

Stone Soup

One cool autumn day, a hiker knocked on a farmer's door. When the farmer opened the door, the hiker said, "I am lost and I ran out of food yesterday."

"I don't give food to strangers," said the stingy farmer with a scowl.

"You don't understand," said the hiker. "I don't need your food. I just want to borrow that large stone in your garden. I need to fill my pot with water, too."

The farmer said, "I don't see anything wrong with that. I guess you can have the stone and some water."

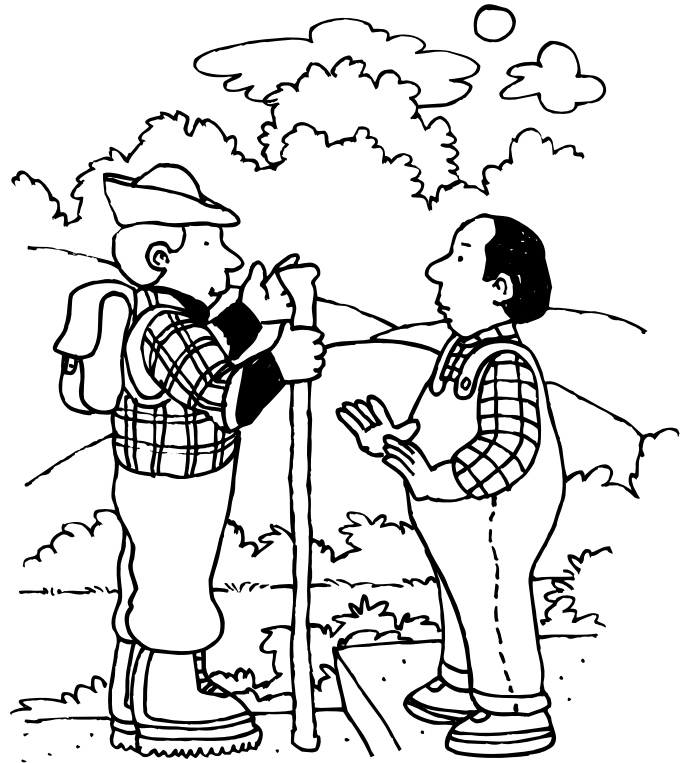
The hiker washed the dirt off the stone. He put the stone into his pot. He filled the pot with water and set it on a small campfire. Soon the water was boiling. The farmer's wife came to see what was going on. She peeked in the pot. "I've never seen anyone make soup out of a stone and water," she said.

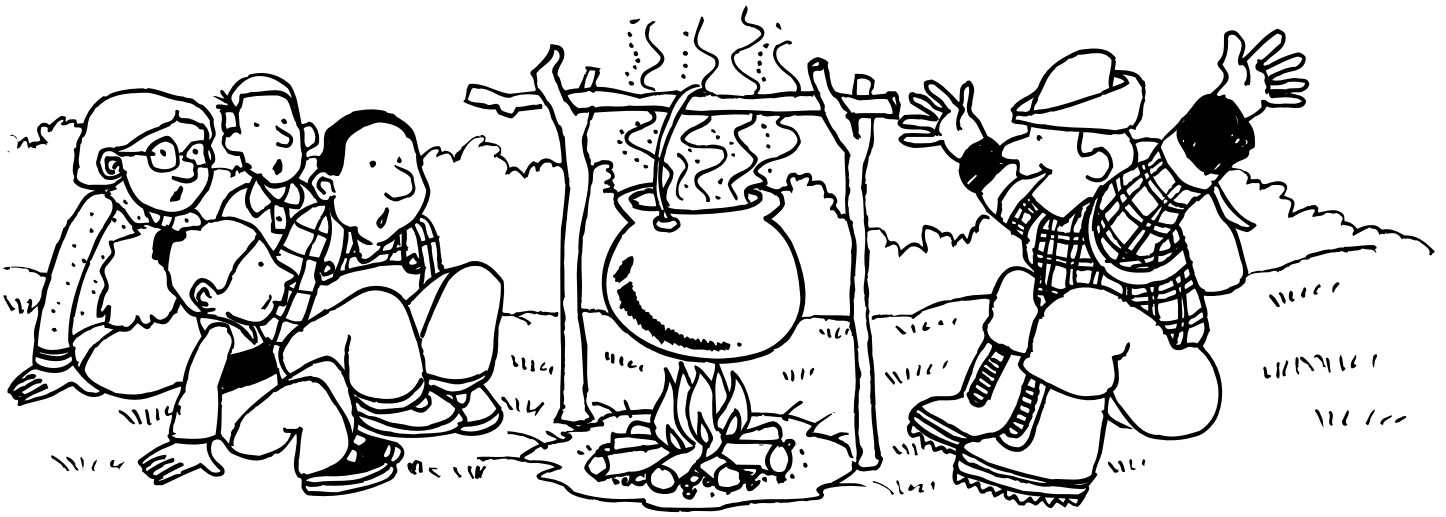
"You should try it. It makes wonderful soup," said the hiker. "It's even better with onions."

"Well, I guess I could give you an onion," said the farmer's wife. She went to the farmhouse and got an onion. The hiker put the onion into the pot. He waited for the stone soup to cook.

The farmer's oldest daughter came out to see what was going on. "I've never seen anyone make soup out of a stone and water," she said.

The hiker told her how good the soup was going to be. "It's even better with carrots," he said.





“Well, I guess I can give you some carrots,” said the farmer’s daughter. She went to the garden and pulled up some carrots. While she was there she got some celery, too.

The hiker put the carrots and celery into the pot. He waited for the soup to cook. The farmer’s youngest son came to see what was going on. “I’ve never seen my mother make soup with a stone and water,” he said.

The hiker said, “Can’t you smell how good it is? It’s even better with potatoes.”

“I know where there are some potatoes,” said the farmer’s son. “I’ll get you some.” He ran to the potato patch and dug up three potatoes for the soup.

The hiker put the potatoes into the pot. The good smell of the soup filled the air. “This soup is almost done,” he said. “Go ask your folks if they would like to have a bowl of soup with me.”

The farmer’s son ran to the farmhouse to give his parents the message. Soon the whole family came running out with bowls and spoons. The farmer even brought out a loaf of bread.

The hiker thanked them for their help and asked how to get to the next town. Whistling merrily, he walked down the road.

After the hiker left, the farmer picked up the stone and gave it to his wife. “Here, wife, use this stone the next time you make soup.”

Name _____



Questions about *Stone Soup*

1. Where did the hiker get the stone and the water to put into the soup pot?

2. Where did the farmer's wife get the onion?

3. Where did the daughter get the carrots?

4. Where did the son get the potatoes?

5. What message did the hiker send to the farmer and his family?

6. Why did the farmer give the stone to his wife when the hiker left?

7. How did the hiker trick the farmer and his family?

Name _____



What Happened Next?

Number the sentences in order.

The hiker made soup.

_____ He put carrots and celery into the pot.

_____ He put potatoes into the pot.

_____ He put an onion into the pot.

_____ He put a stone into the pot.

_____ He filled the pot with water.

The hiker and the farmer's family ate the soup.

In a Soup Pot

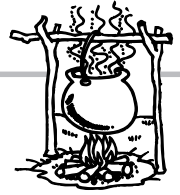
Find these things that could be put into a pot of vegetable soup.

Word Box

beans	peas
✓ broth	pepper
carrot	potato
celery	salt
corn	tomato
onion	

p o t a t o c s p
c b e a n s a a e
o b r o t h r l p
r x p e a s r t p
n o n i o n o r e
c e l e r y t m r
z t o m a t o l x

Name _____



What Does It Mean?

Write the word by its meaning.

1. words sent from one person to another _____
2. parents _____
3. a person walking from place to place _____
4. not right _____
5. an angry look _____
6. a married woman _____
7. bread baked in one large piece _____
8. the season after summer _____

hiker
message

wrong
loaf

autumn
folks

scowl
wife

Same Meaning

Match the words that mean the same.

- | | |
|------------|---------|
| 1. stone | little |
| 2. merrily | selfish |
| 3. peeked | soil |
| 4. stingy | looked |
| 5. small | rock |
| 6. dirt | happily |