

Anansi and the Moss-Covered Rock

Part one



Anansi slept and slept and slept and when he finally awoke the sun was shining.

Anansi scratched his head. There could only be one explanation. He must have been asleep for a whole night and a day!

One evening, Anansi was out walking in the forest when he tripped over something. Hmmmm. It was a large rock...covered in deep-green moss.



‘What a surprise!’ said Anansi. ‘Isn’t this a strange, moss-covered rock!’

Crash! Bang! At that very moment Anansi dropped on all eight of his legs to the forest floor. His eyes rolled and everything went black...

‘What happened?’ Anansi muttered, as he tried to remember. ‘The rock caught my attention. Then I said: “Isn’t this a strange, moss-covered rock!”’



Crash! Bang! It happened again! Anansi’s eight legs flopped under him and he slept and slept and slept.



When Anansi woke this time he knew exactly what had happened. 'The rock is magical! Every time someone says those words - which I don't dare repeat - they fall into a deep sleep lasting one whole night and a day!'

Suddenly he felt rather excited.

'Ah, ha! This gives me an idea for how I can get a free meal!' he said. 'And I can't wait to try it!'



Anansi went in search of Snake and found him curled up by some stones guarding his dinner - a lovely, juicy pineapple.

'Good day, Snake! I know how much you like to shelter from the sun. Come for a walk with me in the cool, dark forest!'



Snake felt a bit suspicious - after all, everyone knew about Anansi and his tricks! But still, he liked the idea of a walk in the cool forest. So, he replied, 'I will indeed come with you!'

Anansi lead Snake through the forest, all the way to the magical rock.



When Snake finally woke up, Anansi was nowhere to be seen. And how Snake hissed with anger as he returned home to find he'd been tricked!

'What's this?' he said to Snake.

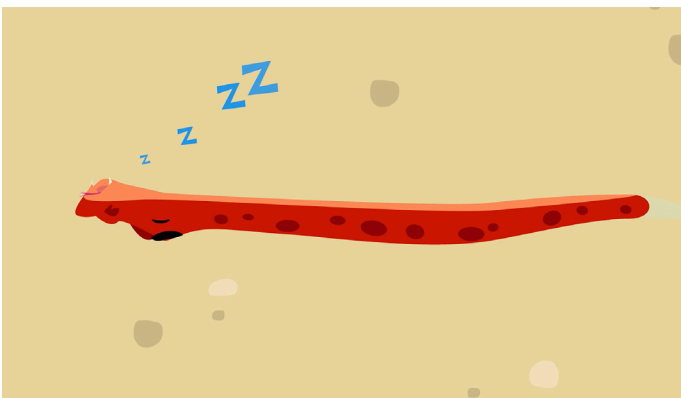
Snake took a good look. 'Isn't this a strange, moss-covered rock!'

Crash! Bang! As soon as the words came from Snake's mouth he flopped down fast asleep!

Anansi knew Snake wouldn't wake up for one whole night and a day - and that gave him plenty of time to go back to Snake's home and gobble up his pineapple.



'Oh Lion, it is hot today, isn't it?' he said. 'But I have found a lovely cool place where you can rest in comfort. Come for a walk with me in the forest.'





Lion too was a bit suspicious. But she replied: 'I will indeed come with you!'

Anansi lead Lion through the forest, all the way to the magical rock.

'What's this?' he said to Lion.

Lion took a good look. 'Isn't this a strange, moss-covered rock!'



Crash! Bang! As soon as the words came from Lion's mouth she fell down, fast asleep - giving Anansi plenty of time to go back to her bush and gobble up her bananas.

One whole night and day later when Lion woke up Anansi was nowhere to be seen.



And how Lion roared with anger when she returned home to find her bananas gone.

Of course, Anansi was delighted! The trick was working so well! But he was still hungry.

So who should he trick next?