

# Imagine Your Story: **Anansi** the Spider

Join Ms. Lisa  
**LIVE at 2pm,**  
**Thursday, June**  
**25** for a story  
and craft with the  
items in your  
Anansi the  
Spider activity  
pack!

Follow the link at  
[www.Osceolalibrary.org/  
Summer-Learning](http://www.Osceolalibrary.org/Summer-Learning)

The Anansi (pronounced ah-NAN-see) stories were said to have originated as oral traditions from the folktales of the Ashanti of Ghana, West Africa. A trickster and a mischief maker, Anansi uses his intelligence and cunning to outwit those who are bigger and more powerful, trying to get whatever he wants. However, it doesn't always work out. He often falls victim to his own weaknesses of greed, laziness, and being too clever for his own good.

In the end, there is a moral to the story and a lesson to be learned.



**Trickster tales** are folktales used to entertain and often to teach a lesson about how to behave and treat other people. The main character, the **trickster**, usually appears as an animal who has magical powers and human traits, (like being able to talk). People have used such stories for many years to teach their children and to help them understand human behavior within their culture.

## Did You Know?

A **spider web** is a sticky net made from silk to trap prey. When insects fly or crawl into the web, they get stuck and the spider eats them. Different kinds of spiders make different types of webs. Most spider webs are very thin, but are also very strong.

## Did You Know?

Some species of spiders do not use webs for capturing prey. The **trapdoor spider** digs a hole to live in and waits until an insect wanders by and pounces on it. The **wolf spider** chases its prey and catches it. **Water-dwelling spiders** rest their feet on the water's surface, sensing the vibrations when an insect falls onto the water, running out to capture them.

## SPIDER WEB CHALLENGE

**Challenge: Engineer a spider web that will hold an "insect" using only the supplies given.**

### Supplies:

- 1 Shower curtain ring
- String
- Dried kidney bean (represents the insect)

### Directions:

- You may work individually or with someone else to complete this challenge.
- You can only use the given supplies.
- Think about, discuss, and plan how to best use the materials to create a web that will hold an insect.
- The insect should sit on the string without falling through.

### Discuss:

- Evaluate your design and the building process.
- Discuss what things worked well and what didn't work.
- Did you learn anything more about spiders or spider webs from this challenge?

**TO INCREASE THE DIFFICULTY OF THIS CHALLENGE: BUILD A WEB THAT KEEPS THE INSECT INSIDE IT EVEN WHEN THE WEB IS PICKED UP!**



### Websites to learn more about spiders:

<https://www.kidzone.ws/lw/spiders/facts.htm>

[https://kids.kiddle.co/Spider\\_web](https://kids.kiddle.co/Spider_web)

<https://pestworldforkids.org/pest-guide/spiders/>

<https://www.scienceforkidsclub.com/spider-facts.html>

### Looking for more Trickster Tales? These books can be found in our library:

*IKTOMI AND THE BERRIES: A PLAINS INDIAN STORY* by Paul Goble (JUV 398.2 GOB)  
*THE TALES OF UNCLE REMUS: THE ADVENTURES OF BRER RABBIT* by Julius Lester (JUV 398.2 LES)  
*MONKEY: A TRICKSTER TALE FROM INDIA* by McDermott, Gerald. (JUV 398.2 MCD)  
*ANANSI AND THE MAGIC STICK* by Eric Kimmel JUV 398.24 KIM  
*SPIDER AND THE SKY GOD: AN AKAN LEGEND* by Deborah Chocolate JUV 398.24 CHO  
*ANANSE AND THE LIZARD: A WEST AFRICAN TALE* by Pat Cummings JUV 398.2 CUM  
*ANANSI THE SPIDER: A TALE FROM THE ASHANTI* by Gerald McDermott JUV 398.2 MCD