

## Book Guide

### Milwaukee Public Library Summer Reading Program



<b>Book Title:</b>	Mercy Watson (any book in the series)
<b>Author:</b>	Kate DiCamillo
<b>Illustrator:</b>	Chris Van Dusen

<b>Recommended Audience</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> K5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 <sup>st</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 <sup>th</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> 5 <sup>th</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 <sup>th</sup>
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#### Length of Time to Read:

2-3 days of reading 15-20 minutes each day

#### Summary:

Mr. and Mrs. Watson have a pet pig named Mercy. They love Mercy very much, but Mercy's taste for hot buttered toast always seems to get her into trouble. Follow everyone's favorite pig on a journey of mischief and mayhem. Read the other books in the Mercy Watson series for more hilarious adventures!

#### Before Reading (Create Interest):

Show your group the cover of the Mercy Watson book but don't show them the title. Ask students to look at the illustration and guess what they think the book might be about. Do they recognize the setting of the story? How many characters do they see? Does each character look happy, sad, angry, frustrated, surprised, etc.? Have students make predictions based on their observations.

#### During Reading (Discussion/Questions):

- How do the Watsons feel about Mercy? How do they treat her?
- What is a "porcine wonder"?
- What is Mercy's favorite snack?
- How does Mercy end up being a hero? Have you ever been a hero or saved the day?
- Do you think you would like to have a pig like Mercy?

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#### After Reading:

- 1) Mercy's love of hot buttered toast always seems to take her on an unexpected adventure. Ask the students to list some of their all-time favorite snacks. Ask each student to share a story about a time they went on an unexpected adventure.
- 2) Author Kate DiCamillo writes her Mercy Watson books using the "third person" point of view. Talk about third person and the kinds of pronouns we find in a third person story (he, she, they, it, etc.) Challenge the students to retell the story from Mercy's point of view, using first person perspective instead of third person (i.e. "One day, I awoke to the smell of hot buttered toast...").

#### **STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) Connection:**

Food is always a motivating factor for Mercy, especially when it has butter on it. Have students create an advertisement for a favorite food. Tell them their ad must be just a single page with words that will entice someone to buy the item. Include a picture.

#### **Ideas for younger or older children**

- 1) Mercy loves to eat toast. Have your class of younger students make a book in the shape of toast (using the template included). Each student will create one page with the sentence starter, "My favorite food is \_\_\_\_\_." Use a stapler to assemble the book when finished.
- 2) Eugenia Lincoln has a lot of strong opinions. Talk with your older students about fact versus opinion. Have each student come up with a statement about pigs. Read each statement aloud and have the class determine if it is a fact or an opinion. If possible, have the students search the internet for fun facts about pigs.

**Additional Notes:** This lesson plan can be used with any Mercy Watson book. If the students enjoy the book, encourage them to look for other books in the series at their nearest library. You can find other great activities to go along with the Mercy Watson series here: <http://www.mercywatson.com/>

