

Stone Soup

by Marcia Brown

Caldecott Honor Book (1947). A beautifully illustrated retelling of a classic folklore. A monochromatic palette of color engages children long after they first hear the story and encourages them to tell the story over and over.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *What kind of soup do you love to eat the most?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder what kind of ingredients they used to make stone soup?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in *Stone Soup*

- trudged: to walk with slow heavy weary steps
- loft: upper floor of a barn or stable, used for hay or an elevated room in a house
- peasants: somebody who lives in the country, small farmer
- barley: grain from a cereal plant
- quilts: bed cover made of two layers of fabric stitched together with padding in between
- cabbage: roundish head of green or red leaves, like lettuce
- cellars: underground room used for storage
- harvest: crop that is gathered during the fall and winter
- iron: a heavy magnetic metal
- apron: a garment worn over the front of clothes to keep them clean during cooking

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- How many soldiers were traveling to the village?
- What did the peasants do with their food?
- What did the soldiers ask for?
- What kind of soup did the soldiers suggest they make?
- What kind of items did they put in the soup?
- What other things did the peasants eat along with the soup?
- Where did the soldiers sleep?
- Were the peasants scared of the soldiers when they left?

Do

Create Your Own Stone Soup

Give each child a black cutout of a soup pot, a cutout of three stones and a large piece of paper. Have them glue the pot on the large piece of paper and the three stones on the pot. Then have them draw pictures of the vegetables and meat that they would like to add to their "stone soup". You could give them grocery store ads or magazines to cut out pictures of food they would like to eat.