

UHM Kids Book Club at Home – April 14

The Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo

Book Summary:

Brave, curious, imaginative, and chivalrous...Despereaux was everything a mouse should not be. As most places, the Museum is closed and we had to make the tough call of cancelling all programming through April 30. However, we still want you to enjoy the UHM Kids Book Club, so join us from home as we explore the fantastic tale of a rat, a princess and a little mouse with big ears and a big heart.

Craft Activity:

Despereaux loved to read. We will make Mouse bookmark to honor Despereaux's love of books. You will need: 11"x2" felt, 12 ½" pink yarn, Scissors, Goggle eyes, and glue.

If you do not have felt, ask your parents if there are any old scraps of fabric or t-shirts that could be used. If nothing else, grab some paper.

1. Cut an 11"x 2" strip of felt.
2. At one end trim off two corners making a pointed end.
3. Make four holes with your scissors in the felt (ask for help).
4. Tie a double knot at one end of your pink yarn.
5. Start at the top (triangle) of your mouse and weave the yarn through the body.
6. Pull the yard to scrunch the body then tie a double knot to finish.



7. Add goggle eyes with glue.



8. Optional make ears.

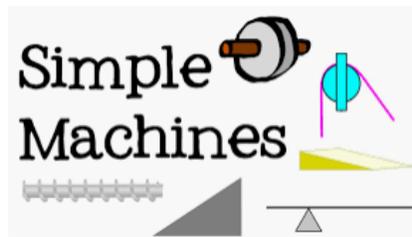
9. Take a picture of your mouse bookmark and share on social media by either tagging Upcountry History Museum or use #UpcountryMuseum.

STEAM Activity:

Use Legos to create the underground world of the rats. Plan out your design before you start to build. Include stairs, a maze, a trap door, and a secret room. Build Despereaux out of blocks and have a red thread around his neck.

Bonus: Include a simple machine that allows for a needed function in an underground rat world. Ask your parent to take a photo or video to share on social media! Have fun designing, engineering and building your rat master underworld.

Find information on simple machines here:



Post Pandemic Activity:

“Despereaux Soup”

This is a family activity! Start by picking out three or more veggies, like: carrots, peas, mushrooms, cabbage, turnips, an onion, a potato, a tomato etc. Wash, dry and chop (parental help is required here) to desired size. Add veggies to a 5 qt. pan. Next add 64 ounces of stock-chicken, beef or vegetable. Add salt, pepper and herbs to taste. Add

meat if you wish and simmer for an hour on low heat. When ready, dress up as members of Princess Pea's Kingdom and enjoy! Let us know what you think of "Despereaux Soup."