

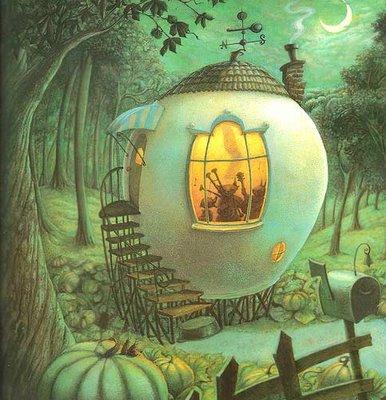
**1st Grade Curriculum Guide Book Summary**

**Book title: *Pumpkin Soup***

**Author:** Helen Cooper

**Main characters:** Cat, Squirrel and Duck

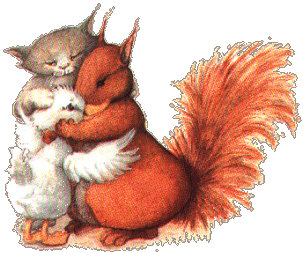
**Executive summary:** Three forest friends argue and get angry with each other, but they are able to forgive and treat each other with greater respect, and their friendship becomes even stronger.

**Detailed summary:** A bagpiping Cat, a Squirrel and a singing Duck live together in a cozy cabin in the woods. Each night the best friends make soup from the pumpkins they grow in their garden. They think it is “the best soup you ever tasted.” Each of the friends has a job to do to make the soup. Cat slices the pumpkin, Squirrel stirs in the water and Duck adds just the right amount of salt. When they finish eating their soup, they play music together. Then they go to bed under a big quilt that was made by Cat, embroidered on by Squirrel and filled with Duck’s feathers. The three friends are happy together in their home in the woods.

One morning the small Duck decides he wants to try a different job. He wants to try stirring the soup. He knocks Squirrel’s large spoon down from where it hangs on the wall. Holding the spoon in his hands, he announces to Squirrel and Cat that he wants to stir the soup. Squirrel is angry. He doesn’t want to change the way they make the soup. It is his spoon and his job to stir the soup. Duck’s job is to put the salt in. He tells Duck that he is too small to stir the soup. Duck and Squirrel fight over the spoon. Continued on Back

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Both hold on tight. They tug and pull. Then Squirrel pulls the spoon away so hard that it flies in the air and hits Cat on the head. Now Cat is angry too. The cabin in the woods is no longer a peaceful place. The friends are no longer happy. Then Duck angrily leaves the cabin and waddles away through the woods.

Cat and Squirrel are both very mad at Duck, but they are sure he will come back. But he doesn’t come back. He is gone all morning. Now Cat and Squirrel are still mad, but they are also worried about their friend. They look for him in the pumpkin patch, but he is not there. They wait all afternoon, but Duck still does not return to the cabin in the woods. They make soup without Duck, but it doesn’t taste very good. It has too much salt. Then Cat and Squirrel start to worry that Duck may never come back. They begin to think they should have let Duck stir the soup. They decide to go look for him.

Cat and Squirrel go out into the dark woods. It is scary at night. They walk to a cliff and wonder if Duck might have fallen over the edge. They tie a rope to the edge and Squirrel climbs down to look for Duck, but he isn’t there. Now the friends think that maybe Duck found some other friends to live with. They wonder if Duck found friends who would let him stir the soup. They walk back home, very sad that their friend is gone. As they get closer to the cabin they see a light is on in the cabin. It’s Duck! He’s home! The three friends are very happy to see each other. And they are hungry. They make soup together. This time Duck stirs. He shows Squirrel how to measure just the right amount of salt. Duck makes a big mess and he burns the soup. And even though the soup isn’t perfect, it is still the “best you ever tasted.”