

ABSTRACT

The Tale of Despereaux is a book written by Kate DiCamillo. It tells about a small mouse named Despereaux that is on a quest to save a human princess. The mouse is described to be physically and behaviourally different from other mice in the story. His dreams lead him out of the world of mice and into the worlds of humans and rats. Along the way he discovers some surprising things about himself and those around him. In the end, Despereaux learns that even the tiniest mouse can be as brave and successful as a knight in shining armour. The story is divided into four separate stories called "books". Book the First is about Despereaux's beginning, Book the Second tells of Chiaroscuro, and Book the Third is about Miggery Sow. Then all the characters are brought together in Book the Fourth.

The purpose of this thesis is aimed to analyze the characterization of the main characters and to identify the meaning behind the characterization. The analysis focuses on the elements of fiction, especially the characterization. By analyzing the characterization, the writer will know how those characters are developed. The writer finds that readers, especially children, can relate themselves to Despereaux, Roscuro, and Miggery because these three are faced with problems which the readers might face in real life. The writer also finds that there is application of themes and setting which results in new meanings behind the characterization besides the obvious ones.

perhaps love is like a resting place, a shelter from the storm
it exists to give you comfort, it is there to keep you warm
and in those times of trouble, when you are most alone
the memory of love will bring you home

- john denver -