STORY GUIDE

Anansi Tries to Steal All the Wisdom of the World

Read by: Nick Cannon

morals and themes

Honesty, Sharing

general comprehension questions

• Where does the story take place?
• Who are the characters?
• Who is your favorite character and why?
• Which character don’t you like and why?
• What are the problems the characters face?
• How do they solve these problems?
• How does the story end?
• What lesson does this story teach you?

discussion questions

• What does Anansi mean in Akan?
• Why do you think Anansi wanted to keep all the wisdom in the world for himself?
• Why do you think everyone wanted to share their wisdom with Anansi?
• What did Anansi’s son tell him that changed his mind about keeping the gourd for himself?
• What do you think is the best way to share your wisdom?

extension questions

• What other stories does this remind you of?
• How does this story relate to your own life?
• Write an alternate ending for the story.
• Write your own version of what happens next.

research activity

• Where do most of them live?
• Can you find where they live on a map?
• What is one job that their culture is known for?

notes on this adaptation

"Anansi Tries to Steal the Wisdom of the World" is one of several folk tales from the Akan people. Several versions exist that detail Anansi’s trickster ways and the moral lessons we can learn from each. The Speakaboos version stresses the valuable lesson of sharing one’s talents with the world. We highlighted the town’s willingness to share their wisdom with Anansi, as well as his son’s sound advice at the end of the story. This is a great story to introduce a talent show or some other sharing activity in your classroom!