

# STONE SOUP

## AND OTHER HEARTWARMING TALES

Our production opens with Lenny and Mabel, two actors who travel the world collecting and sharing tales from their adventures. In this show the lovable characters recount three vignettes, or short stories, perfect for the holiday season.

The first tale, Stone Soup, recounts the story of an old woman in search of nothing more than a meal. At first she finds an unreceptive audience, until she comes up with the clever idea of "Stone Soup". Using only her wits, a pot and a stone, she convinces villagers to each contribute and the end result is a delicious meal they all may share. Variations of this folk tale have been told orally for centuries, with the first known published version dating back to Northern France in the 1700s. In one early American version of the story, not one, but two travelers create the soup with the help of a farm family. In this version various soup ingredients include beef neck, herbs and burnt toast. In the end, the travelers leave behind a written recipe for the soup.

Our next vignette is based on the American classic short story by William Sydney Porter, better known by pen name O'Henry. Through nothing more than love and generosity, a couple with limited financial means finds a way to provide meaningful holiday gifts for one another. During his life, O'Henry wrote more than 600 short stories, many while he was imprisoned.

Our final story is another of selflessness. Most likely this tale originated in India. The young boy and his family have little to give, and yet they give generously. Our protagonist goes about helping strangers in need, exhibiting good character, and eventually is rewarded with a special gift of his own.



STONE SOUP



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## YOU CAN DO THIS TOO!

**Where to start:** All of our actors started out playing and telling stories when they were young - then they decided to study acting in school. Now they are pros! Here are some ways you can start doing theatre right away!

### In School

Does your school have plays or musical performances? This is a great place to start.

### In Your Community

Many towns have community theaters or local acting groups. See if you can try out!

### Start Something

If your school doesn't have a drama club or a theatre club, talk to your favorite teacher about how you might be able to start one.

### At Home

Get together with friends, siblings, or cousins, and make your own play. Make up plays based on your favorite books and stories. Invite family and friends to see your performance.

### Try new things and do your best at them

There are lots of jobs in the theatre besides acting. There are people who paint the sets, make costumes, write plays and more. Get the most out of your Art, Music and English classes.

## Before, During and After the Play...



### BEFORE YOU SEE THE PLAY...

Attending the theatre is very different from watching TV or going to the movies. For one thing, the actors are real people who are performing right in front of you. They can see and hear everything that happens in the audience. Because of this, YOU are an important part of the play and its important to do your job as an audience member well. Here are some tips before you see the play.

1. Please be quiet and respectful so everyone else around you can hear what's happening and so the actors can do their job.
2. If something is funny, it is okay to laugh!
3. The actors may ask you to participate. Don't be afraid to respond, ask a question or volunteer!
4. Keep your hands to yourself and your eyes up front.
5. If you like the play, be sure to clap at the end.
6. Have fun! Enjoy yourself!

## FUN FACTS ABOUT THEATRE!

After a play is over and everyone goes home, there is always a light left on backstage. It's called a ghost light!

The oldest play that is still around was written by an Ancient Greek named Aeschylus. It's almost 2500 years old!

The longest performance on stage ever was over 23 hours long! It happened in New Jersey in 2010.

William Shakespeare is a famous play writer. He wrote 37 plays and is still quoted by many people. There are 157 million google pages that mention him--the most of any famous person ever!

In theatre, it's considered bad luck to tell an actor, "Good luck" before a performance. Instead, you're supposed to say, "Break a leg!"

In Ancient Greece, audiences stamped their feet rather than clapping their hands to applaud.

## After seeing the Play...

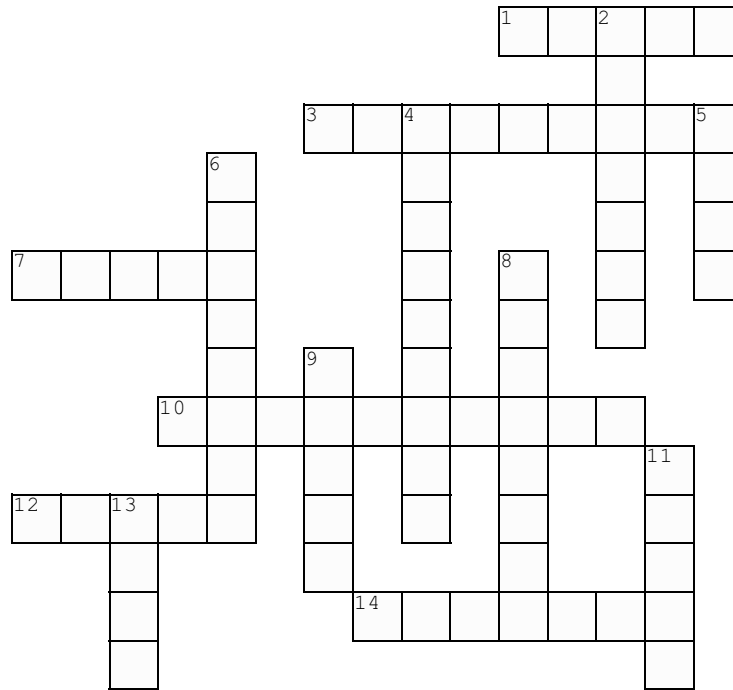
Write your own review of the play! A review is a way of telling your thoughts about a play, movie or book. Consider the following when you are writing your review.

What was your favorite part? Who was your favorite character? Can you summarize the play in your own words? If you had written this play, would you have done anything different? Would you recommend this play to a friend? Name one new thing you learned from watching this play!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Stone Soup and Other Heartwarming Tales

Complete the crossword below



Created with [TheTeachersCorner.net](http://TheTeachersCorner.net) [Crossword Puzzle Generator](#)

## Across

1. The female lead in the play you saw.
3. The boy gives the man a fish and in return is given this.
7. The wife wanted to surprise her husband with this gift.
10. The word means when we give without expecting anything in return.
12. The husband wanted to surprise his wife with these.
14. A name used by authors, instead of their real name. (two words)

## Down

2. The boy's mother gave him a magical one.
4. What the old woman was trying to make. (two words)
5. Finally, the little boy gets this.
6. At the end of the first tale the woman says the town needs a bit more \_\_\_\_\_.
8. In the story of The Drum we learn that the little boy had always dreamed of becoming this.
9. The male lead in our play.
11. The number of tales in our play.
13. Another name for a very wise person.