A stingy fisherman always makes his three young helpers do all his work. One day he scolds the lazy boys for forgetting to provide lunch. Don’t worry, they say. We can make stone soup. The boys dig a hole and fill it with water and flavored stones. They trick the fisherman into making bowls and chopsticks, and fetching salt and sesame oil. While he’s busy, they stir in bird eggs, add wild vegetables, and slip fish into the soup. By the time the old man returns, they have a feast fit for a king. To this day, Egg Drop Stone Soup is a traditional dish in southeast China. A recipe is included.

My Personal Review:
I use folk tales with my 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade English Language Learners. One of our projects is to read all the versions of STONE SOUP to examine the perspectives of the characters and the message(s) of the various tales. My students always love Pete Seegers retelling of the tale: Some Friends to Feed (with its CD of Petes own retelling and a song to sing about Friends to Feed.) They love the tale for Petes voice, his song, and because the townspeople are hungry...but they are NOT STINGY. This is the best version for the youngest children, too. The version my students always love the best, however, is The Real Story of Stone Soup by Ying Chang Compestine. It is a sophisticated story filled with irony and intellectually the most challenging of all versions. It is also, by far, the funniest. Homeschooling mom has problems with the bad language used by the first person narrator. Her problem, I think, might have more to do with the age of her children: it is not really intended to be comprehensible by very young children. The world experience, the subtlety of human relationships, and the complexity of literary device makes it the most challenging and the most fun of all Stone Soups, for age 9 and up (to and including adults). I had to write this review because Amazons one-star ranking is unfair to the book and might dissuade teachers and older students from experiencing a fine book offering a rigorous academic experience. Go for it! (Especially if your students are Chinese, as mine are. Its a joy!)

For More 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price:
The Real Story of Stone Soup by Ying Chang Compestine - 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price!