Stone Soup

Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: A **fable** is a short story, often with animals that talk and act like people. It ends with a **moral**, a lesson about how to live.

Find the moral: What mistake did a character make, or what wise thing did they do? What should we learn from it?

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A tired traveller arrived in a small village at dinnertime. She knocked on door after door, asking for a little food. But every family said the same thing: "We have nothing to spare."

So the traveller set a big pot in the middle of the village square, filled it with water and built a fire underneath. Then she took a smooth grey stone from her pocket and dropped it into the pot.

Curious villagers gathered around. "What are you making?" asked a girl. "Stone soup," the traveller said. "It's delicious, though it would taste even better with a carrot or two."

The girl ran home and came back with three carrots. "Wonderful," said the traveller. "An onion would make it perfect." A farmer fetched an onion. Soon others were bringing potatoes, beans, salt and herbs, each adding just a little.

Before long, the pot was bubbling with a thick, delicious soup. The villagers set out tables and bowls, and everyone sat down together to eat. They laughed and talked late into the evening.

"Imagine," said the farmer, "soup from a stone!" The wise traveller just smiled. She knew the real secret was that everyone had shared a little.

Moral: *When everyone shares a little, there is plenty for all.*

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1. Check your understanding

Circle the best answer.

1. What did the villagers say at first?

(a) "We have nothing to spare."
(b) "Come in and eat!"
(c) "Go away!"

2. What did the traveller put in the pot first?

(a) A carrot
(b) A smooth stone
(c) An onion

3. Why did the villagers bring food?

(a) The traveller paid them.
(b) The king told them to.
(c) They were curious and wanted to help make the soup better.

4. What was the real secret of the soup?

(a) Everyone shared a little.
(b) The magic stone
(c) A secret spice

2. Write your answer

Answer in complete sentences. Use details from the text.

1. **How was the traveller wise?**

2. **In your own words, what is the moral of this fable?**

Answer Key

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2. Write your answer

Sample answers. Students' wording will vary.

1. **How was the traveller wise?**
   She got the villagers to share by making them curious, so everyone ended up with a good meal together.
2. **In your own words, what is the moral of this fable?**
   When everyone shares a little, there is plenty for all.