

## The Mysterious Soup

### A Traditional Tale

Once upon a time, there was a very old lady who lived in a little house near the beach. She would sit in her house and knit with her cat, Fluffy, and her dog, Jip, near her. She would look out of her window at the beach that was to one side of her house. One morning as she sat knitting with Fluffy and Jip, she heard a ring at the door.

The old lady opened the door and a man stood there. He said, "Will you give me something to eat?"

The lady said, "I would be happy to, if you will be kind enough to dig some vegetables in the garden."

The man frowned and said, "I didn't ask for work, I asked for food." and he walked away.

This made the lady feel bad, because she was too old to dig many vegetables. So she sat down to knit again.

Now, the man was very hungry and he made up his mind he would think of a way to get some food. He went back to the door and knocked again. When the lady came to the door, he said, "Would you like to know how to make a delicious soup out of a stone?"

The woman just couldn't believe it, "That's impossible," she said, "how could anyone make soup out of a rock?" So the man asked her to put some water in a pot and he would go find a stone. They put the pot on and he got a clean rock in it. They waited until the water started to boil, and then the man said, "the soup is coming along fine, but if there were an onion in it, that would give it a better flavor."

The lady said, "That sounds fine! Why don't you dig one out of the garden?"

So the old man hurried out to the garden and dug up an onion and they put the onion in the pot.

Then the man said, "The soup is coming along fine, but if there were a carrot in it, that would give it a better flavor." And the old woman said, "That sounds fine! Why don't you dig one out of the garden?"

So the old man hurried out to the garden and dug up a carrot and they put it in the pot.

Soon the man said, "The soup is coming along fine, but if there were a potato in it, that would give it a better flavor." And the old woman said, "That sounds fine! Why don't you dig one out of the garden?"

So the old man hurried out to the garden and dug up a potato and they put it in the pot.

Then the man said, "The soups is coming along fine, but if there were a tomato, some string beans and turnips in it, that would give it a better flavor." And the woman said, "That sounds fine! Why don't you get some out of the garden?"

And the old man hurried out to the garden and dug up a tomato, some string beans and turnips and they put them in the pot.

Finally the soup was done and the man said, "I think I'll take the rock out now."

The woman was so please, she set the table with her nicest dishes. They both were so happy as they sat down to eat the soup, because they both got what they wanted. The man got some food and the lady got her vegetables dug up in the garden. The lady thought, "What a mystery is how the man can make soup form a rock@" And the man thought, "How lucky I am to get some food without working!"





