

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.