Term 1 English Assignment based on Literature Study of
‘Despereaux’ by Kate Di Camillo

**Tasks** – You all need to complete TASK 1 then choose one ‘either/or’ from each of TASKS 2 AND 3 (three pieces of work in all)

**Completion Date** – Monday 2nd March or earlier. Place your completed work in the ‘Homework Assignment Box’ in Room 7

**Organisation/Presentation** – your final completed works should be typed or neatly handwritten, and put into a display folder marked English. Your first page should be an overview stating exactly what’s in folder. Drafts or notes, written on loose leaf paper should be placed in a separate sleeve at the end of the assignment. If you make a model, you must include a photo of it. If you use any resources they should be mentioned at the end of that piece of work but don’t worry about writing a formal ‘Bibliography’ just yet. Presentations (Task 3) of raps and models/dioramas will take place in Week 6.

**Time** – Start immediately by thinking about the topic and work out a schedule taking into consideration other commitments. You could add this into your diary. This assignment should be completed by the time you start researching your Notable. Remember, you have completed similar tasks before so we are expecting a high standard.

**Help** – This is your first assignment of this type so if you need any help or clarification please ask Mrs Starkey. These tasks are designed in such a way that you don’t really need a copy of the book.

**TASK 1**

When Despereaux was born, tiny, weak and different, his mother declared him a ‘disappointment’, and his father, siblings, aunt and uncle also made very unpleasant comments upon meeting him.

Talk to your family and find out what comments were made about you shortly after your birth or when they first met you. I’m sure they were all totally positive. Write a recount or journal entries recalling what family/friends said. Include at least THREE comments made about you by different people. Remember to use quotation (speech) marks. You may add a photo/s or drawings.
TASK 2

EITHER

Complete a character study of one of the main characters. Remember to think about different aspects e.g. physical appearance, name of family/friends, home, type of personality, habits/idiosyncrasies, roles, beliefs, feelings, hopes and fears. Draw a picture of your character in the middle of the page and write the information in dot points using single words and short phrases/sentences. (one point for each piece of information)

OR

Choose another mouse character from literature – from a picture book, novel, nursery rhyme, poem or song – and rewrite the story from his/her point of view. This means you’ll write in the first person (I, me, my) all the way through. 1 to 2 pages only.

e.g. “Hi! I was never given a name but you’ll probably remember me. I had two brothers and my early life was most unpleasant, in fact it was TERRIFYING!. This crazy, crazy woman kept chasing me and my bothers, trying to cut off our tails. Yep, that’s right, I’m one of those three blind mice and this is my story! etc. etc. etc.

TASK 3

EITHER

Write a rap describing Despereaux’s life. Start with the chorus and write at least four verses. You will perform this for us during Week 6. You may work with a partner but make sure you are able work well together and be practising at home before presenting. A copy of the rap and drafts needs to be in your folder.

OR

Make a model of the castle or a room in the castle OR a diorama depicting your favourite scene using commercial or non-commercial materials. Include a picture of it in your folder. You will present the model/diorama to the class in Week 6.
Marking Rubric

Your mark is out of 100

Task 1

• Up to 20 marks for a well written recount or journal entry/entries including correct grammar and punctuation – be careful with the tense
• 5 marks for correct spelling
• 5 marks for presentation

30 points altogether

Task 2

Character study or story of a mouse in literature told in the first person

• Up to 20 marks for at least 28 dot points in the character study
• Or, up to 20 marks for a well written life story of a famous mouse
• 5 marks for correct punctuation including capital letters
• 5 marks for presentation

30 marks altogether

Task 3

• Up to 15 points for construction of model or diorama
• 5 points for labelled photograph
• Up to 10 points for presentation

or

• Up to 15 points for writing rap
• Up to 10 points for presentation
• 5 points for beatbox, dance steps or actions

30 points altogether

Extras – 5 marks for evidence of preparation including dated drafts or an informal Bibliography, or an imaginative presentation or any other evidence of genius

5 marks for enthusiasm