

Irish's Story Playhouse

Presents

A TALE IN TIME

STORIES FROM THE PAST

WORKSHEETS AND ACTIVITIES INCLUDED



Note to Readers

Each edition of A Tale in Time focuses on a public domain story that I am fond of for a variety of reasons. The story included is NOT an original work of my own and I do not claim copyright to it.

However, the activities included in the edition are original works created for the sole purpose of helping children gain a better understanding of the story as they read and grow.

Irish Monahan

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Stone Soup

Author Unknown

Three soldiers trudged down the road in a strange country. They were on their way home from the wars. They were tired and hungry. In fact, they'd eaten nothing in two whole days.

"Oh how I'd like a good dinner tonight," said the first.

"And a bed to sleep in," added the second.

"But that is impossible." Stated the third.

On they marched, until suddenly, ahead of them, they saw the lights of a village.

"Maybe we'll find a bite to eat and a bed to sleep in," they thought.

Now the peasants of the place feared strangers. When they heard that three soldiers were coming down the road, they talked among themselves.

"Here come three soldiers," they said. "Soldiers are always hungry. But we have so little for ourselves."

And they hurried to hide their food. They hid the barley in hay lofts, carrots under quilts, and buckets of milk down the wells. They hid all they had to eat. Then they waited.

The soldiers stopped at the first house.

"Good evening to you," they said. "Could you spare a bit of food for three hungry soldiers?"

"We have no food for ourselves," the residents lied. "It has been a poor harvest."

The soldiers went to the next house.

“Could you spare a bit of food?” they asked. “And do you have a corner where we could sleep for the night?”

“Oh, no,” the man said. “We gave all we could spare to the soldiers who came before you.”

“And our beds are full,” lied the woman.

At each house, the response was the same -- no one had food or a place for the soldiers to stay. The peasants had very good reasons, like feeding the sick and children. The villagers stood in the street and sighed. They looked as hungry as they could.

The soldiers talked together.

The first soldier called out, “Good people! We are three hungry soldiers in a strange land. We have asked you for food and you have no food. Well, we will have to make stone soup.”

The peasants stared. The soldiers asked for a big iron pot, water to fill it, and a fire to heat it.

“And now, if you please, three round smooth stones.”

The soldiers dropped the stones into the pot.

“Any soup needs salt and pepper,” the first soldier said, so children ran to fetch salt and pepper.

“Stones make good soup, but carrots would make it so much better,” the second soldier added.

One woman said, “Why, I think I have a carrot or two!” She ran to get the carrots.

“A good stone soup should have some cabbage, but no use asking for what we don’t have!” said the third soldier.

Another woman said, “I think I can probably find some cabbage,” and off she scurried.

"If only we had a bit of beef and some potatoes, this soup would be fit for a rich man's table."

The peasants thought it over, then ran to fetch what they had hidden in their cellars. A rich man's soup, and all from a few stones! It seemed like magic!

The soldiers said, "If only we had a bit of barley and some milk, this soup would be fit for a king!"

And so the peasants managed to retrieve some barley and milk.

"The soup is ready," said the cooks, "and all will taste it, but first we need to set the tables."

Tables and torches were set up in the square, and all sat down to eat.

Some of the peasants said, "Such a great soup would be better with bread and cider," so they brought forth the last two items and the banquet was enjoyed by all.

Never had there been such a feast. Never had the peasants tasted such delicious soup, and all made from stones! They ate and drank and danced well into the night. In the morning, the villagers gathered to say goodbye.

"Many thanks to you," the people said, "for we shall never go hungry now that you have taught us how to make soup from stones."

Activities:

Reading Comprehension

Answer questions about the story "Stone Soup"

Word Match

Match the words to their meanings

Missing Letters

Fill in the missing letters

Fill in the Blank

Choose the right word from the list to complete the questions

Coloring Sheets

Reading Comprehension

Read the questions about the story you just read. Answer as many as you can without looking back at the story. Take your time. There is no time limit for completing the questions.

1. Who were the three men walking down the street?
2. What did the men want from the people living in the town?
3. What did the three men do that changed the minds of the people living in the town?
4. What did the people of the town learn from the men who came to visit them?
5. If you had lived in the town where the story took place, what would you have done? Why?
6. What lesson did you learn from the story that could help you in your every day life?

Word Match

- *Word List*
-
-
- *Stone*
-
- *Soup*
-
- *Village*
-
- *Soldier*
-
- *Barley*
-
- *House*
-
- *Banquet*
-
- *Peasants*
-
- *Torches*
-
- *Well*
-
- *Resident*
-
- *Response*
-
- *Cabbage*
-
-
- *A green, leafy vegetable*
-
- *Another name for a rock*
-
- *An answer*
-
- *A food that is usually warm and served on cold nights. It sometimes has lots of vegetables and meat.*
-
- *Person who lives at a house*
-
- *A small town*
-
- *A hole in the ground that has water*
-
- *A type of light*
-
- *Person who serves in the armed forces*
-
- *Poor residents of a town*
-
- *A type of grain*
-
- *A building people live in*
-
- *A feast*

Missing Letters

Fill in the blanks with the missing letters to spell the words from the story.

Word Bank:

peasants village soup stone soldier barley torches

cabbage response resident well banquet house

1. _a_ba_e

8. _t_n_

2. t__ch_s

9. b_n_u_t

3. _es_on_e

10. s__p

4. b_rl_y

11. h__s_

5. r_s_d_nt

12. vi__a_e

6. _o__ier

13. p__s_nt_

7. __ll

Fill in the Blanks

Choose the correct word from the word bank to fill in the blanks. Each word will only be used one time.

peasant village stone soup soldier barley

house banquet torches well resident

response cabbage

In the story, _____, three _____

visited a _____. The _____ there would not give them a place

to sleep and food to eat. They knocked on the doors of all the _____, but

the _____ who lived there all gave the same _____.

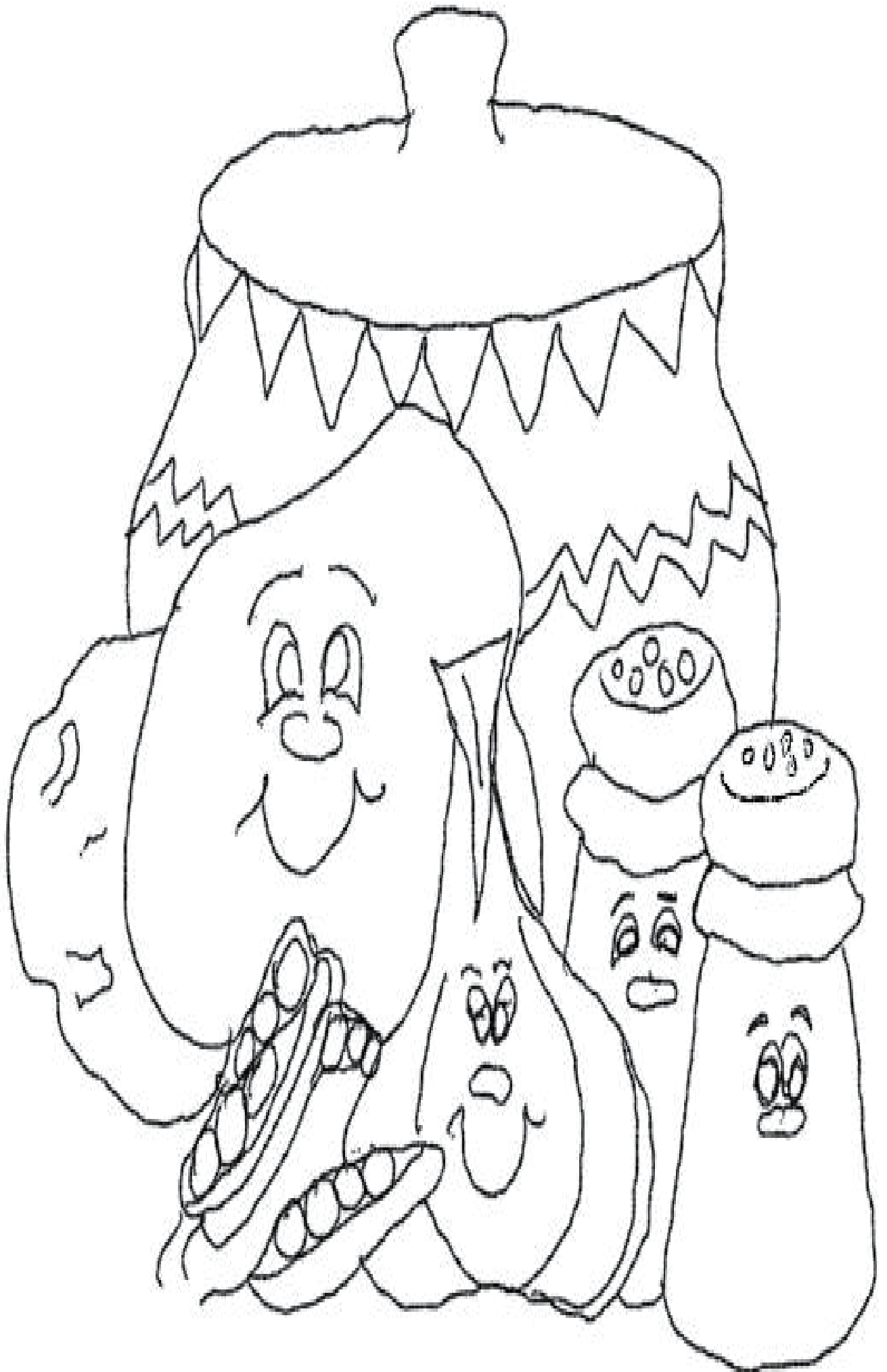
When the men decided to make their own feast, they got the people involved in

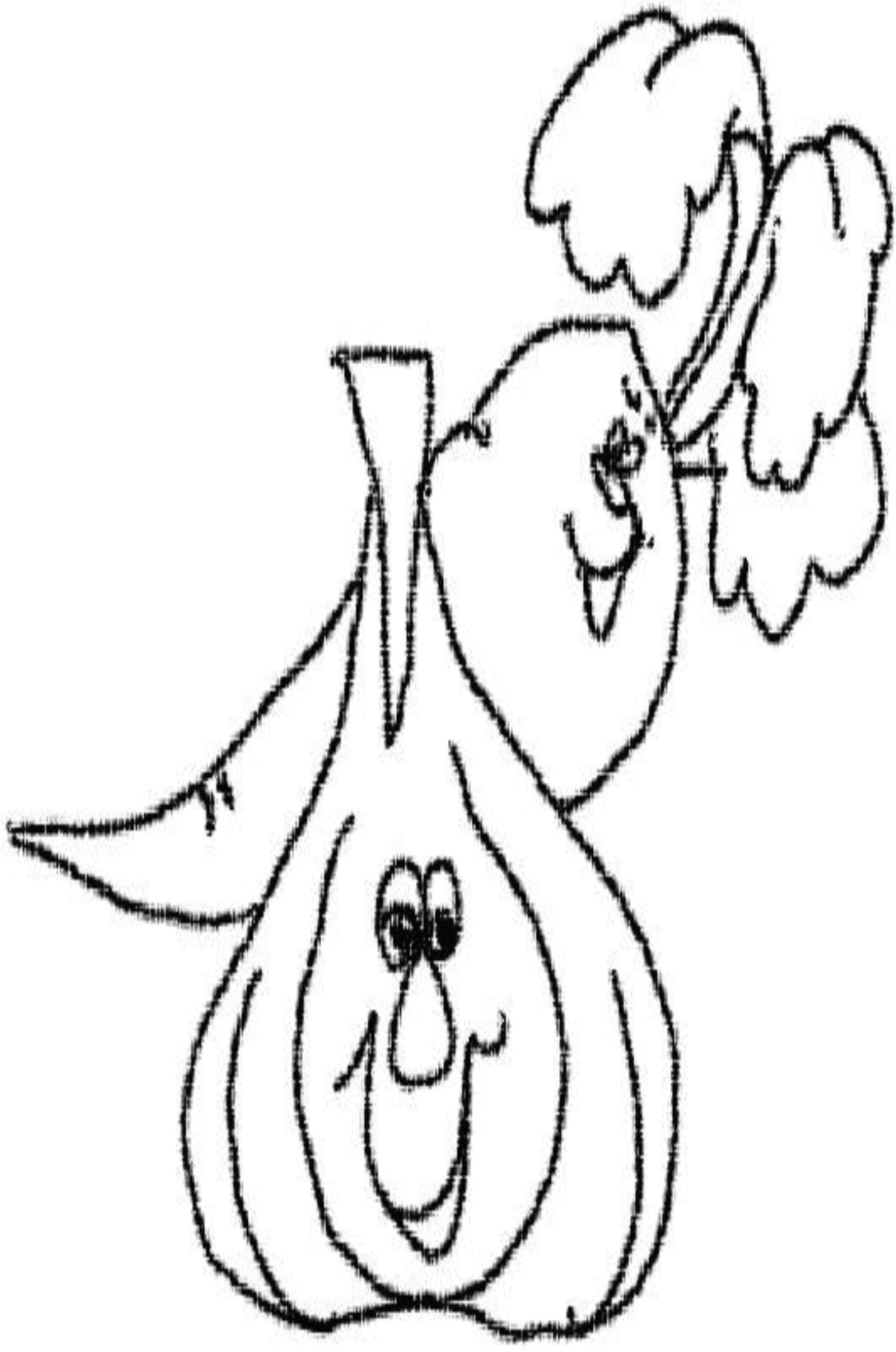
making a brand new meal. The villagers got food from the _____ where

they had hidden it. They found _____ and some _____ to add to the

pot. The entire village enjoyed the _____ the men had prepared as if

by magic at tables lit with _____.





Answer Keys

1. Who were the three men walking down the street?

The three men were soldiers.

2. What did the men want from the people living in the town?

They wanted a place to sleep and food to eat.

3. What did the three men do that changed the minds of the people living in the town?

They began making soup from stones.

4. What did the people of the town learn from the men who came to visit them?

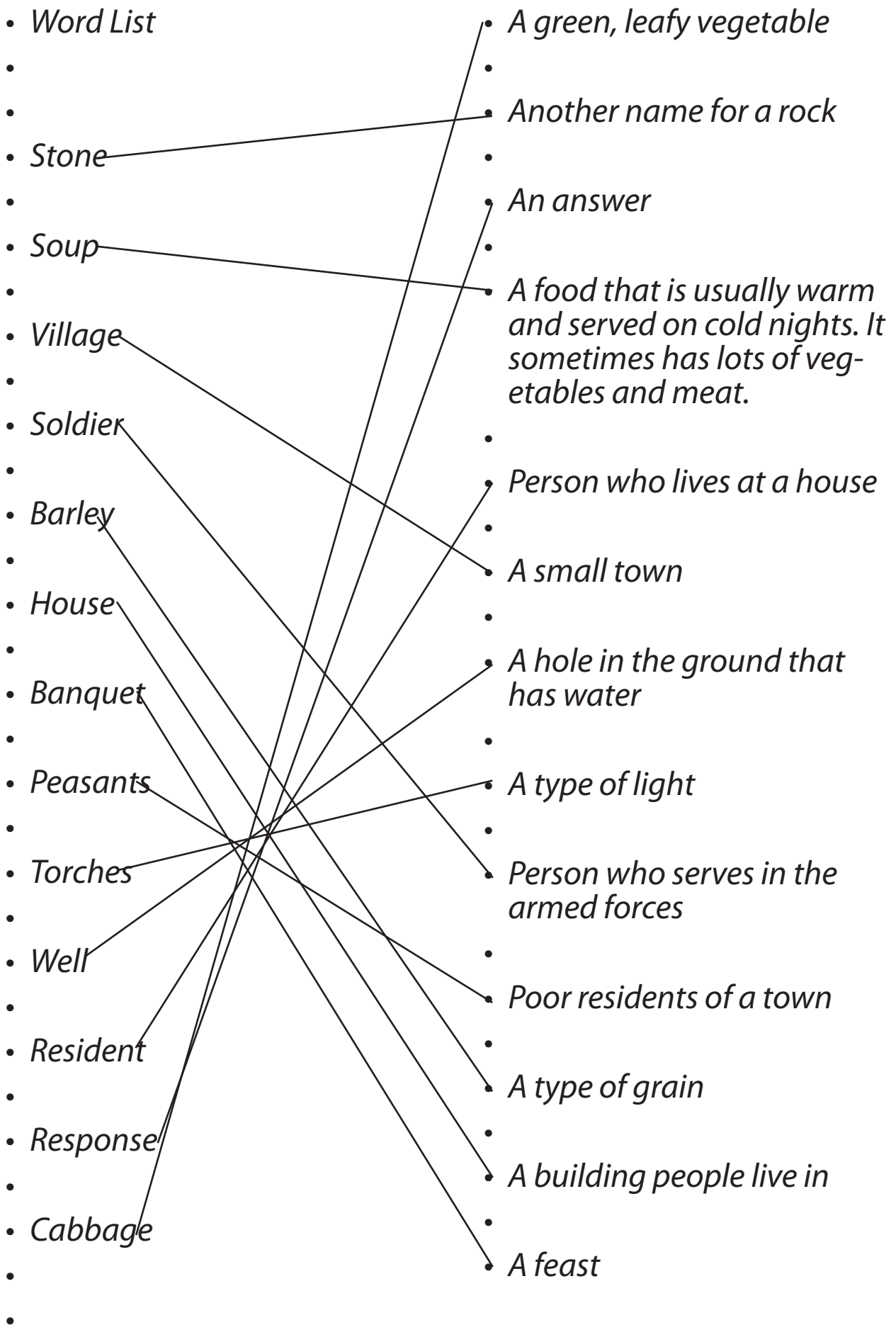
The people learned that by sharing no one would go hungry.

5. If you had lived in the town where the story took place, what would you have done? Why?

Answers will vary.

6. What lesson did you learn from the story that could help you in your every day life?

Answers will vary but should include something about sharing and helping one another.



1. cabbage

8. stone

2. torches

9. banquet

3. response

10. soup

4. barley

11. house

5. resident

12. village

6. soldier

13. peasants

7. well

In the story, Stone Soup, three soldiers visited a village. The peasants there would not give them a place to sleep and food to eat. They knocked on the doors of all the houses, but the residents who lived there all gave the same response. When the men decided to make their own feast, they got the people involved in making a brand new meal. The villagers got food from the well where they had hidden it. They found barley and some cabbage to add to the pot. The entire village enjoyed the banquet the men had prepared as if by magic at tables lit with torches.

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