

Another Anansi

A Children's play based on a Jamaican folk tale

by Timothy Brown

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ANOTHER ANANSI

Another Anansi and Other Animal Tales was written for a summer theater group of young actors to have fun with. The casting is not gender specific so feel free to change the script if necessary and add additional dialogue especially when all the characters are speaking.

Anansi - a tricky spider
Goat
Lion
Warthog
Bear
Turkey

Scene 1

A clearing in the jungle where the main trails meet. There is a tree or two off to the side and a small boulder in the center. Anansi the spider enters.

ANANSI

Boy, am I ever hungry. I haven't eaten in hours! I'm becoming skin and bones... I must figure out a way to get some food and get it fast!!

(Offstage there are sounds of Goat, Warthog, Lion, and Bear. Anansi listens as they approach and gets an idea. They enter, each carrying food they plan on selling.)

ANANSI

Ah yes. Dinner is served.

(Sits on a small boulder.)

GOAT

Hi there Ah-Ah-Ah-Nanse!

ANANSI

Hey Goat. Where you guys heading?

LION

We're going to market.

BEAR

Yup, to sell our goods.

WARTHOG

That's right.

ANANSI

To market huh? What are you selling?

(As they tell and show Anansi what they plan on selling she gets hungrier and hungrier.)

BEAR

I've got some sweet golden honey. Warty has some corn.

WARTHOG

That's right. Sweet corn.

GOAT

I've got some tasty ko-ko-kola nuts.

LION

Fish.

ANANSI

Your goods look so wonderful! You wouldn't have any free samples, would you?

ALL

Free samples! What are you crazy or something. Oh, that's a laugh. Real funny Anansi!

WARTHOG

You have to work if you want to eat.

BEAR

That's right

ANANSI

Work's for the birds. I'll bet I can get all the food I want without lifting a finger...Just you wait and see.

ALL

Sure Anansi. Dream on. You got a real case.

GOAT

You're nuts. Let's get g-g-going guys, or we'll be late.

LION

See you Anansi. Happy hunting, Chump!

(They all say their goodbyes to Anansi and exit talking and laughing about what she said.)

ANANSI

I'll show them. I'll get all the food I want...All their food, that is.

(Looks around and see the boulder.)
And I have just the plan.

(Lights fade out.)

Scene 2

(The next day. Bear's on his way to the market. He enters singing. Anansi goes to the boulder and starts eying it as an artist would, with an imaginary palette and brush. She begins to paint.)

BEAR

Hi Anansi. What ya doing?

ANANSI

Shhhh. Quiet. I'm busy painting.

BEAR

PAINTING?

ANANSI

Yes. I'm painting this boulder to look like a beehive if you must know.

BEAR

Oh...(thinks a moment) Why?

ANANSI

Well, you see. I have this terrific idea, a plan to get some honey. I'll paint this boulder to look like a beautiful beehive. It will be the most gorgeous beehive ever with deluxe accommodations, swimming pool, tennis courts, you name it. When the bees hear about it they'll come swarming in droves, all dying to get in, only they won't be able to. You see! They fly into the boulder and BANG they knock themselves out. Then I'll go over to their hive and get all the honey I want. Simple, huh?

BEAR

Oh...(thinks about it) Anansi...Uh, that's the dumbest thing I've ever heard!

ANANSI

What did you say?

BEAR

I said that's a silly idea. You're stupid!

ANANSI

(trembling in fear)
Oh no! OLD HAG!!!

BEAR

Old Hag?

ANANSI

You heard what she said?

BEAR

I'm not sure I want to.

ANANSI

Old hag said that if anyone in the jungle starts calling names she'll come and fix them good... And she can hear everything!!

BEAR

Oh! Goodness gracious me! I'm a goner. What can I do? Help me Anansi. Please help me.

ANANSI

Well, If you insist... I've heard Old Hag has a sweet tooth.

(She looks at bear, he doesn't get it, she tries again.)

I mean she loves anything sweet. She'll do anything for...

BEAR

(He finally gets it.)

Honey! I'll give her my honey... I'll give her...

(Anansi shakes her head no.)

You'll give her my honey.

(She nods.)

Here Anansi, give it to her for me. Tell her I hope she enjoys it. I'm getting out of here.

(Anansi watches as Bear runs off.)

ANANSI

I'll see that she gets it all right!!! Well that takes care of dessert.

(Hears lion approaching.)

Now for the main course.

(She begins to struggle with moving the boulder. The Lion enters and stops to watch. Anansi stops and wipes her brow.)

ANANSI

Whew! This is hard work. (sees Lion) Oh hi there Lion, big,

strong, "King of the Jungle" Lion. Do you think you could lend me a paw?

LION

Sure Anansi. What's cookin'?"

ANANSI

(to audience) Nothing yet. I need some help with this rock. You see, I took your advice about working and decided to try my hands at fishing.

LION

Fishing! That's great. Sure I'll help you.

ANANSI

Thanks pal. I knew I could count on you. Now...Do you think you lift up that boulder and place it on my back.

LION

Sure Anansi, here goes. (picks up boulder) One-two-three. There you go.(places it on Anansi's back) You got it?

ANANSI

I'm good.

LION

Be careful it's heavy.

ANANSI

Thanks pal, I'm all set to catch me some fish.

(She starts off. Lion thinks about what she just said.)

LION

Anansi, how are you going to fish with that on your back?

ANANSI

I'm awfully glad you asked, Lion. Here, help me put this down, will you?

(Lion helps with the boulder.)

Thanks, That sure is a heavy boulder. So my plan. I'm only telling you this because we're such good friends.

LION

Thanks Anansi.

ANANSI

My plan is to get the boulder on my back, walk over to the creek, wait for a fish to swim by then...I drop the boulder in the creek, big splash, and the fish is washed ashore.

LION

(pauses and thinks it over) Nope. Sorry Anansi, but that just won't work.

ANANSI

What did you say old buddy?

LION

You can't fish like that. You need a rod and reel, at least a pole with a hook and some bait. Your plan is foolish.

ANANSI

What do you mean?

LION

It's dumb! You're crazy if you think it'll work. Crazy, crazy crazy!

ANANSI

OLD HAG! Oh, no!

LION

Old Hag!?

ANANSI

Old Hag said that there will be no name calling. She's going to be really mad at you... (makes a throat cutting motion) I'd say you in deep doo doo pal.

LION

Oh, no. What do I do. I know I'll hide. (starts off) See you Anansi.

ANANSI

No good. She'll find you. She has eyes in every part of the jungle.

LION

What can I do? She'll find me. Help me Anansi. Tell me what to do!

ANANSI

Well... You're really an awfully nice fellow, so I'll let you in on a secret. I've heard that Old Hag is very fond of fish.

LION

Yeah. I'll give her one of my fish.

(Anansi shakes her head)

Two of my fish.

(she shakes her head again)

All of my fish

(Anansi nods)

LION

Anansi, old buddy, old pal, my dear friend could you do me one little, it'sy, bit'sy, teeny, weeny favor?

ANASI

Perhaps.

LION

Would you give Old Hag my fish? (hands them to her) I've got to go know. Just remembered I'm late for an appointment. Bye pal. (he exits)

ANANSI

I'll see she gets them. Hmmm, main course and dessert. I think I need a veggie.

(Warthog enters carrying a bag of corn.)

ANANSI

What service!

WARTHOG

Hey there Anansi.

ANANSI

Warty! Just in time. Could you give me some help?

WARTHOG

Sure thing. What can I do for you?

ANANSI

I want your opinion on my new farm here. (points to the boulder) What do you think?

WARTHOG

(Looks at the boulder) It's a rock.

ANANSI

Yep!

WARTHOG

You're growing rocks.