

Say what?

Name _____

Authors often word things in an interesting way to emphasize details in a story. These **sayings** help the author express things in a unique or fun way (this is called the author's voice). When Kate DiCamillo, the author, uses these sayings in *The Tale of Despereaux*, she often gives enough context clues to help the reader understand what the saying means.

Match each saying from the story to its meaning. You may refer back to the appropriate chapter for context clues to help you.

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|----------|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. _____ | <i>"They are hard on my beauty."</i>
(Chapter 1) | A. He stopped thinking reasonably. |
| 2. _____ | <i>"The music made him lose his head..."</i> (Chapter 4) | B. Way to go on stating the obvious! |
| 3. _____ | <i>"He's a goner!"</i> (Chapter 5) | C. They ruin my looks. |
| 4. _____ | <i>"Allow me to congratulate you on your very astute powers of observation."</i> (Chapter 18) | D. Not very bright |
| 5. _____ | <i>"...a good clout to the ear, then?"</i>
(Chapter 25) | E. He is dead! |
| 6. _____ | <i>"...she was not the sharpest knife in the drawer."</i> (Chapter 30) | F. Hard hit |
| 7. _____ | <i>"Kill him even if he's already dead!"</i>
(Chapter 34) | G. Make absolutely sure he is dead! |

Choose one of the sayings above. Do you know another interesting way to say it? Write the saying you chose and list your ideas on the lines below. Share your ideas with a partner.

Saying: _____

Other ways to say it: _____