



Stone Soup

- Introduce your students to the story of *Stone Soup*. We suggest any of these beautifully illustrated versions, which can be found online at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), or you can share the story summary found at the end of this document, which emphasizes these story elements:
 - The townspeople are so selfish that they can't even make music together.
 - Everyone has a unique contribution to make to his or her community.
- The music from *Once Upon a Symphony* is found on this [Spotify](#) playlist. Here's how the music helps to tell the story:
 - *Variations on a Theme by Haydn, Chorale* by Johannes Brahms
 - This music expresses the daily life of a community when everyone is contributing to the overall good of society.
 - This melody is also the foundation for the song that is sung every time a new ingredient is added to the pot of soup. Try listening to the melody and singing these lyrics:
 - *Help me make some stone soup, stone soup*
Made with love and sharing.
Bring your bits and pieces, pieces
Less makes more, together.
 - *Magic Fire Music* from *Die Valküre* by Richard Wagner
 - This music helps the traveler build the fire as he prepares to make the soup that will entice the villagers from their homes.
 - *Daphne et Chloe – Suite 2 opening* by Maurice Ravel
 - This music symbolizes the water added to make the pot of soup.
 - *Variations on a Theme by Haydn, Finale* by Johannes Brahms
 - This music delights in the communal effort of preparing the pot of soup. It also expresses the collective joy the village feels after ridding themselves of their selfish ways to live happily ever after.

Stone Soup

Story

English Fairy Tale

Adapted by Megan Wells

Summary by Katy Clusen

Once upon a time, there was a town where everyone was selfish. EVERYONE kept what they had, hid it from their neighbor and never ever shared. It was a mess! In fact, this town was so selfish; they couldn't even make music together!

Well... word got around so no-one would go there to visit. No visitors at all.

One day a traveler happened upon that town. He had walked a long way, a long, long way, so far away he'd never heard of this Selfish Town and found himself in the town square right about supper time. He was hungry!

"Whew, here's a town!" said the traveler. "Now I'll be able to find something to eat!" The traveler saw an Inn and thought that would be a good place to find a meal. He tried the door and said, "Oh. It's locked. The inn is locked? That seems strange. I guess I better knock." The traveler knocked, but nobody was home.

So the traveler went to a shop; nobody was there. Then the traveler went to a house, but nobody was there either!

"Wait a minute", said the traveler. "Doors are locked? Townspeople are hiding? Oh no! This town is suffering from a bad case of Selfish! I know EXACTLY what to do."

The traveler reached into his bag and found a magic stone. "This stone will make the best soup ever," said the traveler. "Didn't we eat for a week from the Stone Soup made together in the last town I visited?"

Just then the shopkeeper and the Mayor appeared. "Stone soup?" they asked.

So, the traveler built a fire, filled the pot with water, and then added the magic stone.

"Yummmmm. Uhhhhhhmmmm. Smells soooooo goooood. Too bad I'll have to eat all of this delicious soup all by myself"

At that moment, the mayor came forward, cleared his throat and said, "As Mayor of this town – it falls on me to – well---ahem---to investigate--- that is to find out---what ----you are doing?"

"Just in time," said the traveler. "Here's the spoon! You can stir. Doesn't it feel good to help out?"

The Mayor stammered, "Well, I guess it does feel OK."

At that moment the innkeeper appeared. "I heard a strange sound. What's going on here?"

"We're making stone soup," said the traveler.

"Stone soup?" said the innkeeper.

"It's the best soup EVER", said the traveler, "Except it needs a wee touch of salt and pepper."

"Hmmm," thought the innkeeper. "Ummm, just a minute, I'll go get some salt and pepper."

"Ymmmmmm. Mmmmmmm, this smells soo goooood," said the traveler, "but it would be even better with some chicken."

"Oh, I have some chicken," said the shopkeeper.

"Perfect," said the traveler, "Toss it in."

"That... was very.... unselfish of you," said the Mayor.

"Wow, you are right," said the shopkeeper, "thank you!"

"Ymmmmmm. Mmmmmmm, this smells soo goooood," said the traveler, but it would be even better with....."

"With some vegetables," said the farmer, "From my garden!"

"You are so right," said the traveler, "Toss them in!"

Now it was time for the traveler to taste the soup with all of the ingredients that had been added by the not so selfish townspeople. "Delicious," the traveler exclaimed!

"YES!" agreed the mayor, innkeeper, shopkeeper and farmer.

When the rest of the townsfolk smelled that delicious stone soup, they came running out of their houses! They fetched chairs, bowls, spoons, napkins, bread, and butter, vases with flowers, cakes, cookies, tea and lemonade! Whew!

Together they shared in the feast, celebrating that they were no longer selfish. In fact, they were happy! Cured, by making together, a marvelous, magical, simply delicious stone soup!

The End.