

The Stone Soup

Once there was a cunning woman. She lived in a small house. She had everything, but she was mean, and she had no friends.

One day an old man came to her house. He said, "Please give me something to eat. I'm very *hungry*."



"Food?" said the woman. "I have only a slice of bread."

"Very good!" said the man and he came into the house. The woman gave him a slice of bread.

“Thank you!” said the man, and ate a small piece.

“Bread is *nice* with a soup. Do you have any soup in the kitchen?” asked the man.

“I have no soup,” said the woman.

“Then I’ll make some stone soup,” said the man.

“Stone soup!” said the woman. “Can you make soup with stones?”

“Yes,” said the man.

“We’ll make some stone soup. Could you get me a stone?”

The woman brought a stone and handed over it to the man. The man washed it and put it into a pot of hot water. He tasted the water. “This is a good soup,” he said.

“Are there any potatoes in the house?” The woman cut two potatoes and put the pieces in the soup. The man tasted the soup again.

“Very nice!” he said.

“Are there any onions in that basket?”

The woman opened the basket and took out some onions.



She cut them up and put them in the soup.

“Good, Now the soup will have a nice taste,” said the man.

He smiled at the woman.

“Is there any chicken piece?”

“Yes,” said the woman, “but

“Please hurry!” said the man and *stirred* the soup with a long spoon.

The woman brought a leg of chicken and put it into the pot. Then she put in some salt and pepper.



The man tasted the soup and there was a smile on his face. He put the soup in two bowls.

“Let’s sit down and eat,” he said.

The woman took out some more slices of bread.

She then sat down with the man and they had soup and bread.

“The stone soup is very nice,” said the man. “You’re a very good *cook!*”

“Thanks!” said the woman shyly.

The man was smiling at her foolishness.



Word Treasure

hungry : in need of food

stirred : moved with a spoon

nice : good

cook : one who cooks food



EXERCISE TIME

Comprehension Skills

A. Tick (✓) the correct option :

- The woman was very _____.
a. coward b. cunning c. brave
- The old man was very _____.
a. hungry b. thirsty c. tired
- The man was smiling at her _____.
a. Intelligency b. foolishness c. None of these
- The old woman was mean and she had no :
a. friends b. house c. pot

B. Write 'T' for true and 'F' for false statements :

- The woman lived in a big house.
- The woman gave a full diet of that man.
- The woman cut two potatoes and some onions in the soup.
- The man put the soup in four bowls.
- The old man was very clever.

C. Answer the following questions :

- Where did the woman live?
- Who came to her house?
- Did the woman have friends?
- What did the old man ask for?



5. How was the soup ?
6. Who was clever—the woman or the old man?

Fun with Words

D. Fill the blanks with cooking words :

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. _____ my cookies. | 2. _____ my snacks. |
| 3. _____ my fish. | 4. _____ my peanuts. |
| 5. _____ my cubes. | 6. _____ into the batter. |

Hints

grill	dip	fry
marinate	bake	roast

Essential Grammar

E. Read these dialogues. The bracketed words in the answers may not be repeated :

Man : Are there some potatoes in the house?

Woman : Yes, there are a few (potatoes in the house).

Man : Is there any chicken piece?

Woman : Yes there is.

Grandmother and Mohsina are sitting out in the garden. Grandmother can't see properly.

Mohsina is answering her questions.

F. Write out grandmother's questions using 'Are there some' or 'Is there any' ?

1. Grandmother : Are there some flowers in the garden?

Mohsina : Yes, Grandma. There are a lot (of flowers in the garden).

2. Grandmother : _____

Mohsina : No, there isn't any (goat in the garden).

3. Grandmother : _____

Mohsina : Yes, Grandma, there are a few (birds in the sky).

4. Grandmother : _____

Mohsina : No, Grandma, there is no moon (in the sky).

Essential Writing

G. The woman told her relative about the stone soup. The relative wanted her to write the recipe of the soup for her. Now, suppose you are the woman. Write the recipe of the “stone soup” here :

Essential Speaking

H. “You’re a very good cook,” said the man. Who really cooked the soup? Why do you think the man said so?

Talk before the class.