

Anansi and the Moss-Covered Rock

by Eric A. Kimmel

illustrated by Janet Stevens

Summary

Anansi the spider is out walking, walking, walking one day when he comes across a mysterious moss-covered rock. Anansi discovers the rock has special powers and sets out to use them to get food that he wants from his animal friends. See how Anansi's plan backfires and the lesson his friends set out to teach him

Ideas for Classroom Use

Discussion Questions

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

- > *What words besides "trickster" would you use to describe Anansi?*
- > *Do you think the animals consider Anansi a friend? Why or why not?*
- > *What part does Little Bush Deer play in the story?*

Responding to the Text

Art

Create your own special rocks!

Each child will need:

- A stick from nature to decorate
- Many colors of paint
- Sandpaper
- Glue
- Stickers, glitter, little beady eyes, and other craft items that can be used to decorate each rock.

After Reading the story, challenge the children to create their own special rock with magical properties. For example, perhaps the rock will be polka-dotted and be able to grant wishes or have someone else do their chores. The child might cut out polka-dots to decorate the rock so she can say, "Isn't this a strange polka-dotted rock!"

Other examples might be:

Golden colored rocks, nuts and bolts-covered rocks, gummed reinforcement-covered rocks, pasta covered rocks, etc.

Children might write a scene of a story in which their rock is discovered or perhaps, the entire class could weave a magical story together using all the special rocks children the create.

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Cooking/Tasting

Taste testing new fruits and vegetables

Some children may never have seen or tasted real coconuts or yams. Bring in examples of some of the fruit and vegetables Anansi took from the other animals for a sample taste test. Children might also sort, or compare and contrast the textures, acidity, and/or weight of the fruits and vegetables. They could vote on or graph their favorites.

Science

Grow and Observe Moss!

You will need:

- A simple terrarium, fish tank or bowl
- A large rock or two with cracks in them
- Moss purchased from a garden/nursery in the spring or summer
- Water

Visit a nursery to purchase a sample of moss/ground cover from your area. Put it atop the rock(s) in your bowl or terrarium and watch how quickly it attaches itself. Encourage children to observe and record how quickly the moss grows, etc. They will learn first hand why moss can be such a nuisance to gardeners when it is unwanted!

Would a moss-covered rock be easy to find in your neighborhood? In your part of the country?