

Anansi and a Witch Named Five



Anansi was a spider.

Anansi was a trickster.

Anansi was hungry.

There was no food in Africa.

There was no food in Anansi's village.

There was no food in Anansi's home.

There was a witch in Anansi's village.

Her name was Five.

Five did not like her name.

She cast a spell.

If you said her name you fell asleep for a year.

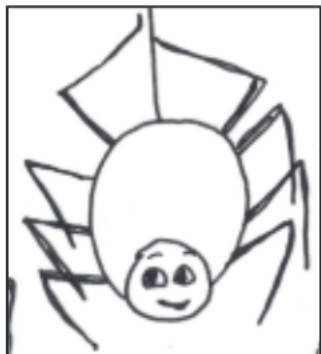
Anansi saw Rabbit.

Rabbit had corn.

Anansi talked to Rabbit.

"How many piles do you have?"

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Rabbit counted. "One. Two. Three. Four. Five."

Rabbit said "five."

Rabbit fell asleep.

Anansi tricked Rabbit.

Anansi took his corn.

Anansi went to Goose.

Anansi tried to trick Goose.

"How many piles of corn do you have?"

Goose smiled.

Goose counted.

"One. Two. Three. Four... And that pile.

The one you are sitting on."

Anansi was mad.

Anansi said, "No! That is not how you count.

Watch me. One. Two. Three. Four. Five."

Anansi said the witch's name.

Anansi fell asleep for a year.

Goose tricked Anansi. Goose did not say "five."

Goose got Anansi to say "five." How many piles of corn did Goose have left?



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Anansi the spider was a trickster. He lived in a small village in Africa.

A witch lived in Anansi's village. Her name was Five. Five did not like her name. She cast a spell on the village. Anyone who said her name would fall asleep for a year.

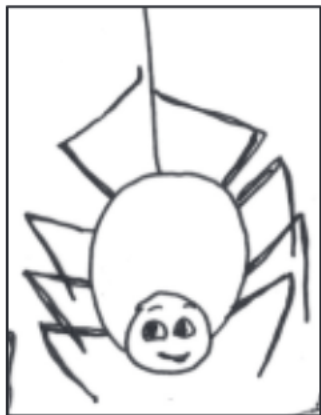
One time, there was a famine in Africa. There was not enough food to eat.

Anansi's family did not have food. They were very hungry.

Anansi saw that Rabbit had corn. This gave him an idea. Anansi went to visit Rabbit.

"How many piles of corn do you have?" Anansi asked.

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Rabbit counted. "One. Two. Three. Four. Five." Rabbit said the word "five." He fell fast asleep.

Anansi was pleased with himself. He took Rabbit's corn and left. The corn lasted Anansi's family for a few weeks. But then it was gone. Anansi's family was hungry.

Anansi tried the same trick on squirrel. Squirrel's corn fed Anansi's family for another few weeks. But then it ran out and they were hungry.

Anansi decided to try the same trick on Goose. But Goose was too smart for Anansi. She knew what the trickster was up to.

"How many piles of corn do you have?" Anansi asked Goose.

Goose smiled and counted her piles. "One. Two. Three. Four... And the pile that you're sitting on."

Anansi was mad that Goose didn't say "five."

"No!" he said. "That is not how you count. Watch me. One. Two. Three. Four. Five." Anansi fell asleep as soon as he said the witch's name.

Goose tricked the trickster. Goose tricked Anansi into saying the word "five." How many piles of corn did Goose have left?



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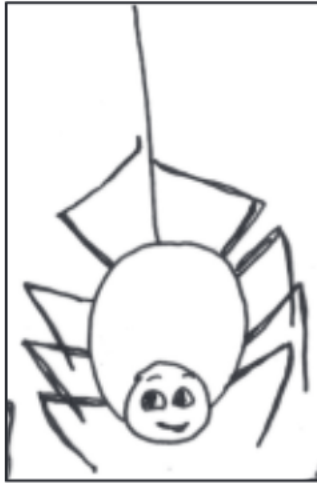
Anansi the spider was a trickster who lived in a small village in Africa. A witch named Five lived in Anansi's village, too. Five did not like her name, so she cast a spell on the village. Anyone who said her name would fall asleep for a year.

Soon after, there was a famine all across Africa. A famine is when there is not enough food to eat. Anansi, his wife, and his children had no food and were starving.

Anansi noticed that Rabbit had some corn and came up with a brilliant plan for how to steal it. Anansi went to visit Rabbit and politely asked: "How many piles of corn do you have?"

Rabbit counted his piles of corn out loud: "One, two, three, four, five." As soon as the word "five" came out of his mouth, Rabbit fell fast asleep.

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Pleased with himself, Anansi gathered Rabbit's corn and carried it home. Rabbit's corn lasted Anansi's family for a few weeks, but then they ran out and were hungry.

This time Anansi tried his trick on Squirrel. It was a great success! Squirrel's corn fed Anansi's family for another few weeks, but then it ran out and they were hungry.

Anansi decided to try the same trick on Goose. But Goose was too smart for Anansi; she knew what the trickster was up to.

"How many piles of corn do you have?" Anansi politely asked Goose.

Goose smiled and counted out loud: "One, two, three, four... And the pile that you're sitting on."

Anansi was furious that Goose didn't fall for his trick like the other animals did.

"No," he shouted, "That is not how you count. Watch me: one, two, three, four, five." Anansi fell asleep as soon as the word "five" came out of his mouth.

This time it was Goose who was please with herself. Not only did she trick the trickster, but she was still left with... How many piles of corn?

