

ANANSI AND THE TUG O' WAR

Pre-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, markers, colored pencils

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

"A Reading Response" worksheet

"Put on a Face" 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?
- Go on a picture walk. As you turn the pages discuss the pictures 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 are the characters doing in the pictures?

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Introduction/Pre-reading cont.:

- Look at the facial expressions of the characters 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**

An activity for differentiated learning

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

- Teacher will draw three circles ascending in size on the board and say, "Big, bigger, biggest."
- Teacher will model things in the class in size order.
 - 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.
- Hand out "Big, Bigger, Biggest" worksheet.

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.

- Divide the students into two groups.

Group A: Complete worksheet as a group with the teacher.

Group B: Complete worksheet individually.

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Writing Readiness:

• **A Response to the Story**

Materials: "Reading Response" worksheet, crayons

Ask students to think about their favorite part 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 as they dictate to you.

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.)

Art:

• **Put on a Face worksheet**

Materials: "Put on a Face" worksheet, crayons

- After playing Put on a Face, hand out the "Put on a Face" worksheet. Students will draw different facial expressions on the faces provided.
- Review with the class how the parts of the face take different shapes depending on how we are feeling.
 - Example: When we are surprised our eyes widen, eyebrows lift up, and mouth drops open.
- You can hand out different materials such as yarn for hair, and buttons for a nose.

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!

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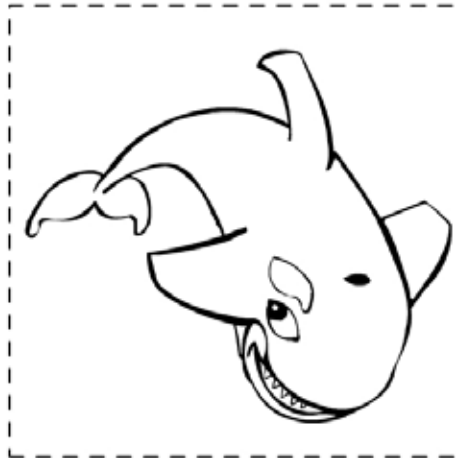
Pre-Kindergarten

Name _____ Date _____

Big, Bigger, Biggest

Directions: Trace the outlines of the three squares on the bottom of the page. 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



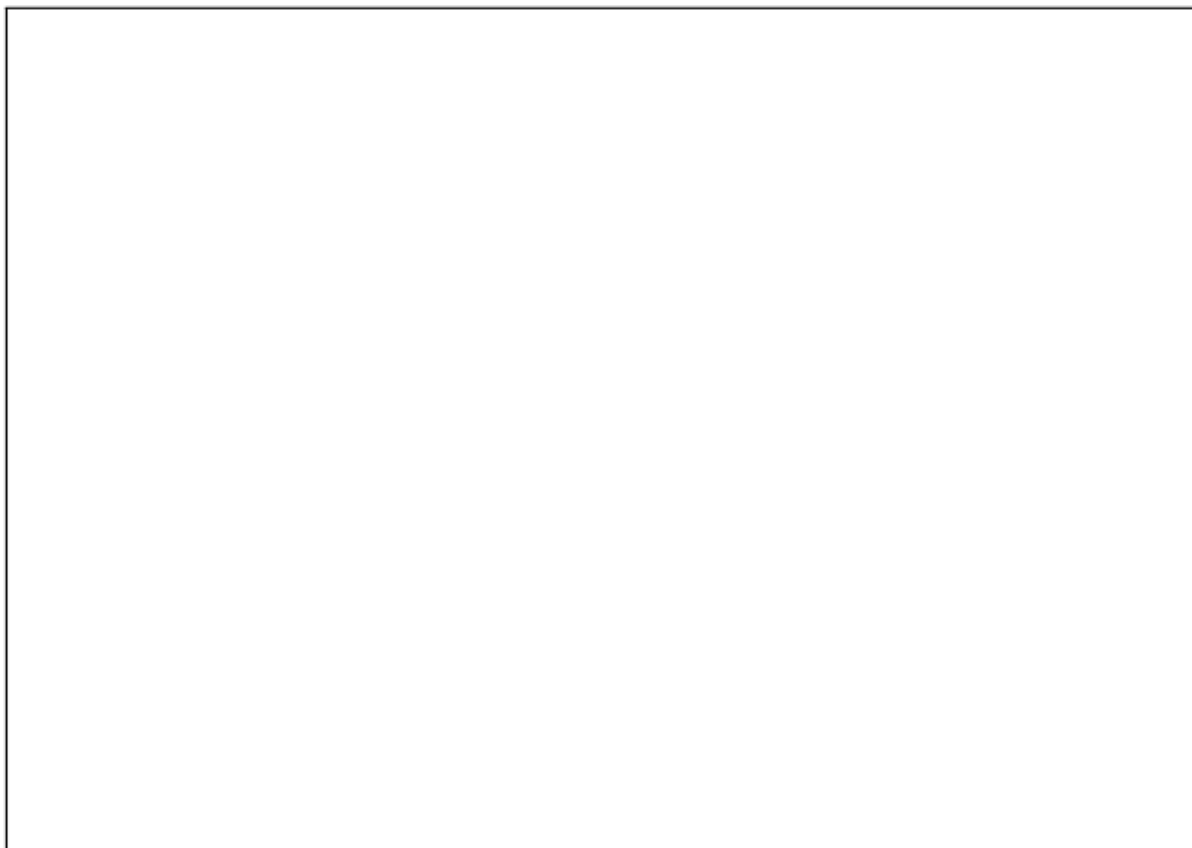
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Name _____ Date _____

A Reading Response

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



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Name _____ Date _____

Put on a Face

Directions: Draw a different feeling in each face. Decorate with hair, hats, earrings, glasses, etc.

