

A Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo

Book Report

SUMMARY

In a castle lived a mouse named Despereaux. He was as small as a bug and he had big ears. One day he heard a sound, music, he followed the sound and he saw the king playing music to his daughter, Princess Pea. Despereaux listened. He knew he was supposed to hide from humans, he wanted to get closer to the music. After a while he was all the way out in the open. The king saw him but he did not do much. The Queen had died a little bit before this.

Despereaux loved the princess. Then his brother ran by and saw Despereaux! His brother told Despereaux's parents about what happened. Despereaux's father told all the mice and they said he must go to the dungeon! Rats live there and all rats do is be mean to the prisoners who are put there.

Two big mice took Despereaux and took him to the dungeon. There was a man named Georgy the Jailer who lives in the dungeon. Georgy is old and has a red thread around his ankle that makes him know all the passages in the dungeon. He picked up Despereaux and said if Despereaux told him a story he would save him. Despereaux told him a story.

Now we will go to a rat named Chiaroscuro, but called Roscro. He was chewing on Georgy's rope and he got caught. Georgy picked him up and shoved a candle in his face. Rats do not like light. But instead of closing his eyes or looking away, he just stared into the light.

Later the dungeon door opened and a new prisoner came in. Roscro was convinced by his friend that he did not want the light but the red blanket the prisoner had. So he stole it. But he then knew it was the light he wanted so he left the dungeon and went out in the world. He decided that he belonged not in the dungeon, but outside.

Roscro climbed through the castle until he got to a party. Everyone was laughing and having so much fun that Roscro wasn't noticed when he blimbed the table and on to the chandelier. But Princess Pea's sharp eye caught him. She told everyone and Roscro was so surprised from being caught he fell down into the Queen's bowl of soup. She let out a scream and choked on the soup.

Roscro got out of the soup and walked away. On the way he picked up a spoon and put it on his head. The princess gave him a sad glare because he had killed the queen. Rocro felt he did not belong there, he belonged in the dungeon. He decided to make her suffer because of the way she looked at him.

There was a girl named Miggery Sow. Her mother died and then her father sold her to a very mean man, for a red blanket, a hen, and some food. Whenever she did something wrong she would get hit in the ear. She had been hit in the ears so many times that her ears looked like cauliflowers. One day a soldier came to their house to

tell the man who owned Mig that soup was illegal because the Queen died of choking on it. He said it was illegal to own someone. So he took Mig away to the castle with him. First she was a serving maid, then she was the cook's helper, then she bought Georgy his meals. The first time she brought Georgy his meals a rat spoke to her, he said that he had an idea of how to let Mig be the princess.

Cook shook the napkin Despereaux had been hiding in and he fell straight into a measuring cup of oil. She took a spoon and scooped him out and dropped him on the floor. Then she told Mig to kill him. Mig took a knife and almost got him but he scurried off and Mig had only gotten his tail. Despereaux ran to the pantry and slept.

While he slept Roscro put his terrible plan into action. He sat on Mig's shoulder while she walked into the princess's room. She woke up Pea and told her to get up and put on the dress she wore when her mother died. The Pea did. Then Mig holding the butcher knife pointed it at the princess and told her to go to the dungeon. They hid in a secret room. Since Mig did not want to chain the Pea up Roscro made them both sit in the dungeon. They sat for a day.

Despereaux wanted to save the princess so he got a spool of red thread to tie around her ankle so she would know how to get out. The cook was making soup even though it was illegal. And she gave some to Despereaux. When he got to the bottom he found his way to the hiding place where Roscro had hid Miggery and Princess Pea.

Despereaux entered and then Mig tried to kill Roscro but she missed and only got the tail. Despereaux was about to kill him but then the rat smelled soup and he fell down and said to kill him and all he wanted was some soup and light. He said that he had taken the princess because he wanted some light of his own. Princess Pea said if he led them out they would give him some soup so Roscro led them out.

Mig found out her dad was a prisoner at the dungeon and the king let him out and Miggery Sow lived with him. Roscro was free to be in the dungeon or out of it. And Despereaux became good friends with the Princess Pea.

CHARACTERS

Despereaux is an interesting character he started out in the beginning of the story he did not know very much about any thing and at the end he had learned alot and was much more brave and confident. But none of the other mice were like him he was very different.

I like Roscro because he does lots of bad things but he does it for reasons though they are not very good ones. Like Despereaux he is very different from the other rats he likes the light and he is nicer. He does not think about things before he does them.

I felt very sorry for Mig because so many bad things hapve happened to her. She was not one of the sharpest knives in the drawer. In the beginning of the book since she did almost whatever somebody told her to. And at the end she was more able to say No and stand up for her self.

RECOMMENDATION

I liked the book alot. I think the plot was very interesting. This was the first book I have read where the plot was very complicated. I also like that there is no bad person. The characters are interesting toothey are all so different and they are all together in the story. I like how the end is not all perfect but it is happy. I highly recommend The Tale of Despereaux!

Very Well Told
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