



## Anansi Goes Fishing

by Eric A. Kimmel

illustrated by Janet Stevens

### Summary

Anansi the Spider loves to eat but does not like to work to get his food. When he sees Turtle fishing, he plans to trick Turtle into catching his next big meal. But Turtle has some tricks up his own sleeve and ends up with the free dinner himself. Way to outsmart Anansi, Turtle!

### Ideas for Classroom Use

#### Discussion Questions

Encourage the children to find examples from the story to document their answers.

- How does Turtle use his words to outsmart Anansi?
- What are all of the ways Turtle tricked Anansi into working? What skills did Anansi actually learn how to do?
- Did Anansi deserve to go home in disgrace from his time with the judge at the Justice Tree? Why or why not?

### Responding to the Text

#### Art

##### Making simple webs for Anansi

- Using glitter glue...  
Using a white colored pencil instruct children to draw a simple spider web on a piece of black construction paper. Encourage children to go over their lines with silver glitter glue to give the spider web a raise look. Let the spider webs dry and then attach a spider ring or toy as their Anansi the Spider.
- Using a paper plate and yarn  
Give each child a small black paper plate and some white yarn. Instruct children to snip the outside edge of the paper plate with 1/2 inch slots. Encourage children to wind the white yarn across the paper plate and back, inserting the strand into the scissor cuts to create their own spider web. Attach an Anansi spider ring or toy and display.





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### Create “web” information organizers

This is a great opportunity to introduce children to the skill of creating graphic organizers. Use the story of Anansi goes fishing, to teach children how to create a visual web to demonstrate their understanding of the lessons Anansi learned in the story.

Using answers children shared about what skills Anansi learned in the story, teach children how to create a simple star-shaped web to visually display that information.

#### Directions:

- 1) Put Anansi’s name in the middle of a circle.
- 2) Coming out from the circle, have children draw several “star-shaped rays.”
- 3) At the end of each ray, encourage children to list a skill Anansi learned. See example below:



Now encourage children to create a web for either Turtle or Anansi. Put Turtle or Anansi’s name in the middle of the web and encourage children to list adjectives describing the character chosen. Share the webs with others in the class. Are all the adjectives the same?

For more information on introducing children to the concept of graphic organizers, consult the book, *Graphic Organizers, Grades K-8*, by Bromley, Bromley and Irwin-Devitis, one of the many teacher resources for teachers or go to the following website:

[www.enchantedlearning.com/graphicorganizers](http://www.enchantedlearning.com/graphicorganizers) and look at their star webs for more specific ideas.