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Orientation	Landscape
Print on both sides	On (two-sided / duplex)
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Pages	All

THEN

1. Take the whole stack out of the printer. Keep the sheets in order.
2. Fold the stack in half, so this page is on the outside.
3. Staple twice along the fold.



Make another at didtheyreallyread.com

Reading Journal

My thoughts, chapter by chapter

Reader:

Book Title:

The Tale of Despereaux

Author:

Kate DiCamillo

Date Started:

Date Finished:

Keep reading. Keep wondering.
Created by didtheyreallyread.com

How to Answer

Your answer does not have to be perfect. Just answer in complete thoughts and use details from the chapter.

How to structure your answer

A strong answer usually has a few parts. Try these steps:

- 1. **Answer the question.** Start with one sentence that answers the question directly.
- 2. **Give an example.** Add a detail or moment from the chapter that shows what you mean.
- 3. **Explain why.** Tell why it mattered, or how it made you think or feel.
- 4. **Wrap it up.** Finish with a closing thought, a question, or a prediction.

What have you learned so far that makes Despereaux Tilling different from the other mice in the castle?

Example answer: I learned that Despereaux is different because he does not act the way the other mice expect him to act. He has unusual interests, like music and stories, and he seems curious instead of afraid. I think these differences make him special, but they also make life harder for him. The other mice do not always understand that being different can be a strength.

Chapter 52

Looking back over all the chapters you have read so far, how has your view of one character changed?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 51

Which theme seems strongest right now: courage, forgiveness, hope, darkness and light, or being different? Explain your choice.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

How to Answer (continued)

What role do darkness and light play in the chapter you just read or in the story so far?

Example answer: I think darkness and light are more than just places in the story. Darkness can feel like fear, sadness, or being trapped, especially when the story describes the dungeon. Light feels like hope or something beautiful that a character wants. This makes the setting match the characters' feelings.

What lesson about wanting something very badly is beginning to appear in the story?

Example answer: The story shows me that wanting something badly can push a character to be brave, but it can also lead to poor choices. Despereaux's wishes make him act with courage, while other characters may want things for reasons that are sad or angry. I think the book is asking readers to think about what is behind a wish. A good dream can still become dangerous if a character forgets kindness.

Chapter 1

What have you learned so far that makes Despereaux Tilling different from the other mice in the castle?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 50

What moment in the chapter made you most want to know what happens next?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 49

Choose a difficult vocabulary word from the chapter. What clues helped you figure out its meaning?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 2

How does the mouse community react to someone who does not follow its rules, and what do you think about that reaction?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 3

Which part of the setting stands out most to you so far: the castle, the mouse world, or the dungeon? Describe why it feels important.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 48

What does being a hero mean in this story? Does a hero have to be big or powerful?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 47

What advice would you give to one character right now, and why?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 4

What rule or expectation has caused trouble in the story so far, and why does it matter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 5

Why might music, stories, or light be important in Despereaux's world? Use details from what you have read.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 46

How does the narrator build suspense or make you want to keep reading?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 45

Which relationship has changed the most so far?
Describe what caused the change.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 6

Choose one interesting word or phrase Kate DiCamillo uses in this chapter. What do you think it means, and how does it add to the story?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 7

What do you think Despereaux wants most right now? Explain what makes you think that.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 44

What problem could be helped if a character told the truth, listened better, or showed more kindness?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 43

How is forgiveness becoming important in the story so far?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 8

How does Princess Pea seem through the eyes of another character? What details help you understand her?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 9

If you were in Despereaux's family, what might you understand about him, and what might you misunderstand?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 42

What emotion did this chapter make you feel most strongly? What part caused that feeling?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 41

If you gave the chapter you just read a new title, what would it be and why?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 10

What danger or problem seems to be growing in the story so far? What clues point to it?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 11

How does the narrator talk to the reader in this book? How does that style make the story feel?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 40

Which object, food, song, or story detail seems like it might mean more than it first appears to mean?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 39

What does the story seem to say about the need to be seen, heard, or valued?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 12

In what way can courage look small or quiet in this story? Give an example from what you have read.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 13

What connection do you notice between love and bravery so far?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 38

How do adults or authority figures influence children, servants, or smaller characters in the story?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 37

What do names such as Despereaux, Roscuro, Miggery Sow, or Princess Pea suggest about the characters?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 14

What question would you ask Despereaux if you could talk to him at this point in the story?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 15

What prediction can you make about where Despereaux's unusual choices might lead him?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 36

When has one character misunderstood another character? How did that misunderstanding matter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 35

What choice so far seems brave, even if it might not be wise? Explain both sides.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 16

What have you discovered so far about Roscuro, and what seems important about him?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 17

How is Roscuro different from what you might expect a rat in a fairy tale to be like?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 34

How does the setting change the mood of the story in the chapter you just read?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 33

Pick a sentence or moment with strong feeling.
What emotion does it show, and how does the author create that feeling?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 18

What role do darkness and light play in the chapter you just read or in the story so far?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 19

Which action by Roscuro or another character seems especially important? Explain why you noticed it.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 32

What lesson about wanting something very badly is beginning to appear in the story?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 31

Which character is hardest for you to understand so far? What makes that character complicated?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 20

How do fear and prejudice affect the way mice, rats, and humans see one another in the story?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 21

What words or descriptions help create the mood of the dungeon or another dark place in the book?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 30

What prediction can you make about how Despereaux, Princess Pea, Roscuro, and Miggery Sow may become connected?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 29

How does Kate DiCamillo make the story feel like a fairy tale while still including sad or realistic problems?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 22

How has Princess Pea been shown as more than just a princess? Use details from the text.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 23

What could make a character choose revenge instead of forgiveness? Connect your idea to the story so far.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 28

Which character seems to need kindness the most right now? Explain your thinking.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 27

What is one unfair thing that has happened in the story so far, and how did it affect a character?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 24

What have you learned about Miggery Sow and what she longs for?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 25

How does Miggery Sow's past help you understand her choices or feelings?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 26

Compare Miggery Sow's dream with Despereaux's dream. How are they alike or different?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?
