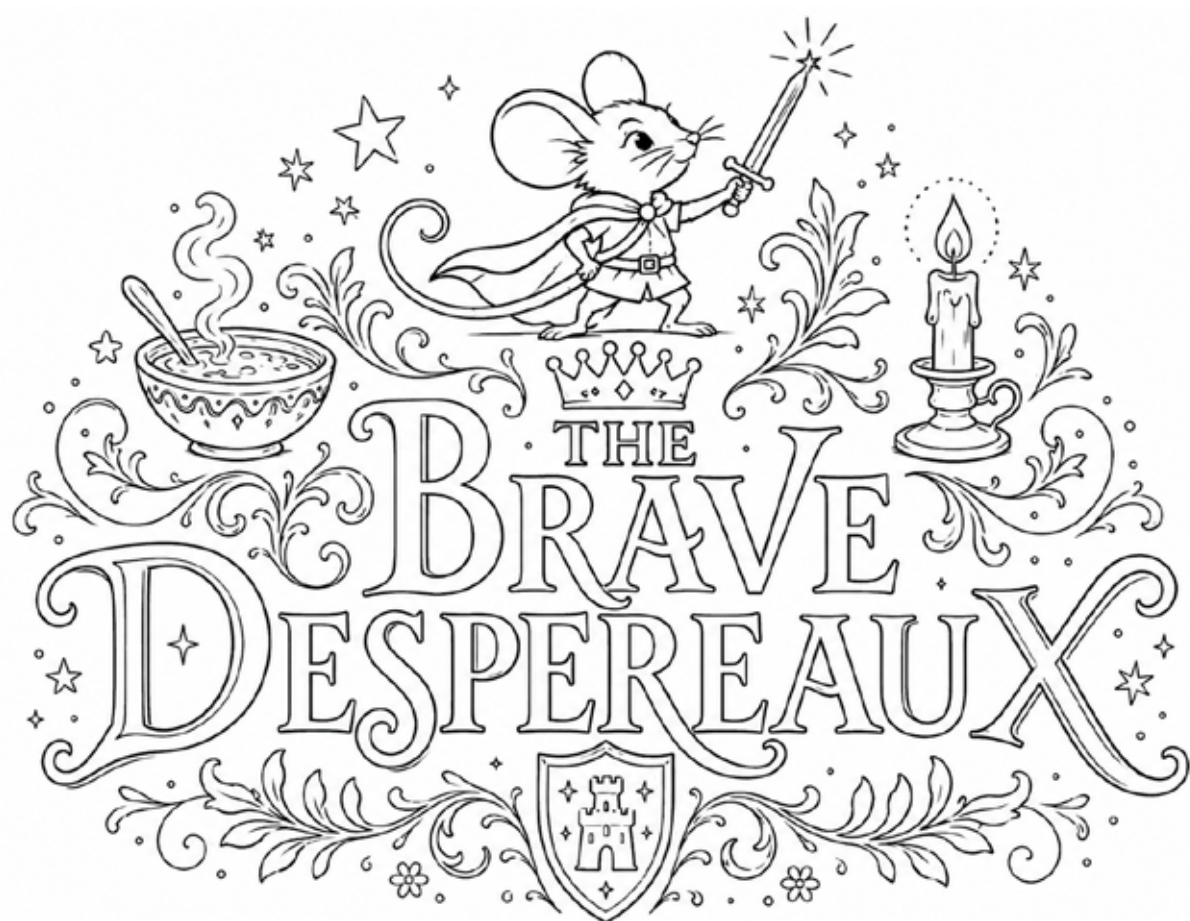




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Introduction.

The primary purpose of the teacher's pack is to help both teachers and students alike to get as much as possible out of their participation in the interactive performance of 'THE BRAVE DESPEREAUX'.

The pack has been designed as a tool to help students understand the play, learn the new vocabulary and improve their listening and speaking skills. Once they have done the activities, students will better understand both how the story develops and the lines the actors deliver and so they will get more enjoyment out of the performance.

We introduce some material where you'll find texts corresponding to the plot synopsis and the characters, some dialogues from the play and the original songs performed along the play. Besides, you'll find some suggested activities we recommend, which have been designed to check if students understood the play correctly and that they have assimilated the vocabulary, expressions and grammatical structures they worked on. The activities include instructions for the teacher and the corresponding student worksheets, as long as the activity requires them.

Some of the activities have an extension part (Extension Activity) which makes possible to study in depth the contents, depending on the group level. Both the introductory material and the suggested activities may require the corresponding audio material to make a better use of them. In that case, we provide you with the corresponding track number.

In order to help the teacher find and select the audio activities, we list below the track numbers with its corresponding contents from the play 'THE BRAVE DESPEREAUX'.

AUDIO TRACK – THE BRAVE DESPEREAUX – (tracks 1 to 9):

- Track 1- Listening: Chef's Voice-Over
- Track 2- Meet the Characters
- Track 3- Dialogue 1
- Track 4- Dialogue 2
- Track 5- Song 1: In My Kitchen
- Track 6- Song 2: Pinky Pampurrias' Song
- Track 7- Song 3: The Potion's Recipe
- Track 8- Song 4: Pick Everything Up
- Track 9- The Rat Poem

A new feature includes the possibility for teachers to see the CHOREOGRAPHY of a song on our WEBSITE –forumteatro.com– and therefore offers the opportunity of teaching it to the students prior to the show, thus allowing them to fully enjoy the dance on the day of the show. We sincerely hope that both teachers and students fully enjoy the play itself and the activities which make up this teacher's pack. We also hope this proves to be a useful aid in enhancing enjoyment of this interactive theatre experience.

DEAR TEACHER, IN THE TEACHER'S PACK THAT YOU HAVE NOW IN YOUR HANDS, THERE ARE ACTIVITIES FOR DIFFERENT LEVELS SO YOU CAN PREPARE ALL THE STUDENTS WHO WILL ATTEND THE PERFORMANCE. YOU ARE THE BEST ONE TO DECIDE WHICH ACTIVITIES YOU THINK ARE MOST ADAPTED TO THE LEVEL OF YOUR STUDENTS. IN ANY CASE, WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU ALWAYS LISTEN TO THE SONGS AND THE LISTENINGS, AND THAT YOU WORK ON THE VOCABULARY IN CLASS, AS WELL AS THE STORY SO THAT THE STUDENTS UNDERSTANDING WILL BE COMPLETE. THANK YOU FOR TRUST IN US ONCE AGAIN.

SINCERELY, FORUM THEATRE AND EDUCATION.



•Conceptual Contents•

The educational interests of this activity will focus on helping students start developing the basic skills of any foreign language: listening, speaking, reading and writing. All this with an approach based on communication, which aims to encourage students, involving them in dialogues, conversations, songs... and other forms of communication that are essential to the teaching and learning of a foreign language process.

At this stage students should develop a certain level of understanding and speaking to enable them to deploy their first English communicative manifestations, and to consolidate the basic grammatical categories of this language and ensure their awareness and approach to the Anglo-Saxon cultural tradition.

The teaching materials of “THE BRAVE DESPEREAUX” will allow you to study in depth the following conceptual contents:

LISTENING:

Various activities such as listening and repeating words as well as having to fill in the gaps to certain dialogues and songs, helping to sharpen the students’ ear and encourage them to repeat all they hear in English.

CONVERSATION:

Present simple tense: third person singular

Physical descriptions. Adjectives.

Verb “to be”, “to like”

There is / There are

Prepositions of place (on, in, under, next to...)

Affirmative, negative and interrogative sentences

Deepen the knowledge of authors of classic stories

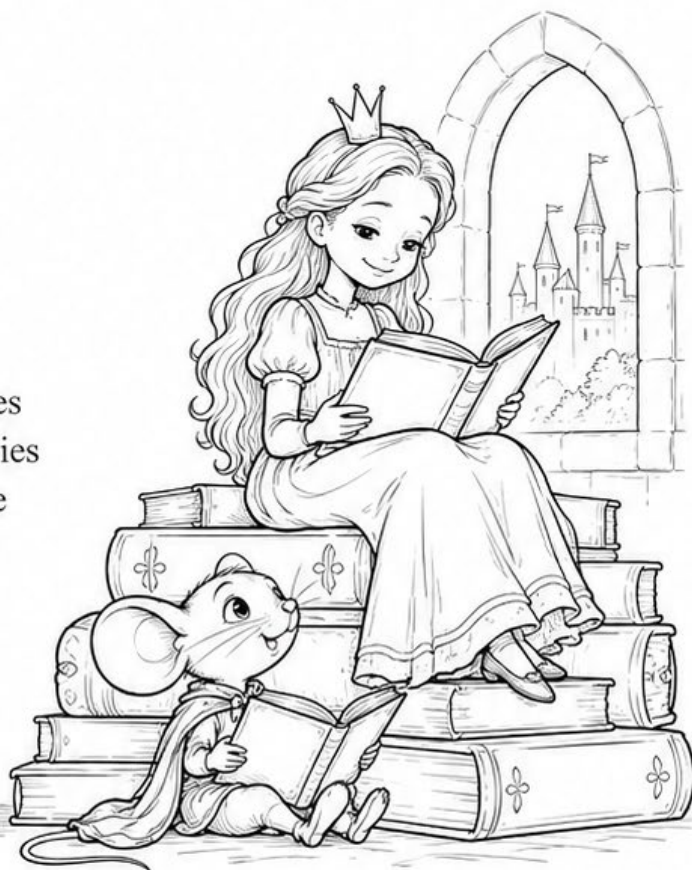
Familiarizing yourself with the book “The Brave Despereaux” by Kate DiCamillo

Understand stories in general

Understand oral instructions

Contextualized questions, answering with short responses.

Repeat short words, rhymes, little songs, and standard phrases.



Plot Synopsis

In a bustling kitchen, Chef 1 is constantly busy. He is in an excellent mood and says that today is a wonderful day, all because it happens to be Chef 2's birthday. To celebrate, he has decided to prepare a very special recipe as a birthday gift. It's not pizza, nor fish, nor vegetables... it's a delicious, hearty soup. But the mere mention of the word soup sends Chef 2 into a panic. She insists it's a terrible idea because soup has been banned throughout the entire Kingdom.

This is how our adaptation of the book by Kate DiCamillo begins. It tells the exciting adventure of a tiny but incredibly brave mouse who, in our version, sneaks into the kitchen where the two chefs are working. Once he is discovered, he begins to tell his extraordinary story. This is no ordinary mouse. He loves music, adores books, and has wonderfully refined tastes, which have caused him endless problems with the other mice, who see him as eccentric, strange, and troublesome.

The two chefs help the mouse, whose name is Despereaux to tell the story of everything that happened when he nearly lost his life trying to save his beloved Princess Pea. To do so, he had to face none other than Roscuro, a wicked rat whose appearance in the Queen's soup frightened her so badly that she died of shock. As a result, the King outlawed soup throughout the entire Kingdom.

Seeking revenge against the royal family, especially Princess Pea, Roscuro takes advantage of the kindness of a young girl named Pinky Pampurrias, whose greatest dream is to become a princess.

What the evil rat Roscuro does not count on, however, is the powerful love that the brave little mouse Despereaux has for Princess Pea. That love prevents Roscuro from carrying out his wicked plan and ultimately allows peace to return to the Kingdom.



Listening

-Track 1-

Chef's Voice-Over

Welcome, everyone, to my **kitchen**! How are you all today? Today is a very special day. Yes, it really is! Do you know why? Because it's my **friend's birthday**. That's right, it's my **friend's birthday**! And I have a **surprise** for her. A wonderful **surprise**. I know she's going to love it, but don't tell her because it's supposed to be a **surprise**!

I want to make her a delicious **bowl** of **soup** as a **birthday present** because I know she loves **soup**. But wait a minute... now that I think about it... **soup** is **forbidden**! No one is allowed to make soup. Do you know why? Because one day, a **rat** fell into the **Queen's bowl** of **soup**, and when she saw it, she died of **fright**. From that very day on, the **King** banned **soup** throughout the entire Kingdom.

It was that same **rat** that the **brave** little **mouse**, Despereaux, had to face. Despereaux was a **mouse** who was **in love** with a princess, **Princess Pea**.

Everything I've told you is true; I promise!

If you'd like to hear the whole **story** of this **brave** little **mouse**, come back to my **kitchen** later. Once my **soup** is ready, I'll tell you all about it.

See you later!

And enjoy your meal!

Activity: After listening to the recording, repeat the following words.

Words: Kitchen, Day, Birthday, Friend, Surprise, Soup, Present, Forbidden, Rat, Bowl, Queen, Fright, King, Brave, Mouse, In love, Princess, Pea, Story



Meet the Characters

-Track 2-

•DESPEREAUX THE MOUSE

Despereaux is the hero of our story. He is no ordinary mouse. He was born with his eyes open, ears far too big, an exceptionally kind heart, and a love of books, music, and light.

Unlike other mice, he doesn't spend all his time thinking about food. He often sneezes and coughs, suffers from fevers, faints when he hears loud noises, and pays close attention to everything happening around him. Despite all this, Despereaux is incredibly brave. He falls in love with a princess and is willing to face the evil rat to save her.

•THE CHEFS - CHEF 1 & CHEF 2

The two chefs are the narrators of the story. While preparing a pot of soup and discussing why soup has been forbidden throughout the Kingdom, they discover a little mouse hiding in the kitchen. From that moment on, they tell the incredible story of The Brave Mouse Despereaux.

•PRINCESS PEA

Princess Pea is the princess with whom Despereaux falls in love. She is kind, gentle, polite, and elegant. When she discovers the tiny mouse, they become friends and share many adventures together.

Princess Pea is so compassionate that, at the end of the story, she even forgives Roscuro, the evil rat.

•ROSCURO

Roscuro is the villain of the story. He is a rat who was born among the rubbish and darkness of the castle's dungeons. He is unpleasant, bitter, and driven by revenge. He fell into the Queen's bowl of soup, Princess Pea's mother, and the Queen died of fright. Ever since, Roscuro has sought revenge against the royal family for condemning him to live forever in the dark dungeons.

•THE KING

The King is Princess Pea's father. After his wife dies from fright when Roscuro falls into her bowl of soup, he bans soup throughout the entire Kingdom.

•PINKY PAMPURRIAS

Pinky Pampurrias is a humble, kind-hearted young girl who dreams of becoming a princess. Roscuro tricks her into helping him carry out his revenge against Princess Pea. However, she eventually realizes she has been deceived and decides to help not only the Princess but also Despereaux, the brave little mouse.



Dialogue 1

-Track 3-

Chef 1: -Today is a great day. Yes, it certainly is, a wonderful day! Hello, everyone, and welcome to my kitchen, my wonderful kitchen. And as I said before, today is a great day.

Chef 2: -Why are you so happy?

Chef 1: -Because today is a great day.

Chef 2: -Oh, really?

Chef 1: -Of course! It's a day to celebrate because today is...

Chef 2: - ...

Chef 1: -Today is...

Chef 2: -Wednesday? Thursday?

Chef 1: -Today is...

Chef 2: - ...

Chef 1: -Your birthday!

Chef 2: -That's right! How did you remember?

Chef 1: -I wrote it down on the calendar. So... (humming the tune) Happy Birthday to you, Happy Birthday to you...

Chef 2: -Thank you! Thank you so much!

Chef 1: -I have a surprise for you.

Chef 2: -A surprise?

Chef 1: -I'm going to make my very best recipe.

Chef 2: -Pizza?

Chef 1: -No, no, no. Not pizza.

Chef 2: -Fish?

Chef 1: -No, it's not fish either.

Chef 2: -...

Chef 1: -Come on, guess!

Chef 2: -I have no idea.

Chef 1: -Soup.

Chef 2: -What?

Chef 1: -I said I'm going to make soup.

Chef 2: -Are you crazy? It's forbidden to make soup!

Chef 1: -I know, but...

Chef 2: -No "buts." Ever since the Queen died, soup has been forbidden.

Chef 1: -I know, but...

Chef 2: -No excuses. Soup is...

Chef 1: -Delicious!

Chef 2: -Forbidden. Soup is...

Chef 1: -Really tasty!

Chef 2: -Forbidden. Soup is...

Chef 1: -Well, no matter what you say, I'm going to make soup!



Dialogue 2

-Track 4-

Despereaux: -Hello.

Princess Pea: -I thought I heard someone say, "Hello."

Despereaux: -Hello.

Princess Pea: -But it can't be. I'm all alone.

Despereaux: -You're not alone. I'm here too.

Princess Pea: -I can hear the voice again.
Am I going crazy?

Despereaux: -Princess.

Princess Pea: -You're a... a...!

Despereaux: -A mouse.

Princess Pea: -But a mouse that... that...

Despereaux: -A mouse that can talk.

Princess Pea: -I think I'm going to faint.

Despereaux: -No, no, Princess, please don't faint.
Listen to me, please. I am a mouse,
and my name is Despereaux.

Princess Pea: -Despereaux? What an unusual name!

Despereaux: -It's the name my parents gave me.

Princess Pea: -I am Prin...

Despereaux: -Princess Pea.

Princess Pea: -How do you know my name?

Despereaux: -The whole Kingdom talks about you,
your beauty, your kindness...

Princess Pea: -Thank you.

Despereaux: -You know something, Princess?

Princess Pea: -Tell me, Despereaux!

Despereaux: -My mouse instinct tells me that you
and I are going to be great friends.



Song 1.

In my Kitchen -Track 4-

CHEF. Today Is a great day
Here In my kitchen
Because In my kitchen
I cook all day long
I make lot of cookies and I make cakes and tarts
I even make chocolate buns
They do sure taste great
Today is a great day
Here in my kitchen
Because in my kitchen
I cook all day long
Today is a great day
Here in my kitchen
Because in my kitchen
I cook all day long
I cook all day long
I cook all day long
I cook all day long



Song 2.

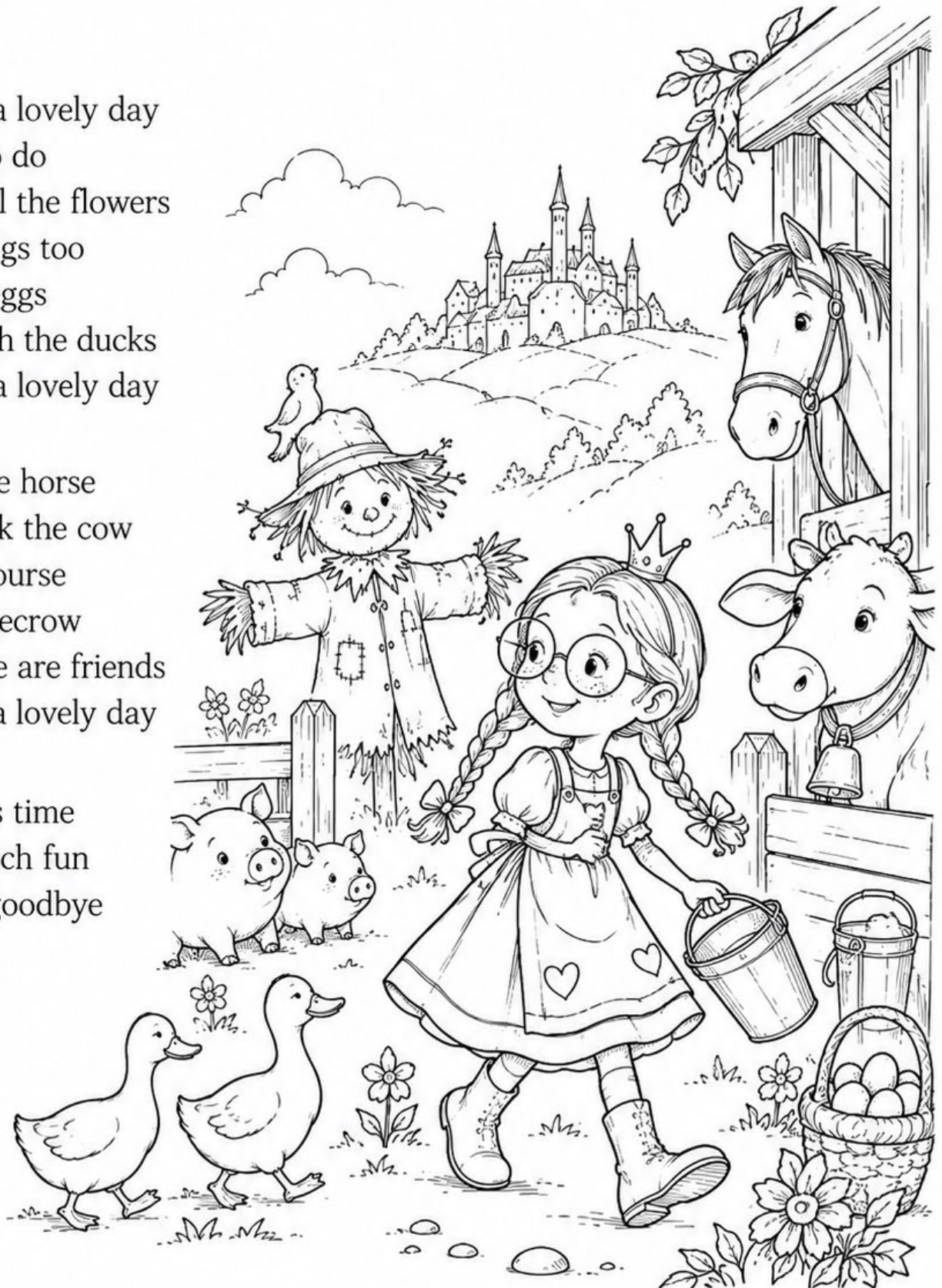
Pinky Pampurrias' Song -Track 5-

PINKY.

Today was a lovely day
I had lots to do
I watered all the flowers
I feed the pigs too
I collected eggs
I played with the ducks
Today was a lovely day

I cleaned the horse
I had to milk the cow
All fun of course
I met a scarecrow
And now we are friends
Today was a lovely day

But now it's time
I had so much fun
Now I say goodbye
Goodbye!



Song 3.

The Potion's recipe -Track 7-

DESPEREAUX.

Uh Uh, I have to be careful
It's tricky as can be
Trying to cook under pressure
To make them sleep you see

Oh all the squirting and swirling
The crumble and smooth
I have to get the recipe right
To keep them in the mood

Shushhhhhhhhhhh
Be careful not to wake them up
Shushhhhhhhhhhhhhhh
Add a pinch, a spoon, a cup

Uh Uh, don't make much noise
Or out of slumber they'll come
And all the potion in the world
Won't help and I'll have to run

So mix up all the things now
Get it nice and hot
But be careful not to burn it
I only get one shot

Shushhhhhhhhhhh
Be careful not to wake them up
Shushhhhhhhhhhhhhhh
Add a pinch, a spoon, a cup
Stir and Whip
Fold and Drip
Now we are done!



Song 4.

Pick Everything Up -Track 8-

Finished cooking now
So put the things away
Thank you all so much
For all your help today
We had a brilliant time
But time has come you know
So put the things away.
And then we can go.

We put all of our things in boxes
And then put them back up on the shelf
There are none but if you want more cookies
You will just have to make them yourself.

Finished cooking now
So put the things away
Thank you all so much
For all your help today
We had a brilliant time
But time has come you know
So put the things away.
And then we can go.

It'll only take a couple of minutes
So let's clean up and get this job done
We can cook some more things another day
But right now we must put all these things away.

Finished cooking now
So put the things away
Thank you all so much
For all your help today
We had a brilliant time
But time has come you know
So put the things away.
And then we can go.



The Rat Poem

-Track 8-

This is a poem about the RAT. It is the way in which the Princess describes the Rat.

The **RAT** is a **MONSTER**,
a big **MONSTER**.

She has terrible **FEET**,
and terrible **HANDS**,
and terrible **TEETH**
in her terrible **MOUTH**.

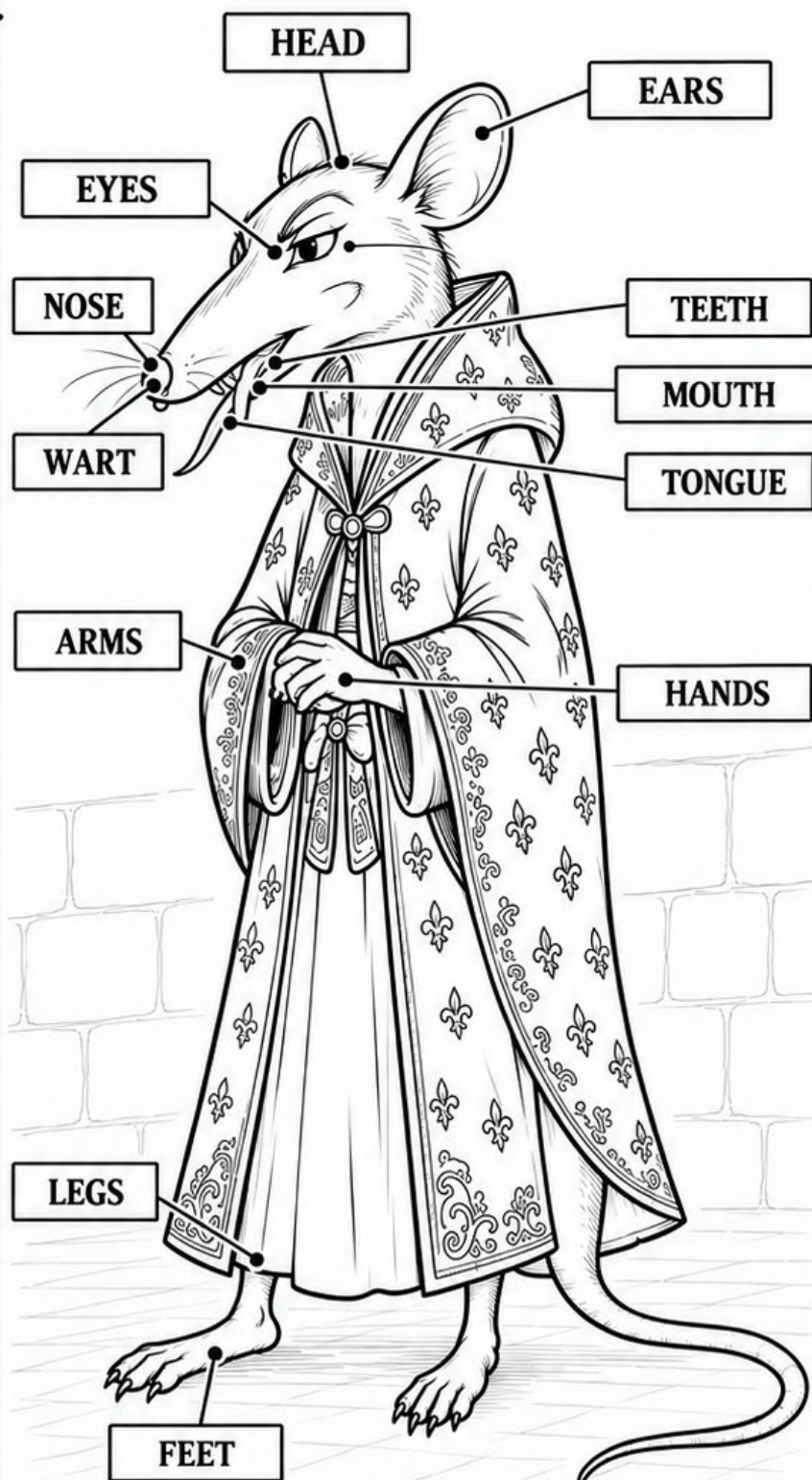
The **RAT** is a **MONSTER**,
a big **MONSTER**.

She has terrible **EARS**,
and terrible **TONGUE**.
And a terrible **WART**
at the end of her **NOSE**.

The **RAT** is a **MONSTER**,
a big **MONSTER**.

Her **EYES** are brown,
her **HEAD** is black.
She has very long **ARMS**
and a very long **LEGS**.

The **RAT** is a **MONSTER**,
a big **MONSTER**.



Pre-play Activity 1.

More about the characters -PART 1-

-Teachers-

ACTIVITY. Give out the photocopies of the Pre-Play activity worksheet 1, one per student, and explain that it shows the main character from the story.

Point the names of the characters and ask the students to identify each of them "Who is this".

Now go through the characters and ask the students questions about each one:

- | | | |
|------------------------|--|--------------------|
| ·CHEF 1. | Who is this? Is he a man or a woman? | -Answer: A man |
| ·CHEF 2. | Who is this? Is she a man or a woman? | -Answer: A woman |
| ·THE MOUSE DESPEREAUX. | What is this? Is an animal or a man? | -Answer: An animal |
| ·THE PRINCESS. | Who is this? Is she a man or a woman? | -Answer: A woman |
| ·ROSCURO -THE RAT- | What is this? Is an animal or a woman? | -Answer: An animal |
| ·THE KING. | Who is this? Is he a man or a woman? | -Answer: A man |
| ·PINKY PAMPURRIAS. | Who is this? Is she a man or a woman? | -Answer: An woman |

ACTIVITY. Ask students to write the name of each character below the corresponding picture, using lines provided.

Note. The above questions and answers are only examples.
The teacher should feel at liberty to vary the questions according to the ability of the class.



1. _____



2. _____



3. _____



4. _____



5. _____



6. _____



7. _____

•Pre-play Activity 1•

More about the characters -PART 2-

-Teachers-

ACTIVITY. Give out the photocopies of the Pre-Play Activity worksheet 1, one per student.

Show the adjectives to the students, translating if is necessary, and ask them to form sentences by applying and adjective to a character (e.g. The King is old).

After practicing with several sentences, ask the students to write one sentence for each character on the Activity Worksheet.

Suitable adjectives for the characters:

CHEF 1. Happy- Funny – Artist. _____

CHEF 2. Serious – Young – Friendly. _____

DESPEREAUX. Brave – Loving – Small. _____

PRINCESS. Intelligent – Elegant – Stately. _____

ROSCURO. Bad -Hairy – Monstrous. _____

KING. _____

PINKY PAMPURRIAS. Old – Majestic – Dizzy. _____

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Extension 1. Ask the students to write sentences with two adjectives for each character.
E.g. Despereaux is brave and small.

Extension 2. Ask students to write sentences with contrasting adjectives, using the connector “but”.
E.g. The Chef 2 is young but the King is old.

•Pre-play Activity 2•

-Teachers-

Choose the correct option -Dialogue 1-

Below are number of questions based on dialogue 1 that the students should listen to dialogue 1 -Track 3- and then correctly answer the following questions.

1. Where are the two chefs?

- A. In the living room
- B. In the kitchen**
- C. In the bedroom

2. Chef 1 says today is...

- A. A great day**
- B. A bad day
- C. An ordinary day

3. Chef 1 says it is a special day.

- A. Because it's Christmas.
- B. Because it's Chef 2's birthday.**
- C. Because it's Easter.

4. Where has Chef 1 written down that it is Chef 2's birthday?

- A. On a calendar**
- B. In a notebook
- C. On a blackboard

5. What Italian dish does Chef 2 think Chef 1 is going to prepare?

- A. Macaroni
- B. Spaghetti
- C. Pizza**

6. Chef 2 also thinks Chef 1 is going to prepare...

- A. Meat
- B. Vegetables
- C. Fish**

7. What is Chef 1 actually going to prepare?

- A. Potatoes
- B. Tomatoes**
- C. Soup

8. Making soup is...

- A. Allowed
- B. Rewarded
- C. Forbidden**

9. What was in the Queen's bowl of soup?

- A. A rat**
- B. A mouse
- C. An insect

10. What happened to the Queen when she discovered what was in her soup?

- A. She laughed.
- B. She died of fright.**
- C. She became friends with the rat.

SOLUTIONS.

1 B - 2 A - 3 B - 4 A - 5 C - 6 C - 7 B - 8 C - 9 A - 10 B

•Pre-play Activity 3•

Fill in the gaps

-Teachers-

Students should listen carefully to Dialogue 2 (Track 3) and fill in the blanks with the missing words.

WORDS.

DESPEREAUX, KINGDOM, HELLO, MOUSE, NAME, CRAZY, PEA, VOICE, PARENTS, ALONE, PRINCESS, FRIENDS

Despereaux: -**Hello**.

Princess Pea: -I thought I heard someone say, "**Hello**."

Despereaux: -**Hello**.

Princess Pea: -But it can't be. I'm all **alone**.

Despereaux: -You're not alone. I'm here too.

Princess Pea: -I can hear the **voice** again.
Am I going **crazy**?

Despereaux: -Princess.

Princess Pea: -You're a... a...!

Despereaux: -A **mouse**.

Princess Pea: -But a **mouse** that... that...

Despereaux: -A **mouse** that can talk.

Princess Pea: -I think I'm going to faint.

Despereaux: -No, no, **Princess**, please don't faint.
Listen to me, please. I am a mouse, and my name is **Despereaux**.

Princess Pea: -Despereaux? What an unusual **name**!

Despereaux: -It's the name my **parents** gave me.

Princess Pea: -I am Prin...

Despereaux: -Princess **Pea**.

Princess Pea: -How do you know my **name**?

Despereaux: -The whole **Kingdom** talks about you, your beauty, your kindness...

Princess Pea: -Thank you.

Despereaux: -You know something, **Princess**?

Princess Pea: -Tell me, **Despereaux**!

Despereaux: -My **mouse** instinct tells me that you and I are going to be great **friends**.

Pre-play Activity 4.

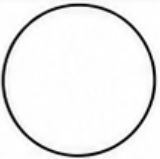
The Rat Poem.

-Teachers-

Students should listen carefully to The Rat Poem (Track 8) and complete the worksheet following the instructions below.

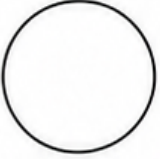
Follow these instructions:

1. When the poem says RAT draw it.
2. When the poem says MONSTER, cut it out and stick it on.
3. When the poem says PARTS OF THE BODY put the corresponding number according to the drawing on the right.
4. When the poem says COLOUR, colour in the box.

The  is a , a big .

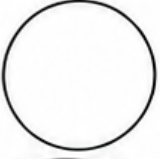
He has terrible , and terrible ,

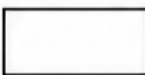
And terrible  in his terrible .

The  is a , a big .

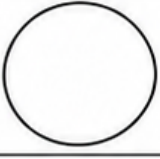
He has terrible , and a terrible ,

And a terrible wart at the end of his .

The  is a , a big .

His  are , his  is .

He has very long  and very long .

The  is a , a big .

Parts of the body

1.  FEET
2.  HANDS
3.  TEETH
4.  MOUTH
5.  EARS
6.  TONGUE
7.  NOSE
8.  EYES
9.  HEAD
10.  ARMS
11.  LEGS



Pre-play Activity 1.

-Students-

More about the characters -PART 1-



1. _____



2. _____



3. _____



4. _____



5. _____



6. _____



7. _____

Pre-play Activity 1.

More about the characters -PART 2-

-Students-

ACTIVITY. Give out the photocopies of the Pre-Play Activity worksheet 1, one per student.

Show the adjectives to the students, translating if is necessary, and ask them to form sentences by applying and adjective to a character (e.g. The King is old).

After practicing with several sentences, ask the students to write one sentence for each character on the Activity Worksheet.

Suitable adjectives for the characters:

OLD - FUNNY - MONSTROUS - BRAVE - MAJESTIC - COWARDLY - STATELY - SMALL - FRIENDLY - ELEGANT
SWEET - LOVING - YOUNG - HAPPY - BAD - KIND - HAIRY - DIZZY - INTELLIGENT - ARTIST - SERIOUS.



CHEF 1.



CHEF 2.



DESPEREAUX.



PRINCESS.



ROSCURO.



KING.



PINKY PAMPURRIAS.

•Pre-play Activity 2•

-Students-

Choose the correct option -Dialogue 1-

Below are number of questions based on dialogue 1 that the students should listen to dialogue 1 -track 3- and then correctly answer the following questions.

1. Where are the two chefs?

- A. In the living room
- B. In the kitchen
- C. In the bedroom

6. Chef 2 also thinks Chef 1 is going to prepare...

- A. Meat
- B. Vegetables
- C. Fish

2. Chef 1 says today is...

- A. A great day
- B. A bad day
- C. An ordinary day

7. What is Chef 1 actually going to prepare?

- A. Potatoes
- B. Tomatoes
- C. Soup

3. Chef 1 says it is a special day.

- A. Because it's Christmas.
- B. Because it's Chef 2's birthday.
- C. Because it's Easter.

8. Making soup is...

- A. Allowed
- B. Rewarded
- C. Forbidden

4. Where has Chef 1 written down that it is Chef 2's birthday?

- A. On a calendar
- B. In a notebook
- C. On a blackboard

9. What was in the Queen's bowl of soup?

- A. A rat
- B. A mouse
- C. An insect

5. What Italian dish does Chef 2 think Chef 1 is going to prepare?

- A. Macaroni
- B. Spaghetti
- C. Pizza

10. What happened to the Queen when she discovered what was in her soup?

- A. She laughed.
- B. She died of fright.
- C. She became friends with the rat.

•Pre-play Activity 3•

Fill in the gaps

-Students-

Students should listen carefully to Dialogue 2 (Track 3) and fill in the blanks with the missing words.

WORDS.

DESPEREAUX, KINGDOM, HELLO, MOUSE, NAME, CRAZY, PEA, VOICE, PARENTS, ALONE, PRINCESS, FRIENDS

Despereaux: -Hello.

Princess Pea: -I thought I heard someone say, "_____."

Despereaux: -Hello.

Princess Pea: -But it can't be. I'm all _____.

Despereaux: -You're not alone. I'm here too.

Princess Pea: -I can hear the _____ again.
Am I going _____?

Despereaux: -Princess.

Princess Pea: -You're a... a...!

Despereaux: -A _____.

Princess Pea: -But a _____ that... that...

Despereaux: -A _____ that can talk.

Princess Pea: -I think I'm going to faint.

Despereaux: -No, no, _____, please don't faint.
Listen to me, please. I am a mouse, and my name is _____.

Princess Pea: -Despereaux? What an unusual _____!

Despereaux: -It's the name my _____ gave me.

Princess Pea: -I am Prin...

Despereaux: -Princess _____.

Princess Pea: -How do you know my _____?

Despereaux: -The whole _____ talks about you, your beauty, your kindness...

Princess Pea: -Thank you.

Despereaux: -You know something, _____?

Princess Pea: -Tell me, _____!

Despereaux: -My _____ instinct tells me that you and I are going to be great _____.

Pre-play Activity 4.

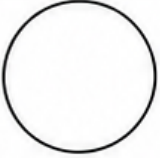
The Rat Poem.

-Students-

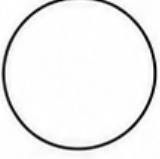
Students should listen carefully to The Rat Poem (Track 8) and complete the worksheet following the instructions below.

Follow these instructions:

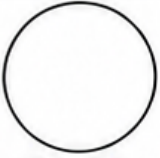
1. When the poem says RAT draw it.
2. When the poem says MONSTER, cut it out and stick it on.
3. When the poem says PARTS OF THE BODY put the corresponding number according to the drawing on the right.
4. When the poem says COLOUR, colour in the box.

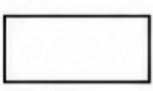
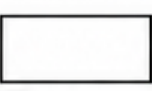
The  is a , a big .

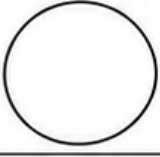
He has terrible , and terrible ,
And terrible  in his terrible .

The  is a , a big .

He has terrible , and a terrible ,
And a terrible wart at the end of his .

The  is a , a big .

His  are , his  is ;
He has very long  and very long .

The  is a , a big .

Parts of the body

1.  FEET
2.  HANDS
3.  TEETH
4.  MOUTH
5.  EARS
6.  TONGUE
7.  NOSE
8.  EYES
9.  HEAD
10.  ARMS
11.  LEGS



Post-play Activity 1.

True or false

-Teachers-

In this activity, the students should decide which sentences are true and which are false. They can use the sentences which are true to make a summary of the play.

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 1-The two chefs in the play are making pizza..... | FALSE |
| 2-The mouse, Despereaux, is in love with Pinky Pampurrias. | FALSE |
| 3-The evil rat is called Roscuro..... | TRUE |
| 4-Pinky Pampurrias dreams of becoming a princess one day..... | TRUE |
| 5-Princess Pea is kind, polite, and friends with Despereaux the mouse..... | TRUE |
| 6-The King wants everyone in the Kingdom to eat soup every day..... | FALSE |
| 7-The Queen died while eating pizza..... | FALSE |
| 8-Despereaux saves Princess Pea by using his intelligence..... | TRUE |
| 9-At the beginning of the story, Despereaux hides in one of the Castle's rooms..... | FALSE |
| 10-The original story of The Tale of Despereaux was written by J.K. Rowling..... | FALSE |

Extension Activity

Once the students have identified all the false sentences, ask them to rewrite each one correctly. This will help reinforce their understanding of the story and improve their reading comprehension.

- 01 -Correct Answer:** The two chefs are making soup.
- 02-Correct Answer:** Despereaux is in love with Princess Pea.
- 03-Correct Answer:** The King has banned soup throughout the Kingdom.
- 04-Correct Answer:** The Queen died while eating soup.
- 05-Correct Answer:** At the beginning of the story, Despereaux hides in the Castle kitchen.
- 06-Correct Answer:** The original story of The Tale of Despereaux was written by Kate DiCamillo.

Post-play Activity 2.

Simple present

-Teachers-

Let's check if the students know how the simple present works. First they will practice the third person singular and then they will form the negative.

1. The chefs **COOK** in the kitchen and **SING** happily.
2. Despereaux the mouse **FIGHTS** bravely against the evil rat Roscuro.
3. Princess Pea **IS** beautiful, intelligent, and a good person.
4. Pinky Pampurries **WANTS** to be a Princess and live in a Castle.
5. The King **FORBIDS** soup from being cooked in his Kingdom.
6. Roscuro **IS** an evil rat who **WANTS** to take revenge on Princess Pea.
7. The King and Princess Pea **LIVE** in a beautiful Castle.

Extension Activity

Write the sentences in the negative form.

1. The chefs **DO NOT COOK** in the kitchen and **DO NOT SING** happily.
2. Despereaux the mouse **DOES NOT FIGHT** bravely against the evil rat Roscuro.
3. Princess Pea **IS NOT** beautiful, intelligent, or a good person.
4. Pinky Pampurries **DOES NOT WANT** to be a Princess and live in a Castle.
5. The King **does NOT FORBID** cooking soup in his Kingdom.
6. Roscuro is **NOT** an evil rat who **DOES NOT WANT** to take revenge on Princess Pea.
7. The King and Princess Pea **DO NOT LIVE** in a pretty Castle.

Post-play Activity 3.

Who is who

-Teachers-

In this activity, students should read each sentence and identify which character says it. Write the corresponding name next to each sentence. Some characters appear more than once.

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| 1. One day I will be a princess. | PINKY PAMPURRIAS |
| 2. Princess Pea will be my victim. | ROSCURO THE RAT |
| 3. I live in the countryside, far from a big castle. | PINKY PAMPURRIAS |
| 4. I am a princess, daughter of the King. | PRINCESS PEA |
| 5. I am a little mouse in love with Princess Pea. | DESPEREAUX |
| 6. I am Princess Pea's father. | THE KING |
| 7. I will defeat Roscuro, the evil rat. | DESPEREAUX |
| 8. What are you saying? It's forbidden to make soup. | THE CHEFS |
| 9. I hate the mouse Despereaux. | ROSCURO THE RAT |
| 10. You are a very brave mouse, thanks for helping me. | PRINCESS PEA |
| 11. I decree that it is forbidden to make soup. | THE KING |
| 12. Congratulations, my friend, today is your birthday. | THE CHEFS |

CHARACTERS

THE CHEFS • DESPEREAUX • PRINCESS PEA • PINKY PAMPURRIAS • ROSCURO THE RAT • THE KING

-Students-

TRUE FALSE

EXTENSION ACTIVITY.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Post-play Activity 2.

Simple present

-Students-

Fill in the gaps putting the verb into the simple present.

1. The chefs (to COOK) in the kitchen and (to SING) happily.
2. Despereaux the mouse (to FIGHT) bravely against the evil rat Roscuro.
3. Princess Pea (to BE) beautiful, intelligent, and a good person.
4. Pinky Pampurries (to WANT) to be a Princess and live in a Castle.
5. The King (to FORBID) soup from being cooked in his Kingdom.
6. Roscuro IS an evil rat who (to WANT) to take revenge on Princess Pea.
7. The King and Princess Pea (to LIVE) in a beautiful Castle.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY. Write the sentences in the negative form.

Eg. 1. The chefs DO NOT COOK in the kitchen and DO NOT SING happily.

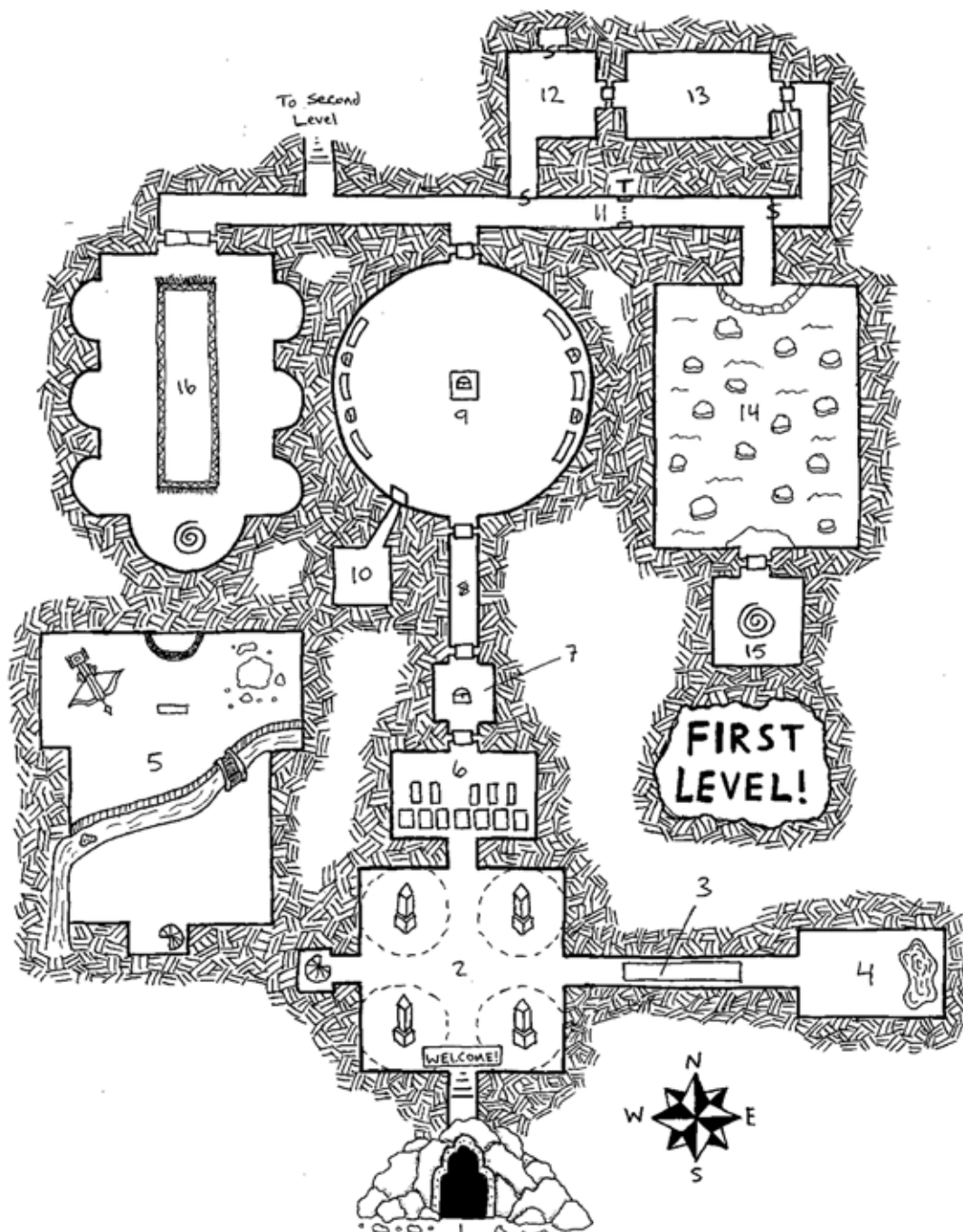
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.

Extra Activity

The Castle

-Students-

In this activity, students will label the numbered parts of the castle—choosing from the options provided—thereby learning vocabulary related to its various areas.



PARTS OF THE CASTLE:

- ENTRANCE
- REST ROOM
- GUEST ROOM
- READING ROOM
- CORRIDOR ONE
- SMALL SECRET ROOM
- PRINCESS'S ROOM
- KITCHEN
- ROYAL TREASURY ROOM
- CORRIDOR TWO
- KING'S ROOM
- GREAT CORRIDOR
- TRAINING COURTYARD
- COURTYARD WITH COLUMNS
- KING'S (ROUND) ROOM
- DUNGEONS

Extra Activity

The Castle

-Teachers-

SOLUTIONS

01. ENTRANCE.

Access door to the Castle.

02. COURTYARD WITH COLUMNS.

Courtyard surrounded by columns.

03. CORRIDOR ONE.

Long hallway connecting the columned courtyard to the reading room.

04. READING ROOM.

Interior room dedicated to reading.

05. TRAINING COURTYARD.

Place where knights train to protect the Castle.

06. GUEST ROOM.

Room with seating for receiving visitors.

07. ROYAL TREASURY ROOM.

Room where the royal treasure is kept.

08. CORRIDOR TWO.

Long hallway connecting the Royal Treasury Room to the King's (Round) Room.

09. KING'S (ROUND) ROOM.

Room where the King exercises his rule.

10. SMALL SECRET ROOM.

Room adjoining the King's room.

11. GREAT CORRIDOR.

Hallway connecting the bedrooms to the rest of the Castle.

12. PRINCESS'S ROOM.

Where the Princess sleeps.

13. KING'S ROOM.

Where the King sleeps.

14. KITCHEN.

Where food is prepared.

15. DUNGEONS.

Where prisoners were held.

16. REST ROOM.

Spacious room for resting.

Post-play Activity 3

Who is who

-Students-

Read the sentences and write the name of the character who says each one.

CHARACTERS

THE CHEFS • DESPEREAUX • PRINCESS PEA • PINKY PAMPURRIAS • ROSCURO THE RAT • THE KING

1. One day I will be a princess.
2. Princess Pea will be my victim.
3. I live in the countryside, far from a big castle.
4. I am a princess, daughter of the King.
5. I am a little mouse in love with Princess Pea.
6. I am Princess Pea's father.
7. I will defeat Roscuro, the evil rat.
8. What are you saying? It's forbidden to make soup.
9. I hate the mouse Despereaux.
10. You are a very brave mouse, thanks for helping me.
11. I decree that it is forbidden to make soup.
12. Congratulations, my friend, today is your birthday.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY.

Choose two characters and write one more sentence for each.

1.
.....
2.
.....



The ten commandments for being a good theatre-goer decalogue.

1. First of all, **FIND OUT** about the show you are going to see. Sometimes what you think something is about does not coincide with what you see on the stage later.

2. **BE PUNCTUAL.** Arrive at least 15 minutes early and you will have time to find your seat without disturbing anyone else.

3. Once the show has started, **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR SEAT.** Have the foresight to go to the toilet beforehand (the play may not have an intermission in the middle).

4. **SILENCE IS KEY**, since the actors are performing for the audience, for you. So you must avoid any distractions (alarm clocks, mobile phone sounds, checking the mobile phone screen and lighting up the middle of the audience, whispering...), out of respect for the actors, the audience and all those who are involved in the show.

5. **BE CAREFUL COUGHING AND SNEEZING**, as it can bother the actors and the rest of the audience. If you have a cold, please have the foresight to carry some cough sweets with you to soothe your throat.

6. Out of respect for the actors and the audience in general, **YOU SHOULD NOT EAT DURING THE PERFORMANCE.** The theatre is not the cinema, so we must keep to the rules as much as possible. Save the treats and goodies for another occasion. Any murmur becomes noise and interference.

7. If you don't like the show or it bores you, **DO NOT DISTURB THE REST OF THE AUDIENCE OR YOUR FRIENDS** with whispered comments. They may be interested in the show and, in addition to this, whispers can become annoying noises. Leave the comments for the end or upon exit. Anything you say in a low voice can be heard by the actors (acoustics in the room allow it).

8. Stay **SITTING DOWN** in your seat. Remember that you are not in the cinema and that all changes in posture and the movements you make in your seat are also felt by the actors who are on stage and this can distract them.

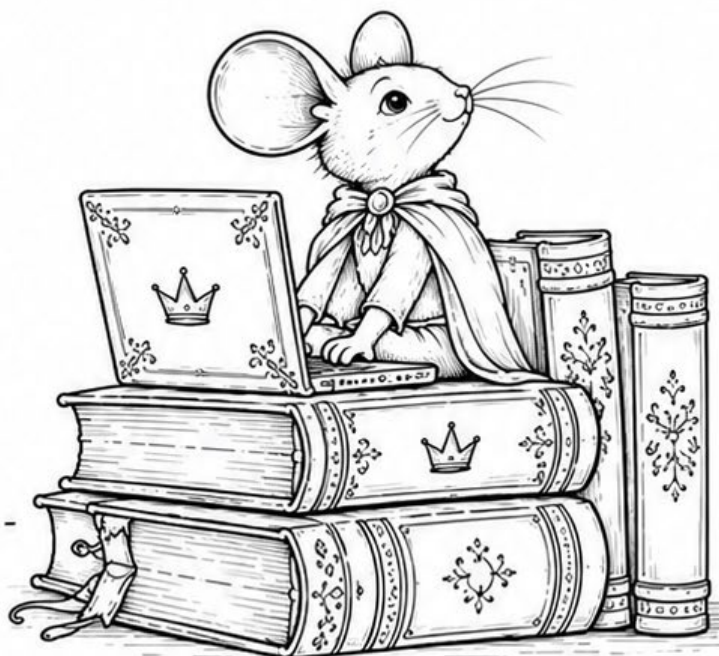
9. If for any urgent reason you have to leave the room, try to do it with **DISCRETION AND IN SILENCE**, and try not to disturb the others as much as possible.

10. Lastly, **APPLAUSE**, not whistles or shouts, is the **BEST REWARD FOR THE ACTORS** who have entertained you and given you a pleasant time. If they have also managed to arouse your enthusiasm, you can cheer for them by standing up and shouting "bravo" at the end of the performance. With this you will be giving them an extra applause. But try not to do it until the end of the play, because early applause can interrupt a scene and cut the concentration of the spectators and the actors.

More Information

WEBS:

- ✧ “Long Live Soup!” (Rat Chef Introduction) | The Tale of Despereaux – YouTube
- ✧ The Tale of Despereaux Official Trailer #2 - Dustin Hoffman Movie (2008) HD – YouTube
- ✧ THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX Clip - “Mouse Soup” (2008) – YouTube



BOOKS:

- ✧ The Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo – Paperback – Published: 30 July, 2015
- ✧ The Tale of Despereaux: Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup, and a Spool of Thread by Kate DiCamillo – Illustrated by Timothy Basil Ering – Published: 3 May, 2004



Vocabulary

A. adventure – amazing – around – audience

B. beautiful – because – become – big – bean – brother – boy – brave

C. children – chef – clothes – come (to) – courage – coward – castle – candle – crown – cake

D. day – drink (to) – dance (to) – dark – darkness

E. easy – eat (to) – everyone – end – ears – eyes

F. fear – finish (to) – funny – friend – forbidden – fork

G. girl – great – go (to) – good

H. happy – hear (to) – history – hand – hello – honey – house

I. idea

J. job – jail

K. kill (to) – know (to) – king – knife – kingdom

L. lady – later – laugh (to) – little – listen (to) – love (to) – library – light

M. man – mouse – mice

N. nice – nobody – nothing – noises

O. only – open

P. peace – people – princes – paper

Q. Queen – quick

R. ready – remember (to) – repeat (to) – rat

S. scary – see (to) – sing (to) – song – speak (to) – sorry – small – spoon – story – sad – strong – sister

T. table – tale – taste (to) – tell (to) – time – together – town – today

U. use (to)

V. very

W. wait (to) – want (to) – when – window – without – work – week

Y. yes – year