

ANANSI AND THE TUG O' WAR

Kindergarten

Outcome:

Students will demonstrate an understanding of the story through listening, discussing and observing.

Materials:

Book *Anansi and the Tug o' War*
Crayons, scissors, glue sticks, pencils
"Draw a Face" worksheet

Cooking Materials:

Clear glass bowl
3 packages of blue gelatin
Jelly beans for gravel
Gummi fish
A few pieces of kale or endive for seaweed

Assessment Tools:

"Big, Bigger, Biggest" worksheet
"Patterns" worksheet
"Reading Response" worksheet
"Phonics" worksheet

INSTRUCTIONAL PLAN

Introduction/Pre-reading:

- Teacher takes out *Anansi and the Tug o' War* and explains to the class that the main character, Anansi, is a "spider man." Spiders spin webs, Anansi spins stories. Anansi stories are well-known stories told in Africa.
- Anansi is a trickster. The teacher asks the class if they know what a trickster is. Teacher explains that tricksters play tricks on others in order to get what they want.
- Look at the cover and the title of the story.
 - What do you think this story is going to be about?
 - What is a "tug o' war?" Explain that it is a contest of strength. Whoever pulls or tugs the hardest, wins.
 - Who do you think would win a tug o' war?
 - A rabbit or a lion?
 - A child or an adult?
 - A clownfish or a shark?

ANANSI AND THE TUG O' WAR

Kindergarten

Introduction/Pre-reading cont.:

- Go on a picture walk. As you turn the pages discuss the illustrations of the characters.
 - What character do you think will win the tug o' war: Anansi, or an enormous animal like Elephant or Killer Whale?
 - What is each character doing in the illustrations?
 - Look at facial expressions in the illustrations. Tell the students to look at the face of the character. Demonstrate how we have different faces depending on how we are feeling.
 - I am feeling happy. How would my face look? (smile)
 - I am feeling sad. How would my face look? (frown)
 - Surprised, etc.
 - Discuss how the characters may be feeling in the story.

Teacher Reading of Story:

- Tell the students they will be listening to the story to find out what kind of trick Anansi plays and what happens to Elephant, Killer Whale, and Anansi. What lesson is learned?
- As you read, think out loud as you ask important questions about the scheme and how the characters are feeling.
- Point out facial expressions of the characters.
 - Example: In the picture on Page 7, Anansi looks very angry. What do you think happened that would make him so angry?
- Explain words that may be unfamiliar as you go.
 - Example: clever means smart, taut means tight, etc.
- Re-read the story uninterrupted for pleasure.

Discussion Questions for Comprehension:

1. What was Anansi doing in the beginning of the story?
2. Why was Anansi angry with Elephant?
3. Why does Anansi want to have a tug o' war with Elephant?
4. How does Anansi trick Elephant?
5. Do you think it is a clever trick? Why?
6. Do you think Anansi could really win a tug o' war with an elephant?
7. Does Anansi teach Elephant a lesson about calling him a "pipsqueak?"

Math:

• **Big, Bigger, Biggest**

Materials: "Big, Bigger, Biggest" worksheet, pencil, crayons, scissors, glue sticks

- Teacher will put three circles on the board and say, "Big, bigger, biggest."
- Teacher will model things in the class in size order.
 - For example, three students will be called to come up in front of the class. The class will put them in size order from tall to tallest.

ANANSI AND THE TUG O' WAR

Kindergarten

Math cont.:

Big, Bigger, Biggest cont.

- Hand out “Big, Bigger, Biggest” worksheet.

Directions: Trace the outlines of the three squares on the bottom of the page. (Anansi is big, Elephant is bigger, but Killer Whale is the biggest of all.) Color the pictures of the characters. Cut out the squares. Put them in size order: big, bigger, biggest. Glue into the correct space. Read the sentences above. Find the word big and circle it in red. Find the word bigger and circle it in blue. Find the word biggest and circle it in green.

• **Patterns 1:1- 2:1**

An activity for differentiated learning

Materials: Unifix cubes, “Patterns” worksheet, scissors

- Put on the board: **X, O, X, O, X, O, X, ___**
- Ask: What comes next?
- Repeat with more examples. **X, X, O, O, X, X, O, O, X, ___**
- Pass out Unifix cubes to pairs of students. Let one student create a pattern with the Unifix cubes and the other student copy that pattern. Students should take turns creating and copying patterns.
- Hand out the “Patterns” worksheet.
Have students cut out all of the character shapes. Create a pattern using the shapes and have the students make that same pattern. Walk around to check patterns.
 - Divide students into two groups.
 - Group A: Create a pattern and have the students copy the pattern and find the next shape. Glue onto a piece of paper.
 - Group B: Have students create their own patterns and glue onto a piece of paper. Say, “Give the paper to a partner and ask your partner to figure out the next shape in the pattern.”
 - Share the different patterns with the class.

Writing Readiness:

• **A Response to the Story**

Materials: “Reading Response” worksheet, crayons

Ask students to think about their favorite parts of the story. Go around the room and share all responses. Hand out the “Reading Response” worksheet. Tell students to draw a picture of their favorite part as you go around the room and write responses they dictate to you.

Phonics/Word Work:

• **Teaching the Sound of “wh”/ “w”**

- Teacher will say “whale.”
- Ask what sound the word “whale” begins with.
- Ask students to think of other words that begin like “whale.”
 - Teacher will write the words on the board using a different color for the “wh” or “w” sound, for example: white, wheat, whisper, wheel, whip, whistle, whiskers, waterfall, wave, wig, window, wipers, word, worm, world

ANANSI AND THE TUG O' WAR

Kindergarten

Phonics/Word Work cont.:

• **Phonics Game**

Materials: "Phonics" worksheet, crayons

- Say, "We are going to play a game. Anansi and Elephant played "tug o' war." We are going to play, 'Hear That Sound.' If you hear the 'w' sound at the beginning of a word I say, clap. If I say a word that does not begin with 'w' do not clap. Let the games begin."
(Use sample "w" and "wh" words from the previous section. Mix in words with different beginning sounds.)
- Hand out the "Phonics" worksheet.

Drama:

• **Put on a Face!**

Facial expressions are worth a thousand words.

- You are a mime character. Start with a neutral face. Explain that mimes do not speak.
- Place hands above your head.
- Move them down to cover your face.
- Change your expression behind your hands.
- Move your hands to show the class.
- Let the students tell how you are feeling now.
- Have the class try it using different feelings (happy, sad, angry, surprised etc.)
 - Extension: Take pictures of students' expressions and create a bulletin board. Put the names of the expressions on the bulletin board down one side with Velcro and add a Velcro strip next to each picture. Let the students match up the expression names with the pictures.

Language Arts:

• **Illustrator at work**

Materials: "Draw a Face" worksheet, crayons, pencil

- Write a feelings word bank on the board. Elicit feelings from the class.
 - For example: scared, sad, tired, etc.
- Hand out the "Draw a Face" worksheet.

Have students draw a facial expression depicting how they are feeling.

Fill in: I am feeling _____. (They can use the word bank)

Let the students draw a background scene on the paper explaining how they are feeling. For example, "I am feeling happy. It is my birthday."

Have them draw the birthday celebration.

ANANSI AND THE TUG O' WAR

Kindergarten

Cooking:

• **Making a Jell-o Aquarium**

Materials:

3 packages of blue gelatin

Jelly beans for "gravel"

½ gallon fishbowl or large clean, glass bowl

Gummi fish

A few pieces of kale, or endive for "seaweed"

Directions: Prepare gelatin according to the directions on package, however use ice cubes mixed with the cold water for a quicker set. Make a layer of "gravel" with the jelly beans at the bottom of the bowl. Slowly pour the gelatin into the bowl over a knife blade to keep the liquid from disturbing the jelly beans. Place in the refrigerator until the gelatin is slightly thickened. Place the kale in the bowl using tongs. Add the fish. ENJOY!

ANANSI AND THE TUG O' WAR

Kindergarten

Name _____ Date _____

Big, Bigger, Biggest

Directions: Trace the outlines of the three squares. Color the pictures of the characters. Cut out the squares. Put them in size order: big, bigger, biggest. Glue into the correct space.

Big

Bigger

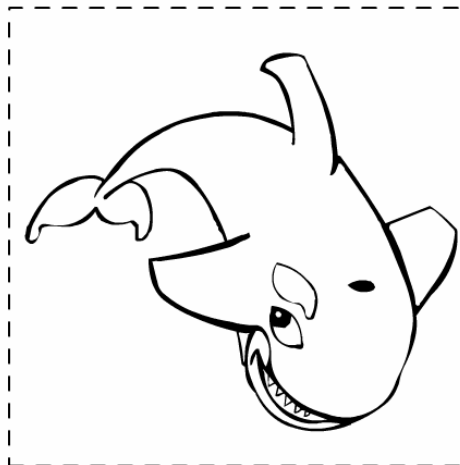
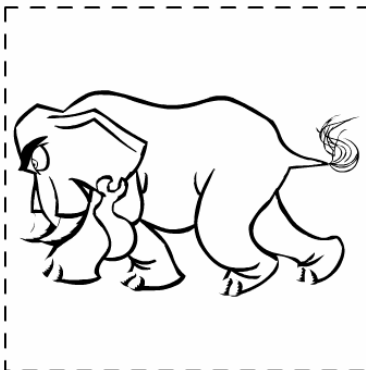
Biggest

Anansi is big.

Elephant is bigger.

Killer whale is biggest of all.

Directions: Read the sentences above. Find the word big and circle it in red. Find the word bigger and circle it in blue. Find the word biggest and circle it in green.



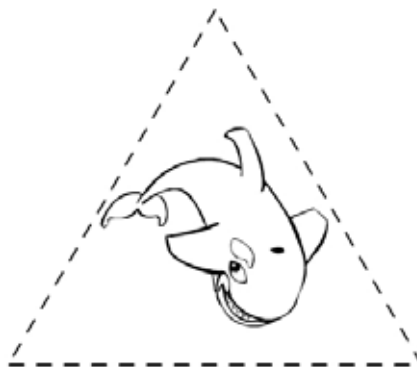
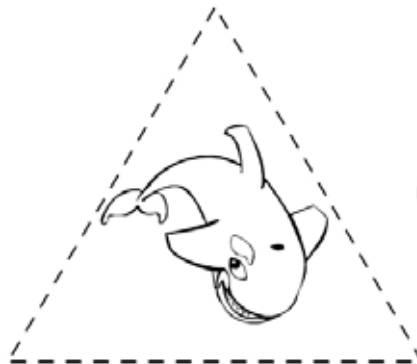
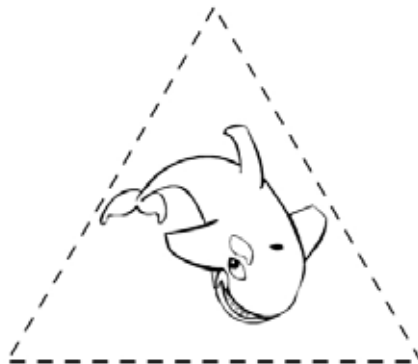
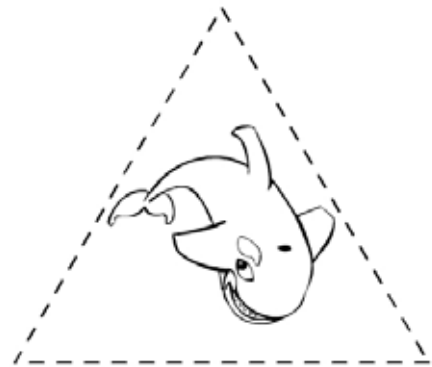
ANANSI AND THE TUG O' WAR

Kindergarten

Name _____ Date _____

Patterns

Directions: Color the characters. Cut out the shapes. Create different patterns using the shapes.



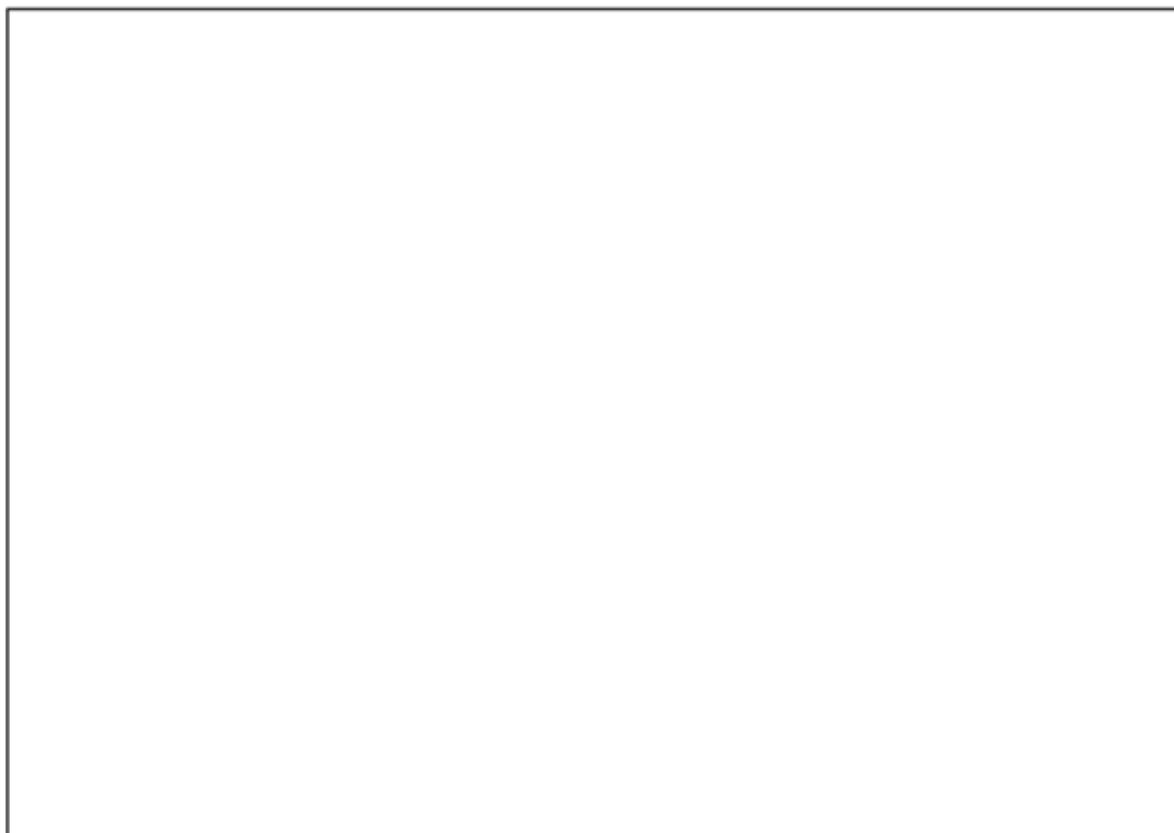
ANANSI AND THE TUG O' WAR

Kindergarten

Name _____ Date _____

Reading Response

Directions: Draw a picture of your favorite part of the story.



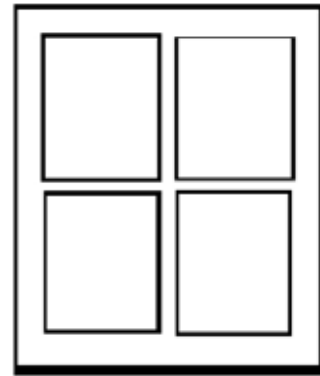
ANANSI AND THE TUG O' WAR

Kindergarten

Name _____ Date _____

Phonics

Directions: Say the name of each picture. Color the pictures that begin with the "wh"/ "w" just as in the word "watch."



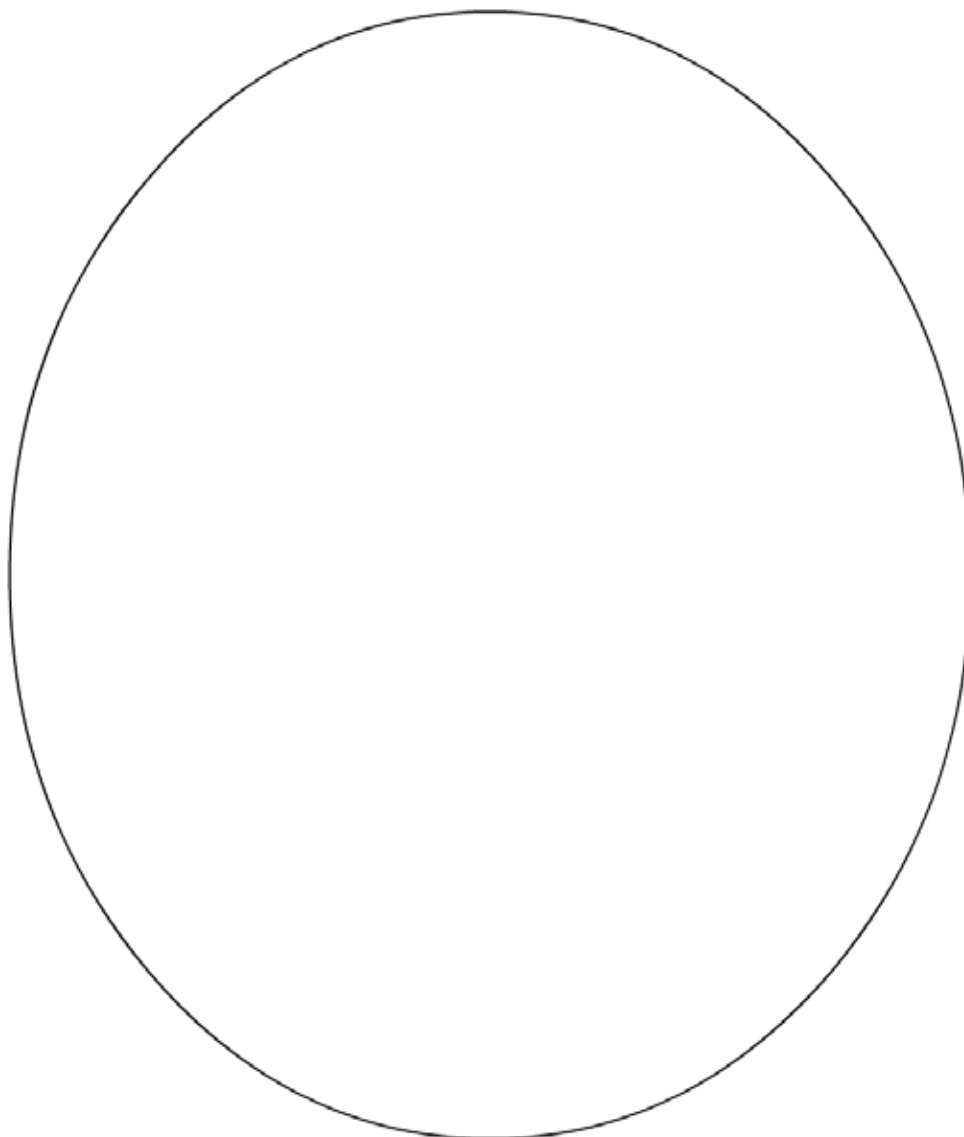
ANANSI AND THE TUG O' WAR

Kindergarten

Name _____ Date _____

Draw a Face

Directions: In the oval below, draw a face that shows how you are feeling. Fill in the blank using a word that describes how you are feeling.



I am feeling _____.