

Stone Soup Tonight!



A Short Musical Play for Young Actors

Stone Soup Tonight!

Themes- food, harvest, greed, sharing

A short musical play for a 15 minute class assembly- age range: KS1/KS2. Easily adaptable for younger pupils or pupils with SEN or EAL- simply replace some of the dialogue with extra narration.

CAST: 3 Narrators, 4 soldiers, 2 peasants- female and male, 2 children, 2 women, barber, tailor, cobbler, mayor, other villagers, singers, drummer (optional)

Props needed: drum, big pot hung over a “fire”, some stones, big spoon, salt, pepper, carrots, cabbage, onions, beef, turnips, parsley, celery, barley, milk, other vegetables, shaving mug, “razor”, and shaving soap, towel, stool, bowls, spoons, bread, wine, goblets

Narrator 1: This is the story about sharing. It’s good to share. **(to audience:)** Are you selfish? Or do you share things? **(Pause)** What things do you share? **(Take suggestions from the audience.)** Well, in this story you will see some people who don’t know how to share! Welcome to our assembly. It’s called “Stone Soup Tonight!”.

Narrator 2: Once upon a time, long ago, four soldiers were trudging down the road in a distant country. **(Enter 4 soldiers, marching to a drum beat.)** They were on their way home from the wars feeling hungry and tired.

Soldier 1: I’m so hungry my tummy is rumbling. And my feet hurt. My boots are worn out!

Soldier 2: Me too. And I am fed up of sleeping in a dark wet field like a tramp. I long to sleep in a fine feather bed again!

Soldier 3: I haven’t eaten for two days. And all my clothes are just rags!

Soldier 4: I’m hungry and dirty and...**(feeling chin)**... need a shave as well. Let’s go to that village and ask for help!

Narrator 3: On they marched until they came to a village. The people in the village had seen them coming, and were suspicious of soldiers. They even hid all their food, using the excuse that the soldiers might steal it. This was not unusual. The people who lived in this village were very very greedy and selfish. They had no idea about sharing things. The soldiers knocked at a door of a house to ask for food.

Soldier 1: (Knocks on door. Peasant 1 and 2 open door) Good evening to you. Please could you spare a little supper for four poor hungry soldiers?

Soldier 2: And a corner to sleep in please!

Soldier 3: And sir- please could you lend me a change of old clothes?

Soldier 4: And madam- I beg you! A quick wash and shave- if you please!

Peasant 1: Go away. We have no food to spare. It has been a poor harvest.

Peasant 2: And you can’t sleep here. No room! Go away!

Peasant 1: Go to the tailor if you want new clothes.

Peasant 2: Go to the barber if you want a shave.

Narrator 1: They received the same answer from each house in the village. The villagers did not know how to share.

Soldier 2: These selfish greedy people will never share their food with us! We shall starve to death!

Soldier 1: Don’t worry, my friend! I know a way to persuade them to share their food.

Narrator 2: By now, quite a crowd had gathered **(Enter other peasants and children)** The soldiers asked for a big iron pot. **(Peasants bring a pot)** They filled it with water and lit a fire underneath.

Child 1: What are you doing?

Soldier 1: We are making a pot of delicious stone soup. Fetch me some big round stones would you, please? **(Children do as asked, and drop them into the pot.)**

Soldier 2: (stirring and tasting soup) It's very good stone soup. But it needs a little salt and pepper.

Child 2: I'll get some! **(Runs off, returns with salt and pepper, sprinkles some in the pot.)**

Soldier 3: (stirring and tasting soup) Nearly ready! But a few carrots would make it taste so much better.

Woman 1: I think I can spare a few carrots. **(Gets them, puts them in the pot)**

Soldier 4 (stirring and tasting soup) Excellent flavour! But a really good stone soup should have some cabbage in it, just to improve the flavour!

Peasant 1: I suppose I could spare a bit of cabbage. **(Gets cabbage, puts it in the pot)**

Peasant 2: What does stone soup taste like?

Soldier 1: (lets peasant 2 try the soup) Try it! It's a fine stone soup- but it needs a few potatoes to bring out the taste of the stones!

Woman 2: I have a few potatoes in the barn. **(Gets them, puts them in the pot)**

Narrator 3: The soldiers now asked for some chunks of beef, some barley, some milk, some turnips, some parsnips, and some celery. **(Villagers produce these items and add them to the pot)** The villagers brought them gladly. Soup fit for a king – and all from a few stones! It seemed like magic! Other villagers brought bread and wine, and everyone sat down to a delicious meal. Even the village barber was happy.

Barber: (to Soldier 4) You need a shave! You are such wise clever soldiers. I shall give you a free shave at once! **(Soldier sits on stool. Barber shaves him – do not get foam in his eyes! Use a towel to clean up afterwards.)** *(Optional: Invent a typical dialogue between a barber and a customer and present it.)*

Tailor: That was the best soup I have ever tasted. I'm the village tailor. Visit me in the morning, and you shall all have a fine suit of clothes free of charge.

Cobbler: Fantastic soup! Made from stones! Unbelievable! Visit me tomorrow, and you shall each have a new pair of the finest boots!

Narrator 1: By now, the village mayor had arrived to see what all the fuss was about! **(Enter mayor, grandly.)**

Mayor: Is this the great stone soup I have heard about? **(Tastes it)** Wonderful! Mmmm! Yummy yum yum! Tonight, you shall all sleep in a fine feather bed at my mansion.

Narrator 1: And that was our story about how to make soup from a few old stones! The villagers realised that it is good to share, and from that day on, they changed their ways and were never greedy or selfish again.

Song: Stone Soup!

(All cast on stage in a semicircle, giving room for the soldiers to march up and down.)

Stone Soup

ALL: Marching home from war
as hungry as can be!
Marching home from war.
Soldier boys we see!
All in rags and starving in this strange country!
Nothing in their pockets, they are all empty! (pause)

(SOLDIERS): Marching home from war
as hungry as can be!
Marching home from war.
Soldier boys are we!
Do not worry boys! We have a recipe!
Tonight we will be feasting!
Just you wait and see!
(ALL: Stone soup tonight! A dish fit for a king!
Stone soup tonight!
Bring your appetite!
Oh bring your appetite!

Repeat all