



## Stone Soup

A kindly, old stranger was walking through the land when he came upon a little town. As he entered, the villagers ran into their homes and locked all their doors and windows.

The stranger smiled and called out, "Why are you so frightened? I am a simple traveler, looking for a soft place to stay for the night and a warm place for a meal."

"There's not a bite to eat" he was told. "We are weak and our children are starving. Keep walking old man!"

"Oh, I already have everything I need," he said. "In fact, I was thinking of making some stone soup to share with all of you." He pulled an iron cauldron from his cloak, filled it with water, and began to build a fire under it.

Then, he drew an ordinary-looking stone from a silken bag and dropped it into the water.

By now, most of the villagers had come out of their homes or were watching from their windows. The villagers sniffed the "broth" and licked their lips in anticipation. "Ahh," the stranger said to himself rather loudly, "I do like a tasty stone soup... but stone soup with cabbage -- that's hard to beat!"

Soon a villager approached hesitantly, holding a small cabbage he'd retrieved from his garden and added it to the pot.

"Wonderfull!" cried the stranger. "You know, I once had stone soup with cabbage and a bit of salt beef as well, and it was fit for a king."

The village butcher managed to find some salt beef . . . And so it went, through potatoes, onions, carrots and mushrooms- each villager sharing a vegetable and adding it to the pot. When the soup was ready he shared it with all of the townspeople and they all marvelled at the magical stone soup that had been created with generosity and cooperation.

You can make the story as simple or elaborate as you like.

Props include a few dolls as villagers and the stranger, beeswax vegetables and a pot as well as muslin cloths, sticks and stones to set the landscape

