



ANANSI STORY

Kweku Anansi and the Lion

A read-aloud story for ages 5-6

About Anansi Stories

From West Africa

Anansi is the famous spider trickster of the Akan and Asante storytelling traditions of Ghana. Shared aloud for generations, his stories travelled across the Atlantic, became an important part of Caribbean culture and are now enjoyed around the world.

A clever and complicated character

Anansi can be a hero, a troublemaker or the one who makes everyone laugh. His quick thinking helps him face bigger and stronger characters, while his mischievous plans often teach lessons about choices and consequences.

Our Kweku Anansi stories

In this series, Anansi is lovingly reimagined as young Kweku Anansi: a curious, inventive boy growing up in a vibrant village world. His gentle adventures invite young children to explore kindness, courage, creativity and problem-solving.

A little laughter, a little wisdom and a lot of heart.

Dear Story Friend

Thank you for reading with us. Anansi Story creates joyful, child-friendly adventures inspired by the storytelling traditions of Anansi.

If this story made you smile, please share it with your family and friends and help the stories travel.

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On the golden grassland near Kweku Anansi's village lived Lion. Lion was strong, brave, and proud. When he walked through the tall grass, every animal made room.



Kweku watched Lion with wide eyes. "Lion is mighty," he said, "but clever hands can do mighty things too." The animals leaned closer to hear his idea.



"Let us have a contest," Kweku said. "By sunrise, we will each make a cloth. The most careful and beautiful cloth will show a different kind of strength."



Lion shook his mane and smiled. "I accept," he said. He gathered broad leaves, long vines, and bright flowers. "Mine will be the biggest cloth on the grassland."



Kweku gathered soft raffia, moon-pale thread, and little beads from Auntie Ama's basket. He sat under an acacia tree, took a slow breath, and began to weave.



All night, Lion worked with great strength. His paws pressed vines tight. His teeth tugged leaves into place. But the vines slipped, and the leaves tore at the edges.



Kweku worked slowly. Over, under, over, under went the raffia. He made patterns like stars, moonlight, river waves, and tiny grassland flowers.



Before dawn, Lion looked at his huge leafy cloth and sighed. It was grand, but messy. Kweku looked at Lion kindly. "Your strength helped you try," he said.



When the sun rose, the animals gathered. Kweku's small cloth shimmered in the light. Lion's cloth rustled proudly beside it, big and bold like Lion himself.



The animals cheered for Kweku's careful work. Lion bowed his head with respect. Kweku smiled and said, "Strength is wonderful, but patience can shine too."

The End

For more Kweku Anansi stories, visit

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About this story

Kweku challenges Lion to a cloth-making contest and learns that strength is wonderful, but patience and careful craft can shine too.

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