

Stone Soup

Long ago there was a village where everybody had something, but nobody had a lot. The butcher had meat but no vegetables, the greengrocer had vegetables but no meat, and the people who were neither a butcher nor a greengrocer had very little at all. Nobody shared what they had, and so everybody was hungry and unhappy.

One day a curious looking traveller arrived. He carried a large cooking pot, a small knife and a wooden ladle. He looked at the hungry, unhappy faces and began to build a fire. Next, he collected some water and poured it into the cooking pot. Then he dug deep into his jacket pocket, pulled out a small, unremarkable looking stone and dropped it into the cooking pot. "Please join me in making some delicious stone soup," he said.

The traveller took the wooden ladle, dipped it in the soup and said. "Not bad. But it could do with some salt and pepper. Does anyone have any to spare?"

The villagers were so curious about the strange sounding stone soup that it didn't take long for one of the mothers to run and collect some salt and pepper, which the traveller sprinkled into the soup. The traveller thanked her, stirred the soup with the ladle and took another sip. "Not bad. But it could do with some meat. Does anyone have any to spare?" he said.

The butcher was keen to show that he had some meat, so he quickly ran and collected some tasty chicken. The traveller chopped it up and added it to the soup. He stirred again and took another sip. "Not bad. But it could do with some carrots. Does anyone have any to spare?" he said.

Not to be outdone by the butcher, the greengrocer ran and collected a bunch of crunchy carrots, which the traveller chopped up and added to the soup. He stirred again and took another sip and said, "That is delicious. Please come and take a bowl."

While the soup was being passed around, the traveller packed his possessions and slipped out of the village. The only sign he'd been there was a small unremarkable looking stone.

Anon. adapted by Rachel Clarke

Questions

① Where is the story set? [1 mark]

② What is the title of the story? [1 mark]

③ Where did the traveller keep the stone? Circle **one** answer.

in his trouser pocket **in his jacket pocket** **under his hat** [1 mark]

④ Which word has a similar meaning to 'unremarkable'? Circle **one** answer.

unusual **special** **extraordinary** **ordinary** [1 mark]

⑤ Tick to show whether each statement about the story is **True** or **False**. [1 mark]

	True	False
The traveller carried a large cooking pot, a small knife and a wooden ladle.		
The greengrocer had meat but no vegetables.		
Nobody shared what they had so the villagers were all hungry.		
The traveller took the stone when he left the village.		

⑥ Number these ingredients to show the order they are added to the soup. One has been done for you.

carrots ☐ water ☐ **1** chicken ☐

salt and pepper ☐ stone ☐ [1 mark]

⑦ Who was the first person to get ingredients for the traveller? [1 mark]

⑧ Was the soup really made from a stone? Explain why you think this. [2 marks]

⑨ How did the traveller help the villagers? [2 marks]

⑩ What do you think happens next for the villagers? [1 mark]

Teaching assessment

- 1 Pupils should write **in a village**. **1 mark** (Content Domain 1b)
- 2 Pupils should write **Stone Soup**. **1 mark** (Content Domain 1b)
- 3 Pupils should circle **in his jacket pocket**. **1 mark** (Content Domain 1b)
- 4 Pupils should circle the word **ordinary**. **1 mark** (Content Domain 1a)
- 5 **Expected standard:**

	True	False
The traveller carried a large cooking pot, a small knife and a wooden ladle.	✓	
The greengrocer had meat but no vegetables.		✓
Nobody shared what they had so the villagers were all hungry.	✓	
The traveller took the stone when he left the village.		✓

1 mark for all correct (Content Domain 1b)

- 6 **Expected standard:**

carrots **5** water **1** chicken **4**
 salt and pepper **3** stone **2**

1 mark for all correct (Content Domain 1c)

- 7 Pupils should write **one of the mothers**. **1 mark** (Content Domain 1c)
- 8 **Expected standard:** Pupils should answer **no**. **1 mark** (Content Domain 1d)

Extension: Some pupils may be able to explain that the stone added no flavour and the soup was actually made from the other ingredients. **1 additional mark** (Content Domain 1d)

- 9 **Expected standard:** Pupils should explain that the traveller stopped the villagers from being hungry and unhappy. **1 mark** (Content Domain 1d)

Extension: Some pupils may be able to further explain that the traveller not only fed the villagers, but he also showed them how to share what they had. **1 additional mark** (Content Domain 1d)

- 10 **Expected standard:** Accept any reasonable predictions, e.g. that the villagers would now share what they have; that the villagers would continue to use the stone to actually make stone soup. **1 mark** (Content Domain 1e)