

# Other Story Titles on the Theme of *Community*

*To Supplement the Story "The Long Winter"*

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## **Story Title:** "Stone Soup" (*classic*)

### **Recommended Source, Book:**

*Stone Soup (picture book)*

Written by Heather Forrest

Published by August House Littlefolk, Arkansas, 1998

### **Synopsis:**

Two hungry travelers announce they are going to cook a magical soup. What makes it magical is what they will use to start the soup—a common stone. They encourage the villagers to contribute various vegetables until they have a pot full of simmering, delicious "real" soup. This book includes a recipe.

**Note:** Author Heather Forrest notes that the story "Stone Soup" is "a popular European folktale that has been told and retold for centuries." She says, "In the French version, the travelers are cast as soldiers and the townspeople are fearful of being generous because of the ravages of war. In Sweden, the story features a tramp who teaches a stingy old woman generosity by using a nail to start a sumptuous 'nail broth.' In the Russian version, an axe serves as the soup starter. Everywhere the tale is told, the plot ends with the optimistic realization that when each person makes a small contribution, the collective impact can be huge."

## **Story Title:** "The Story of the Bat" (*U.S. Native American*)

### **Recommended Source, Book:**

*Teepee Tales of the American Indian*

Written by Dee Brown

Published by Holt, Rinehart & Winston, New York, 1979

p.147

### **Synopsis:**

One day, the birds challenge the four-footed animals to a ball game. Animals with wings (birds) will play on one side, and animals with teeth will play on the other side. When Bat arrives, he's sent to the team whose players have teeth. The animals with teeth tell Bat he doesn't belong on their team because he has wings. They send him to the birds' team. But the birds don't accept Bat either, and they tell him he can't join their team because he has teeth. Finally, the four-footed animals accept Bat because he has teeth. The game begins. The birds quickly take the lead because they can fly the ball above where the animals can reach. It's Bat, playing for the team of animals who have teeth, who takes the ball away from the birds' team again and again, and wins the game for the four-footed animals' team.