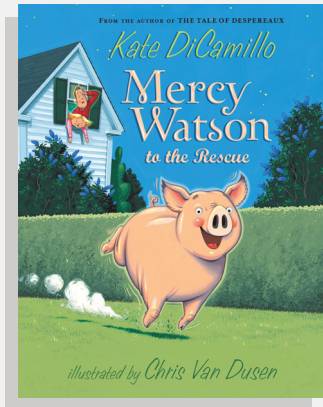


# Book Club for Kids



## **Mercy Watson to the Rescue**

by Kate DiCamillo

**Recommended Ages:**

5–8



[helenplum.org](http://helenplum.org)

**Summary:** To Mr. and Mrs. Watson, Mercy is not just a pig—she’s a porcine wonder. And to Mercy, the Watsons are an excellent source of buttered toast, not to mention that buttery-toasty feeling she gets when she snuggles into bed with them. This is not, however, so good for the Watsons’ bed. BOOM! CRACK! As the bed and its occupants slowly sink through the floor, Mercy escapes in a flash—“to alert the fire department,” her owners assure themselves. But could Mercy possibly have another emergency in mind—like a sudden craving for their neighbors’ sugar cookies?

**Discussion Questions: Spoiler alert!** Some of the questions contain key elements of the plot. Do not read if you don’t want to know what happens!

1. Every night, the Watsons sing Mercy to sleep. The song makes Mercy feel warm inside, as if she had just eaten her favorite—hot buttered toast. What makes you feel warm inside?
2. Eugenia Lincoln thinks pigs belong on farms. Name other animals that could be both pets and found on farms.
3. Baby agrees with everything Eugenia says because she thinks it is easier that way. Why do you think that is? Is Baby right to do it?
4. Why does Mrs. Watson want Eugenia to call Mercy a porcine wonder? Do you think that’s an accurate description of Mercy?
5. At the end of the book, Mercy takes a nap. Why do you think she was tired?

### **Activities:**

- Different characters have extremely different ideas of what is actually happening in the story. For example, when the Watsons’ bed falls through the floor and Mercy runs downstairs, the Watsons think Mercy is looking for help, Mercy thinks she’s just looking for food, and Eugenia thinks Mercy is looking for trouble. The conflict between these clashing perspectives moves the story forward. Here is a simple drama game about seeing things from different perspectives:
  - Have one person pretend to be Mercy Watson performing a very simple action. It can be something from the book (like when Mercy runs around Eugenia’s backyard) or it can be something from that person’s imagination (such as Mercy playing the piano).

- Brainstorm what the different characters in the book might say if they saw Mercy doing this. Why would the characters react that way? What in the story makes you think so?
- Now have more book club members act out the other characters responding to Mercy. When you finish that scene, let someone else pretend to be Mercy and start again!
- Time Line Test: Can you remember everything that happened in *Mercy Watson to the Rescue*? Summarize the story by putting these six sentences into proper order:

Mercy goes to look for sugar cookies.

Baby Lincoln thinks a monster is at her window.

Mercy crawls into bed with the Watsons.

The firefighters save the Watsons.

Everyone has breakfast.

Eugenia Lincoln calls the fire department.

*Adapted from Candlewick Press.*