

Read

WORDS TO KNOW

As you read, look inside, around, and beyond this word and phrase to figure out what they mean.

- **barely**
- **town square**

Stone Soup

by Elsa Southern

1 A long time ago, a tired traveler walked into a small village. He was hungry and stopped at the first house he saw to ask for some food. He knocked, and a young woman holding a baby opened the door.

2 “Do you have a bit of food for a tired traveler?” the man asked. “I have been walking all day without a bite to eat.”

3 “I’m sorry, but I have barely enough food for my family,” the woman said.

4 When the other people in the village heard the man, they started shutting their doors. “Go away! We have only enough food for ourselves,” they shouted from behind their locked doors.

5 The traveler sat down in the town square and thought for a while. Then he had a wonderful idea. “I only ask for a pot and some water!” he shouted. He took three gray rocks out of his pocket. “With these special stones I will make a delicious stone soup.”



6 “Who has ever heard of stone soup?” the villagers laughed. But some of the people were curious. They brought the traveler a pot filled with water.

7 The traveler started a fire under the large pot of water. When it began to boil, he slowly added the three stones. After a while, he put his nose over the pot and breathed in. “Ah,” he said with a twinkle in his eye. “This is almost perfect. If only we had some onions.”

8 A villager quickly grabbed a bag of onions and passed it to the traveler, who added them to the pot.

9 “Oh!” sighed the traveler, breathing in again with his nose over the pot. “This is almost perfect! If only we had some potatoes.”

10 The villagers ran to their homes. They came back carrying not only potatoes, but carrots and peas and beans and corn. Everyone wanted to help.

11 Very soon there was enough delicious soup for everyone in the village! They all ate soup until they were no longer hungry.

12 Even today, people tell the story of how such a wonderful soup could be made from stones.

