



## A Tale of Adventure

Do you like adventure? Do you like stories about unlikely heroes? If so, you might like to read *The Tale of Despereaux*.

The story is about the adventures of a mouse named Despereaux Tilling. He is on a quest to rescue a human princess from mean rats. The story involves a bowl of soup and a spool of thread. But you'll have to read it to learn more!

The author of this book is Kate DiCamillo. She was the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature in 2014-15. She lives in Minnesota.

Kate says that she thinks of herself as a storyteller. She describes herself as short and loud. She says that she hates to cook but loves to eat. Maybe she loves soup, like Queen Rosemary does in the book.

Sometimes people ask Kate to give them advice about writing. She says that you should write, rewrite, and read. She also says that you should look, listen, and believe in yourself.

The last three pieces of advice are true about writing. But they could also be true about having adventures. If you want to be brave, like Despereaux, you need to believe in yourself. And if you keep your eyes and ears open, you might find a great adventure waiting just for you!



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

1. Who wrote *The Tale of Despereaux*?
  - a. Despereaux Tilling
  - b. Kate DiCamillo
  - c. Queen Rosemary
  - d. A bowl of soup
  
2. According to the passage, which of the following is NOT true about Kate?
  - a. She is short and loud
  - b. She is a storyteller
  - c. She loves to cook
  - d. She lives in Minnesota
  
3. According to the passage, which of the following is NOT in Despereaux's story?
  - a. A bowl of soup
  - b. A spool of thread
  - c. Mean rats
  - d. Kind fairies
  
4. What does the author mean by "the last three pieces of advice"?
  - a. The advice that was just mentioned – look, listen, believe in yourself
  - b. The advice that was mentioned first – write, rewrite, read
  - c. The advice that Kate gave most recently
  - d. The advice that the author gave – to read *The Tale of Despereaux*

Instructions for teachers:

These questions can be used to assess understanding of the reading passage.

The item in bold is the correct answer for each question.

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