

# Anansi the spider: A Tale from the Ashanti

adapted and illustrated by Gerald McDermott

## Reading and Activity Guide



*The Bible is the true story about God and His relationship to humanity centered on Christ's death and resurrection. Christians read stories from other cultures to understand and empathize with all people.*

### BEFORE READING

- + Explain that Pastor Matt is going to read the prologue of the story first, to give us some background about where (and who) this story comes from. Challenge students to see how much they can remember from the introduction! Specifically, ask them to notice the people this story comes from, and where they live. (*The Ashanti; Ghana*) After the prologue, pause and ask children what they remember about the Ashanti! If they don't remember, replay and try again! :)
- + Invite children to find Ghana on a map/globe. *Ghana is a country in the continent of Africa.*

### DURING READING

- + Can you name each of Anansi's six sons and their special abilities? See *Trouble: seeing trouble a long way off; Road Builder; River Drinker; Game Skinner* ("game" is what we call an animal that you hunt - game skinner means he takes the fur/skin off the animal so people can cook it); *Stone Thrower; Cushion: he was very soft.*
- + After Anansi finds the mysterious globe - Pause the video and discuss - *Which son should Anansi give the prize to, and why?*

### AFTER READING

- + *How did each son help Anansi? What gifts/abilities do you have that could help others?*
- + *Why did Nyame put the moon in the sky? To shine bright for all to see. Read Genesis 1. What do we learn about God? The heavens and the earth? God's love for people?*

### Springboard Activities:

**Activity #1: Create More-** Have children study the beautiful, bold artwork in *Anansi the Spider*. Gather bright, bold, colorful paper or cardstock. Depending on the child(ren)'s age(s), offer pre-cut shapes and squiggles, or allow them to trace/cut their own to create artwork - perhaps an animal like the fish or falcon, or maybe they will show Anansi off on another adventure!

**Activity #2: Read More -** *Did you enjoy this story? Look for more stories featuring Anansi!* (Available in libraries, online, or as a PDF.) *Which other cultures would YOU love to learn about? The world is FILLED with different people with unique cultures, traditions, and stories! Check out other stories from around the world!*

**Activity #3: Learn More -** Africa is a giant continent, itself a beautiful mosaic of different people groups with different cultures and traditions! To learn more about the different cultures within Africa, check out the simple but beautiful book *Ashanti to Zulu: African Traditions* by Margaret Musgrove. It is sure to lead to further exploration and learning activities. *Africa Is Not a Country* by Margy Burns Knight and Mark Melnicove is also great! This website can help you learn more about the Ashanti, including pictures of beautiful carvings, special events, and people. *But remember - just because it's "different", doesn't mean it's weird. Their clothing might look strange to us, but maybe if THEY saw YOUR clothes, your clothes would look strange to them! :) Different cultures enjoy different styles of clothing, and we can celebrate and enjoy the beauty found in other cultures, worn by people who are also - like you - created in God's image and loved by God.*



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