



Anansi The Spider

Anansi the spider is a story from Ghana. Ghana is a country in West Africa. The story has been told many times. This how it goes.

Long, long ago there was a God of the Sky. The Sky God was called Nyame. Nyame had a son. The son was called Anansi.

Anansi was very powerful. He could do many things. Anansi could make it rain. Anansi told the oceans where they should be. Anansi made the sun, moon and the stars. He taught them all how to shine.

Anansi didn't just command the sky. He also told people what to do. He taught people how to live in houses. He taught people how to live together. He also taught people how to plant crops and how to eat their food.

There was one problem. Anansi was mischievous. That means he liked causing trouble. He just couldn't help himself. He loved playing tricks.

Not everyone liked Anansi's tricks. Anansi's father, Nyame was very upset. He got angry with Anansi. He was raging.

"Stop playing tricks!" he yelled loudly.

"Sorry. I will try," said Anansi.

Anansi did try but it wasn't enough. He just couldn't help himself. He played a trick on the Sun to make it disappear. He did this by telling the Moon to stand in front of the Sun. It made the whole sky dark. The people on Earth were confused and upset.

VOCABULARY FOCUS

1. What word means telling someone or something what to do?

shine command rain

2. What does the word 'mischievous' mean?

3. What word means 'extremely angry'?

tricks confused raging

4. What word in the text tells you that people were scared?

“What is happening?” they shouted in trembling voices.

Nyame had enough. He punished Anansi. He turned him into a spider! Anansi lost all of his powers but there was one thing he didn't lose. His mind. Anansi was still very clever. He was still very mischievous. Anansi the spider still went on many adventures.

When things got dangerous, Anansi always got out of trouble. He used his clever thinking to escape. Even though he was a tiny spider, he had a very big brain.

VIPERS QUESTIONS

R

What country does the story of 'Anansi the Spider' come from?

I

Why does Nyame yell loudly?

S

Put these events in the correct order from first to last?

- Nyame turns Anansi into a spider
- Nyame is angry
- Anansi plays a trick on the Sun and Moon
- Anansi makes the Sun, Moon and Stars

E

What do you think the message of the story is?

Answers:

1. Command
2. Causing trouble / Playing tricks / Causing mischief
3. Raging
4. Trembling

R: Ghana

I: Because he is angry (or similar expression)

S:

Anansi makes the Sun, Moon and Stars

Anansi plays a trick on the Sun and Moon

Nyame is angry

Nyame turns Anansi into a spider

E: Any appropriate answer (don't play too many tricks or intelligence is important / cleverness makes you powerful)