

Name _____



Mighty Mouse

Have you ever wondered why Laura Numeroff chose a tiny mouse as the main character in *If You Take a Mouse to School* instead of a different animal? She could have picked a playful puppy, a clever cat, or even a curious monkey. But a mouse? What makes a mouse the perfect character for this story?

First, mice are small and full of energy, just like young children. They scurry around, explore everything, and always seem to be looking for their next big adventure. This makes Mouse the perfect character for a story filled with surprises and excitement. Since the book follows a cause-and-effect pattern, Mouse's curious nature helps the story flow naturally. Each time he discovers something new, he wants something else, creating a fun and fast-paced story.

Another reason the author might have chosen a mouse is that mice are known for getting into places they don't belong. In real life, a mouse sneaking into a school would probably cause a little chaos! This makes Mouse's actions even funnier. He wants a lunchbox, then a notebook, then pencils, and before you know it, he's building a science project and making a mess in the classroom! His tiny size and endless energy make the story feel playful and full of movement.

Mice are also common in classic children's books. From *The Tale of Despereaux* to *Stuart Little*, mice often represent small but determined characters. In *If You Take a Mouse to School*, Mouse is small, but he has BIG ideas. Even though he is tiny, he takes charge of the story, leading the boy from one activity to the next. His personality is much bigger than his size!

Lastly, the choice of a mouse makes the story feel familiar and relatable. Many kids have seen mice in books, movies, or even in real life. A mouse feels less predictable than a dog or cat, making the story stand out. The tiny hero keeps readers engaged because they never know what he'll do next.

By choosing a mouse as the main character, Laura Numeroff creates a fun, energetic, and humorous adventure. Mouse's curiosity, small size, and nonstop excitement bring the story to life in a way that no other animal could. What do you think—would the story be the same if it starred a different animal?