



## *The Tale of Despereaux*

Written by Kate DiCamillo  
Illustrations by Timothy Ering

Kate DiCamillo has done it again! Another wonderful novel that's sure to become a classic! I'll have to admit that her Newbery Honor Award book, *Because of Winn Dixie*, is still my favorite, but *Tale of Despereaux* has brought this author the coveted Newbery Award. This book can be enjoyed on so many levels from literal to metaphorical. It's a tale on the surface of a mouse and a princess, though its message is one of dark and light, good and evil, innocence and ruthlessness. This book will appeal to a wide range of readers from upper elementary through high school (not to mention how much I love it as an adult!).

**Self-Selected Reading:** This is a book they'll beg you not to stop reading each day!

**Guided Reading Block:** This book will help you bring together all of the story elements (great character study, setting, problem/solution) and a bounty of figures of speech, analogies, metaphors, personification, and more.

**Writing Block:** This is an interesting book to analyze for voice, character development, and story elements as well as an interesting style and point of view. Have your students discuss the words that are used to create mood and tone.