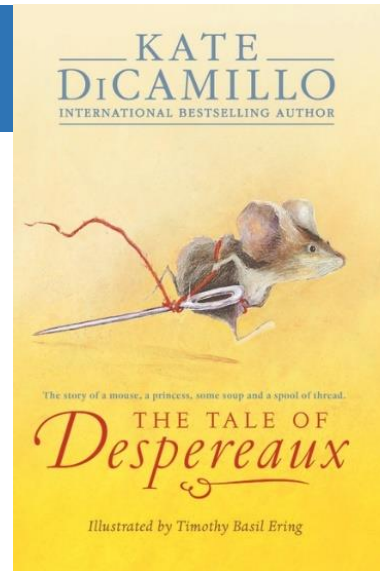
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## READ ALOUD

### *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.*



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## 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](http://thehappyfoodie.co.uk).

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## 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?

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## 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](http://katedicamillo.com).

