

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_



# Activity One

Kate DiCamillo is the author of The Tale of Despereaux and she has written five other books as well. What other books have you read written by Kate DiCamillo?

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Would you be more interested in reading a story about a dog or a story about a pig? Explain your choice.

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Kate DiCamillo considers herself a storyteller before she considers herself a writer. How do you see these two careers? Which career is more appealing to you? Why?

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Kate often visits schools and bookstores. If you had the opportunity to visit and meet with Kate what would you ask her? What information would you like to get from her?

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Illustrate one of your favorite scenes from The Tale of Despereaux.

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# Activity Two

The Tale of Despereaux is a fairy tale. What other fairy tales do you know?

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Which character in this novel is your favorite? Why?

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What do you have in common with this character?

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Chose one character from The Tale of Despereaux and one character from another fairy tale. In the chart below, write things that all three of you have **in common** and things that are **different**.

The Tale of Despereaux	Other Character:	You
	THINGS IN COMMON	
The Tale of Despereaux	Other Character:	You
	THINGS THAT DIFFER	

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# Activity Three

The Tale of Despereaux tells the story of a mouse (Despereaux) and a rat (Roscurio). Which character would fit in more with you and your family based on the information you read in the book? Explain your choice.

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Which would make a better pet? Complete the chart below.

	Mouse	Rat
What do they eat?		
Where do they sleep?		
What care do they need?		
What equipment do they need?		
Exercise? Life span?		
Possible Difficulties?		

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# Activity Four

Timothy Basil Ering is the illustrator of The Tale of Despereaux and he has illustrated other books as well. What other books have you read that were illustrated by Timothy Basil Ering?

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Why are his illustrations so special?

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What type of art media does he used?

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How did he get started as an illustrator?

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If you could have him illustrate a scene from your favorite book (other than The Tale of Despereaux) what book and which scene would you want him to illustrate? Why did you choose that scene?

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Describe your favorite illustration in The Tale of Despereaux.

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Can you draw Despereaux, Roscuro, Miggery Sow or another character?

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# Activity Five

In the novel, The Tale of Despereaux, we meet a royal family: the King, the Queen and their daughter Princess Pea.

How does a family become a royal family?

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Where can we find royal families today?

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Why is the presence of royal families important today?

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If you could be part of a royal family, which family would you choose? Why this royal family?

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What would you like and dislike about being part of a royal family?

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What **clothing** would you like to wear?

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What would **traditions** would you like to take part in?

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Which **humanitarian organization** would you be spokesperson for? Why would you choose this cause?

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# Activity Six

In The Tale of Despereaux, much of the story's setting is in the dark and gloomy dungeon of the castle. Do you know of any other stories that are set in a dungeon?

What **genre** of story could you write that has a setting in a dungeon?

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Have you ever visited a dark and dreary dungeon?

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How do you think dungeons are built?

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Like the castles they are a part of, many dungeons were built in the medieval times (middle ages). What was the purpose of dungeons when they were constructed?

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Why do dungeons actually have so many twists, turns and dead ends?

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Why didn't they have windows?

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In most societies today, where are prisoners held?

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