

1/27/2025

Dear Kate DiCamillo,

From the moment **Despereaux** was born, there was something very different about him, but the continuous hatred towards his distinctively large ears didn't affect his heroic outcome. Instead, he used this as an opportunity to go beyond the limitations of the mouse community, which made him stand out among others. Although mice were restricted from interacting with humans, Despereaux was determined to discover the unknown.

The example of Despereaux's determination to reach his goal pushed me to also take action and try making a long-lasting impact that would benefit the community. Before reading this novel, I would spend countless hours scrolling through YouTube. In the story, Despereaux would spend his time reading fairy tales and listening to music. He was smart and intelligent, which set him apart from other mice. Despereaux's ambition deeply resonated with me and inspired me to become a Boy Scout. Helping others around me in the community helped me find a purpose and learn how big of an impact I could be making.

Despite Despereaux's dedication to his goal, he had to overcome many obstacles and challenges, such as his imprisonment in the dungeon. In Despereaux's case, he was sent to the dungeon because of his forbidden contact with a human. Despereaux's obstacle resonates with me because, like Despereaux, I faced a sense of isolation since I didn't have a leadership position that would benefit the scouts. Despereaux's dedication and determination inspired me to never give up on my hopes, which pushed me to persevere and eventually become the patrol leader.

By becoming the patrol leader, I realized that dedication, determination, and courage are the key factors to success. Helping other scouts in the troop became my goal, which later enabled me to develop my leadership skills. Although it was difficult at first, I always thought back to Despereaux's perseverance towards reaching his goal and his bravery.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

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