

Stone Soup

A European folktale

Recommended Key Stage: EYFS/KS1

Synopsis: A traveller and his son arrive at a village with nothing to eat and nowhere to stay. They take a stone to the house of a kind old lady and ask if she would like them to cook some stone soup for her. She agrees, and the traveller boils a bowl of water with the stone inside. As it boils, they ask the old lady to add more and more ingredients until they have made a delicious soup! The old lady enjoys it so much that she buys the stone from them so that she can make it again, and the traveller and his son can now afford a place to sleep for the night.

Part 1: Share the Story

Share the audio of the story told by Chris Smith or tell the story yourself.

Top storytelling tips:

- Learn the story beforehand so that you can be expressive and maintain eye contact with the students.
- Use actions and sound effects and encourage the students to join in.
- Use toys or puppets to help engage younger listeners – some of the characters could be told as animals instead
- Use songs or rhymes and repetition to engage younger listeners

Find one or two moments in the story to stop and ask the students to predict what is going to happen next, or how they would feel if they were the characters.

Part 2: Discuss the story

Use the questions below to begin a discussion about the story

Suggested EYFS Questions	Suggested Key Stage 1 Questions
• How would you feel if someone made you a tasty meal? • What would you put in the soup? What is your favourite vegetable? • Have you ever helped with cooking before? Did you like it? • What was your favourite part of the story? • Who was your favourite character? Why?	• [Before the story] What do you think Stone Soup is? • How would you feel if you were the traveller or his son? • The traveller played a trick on the old lady. Was he right to do this? Would you do things differently? • Should the old lady have let the traveller and his son in? • What advice would you give the travellers before they go to the next village? • What was your favourite part of the story?

Part 3: Play the Story

EYFS Activities	KS1 Activities
Act the story (Helicopter Stories) • Sit in a circle with the children and tell the story. • As you tell the story, ask individual children to come the middle to act out what you are saying. • Encourage the children to use actions and facial expressions to show how they are feeling in different moments of the story. • As there are limited characters in the story, you can ask children to sit down and choose new children at different moments in the story. • Perhaps you could change the story, so that the travellers visit different houses for different ingredients.	Story Walk • Students stand in their own space around the room. • Tell the story slowly using Resource A • As you tell it, the students use the space to mime the story while staying in their space. The travellers, the old lady, the soup, etc. • Try doing this with no sounds, just expressions – children focus on the character's feelings and thoughts to show their understanding
Role Play Set up a kitchen in your role play corner and include the props for making soup: • Big bowl • Spoon • Lots of vegetables, etc. • Recipe/menu cards • Coins/money • Include a pretend stone or have a variety of natural materials available to add to the soup as possible innovations (e.g. pinecones, leaves, conkers, etc.). Do the children act out the story? Do they act out elements of the story – such as structure, character, plot? Do they make up their own story?	Story Switch • Students get into pairs and label themselves A and B • A begins to tell the story and when the adults shouts 'SWITCH!', B takes over from where A left off • They take it in turns to tell the story, switching each time they are told to • Encourage children to use actions to help them remember the important parts of the story Freeze the story • Children work in pairs or small groups, and freeze frame a part of the story. • Encourage children to show how they are feeling with their facial expressions and body language. • Do some thought-tapping to find out what each of the characters are thinking.

Part 4: Story Stimulus

EYFS Activities	KS1 Activities
Fruit and vegetable tasting - Set up an area with different fruits and vegetables. - Work with a few children at a time and encourage them to try the different foods one at a time. - Ask the children to tell you what they see/feel/smell/taste as they explore the food. - Work together to decide which fruits and vegetables are the favourites and so which should go into the stone soup for the old lady.	Creative Challenge: - Work independently or with a partner to design a healthy vegetable/ fruit salad. Who will you share it with? What ingredients will you need? - Children can draw and write as they plan their meal. - When they have finished planning, they can work in groups with an adult to prepare their healthy salad – practice preparing, chopping, washing fruits/ vegetables before assembling. - Share your healthy meal with a friend – describe the salad, what do you like about it?
Where did the travellers go next? - Lay out or draw a simple map with roads, houses and other parts of a village on a tuff tray or table. - Introduce character or animal pieces and encourage the children to play out the story of where the characters went next. Did they make their soup again? Did they make something different for the people in this village? What would you do in this village?	Where did the travellers go next? Now that the travellers have finished in this village, it's time for them to travel elsewhere! Children work in small groups to tell the next part of the story. - Where will they go? - What will they do to get money? - How will the villagers respond? Will they give the travellers money like the old lady did? Students act out the story with at least one person acting as the storyteller.

Part 5: Taking it Further

Similar Stories

Stories about working together and taking care of ourselves:

The Little Red Hen (Russia)

How Coyote Stole Fire (North America)

The Gigantic Turnip (Russia)

The Runaway Pancake (Norway)

Wider Curriculum Links

EYFS Framework

PSED

Through adult modelling and guidance, they will learn how to look after their bodies, including healthy eating, and manage personal needs independently

Key Stage 1

Design and Technology

- use the basic principles of a healthy and varied diet to prepare dishes

PSHE

- about what keeping healthy means; different ways to keep healthy
- how people and other living things have different needs; about the responsibilities of caring for them
- about the difference between needs and wants; that sometimes people may not always be able to have the things they want

Resource A

Story Walk for Stone Soup

- Imagine you are the traveller: You have been travelling for days, and you are feeling very hungry!
- You need to think of a plan... Scratch your head and think! Think! Think!
- You find a stone and come up with a clever trick... Aha!
- Oh! There's a house with a little old lady inside! Quick – knock on the door
- Boil up the water and put the stone inside – PLOP
- Hmmm... we need an onion!
- Little old lady – chop up an onion
- Stir, stir, have a taste of your soup: SLURRRP, nearly done... But we need some carrots!
- Little old lady – pull up the carrots, chop them up...
- Stir, stir, Sluurp, almost! We need some potatoes!
- Little old lady – scrub the potatoes, chop them up...
- Stir and stir and stir – is it ready? Give it a sniff... Give it a taste...
- All done! Share the soup with the old lady – how does it taste? Show me with your faces
- Oh, it's delicious!
- The little old lady is offering you a gold coin for your stone... Hmmm, that doesn't sound like very much. Shake your head and cross your arms
- She's offering you two gold coins... Hmmm, no thank you. Wag your finger
- Three gold coins? How does that sound? Show me! Give a big smile and nod your head!
- Three gold coins! Off you go to spend it!