# The Tale of Despereaux Printable Book Unit 



Greated by Gay Miller

Thank you for downloading this preview The Tale of Despereaux Book Unit. Other products in this series may be found at

## http://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/Gay-Miller

This packet contains graphic organizers for an interactive notebook and game activities covering vocabulary, comprehension, Constructed response writing, and skill practice. I hope your students enjoy a book study using the engaging method of using interactive notebooks.

## The Tale of Despereaux:

Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup, and a Spool of Thread

Genre: Fairy Tale and Fantasy Interest Level ~Grades 3-5

Grade level Equivalent: 4.8 Lexile Measure ${ }^{\circledR}$ : 670L

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## Vocabulary List

## Chapter 1

speculation (noun) - the act or process of thinking, wondering, or guessing about something; conjecture, assumption, theory, guesswork, thought, supposing, opinion

Despereaux Tilling lived. But his existence was cause for much speculation in the mouse community.


## Chapter 3

relish (verb) - to take great pleasure in; enjoy; adore, love, rejoice in, delight, elation, appreciation
"' Once upon a time,'" he said aloud, relishing the sound. And then, tracing each word with his paw, he read the story of a beautiful princess and the brave knight who serves and honors her.


## Chapter 4

adhere (verb) - to stick or cling firmly (usually followed by "to"); follow, obey, observe, keep to, stand by, abide by

Now, while Despereaux did not indulge in many of the normal behaviors of mice, he did adhere to one of the most basic and elemental of all mice rules: Do not ever, under any circumstances, reveal yourself to humans.


## Chapter 6

council (noun) - a group of persons gathered together to discuss or make decisions about public matters; assembly, board, ruling body
Homophone Note: counsel (advice or an attorney)
I will call a special meeting of the Mouse Council. Together, we will decide what must be done."


## Vocabulary Review

Match the correct vocabulary word from column two to its definition in column one by writing the letter associated with the word in front of its definition.

1. $\qquad$ suggestions
a. relishing

2 $\qquad$ unquestionable
3. $\qquad$ secret, hidden
4. $\qquad$ enjoying
5. $\qquad$ admission, entree
6. $\qquad$ threatening, warning
7. $\qquad$ follow, stick to
8. $\qquad$ eagerly, excitedly
9. $\qquad$ apologize
c. indisputable
d. repent
b. adhere
e. implications
f. covert
g. anxiously
h. access
i. ominous

## Chapters 1-3 [speculation \& relish]

Read the two definitions of relish.
a. a great enjoyment of something
b. a spicy topping used to flavor food

Determine which definition is used in each of the sentences below. Write a or b in the blank to show your answer.

1. $\qquad$ I would relish the chance to meet a movie star.
2. $\qquad$ I prefer a mustard relish on my hot dogs.
3. $\qquad$ This relish is made with chopped pickles.
4. Circle five words in the box that are synonyms or closely related to the word speculation.

| fact | truth |
| :--- | :--- |
| rumor | hearsay |
| detail | theory |
| supposing | reality |
| guesswork | actuality |

Fill in the blank using either relish or speculation.
5. The reason for Mr. Jones's sudden disappearance was met with much $\qquad$ _.

## Vocabulary Review

Match the correct vocabulary word from column two to its definition in column one by writing the letter associated with the word in front of its definition.

1. $\qquad$ suggestions
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Fill in each blank using either relish or speculation.
5. The reason for Mr. Jones's sudden disappearance was met with much $\qquad$ speculation .

## How to Use this Resource for Writing

Have students use the graphic organizer for notes. Notice the notes are not in complete sentences. Glue the organizer to the left side of the notebook page. On the right side of the notebook, students use the notes to write the details in paragraph form.


Option 2
Students complete the organizer by writing complete sentences.

## Sample for Chapters 1-3



## The Tale of Despereaux ~ Chapters 1-3

1. Which word best describes the setting?
a. fairy tale
b. mythical garden
c. futuristic civilization
d. realistic everyday location
2. Read the end of Chapter 1.

But, reader, he did live. This is his story.
This lets the reader know ---.
a. The story is told in $1^{\text {st }}$ person point of view from the perspective of Despereaux.
b. A narrator is telling the story.
c. The story is told in $3^{\text {rd }}$ person point of view from the perspective of Despereaux.
d. The story is going to be told from different perspectives.
Read this line from the end of Chapter 2.
He did not think constantly of food. He was not intent on tracking down every crumb. While his larger, older siblings ate, Despereaux stood with his head cocked to one side, holding very still.
The word intent most likely means ----
a. angry
b. hungry
c. uncertain
d. focused
7. Write a "someone wanted but so" statement to summarize a main event in Chapters 1-3.
2. Which word best describes Despereaux?
a. self-centered
b. different
c. unimaginative
d. glum
4. Which best describes the tone of the story?
a. friendly $\sim$ The author tells the story as if it were a bedtime story.
b. humorous $\sim$ The author makes the story funny with jokes.
c. unconcerned $\sim$ The author tells the story without any emotional feelings.
d. angry $\sim$ The author tells the story with rage.
6. Read this line from the end of Chapter 2.

Get your head out of the clouds and hunt for crumbs.
Which type of figurative language does this line contain?
a. simile
b. idiom
c. repetition
d. alliteration

Explain the meaning of this figurative phrase.

## 8. Read this passage from the end of Chapter 3.

Despereaux's siblings tried to educate him in the ways of being a mouse. His brother Furlough took him on a tour of the castle to demonstrate the art of scurrying..."Move! You're a mouse, not a man."

This passage is proof of which of the following theme topics. Check all that apply.

| forgiveness | family |
| :--- | :--- |
| lies |  |
| blame | courage |
| amazement | ___ riqueness |
| revenge |  |

## The Tale of Despereaux ~ Chapters 1-3

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The word intent most likely means ---.
a. angry
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c. uncertain
d. focused
7. Write a "someone wanted but so" statement to summarize a main event in Chapters 1-3.

Merlot wants Despereaux to eat the book, but he discovers he understands the words, so he reads the story about the brave knight and the beautiful princess.
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d. glum
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6. Read this line from the end of Chapter 2.

Get your head out of the clouds and hunt for crumbs.

Which type of figurative language does this line contain?
a. simile
b. idiom
c. repetition
d. alliteration

Explain the meaning of this figurative phrase.
"Head in the clouds" means the person is not paying much attention to what is happening around them and has their attention on their own thoughts, or their head is filled with unrealistic ideas.
8. Read this passage from the end of Chapter 3.

Despereaux's siblings tried to educate him in the ways of being a mouse. His brother Furlough took him on a tour of the castle to demonstrate the art of scurrying..."Move! You're a mouse, not a man."

This passage is proof of which of the following theme topics. Check all that apply.


## Chapters 1-3 ~ Constructed Response - Setting



## Chapters 1-3 ~ Constructed Response - Setting

## Location Where the Story Takes Place

The story takes place in a medieval castle. The castle is described as having stained-glass windows and a library.

Time the Story Takes Place
The story takes place in medieval times when kings and queens ruled.

## Setting

## Importance of the Setting

The setting sets the story up to be a fairy tale.
moody, medieval tone

## CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.3

Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.3 Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions).
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.3 Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., how characters interact).

## Chapters 1-3 ~ Constructed Response - Character Despereaux

Describe Despereaux. What are the reader's first impressions of this character?


## CCSS.ELA-

 Literacy.RL.3.3 Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.3 Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a
character's thoughts,
words, or actions).
CCSS.ELA-
Literacy.RL.5.3
Compare and contrast
two or more
characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., how characters interact).

What foreshadowing takes place at the end of Chapter 3?

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## CCSS.ELA-

Literacy.RL. 3.3 Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events CCSS.ELA-
Literacy.RL.4.3 Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a
character's thoughts, words, or actions) CCSS.ELA-
Literacy.RL.5. 3
Compare and contrast two or more
characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., how characters interact).

What foreshadowing takes place at the end of Chapter 3 ?
Despereaux is able to read. This is a rare trait for mice because they normally see books as food. The book from the library that Despereaux stumbles upon begins with Once upon a time. This makes the reader feel that a fairy tale is about to take place. . . . Then Chapter 3 ends with, "Reader, you must know that an interesting fate (sometimes involving rats, sometimes not) awaits almost everyone, mouse or man, who does not conform." It appears Despereaux's odd behavior is going create an interesting tale, probably involving a rat.

# Skill Practice [Language Skills] 

In this Book Unit Interactive Notebook Series [Note: This series is set up differently from my products that simply say Book Units.] each unit will have seven sets of skill practice. Each practice will include one or more graphic organizers and an activity. The activities will not be worksheets as most of us have plenty of those, but will instead be a hands-on type of activity. Here is how it works:

1) Each unit will focus on two prefixes, two suffixes, and one Greek or Latin root word. Both graphic organizers and a practice activity will be provided. The affixes selected will repeat once in another book unit. Root words will appear only once in the series. A total of 9 prefixes, 9 suffixes, and 9 roots will be covered.
2) Each unit will practice with one or more of the following: figurative language, idioms, proverbs, and/or adages. Each unit will include a set of response cards, graphic organizers going over definitions, and a practice activity. Activities will be based on the writing style of the book's author.
3) Each unit from this series will contain practice using context clues. An organizer explaining six types of context clues -- definition, synonym, antonym, example, cause/effect, comparison, lists/series and description - plus task cards will be provided.

The task cards contain multiple choice questions based on the book with a selection of game activities to use with the cards. The cards will change for each unit; however, the games will remain the same.
4) Each unit will contain an organizer going over capitalization and/or punctuation rules.

The task cards contain multiple choice questions based on the book with a selection of game activities to use with the cards. The cards will change for each unit; however, the games will remain the same.
5) Each unit will contain an organizer going over rules and a practice activity with a grammar practice.
6) Each unit will contain an organizer going over rules and a practice activity practicing spelling rules.
7) Each unit will contain an organizer going over rules and a game-like practice with synonyms, antonyms, confusing set of words, and/or homophones/homographs.

## Common Core State Standards Reading: Language

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| Prefixes |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | * |  | * |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Suffixes |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | * |  | * |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Root Word |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | * |  |  | * |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Figurative Language |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | * | * |  |  |  |
| Context Clues |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | * | * |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Capitalization |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | * |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Relative Pronouns | * | * |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Spelling Rules |  |  | * |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | * | * |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Synonyms/Antonyms |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | * |  |  |  |

## Common Core State Standards Reading: Language

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| Prefixes |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | * |  | * |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Suffixes |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | * |  | * |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Root Word |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | * |  | * | * |  |  |  |  |  |
| Figurative Language |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | * | * |  |  |  |
| Context Clues |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | * | * |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Capitalization |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | * | * |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Relative Pronouns | * | * |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Spelling Rules |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | * |  |  |  | * |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Synonyms/Antonyms |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | * |  |  | * | * |  |  | * |  |

## Common Core State Standards Reading: Language

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| Prefixes |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | * |  | * |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Suffixes |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | * |  | * |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Root Word |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | * |  | * | * |  |  |  |  |  |
| Figurative Language |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | * | * |  |  |  |
| Context Clues |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | * | * |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Capitalization |  |  |  |  |  |  | * |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Relative Pronouns |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Spelling Rules |  |  |  |  |  |  | * |  |  |  |  | * |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Synonyms/Antonyms |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | * |  |  |  | * |  |



## Prefix, Suffix, and Root Words

This unit contains a root word organizer for $\sim$ form $\sim$ as in conform, inform, transform, formula, etc.

This set practices with the prefixes over- and ex- and the suffixes -ly and al/ial. Different books in this series will focus on different prefixes and suffixes.


## Prefix/Suffix/Root Game - BINGO

On the next five pages you will find definitions and the answers in bold for words beginning with the prefixes over- and under- and the suffixes -tion/-sion/-ion, ful, and less. Print these cards on heavyweight paper or cardstock. Laminate for repeated use. Cut the cards apart.

These cards are shuffled and made into a draw pile. While playing BINGO, the caller will turn over the top card and read the definition only. Students will cover up the matching word on their BINGO cards.

I have included a page with blank BINGO cards to allow you the option of practicing with fewer words. For example, you may wish to just practice the prefixes underand over-. Students will need to fill in these cards with the words before playing. On the next page, I have included a list of all the words on the game cards for this purpose.

Following the blank page, I have included BINGO cards that practice on all 5 of the prefixes and suffixes in this unit.



| helpless | homeless | underprivileged | caption | FREE BINGO <br> SPACE! |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| doubtful | breathless | underwea | overrun |  |
| overpower | decision |  | overachiever |  |
| decoration | vacation | beautiful | underestimate | overdo |
| undergarment | beardless | action | overhead |  |

## Figurative Language Organizer

## Three Door Flip



Although this page looks empty now, it will fill up if you decide to use additional units in this series as further organizers will be provided to include all those pictured.

## Rat \& Mice Sayings Memory /

## Bulletin Board Idea

## Activity \#1

## Instructions

- Shuffle the cards.
- Lay out the cards face down in rows forming a rectangle on the table.
- Decide which player will go first.
- The first player chooses a card and turns it over. The player then selects a second card and turns it over. If the two cards are a matching pair then the

player takes the two cards. The player then is awarded another turn for making a match.
- If the cards are not a match they are turned back over and it is now the next player's turn.
- The next player repeats the process.
- Once all the cards have been played, the player with the most matching pairs is the winner.


## Activity \#2

Following the cards, you will find two printables; one with mice and one with rats. You may use these for students to write the idiom or proverb on one figure and its meaning on the other. The rats or mice may be cut out and matched as a small group activity. They also make a cute bulletin board.

## Context Clues Organizer



A mouse who consorts with humans, a mouse who would sit right at the foot of a man, a mouse who would allow a human to touch him"- and here, the entire Mouse Council indulged in a collective shiver of disgust -" cannot be trusted. That is the way of the world, our world.

Consorts most likely means
a) fights
b) argues
c) to keep company
d) avoids

The princess smiled at again, and this time, smiled back. And then incredible happened: The nouse fell in love.

Incredible most likely means
a) amazing
b) common
c) giant
d) small First, we will give you a chance to defend yourself against these rumors of your egregious acts. Did you or did you not sit at the foot of the human king?"

Egregious most likely means
a) pleasant
b) remarkably bad
c) kind
d) wonderful

## Quotation Organizers

Three versions of the organizer rule cards are offered: one with blanks for students to write the rule and example sentences; one with the rule provided but with blank spaces for students to write in key words; and one with the answers provided. The third copy of the organizer may be used as an answer key, for differentiated instruction, for students who were absent during instruction, or if you wish for the students to have cards already completed.



## Sentence Organizers

Three versions of this organizer are provided depending on the needs of your students.

* Students will write the complete sentences.
* Students will fill in key words in the sentences.
* The third copy of the organizer may be used as an answer key, for differentiated instruction, for students who were absent during instruction, or if you wish for the students to have the sentences already completed.


This organizer will fit into a notebook.

## Sentence Fragment Task Cards

On the following pages, you will find cards with complete sentences and sentence fragments. Students must do two things:
\#1 ~ Determine if the words form a complete sentence or are a sentence fragment.
\#2 ~ Correct the sentence fragments by adding words to make them complete sentences.

Optional ~ Tell why the sentence is a sentence fragment.
Examples:

- missing a subject
- missing a predicate
- a detached phrase or clause
- a separated appositive

Following each page a printable student response page for students to write their answers.

## Ways to Use the Cards

$>$ These cards will work well for playing Scoot.
$>$ You may use the cards for individuals who need extra practice. I like to assign cards such as these for morning review practice.
$>$ These cards also work well for as a center activity.


## Dictionary Entry Organizer

This graphic organizer and activity cover the following Common Core Standard:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.4.C
Spell grade-appropriate words correctly, consulting references as needed.
Three versions of this organizer are provided depending on the needs of your students.

* Students will write definitions and draw a line to the example.
* Students write key words in the definitions and draw a line to the example.
* The third copy of the organizer may be used as an answer key, for differentiated instruction, for students who were absent during instruction, or if you wish for the students to have the sentences already complete.


This organizer will fit into a notebook.




Will the dictionary tell you how to pronounce the word rodent?

0

Will the dictionary tell you if rodents hibernate?

d $\square$ -

## Homophones Organizer

Two versions of this organizer are provided depending on the needs of your students.

* Students will write definitions of homophone.
* The second copy of the organizer may be used as an answer key, for differentiated instruction, for students who were absent during instruction, or if you wish for the students to have the sentences already completed.


This organizer will fit into a notebook.
"88) Know No, I will not," answered the scarlet-clad stranger, and then the sheriff looked at him so spitefully that he 89) knew new it was well to get away. As he walked toward 90) Sherwould Sherwood Forest, the sheriff's words rankled.
"I cannot bear 91) two too to have even my enemy think that I am a coward," he said to Little John. "I wish 92) they're their there was a way to tell the sheriff that it was Robin Hood that 93) one won his golden arrow."

And they found a way. That evening the sheriff sat at supper, and though the supper was a fine 94) one won, his face was gloomy.
"I thought I could catch that rascal Robin Hood by means of this archery contest," he said to his wife, "but he was 95) two too to much of a coward 96) two too to show his face here."
Just then something came 97) through threw ae whow and fell rattling 98) between among the difa on the table. It was a blunted gray goose quill with a bit of writing tied to it. The sheriff unfolded the writing. It told that it was Robin Hood who had 99) one won the golden arrow. When the sheriff read it, even his wife thought best to slip away, 100) for four he was the crossest man in Nottingham.

Page 8


## WINNING THE SHERIFF'S GOLDEN ARROW

It was very pleasant in 1) Sherwould Sherwood Forest to those who did not fear hardship, and Robin Hood and his men came to love every tree that grew and every bird that sang 2) they're their there. They did not mind that they had no houses to live in. They made themselves shelters of bark and logs 3) two too to keep the rain off, and mostly they stayed in the open. They did not sigh 4) for four soft beds or fine tables and furnishings. They put down rushes and spread deer skins over them to lie on, and slept under the stars.
O ey cooked over a 5) grate great fire built beside a big and they sat and ate on the ground.

More than a hundred men were in Robin Hood's band; everyone was devoted to him and obeyed his slightest word. They were the best archers, the best wrestlers, the best runners and the best wielders of cudgel and quarter-staff in all the country, and they grew better continually, 6) for four they practiced these things every day.

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"I thought I could catch that rascal Robin Hood by this archery contest," he said to his wife, "but he 95) two too to much of a coward 96) two too to show his face here."

Just then something came 97) through threw the window and fell rattling 98) between among the dishes on the table. It was a blunted gray goose quill with a bit of writing tied to it. The sheriff unfolded the writing. It told that it was Robin Hood who had 99) one won the golden arrow. When the sheriff read it, even his wife thought best to slip away, 100) for four he was the crossest man in Nottingham.


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