

Teacher's Guide

The Stone & The Pantry by Shawn Viveiros

Overview

- **Genre:** Modern Fantasy / Mystery
- **Chapters:** 15 (Each with a unique illustration)
- **Page Count:** 220 pages
- **Recommended Age:** 8–18 (Grades 3–10)

Curriculum Connections

- Reading comprehension and close reading
- Symbolism and metaphor analysis (e.g., the pantry, the stone)
- Creative and expository writing assignments
- Research activities related to folklore and community history

Discussion Questions

- Why does Eleanor struggle to adapt to her new town?
- How does food play a symbolic role throughout the story?
- What moral themes emerge in the Giving Basket legend?
- How do trust, secrecy, and legacy shape the characters?

Creative Activities

- Draw or describe your version of the magic pantry—what food would it create?
- Write a journal entry from the perspective of Charlie the dog
- Invent a new local legend for the town of Point Rock

Vocabulary Focus

Sample words for study: inheritance, folklore, secretive, conjure, restoration, legacy, mistrust

Common Core Connections

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.3: Describe characters and explain how their actions contribute to the story

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.2: Determine a theme and summarize the text
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.3: Write narratives with descriptive details and clear event sequences

The Stone & The Pantry

Reading Comprehension

1. What clues help Eleanor realize that the pantry might be magical?

2. Why do you think the pantry didn't work when Eleanor's mother tried it?

3. How does Eleanor's relationship with Oliver change over the course of the story?

Vocabulary Builder

Match each word with its definition, then use it in a sentence:

- 1. Legacy
- 2. Conjure
- 3. Restoration
- 4. Mistrust

Creative Writing Prompt

Imagine you discovered a magical pantry in your house. What would you wish for—and what would you do if the food started revealing secrets about your family’s past?

Character Reflection

Choose a character (Eleanor, Charlie, Oliver, or Mr. Henry). Describe how they change from the beginning of the book to the end:

What food would you wish for?

