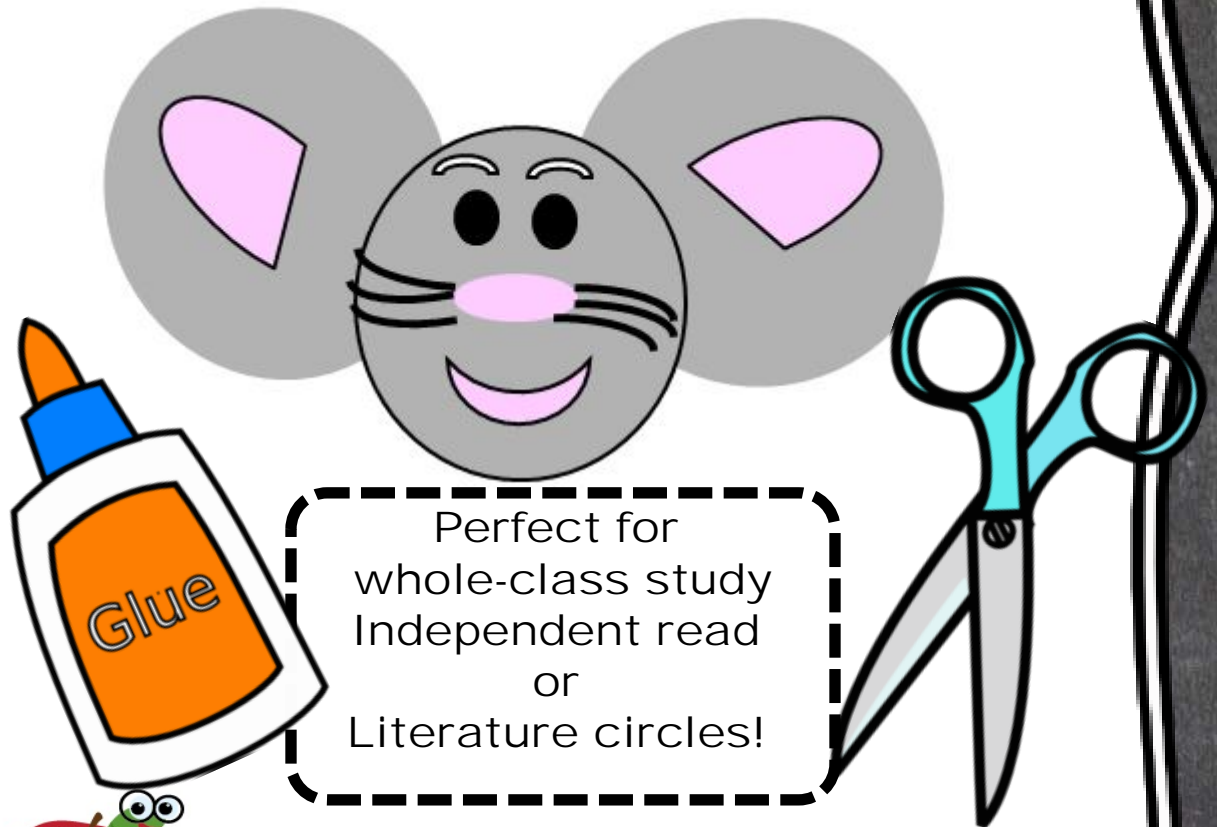


# **The Tale of Despereaux**

## **Interactive Notebook Novel Unit**



Perfect for  
whole-class study  
Independent read  
or  
Literature circles!



## **ELA Core Plans**

Teacher-Written Standards-Based Lesson Plans

***An Interactive Teaching Unit  
for  
Kate DiCamillo's *The Tale of Despereaux*  
Tammy D. Lewis and Shannon B. Temple***

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**Note:** This teaching unit was produced to accompany the wonderful novel *The Tale of Despereaux*. The author nor the publisher of *The Tale of Despereaux* was involved in the production of these lessons, and neither endorse this teaching unit.

***Order number INB/TTOD2015***

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**DO NOT PHOTOCOPY**  
(Except for your own classroom)



**DO NOT POST ONLINE.**

Thanks so much for purchasing this teaching unit.  
We hope it saves you a ton of time!

- The Tale of Despereaux is one of our favorite novels to read with our students! We feel it is best as a read aloud, but there are several ways that you can include this novel study in your curriculum.
- Option 1: Complete a whole-class study. Read some chapters aloud to students. Allow students to read some chapters with a partner, and read some in a group. Guide the students through the interactive notebook activities.
- Option 2: Use this novel in literature circles. Have a group of students read the novel. Assign the activities in this unit to be completed by a certain date.
- Option 3: Use this novel as an independent novel study. There is a reading schedule included in this packet that you may want to use. Have students complete the activities included in this packet.

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# Introduction to Interactive Notebooks

## **What are interactive notebooks?**

An interactive notebook is simply a place to record information and process ideas. It is a notebook that becomes sort of like a personalized textbook. Students become very active when completing an interactive notebook, and this type of involvement is great for learning!

## **What kind of notebook do I need to use?**

Most teachers require their students to purchase the composition notebooks. These are sturdy, pages do not tear out easily, and they will hold up for years.

However, with that being said, we use five subject notebooks in our classrooms. The main reason we do this is because we teach ELA, and as all ELA teachers know, it's like teaching ten subjects all in one! We like the five subject notebooks because we can divide it into sections. The lessons included in this book would be in our *Literature Section*.

You may prefer to use the composition notebooks, and that is totally fine! Both types have their pros and cons. All of our pages are made to fit a composition notebook but will also fit perfectly in a spiral one.

## **What kind of glue do I need to use?**

You really need to use the Elmer's school glue. The glue sticks seem like a natural choice, but the truth is they just do not bond the paper permanently. You will have to make sure your students know and follow the procedures for gluing, which needs to be – small dots, one inch apart. They do not need to use long strands of glue.

## Reading Assignment Schedule for The Tale of Despereaux

You must have read the entire novel by \_\_\_\_\_.

The activities for each chapter will be assigned throughout the novel. They will be discussed in class and your notebook taken up on \_\_\_\_\_.

Day	Date	Chapters to be completed	Activities completed in notebook
1		Chapters 1-5	
2		Chapters 6-10	
3		Chapters 11-15	
4		Book The Second chapters 16-23	
5		Chapters 24-28	
6		Chapters 29-33	
7		Chapters 34-42	
8		Chapters 43-52	

# *The Tale of Despereaux*

## Chapter Titles

**After reading each chapter, analyze its title.**

Chapter #	Title	Analysis of Title
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		11

Chapter #	Title
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	
26	
27	
28	
29	
30	
31	
32	
33	
34	
35	
36	
37	
38	
39	
40	12



Chapter #	Title
41	
42	
43	
44	
45	
46	
47	
48	
49	
50	
51	
52	

## Vocabulary

Whenever you see a word you do not know, write it on a flap. Beside the word, write what you think the word means based on context clues. Then, look up the word in the dictionary to check your definition. Under the flap, write a sentence using the word.

# Vocabulary

# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapters 1 & 2

**Answer the following questions about the mother mouse.**

Where is she from?

How did she arrive at the castle?

What was one of her favorite words?

What is her name?

How does the mother mouse react to Despereaux's birth?

In the box below, list things that most mice are interested in.

# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapters 1 & 2

**Answer the following questions about the mother mouse.**

Where is she from? **France**

How did she arrive at the castle? **In the luggage of a visiting French Diplomat**

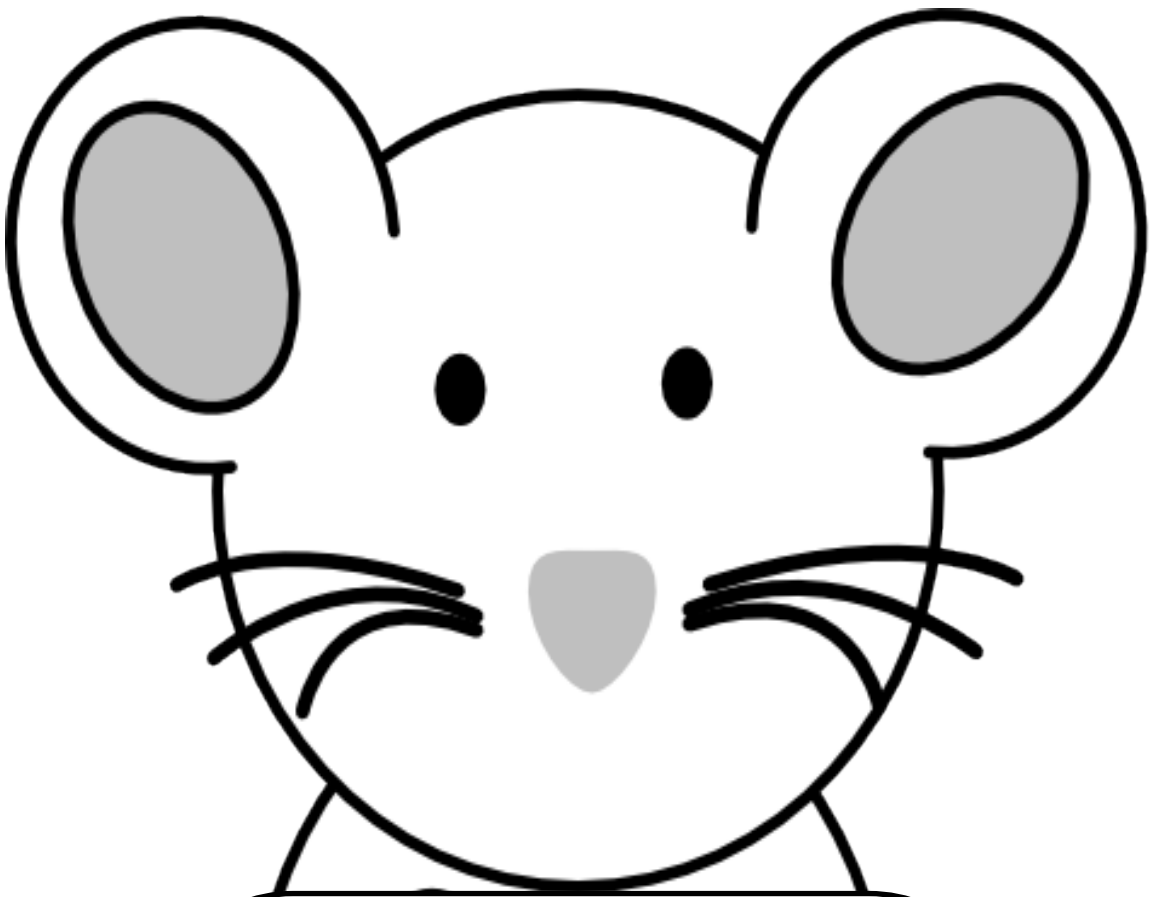
What was one of her favorite words? **Disappointment**

What is her name? **Antoinette**

How does the mother mouse react to Despereaux's birth? **She is upset and disappointed.**

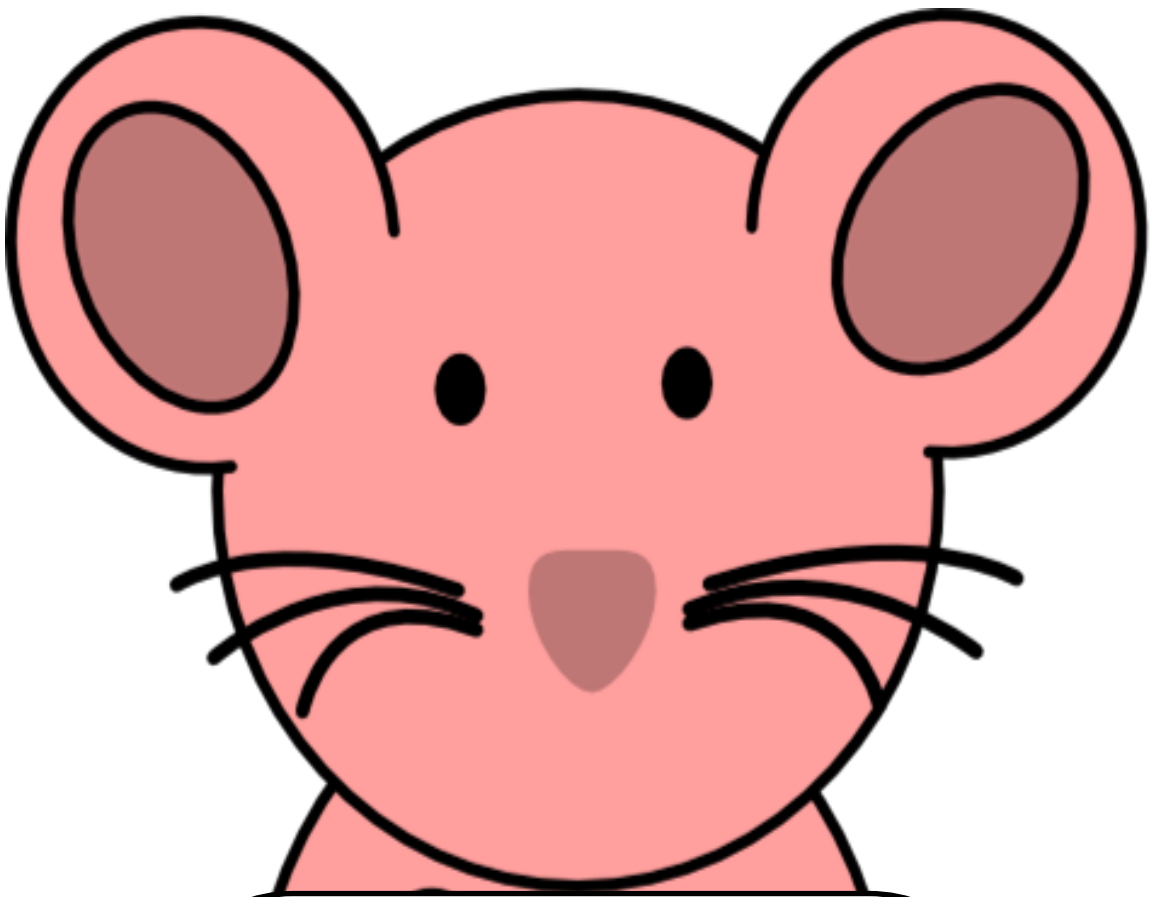
In the box below, list things that most mice are interested in.

**Food! Mice think constantly of food. They are intent on tracking down every crumb.**



What does the name  
Despereaux mean?

What is unusual about  
Despereaux?



What does the name  
Despereaux mean?

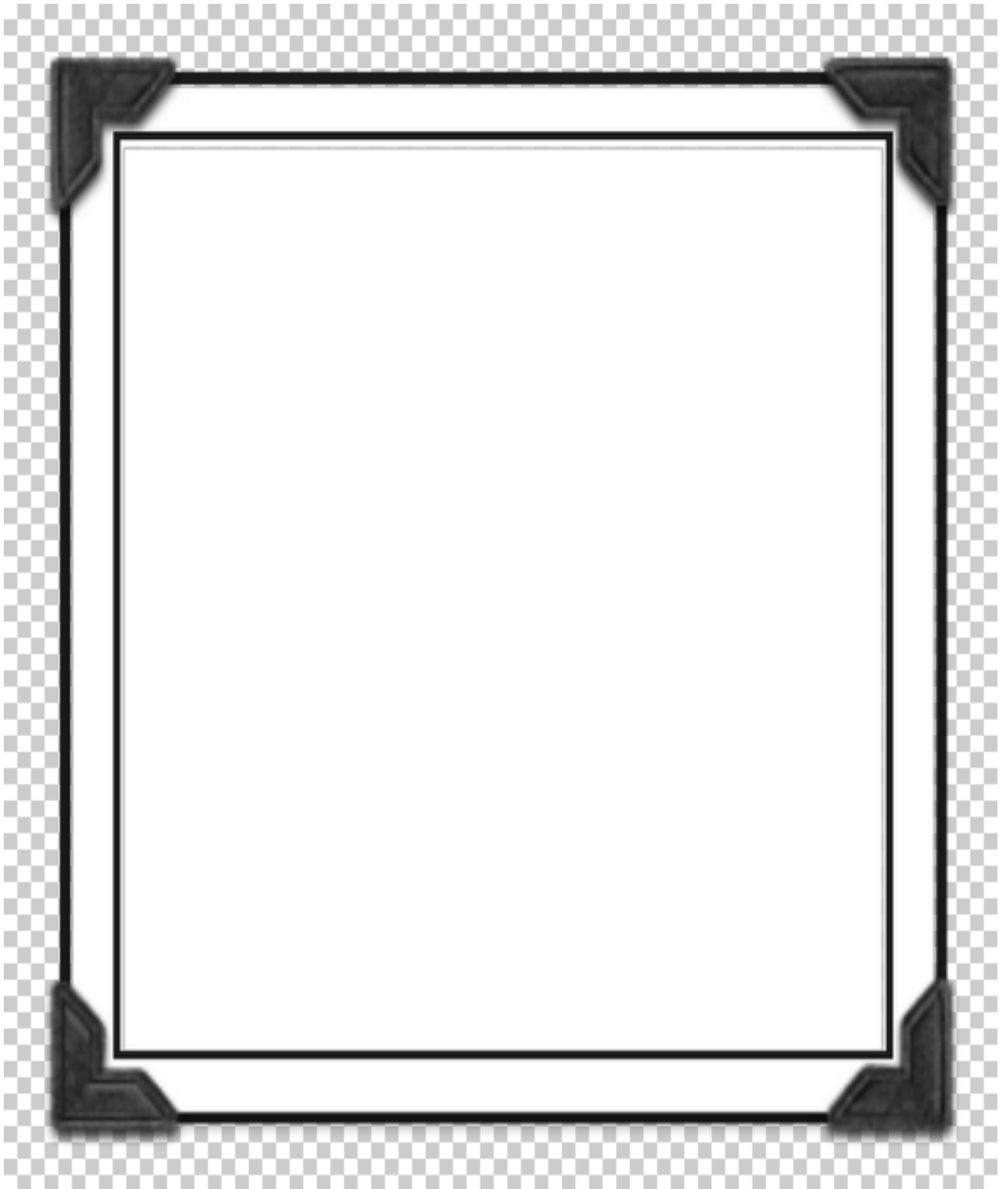
**Sadness, despair**

What is unusual about  
Despereaux?

**He was born with his eyes open.  
He has large ears. He is very  
small. He showed no interest in  
the things a mouse should  
show interest in.**

## Despereaux

Use the descriptions of Despereaux in chapters one and two to draw a picture of him in the box below.



Despereaux





# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapter 3

In chapter three, Despereaux's siblings try to "educate him on the ways of being a mouse." Go back and read the beginning of chapter three to complete the following chart.

Siblings teaching Despereaux	What the siblings are trying to teach him	The instructions given to Despereaux

1. What did Despereaux do instead of trying to scurry the way that Furlough was instructing him to?
2. Why wouldn't Despereaux eat the paper the way that his sister Merlot was instructing him to?

# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapter 3

In chapter three, Despereaux's siblings try to "educate him on the ways of being a mouse." Go back and read the beginning of chapter three to complete the following chart.

Siblings teaching Despereaux	What the siblings are trying to teach him	The instructions given to Despereaux
<b>Furlough</b>	<b>The art of scurrying</b>	<b>"Move side to side." "Look over your shoulder." "Don't stop for anything."</b>
<b>Merlot</b>	<b>How to nibble paper</b>	<b>"first a bite of glue and then follow with a crunch of paper."</b>

1. What did Despereaux do instead of trying to scurry the way that Furlough was instructing him to? **He was staring at the light from the window.**
2. Why wouldn't Despereaux eat the paper the way that his sister Merlot was instructing him to? **He said it would ruin the story. Despereaux began to read the story.**

# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapter 3

### Literary Device ~ Foreshadowing

**Foreshadowing** occurs when the author provides a clue or a hint of something that a character will face later in the story.

**Which of the following lines from chapter three is an example of foreshadowing?**

- a. Despereaux looked down at the book, and something remarkable happened.
- b. "This way, small brother," she said as she crawled onto the pages of the book.
- c. He shivered. He sneezed. He blew his nose into his handkerchief.
- d. Despereaux did not know it, but he would need, very soon, to be brave himself.

### Discussion

Reread the last line to the reader in chapter three. Do you agree with the narrator's comment about fate? Explain what this means and why you believe it to be true or not.

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# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapter 3

### Literary Device ~ Foreshadowing

**Foreshadowing** occurs when the author provides a clue or a hint of something that a character will face later in the story.

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### Discussion

Reread the last line to the reader in chapter three. Do you agree with the narrator's comment about fate? Explain what this means and why you believe it to be true or not.

Accept reasonable answers.

---

---

---

---

# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapter 4

When Despereaux finds out where the music is coming from in chapter four, it makes him very happy.

*"Oh," he said, "it sounds like heaven. It smells like honey."*

**A simile** is a type of figurative language used to compare two things using the words *like* or *as*. Despereaux compares music to heaven and honey. It is interesting that he compares the sound of music to a smell because music is something that does not have a smell. However, for a mouse, everything is most likely related to this sense. Pretend that you are Despereaux and you want to continue your description of this music. Try to come up with two of your own similes for Despereaux to compare this music to.

It sounds like \_\_\_\_\_. It smells like \_\_\_\_\_.

### Princess Pea

What is your first impression of the Princess Pea? Explain why you have this opinion. Defend your answer by supporting it with something that she says.

---

---

---

---

---

Where does Despereaux find himself sitting at the end of chapter four? \_\_\_\_\_

How did he end up in this place?

---

**Good readers keep pictures in their minds while they are reading. On a piece of paper, draw a picture of what is happening at the end of chapter four.**

# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapter 4

When Despereaux finds out where the music is coming from in chapter four, it makes him very happy.

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It sounds like laughter that can't be refrained. It smells like daisies.

### Princess Pea

What is your first impression of the Princess Pea? Explain why you have this opinion. Defend your answer by supporting it with something that she says.

Accept reasonable answers.

She is kind, compassionate, and a good listener.

Where does Despereaux find himself sitting at the end of chapter four? At the foot of the king

How did he end up in this place?

He crept closer and closer to get to the music.

**Good readers keep pictures in their minds while they are reading. On a piece of paper, draw a picture of what is happening at the end of chapter four.**

# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapter 5

To whom does Despereaux compare the Princess Pea? \_\_\_\_\_

What happens after The Princess Pea smiles at Despereaux and he smiles back at her?

---

### Love

In this chapter, the narrator declares that love is ridiculous, wonderful, and powerful.

Prompt: Write a five paragraph essay explaining how love is all three of these things. Use the following graphic organizer to gather your thoughts, reasons, and examples. Then, write your essay on notebook paper. Your essay should include an introduction, body, (three paragraphs – one discussing how love is ridiculous, one telling how love is wonderful, and one explaining how love is powerful) and a conclusion.

**Paragraph 1 – Your introduction** ~ A beginning statement + thesis statement

Beginning statement: Make sure you first tell the reader the title and author of the book. It can be written like this: In chapter five of the novel *The Tale of Despereaux* by Kate DiCamillo, a bold statement is made about love.

\*Note: Titles of books must always be underlined or italicized. 😊

A thesis statement is a main idea. It tells the reader of your paper what you will be writing about. The thesis statement should always be included in your introduction. Look at your prompt, and then write the thesis statement for this essay in the following box. (Basically, you will quote what the narrator says about love.)

### Paragraphs 2 – 4 The Body

In each box below, explain how love is each of these things.

**Love is ridiculous.**

**Love is wonderful.**

**Love is powerful**

**Paragraph 5 – Conclusion** ~ Restate the importance of the thesis statement.

Leave your reader with something to think about.

# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapter 5

To whom does Despereaux compare the Princess Pea? The fair maiden from the book

What happens after The Princess Pea smiles at Despereaux and he smiles back at her?

He falls in love.

### Love

In this chapter, the narrator declares that love is ridiculous, wonderful, and powerful.

Prompt: Write a five paragraph essay explaining how love is all three of these things. Use the following graphic organizer to gather your thoughts, reasons, and examples. Then, write your essay on notebook paper. Your essay should include an introduction, body, (three paragraphs – one discussing how love is ridiculous, one telling how love is wonderful, and one explaining how love is powerful) and a conclusion.

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### Paragraphs 2 – 4 The Body

In each box below, explain how love is each of these things.

**Love is ridiculous.**

**Sample answer:** Love can be ridiculous because it sometimes doesn't make sense. It can make someone act silly and do crazy things.

**Love is wonderful.**

**Sample answer:** Love is a great feeling. It gives feelings of warmth and acceptance. It is also thrilling and exciting. It can erase negative feelings.

**Love is powerful**

**Sample answer:** Love can unite people. It can cause people to sacrifice time, things, and even their lives. It can change people, situations, and even the world.

**Paragraph 5 – Conclusion** ~ Restate the importance of the thesis statement.

Leave your reader with something to think about.



# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapters 6 & 7

**Expanding on Quotes** In these chapters we learn more about some characters based on things that they believe. Cut out the squares and solid lines in middle up to the top line to make two flaps that can be lifted. Then, glue under top box only. Read each quote. Lift each box to write what each quote reveals about the character and what it means to you.

(page 35) *...one thing I have learned in this world," said Lester, "it is that mice act like mice or else there is bound to be trouble."*

What does this  
reveal about  
Lester?

What does this  
mean to you?

(page 39) *...the king said, "has many responsibilities. And one of them is not becoming involved personally with even the distant relatives of one's enemies..."*

What does this  
reveal about  
the king?

What does this  
mean to you?

(page 41) *"I honor you," whispered Despereaux...He put his paw over his heart....He was alas, a mouse deeply in love.*

What does this  
reveal about  
Despereaux?

What does this  
mean to you?

<p>page 35) ...one thing I have learned in this world," said Lester, "it is that mice act like mice or else there is bound to be trouble.</p> <p>What does this reveal about Lester?</p>	<p>What does this mean to you?</p>
<p>page 39) ...the king said, "has many responsibilities. And one of them is not becoming involved personally with even the distant relatives of one's enemies...</p> <p>What does this reveal about the king?</p>	<p>What does this mean to you?</p>
<p>page 41) "I honor you," whispered Despereaux...He put his paw over his art....He was alas, a mouse deeply in love.</p> <p>What does this reveal about Despereaux?</p>	<p>What does this mean to you?</p>

### Sample Answers:

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Set

Under first flap: What does this reveal about Lester? **Lester believes strongly in the mice rules. He does not believe in acting differently from what is expected.**

What does this mean to you? **It means that trouble most likely awaits Despereaux.**

2<sup>nd</sup> Set: What does this reveal about the king? **He holds grudges. He is very angry and hurt.**

What does this mean to you? **The king relates Despereaux to his enemy. I wonder if this will influence the princess? I do not think it is wise to hold grudges like this.**

3<sup>rd</sup> Set: What does this reveal about Despereaux? **Despereaux has very strong feelings for the princess. He wants the "fairy tale" kind of love. He sure fell fast in love!**

What does this mean to you? **Despereaux loves her, but I wonder if she will love him back. Honor means respect.**

# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapter 8

Perfidy (**pur** fi dee)n: the quality or state of being faithless or disloyal [Latin *perfidia*, from *perfidus* “faithless”, from *per fidem decipere* “to betray”, literally, “to deceive by trust”]

How did Lester commit the act of perfidy?

---

Who else do you think committed the act of perfidy? Explain.

---

---

There are a few things other than a meaning that we can learn about a word in the dictionary. We can learn all of the following:

- How to pronounce the word
- How to spell the word
- The part of speech of the word ~ What part of speech is the word perfidy? \_\_\_\_\_
- The definition of the word
- The etymology of a word

### Etymologies

An etymology is not a definition. Etymologies are explanations of where our words come from, what our words meant, and how they sounded 600 or 2,000 years ago. You can find etymologies inside brackets in the dictionary. Look at the etymology for the word perfidy.

From what language did this word originate? \_\_\_\_\_

Write down three other words from chapter eight. Look up these words in a dictionary, and find the etymology for each.

Word 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Etymology \_\_\_\_\_

Word 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Etymology \_\_\_\_\_

Word 3: \_\_\_\_\_ Etymology \_\_\_\_\_

# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapter 8

Perfidy (**pur** fi dee)n: the quality or state of being faithless or disloyal [Latin *perfidia*, from *perfidus* “faithless”, from *per fidem decipere* “to betray”, literally, “to deceive by trust”]

How did Lester commit the act of perfidy?

**He did not vote against his own son being sent to the dungeon.**

Who else do you think committed the act of perfidy? Explain.

**Despereaux's brother, Furlough commits the act of perfidy when he tells his father that Despereaux was not acting the way that a mouse should act.**

There are a few things other than a meaning that we can learn about a word in the dictionary. We can learn all of the following:

- How to pronounce the word
- How to spell the word
- The part of speech of the word ~ What part of speech is the word perfidy? **noun**
- The definition of the word
- The etymology of a word

### **Etymologies**

An etymology is not a definition. Etymologies are explanations of where our words come from, what our words meant, and how they sounded 600 or 2,000 years ago. You can find etymologies inside brackets in the dictionary. Look at the etymology for the word perfidy.

From what language did this word originate? **Latin**

Write down three other words from chapter eight. Look up these words in a dictionary and find the etymology for each. **Sample words below.**

Word 1: **heeded**

Etymology **Old English**

Word 2: **dismay**

Etymology **Latin**

Word 3: **dismal**

Etymology **French**

# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapter 8

**Perfidy**

**Definition**

**Synonyms**

**Sentence**

## Chapter 8

the state of  
being faithless  
or disloyal

**Perfidy**

Synonyms

Sentence

Definition

treachery, betrayal,  
treason, disloyal

Sentence

Definition

Synonyms

The King was so shocked  
by his son's perfidy.

# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapter 9

The title of this chapter is “the right question”.

Find the question in this chapter that Furlough refers to as “the wrong question”. Write the “wrong question” on the line below.

---

Answer Despereaux’s question yourself. What would you say if he asked you that?

---

---

What is the question that Furlough tells Despereaux he should be asking?

---

### **Predict**

Reread the last line of chapter nine. Explain what the word *fate* means.

---

---

Make a prediction. What do you think Despereaux’s fate will be?

---

---

---

---

# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapter 9

The title of this chapter is “the right question”.

Find the question in this chapter that Furlough refers to as “the wrong question”. Write the “wrong question” on the line below.

**“Do you know what love is?”**

Answer Despereaux’s question yourself. What would you say if he asked you that?

**Accept reasonable answers.**

---

What is the question that Furlough tells Despereaux he should be asking?

**Why does the mouse council want to see you?**

**Predict**

Reread the last line of chapter nine. Explain what the word *fate* means.

**Sample answer: I think fate means one’s own destiny. It is what a person is meant to do or be in life.**

Make a prediction. What do you think Despereaux’s fate will be?

**Accept reasonable predictions.**

---

---



# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapter 10

*First, we will give you a chance to defend yourself against these rumors of your egregious acts. Did you or did you not sit at the foot of the human king?*

What do you think that the word *egregious* means? \_\_\_\_\_

Look up the word in the dictionary. Answer the following information about this word using the dictionary.

What is the etymology of the word? \_\_\_\_\_

What part of speech is the word? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the definition of the word? \_\_\_\_\_

*Despereaux marveled at his own bravery.*

*He admired his own defiance.*

What do you think that the word *defiance* means? \_\_\_\_\_

Look up the word in the dictionary. What is the dictionary definition of this word?

\_\_\_\_\_

What qualities do you think a person or character should have to be considered a hero?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What makes Despereaux brave?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapter 10

*First, we will give you a chance to defend yourself against these rumors of your egregious acts. Did you or did you not sit at the foot of the human king?*

What do you think that the word *egregious* means? horrible, bad

Look up the word in the dictionary. Answer the following information about this word using the dictionary.

What is the etymology of the word?

What part of speech is the word?

What is the definition of the word?

*Despereaux marveled at his own bravery.*

*He admired his own defiance.*

What do you think that the word *defiance* means? standing up to someone, showing resistance, being rebellious

Look up the word in the dictionary. What is the dictionary definition of this word?

Intentionally contemptuous behavior or attitude

What qualities do you think a person or character should have to be considered a hero?

Accept reasonable answers. Sample – bravery, compassion, strength, selfless

attitude, determination

What makes Despereaux brave? He refuses to renounce the princess even though it means he will be sent to the dungeon. His defiance makes him brave.

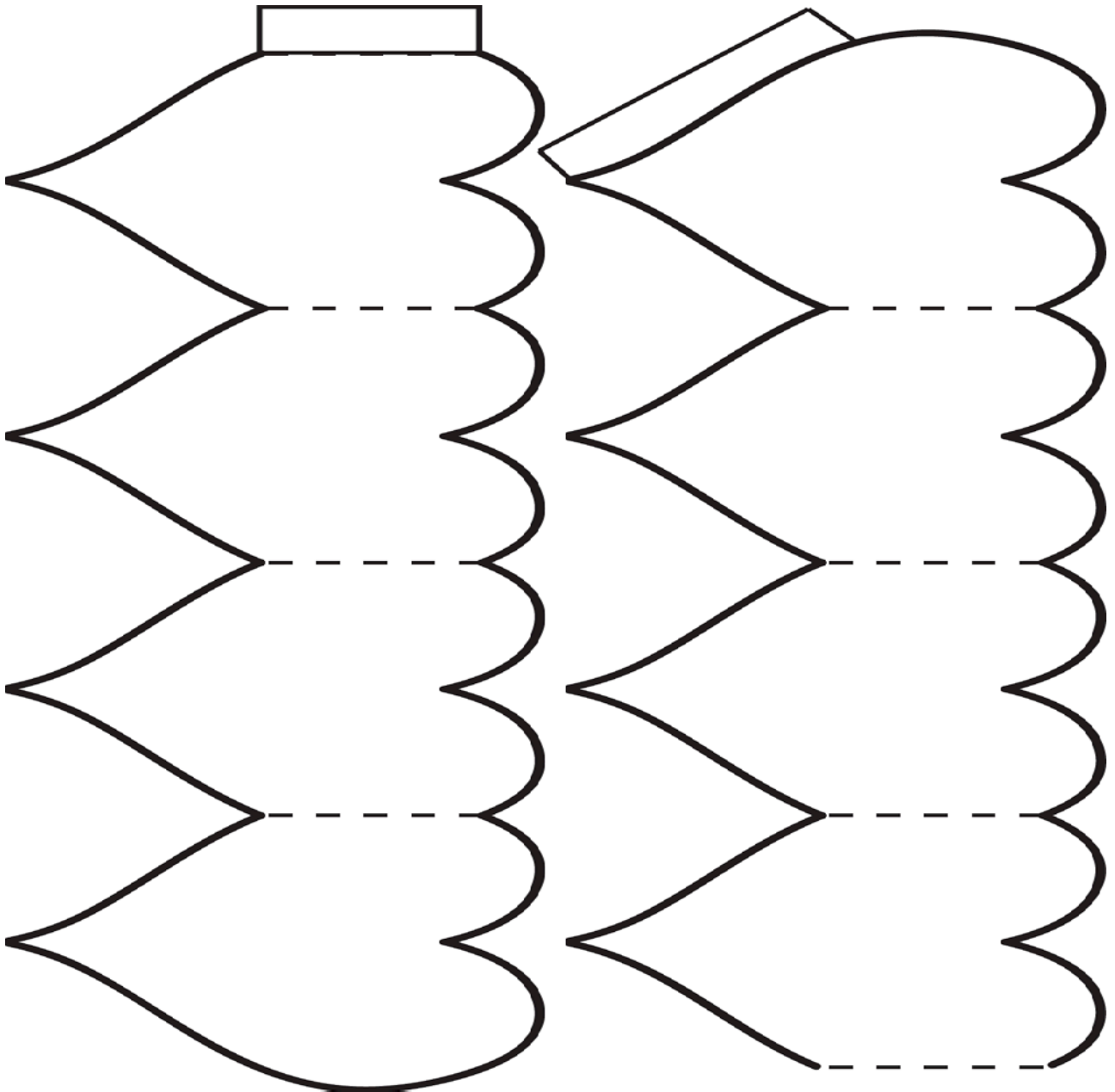
Despereaux is determined, courageous, and unashamed.

# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapter 11

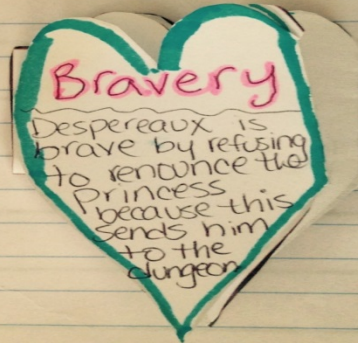
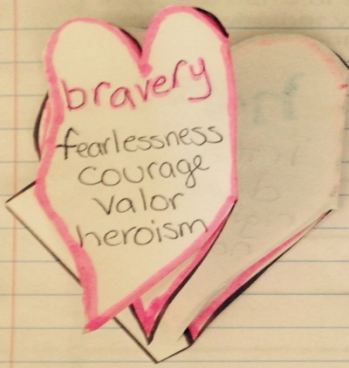
*"... You love her with a courtly love, a love that is based on bravery and courtesy and honor and devotion. Just so."*

These words spoken by the threadmaster describe the fairy tale kind of love. Let's examine what each of these words mean. Cut out the shapes and fold like an accordion on the dotted lines. Glue only under the tabs. Then, write one of the underlined words from the passage above on each heart. On one set of hearts, write synonyms for these words. On the other set of hearts, explain how Despereaux has demonstrated this word with the princess.



# The Tale of Despereaux Chapter 11

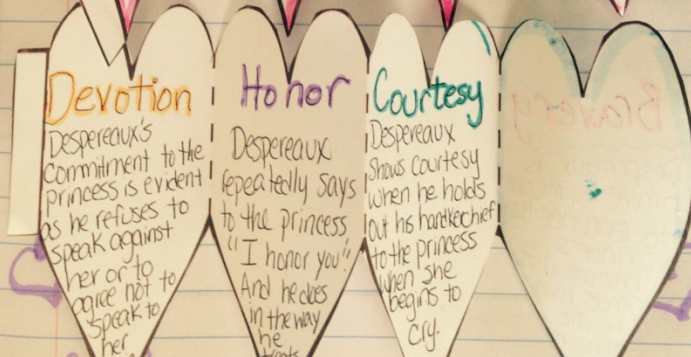
"... You love her with a courtly love, a love that is based on bravery and courtesy and honor and devotion. Just so."



a love based on bravery and courtesy and honor




# The Tale of Despereaux Chapter 11

"... You love her with a courtly love, a love that is based on bravery and courtesy and honor and devotion. Just so."



# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapter 11

	<p><i>Reader, do you believe that there is such a thing as happily ever after?</i> Just as Despereaux begins to question the possibility of a happily ever after, the narrator asks you to consider this too. Answer the question. First tell whether you believe there is such a thing as happily ever after. Then, explain your answer by giving at least three reasons that support your opinion.</p>
	
	

# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapter 12

The word *Adieu* is the French word for farewell. Write an acrostic poem about Despereaux's present situation using the word *farewell*.

First, brainstorm a list of words and phrases that have to do with Despereaux's farewell. To come up with words, think about his feelings for the princess, his mother and family, his feelings, and what he is facing. Try to begin some of your words with the letters in the word *farewell*.

### My Words

Farewell

Now, use the words that you brainstormed to help you write your acrostic poem. You do not have to use all of the words in your list. You may come up with new ones that you did not list. Your poem should be about Despereaux's farewell, and each line should begin with a letter from the word.

F  
A  
R  
E  
W  
E  
L  
L

# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapter 12

The word *Adieu* is the French word for farewell. Write an acrostic poem about Despereaux's present situation using the word *farewell*.

First, brainstorm a list of words and phrases that have to do with Despereaux's farewell. To come up with words, think about his feelings for the princess, his mother and family, his feelings, and what he is facing. Try to begin some of your words with the letters in the word *farewell*.

### My Words

Farewell

Adieu, follow your heart, love, dungeon, rats, exit, enter  
another world, welcome the challenge, hurt, sad, tears,  
goodbye, hero

Now, use the words that you brainstormed to help you write your acrostic poem. You do not have to use all of the words in your list. You may come up with new ones that you didn't list. Your poem should be about Despereaux's farewell and each line should begin with a letter from the word

**F**ollowing your heart, to love you are a slave

**A**dieu, farewell, Despereaux. Be brave.

**R**ats await you; that is what you hear.

**E**xiting this castle, you must have no fear.

**W**elcome the challenge that lies ahead.

**E**nter the dungeon without tears shed.

**L**ove outweighs your woe.

**L**ittle Despereaux, you are a hero!

# The Tale of Despereaux Chapter 14

## Setting

Cut the solid lines only. Cut up to the dotted lines to make three flaps. Glue only under the words *place*, *time*, and *environment*. Under each flap, list details that relate to the setting. Under ***place***, list details that pertain to the place Despereaux finds himself in chapter 14. Under *time*, list details that pertain to time, and under *environment*, list details that pertain to the environment that he has been thrown into.

Place

**The physical location**

**Examples:**

**In the country, state, or city?**

**Mountains? Lake? Forest?**

**Beach? Under a bridge?**

Time

**Calendar and clock times**

**What is the day, month, year?**

**What is the season?**

**Does it take place in the past,  
present, or future?**

Environment

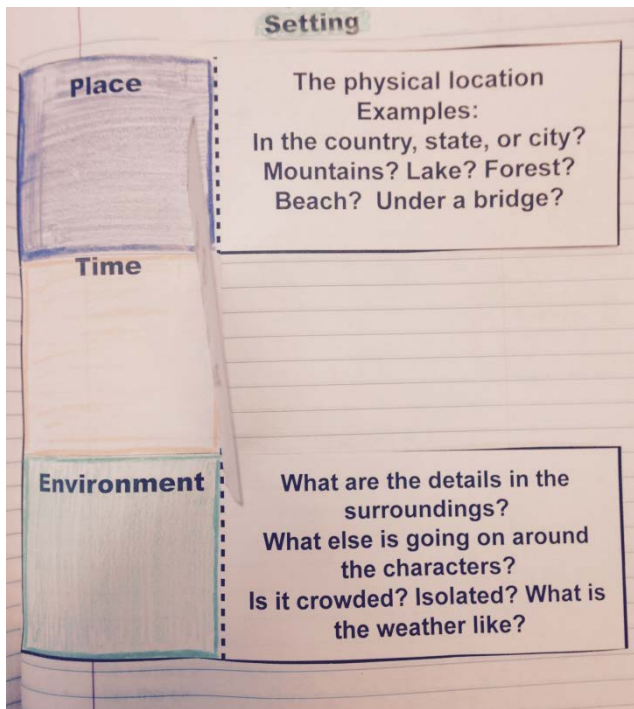
**What are the details in the  
surroundings?**

**What else is going on around  
the characters?**

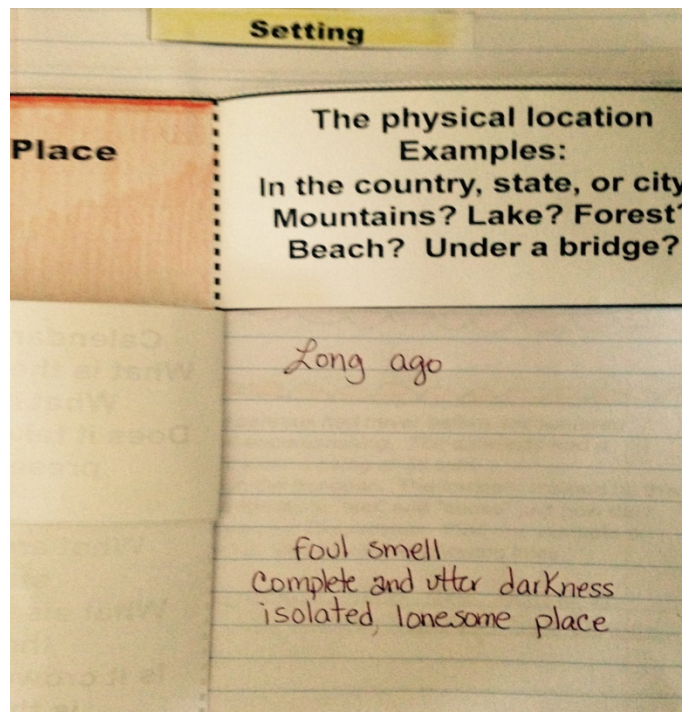
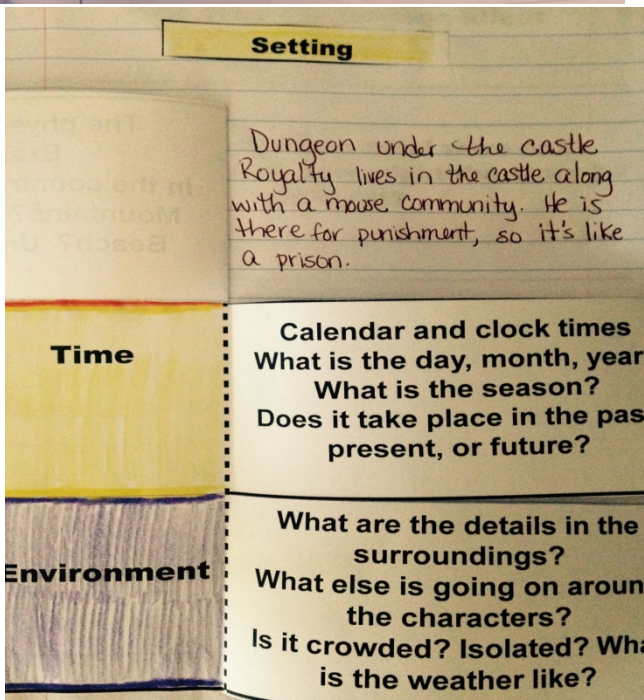
**Is it crowded? Isolated? What  
is the weather like?**



# How To Make Setting Flaps



Cut out the box. Do not cut the dotted lines. Cut lines in middle up to the dotted lines so that each flap can open. Glue only under the boxes that say place, time, and environment (behind dotted lines). When finished, students can write the parts of setting related to each one on the notebook paper under each flap.



# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapter 14

How does the dungeon affect Despereaux?

---

---

If this part of the novel were set somewhere else, how might the story be different?

---

---

*And it was so dark. Despereaux had never before encountered darkness so awful, so all-encompassing. The darkness had a physical presence as if it were a being all its own.*

Darkness is personified in the dungeon. The imagery created by this personification helps the reader to “feel” and “sense” just how dark and scary the dungeon was for Despereaux. Find the example of personification on page 74. Write it on the following lines.

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---

---

---

How does the dungeon affect  
Despereaux?

Despereaux is extremely frightened by the dungeon. It also, however, causes him to fight to be brave.

If this part of the novel were set  
somewhere else, how might the story be  
different?

There would not be the fear, the foul smell, the total darkness,  
nor the rats. The story would be completely different.

*And it was so dark. Despereaux had never before encountered  
darkness so awful, so all-encompassing. The darkness had a  
physical presence as if it were a being all its own.*

Darkness is personified in the dungeon. The imagery created by this  
personification helps the reader to “feel” and “sense” just how dark  
and scary the dungeon was for Despereaux. Find the example of  
personification on page 74. Write it on the following lines.

“Pea,” said Despereaux, and the name of his beloved  
was immediately swallowed up by the darkness.

---

---



# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapter 15

Who is Gregory? \_\_\_\_\_

How does the rope help Gregory? \_\_\_\_\_

### Point of view

The point of view of a story makes all the difference in the world. If a character is telling the story, the first person point of view is used. If none of the characters are telling the story, and an unseen narrator is telling it, the third person point of view is being used. If the narrator focuses on only one character, the limited third person point of view is used. If the narrator allows the reader to know thoughts and feelings of one character, then another's, then another's, the third person omniscient point of view is used.

This novel has an interesting point of view. Answer the following questions

Are any of the characters telling this story? \_\_\_\_\_

The answer to question number one tells us that this novel is **not** written in the \_\_\_\_\_ person point of view.

It is interesting that Gregory speaks in the third person point of view! When you speak, you use the first person point of view by using the pronouns *I*, *me*, *we*, etc. Imagine if we all went around speaking in the third person point of view like Gregory does. It sounds so funny, doesn't it? Try it on the lines below. Write three sentences telling about what you did yesterday. Use the third person point of view as you write about what you did. This means you cannot use the first person pronouns like *I*, *me*, or *we*.

---

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In this novel, the unseen narrator does not focus on just one character; therefore the point of view is not \_\_\_\_\_.

Also, the author does something very cool in this book. From time to time, the narrator steps out of the story to talk to the reader using the pronoun *you*. This is the second person point of view. Pay attention to how this affects the story!

# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapter 15

Who is Gregory? A jailer who has been in the dungeon a long time

How does the rope help Gregory?

It is tied to his ankle and keeps him from getting lost because it guides him “back to the beginning”.

### Point of view

The point of view of a story makes all the difference in the world. If a character is telling the story, the first person point of view is used. If none of the characters are telling the story, and an unseen narrator is telling it, the third person point of view is being used. If the narrator focuses on only one character, the limited third person point of view is used. If the narrator allows the reader to know thoughts and feelings of one character, then another's, then another's, the third person omniscient point of view is used.

This novel has an interesting point of view. Answer the following questions

Are any of the characters telling this story? no

The answer to question number one tells us that this novel is **not** written in the first person point of view.

It is interesting that Gregory speaks in the third person point of view! When you speak, you use the first person point of view by using the pronouns *I*, *me*, *we*, etc. Imagine if we all went around speaking in the third person point of view like Gregory does. It sounds so funny, doesn't it? Try it on the lines below. Write three sentences telling about what you did yesterday. Use the third person point of view as you write about what you did. This means you cannot use the first person pronouns like *I*, *me*, or *we*.

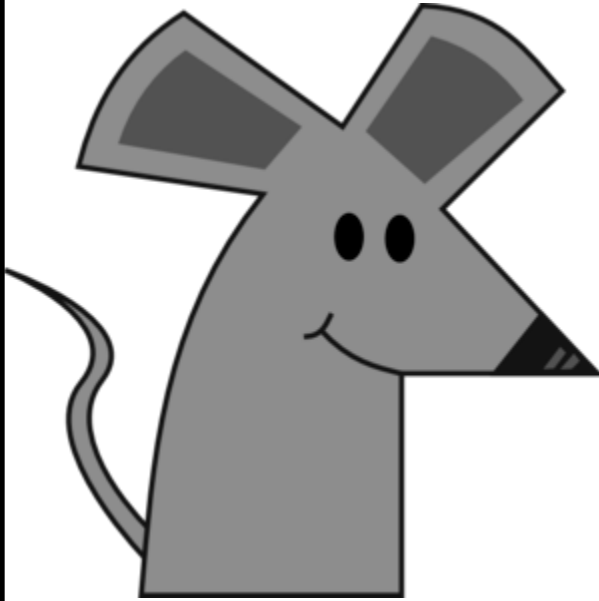
Accept reasonable answers.

In this novel, the unseen narrator does not focus on just one character; therefore the point of view is not limited.

Also, the author does something very cool in this book. From time to time, the narrator steps out of the story to talk to the reader using the pronoun *you*. This is the second person point of view. Pay attention to how this affects the story!

# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapter 16



Roscuro

Real Name\_\_\_\_\_

He was drawn to \_\_\_\_\_

He said, "I think that the meaning of life is \_\_\_\_\_."



Botticelli

Last name\_\_\_\_\_

One word to describe him\_\_\_\_\_

He said, "The meaning of life is the

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapter 16

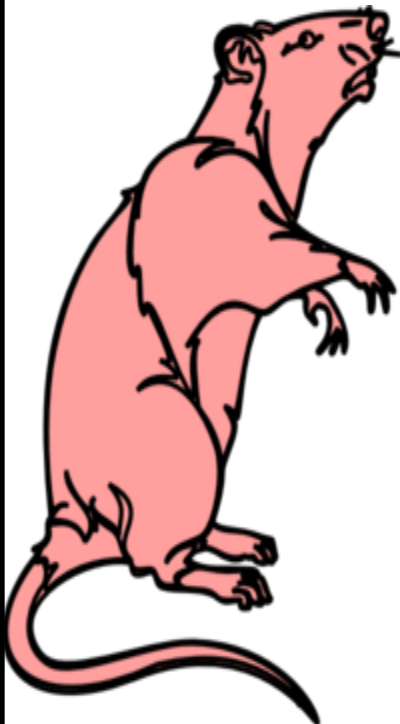


Roscuro

Real Name Chiroscuro

He was drawn to light

He said, "I think that the meaning of life is light."



Botticelli

Last name Remorso

One word to describe him evil

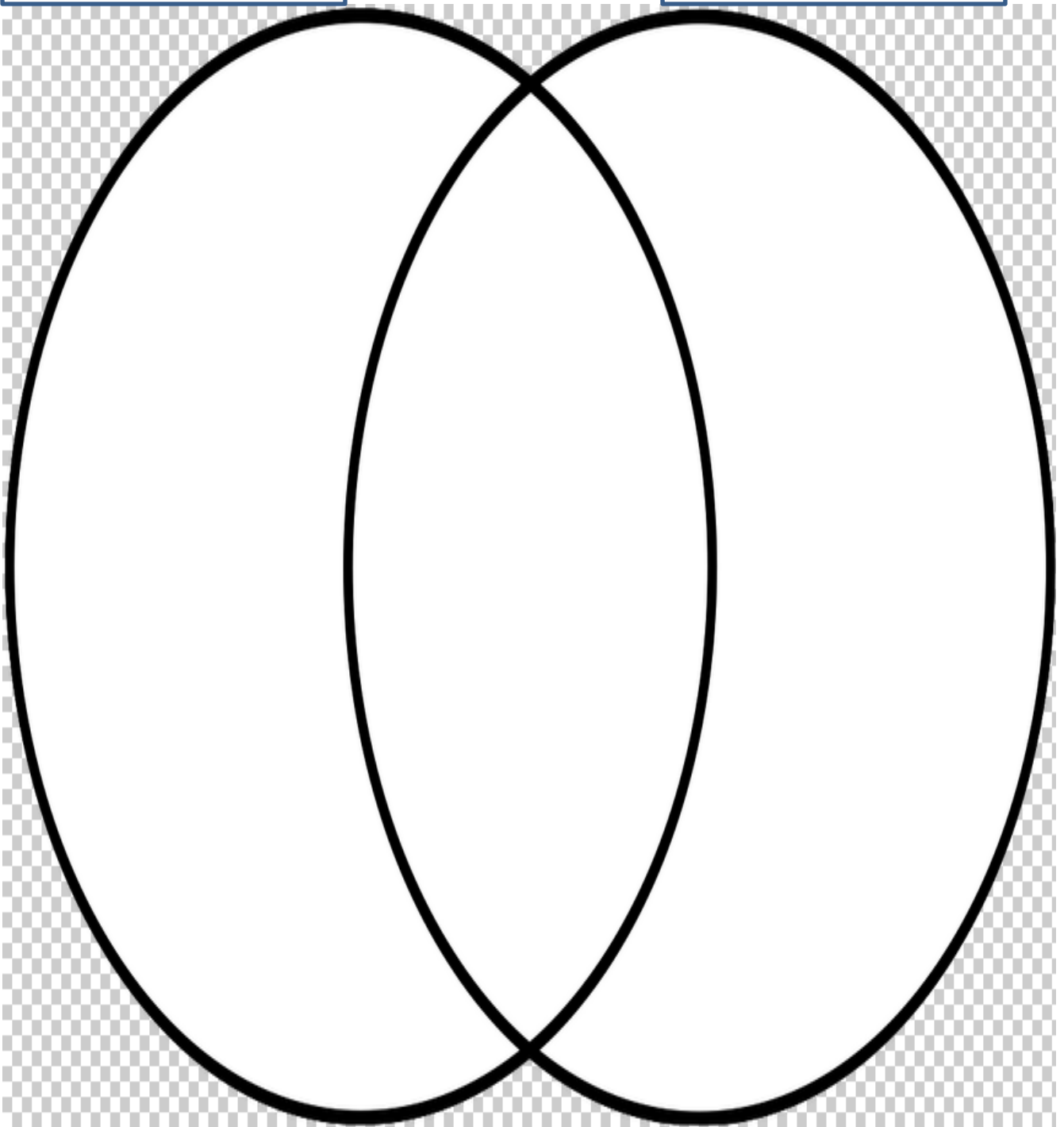
He said, "The meaning of life is the  
suffering of others."

# Chapter 16

## Compare and contrast Roscuro and Despereaux

Despereaux

Roscuro





# Chapter 16

## Compare and contrast Roscuro and Despereaux

Despereaux

Roscuro

**Born in the  
clean, light-  
filled castle**

**a mouse**

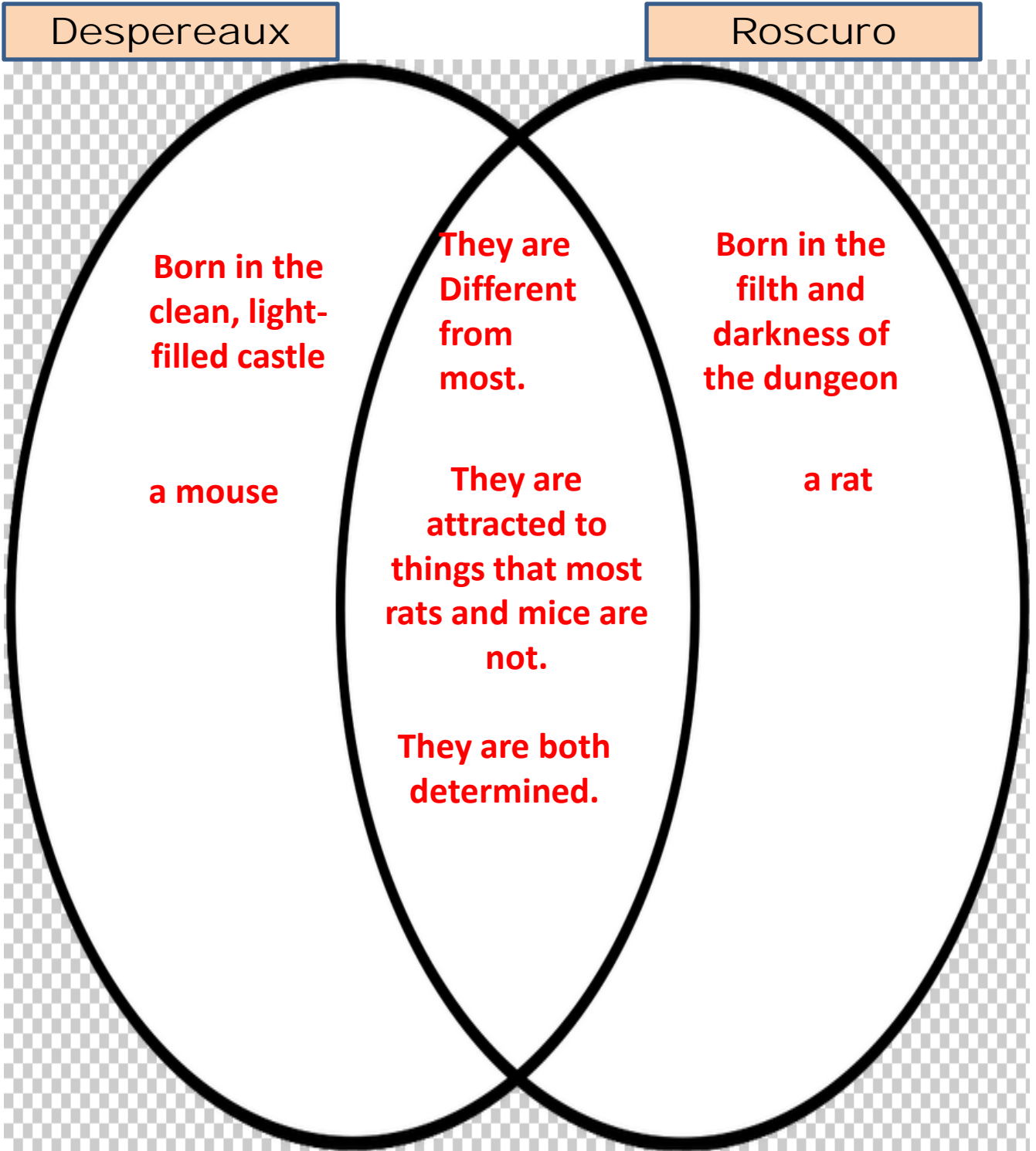
**They are  
Different  
from  
most.**

**They are  
attracted to  
things that most  
rats and mice are  
not.**

**They are both  
determined.**

**Born in the  
filth and  
darkness of  
the dungeon**

**a rat**



## Chapter 17 Find Textual Support.

Cut the solid lines only (not frames inside squares). Do not cut dotted lines. Glue only between the dotted lines. Each flap should lift. Write passages under each flap.

Find one  
passage that  
shows that the  
setting affects  
the plot.

Find one  
passage that  
contains  
memorable  
imagery..

Find a passage  
that shows that  
Botticelli is  
manipulative  
and controlling.

Find a passage  
from this chapter  
that shows that  
Roscuero is being  
influenced by  
Botticelli.

# Answers for chapter 17

## **Passage that shows setting affects the plot:**

*"No," said Botticelli. "No." He looked at Roscuro intently. "Not beautiful. No."*

*"I must see more light. I must see all of it," said Roscuro. "I must go upstairs." (page 95)*

This passage shows that the light from the castle (setting) makes Roscuro desire to have more of it. This results in an inward conflict as Botticelli tries to convince Roscuro that darkness and suffering, not light, are what are important.

## **Passage that contains memorable imagery:**

*...a red cloth was thrown into the light. The cloth hung suspended for a moment, bright red and glowing, and then the door was slammed shut again and the light disappeared and the cloth fell to the floor.*

## **Passage that shows that Botticelli is manipulative and controlling:**

*"Listen," said Botticelli, "this is what you should do: go and torture the prisoner. Go and take the red cloth from him."*

## **Passage that shows that Roscuro is influenced by Botticelli:**

*"I am a rat," said Roscuro.*

*"Again," said Botticelli, swinging his locket.*

*"I am a rat."*

*"Exactly," said Botticelli. "A rat is a rat is a rat..."*

# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapter 18

Why was Gregory sent to the dungeon?

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---

What secret does Gregory confess to Roscuro?

---

---

In your own words, explain how Roscuro is able to take the red cloth from the prisoner.

---

---

What does Roscuro learn at the end of this chapter? Support your answer with evidence from the text.

---

---

---

What do you think that the prisoner learns at the end of this chapter?

---

# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapter 18

Why was Gregory sent to the dungeon?

Gregory was sent to the dungeon for stealing six cows, two Jerseys and four Guernseys. Cow theft

What secret does Gregory confess to Roscuro?

He traded his own daughter for a red table cloth, a hen, and a handful of cigarettes.

In your own words, explain how Roscuro is able to take the red cloth from the prisoner.

He tells the prisoner he has come to keep him company and to allow him to confess his sins. Roscuro claims to be “a voice that cares” and listens to him. He asks if the cloth brings him comfort. Then, he takes it.

What does Roscuro learn at the end of this chapter? Support your answer with evidence from the text.

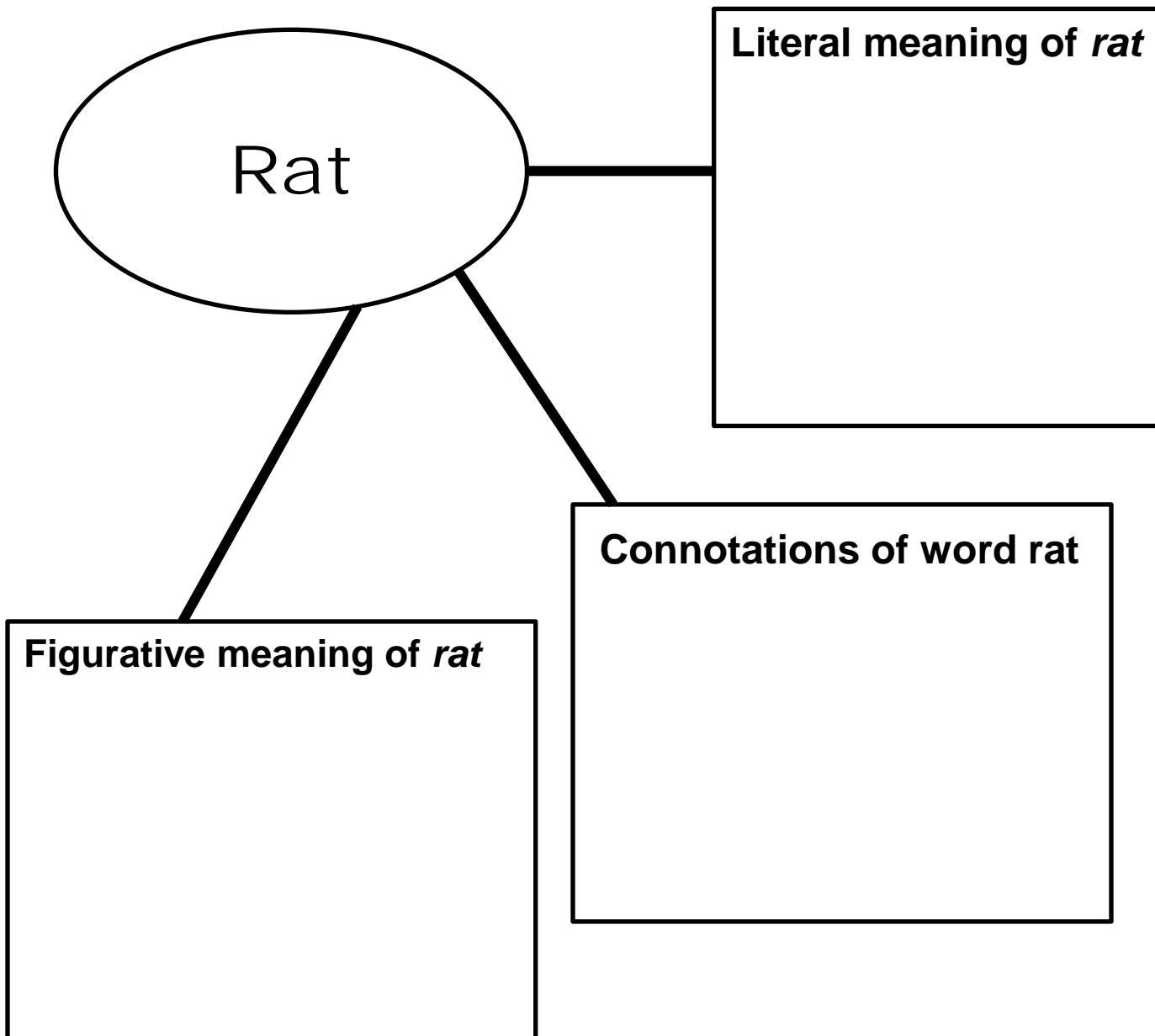
He learns that Botticelli was wrong. He finds out that what he wanted and needed was the light, not the red cloth. “What Roscuro wanted, what he needed was not the cloth, but the light that had shone behind it.”

What do you think that the prisoner learns at the end of this chapter?  
The prisoner learns not to trust so easily and maybe that rats are untrustworthy.

# What's in a Word?

**“You dirty rat!” shouted the prisoner. (page 102)**

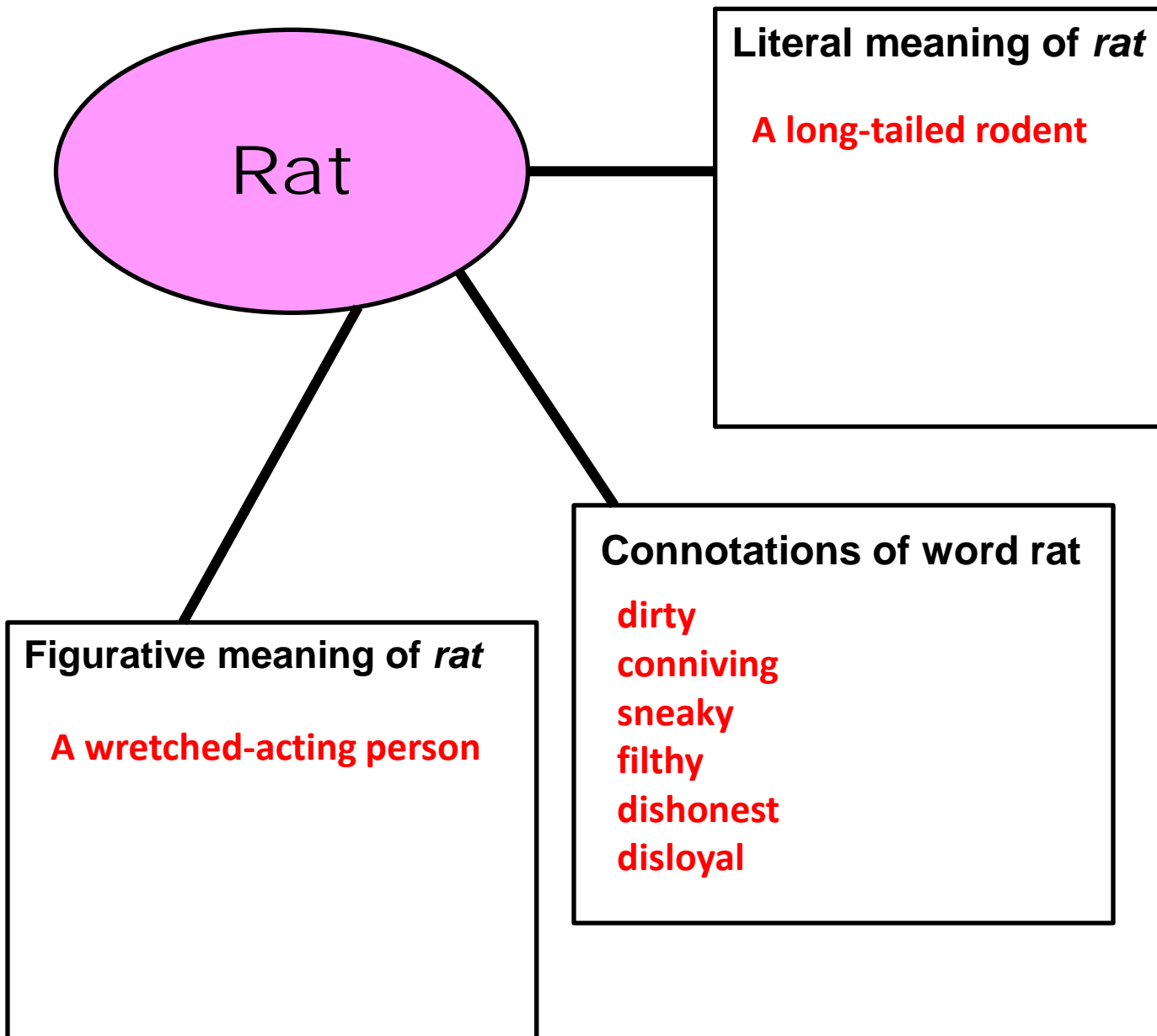
Explain the literal meaning of these words and also the figurative meaning. What connotations are in the name rat?



# What's in a Word?

**“You dirty rat!” shouted the prisoner. (page 102)**

Explain the literal meaning of these words and also the figurative meaning. What connotations are in the name rat?



# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapter 19

### Don't Forget to Use Context Clues

Gregory the jailer and those who were consigned to his domain did not laugh or smile or clink glasses with the person sitting next to them. (page 104)

Using context clues, which two words would best replace the two underlined words in the above passage?

- a. assigned, house
- b. forced, laughter
- c. assigned, environment
- d. forced, thoughts

Roscuro was enchanted. Everything glittered. Everything. (page 104)

What is another word for *enchanted*? \_\_\_\_\_

He lifted his tail off the ground and held it at an angle and marched in time to the music the minstrels were playing on their guitars.

Using context clues, which of the following is the definition of the underlined word?

- a. king's men
- b. musicians
- c. children
- d. radios



# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapter 19

### Don't Forget to Use Context Clues

Gregory the jailer and those who were consigned to his domain did not laugh or smile or clink glasses with the person sitting next to them. (page 104)

Using context clues, which two words would best replace the two underlined words in the above passage?

- a. assigned, house
- b. forced, laughter
- c. assigned, environment
- d. forced, thoughts

Roscuro was enchanted. Everything glittered. Everything. (page 104)

What is another word for enchanted? captivated

He lifted his tail off the ground and held it at an angle and marched in time to the music the minstrels were playing on their guitars.

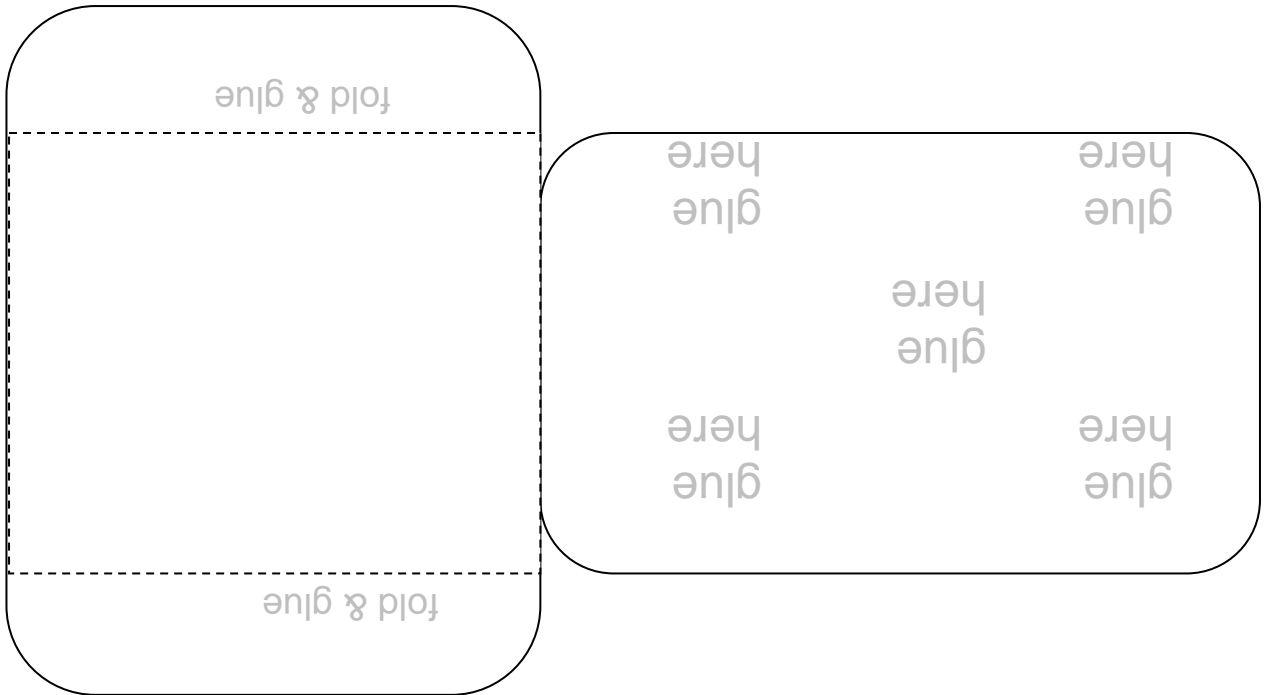
Using context clues, which of the following is the definition of the underlined word?

- a. king's men
- b. musicians
- c. children
- d. radios

# Pocket With Foldable

## Chapter 19

Follow directions to make a pocket. The accordion foldable can be placed inside the pocket.



Look back through the chapter and choose words or sentences that show how the castle affected Roscuro. Write them on the accordion foldable,. Put it in the pocket.

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**How the Castle Setting Affects Roscuro**

Imagine if you will, having  
spent the whole of your life  
in a dungeon.

## How the Castle affected Roscurio

"Oh, really," said Roscurio, "this  
is too extraordinary. This is  
too wonderful."

### Answers:

The castle amazed Roscurio. ...but happy,  
delighted amazed to find himself standing in  
so much light.(page 104)

The castle gives Roscurio a sense of  
belonging. "...It is here that I belong." (104)

The castle opens Roscurio's eyes to new  
things. "Roscurio had never seen happy  
people." (104)

Roscurio is enchanted by the castle. "Roscurio  
was enchanted." (104)

The castle changes Roscurio's mind.  
"Suffering is not the answer. Light is the  
answer."(105)

Imagine if you will, having  
spent the whole of your life

The castle amazed Roscurio.  
... but happy, delighted  
amazed to find himself  
standing in so much light.  
Page 104

The castle gives Roscurio  
a sense of belonging.

"...It is here that  
I belong." Page 104

The castle opens Roscurio's  
eyes to new things.

"Roscurio had never seen  
happy people." Page 104

Roscurio is enchanted by  
the castle.

"Roscurio was enchanted."  
Page 104

The castle changes Roscurio's  
mind!

"Suffering is not the answer."

This  
is

# The Tale of Despereaux

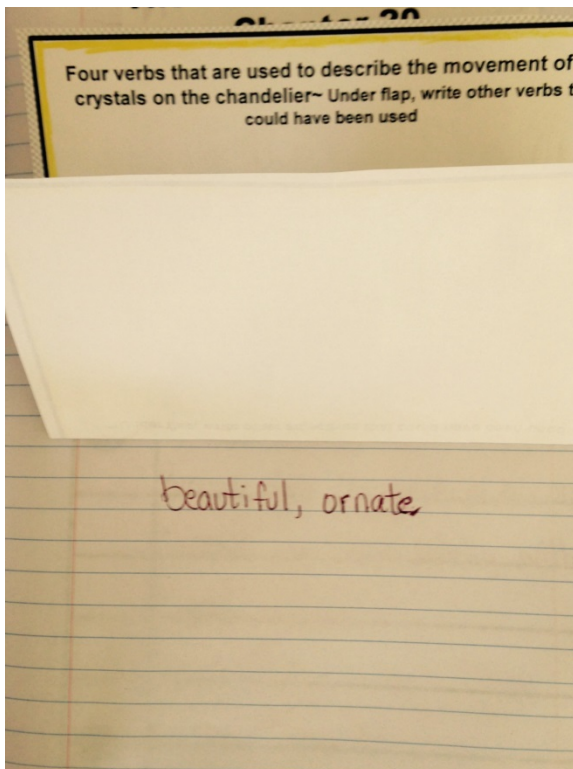
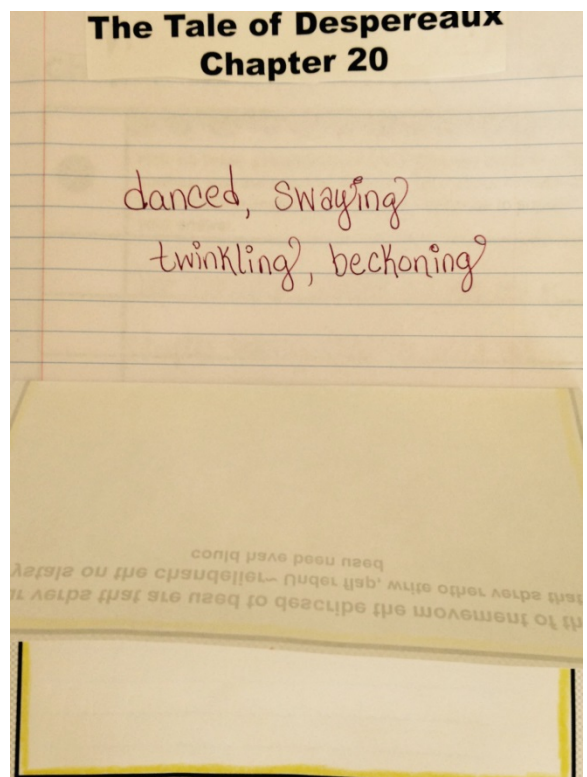
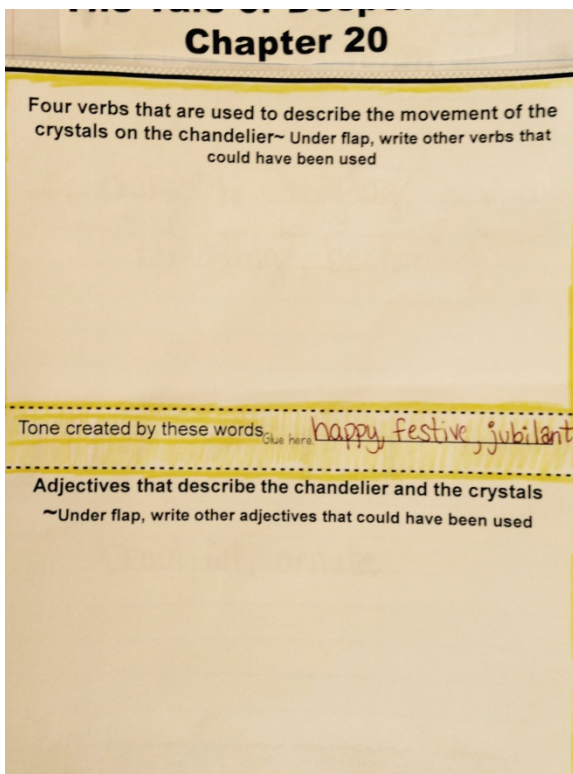
## Chapter 20

**Four verbs that are used to describe the movement of the crystals on the chandelier~ Under flap, write other verbs that could have been used**

Tone created by these words \_\_\_\_\_  
Glue here.

**Adjectives that describe the chandelier and the crystals**  
~Under flap, write other adjectives that could have been used

Directions: Cut out the shape. Do not cut the dotted lines. Place glue under the dotted line section only, and glue to notebook. The top and bottom boxes should be flaps that can be lifted.



### Answers:

Tone created by these words:

**happy, festive, jubilant**

Four verbs: **danced, swaying, twinkling, beckoning**

Adjectives: **beautiful, ornate**

# Chapter 20 Discussion Question

<input type="radio"/>	How do these descriptions of the chandelier and the party contrast with the way that Roscuro feels about himself at the end of the chapter? Use textual evidence to support your answer.
<input type="radio"/>	
<input type="radio"/>	

# Chapter 20 Discussion Question

<input type="radio"/>	How do these descriptions of the chandelier and the party contrast with the way that Roscuro feels about himself at the end of the chapter? Use textual evidence to support your answer.
	The narrator states at the end of chapter 20
	That the word rat “immediately became clear.
	That it was an extremely distasteful syllable.”
<input type="radio"/>	Roscuro feels like a rat is a “curse”, “insult”, or
	“word totally without light.”
<input type="radio"/>	

# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapter 21

Write an Acrostic poem using the word RAT. In your poem, you can either point out the unsavory truth about rats or try to create sympathy for rats. The choice is yours. You only have three letters, so that means three lines. Make each line count! Use a dictionary and thesaurus to help you.



R

A

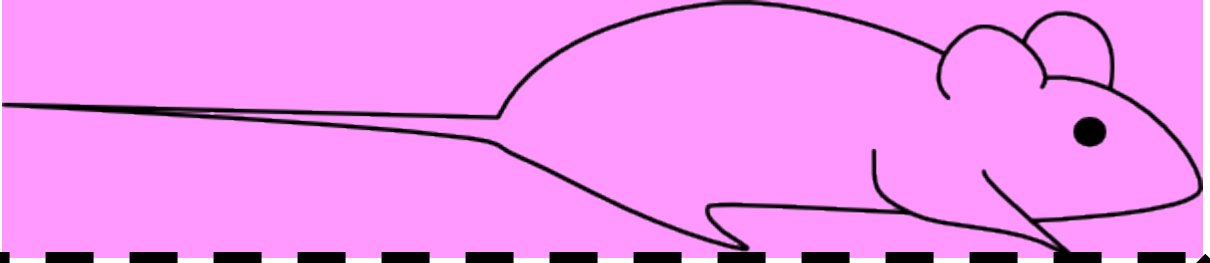
T



# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapter 21

Write an Acrostic poem using the word RAT. In your poem, you can either point out the unsavory truth about rats or try to create sympathy for rats. The choice is yours. You only have three letters, so that means three lines. Make each line count! Use a dictionary and thesaurus to help you.



R

ANCID, ROTTEN RATS

A

DVERSARY OF CLEANLINESS

T

ERRIBLE THREAT TO GOODNESS

# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapter 23

Record the cause/effect actions in this chapter in the boxes below. The first one has been started for you.

Cause

Roscuro gnawed on  
Gregory's rope

Cause

Cause

Cause

Cause

Cause

Cause

Cause

# Cause and Effect Answers

Note: The way that students record cause and effect will vary. Below is a sample answer. Students may not need to use all of the squares.

Cause: Roscuro gnawed on Gregory's rope.

Effect: A match was lit in his face.

Cause: His soul was set afire.

Effect: He journeyed upstairs.

Cause: Princess Pea spotted him and called out, "Rat!"

Effect: Roscuro fell into the Queen's soup.

Cause: The Queen died.

Effect: The King outlawed soup, spoons, bowls, and kettles.

Cause: He ordered the death of every rat in the land.

Effect: Rats became hated and outlawed.

# The Tale of Despereaux Chapter 23

## Discussion

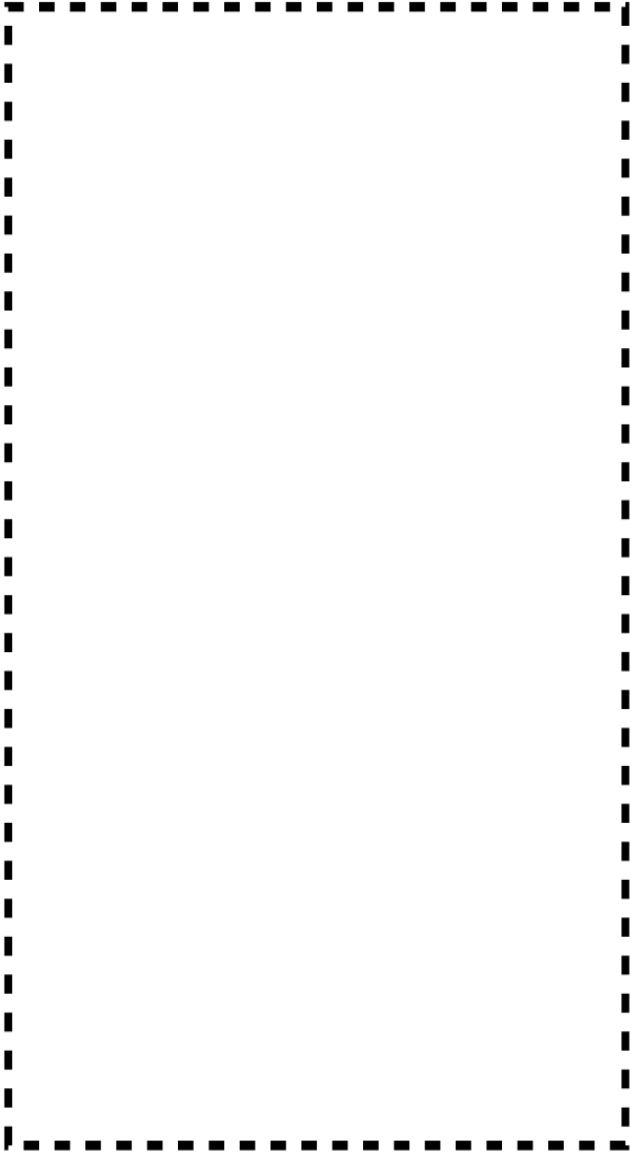
Find the passage on page 119 that states the danger of love. It begins... *This is the danger of loving.*

<input type="radio"/>	Write a response to this passage. Explain how you think this is true. Also, do you believe that we must forgive the king as the narrator suggests? Explain your answer.
<input type="radio"/>	
<input type="radio"/>	

# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapters 24 & 25

Using the descriptions provided in the book, draw a picture of Miggery in the box. Then, in your own words, tell what happened to Miggery Sow when she was a child.



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# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapters 24 & 25

Using the descriptions provided in the book, draw a picture of Miggery in the box. Then, in your own words, tell what happened to Miggery Sow when she was a child.



**Miggery's mother died**

**when she was a child.**

**Mig was six years old.**

**Her father sold her for a**

**Handful of cigarettes, a  
red table cloth, and a hen.**

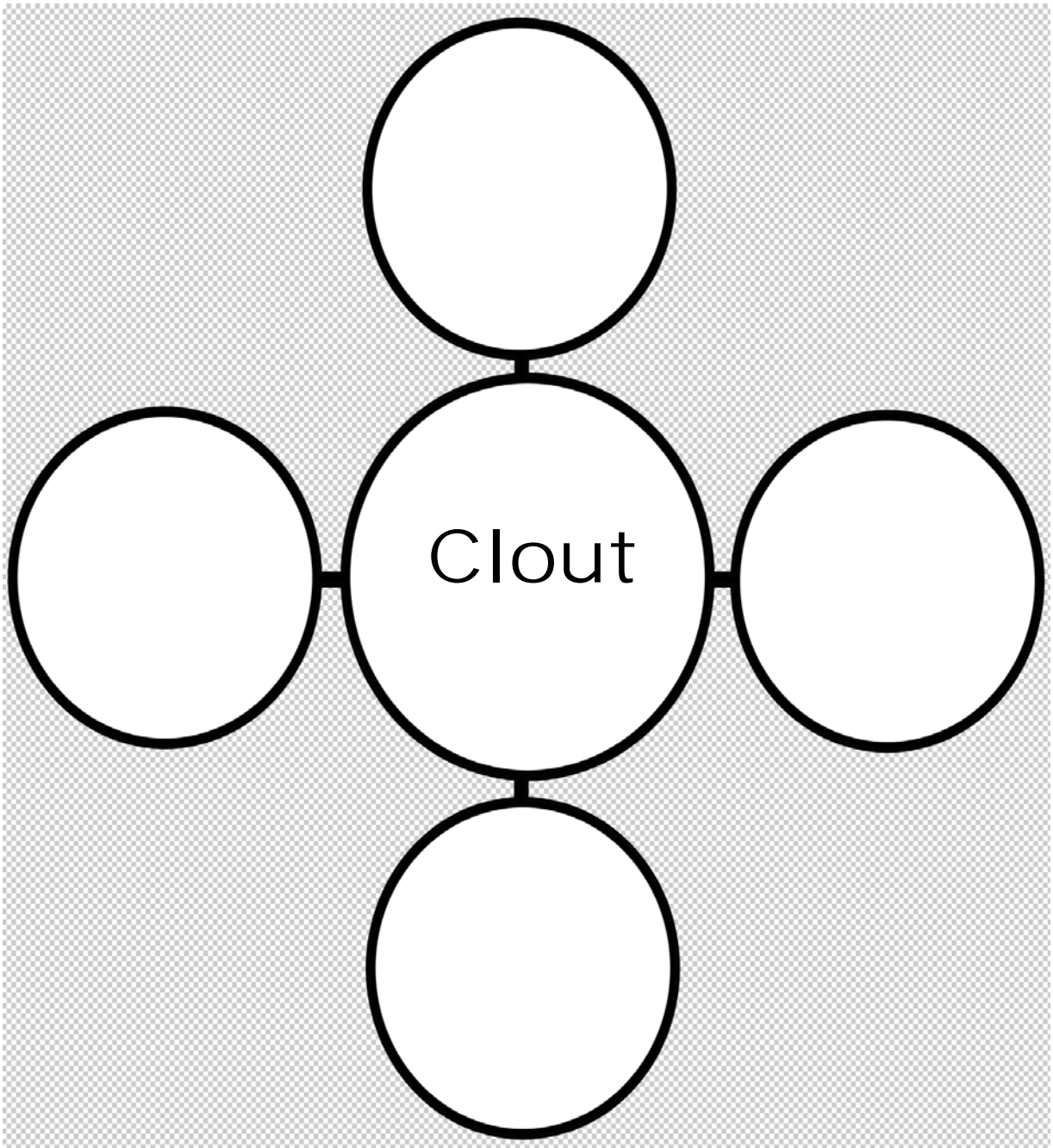
**Miggery then went to**

**live with a mean,**

**abusive uncle.**

# Word Wise

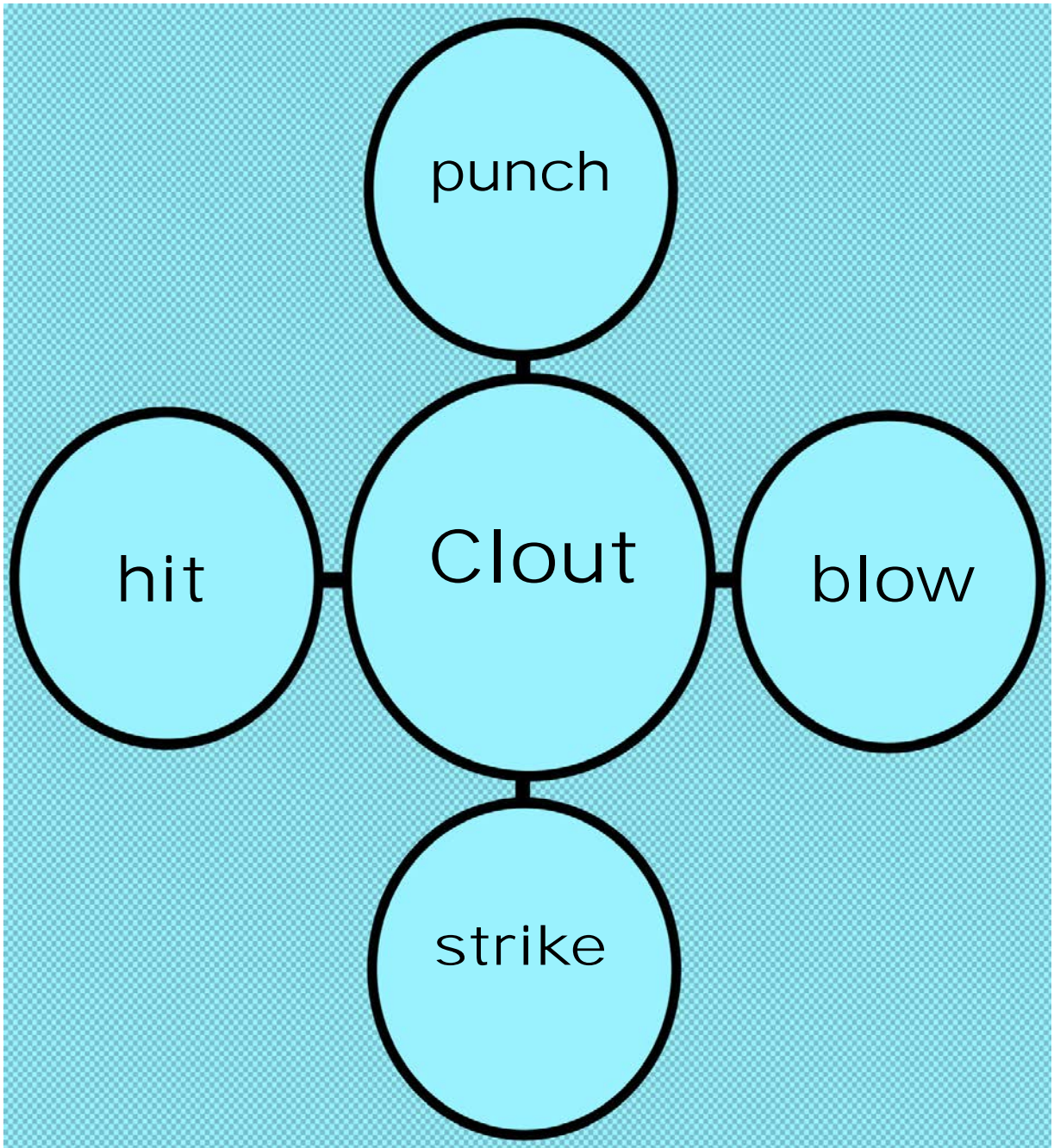
What does the word *clout* mean as it is used in reference to Miggery? Use context clues first. Then, use a thesaurus and write synonyms for this word in each bubble.





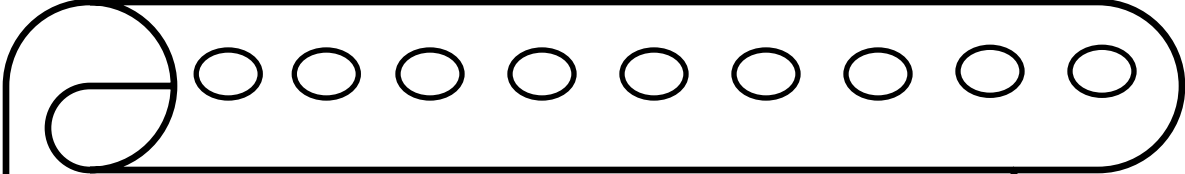
# Word Wise

What does the word clout mean as it is used in reference to Miggery? Use context clues first. Then, use a thesaurus and write synonyms for this word in each bubble.



# Plan a Day for Miggery

What would you do if you could plan a day for Miggery Sow? Use this page to plan. Then write a paragraph describing your day..



Where would you take or send Mig?

What would you do with her or plan for her to do?

How would you treat her or plan for her to be treated?



How would you have her day end?

# Plan a Day for Miggery

What would you do if you could plan a day for Miggery Sow? Use this page to plan. Then write a paragraph describing your day..

## Sample

Where would you take or send Mig?

I would pamper Mig for a day! She would have a facial, pedicure, manicure, massage, and a makeover.

What would you do with her or plan for her to do?

After pampering Mig, I would take her to a nice restaurant and let her order anything she wanted. Then, we would go to a candy store and buy tons of sweet treats!

How would you treat her or plan for her to be treated?

I would want Mig to be treated like the princess she wants to be.

How would you have her day end? I would plan for a photo shoot so Mig could cherish pictures from this day forever. I would provide a crown for her head!

# The Tale of Despereaux

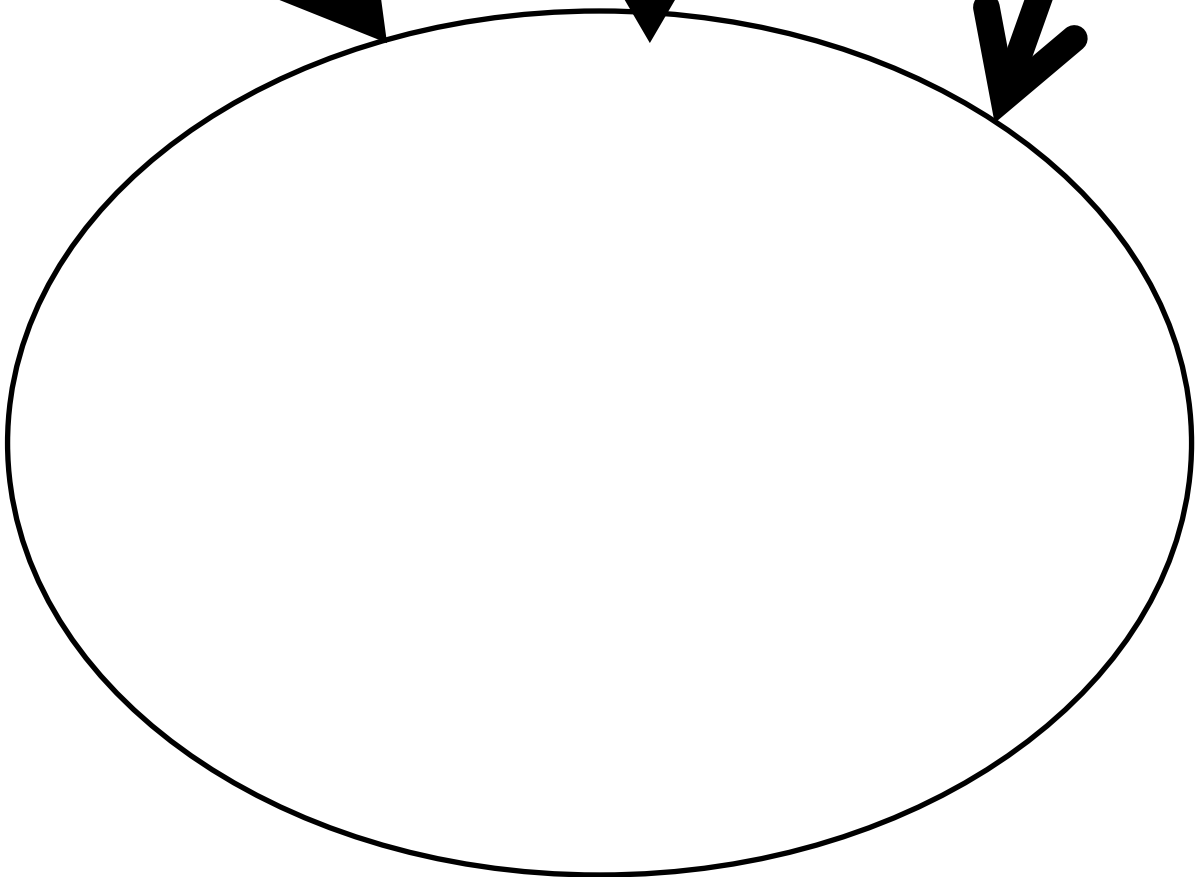
## Chapter 26

How can Mig be compared to Despereaux and Roscuro?  
Make your comparisons in the circle.

Despereaux

Roscuro

Mig



# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapter 26

How can Mig be compared to Despereaux and Roscuro?  
Make your comparisons in the circle.

Despereaux

Roscuro

Mig

**All of them want something more  
in life.**

**All of them have hope.**

**All of them are determined.**

**They all feel as if they were meant  
for something more.**

**They have all faced adversity.**

# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapter 27

### Teacher Notes ~ Creative and Fun Idea

Find lyrics to the country song "*All you are is Mean*" by Taylor Swift. Have students listen to the song and read the lyrics. Discuss how this song fits perfectly for Mig and her uncle. Next, have your students analyze how each line of the song fits with Mig's life.

You could also have students choose another song that would be appropriate for these two characters and write a written explanation as to why. Of course, make sure students understand that they must choose songs that have lyrics appropriate for the classroom. This could be a group assignment. Groups could choose a song, print off or write down the lyrics, and together explain why this song would be a good fit for Mig and her uncle.

Another option would be to allow groups to write their own song for the characters. 😊 Students should enjoy this assignment!

# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapter 28

### Comprehension Check

Where is Mig going? \_\_\_\_\_

What does the soldier tell Mig that she will be?

\_\_\_\_\_

How old is Mig when the soldier comes to take her? \_\_\_\_\_

### Discussion

Find and reread the paragraph at the bottom of page 143 that begins  
*Reader, do you think that it is a terrible thing to hope...*

Analyze this passage. Then, take a stance on what you believe about hope.  
Is there no reason to hope or is it something that everyone should do?  
Write a paragraph. Defend your answer by using Mig and her situation as  
an example.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapter 28

### Comprehension Check

Where is Mig going? to the castle

What does the soldier tell Mig that she will be?

The servant tells Mig she will be a paid servant.

How old is Mig when the soldier comes to take her? 12 years old

### Discussion

Find and reread the paragraph at the bottom of page 143 that begins *Reader, do you think that it is a terrible thing to hope...*

Analyze this passage. Then, take a stance on what you believe about hope. Is there no reason to hope or is it something that everyone should do? Write a paragraph. Defend your answer by using Mig and her situation as an example.

Answers will vary. Sample answer below.

As for Miggery, despite her tragic and abusive upbringing, she still clings to the hope of one day becoming a princess.



# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapter 30

Reread the paragraph on page 154 that begins...*Reader, you know that the mice of the castle feared...*

Gregory
How does the dungeon affect this character?

Despereaux
How does the dungeon affect this character?

Roscuro
How does the dungeon affect this character?

Botticelli
How does the dungeon affect this character?

Directions: Cut out each box. Glue only under the top tabs (with names). Answer the question in box. Lift each box, and on the notebook paper underneath, write a passage that supports your answer.

## Chapter 30

Reread the paragraph on page 154 that begins...Reader, you know that the mice of the castle feared...

### Despereaux

How does the dungeon affect this character?

The dungeon makes Despereaux feel afraid. He felt all-encompassed by the darkness. The darkness also forces him to be brave.

### Gregory

How does the dungeon affect this character?

He is lonely. He feels buried. He feels like he has been in the dungeon forever.

### Roscuro

How does the dungeon affect this character?

Roscuro longs for the light. The dungeon makes him hope for something more.

### Botticelli

How does the dungeon affect this character?

Maybe it is the darkness that has helped to corrupt his heart and make it evil. Botticelli delights in the darkness; therefore, he enjoys the dungeon.

## Sample Answers

Despereaux: **The dungeon makes Despereaux feel afraid. He felt all-encompassed by the darkness. The darkness also forces him to be brave.**

Gregory: **He is lonely. He feels buried. He feels like he has been in the dungeon forever.**

Roscuro: **Roscuro longs for the light. The dungeon makes him hope for something more.**

Botticelli: **Maybe it is the darkness that has helped to corrupt his heart and make it evil. Botticelli delights in the darkness; therefore, he enjoys the dungeon.**

Under Despereaux flap: **"Despereaux had never encountered darkness so awful, so all-encompassing."**

Under Gregory flap: **"You are talking to Gregory the jailer, who has been buried here, keeping watch over this dungeon for decades, for centuries, for eons." (page 77)**

### Roscuro

How does the dungeon affect this character?

Roscuro longs for the light. The dungeon makes him hope for something more.

### Botticelli

How does the dungeon affect this character?

Maybe it is the darkness that has helped to corrupt his heart and make it evil. Botticelli delights in the darkness; therefore, he enjoys the dungeon.

Under Roscuro flap: **He was always, in the darkness of the dungeon, on the lookout for light, the smallest glimmer, the tiniest shimmer.**

Under Botticelli flap: **Evil. Prisoners. Rats. Suffering. It all fits together so neatly, so sweetly. Oh, it is a lovely world, a lovely, dark world."**

### Despereaux

How does the dungeon affect this character?

The dungeon makes Despereaux feel afraid. He felt all-encompassed by the darkness.

### Gregory

How does the dungeon affect this character?

He is lonely. He feels buried. He feels like he has been in the dungeon forever.

He was always, in the darkness of the dungeon, on the lookout for light, the smallest glimmer, the tiniest shimmer.

Evil. Prisoners. Rats. Suffering. It all fits together so neatly, so sweetly. Oh, it is a lovely world, a lovely, dark world."

# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapter 31

The Dungeon Does Not Frighten Her.

<input type="radio"/>	What has once been a hindrance or problem for Mig is now helping her. Explain how this is so. Use text from chapter thirty-one to support your answer.
<input type="radio"/>	
<input type="radio"/>	

# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapter 31

The Dungeon Does Not Frighten Her.

<input type="radio"/>	What has once been a hindrance or problem for Mig is now helping her. Explain how this is so. Use text from chapter thirty-one to support your answer.
	<b>The clouts to Mig's ear once hurt her. These</b>
	<b>punches caused her to lose some of her sense</b>
	<b>of hearing. This also caused her sense of smell</b>
<input type="radio"/>	<b>to be weakened. That hurt is now helping her</b>
	<b>because the sounds and smells in the</b>
	<b>dungeon do not hinder her as they do most</b>
	<b>people.</b>
<input type="radio"/>	

# Mig's Song

Reread Mig's song on page 159. Create another song for Mig. Make sure it rhymes. Your song should be at least six lines long.



# Mig's Song

Reread Mig's song on page 159. Create another song for Mig. Make sure it rhymes. Your song should be at least six lines long.

## Sample Song:

Gor, I know one day  
I'll be a princess, hey hey!  
No more clouts to my ear.  
I'll simply want to jump and  
cheer!

Gor, Gor  
A servant no more!  
Gor, Gor  
My princess reflection you'll  
adore!

# Vocabulary chapters 32 & 33

Look back in chapters 32 & 33 to find the words listed. Beside each word, write a synonym or what you think the word means based on context clues. Then, look up the word in the dictionary to check your definition. Under the flap, write the dictionary definition of the word.

## Vocabulary

Presumes (page 162)

I think the word means \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Deliberate (page 163)

I think the word means \_\_\_\_\_

Detain (page 166)

I think the word means \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Portentous (page 167)

I think the word means \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Uttered (page 167)

I think the word means \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Acquaintance (page 169)

I think the word means \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Aspirations (page 169)

I think the word means \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Diabolical (page 171)

I think the word means \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Presumes (page 162)  
I think the word means \_\_\_\_\_

**Each flap should be able to open so you can write underneath.**

Detain (page 166)  
I think the word means hold you up

Portentous (page 167)  
I think the word means big, monumental, strange

Uttered (page 167)  
I think the word means \_\_\_\_\_

Acquaintance (page 169)  
I think the word means \_\_\_\_\_

Aspirations (page 169)  
I think the word means dreams or wishes

wicked, extremely evil or cruel

Answers:

Presume: **to suppose that something is the case**

Deliberate: **done intentionally**

Detain: **to stop or halt**

Portentous: **of momentous or ominous significance**

Uttered: **to make a sound with one's voice**

Acquaintance: **a person who is known slightly but is not a close friend**

Aspirations: **a will to succeed – desires**

Diabolical: **wicked, extremely evil, or cruel**



# Chapter Thirty- Three

## Questions for Discussion

“My papa had him some cloth much like yours, Mr. Rat,” said Mig. “Red like that. He traded me for it.”

“Ah,” said Roscuro, and he smiled a large, knowing smile. “Ah, did he really? That is a terrible story, a tragic story.”

Why does Roscuro smile knowingly?

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Why can Miggery perfectly hear every word that Roscuro says?

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How does Roscuro appeal to Miggery Sow? What tactics or strategies does he use to get her attention?

---

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## Chapter Thirty- Three

### Questions for Discussion

“My papa had him some cloth much like yours, Mr. Rat,” said Mig. “Red like that. He traded me for it.”

“Ah,” said Roscuro, and he smiled a large, knowing smile. “Ah, did he really? That is a terrible story, a tragic story.”

Why does Roscuro smile knowingly?

He smiles knowingly because he is aware that

Gregory the jailer is Mig’s father.

Why can Miggery perfectly hear every word that Roscuro says?

Roscuro’s voice was pitched perfectly to make its way throught the toruous path of Mig’s broken-down cauliflower ears.

How does Roscuro appeal to Miggery Sow? What tactics or strategies does he use to get her attention?

Roscuro appeals to Miggery’s emotions and hurts. For example, he states, “You have known your share of tragedy...” Roscuro manipulates Miggery by pretending to care about her hurts and her aspirations to become a princess.

# **The Fourth Book**

## **Recalled to the Light**

# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapters 34 & 35

### Emotions

1. How did Despereaux make it back up from the dungeon to the castle?

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2. What is the cook's philosophy with mice?

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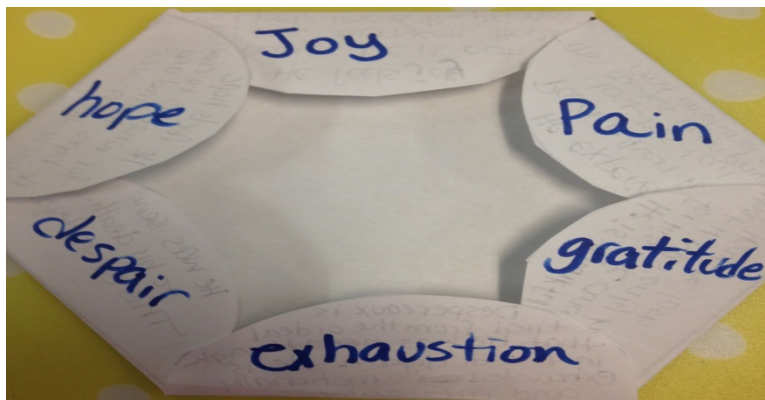
3. What does Miggery Sow take away from Despereaux in the kitchen?

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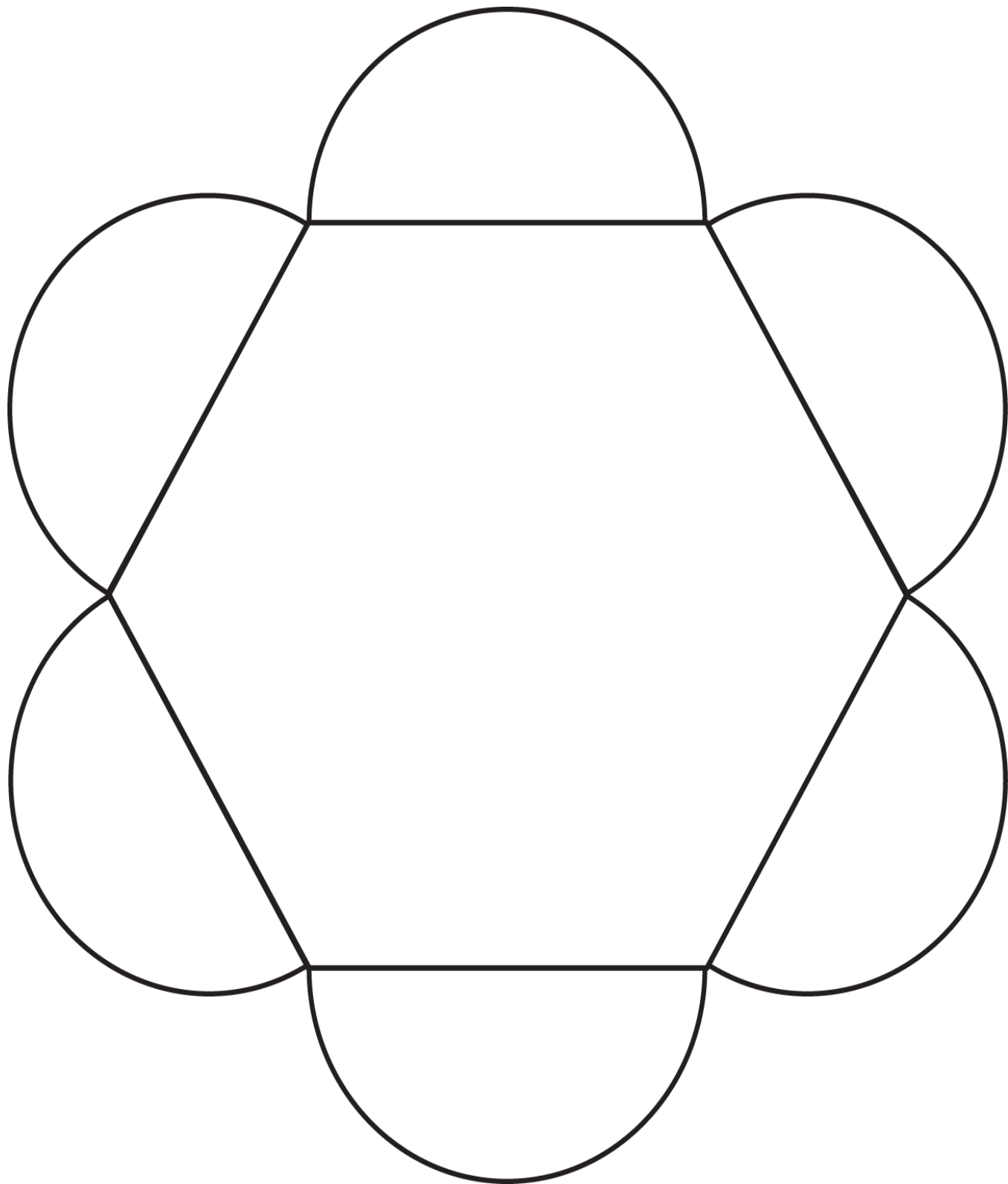
At the beginning of chapter thirty-five, we read the following:

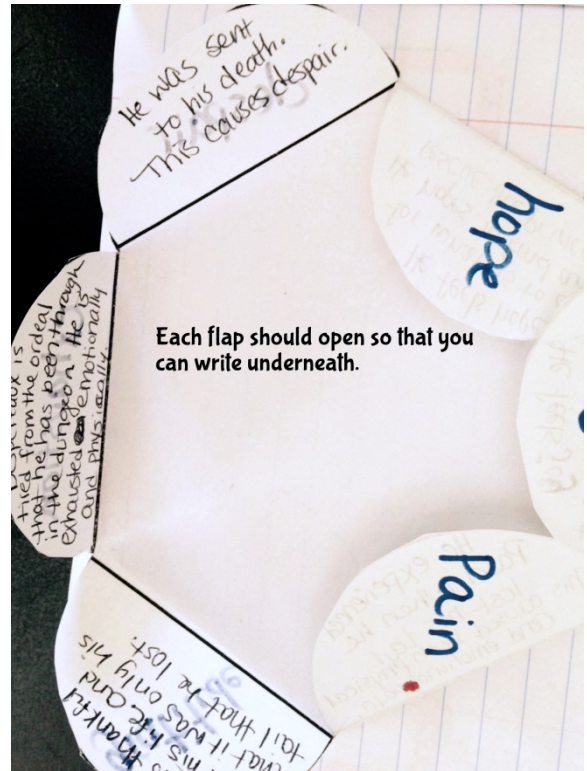
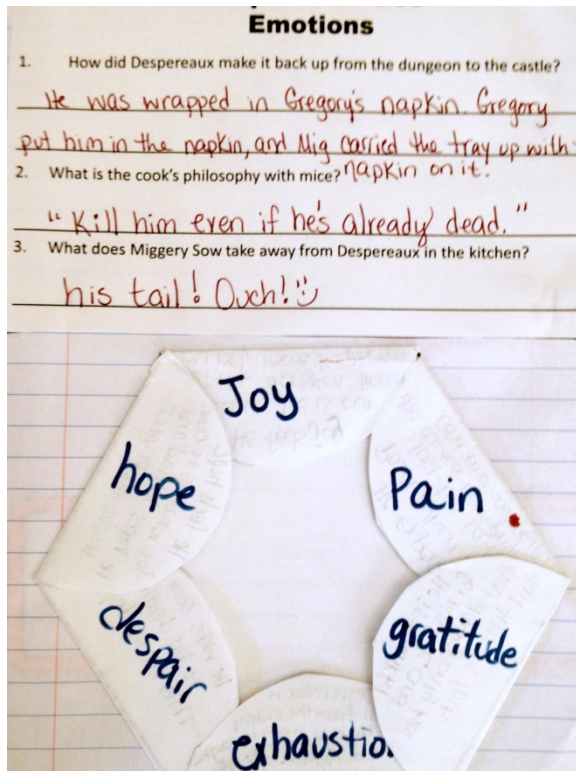
*So Despereaux wept with joy and with pain and with gratitude. He wept with exhaustion and despair and hope.*

The emotions listed in this passage have all been felt by Despereaux. These emotions describe his journey so far. Write the underlined words from this passage on the foldable six pedal hexagon. One word should be written on each pedal, just like in the picture below. Underneath each flap, explain why Depereaux felt this emotion. Look back at chapters 34 and 35 to help you.



# Despereaux's Feelings ~ Chapter 35





Answers:

- He was wrapped in Gregory's napkin. Gregory put him in the napkin, and Mig carried the tray up with the napkin on it.**
- "Kill him even if he's already dead."**
- His tail! Ouch!**

Under Joy:

**He feels joy because he is out of the dungeon. He can now help rescue the princess.**

Under pain:

**He experienced pain when he lost his tail. This caused both physical and emotional pain.**

Under gratitude:

**He is thankful for his life and that it was only his tail that he lost.**

Under exhaustion:

**Despereaux is tired from the ordeal that he has been through in the dungeon. He is exhausted emotionally and physically.**

Under despair:

**He was sent to his death. This causes despair.**

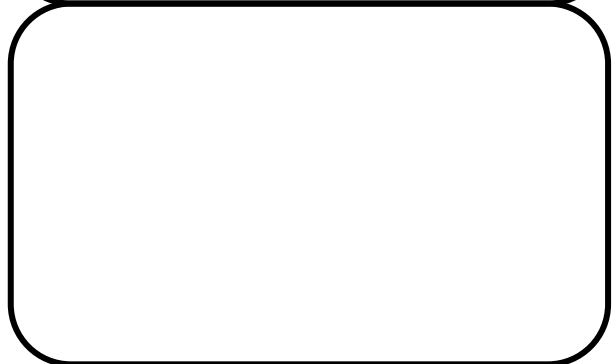
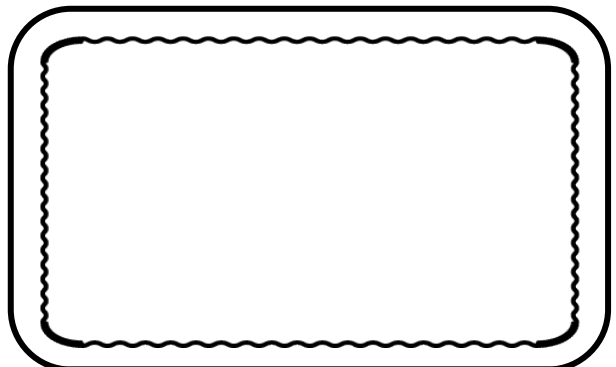
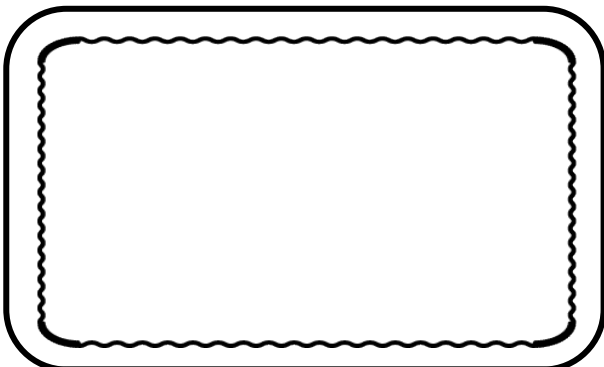
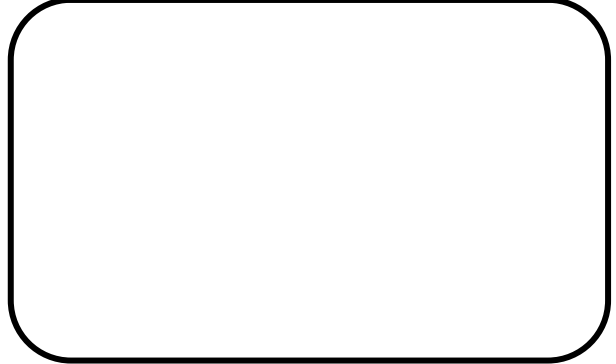
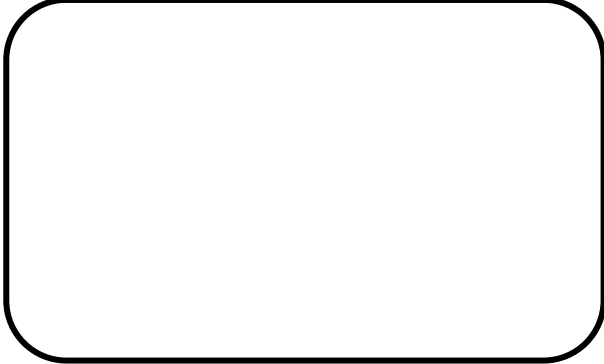
Under hope:

**He feels hope for what is to come. He hopes to find and rescue the princess.**

## ***And the dark took many shapes.***

*First the dark was his mother, uttering phrases in French. And then the dark became his father beating the drum. The dark was Furlough wearing a black hood and shaking his head no. And the dark became a huge rat smiling a smile that was evil and sharp.*

Cut out the four shapes below. Fold the top square down. Glue the four squares into your notebook. On the outside of each square, write one character that the dark represents. Lift the top piece and on the inside, explain why this character represents darkness.

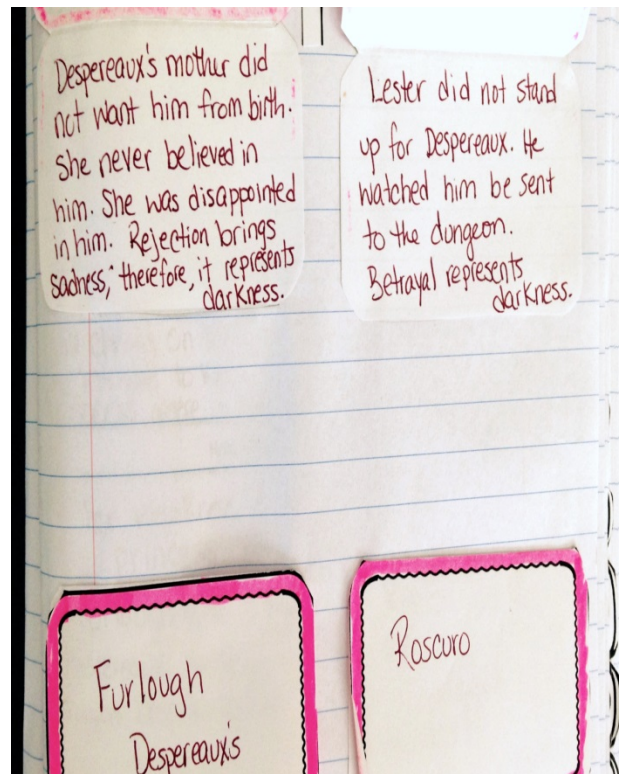
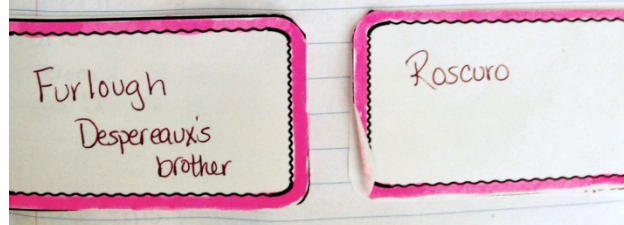




st the dark was his mother, uttering phrases in French. And then the dark became his father be-  
 drum. The dark was Furlough wearing a black hood and shaking his head no. And the dark be-  
 huge rat smiling a smile that was evil and sharp.  
 out the four shapes below. Fold the top square down. Glue the four squares into your notebook  
 outside of each square, write one character that the dark represents. Lift the top piece and or  
 inside, explain why this character represents darkness.



Each flap should open so that you can write underneath.



## Answers

Under Antoinette:

**Despereaux's mother did not want him from birth. She never believed in him. She was disappointed in him. Rejection brings sadness; therefore, it represents darkness.**

Under Lester:

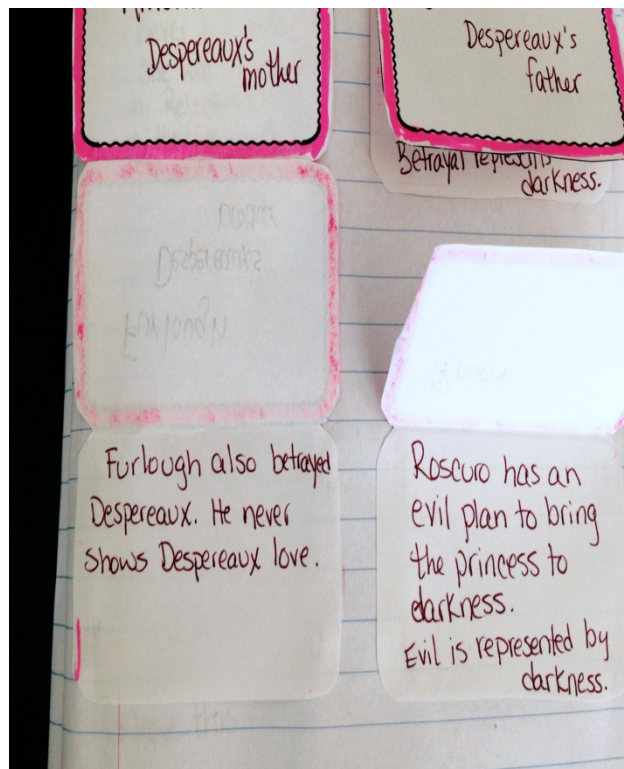
**Lester did not stand up for Despereaux. He watched him be sent to the dungeon. Betrayal represents darkness.**

Under Furlough:

**Furlough also betrayed Despereaux. He never shows Despereaux love.**

Under Roscuro:

**Roscuro has an evil plan to bring the princess to darkness. Evil is represented by darkness.**





# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapter 36

### Discussion

Summarize Roscuro's plan according to what Mig thought was going to happen.

Now summarize Roscuro's real plan. It is *"more simple and more terrible."*

How does Roscuro manipulate Mig?

Why does Mig believe in Roscuro's plan?

What do you predict will happen? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapter 36

### Discussion

Summarize Roscuro's plan according to what Mig thought was going to happen.

Mig thought that they would go into the princess' room while she sleeps. They would wake her with a knife and take her on a "little journey".

Now summarize Roscuro's real plan. It is *"more simple and more terrible."*

*"He intended to take the princess to the deepest, darkest part of the dungeon. He intended to have Mig put chains on the princess and her feet, and he intended to keep the glittering, glowing, laughing princess there in the dark. Forever. (page 187)"*

How does Roscuro manipulate Mig?

Her weakness is her desire to become a princess. He uses this weakness to use her in his plan.

Why does Mig believe in Roscuro's plan?

She is simple minded. She wants to become a princess so bad that she is willing to believe this plan.

What do you predict will happen? Accept reasonable predictions.

---

# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapters 37-38

*In this story, reader, we have talked about the heart of the mouse and the heart of the rat and the heart of the serving girl Miggery Sow, but we have not talked about the heart of the princess. (197)*

Inside each heart, write what you know to be true about the character. Use these two chapters to help you write the characteristics of Princess Pea.

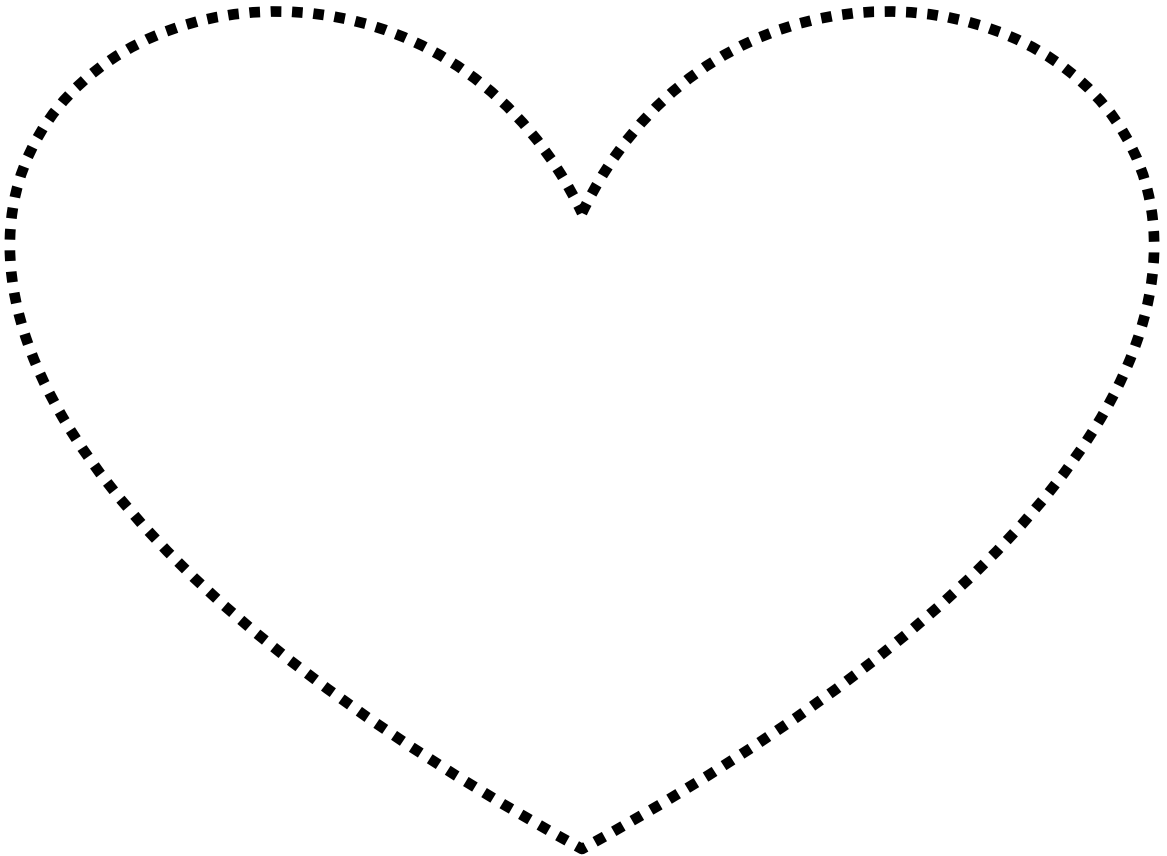
Despereaux



Miggery



# The heart of Princess Pea



*Like most hearts, it was complicated, shaded with dark and dappled with light.*

Do you agree with this statement? Is your own heart shaded with dark and dappled with light? Explain why or why not.

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# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapters 37-38

*In this story, reader, we have talked about the heart of the mouse and the heart of the rat and the heart of the serving girl Miggery Sow, but we have not talked about the heart of the princess. (197)*

Inside each heart, write what you know to be true about the character. Use these two chapters to help you write the characteristics of Princess Pea.

Despereaux

**HONOR**

**bravery**

love

Miggery

rejection

**HOPE**

hurt

# The heart of Princess Pea



*Like most hearts, it was complicated, shaded with dark and dappled with light.*

Do you agree with this statement? Is your own heart shaded with dark and dappled with light? Explain why or why not.

**Accept reasonable answers.**

## The Tale of Despereaux Chapter 40

Go back to page 207 where the narrator talks to the reader about forgiveness. Like hope and love, forgiveness is a major theme in this novel.

How does forgiving his father help Despereaux?

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How has Despereaux changed?

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How does the forgiveness that Despereaux gives his father change his father?

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What do you believe about forgiveness?

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## The Tale of Despereaux Chapter 40

Go back to page 207 where the narrator talks to the reader about forgiveness. Like hope and love, forgiveness is a major theme in this novel.

How does forgiving his father help Despereaux?

It saved his own heart. It kept it from breaking in two.

How has Despereaux changed?

Despereaux has been to the dungeon. He has faced death and returned. He realizes that what the other mice think of him does not matter.

How does the forgiveness that Despereaux gives his father change his father?

He does not do what other members of the mouse council do. He is no longer a follower, but now has stood up for what is right.

What do you believe about forgiveness?

Accept reasonable answers.



# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapter 41

*Reader, have you ever seen a king cry? When the powerful are made weak, when they are revealed to be human, to have human hearts, their diminshment is nothing short of terrifying.( page 210-211)*

Explain in your own words what this passage means. You may use a dictionary to help you.

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## Characterization

**DIRECT CHARACTERIZATION** - The writer makes direct statements about a character's personality and tells what the character is like.

**INDIRECT CHARACTERIZATION** - The writer reveals information about a character and his personality through that character's thoughts, words, and actions, along with how other characters respond to that character, including what they think and say about him.

The author uses a great deal of direct characterization about the king in this chapter. Go back and look for what the author directly says about the king.

# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapter 41

*Reader, have you ever seen a king cry? When the powerful are made weak, when they are revealed to be human, to have human hearts, their diminshment is nothing short of terrifying.( page 210-211)*

Explain in your own words what this passage means. You may use a dictionary to help you.

It is frightening to see those who are in power cry because they are perceived as the strong ones who should always be “in charge”.

## Characterization

**DIRECT CHARACTERIZATION** - The writer makes direct statements about a character's personality and tells what the character is like.

**INDIRECT CHARACTERIZATION** - The writer reveals information about a character and his personality through that character's thoughts, words, and actions, along with how other characters respond to that character, including what they think and say about him.

The author uses a great deal of direct characterization about the king in this chapter. Go back and look for what the author directly says about the king, T.

# Characterization of the King

3 Glue under this flap.

Words to describe the king

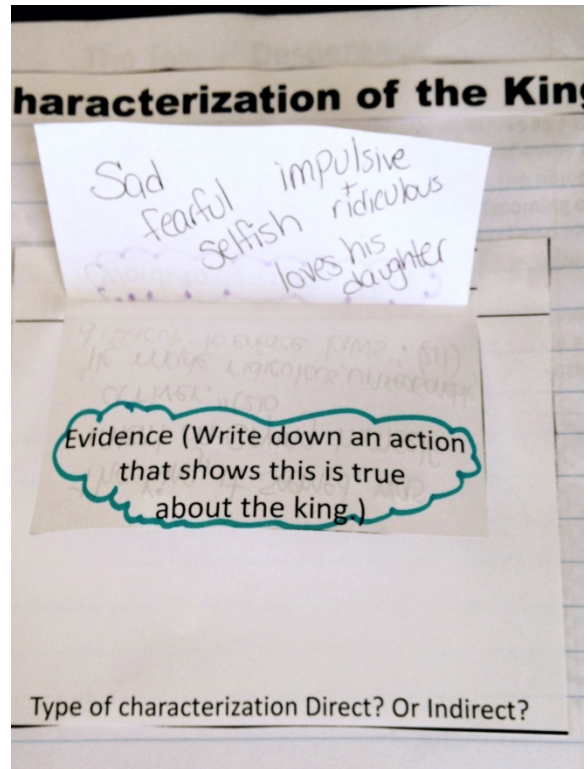
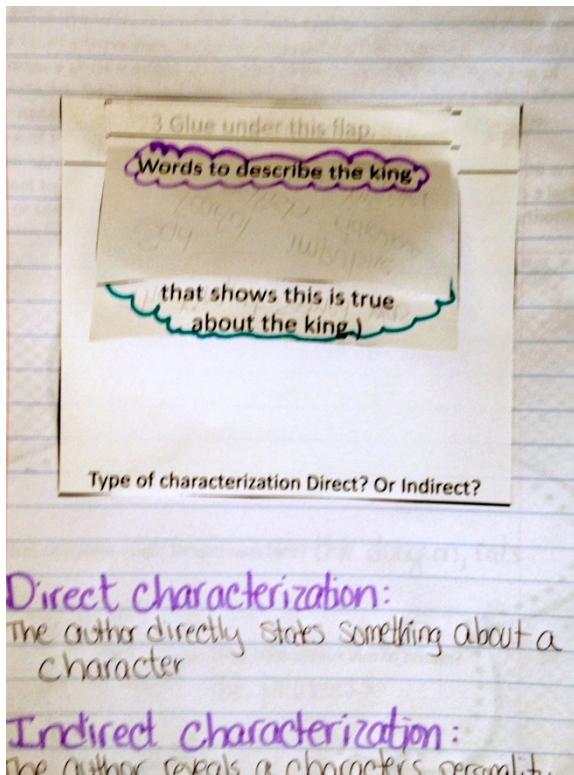
2 Glue only under this flap

Evidence (Write down an action that shows this is true about the king.)

1 Glue only under this flap

Type of characterization Direct? Or Indirect?

Directions: Cut out each box. You are going to stack each piece to make a flap booklet. Glue the largest box down first (1) by putting glue on the tab only. Then, glue the next two boxes on top by putting glue on the tab only.

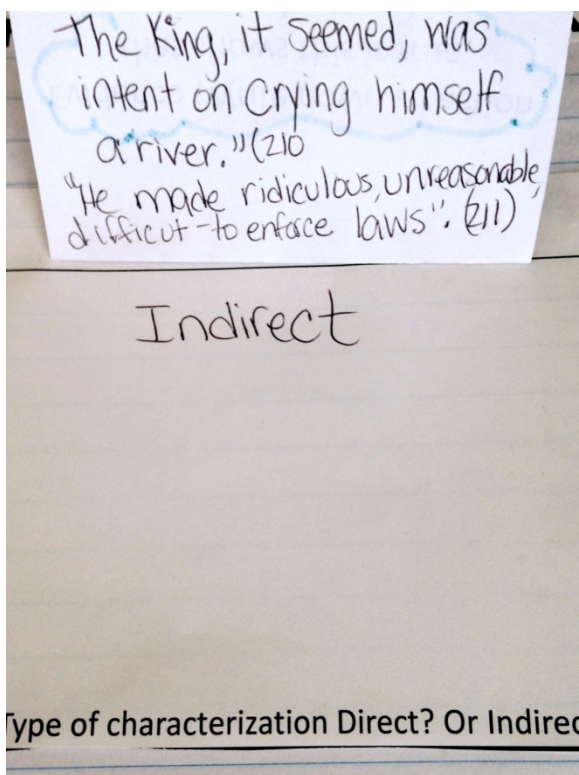


Words to describe the king:

sad, fearful, selfish,  
impulsive, ridiculous,  
loving towards his  
daughter

*The king, it seemed, was  
intent on crying himself a  
river." (210)*

*"He made ridiculous,  
unreasonable, difficult to  
enforce laws." (211)*



# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapter 42

In mythology and literature, a **quest**, a journey towards a goal, serves as a plot device and (frequently) as a symbol. Quests appear in the folklore of every nation. In literature, the objects of quests require great exertion on the part of the hero, and the overcoming of many obstacles, typically including much travel. The aspect of travel also allows the storyteller to showcase exotic quest objects, locations, and cultures (an objective of the narrator, not of the character). The hero normally aims to obtain something or someone by the quest, and with this object to return home. The object can be something new, that fulfills a lack in his life, or something that was stolen away from him.

### Despereaux's Quest

Who is the hero?

What is Despereaux's goal?

What obstacles might Despereaux face?

Who or what does Despereaux aim to obtain?

# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapter 42

In mythology and literature, a **quest**, a journey towards a goal, serves as a plot device and (frequently) as a symbol. Quests appear in the folklore of every nation and also figure prominently in non-national cultures. In literature, the objects of quests require great exertion on the part of the hero, and the overcoming of many obstacles, typically including much travel. The aspect of travel also allows the storyteller to showcase exotic quest objects, locations, and cultures (an objective of the narrator, not of the character).

The hero normally aims to obtain something or someone by the quest, and with this object to return home. The object can be something new, that fulfills a lack in his life, or something that was stolen away from him or someone with authority to dispatch him.

### Despereaux's Quest

Who is the hero? **Despereaux**

What is Despereaux's goal? **To rescue the princess**

What obstacles might Despereaux face? **The dungeon, rats**

Who or what does Despereaux aim to obtain?  
**the princess**

# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapters 43-44

### Comprehension Check

1. Why was the cook glad to see a mouse in her kitchen?

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2. Despereaux thought that the cook would kill him. Instead she laughed. Why do you think the cook laughed?

---

---

3. Why do you think the cook was cooking soup even though it was against the rules?

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4. Why did the cook's laughter hurt Despereaux's feelings?

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# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapters 43-44

### Comprehension Check

1. Why was the cook glad to see a mouse in her kitchen?

**The cook was glad to see Despereaux because he was not a king's man there to punish her for making soup.**

2. Despereaux thought that the cook would kill him. Instead she laughed. Why do you think the cook laughed?

**She laughed because she was relieved.**

3. Why do you think the cook was cooking soup even though it was against the rules?

**She was nervous about the princess.**

4. Why did the cook's laughter hurt Despereaux's feelings?

**Accept reasonable answers.**



Write an acrostic poem using the word soup. Make sure your poem is about the characters, setting, theme, or conflict in the novel.

S

O

U

P

A stylized illustration of a white bowl filled with grey soup, with a spoon resting inside. The bowl sits on a white circular base against a grey background.

**SOUP**

# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapter 46

### Define personification

Find the personification of the spool in this chapter. In the box below, write the words that personify the spool.

### Learn a Word!

Find the word *cornucopia* on page 238. Use context clues to figure out what this word means.

Based on context clues, I think the word means

\_\_\_\_\_.

Now, look up the word *cornucopia* in a dictionary. Write the dictionary definition (denotation) on the line below.

\_\_\_\_\_

What is the one thing that red thread means to a rat?

\_\_\_\_\_

### Predict

What do you think will happen next? Write your prediction in the box below.

# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapter 46

### Define personification

#### Giving something human traits

Find the personification of the spool in this chapter.  
In the box below, write the words that personify the spool.

eager, leapt, had a head start, faster

### Learn a Word!

Find the word cornucopia on page 238. Use context clues to figure out what this word means.

Based on context clues, I think the word means

mixture - plenty.

Now, look up the word cornucopia in a dictionary. Write the dictionary definition (denotation) on the line below.

abundance

What is the one thing that red thread means to a rat?

The blood of a mouse

### Predict

What do you think will happen next? Write your prediction in the box below.

Accept reasonable answers.

# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapter 48

Why do you think Botticelli swings the locket back and forth?

---

How does Botticelli trick Despereaux? \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Imagery** is language that creates a sensory impression within the reader's mind. It allows the reader to see, hear, feel, smell, or even taste what is happening in the story – all in the mind, of course. Imagery makes the reader feel like he/she is there, in the story, experiencing the same things that the character is experiencing.

In this chapter, the author uses a great deal of imagery to describe what Despereaux sees in the dungeon. **Go back and find the descriptions as Despereaux is led by the rat Botticelli. Copy one sentence that contains imagery in the box below.**

**How does the setting- the dungeon- affect Despereaux? Find a passage from this chapter to support your answer.**

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# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapter 48

Why do you think Botticelli swings the locket back and forth?

to hypnotize and therefore control and manipulate

How does Botticelli trick Despereaux? He told Despereaux that he knew exactly where the princess was. He said he would do this to do his part “for humanity”. He wants to end the terrible “myth of evil” that surrounds rats everywhere.”

**Imagery** is language that creates a sensory impression within the reader’s mind. It allows the reader to see, hear, feel, smell, or even taste what is happening in the story – all in the mind, of course. Imagery makes the reader feel like he/she is there, in the story, experiencing the same things that the character is experiencing.

In this chapter, the author uses a great deal of imagery to describe what Despereaux sees in the dungeon. **Go back and find the descriptions as Despereaux is led by the rat Botticelli. Copy one sentence that contains imagery in the box below.**

Sample: **He saw that the floor of the dungeon was littered with tufts of fur, knots of red thread, and the skeletons of mice.**

**How does the setting- the dungeon- affect Despereaux? Find a passage from this chapter to support your answer.**

The dungeon frightens Despereaux to tears. “Mr. Remorso,” said

Despereaux. And he was crying now. He couldn’t help it. Please.

The princess.

# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapters 49 & 50

After reading chapter forty-nine, explain what the title of the chapter means.

Draw a picture of the scene at the end of chapter forty-nine. Use details from the novel to help you. Write a caption to go along with your illustration.



**Infer** What happens at the end of chapter fifty?

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# The Tale of Despereaux

## Chapters 49 & 50

After reading chapter forty-nine, explain what the title of the chapter means.

For the first time in her life, someone asks Mig what she wants.

Draw a picture of the scene at the end of chapter forty-nine. Use details from the novel to help you. Write a caption to go along with your illustration.



**Infer** What happens at the end of chapter fifty?

**Some will say that Mig kills Roscuro with the knife. Others will say that Mig cuts off his tail.**

# Chapters 51 & 52

## Fate

Glue under each flap so that each can be lifted. Write under flaps.

Directions: Cut out each box. Glue each box separately onto your notebook paper. Glue only under flaps so it can be lifted. Under each one, write the fate of each character.

Glue under this flap.

Roscuro

Glue under this flap.

Despereaux

Glue under this flap.

Miggery



# Answers to Fate

Under Despereaux: He and the princess did not marry but became good friends and shared many memories together.

Under Roscuro: His heart did not heal completely, but he did lead Gregory to his daughter Miggery. Roscuro was also given free access to the upstairs of the castle.

Under Miggery: She did not become a real princess. However, her father treated her like a princess for the rest of her life.

# Theme

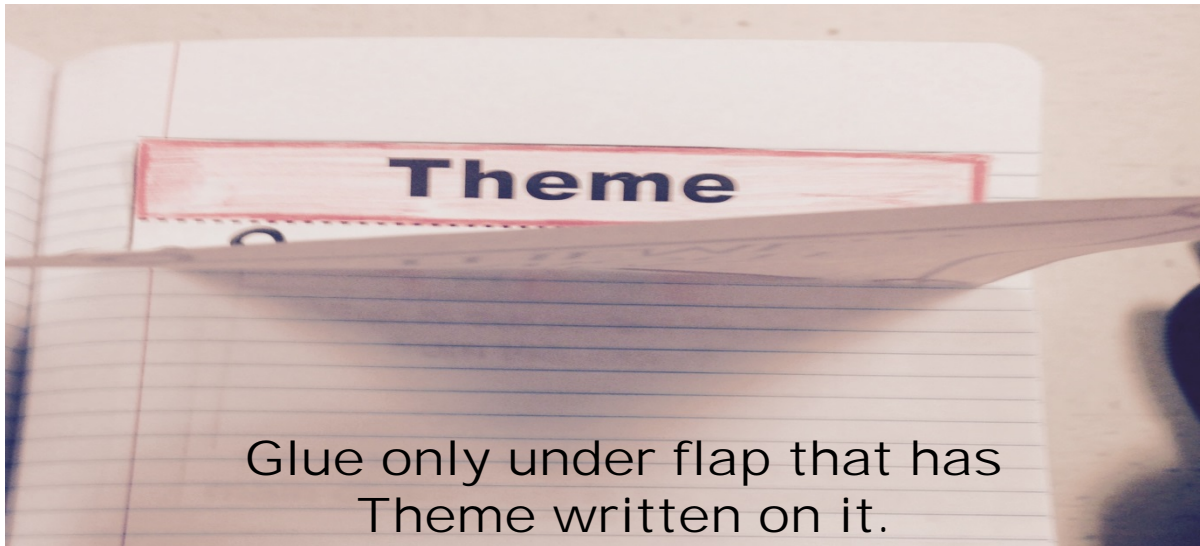
Directions: Cut out the box. Do not cut the dotted lines.  
Glue only under the top flap that has "Theme" written on it.  
Then, lift the flap to write notes about theme.

Theme

---

*Some things to  
remember about  
theme...*

# How To Make foldable



Cut out box. Do not cut dotted lines. Glue down the flap only so that it can be lifted.

## Notes to Write under flap:

- Theme is what the author wants you to remember most.
- Occasionally the theme is stated directly in the novel/passage.
- Most often, the theme is unstated and is revealed to the reader gradually throughout the novel.
- Theme is written as a statement, not just a word.
- Different readers can have completely different theme statements. This is fine as long as each reader can support his/her idea with evidence from the book.

## Finding a Theme

### A Partial List of Common Universal Themes

When first trying to determine a theme, consider common universal themes like the ones listed below . Once you have chosen a few words that match the novel, expand the word into a message about life.

- ☐ Fear
- ☐ Acceptance
- ☐ Greed
- ☐ Beauty
- ☐ Birth
- ☐ Death
- ☐ Heroism
- ☐ Escape
- ☐ Love
- ☐ Journey
- ☐ Patriotism
- ☐ Hope
- ☐ Betrayal
- ☐ Power
- ☐ Family
- ☐ Friendship
- ☐ Duty
- ☐ Survival
- ☐ Conformity
- ☐ Deception
- ☐ Loss
- ☐ Discovery
- ☐ Suffering

Directions: Cut out each box. You're going to stack each piece to make a flap booklet. Glue the largest box down first (#1) by putting glue under the tab only. Then, glue the next two boxes on top by putting glue on the tab only. The smallest box will be on top. You should be able to flip each box up to write the answers underneath.

What is the theme from this novel?

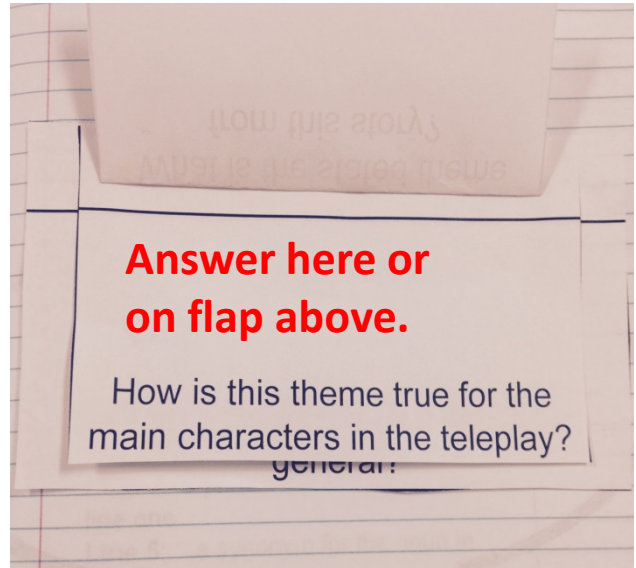
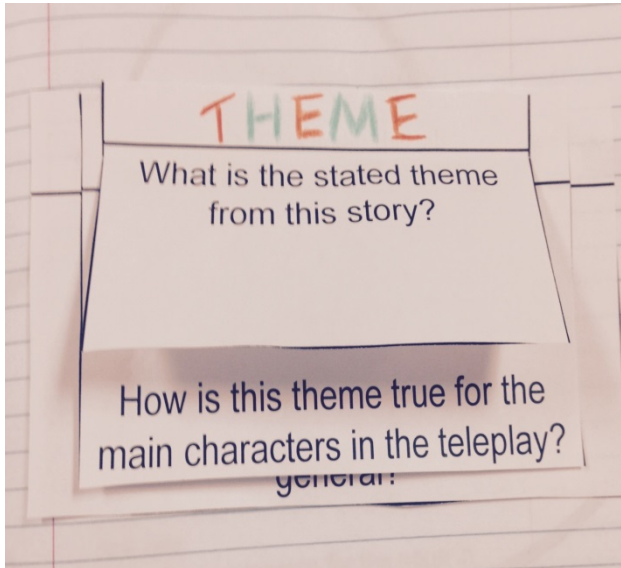
2. Glue under this tab.

How is this theme true for the main characters in the novel?

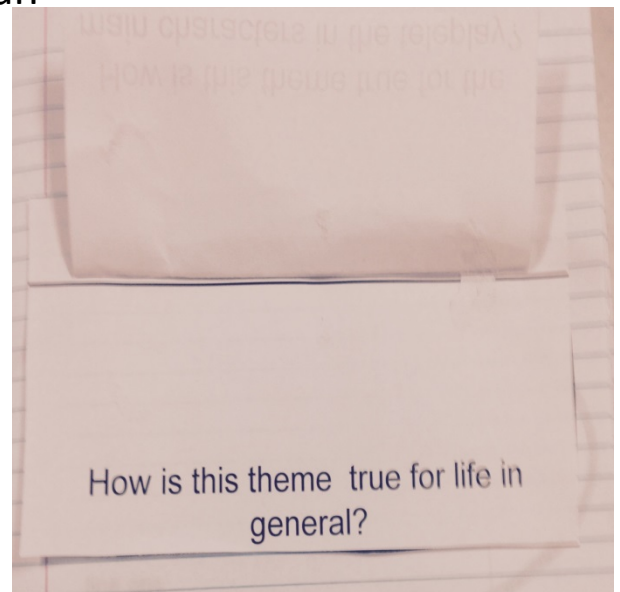
1. Glue under this tab.

How is this theme true for life in general?

# How To Make Flap Book



Glue largest box down first. Put glue under flap only. Next, glue flap of next biggest box. Smallest box is glued on top. Each flap should be able to be lifted so that answers can be written underneath.



# Who's Who When it Comes to Characters

## **The Protagonist**

This character is the principal driver of the effort to achieve the story's goal.

## **The Antagonist**

Usually, this is the "bad guy" or the villain who is opposed to the Protagonist's end goal. This person represents the drive to undermine success.

## **The Hero**

This is who the reader cheers for to see if they will win in the end. Sometimes, the hero and the protagonist is the same character, but sometimes they are two different characters.

## **Obstacle Character**

This character blocks or stands in the way of the protagonist, but is not necessarily the antagonist.

Directions: Cut out each box. Glue only under top flap. Underneath each box, write the name of the character that fits the description.

## **Cinquain: a poem containing five lines**

Write a cinquain poem using a character or object found in the novel as the basis of your poem. The cinquain format is listed below.

### Cinquain Poem Format

Line 1: a noun

Line 2: two adjectives to describe the noun in line one

Line 3: three -ing verbs

Line 4: a phrase describing the noun in line one

Line 5: a synonym for the noun in line one

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Go and Find...

# Story Search

**Five strong action verbs found in this novel**

**My favorite passage from this novel**

**One passage that I think best describes Despereaux**

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