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Activity Guide

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Stone Soup

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ABOUT THE STORY

The wars have ended and three soldiers find themselves walking in a strange country. They also find themselves quite hungry. When the peasants of the village they have entered refuse to share their food, the soldiers decide to outwit them with a secret recipe for soup made of stones. The soup turns into a feast fit for a king. The story was adapted from an old French tale.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

A prolific and perennially popular illustrator and author, Marcia Brown's talent has twice won her the Caldecott Medal (for *Once a Mouse* and *Shadow*). *Stone Soup* was a Caldecott Honor book.

INTRODUCING THE STORY

In Europe a long time ago, there were many wars. When one of those wars ended, the soldiers went home. Three of them, walked into a peasant village, asked for food. The peasants, though, were greedy, and refused to share what they had. It was then that the soldiers decided to trick the villagers. They invited the peasants to share their preparation of soup – soup made from stones.

READING ACTIVITIES

Comprehension/Thinking Skills

- “Why didn't the villagers want to feed the soldiers?”
- “Where did the villagers hide their milk?”
- “What enabled the soldiers to trick the villagers into adding ingredients to the soup?”
- “Had the king really dined with the soldiers?”
- “In whose house did the soldiers sleep when the feast had ended?”

Vocabulary

Write the following words from the story on the board and underline the letters *ou* in each. When you are done, ask the group which words have the same *ou* sound (country, enough) (would, could) (house, ourselves, mouth, round) (through, soup, you) (bought, thought).

| | | | | |
|---------|---------|--------|---------|-----------|
| country | would | enough | house | ourselves |
| could | through | months | brought | round |
| soup | thought | you | | |

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Language Arts: Square Quilts

The words “square” and “quilts” are used in the book. Write them on the board and ask what they have in common. Underline the letter *q* and then the letter *u* in each, explaining that *u* always follows *q*.

All's Well That Ends Well

Duplicate and distribute the following list of verb. Have the group underline the root word and circle the verb ending.

| | | | |
|----------|----------|---------|---------|
| trudged | eaten | seemed | feared |
| remember | sighed | asked | lighted |
| steaming | gathered | stopped | knowing |

Science: Recipe for Clear Writing

Read a few simple cooking recipes to the group, pointing out that a recipe first lists the ingredients to be used and then gives directions as to how the ingredients should be blended and cooked. Have the group review the story and, based on their findings, write a recipe for Stone Soup.

Art: Pot of Soup

List the ingredients for stone soup on the board. Divide the students into small groups and ask them to share the tasks of drawing and coloring each of the items on paper, then cutting them out. Together they can draw and color a large soup pot. They can then glue the ingredients onto the pot for their own community stone soup.