

# What Happened and Why?

The princess kisses a frog. What happens next? The frog turns into a prince. Cinderella's carriage turns back into a pumpkin. Why did this happen? Because the clock struck midnight. Even in the fantasy world of fairy tales, it's easy to figure out cause-and-effect relationships by asking two questions: "What happens next?" (to find the effect) and "Why did this happen?" (to find the cause). In this activity, you will find the causes and effects in *The Tale of Despereaux*.

**Directions:** Fill in what's missing from each cause-and-effect pair. Use the hints to help you.

1. **CAUSE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EFFECT:** The King bans rats and soup in the Kingdom of Dor.

**HINT:** *What happened to the Queen on National Soup Day?*

2. **CAUSE:** Chef Andre throws a bottle of red wine at Boldo, the soup genie.

**EFFECT:** \_\_\_\_\_

**HINT:** *Are the two happy with the soup they made?*

3. **CAUSE:** Despereaux sneaks into the castle and reads a book about a princess.

**EFFECT:** \_\_\_\_\_

**HINT:** *What does he do after reading the book?*

4. **CAUSE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EFFECT:** Despereaux gets exiled from the mouse community.

**HINT:** *How do the mice feel about talking to humans?*

**Now, on your own, find two cause-and-effect relationships from the story.**

5. **CAUSE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EFFECT:** \_\_\_\_\_

6. **CAUSE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EFFECT:** \_\_\_\_\_