

ANANSI AND THE POT OF BEANS

By Bobby and Sherry Norfolk

Second Grade

Outcome:

Students will demonstrate an understanding of the story through the use of reading, writing, illustrating, and public speaking.

Overview:

Students will read and explore a folktale, while utilizing interdisciplinary connections in geography, language arts, dramatic arts, and art.

Materials:

Book, Anansi and the Pot of Beans

Map or globe

Pencil, paper, markers or crayons

Art: Two 1 pound packages spaghetti, spoon, white glue, large zip lock bag for each student, pencil or marker, paper, large bowl

Optional:

Wisdom Tales from Around the World (Heather Forest, August House 1996)

Through the Grapevine: World Tales Kids Can Read and Tell (Martha Hamilton and Mitch Weiss, August House 2001)

Trickster Tales: Forty Folk Stories from Around the World (Josepha Sherman, August House 1996)

Assessment Tools:

When Grandma Returned worksheet

Apology Note from Anansi worksheet

Similes Worksheet A

Similes Worksheet B

Similes Worksheet C

Cause and Effect worksheet

INSTRUCTIONAL PLAN

Introduction:

Teacher asks students, have you ever been tempted to do something you have been told not to do?

Students give examples.

Teacher informs students:

- They will be reading a folktale from western Africa (show on map or globe) in which the main character did not do what he was told.
- African storytelling has been very important for generations of people. For a long time, these stories were not written down.
- Folktales help to build a bond between generations and teach important values in a family and in a community. They help parents and grandparents teach their children & grandchildren how **not** to behave.

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Introduction cont.:

- Many African folktales feature a **trickster**, a small animal that protects itself from larger, more powerful animals. This character is usually cleverer than the characters he is trying to trick.
- Some trickster characters are magical and can change from one shape to another in order to escape from a difficult situation or to trick someone.
- What stories have you read that have a trickster character? Students name stories.
- The people of Tanzania and Ghana (show on map) have an important trickster character, Anansi (Ah-non-see).
- In these tales, Anansi can be wise, foolish, funny, or lazy. There is **always** a lesson to be learned from Anansi.
- Anansi stories highlight correct behavior. Usually, it is Anansi who is behaving badly, foolishly, or thoughtlessly.

Students read Anansi and the Pot of Beans independently.

Discussion Questions to Assess Comprehension:

- What kind of creature is Anansi?
- How do you know this?
- How did Anansi feel when he was working in the garden?
- What was Grandma making for lunch? Why did she choose to make that?
- What did Grandma need at the store?
- Why did Grandma tell Anansi to stay away from the beans?
- When Anansi went into the kitchen, he did not enter with the intention of eating the beans. What was the sequence of events that lead up to Anansi putting the beans in his hat?
 - Just smell the beans
 - Taste the beans with a spoon
 - Put the beans in his hat to eat
- Would you have tasted the beans if you were Anansi? Why or why not?
- Who was shouting in the garden and why?
- Why did Anansi have to hide the beans?
- What did he do to hide them?
- Do you think the neighbors knew why he was uncomfortable and dancing around?
- In African folktales, the animals often take on human characteristics such as greed and jealousy. What human characteristics do you see in Anansi? What human characteristics do you see in the other characters?
- What clues will Grandma have about Anansi's behavior, when she returns?
- Do you think Anansi learned a lesson?
- How did Anansi behave? Was he wise? Foolish? Funny? Lazy?
- Did he trick anyone?
- African folktales teach the reader or listener about environmental features, like climate, season, and geography. What did you learn about Africa from this story?

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Language Arts:

- When Grandma Returned worksheet

Directions: We can only imagine what happened when Grandma returned home. Complete the worksheet by answering the questions. Draw a picture to illustrate one of your answers.

When Grandma returned:

1. What did she see?
2. What did the neighbors say?
3. What did Anansi say?
4. How did Grandma feel?
5. What did she say?

- Apology note from Anansi

Directions: Write an apology from Anansi to Grandma Spider.

- Similes worksheet

An activity for differentiated learning

- Group A – Complete Worksheet A.

Worksheet A

Directions: When Anansi pulled off his hat, his head was **as bald as an egg**. When the authors wrote this sentence, they used a simile to create an image in our minds. Similes compare what you are writing about with an item or object the reader will recognize. Complete the following similes.

1. As sly as a _____.
2. As wise as an _____.
3. As quiet as a _____.
4. As slow as a _____.
5. As brave as a _____.
6. As mad as _____.
7. As busy as a _____.
8. As quick as a _____.
9. As green as _____.
10. As red as _____.
11. As warm as _____.
12. As cool as a _____.
13. As good as _____.
14. As sweet as _____.
15. As light as _____.

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Language Arts cont.:

- Group B – Complete Worksheet A and Worksheet B.

Worksheet B

Directions: Complete worksheet and create your own similes using the following adjectives.

1. bumpy
2. deep
3. fuzzy
4. gigantic
5. young
6. small
7. fresh
8. sour

- Group C – Complete Worksheet A and Worksheet C.

Worksheet C

Directions: Write ten similes.

- Cause and Effect

African folktales teach us about cause and effect. In Anansi and the Pot of Beans, The effect is that Anansi burned his head. What is the cause? (Hot beans in his hat). Complete the worksheet by providing either the cause or effect.

Cause	Effect
1. You don't eat breakfast.	_____
2. You don't get enough sleep.	_____
3. _____	You are cold.
4. _____	You get an A on your test.
5. There is no ink in your pen.	_____
6. _____	Your dog barks.
7. _____	You are late for school.
8. You did not do your homework.	_____
9. You smile at someone.	_____
10. You help a friend.	_____

- Acrostic Spider Poem

Directions: Write the word spider vertically on a piece of paper. Using each letter, write a word or sentence about spiders.

Example:

Scary

Prickly

Icky

Dangerous

Eek!

Recluse

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Dramatic Arts:

This story of Anansi deals with responsibility, trustworthiness, and respect.

- Teacher writes these words on the board and asks students to define them.
- Students divide into small groups and create a skit about one of these words.
- Students present skits to class and classmates guess which word(s) each skit depicts.

Art:

Making a Spider Web

Materials: Two 1 pound packages spaghetti, spoon, large zip lock bag for each student, white glue, pencil or marker, paper, a large bowl

Directions:

1. Cook and cool spaghetti.
2. Draw a picture of a spider web and place a zip lock bag over the picture
3. Mix glue and spaghetti in a large bowl.
4. Pull out individual strands of spaghetti and place on plastic bag, over pattern to create web.
5. Allow web to dry and peel web away from bag. Students can take web home in bag.

Extension Activities:

Compare and Contrast

Read any of the following stories and compare and contrast them with Anansi and the Pot of Beans. How is Anansi the same in these stories? How is he different? What lessons do these stories teach?

Why Wisdom is Everywhere (page 97), Wisdom Tales from Around the World (Heather Forest, August House 1996)

Turtle Returns a Favor (page 82), Through the Grapevine: World Tales Kids Can Read and Tell (Martha Hamilton and Mitch Weiss, August House 2001)

Why Anansi Owns Every Story (page 15), Trickster Tales: Forty Folk Stories from Around the World (Josepha Sherman, August House 1996)

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Name _____ Date _____

When Grandma Returned

Directions: We can only imagine what happened when Grandma returned home. Complete the worksheet by answering the questions. Draw a picture to illustrate one of your answers.

When Grandma returned:

1. What did she see?

2. What did the neighbors say?

3. What did Anansi say?

4. How did Grandma feel?

5. What did she say?

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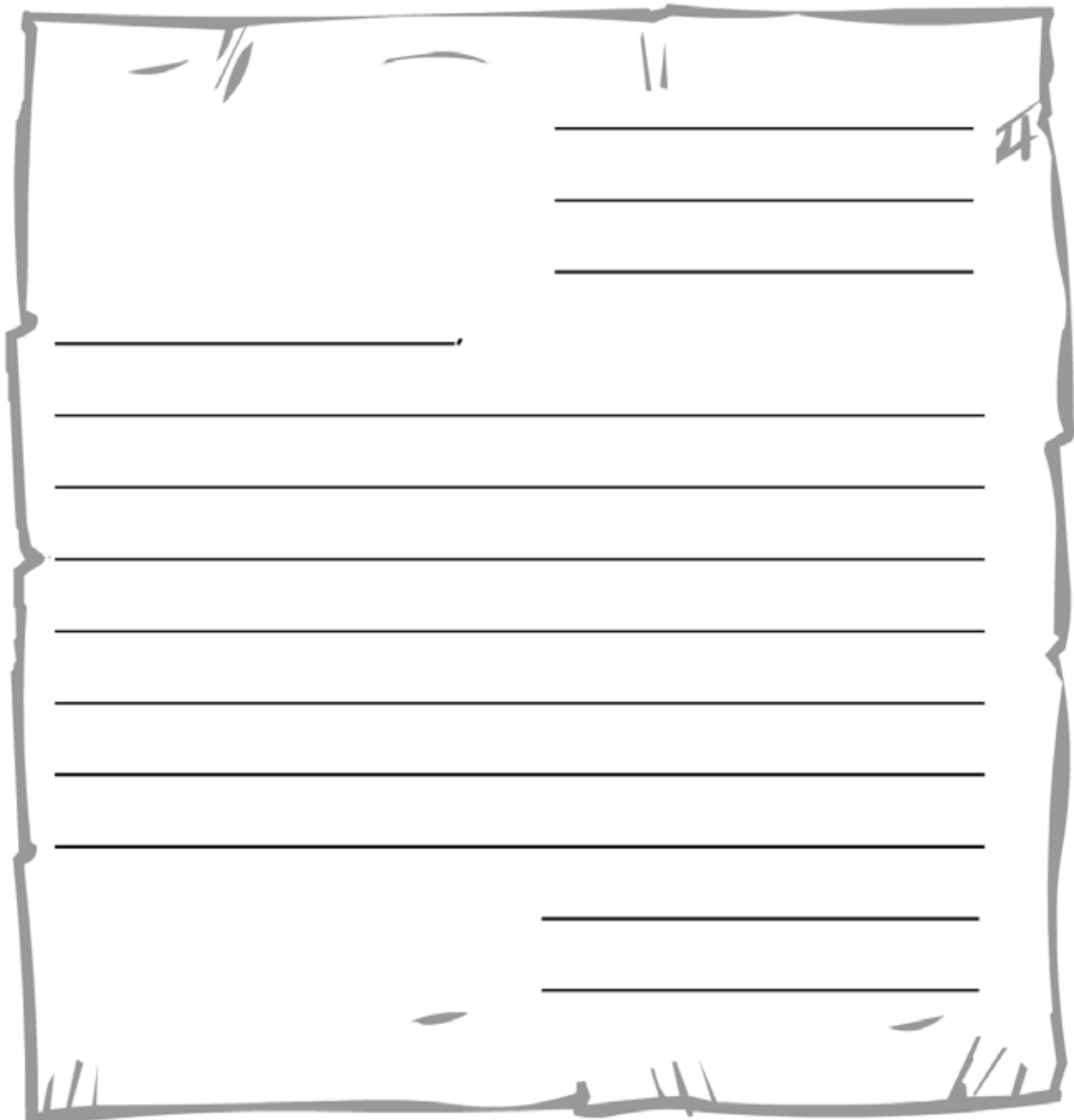
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Name _____ Date _____

Apology Note from Anansi

Directions: Write an apology from Anansi to Grandma Spider.



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Worksheet A

Name _____ Date _____

Similes

Directions: When Anansi pulled off his hat, his head was as bald as an egg. When the authors wrote this sentence, they used a simile to create an image in our minds. Similes compare something you are writing about with something else the reader will recognize. Complete the following similes.

1. As sly as a _____.
2. As wise as an _____.
3. As quiet as a _____.
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5. As brave as a _____.
6. As mad as _____.
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10. As red as _____.
11. As warm as _____.
12. As cool as a _____.
13. As good as _____.
14. As sweet as _____.
15. As light as _____.

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Worksheet B

Name _____ Date _____

Similes

Directions: Complete worksheet and create your own similes using the following adjectives.

bumpy

deep

fuzzy

gigantic

young

small

fresh

sour

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Worksheet C

Name _____ Date _____

Similes

Directions: Write ten similes.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

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Name _____ Date _____

Cause and Effect

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Cause

Effect

1. You don't eat breakfast.

2. You don't get enough sleep.

3. _____

You are cold.

4. _____

You get an A on your test.

5. There is no ink in your pen.

6. _____

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