

Short story: "How Anansi Brought Stories to Earth"

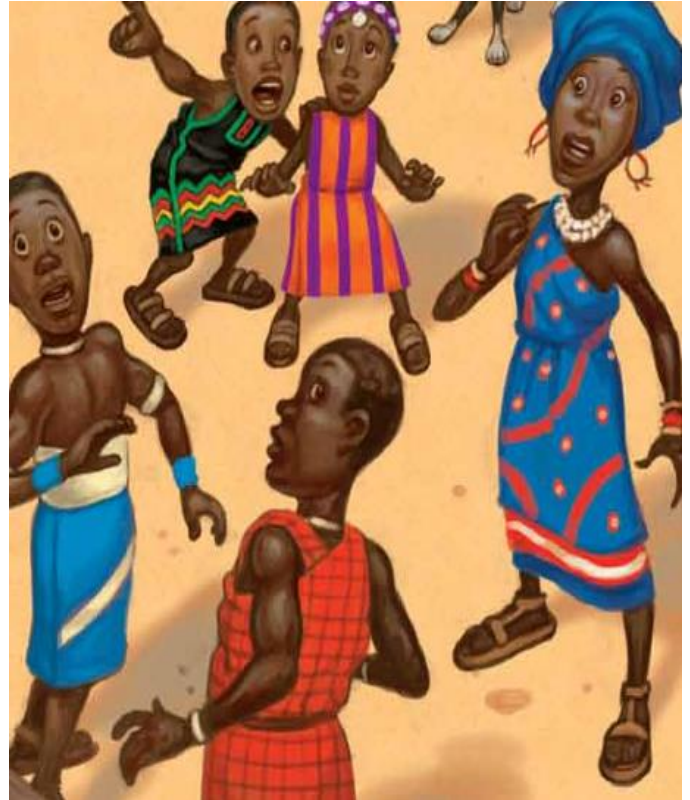
A Folktale from West Africa

(1) BEFORE READING

The tales of Anansi come from West Africa. Anansi is a small spider, who uses his brains to trick animals and humans that are bigger and stronger than he is.

In the tale you are going to read, Anansi plans to bring stories to the world that are kept in the Sky Lord's box. To do so, he might need to trick him, in order to make the stories available to everyone in the world.

What do you think will happen in the story?
Talk to your partner about it.



Write down 10 words that you think will appear in the story.

1.	2.
3.	4.
5.	6.
7.	8.
9.	10.



How do you think Anansi looks like?
Draw a picture of him.

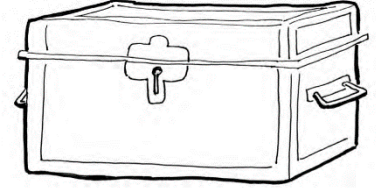
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(2) WHILE READING

Now read the story and finish the tasks in between.

Up in the sky, there lived the sky lord. All stories belonged to him. He hid them in a box and did not share them with anyone. Down on earth, there lived a spider. Not just any spider, but a very clever spider who was very good at tricking others, whose name was Anansi. He wanted to bring those stories to earth, so that everyone could hear them.



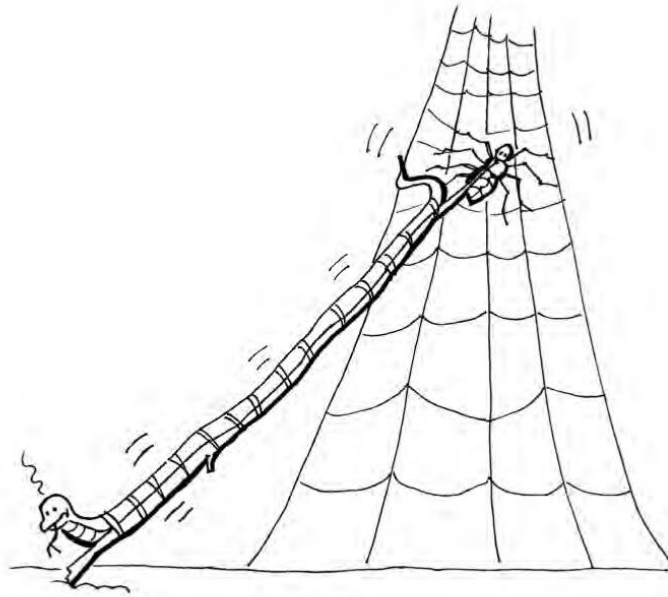
One day, Anansi went up to see the sky lord. "What can I give you for the stories?" he asked. The sky lord laughed loudly at the idea. Then he said, "You must bring me four things. First, the sky lord wanted a snake, who ate things as a whole without chewing them. Second, he wanted a leopard. This leopard had teeth as sharp as spears. Third, he wanted some hornets. These hornets swarmed and stung. Lastly, he wanted a fairy. This fairy was never seen before. The sky lord thought he was smart, because the four things were very hard to get. "How would Anansi get any of them?" he thought to himself. "My stories are safe in the box, and nobody will ever have them but me." But he didn't know that Anansi was not just any spider. He was a very clever spider. So Anansi set off to get the four things.

Before reading on, what will Anansi do, to bring the snake to the Sky Lord? Write it down (5-8 sentences). Then continue reading on page 3.

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First, Anansi took a long pole to the snake's home. "No, he is longer. My wife is wrong," said Anansi. "What are you talking about?" asked the snake. "My wife says that you are shorter than this pole," said Anansi. "But I say you are longer," he added. "Let's see," said the snake and Anansi put down the pole. When the snake lay next to it, Anansi quickly tied up the snake. Stuck to the pole, Anansi was able to take the snake to the sky lord. "This is only one. You have three more to go," said the sky lord. And he smiled a big smile.



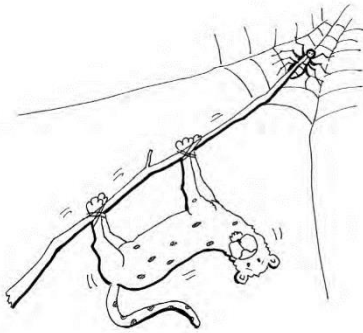
Next, Anansi went to the leopard's home.

How will Anansi bring the leopard to the Sky Lord? **Write down at least 3 sentences.** Then continue reading on page 4.

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There, he dug a deep pit and then he hid it with branches. During the night, the leopard fell into the pit. "Help! I'm stuck!" he cried. Anansi said, "I will help you." He put a long stick into the pit. "Place your paws on this stick," said the spider. And as the cat did, Anansi quickly tied him up. As he did with the snake, Anansi took the leopard to the sky lord as well. "This is only two. You have two more to go," said the sky lord. And he smiled a little less.



Next, Anansi filled a gourd with water and then he looked for a big leaf. He went to the hornet's hive. Anansi shook water over his head and onto the hive. "It is raining!" cried the spider. "See how I cover my head with a leaf?" he called. Anansi told the hornets to fly into his gourd to stay dry. "Thank you!" cried the hornets and flew inside the gourd to protect themselves from the rain. Then Anansi spun a web across the top and the hornets were caught inside. Anansi took the hornets to the sky lord. "This is only three. One to go," he said. And he already started to frown.



Next, Anansi put sticky sap all over a doll. Then, he put yams in the doll's lap. He placed the doll where the fairies played. When finally a fairy came by, she asked the doll, "May I have some yams?" Anansi made the doll nod "yes" by pulling a string tied to its head. "Yummy! May I have some more?" asked the fairy. The doll did not answer. "How rude!", said the fairy. And it pushed the doll. The fairy stuck to the sap, and Anansi quickly tied it up as he had done it with all the other animals. Finally, Anansi took the fairy to the sky lord. "This is four. No more to go," grumbled the sky lord. "You have done what no other has," he said. So the sky lord gave the box to Anansi and Anansi brought the stories to earth....**Where stories are for telling, not hiding.**















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(3) AFTER READING

Find the correct match and enter the numbers from the left in the empty grey boxes.

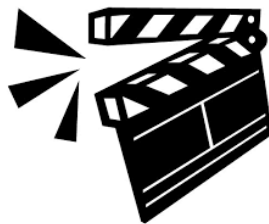
(NOTE: there is always a picture AND a German expression for each English word)

1	sharp as spears	Flaschen Kürbis		7	pit	Fee	
2	hornet's hive	(Erd)loch		8	to spin a web	sich aufmachen, aufbrechen	
3	to frown	festbinden		9	gourd	Klebriger Saft (vom Baum)	
4	fairy	Hornissenest		10	paw	Jamswurzel	
5	yams	Pfote		11	to tie up	die Stirn runzeln	
6	sticky sap	scharf wie ein Speer		12	to set off to	ein Netz spinnen	

Now, in groups of 2 or 3, you will be assigned a scene of the tale. Make a 2 minute video out of it on *flipgrid*. We will watch all the scenes afterwards in class.

Code _____

- Think of what you want to do before
- Write down some notes of what you want to say
- Don't read from the script in your video!!
- Try to use as many words from the activity above as possible.



Goals:

- students *become familiar with the genre* of folktales (can be followed up by a writing task or a comparison to other (Austrian) tales.
- students practise reading; discover that reading can be fun
- students activate their creative thinking skills and practise predictions, when individually continuing the story.
- students learn to work in groups/on a project together
- students practise their oral skills by acting out scenes on video