

Jessica Lange
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Trade Book Sheet

Title of book: Anansi the Spider

Author's Name: adapted by Gerald McDermott

Publisher: Holt, Rinehart, and Winston

Copyright Year: 1972

Reading Level: Lexile 290, Grade 1

Genre: Multicultural folktale

Synopsis: Anansi the Spider is a folktale from the Ashanti people of Ghana, Africa. Anansi means spider. Anansi had six sons, each with a different gift and a name that reflected their gift. Anansi went on a long journey and he got into trouble. His son See Trouble knew his father was in danger, and he alerted his brothers. The Road Builder son built a road to get to his father, and when they got to him, he had been swallowed by a fish. River Drinker son took a drink and emptied the river. Game Skinner split open the fish to let out Anansi. Just then, a falcon scooped up Anansi, and Stone Thrower threw a stone at the bird. The falcon dropped Anansi onto his son, Cushion, who made his landing soft. On the way home, the family found a bright ball of light in the forest. Anansi said he would give it to the son that saved him. He could not decide which son to give it to since they all helped, so he gave it to Nyame to keep until he could decide. They argued all night, and Nyame saw this. He took the light and put it in the sky, where it is still (the moon).

Standard:1.2.2 Identify text that uses sequence or other logical order

Activity: Read the story to the students. Discuss why the order of the story is important and how each brother comes in to save his dad with his own talent at the right time. Discuss how the story would be different if the brother's attempt to save their father happened in a different order

(cushion came during the time when his dad was in the fish, etc). Put students in groups of 6 (one to represent each son), and assign each group member a son to represent. Have the students create masks or posters to represent their character. The groups figure out the sequence of the story by re-enacting it as a group, with each character describing what they did and why. Have each group present their sequence to the class, with each student telling who they represent and why they come in the order that they do.

Standard:1.5.1 Identify one's own individual talents, interests, and hobbies, as well as the talents and interests of others. (social studies)

Activity: Read the story of Anansi and discuss the different talents of each son. Have students define what a talent is in a group discussion and give examples. Students will brainstorm their own talents in their journals to be used in their talent booklets. The teacher will give the students half sheets of construction paper, stapled together to form a book. Students will create a talent book for themselves. They will draw pictures of their talents and write or dictate their talents to the teacher to write in the booklet. They can show their books to the class if they choose and use them as reading material later.

(original ideas by Jessica Lange)