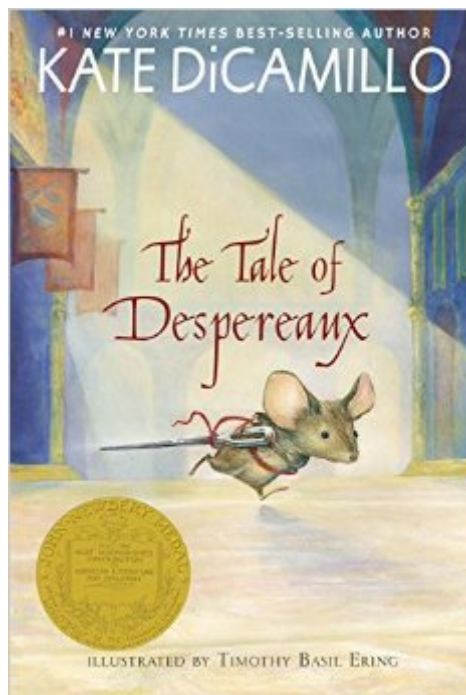




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# The Tale Of Despereaux: Being The Story Of A Mouse, A Princess, Some Soup, And A Spool Of Thread



## Synopsis

A brave mouse, a covetous rat, a wishful serving girl, and a princess named Pea come together in Kate DiCamillo's Newbery Medal-winning tale. Welcome to the story of Despereaux Tilling, a mouse who is in love with music, stories, and a princess named Pea. It is also the story of a rat called Roscuro, who lives in the darkness and covets a world filled with light. And it is the story of Miggery Sow, a slow-witted serving girl who harbors a simple, impossible wish. These three characters are about to embark on a journey that will lead them down into a horrible dungeon, up into a glittering castle, and, ultimately, into each other's lives. What happens then? As Kate DiCamillo would say: Reader, it is your destiny to find out. With black-and-white illustrations and a refreshed cover by Timothy Basil Ering.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

## Customer Reviews

Kate DiCamillo, author of the Newbery Honor book *Because of Winn-Dixie*, spins a tidy tale of mice and men where she explores the "powerful, wonderful, and ridiculous" nature of love, hope, and forgiveness. Her old-fashioned, somewhat dark story, narrated "Dear Reader"-style, begins "within the walls of a castle, with the birth of a mouse." Despereaux Tilling, the new baby mouse, is different from all other mice. Sadly, the romantic, unmouselike spirit that leads the unusually tiny, large-eared mouse to the foot of the human king and the beautiful Princess Pea ultimately causes him to be

banished by his own father to the foul, rat-filled dungeon. The first book of four tells Despereaux's sad story, where he falls deeply in love with Princess Pea and meets his cruel fate. The second book introduces another creature who differs from his peers--Chiaroscuro, a rat who instead of loving the darkness of his home in the dungeon, loves the light so much he ends up in the castle& in the queen's soup. The third book describes young Miggery Sow, a girl who has been "clouted" so many times that she has cauliflower ears. Still, all the slow-witted, hard-of-hearing Mig dreams of is wearing the crown of Princess Pea. The fourth book returns to the dungeon-bound Despereaux and connects the lives of mouse, rat, girl, and princess in a dramatic denouement. Children whose hopes and dreams burn secretly within their hearts will relate to this cast of outsiders who desire what is said to be out of their reach and dare to break "never-to-be-broken rules of conduct." Timothy Basil Ering's pencil illustrations are stunning, reflecting DiCamillo's extensive light and darkness imagery as well as the sweet, fragile nature of the tiny mouse hero who lives happily ever after. (Ages 9 and older) --Karin Snelson --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 3 Up-A charming story of unlikely heroes whose destinies entwine to bring about a joyful resolution. Foremost is Despereaux, a diminutive mouse who, as depicted in Ering's pencil drawings, is one of the most endearing of his ilk ever to appear in children's books. His mother, who is French, declares him to be "such the disappointment" at his birth and the rest of his family seems to agree that he is very odd: his ears are too big and his eyes open far too soon and they all expect him to die quickly. Of course, he doesn't. Then there is the human Princess Pea, with whom Despereaux falls deeply (one might say desperately) in love. She appreciates him despite her father's prejudice against rodents. Next is Roscuro, a rat with an uncharacteristic love of light and soup. Both these predilections get him into trouble. And finally, there is Miggery Sow, a peasant girl so dim that she believes she can become a princess. With a masterful hand, DiCamillo weaves four story lines together in a witty, suspenseful narrative that begs to be read aloud. In her authorial asides, she hearkens back to literary traditions as old as those used by Henry Fielding. In her observations of the political machinations and follies of rodent and human societies, she reminds adult readers of George Orwell. But the unpredictable twists of plot, the fanciful characterizations, and the sweetness of tone are DiCamillo's own. This expanded fairy tale is entertaining, heartening, and, above all, great fun. Miriam Lang Budin, Chappaqua Public Library, NY Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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We used this book as a read-aloud for our five year old. He absolutely loved it!Edit: I also read the first chapter aloud to my 3rd grade students and they were begging for more! Many of them commented that they'll be reading it on their own over the summer.

My 8 year old son really liked thus book.

8 year old son's absolute favorite book!! Bought for him because everyone should own their favorite book. In fact, we love all of the Kate DiCamillo books.

One of my son's favorite books. Our dog ate the first one, this was the replacement. I guess you could say our dog loved the book too... just a little too much.

This book was required reading for my granddaughter for 4th grade. She was traveling throughout the summer and the digital version was a perfect solution.

We liked how everything was connected in the story. It was a great thing to have very different characters. We liked hearing the story from the perspective of three different characters. It was fun to listen to the story go forward and backwards in time. We liked how the story was divided into 4 stories and they were all connected. It was cute and funny that a mouse loved a human princess. It was fun how many things were happening at the same time and in different places like upstairs and down in the dungeon. It was fun how nearly the whole story was in the castle but it was still interesting. The pictures were very detailed and carefully done. The book was full of emotion. We loved it!

An AMAZING book. I read it a long time ago and wanted to read it again. It really teaches about Love, life, and happiness. My 9 year old brother read it in one day because he just couldn't put it down; as did I, my 3 sisters, and mother . I reread this book every once in a while to remind me of what's important. 100% recommend

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