

Stone Soup Tonight!



A Short Musical Play for Young Actors

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Themes- food, harvest, greed, sharing

A short musical play for a 15 minute class assembly- age range: KS1/KS2. Easily adaptable for younger pupils or pupils with SEN or EAL- simply replace some of the dialogue with extra narration.

CAST: 3 Narrators, 4 soldiers, 2 peasants- female and male, 2 children, 2 women, barber, tailor, cobbler, mayor, other villagers, singers, drummer (optional)

Props needed: drum, big pot hung over a “fire”, some stones, big spoon, salt, pepper, carrots, cabbage, onions, beef, turnips, parsley, celery, barley, milk, other vegetables, shaving mug, “razor”, and shaving soap, towel, stool, bowls, spoons, bread, wine, goblets

Narrator 1: This is the story about sharing. It’s good to share. **(to audience:)** Are you selfish? Or do you share things? **(Pause)** What things do you share? **(Take suggestions from the audience.)** Well, in this story you will see some people who don’t know how to share! Welcome to our assembly. It’s called “Stone Soup Tonight!”.

Narrator 2: Once upon a time, long ago, four soldiers were trudging down the road in a distant country. **(Enter 4 soldiers, marching to a drum beat.)** They were on their way home from the wars feeling hungry and tired.

Soldier 1: I’m so hungry my tummy is rumbling. And my feet hurt. My boots are worn out!

Soldier 2: Me too. And I am fed up of sleeping in a dark wet field like a tramp. I long to sleep in a fine feather bed again!

Soldier 3: I haven’t eaten for two days. And all my clothes are just rags!

Soldier 4: I’m hungry and dirty and...**(feeling chin)**... I need a shave as well. Let’s go to that village and ask for help!

Narrator 3: On they marched until they came to a village. The people in the village had seen them coming, and were suspicious of soldiers. They even hid all their food, using the excuse that the soldiers might steal it. This was not unusual. The people who lived in this village were very very greedy and selfish. They had no idea about sharing things. The soldiers knocked at a door of a house to ask for food.

Soldier 1: (Knocks on door. Peasant 1 and 2 open door) Good evening to you. Please could you spare a little supper for four poor hungry soldiers?

Soldier 2: And a corner to sleep in please!

Soldier 3: And sir- please could you lend me a change of old clothes?

Soldier 4: And madam- I beg you! A quick wash and shave- if you please!

Peasant 1: Go away. We have no food to spare. It has been a poor harvest.

Peasant 2: And you can’t sleep here. No room! Go away!

Peasant 1: Go to the tailor if you want new clothes.

Peasant 2: Go to the barber if you want a shave.

Narrator 1: They received the same answer from each house in the village. The villagers did not know how to share.

Soldier 2: These selfish greedy people will never share their food with us! We shall starve to death!

Soldier 1: Don’t worry, my friend! I know a way to persuade them to share their food.

Narrator 2: By now, quite a crowd had gathered **(Enter other peasants and children)** The soldiers asked for a big iron pot. **(Peasants bring a pot)** They filled it with water and lit a fire underneath.

Child 1: What are you doing?

Soldier 1: We are making a pot of delicious stone soup. Fetch me some big round stones would you, please? **(Children do as asked, and drop them into the pot.)**

Soldier 2: (stirring and tasting soup) It's very good stone soup. But it needs a little salt and pepper.

Child 2: I'll get some! **(Runs off, returns with salt and pepper, sprinkles some in the pot.)**

Soldier 3: (stirring and tasting soup) Nearly ready! But a few carrots would make it taste so much better.

Woman 1: I think I can spare a few carrots. **(Gets them, puts them in the pot)**

And so on! Further ingredients are added through trickery and stealth, until everyone shares the delicious "stone soup" . The play ends with a great celebratory song!

END OF SCRIPT SAMPLE

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