

# Book Club Focus Assessment and Rubric

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Story Structure: Linear vs. Nonlinear Plots**      **The Tale of Despereaux**  
Book Club Focus Assessment

**Directions:** Use what you know about *The Tale of Despereaux* to answer each of the following questions.

Part II begins, "As our story continues, reader, we must go back in time to the birth of a rat."  
How does this part of the text connect with what has happened in Book I?

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How do the different Books in the story fit into the timeline of the events that happen?

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Chapter 52 is titled, "Happily Ever After." Is the conclusion of the story a fairy tale ending where everyone lives happily ever after?

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## Focus Assessment for Story Structure: Linear vs. Nonlinear Plots



**Answer Key**

**Story Structure: Linear vs. Nonlinear Plots**      **The Tale of Despereaux**  
Book Club Focus Assessment

**Directions:** Use what you know about *The Tale of Despereaux* to answer each of the following questions.

How is the message of the story in Book I: A Mouse is Born similar to the message in Book IV: Recalled to the Light?

**Answer:** Book I tells us Despereaux isn't going to conform. Book IV shows you don't have to act like everyone around you.

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How would this story change if we took out the parts where the author is speaking to the reader, including the Coda?

Answers will vary. Sample answers include: We might not fully understand the point of telling stories to overcome difficulties.

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Why do you think the author chose to put the chapters out of chronological order?

Answers will vary. Sample answers include: To create suspense and to help us better understand the events and their consequences.

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## Answer Key



**Story Structure: Linear vs. Nonlinear Plots Focus Assessment Rubric**

Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**CCSS Reading Literature Standard 5.5**  
Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g., a section, chapter) relate to each other and the whole.

Levels	Beginning	Developing	Proficient	Secure
Correct Answers	0 – 1 Correct	2 – 3 Correct	4 – 5 Correct	6 Correct
<b>Specific Skill:</b> Understand that stories have beginnings, conflicts/problems and conclusions	Was <b>not able to or is beginning</b> to show how parts of the text relate to each other in time.	Is able to show how events relate to each other in a text <b>some</b> of the time.	Is able to show how events relate to each other in a text <b>most</b> of the time.	Is able to show how events relate, identify flashbacks and place the events in a timeline.

**If student is less than secure, he or she needs to work on the following:**

- Tracking primary events through a text
- Tracking secondary events and characters through a text
- Identifying flashbacks
- Showing how flashbacks and flash forwards are related
- Identifying the ways in which time structure affects the reader's understanding of the story

**Book Club**  
The Tale of Despereaux

CCSS:ELA-LITERACY:RL.5.5      The Tale of Despereaux Book Club | ©BookPagez.com

## Rubric with Optional Common Core Alignment

