

Read the poem and answer questions 6–11.

The Poem of Stone Soup

by Ilya Ben Goldberg

They came into town battered and torn,
The soldiers hungry and worn,
Door to door looking for food,
All they got was firewood,
So a clever plan was born.
To the creek the men marched out,
“Soup from a stone” the town heard a shout,
Fire, water, and a polished stone,
It boiled, it crackled empty alone,
O’ then the stone was thrown,
Soup from a stone they said with doubt,
A fella said, “Would be better with herb,”
This little bit will make the soup superb!
A lady shouted what no meat?
Here have some that can’t be beat!
Carrots, onions would all repeat,
Soup roared in the square undisturbed.
The aroma of soup filled the town square,
As many held hands completely unaware,
Soldiers smiled in silence,
A battle won with kindness.
And greed a distant blindness,
The stone was removed without despair,
So a good bye, a gallop in a swoop
Practices taught in the most righteous scoop,
A virtue of caring,
The act of sharing,
The villagers glaring,
The lesson passed in a stone soup.

6. Read the line from “The Poem of Stone Soup.”

“So a clever plan was born.”

How does the line contribute to the development of the poem?

- A. It describes the setting for the events.
 - B. It reveals the theme of the poem.
 - C. It details the events that are part of the conflict.
 - D. It describes the characters’ response to a problem.
7. In “The Poem of Stone Soup,” which word is a synonym for superb?
- A. original
 - B. excellent
 - C. preserved
 - D. inspiring
8. How do the soldiers in “The Poem of Stone Soup” respond to the way the villagers treat them?
- A. They make a soup without needing any help from the villagers.
 - B. They make a plea to the villagers for a place to sleep.
 - C. They come up with an idea that will trick the villagers.
 - D. They come up with an idea to take food from villagers in the next town.

9. This question has two parts. Answer Part One and then answer Part Two.

Part One

Which sentence **best** describes a central idea of “The Poem of Stone Soup”?

- A. Things are not always as they seem.
- B. People who trick others are usually punished.
- C. Wisdom comes through great sacrifice.
- D. People can be lonely even when with others.

Part Two

Which lines from the poem support the answer in Part One? Choose **two** answers.

- A. “All they got was firewood,”
- B. “As many held hands completely unaware,”
- C. “Soldiers smiled in silence,”
- D. “So a good bye, a gallop in a swoop”

10. How do **both** the author and the poet develop the plots using character actions?
- A. The main characters find ways to buy the supplies they need.
 - B. The main characters make decisions that result in their own downfall.
 - C. The characters are unsure how they can help but find a way to work together.
 - D. The characters are willing to share something that they had not offered before.