About the Tale

This charming cumulative tale originated in Europe where it spread from country to country. Many versions exist in French, Swedish, Russian, English, and a host of other languages. In it, a stranger (or a group of strangers) comes to town and “tricks” the towns-folk into adding a variety of vegetables to a pot, which contained hot water and a single stone. As you may have imagined, the resulting soup is rich, delicious, and plentiful enough to be eaten by one and all. “Stone Soup” is not only an engaging story, but also a gentle reminder of the great benefit of sharing.

Discussion Questions

1. What would stone soup taste like without any vegetables?
2. Was it fair or unfair of the soup-maker to trick the people of the village into adding their vegetables?
3. What lesson does this story teach us?

Notable Retellings


* **Stone Soup by Jon Muth (Scholastic, 2003).** In this richly illustrated version, the story in transplanted from Europe to wartorn China.

* **Stone Soup by Tony Ross (Puffin, 1990).** Get silly with this rib-tickling take starring a crafty hen and gullible wolf.

Companion Reproducible

**Focus Skills:** Comprehension, Critical and Creative Thinking, Writing

Distribute copies of the reproducible on page 68. Then invite each child to write the directions for making stone soup.
My Recipe for Stone Soup

What would you put in stone soup? Add it on the line. Then, write the directions for making the soup.

Name _______________________________________________

Stone Soup

Feeds: A village

Ingredients:
• Stone
• Carrots
• Beans
• Cabbage
• Corn
• _________________

Directions for making: ____________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________

Folk & Fairy Tale Easy Readers Teaching Guide © Scholastic Teaching Resources
The soup cooked and cooked. Finally, it was ready. Everyone ate a big bowl. “This is delicious!” they all said.

From then on, the people in the village shared. And their very favorite thing to share was stone soup!

One day a visitor came to town. “Hello! Does anybody have food to share?” he asked. “NO!” said everyone.
Once upon a time, there was a village. It was a nice place to live except for one thing. People did not like to share.

“That’s OK,” said the visitor. “I will make stone soup for everyone.” Then he took a stone and dropped it into a giant pot.

The soup made them so happy that they danced and sang all night long.

A girl brought beans and put them in the pot.
Then the visitor said, “I once had stone soup with cabbage and carrots and corn and beans. It was delicious!”

The visitor sniffed his broth. Some people came outside to see what he was doing. Some watched from their windows.

That gave one man in the village an idea. He brought a cabbage and put it in the pot.

Then the visitor said, “I once had stone soup with cabbage and carrots and corn. It was delicious!”
Then the visitor said, “I once had stone soup with cabbage and carrots. It was delicious!”

“Mmmm, I love stone soup. The only thing better is stone soup with cabbage!” said the visitor.

A boy brought corn and put it in the pot.

A woman brought carrots and put them in the pot.
Making the Mini-Books

1. Make double-sided copies of the mini-book pages. (You should have two double-sided copies for each one.)

2. Cut the pages in half along the dashed line.

3. Position the pages so that the lettered spreads (A, B, C, D) are face up. Place the B spread on top of the A spread. Then, place the C and D spreads on top of those in sequence.

4. Fold the pages in half along the solid line. Make sure all the pages are in the proper order. Staple them together along the book’s spine.

The Little Red Hen
A retelling by Violet Findley • Illustrated by Lynne Cravath

Before long, all the wheat was cut.
“Who will help me grind this?” asked the little red hen.

A “Not me!” said the dog.
“I will just have to grind it by myself,” said the little red hen.

B “Not me!” said the cat.
“I will just have to grind it by myself,” said the little red hen.

C “Not me!” said the duck.

D “Not me!” said the dog.

“Not me!” said the cat.
“Not me!” said the duck.

You see, they were all quite lazy.

Before long, all the bread was baked.
“Who will help me eat this?” asked the little red hen.

A “No! Because you did not help, I will just have to eat this bread by myself,” said the little red hen.

B And so she did, with jam on top!

C

D

Book Badge Reproducibles

Let me read ________________ to you!

Let’s read ________________ together!
Comprehension Quilt

Answer each question in the story quilt to tell about the story that you just read.

Title of Story: __________________________________________

Who were the main characters? Where did the story take place?

How did the story make you feel? How much did you like the story?

I give this story ____ magic wands.

Name _______________________________________________