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Activity Guide

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Sopa de Piedras

ABOUT THE STORY

Adapted from an old French tale, this story follows three very hungry soldiers who are walking in a strange country after the wars have ended. When the peasants of the village that they enter refuse to share their food, the soldiers devise a plan to outwit the villagers with a secret for soup made from stones.

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

Long ago many wars were waged throughout Europe. At the end of one of those wars, the soldiers headed home and when they asked the villagers for food, the peasants were greedy and wouldn't share with them. Ask the students to think of ways the soldiers might persuade the peasants to share. Discuss what it means to be clever and "use one's wits".

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

Duplicate and distribute the following list of soup ingredients found in the story. Have the group draw a line joining the Spanish word to its English translation (or vice versa, depending on your goals).

salt	grano
carrots	cebado

cabbage
barley
milk
meat
grain
potatoes
pepper

leche
zanahorias
papas
coles
carne
pimieto
sal

CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Social Studies: Citizens

Write one of the following lists on the board and have the group identify in the other language the following people named in the story. Again, select the list that best suits your goals and your students' needs.

soldiers	soldados
strangers	extraños
king	rey
gentleman	caballero
priest	sacerdote
baker	panadero
mayor	alcalde

Science: Cooking

Read a few simple recipes to the group, pointing out that a recipe first lists the ingredients to be used and then give directions as to how the ingredients should be blended and cooked. Have the group review the story and write a recipe for Stone Soup. Then, ask students to bring in the ingredients (or provide them) and make a class soup. Follow up by having the students write recipes for other favorite foods (e.g., peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, fruit salad, etc.)

Language Art: Descriptions

Write one of the following lists of words on the board and ask the students to write down the translation of each word. Then ask them to place the letter V after each word that best describes the villagers and an S after each word that best describes the soldiers.

hungry	hambriento
distrustful	desconfiado
clever	diestro
gullible	credulo