



Cruchley's Collection

Diana Cruchley is an award-winning educator and author, who has taught at elementary and secondary levels. Her workshop are practical, include detailed handouts, and are always enthusiastically received.

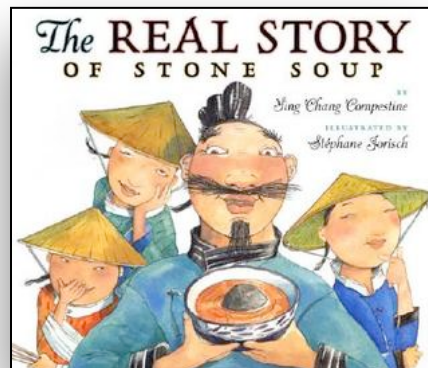


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The Real Story of Stone Soup By Ying Chang Compestine

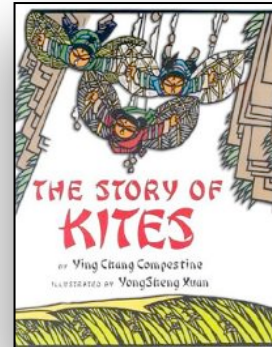
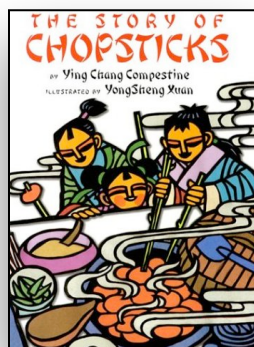
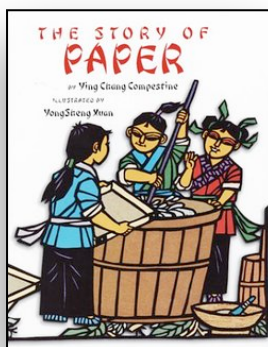
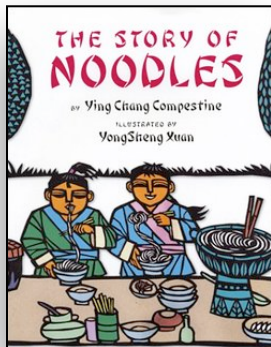
The fisherman in this story is fooled by his three nephews. They persuade him that they will make stone soup, then distract him at each point, in order to add real ingredients to the soup. He is delighted and brags about the “recipe” for soup made from stones.

Teaching Ideas



Ying Chang Compestine

The author, Ying Chang Compestine, grew up in China and now lives in California with her husband. She has written novels, other books, is a world authority on Asian culture and cuisine, and is the former editor of Martha Stewart Magazine. She has written many books which may be useful in your Chinese Folktales unit including: *The Story of Noodles*, *The Story of Chopsticks*, *The Story of Paper*, *The Story of Noodles*, and *The Story of Kites*.



The Chopsticks Game

Our fisherman makes bowls and chopsticks from bamboo. It might be fun to gather a class set of chopsticks. Some students will be accomplished users, and others will never have held them. There are Internet YouTubes showing how to handle chopsticks if you yourself are in the inexperienced category. Then buy about 90 pieces) of butterfly pasta. Make 60 pieces of 4 cm X 4 cm coloured cardstock. Each student gets one pair of chopsticks, 1 pair of cardstock pieces, and 6 pieces of butterfly pasta. (Put the yardstick and butterfly pieces in individual ziplock bags for ease of distribution.)

Ask students put their pasta on one of the pieces of cardstock. They are then to transfer each butterfly pasta to the other piece, using their chopsticks. When they are accomplished at the transfer, you could allow them to play with them during recess to have chopstick races.

I think that chopsticks may have “created” Chinese cuisine. That is, Chinese dishes are cooked in sauces with small bites, easy to pick up with chopsticks. Western cuisine on the other hand is eaten with a knife and fork because it is cooked before cutting it up. The Chinese tended to think that all the “butchering” (that is cutting it up) should happen before the food is served.

Extreme Writing Topics

Always present three possible topics for extreme writing so that students will have a choice. My book, **The Power of Extreme Writing**, is available at ASCD for a complete explanation of this unique approach to journaling.

1. Food I prepare myself.
2. Stories of playing a trick on someone, or having a trick played on me.
3. Stories of working hard, and stories of being lazy (doing a whole lot of nothing).



The Origin of Stone Soup

The author explains that in southeast China the local fishermen actually make a stone soup. They use heated river rocks in a hole filled with plantain and banana leaves, then filled with water. They bring the water to a boil by adding the hot rocks, and then add fish from their catch, wild vegetables, and maybe some bird eggs they have found, and make a delicious soup that the author has tasted.

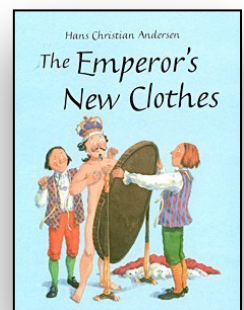
Stone Soup is a Russian/ Ukrainian folktale. It was first published in French in 1720, then moved to Britain in about 1770, and to America in 1808.

Aarne-Thompson-Uther has a categorization of Folktales and puts this story in the category of **The Clever Man** which has about 20 stories but the only one I really recognize is **The Emperor's New Clothes**.

This particular story though contains an adult who is lazy and gullible, and whose assistants distract him with making bowls and chopsticks while they put the ingredients into the Stone Soup. It's charming.

Stone Soup and Creative Mornings

Creative Mornings meets once a month and is an organization that is free to attend and belong to. Speakers also speak for free to an audience of about 200 “creatives” - writers, artists, software developers, advertising pr people, photographers, actors, etc.



Google **Creative Mornings Stone Soup** in order to view their YouTube made to demonstrate the values of community and sharing using the story of Stone Soup. Each of their speakers over the last year or so, has one line from the story, and the effect is really terrific. You could think of doing something like that with your students.

Discussing the Moral

The original **Stone Soup** has a subtle moral of the importance of sharing. If **The Real Story of Stone Soup** has a moral it's that foolish greedy people can be foiled by clever people. Discuss with your students, expanding to other implied morals in folktales such as **The 3 Little Pigs**, **Little Red Riding Hood**, or **the Boy who Cried Wolf**.