

FREE Theme



1. Which one is NOT a possible theme for this folktale?
A. Kindness
B. Greed
C. Anger
D. Trustworthiness (keeping promises)
2. The text stated that, "At first, the sky god refused to give it to him, but Anansi was so persistent that the sky god finally gave him all the wisdom in the world." What does the word *persistent* mean?

Themes in Literature:

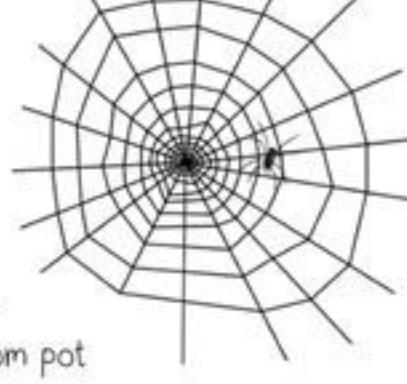
Anansi and the Wisdom Pot

West Africa

Name: _____

Directions: Read the folktale below and answer the questions.

One day, Anansi the Spider decided to visit the sky god, Nyame, to ask him for the world's wisdom. At first, the sky god refused to give it to him, but Anansi was so persistent that the sky god finally gave him all the wisdom in the world. The sky god placed the wisdom in a clay pot and made Anansi promise to share the wisdom with everyone. Anansi agreed to do so and took the wisdom pot home with him.



When Anansi looked into the wisdom pot, he saw things he had never seen before and learned things he had never dreamed of before. All of this knowledge excited Anansi, and soon he decided that he would not share this wisdom with anyone. He wanted to keep all of the wisdom for himself. Immediately, Anansi searched for a place to hide the wisdom pot. He looked around the forest until he found a tall, thorny tree, with lots of green leaves.

Anansi took some vines and tied the pot in front of him. Then, he started to climb the tree. Even with eight arms though, it was challenging. The pot was constantly in the way and made it all the more difficult to climb. Now on that particular day, one of Anansi's sons, Ntikuma, had followed him, unbeknownst to his father. Ntikuma had watched Anansi struggling to climb the tree and he stood there shaking his head. As Anansi stopped to rest, he heard his son speak to him from the ground below. "Why don't you tie the pot to your back, instead? That way, all of your arms would be free to help you climb."

At first, Anansi recognized what a good idea this was, and he tied the pot to his back. As Anansi climbed to the top of the tree though, he became more and more irritated. He realized that although he had all of the wisdom of the world in this pot, his son had a better idea than he did. In anger, Anansi took the pot and threw it down to the ground. The clay pot broke into tiny pieces, and all of the wisdom of the world was scattered everywhere by the wind... And that is why no one has all of the world's wisdom, but people everywhere have small bits of it.

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Anansi and the Wisdom Pot and Comprehension Questions

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