



# The Tale of Despereaux

by KATE DICAMILLO



## The New Law in a Monarchy

- Objectives: ...draw inferences such as conclusions and generalizations and support them with text evidence  
 ... paraphrase and summarize text to recall, inform, and organize ideas  
 ... understands the purpose of rules and laws  
 ...identify and explain the basic functions of the three branches of state government  
 ...identify the reasons for and describe the system of checks and balances outlined in the U.S. Constitution

After Reading  
Chapter 23

**Laws are made to protect our health, safety, and property and to maintain order.**

King Phillip missed his wife terribly, so he made a bad decision. He composed a silly, useless law.

What was the **problem** that made the king think he needed a new law? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What was that **law**? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How did this law bring any **happiness** to King Phillip, to his daughter, or his subjects?

\_\_\_\_\_

How did it make their kingdom **safer**? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How did it **improve the lives** of anyone in his kingdom? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Because King Phillip was a **monarch**, the one and only ruler of his land, he was able to make laws and change laws without asking anyone. This type of government is called a **monarchy**.

Look up "monarchy" in your dictionary. Write the definition that would fit the kind of monarchy that King Phillip had. \_\_\_\_\_

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Read the ABCs of the **British monarchy** on the internet at:

<http://www.royal.gov.uk/output/Page267.asp>

We live in a **democracy**, and our law-making process is very different.





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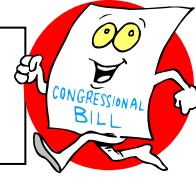
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## Let's Make a Law!

Objectives: ...identify the reasons for and describe the system of checks and balances outlined in the U.S. Constitution  
...explain the need for rules and laws in the home, school, and community

Laws are made to protect our health, safety, and property and to maintain order.



Our lawmaking process is very different from the way lawmaking is done in a monarchy by a king. Since we live in a democracy, no dictator or king can make a law and force us to follow it. Our democracy is a government by the people of the land and is managed through elected representatives.

Think of an idea that you would like to transform into a law. The law would make your school safer or healthier. It might protect school property or help maintain order. Try following the steps that our democracy uses for making your idea become a law. First, get organized:

1. Find another class to join with yours to make a Congress. Invite your principal to act as your President.
2. Imagine that your class is the House of Representatives and that your neighboring class is the Senate. (Two houses in Congress) Note: The Senate will be doing this process at the same time with a different bill.
3. Decide who will be the representative who will **sponsor** your idea to make it a bill. Write the bill. Give a copy to the Senate next door.
4. **Form a committee** to research, investigate, and discuss the bill. The committee members will represent other classes in your school. They may go to these other classes to discuss the bill to see what the other classes in the school want them to discuss about the bill.

List: What are the reasons this law would be good for our school?  
What are some reasons it would not be a good law for us?

The committee may make some adjustments to the bill.

The committee may reject the bill if they think it will not be a helpful change for our school.

If your committee approves the bill, they will put it on the calendar to show the date that the House of Representatives will vote on it.

5. If the bill is approved by the majority of the representatives in your House of Representatives, it is sent to the Senate. The Senate sends it to a committee where the same process is followed. (#4 above)
6. If the bill is approved by the majority of Senators, it is then sent to the President for his or her signature. If the President signs it, it becomes a law that everyone must follow. If the President vetoes it, it dies.

### 7. Discuss this lawmaking process. Was it easy? Was it important? Why?

