



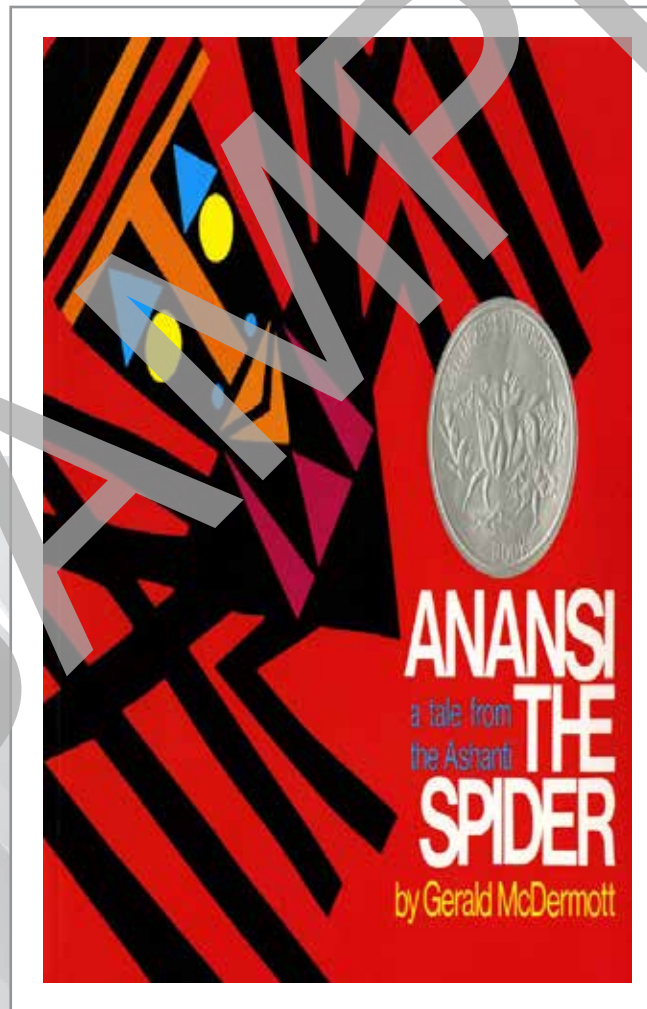
TEACHER GUIDE

GRADES K-3

COMPREHENSIVE CURRICULUM BASED LESSON PLANS

Anansi the Spider

Gerald McDermott



READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

Anansi the Spider

Gerald McDermott

TEACHER GUIDE

NOTE:

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

ISBN 978-1-50203-574-5

Copyright infringement is a violation of Federal Law.

© 2020 by Novel Units, Inc., St. Louis, MO. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, translated, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any way or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise) without prior written permission from Novel Units, Inc.

Reproduction of any part of this publication for an entire school or for a school system, by for-profit institutions and tutoring centers, or for commercial sale is strictly prohibited.

Novel Units is a registered trademark of Conn Education.

Printed in the United States of America.

To order, contact your
local school supply store, or:

Toll-Free Fax: 877.716.7272

Phone: 888.650.4224

3901 Union Blvd., Suite 155

St. Louis, MO 63115

sales@novelunits.com

novelunits.com

Table of Contents

Summary	3
About the Author	3
Introductory Information and Activities	3
Discussion Questions and Activities	6
Activity Sheets	13
Teacher Information	29
Assessment.....	35

Skills and Strategies

Thinking

Brainstorming, KWL

Vocabulary

Alphabetical order

Listening/Speaking

Discussion

Comprehension

Predicting, sequencing,
inference

Literary Elements

Characterization

Summary

This is a traditional Ashanti, West African folk tale, in which Anansi the spider is saved from terrible fates by his six sons. Anansi's single reward is shared by all through the intervention of Nyame, the God of All Things for the Ashanti people.

About the Author

Gerald McDermott was born in Detroit, Michigan, and has lived in Michigan, New York, and France. He is primarily interested in creating stories and films based on mythology and the folk tales of cultures other than his own. For the illustrations, McDermott used the geometric forms and colors of the Ashanti people.

Introductory Information and Activities

African Spider Stories:

Many African stories are about the "spider man," and are called "Spider Stories." They tell how small, defenseless men or animals outwit others, and succeed against great odds.

These stories crossed the Atlantic Ocean in the slave ships, and Anansi became "Anancy" in the Caribbean Islands, and "Aunt Nancy" in the southern United States.

The story of how this all came to be is found in the book *A Story A Story* by Gail E. Haley, NY: Macmillan, 1970.

Initiating Activities:

You may choose to do one of these activities before reading the story, and the other activities after reading the story. However, they are appropriate at any time.

1. Enlarge, or make, spider characters, color and cut them out. Hang the spiders so that they are free to move in the reading area. (See page 4 of this guide.)

Discuss with the children the shapes seen on the spiders.

Make a list of the shapes as they are named and have a child draw a picture of the shape beside its name, for identification.

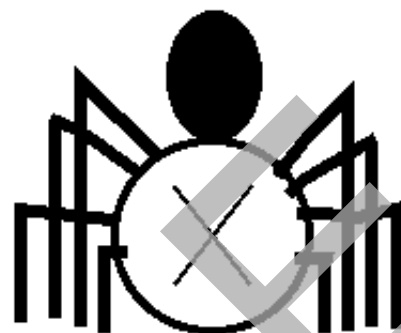
Allow each child to choose a shape and use it to make a spider, insect, or animal, and to name it. Use colored paper, chalk, crayons, craypas, paint, etc.—whatever is readily available.

Make a display of the items made by the children.

The Six Sons of Anansi



See Trouble



Road Builder



River Drinker



Game Skinner



Stone Thrower



Cushion

Attribute Web

The attribute web below will help you gather clues the author provides about a character in the novel. Fill in the blanks with words and phrases which tell how the character acts and looks, as well as what the character says and what others say about him or her.

Acts

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Feels

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Character

Looks

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Says

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Incy Wincy Spider

*Incy Wincy spider climbed up the water spout.
Down came the rain and washed the spider out.
Out came the sun and dried up all the rain.
Incy Wincy spider climbed up the spout again.*

Ask the children in the group:

"What other poems, songs, and stories do you know about spiders?"

Make a "Big Book" out of the responses of the children. (See One Way to Make a Big Book on the next page.)

If the children are unable to print the words of the song, poem, or story, ask for older children to volunteer or possibly get some help from local senior citizens.

Have the children illustrate their parts of the "Big Book."

Allow the finished product to be enjoyed by all. Read the book together, as shared reading.

Groups may take the "Big Book" to other rooms, to read it aloud.

Allow the children to check the "Big Book" out so it may be taken home and shared.

Enjoy the story!

