

The Tale of Despereaux

Book Selections for Comparison

Depending on what subject you and your students decide to research, below are the corresponding sections to the book or the graphic novel.

Princess Pea: Alone At Last

A princess in the middle ages wouldn't have needed a mouse for company since she would have had a large number of different people around her all the time. From ladies in waiting to servants for every task imaginable, a princess would have never been alone. Look at Chapters Five (5) and Seven (7) in the book, or pages 43- 48 in the graphic novel, for a section on when Princess Pea and Despereaux meet for the first time.

Sir Despereaux: An Honest Knight

Knights in the middle ages were supposed to honor a code of chivalry (fight fair, not harm women and children, and treat prisoners fairly, for example), but that wasn't always the case. Look at Chapter Three (3) in the book, or pages 41-42 in the graphic novel, for the section where Despereaux reads about being a knight.

Reading: A Religious Rite

Reading in the middle ages was not done by mice or most people. The only people schooled in reading were high ranking clergymen. There also weren't many books to be read, as each one had to be hand copied and there was usually only one copy. Look at Chapter Three (3) in the book, or pages 41-42 and page 55 in the graphic novel, for the section where Despereaux is reading (instead of eating) the pages of a book about knights.

Medieval Eating: Pass the Spoon?

Especially in the movie and graphic novel version of the book, there was elaborate preparation for the Royal Soup Day. In medieval times, though, eating was done with your hands or possibly a knife. Cooking and meals were a royal event, though, as preparations for a feast would be quite extensive. On pages 4-15 in the graphic novel, see how the cooking was done in the Kingdom of Dor.

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