

☀️ **Summer Reading Assignment for Incoming 5th
Graders 2025** ☀️

Book: *The Tale of Despereaux* by Kate DiCamillo
Due: First Week of School

This summer, you'll read *The Tale of Despereaux*, the story of a small mouse with big courage. It's a tale of bravery, kindness, loneliness, and light in dark places.

Instead of writing a summary, your job is to make **real-life connections** to the story. This means writing about how the book made you *think and feel* — and how it connects to *your* experiences.

 **After Reading, Write 3 Paragraphs:**

1. Courage and You

Despereaux is a brave little mouse. Write about a time *you* had to be brave — even if you were scared. What happened? How did you feel afterward?

2. A Character You Understand

Pick a character you relate to. What did they go through or feel that reminded you of your own life?

3. What the Story Taught You

What message, idea, or moment stuck with you from this story? Why do you think it mattered to you?

 **Writing Guidelines:**

- One strong paragraph (5–7 sentences) for each question
 - Use details from the book and from your own life
 - Be honest — we want to hear *your* voice and ideas
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We can't wait to read what you write and hear how this beautiful story made you think!

 Happy reading and writing!

Students who turn in their paragraphs on the first day of school will receive extra credit toward their 1st marking period grade!