



### Traditional Tales - Anansi and the Moss-Covered Rock

#### **Resource Pack by Siobhan Skeffington**

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#### Introduction

This **Resource Pack** has been written for KS1 (Years 1 and 2). However, most of the content could be adapted for LKS2 (Years 3 and 4) too. The lesson plans address the main skills in the reading and writing journey:

- The big question probing deeper thinking around a topic
- Vocabulary exploring any unfamiliar vocabulary / pre-teaching
- Reading skills linked to the curriculum skills
- Bringing the text to life immersing children in the text / clip
- Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling application of a skill
- · Main writing activity including opportunities to plan
- Proof-reading / Editing making simple revisions and additions
- Additional writing activities opportunities to extend elarning and master skills

All of the Resource Sheets can be found within the Pack. However any words **that appear in blue** are hyperlinked to the online location of the resource, allowing you to conveniently display resources on a web page or to print individual resources.

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### 1: Anansi and the Moss-Covered Rock - Part one

#### Introduction

Anansi the Spider is walking in the forest when he stumbles upon a magic rock. When he says the words 'Is not this a strange, moss-covered rock!' he falls asleep. When he wakes up he gets an idea - if only he can trick the other animals into saying the magic words he will be able to find their food and eat it! First Anansi tricks Snake and eats his pineapple. Then he tricks Lion and eats her bananas. The animals are not happy when they find out.

#### The big question(s)

- What country does this story come from? (Ghana.)
- What is 'magic'?
- Is playing a trick just having fun?

#### Vocabulary to discuss

Share Resource Sheet 1 - the Vocobuarly sheet.

Further discussion needed: *strange*, *explanation*, *magical*, *juicy*, *delighted*, *comfort* 

#### Reading activity: what do you remember?

Using context clues to help with understanding
Watch Episode 1 of the story and read the Illustrated text - Resource
Sheet 2. Context clues can help you work out unfamiliar phrases or
words in a story or information book. These clues can be found in the
words and sentences surrounding the unknown word / phrase.

Look at the first extract on **Resource Sheet 3**. Read through it carefully.

- 1. What does the underlined phrase mean 'caught my attention'?
- 2. What strange thing happened to Anansi?
- 3. What was he trying to remember? (He was trying to remember the strange sequence so he could work out what happened. Children can use their own words.)
- 4. What did notice?
- 5. Then what did he work out?
- 6. What is another way of saying *caught his attention*? What would synonyms be?
- 7. What are synonyms of *caught my attention*? (Grabbed / get / drew / attracted my attention.)
- 8. Can you put it in your own words? (*He suddenly noticed / saw a rock*. Children can use their own words.)

Look at the second extract on **Resource Sheet 3**. Read through it carefully.

- 1. What does the underlined word suspicious mean?
- 2. What was Anansi up to?
- 3. Why was snake guarding his juicy pineapple? (Snake didn't trust Anansi as he knew he liked playing tricks.)
- 4. What are synonyms of suspicious? (Unsure / wary.)
- 5. Can you put it in your own words? (Snake wasn't sure if Anansi was playing or trick or just being friendly. Children can use their own words.)

#### Bringing the text to life

Song: 'Anansi the Spider'

Read the lyrics of 'Anansi the Spider' below - **Resource Sheet 4**. Add actions to the poem when the particular words are mentioned. Suggested actions:

- · Anansi: movement like Incy Wincy spider
- · 'break the rules': like breaking an egg





- 'clever': a flash of the hand like a light bulb going off in your head
- · Ask the children to add their own actions to the song.
- · Reread the song adding in all the new actions.

#### **Anansi the Spider**

Anansi is a spider
Who loves to break the rules
He's really rather clever
'Though he's never been to school
He goes just where he pleases
No one knows where to
You may or may not like him
It's really up to you!

(Chorus)

His name's Anansi!
And he's the greatest spider!
He's Anansi!
Watch out or he'll trick ya!
You may see him in the country
You may see him in the town
But when you turn and look again
Anansi is gone!

Anansi writes the rule book
A rule book just for him
He always likes to have a joke
He always likes to win
If he's standing by you
My advice: 'Watch out!'
'Cause nothing ever goes to plan
When he's about!

#### **Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling**

Why do we use conjunctions?

Conjunctions join shorter sentences together or help to add information in a sentence. We often use *or*, *and*, *but*, *when*, *if*, *that*, *because* to join sentences.

Look through **Resource Sheet 2** - the Illustrated text - to find where conjunctions have been used.

Share Resource Sheet 5: Conjunctions. Use one or more conjunctions (or, and, but, when, if, that, because) to complete these sentences:

1. Anansi must have been asleep for a whole night \_\_\_\_\_ a day!

2. Anansi slept \_\_\_\_\_ he finally woke up the sun was shining.

3. Lion was upset \_\_\_\_\_ Anansi had eaten his bananas.

4. Anansi wondered \_\_\_\_\_ it was a magical rock.

5. Anansi was clever\_\_\_\_ greedy.

#### Main writing activity

Writing instructions

Anansi has taken food from two animals using his clever trick. But what if he should forget how the trick works? Imagine you are Anansi and you are writing instructions for your sister for how the trick works.

Who is your audience? Anansi's sister, Abina.

Write detailed instructions for how Abina should trick the next animal.

- Imagine you are Anansi writing and write in the second person. *First* you ask them to go for a walk.
- · Choose the animal.
- Choose the food they are guarding.
- Retell the story up to the end of Part 1.



- Go through the order Anansi's sister needs to follow.
- When they have agreed to go with you what do you need to do next?
- Use sequencing vocabulary to organise your instructions such as *first*, second, then, finally.
- You can use Resource Sheet 6 the branded Writing sheet to write out your instruction.

#### **Proof-reading / Editing**

Checking and amending your work

Read through the instructions you wrote for Anansi's sister.

- · Check the sentences make sense.
- Correct the spellings.
- Check the punctuation capital letters and full stops.
- Check it is written in the second person: you
- Is it written in the correct order?
- Use a different coloured pen.

#### Suggested order:

- 1. Asking the animal to walk to the forest.
- 2. Taking them to the rock.
- 3. Tricking them into saying the magical words 'Isn't this a strange, moss-covered rock!'.
- 4. Eating the animal's hidden food.

#### **Additional writing activities**

- What do you think will happen next? Write the next part of the story.
- Write a prequel to the story about the origins of the magic rock.
- · Design a home for Anansi. Where do you think he might live?
- Use Resource Sheet 7 the Illustration of Anansi and write words to describe his character (such as clever, quick, sly, funny...)

### 2: Anansi and the Moss-Covered Rock - Part two

#### Introduction

Anansi's trick has worked so well that he has played it on all the animals in the forest - all except one: Little Deer. She was also very clever, like Anansi, and has managed to stay hidden and watch as Anansi tricked each of the otehr animals. She felt sad the animals had lost their food and decided to do something about it. She discovers that the magical rock is quite prickly and that gives her the idea for how to trick Anansi back.

#### The big question(s)

- What would it be like to live in the place where the story is set?
- What is it like to be in someone else's shoes?
- · Can you take a joke and laugh at yourself?

#### Vocabulary to discuss

Share Resource Sheet 1 - the Vocabulary sheet.

Further discussion needed: *going hungry*, *knobbly bits*, *ordinary*, *prickly*, *frown*, *scowl* 

#### Reading activity: what do you remember?

Using sequencing skills

Watch the episode. You could also read the Illustrated text - **Resource Sheet 8**. Then use **Resource Sheet 9** - the Sequencing activity - and ask children to sequence the events of the story.



- Number the sentences and match them to the pictures in the sequencing activity so they are in the correct order.
- Remind the children it is a sequencing activity across the whole story (not just Episode 2).
- Little Deer waited with the delicious watermelons for Anansi to come.
- Anansi wondered what had just happened.
- Anansi asked Lion to go for a walk with him in the cool forest.
- Snake liked the idea of going to the forest.
- Anansi crept through the forest to find Little Deer.
- Little Deer tried to get Anansi to say the magic words.
- Lion was upset because Anansi had eaten his food.
- Anansi sat on the prickly rock.

#### Bringing the text to life

Act out the story

- Retell the full story with Anansi tricking all the animals.
- Act out each animal character.
- Movements can be whole body or just the arms.
- Suggested movements could be:
  - slithering for Snake's 'SSSSSS'
  - bounding movements for Lion's 'roaring'
- Other animals: Monkey, Elephant, Hippo and Turtle. Think what food they may be guarding.
- Suggested movements could be:
  - under-arm movements with 'Ooh ooh ooh' for Monkey
  - long swinging arms as trunks for Elephant
  - Hippo bobbing up and down in the river
  - Turtle hiding in their shell
- Children could choose their own movements for Little Deer and Anansi (although these could be quick twitching movements for Little Deer and Incy Wincy movements for Anansi if they aren't sure).

Once the children have practised the animal's movements and decided what food they are guarding:

- Retell the story adding in what happens to the other animals.
- Act the story out as it is being retold.

#### **Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling**

Apostrophes for possession

Recap apostrophes for possession: they are used to show when something belongs to someone. Use Resource Sheet 2 and Resource Sheet 8 - the Illustrated texts - to identify where apostrophes have been used for possession.

Look at **Resource Sheet 10**. Write a phrase to show who owns the item in each picture.

Rewrite the sentence using an apostrophe for possession.

It is the friend that belongs to Anansi.

It is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (It is Anansi's friend.)

Can you write your own sentences using an apostrophe for possession?

#### Main writing activity

Write the next part of the story

Little Deer has played the trick on Anansi and all the animals including Anansi have laughed!

- · What trick will Anansi play next?
- What adventure will he get up to? Maybe moving their homes so they get confused or disguising himself as something funny..?
- · What ideas do you have?





- Plan your story first. Use Resource Sheet 11 to plan the story in sections: beginning, middle and end.
- How will it start? Who will be the main characters?
- What will be the trick that Anansi plays?
- How will the story be resolved? Will Anansi get caught again?

#### **Proof-reading / Editing**

Correct the mistakes

Share the upper portion of **Resource Sheet 12** having first cut along the dotted line.

- Check the sentences make sense.
- Correct the spellings.
- Check the punctuation: capital letters, full stops and question marks.
- · Check if any apostrophes for possession or contraction are missing.
- · Use a different coloured pen.
- There are nine errors to find. Check you have got them all on the answer sheet (the lower portion of the Resource Sheet).

Crash! Bang! As soon as the words came from Anansi's mouth he flopped down fast asleep and he slept and slept and slept! And when Anansi finally woke up - one whole night and a day later - all the animals were gathered round, laughing. But did Anansi frown and scowl? Not at all! Anansi joined in! The joke was on him for now...but Anansi knew that soon he'd be back to his tricks!

#### Additional writing activities

- Share Resource Sheet 13 and complete the Word search puzzle.
- Share Resource Sheet 14 the Outline drawing of Anansi. Describe
  to someone who has never seen Anansi what he looks like and then
  colour Anansi in to match it.
- Share Resource Sheet 15 the Outline drawing of Little Deer. Colour in Little Deer and write a list of all the things she did to trick Anansi.

#### Other Resource Packs from BBC Teach

#### KS1



#### Tiddalik the Frog

The traditional Aborigine 'Dreamtime' story of a very thirsty frog called Tiddalik is told in two episodes.



Lakshmi and the Clever Washerwoman

The traditional Hindu tale of the goddess Lakshmi returning at Diwali is told in two episodes.



#### Little Red Riding Hood

The traditional tale is told in seven short animated video episodes.



#### Jack and the Beanstalk

The story is told in 14 short animations. The Pack is crammed with suggestions for learning activities.

#### KS2



#### Carrie's War

Explore Nina Bawden's classic story of two children evacuated to Wales at the start of World War 2.



#### Treasure Island

Robert Louis Stevenson's classic pirate tale is explored through a variety of learning activities.



#### A Midsummer Night's Dream

Shakespeare's comedy is told in eight short animations in a specially-written adaptation for KS2.

## Anansi and the Moss-Covered Rock







Snake



Lion



**Anansi** 



rock



pineapple



bananas



forest



watermelon



bush



stones



moss



# Anansi and the Moss-Covered Rock **Part** one



One evening, Anansi was out walking in the forest when he tripped over something. Hhmmm. It was a large rock...covered in deep-green moss.

'What a surprise!' said Anansi. 'Isn't this a strange, mosscovered rock!' Crash! Bang! At that very moment Anansi dropped on all eight of his legs to the forest floor. His eyes rolled and everything went black...



Anansi slept and slept and slept and when he finally awoke the sun was shining.

Anansi scratched his head. There could only be one explanation. He must have been asleep for a whole night and a day!



'What happened?' Anansi muttered, as he tried to remember. 'The rock caught my attention. Then I said: "Isn't this a strange, moss-covered rock!"' Crash! Bang! It happened again! Anansi's eight legs flopped under him and he slept and slept and





When Anansi woke this time he knew exactly what had happened. The rock is magical! Every time someone says those words - which I don't dare repeat - they fall into a deep sleep lasting one whole night and a day!'

Suddenly he felt rather excited.

'Ah, ha! This gives me an idea for how I can get a free meal!' he said. 'And I can't wait to try it!'



Anansi went in search of Snake and found him curled up by some stones guarding his dinner - a lovely, juicy pineapple.

'Good day, Snake! I know how much you like to shelter from the sun. Come for a walk with me in the cool, dark forest!'



Snake felt a bit suspicious after all, everyone knew about
Anansi and his tricks! But still,
he liked the idea of a walk in the
cool forest. So, he replied, 'I will
indeed come with you!'

Anansi led Snake through the forest, all the way to the magical rock.



'What's this?' he said to Snake.

Snake took a good look. 'Isn't this a strange, moss-covered rock!'

Crash! Bang! As soon as the words came from Snake's mouth he flopped down fast asleep!

Anansi knew Snake wouldn't wake up for one whole night and a day - and that gave him plenty of time to go back to Snake's home and gobble up his pine-apple.



When Snake finally woke up, Anansi was nowhere to be seen. And how Snake hissed with anger as he returned home to find he'd been tricked!

Anansi was delighted! But he was still hungry and couldn't wait to play his trick again. So this time he went in search of Lion and found her resting under a bush, a pile of bananas between her paws.



'Oh Lion, it is hot today, isn't it?' he said. 'But I have found a lovely cool place where you can rest in comfort. Come for a walk with me in the forest.'



Lion too was a bit suspicious. But she replied: 'I will indeed come with you!'

Anansi led Lion through the forest, all the way to the magical rock.

'What's this?' he said to Lion.

Lion took a good look. 'Isn't this a strange, moss-covered rock!'



Crash! Bang! As soon as the words came from Lion's mouth she fell down, fast asleep - giving Anansi plenty of time to go back to her bush and gobble up her bananas.

One whole night and day later when Lion woke up Anansi was nowhere to be seen.



And how Lion roared with anger when she returned home to find her bananas gone.

Of course, Anansi was delighted!
The trick was working so well! But he was still hungry.

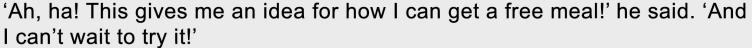
So who should he trick next?

#### **Resource Sheet 3: Finding synonyms**

'What a surprise!' said Anansi. 'Isn't this a strange, moss-covered rock!' Crash! Bang! At that very moment Anansi dropped on all eight of his legs to the forest floor. His eyes rolled and everything went black...

Anansi slept and slept and slept and when he finally awoke the sun was shining. Anansi scratched his head. There could only be one explanation. He must have been asleep for a whole night and a day!

'What happened?' Anansi muttered, as he tried to remember. 'The rock caught my attention. Then I said: "Isn't this a strange, moss-covered rock!"' Crash! Bang! It happened again! Anansi's eight legs flopped under him and he slept and slept and slept.



Anansi went in search of Snake and found him curled up by some stones guarding his dinner - a lovely, juicy pineapple. 'Good day, Snake! I know how much you like to shelter from the sun. Come for a walk with me in the cool, dark forest!'

Snake felt a bit <u>suspicious</u> - after all, everyone knew about Anansi and his tricks! But still, he liked the idea of a walk in the cool forest. So, he replied, 'I will indeed come with you!'



### **Anansi the Spider**

1 Anansi is a spider
Who loves to break the rules
He's really rather clever
'Though he's never been to school
He goes just where he pleases
No one knows where to
You may or may not like him
It's really up to you!

(Chorus)
His name's Anansi!
And he's the greatest spider!
He's Anansi!
Watch out or he'll trick ya!
You may see him in the country
You may see him in the town
But when you turn and look again
Anansi is gone!

2 Anansi writes the rule book A rule book just for him He always likes to have a joke He always likes to win If he's standing by you My advice: 'Watch out!' 'Cause nothing ever goes to plan When he's about!

(Chorus)
His name's Anansi!
And he's the greatest spider!
He's Anansi!
Watch out or he'll trick ya!
You may see him in the country
You may see him in the town
But when you turn and look again
Anansi is gone!



Anansi is a joker
He's clever and headstrong
He loves to play his tricks on you
Although they can go wrong
This never seems to put him off
He'll just shrug and then...
Up he'll get, with a grin!
And start all over again!

(Chorus)
His name's Anansi!
And he's the greatest spider!
He's Anansi!
Watch out or he'll trick ya!
You may see him in the country
You may see him in the town
But when you turn and look again
Anansi is gone!

#### **Resource Sheet 5: Conjunctions**

Use one or more of these conjunctions to complete the sentences:

or and but when if that because



Anansi must have been asleep for a whole night \_\_\_\_\_ a day!



Anansi slept \_\_\_\_\_ he finally woke up the sun was shining.



Lion was upset \_\_\_\_\_ Anansi had eaten her bananas.

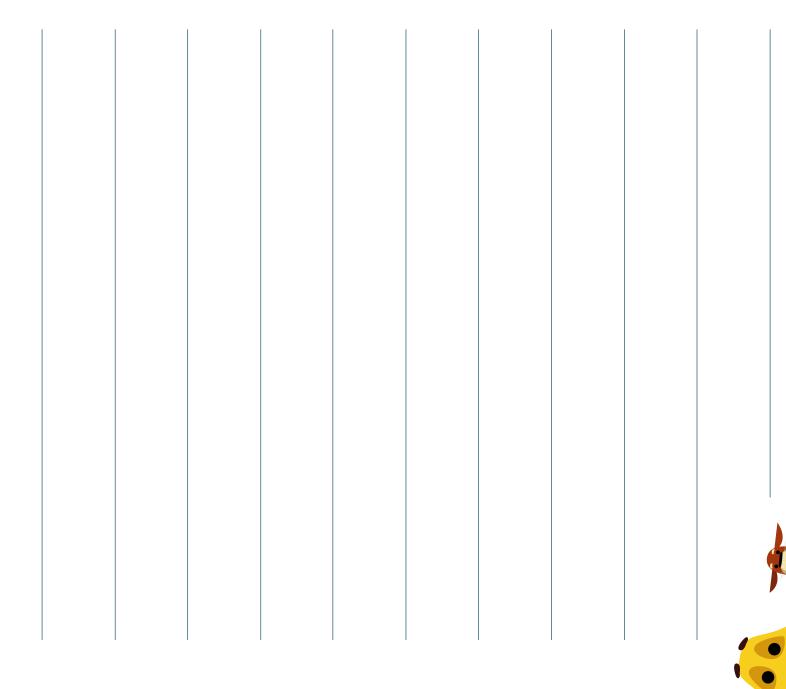


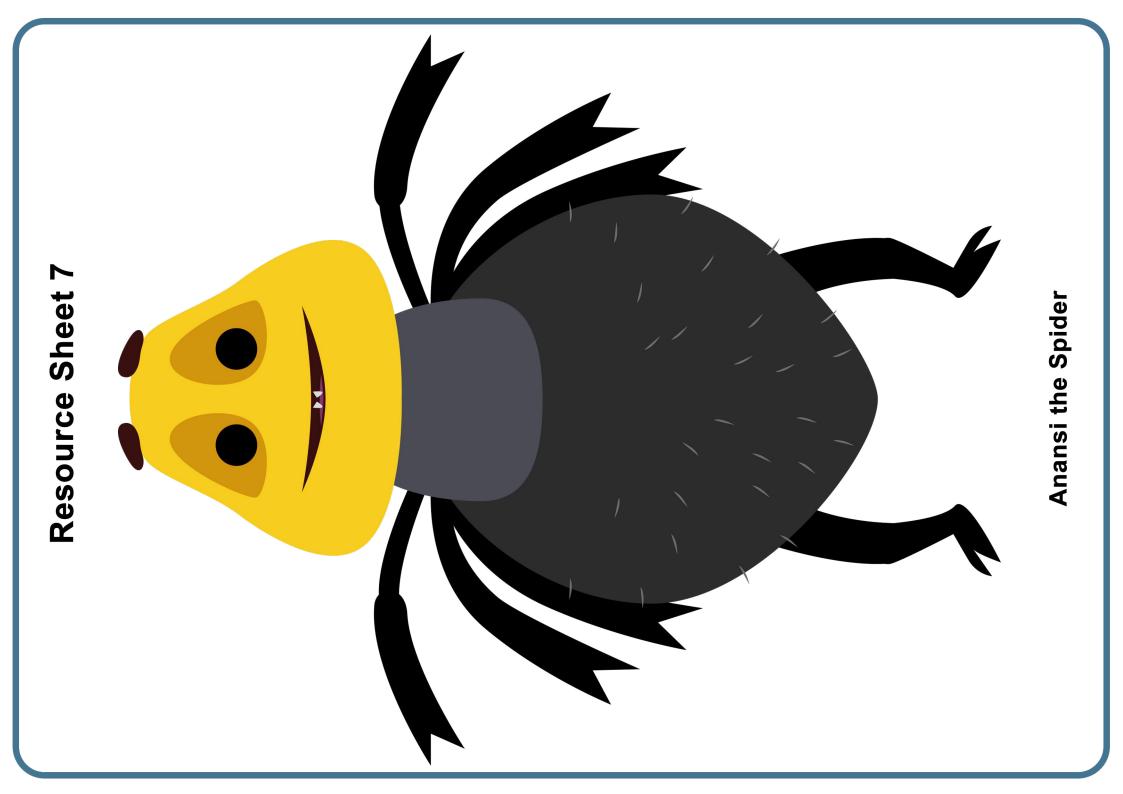
Anansi wondered \_\_\_\_\_ it was a magical rock.



Anansi was clever \_\_\_\_\_ greedy.

## and the Moss-Covered Rock Anansi





# Anansi and the Moss-Covered Rock Part two



Anansi's trick to get food from Snake and Lion had worked so well he couldn't wait to play the trick again. Before long Anansi had played his trick on every single creature. Except one.

Little Deer was small and could move quickly through the forest without being seen. And Little Deer had been watching each time Anansi had tricked the other animals for their food.

'It makes me feel sad to see the animals going hungry. It's time to do something about it. I'm going to play Anansi at his own game!'

First Little Deer went to the moss-covered rock. She walked around the rock. Hmmm. Unusual coloured moss...knobbly bits...it did indeed look rather strange!



Next Little Deer lowered her head to feel the moss with her nose.



It felt very strange indeed. In fact, it felt so strange, it gave Little Deer an idea...





Next Little Deer went to a secret place in the forest where watermelons grew. She knew Anansi loved these sweet, juicy fruits, so she collected as many as she could, returned home and settled down to wait...

All this time, Anansi was just a short distance away, at his own home in the forest.

'He! He! So far I have tricked Snake, Lion, Monkey, Elephant, Hippo and Turtle! That leaves just one creature - Little Deer.



I shall have to be careful though. Little Deer is clever - nearly as clever as I am!' Anansi made his way through the forest to where Little Deer lived.

'Ah, good afternoon, Anansi! I've been expecting you...'



'Uh-oh, this isn't a good start,' thought Anansi. 'If Little Deer has been expecting me, she must know what I've been up to.'

But when Anansi saw the watermelons he forgot about all else! 'Little Deer, it is rather hot in the forest today, isn't it? But I've found a lovely soft, cool place. Would you like me to show you?'



'I would indeed, Anansi. Do please lead the way.'

Anansi took Little Deer through the forest to the moss-covered rock.

'Oh look!' he said. 'What's this?'

Little Deer took a good look. 'I don't know,' she replied.

'Yes, you do!'

'No, I don't!'



Anansi folded two of his legs. 'Oh yes you do! Isn't this a strange, moss-covered...'

Just in time Anansi stopped himself from saying the last word!

'I know you're trying to trick me, Little Deer. But I'm not going to say the words you want me to say.'



'And what words are they?'

'Isn't this a strange, mosscovered...' Anansi nearly said the words again right there and then! He would have to be very careful indeed!

'I won't say the words, no matter how hard you make me try!'



Little Deer moved closer. 'You're quite right. I do know about the magic words. Indeed, I have tried to trick you into saying them. But, Anansi, you're just too clever to do that.'

Anansi gave a little smile. 'Yes, I am rather clever, aren't I?' Little Deer nodded her head and then she pointed to the moss-covered rock.

'I'm so tired! And that moss looks so lovely and soft. Won't you sit down with me?'



It had been a long day and Anansi felt rather tired too. 'That's a good idea, Little Deer,' he said, as he lowered himself onto the rock...

'Yee-ow!' Anansi was back on his feet in a moment. 'How very odd! That moss is prickly like brambles! Isn't this a strange, moss-covered rock!'



Crash! Bang! As soon as the words came from Anansi's mouth he flopped down fast asleep and he slept and slept!

And when Anansi finally woke up, one whole night and a day later, all the animals were gathered round, laughing. But did Anansi frown and scowl? Not at all! Anansi joined in! The joke was on him for now...but Anansi knew that soon he'd be back to his tricks!



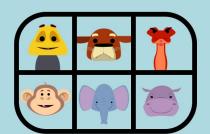
#### **Resource Sheet 10: Apostrophes to show possession**

Write a phrase with an apostrophe to show who owns the fruit in each picture.

Rewrite this sentence in the box below using an apostrophe for possession:  It is the friend that belongs to Anansi.
Make up a sentence of your own with an apostrophe to show possession.

#### **Resource Sheet 11: Story planning**

Use this sheet to help you plan the next part of the story.



Title of my story

Character(s)

Beginning - what is an interesting start for the story? Where is it set?



Middle - what problems happen to your characters?



End - how do the problems get sorted out in the end?

#### **Resource Sheet 12: Find the mistakes**

Correct the spelling and punctuation using a coloured pen.

There are nine mistakes to find. Then check your work with the answer sheet.

Crash! Bang! as soon as the words came from anansis mouth he flopped down fast asleep and he slept and slept and slept! And when Anansi finally woke up - won whole Knight and a day later - all the animals were gathered round, laughing But did Anansi frown and scowl. Not at all! Anansi joined in! the joke was on him for now...but Anansi knew that soon hed be back to his tricks!

X

Crash! Bang! As soon as the words came from Anansi's mouth he flopped down fast asleep and he slept and slept and slept! And when Anansi finally woke up - one whole night and a day later - all the animals were gathered round, laughing. But did Anansi frown and scowl? Not at all! Anansi joined in! The joke was on him for now...but Anansi knew that soon he'd be back to his tricks!

# and the Moss-Covered Rock Anansi

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ANANSI LITTLE DEER ROCK PINEAPPLE MAGICAL

SNAKE MOSS LION BANANAS FOREST



