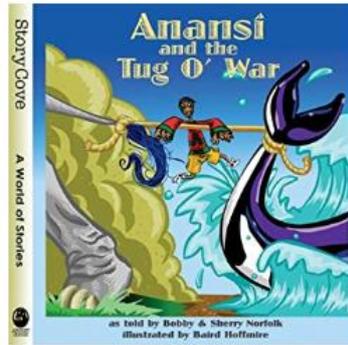


Anansi Stories 1: Anansi and the Tug o' War



You can **listen** to the story on Audible by following this QR code:



Scan the QR code above to find the free Audiobook of the Anansi story 'Anansi and the Tug o' War', written by Bobby and Sherry Norfolk.

The Anansi stories were first told in Ghana and in the Caribbean. They are considered "trickster" folktales because Anansi, the spider in the tales, tries to trick other creatures. These stories were originally part of a tradition where elders (the older people in the family) told them to their children to pass down knowledge and moral messages to the younger generations. In this way, you are encouraged to **listen** along. Download the **Audible App** and then you can listen on a phone or tablet.

Listen to the story all the way through (approximately 5 minutes long) and answer the following questions. You will find some sentence starters and definitions below to help you:

- At the beginning of the story, why did Anansi grumble?
Anansi grumbled because
- Why do you think Anansi challenged the Elephant to a 'Tug of War'?
I think Anansi challenged the Elephant to a 'Tug of War' because
- What do the words 'Let the games begin' tell us about Anansi?
I think Anansi's words 'Let the games begin' tell us that he
- Why do you think the Elephant laughed when Anansi challenged him?
I think the Elephant laughed when Anansi challenged him because
- Explain why Anansi's trick was clever.
Anansi's trick was clever because
- What lesson did Anansi teach the larger animals?
He taught the larger animals to

Some helpful vocabulary definitions from the chapter to help you:

elephant's hide	grumble	an ox	taut	Tug of War	water-skiing	beached	figured out
an elephant's tough, leathery skin	complain	a type of bull	pulled tight	a game played where a long, thick piece of rope is pulled by people on both ends. Whoever pulls the rope towards them first is the winner and is declared the strongest	a sport where someone wearing skis is pulled along the surface of the water behind a boat	stuck on a beach	worked out

Optional linked writing task: Imagine you are the Elephant in the story. Write a letter to someone in your family telling them about the strange, unbelievable day you have had (remember, the elephant thinks he was beaten by a spider)!

You might want to start like this:

Dear Mother and Father,

*I am afraid I have had the most embarrassing and confusing day an Elephant can have, and would really like some comfort and support from you both as I get my head around what has happened! I have been beaten at a game of Tug of War by a tiny spider!
It all started when I was lying down in my usual spot and decided to take a nap. Suddenly...*

Challenge: Can you include the words **grumble** and **taut** in your letter?

Anansi Stories 1: Anansi and the Tug o' War

Anansi and the Tug o' War example answers:

1. At the beginning of the story, why did Anansi grumble?
Anansi grumbled because he had been sat on by the Elephant when he was trying to sleep. He wanted the Elephant to move off him.
2. Why do you think Anansi challenged the Elephant to a 'Tug of War'?
I think Anansi challenged the Elephant to a 'Tug of War' because he perhaps did not like the Elephant's attitude when he called Anansi a 'pipsqueak', ignored him and laughed at him for being so small and weak. This made him want to teach the Elephant a lesson about not being too big for his boots. Anansi perhaps also wanted to get the Elephant to move so he was not sleeping in Anansi's sleeping spot too.
3. What do the words 'Let the games begin' tell us about Anansi?
I think Anansi's words 'Let the games begin' tell us that he was about to play a trick on the Elephant. He enjoys games and playing tricks, and saw this as one of them.
4. Why do you think the Elephant laughed when Anansi challenged him?
I think the Elephant laughed when Anansi challenged him because it seemed ridiculous to him that a spider could beat an Elephant in a strength competition. He found the thought funny as he knew he was stronger.
5. Explain why Anansi's trick was clever.
Anansi's trick was clever because he found a way to persuade a very strong animal, the Killer Whale, to take on the Elephant at the 'Tug of War' without either animal realising. Both animals thought they were battling with the spider and so Anansi won without either realising what had happened and without him having to do the hard work.
6. What lesson did he teach the larger animals?
He taught the larger animals to be much more respectful of smaller creatures.