

# Stone soup

## 1. As pupils enter

Have the **webpage open**. Play your chosen music and display one of the images from the animation if you wish.

## 2. Introduction

Begin by asking some questions and gather responses:

- What's your favourite food / taste?
- Does anyone know what the different tastes are? (sweetness, sourness, bitterness, saltiness - and an additional taste called *umami*).
- What do each of these smells make you think of, or what places do they conjure up in your mind: salty sea air, popcorn, fresh cut grass?
- What significance does our sense of taste have? Is it simply to give us pleasure? Does it serve some other significant purpose?

Explain that everyone is now going to watch a short animation about a very unusual food - soup...made with a stone!

## 3. Play the video

The duration is 5' 18". Final words: '...into the snowy, black night.'

## 4. After the video - Time to talk

Lead a discussion about the story of *Stone soup* by asking:

- Why do you think Mikhail is suspicious of the old man and unwilling to help him?
- What does the old man carry with him in his sack?
- How do the villagers react when the old man says he will be making 'stone soup'?
- Why do you think the old man describes the stone as the 'vital ingredient'?
- Why does Alexa slip away and return with some onions?
- Why is it important that Mikhail also enjoys some of the soup?
- What do the villagers learn from the visit of the old man?
- What does he want them to think and feel once he has left?

## 6. Opportunity to sing

If your assembly is to include a song this would be a good time to sing. You could sing **All together as a family** or **Being a friend** from *All about our school* or **Let us with a gladsome mind** from *Come and Praise*.

## Video page



## 7. Opportunity to reflect

**In the stillness think to yourself about some of your favourite things to eat...**

**Think about how lucky we are that there are so many different tastes to enjoy...**

**Perhaps there's a time you can think of when you've really enjoyed sharing a meal with other people...**

**Perhaps a birthday party... Sharing food with others is a special way we can show that we care for each other...**

**Who will you offer to share food with today..?**

## 8. Opportunity for prayer

Begin with your usual form of address ('Dear God', 'Lord Jesus', 'Let us pray...' etc) and:

**Thank you for all the wonderful tastes there are to enjoy.**

**Help us to remember that sharing a meal with others can be a special time...**

**And that sharing our food with others can be a special way of showing that we care for them.**

**Amen.**