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★ “DiCamillo is a master of the craft, and it shines brightly in this delightful, mesmerizing tale.”

—*School Library Journal* (starred review)

Instructional Standards

This guide, which can be used with large or small groups, will help students meet several of the instructional standards for English Language Arts. These include the reading literature standards for key ideas and details, craft and structure, and integration of knowledge and ideas (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL), as well as the speaking and listening standards for comprehension and collaboration and for presentation of knowledge and ideas (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL). Questions can also be used in writing prompts for independent work.

LOST Evangeline

KATE DiCAMILLO

illustrated by
SOPHIE BLACKALL

Two-time Newbery Medalist Kate DiCamillo reunites with two-time Caldecott Medalist Sophie Blackall in an original fairy tale set in the world of *The Puppets of Spelhorst* and *The Hotel Balzaar*.

When a shoemaker discovers a tiny girl (as small as a mouse!) in his shop, he takes her in, names her Evangeline, and raises her as his own. The shoemaker’s wife, however, fears that Evangeline has bewitched her husband, so when an opportunity arises to rid herself of the girl, she takes it. Evangeline finds herself far from her adopted father and her home, a tiny girl lost in the wide world. But she is brave, and she is resourceful, and with the help of those she meets on her journey—including a disdainful and self-satisfied cat—she may just find her way again.

Return to the magical land of Norendy in this third original fairy tale by renowned storyteller Kate DiCamillo, graced with exquisite black-and-white illustrations by Sophie Blackall. This timeless story of a girl and her father will make you believe in the impossible.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The settings of fairy tales are often timeless and purposefully vague. What is the setting of this fairy tale? Point to the clues in the story and illustrations that suggest the book is set in the past.
2. Fairy tales typically include characters that take on the roles of brave hero, wicked stepmother, kind prince, and clever girl. Who is the “brave hero” in this story? Which character is like the “wicked stepmother”? Who takes the role of “kind prince”? Evangeline, of course, is the clever girl. Cite scenes in the book that reveal how clever she is.
3. There is usually an element of magic in fairy tales. Discuss whether Evangeline’s singing is the magic in this story. Cite specific scenes to support your thoughts.
4. The shoemaker finds tiny Evangeline in the toe of an old boot. Why does his wife call Evangeline a “magic trick” (page 6)?
5. Explain the name the shoemaker gives to the tiny girl. How does she live up to the qualities of her name?
6. Evangeline is surprised to learn that the cobbler’s wife is afraid of her. How does this explain the actions of the woman? The cobbler’s wife sells Evangeline. Discuss what the tiny girl means when she thinks, *“This . . . is what becomes of those of us who are feared because we are different”* (page 42). How does this message speak to us and the society in which we live today?
7. Take a close look at the illustration of the shoemaker as he gazes at Evangeline (pages 10–11). What one word describes the look on the cobbler’s face? In what way does the illustration reflect his dream?
8. Why does the shoemaker instruct Evangeline to never hide in a shoe? The creaky hinges on the shop door warn Evangeline that someone is coming. What happens when the cobbler’s wife oils the hinges? How does this put Evangeline in danger?
9. Some fairy tales feature a giant. Who is Gristle? Take a look at the illustration on page 29. Discuss Gristle’s size and whether some might call him a giant. How does he appear larger than life in his duties?



10. Describe Mrs. Penrith-Smith. Explain why she is determined to have the shoes that appeared in her dream. How does she switch her interest to the tiny singing girl that Gristle has seen at the cobbler's shop? She tells Gristle, "Spend what you must, but I will have her" (page 32). What happens when the old widow doesn't get her way?

11. Explain why Stumphaulf is so interested in Evangeline. Cite evidence that he is a greedy man. Define the word *predator*. Why does the cat refer to Stumphaulf as a predator?

12. Study the art on pages II2–II3. What do the portraits on the wall reveal? How does the illustration of Stumphaulf reflect his personality?

13. Discuss how the cat and Evangeline help each other. Describe the cat's personality. How does his first glimpse of the sea change his attitude toward Evangeline?

14. How do the lyrics of the songs that Evangeline sings help tell the story? How does the illustrator depict Evangeline's singing?

15. Good versus evil is a common conflict in fairy tales. Identify and discuss the good and evil characters and deeds in the book.

16. Love, loss, courage, kindness, and the struggle against adversity are common themes in fairy tales. Discuss how this story deals with each of these themes. Cite scenes from the book to support your reasoning.

17. Identify the obstacles that Evangeline faces. In what way does she overcome each obstacle?

18. Most fairy tales end happily ever after. Discuss whether Evangeline, Timothy, and the shoemaker realize their dreams and live happily ever after.

19. How does the cover art symbolically represent what the book is about and the major players in the story?





Photo by Dina Kantor

ABOUT KATE DiCAMILLO

Kate DiCamillo is one of America's most beloved storytellers. She is a former National Ambassador for Young People's Literature and a two-time Newbery Medalist. Born in Philadelphia, she grew up in Florida and now lives in Minneapolis.

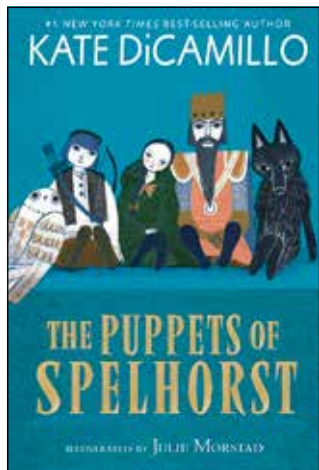


Photo by Sonya Sones

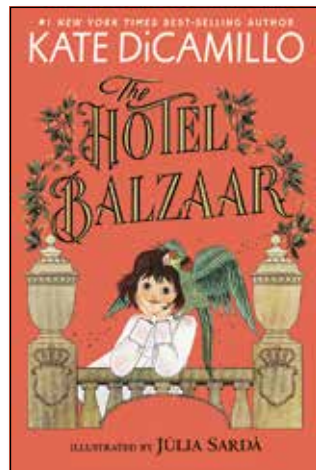
ABOUT SOPHIE BLACKALL

Sophie Blackall is the acclaimed illustrator of more than forty-five books for young readers and a two-time Caldecott Medalist. Born and raised in Australia, she now lives in Brooklyn.

THE OTHER NORENDY TALES BY KATE DiCAMILLO



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This guide was prepared by Pat Scales, a retired school librarian and independent consultant in Greenville, South Carolina.

