

Anansi and the Pot of Beans



It was a very hot day and Anansi the spider was bored. "I'll go and visit Grandma Spider. She'll give me something to do," he said to himself.

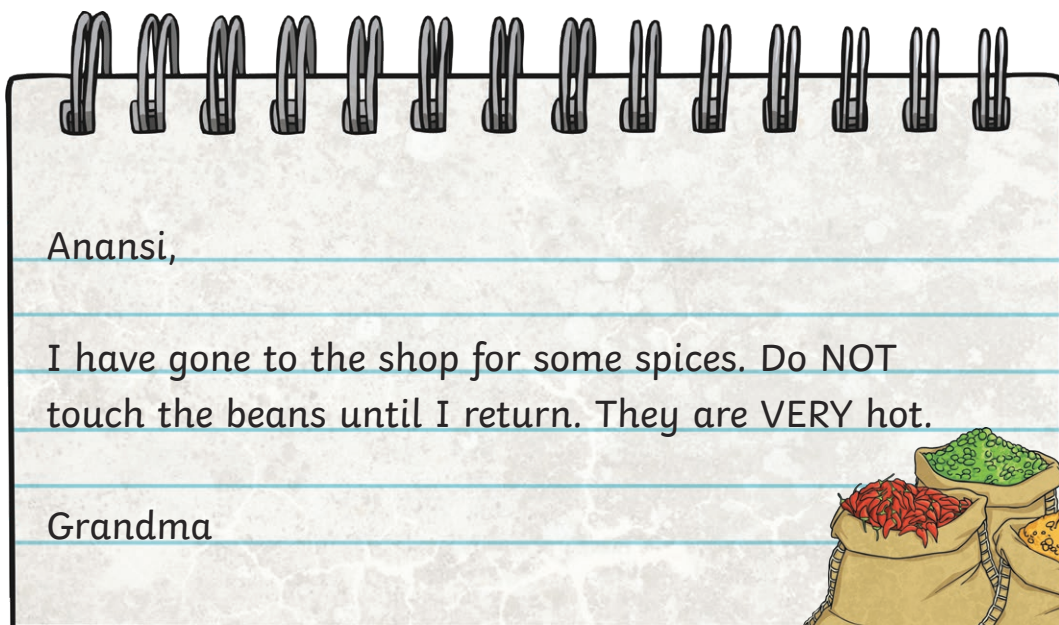
Anansi knocked on the door of Grandma's house and greeted her with a big hug. "Grandma! It's so nice to see you!"

Grandma, who was worried that Anansi was up to no good, asked him, "What are you doing here?"



Anansi explained that he was bored and needed something to stop him from getting into trouble. Grandma told him that she needed some beans planting in the garden. She took Anansi to a patch of soil and described what he needed to do. Then, she said, "I forgot to mention that I'm making your favourite spicy beans for lunch. If you do a good job, I'll let you have some."

Anansi was so excited. Grandma Spider's spicy beans were his favourite meal. All he could think about was eating the delicious beans. With the sun beating down upon him, Anansi started to lose concentration. He had done a terrible job of planting the beans but he hadn't noticed. All he could think about were those delicious beans and how he wanted to eat them. Eventually, Anansi gave in and made his way into the house. There was a note waiting for him:





Anansi ignored the note and went straight to the boiling pot of beans. Using a wooden spoon, he quickly scooped the delicious food straight into his mouth.

Suddenly, he heard the sound of Grandma Spider coming home. "Oh no!" Anansi cried. To hide what he had been doing from his grandma, Anansi took the hat from his head and filled it with boiling beans. Next, Anansi put the bean-filled hat upon his head. Immediately, the beans started to escape. Hot bean juice was now slipping from Anansi's face and down the back of his neck.

"What on earth are you doing?" asked his grandmother.

Anansi's head was so hot that he had started to wriggle and shake. "This is my welcome home hat dance!" he replied.

Grandma didn't believe him and knew that he was up to mischief. Eventually, Anansi threw the hat to the ground. However, the boiling bean juice had destroyed his hair and made him completely bald! Shocked and not wanting to face Grandma Spider, Anansi ran into the tall grass to hide. If you look carefully, you might still see him hiding there today.



Questions

1. What was Anansi's favourite meal? Tick one.

- Grandma's stew
- hot dogs and chips
- Grandma's spicy beans
- spices from the shop

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

The first one has been done for you.

- Grandma Spider goes to the shop.
- Anansi loses all of his hair.
- 1 Anansi is bored.
- Anansi begins to plant some beans.

3. Match the events in the story with how Anansi is feeling when they happen.

One has been done for you.

Anansi has nothing to do.	excited
Grandma says that she is making spicy beans.	worried
Anansi hears Grandma coming home.	bored
Anansi loses all of his hair.	shocked

4. Why did Grandma Spider have to leave the beans cooking on their own?

Tick one.

- She needed to help Anansi to plant some beans.
- She needed to go to the shop to buy some spices.
- She wanted to go for a short walk.
- She wanted Anansi to eat the beans.

5. Where did Anansi put the beans to hide them from his grandma?

6. Fill in the missing words.

Grandma told Anansi that she would make him spicy beans for _____

if he did a good job planting the _____.

Imagine that you are Grandma Spider.

What would you say to Anansi at the end of this story?

Answers

1. What was Anansi's favourite meal? Tick one.

- Grandma's stew
- hot dogs and chips
- Grandma's spicy beans**
- spices from the shop

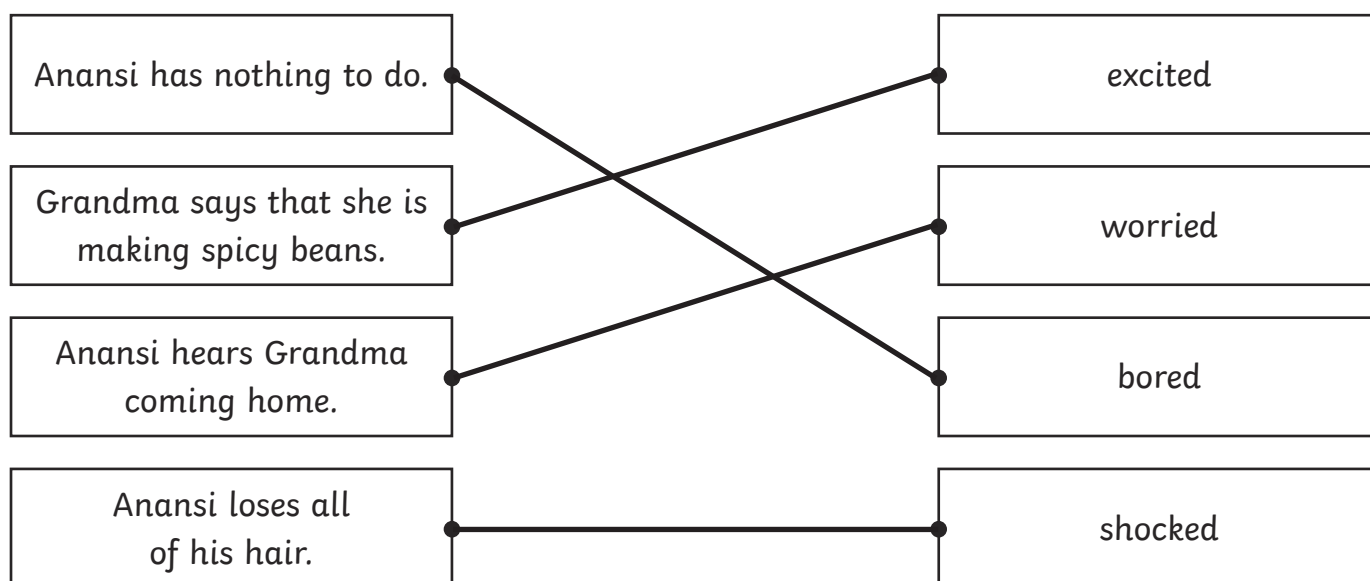
2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

The first one has been done for you.

- 3** Grandma Spider goes to the shop.
- 4** Anansi loses all of his hair.
- 1** Anansi is bored.
- 2** Anansi begins to plant some beans.

3. Match the events in the story with how Anansi is feeling when they happen.

One has been done for you.



4. Why did Grandma Spider have to leave the beans cooking on their own?

Tick one.

- She needed to help Anansi to plant some beans.
- She needed to go to the shop to buy some spices.**
- She wanted to go for a short walk.
- She wanted Anansi to eat the beans.

5. Where did Anansi put the beans to hide them from his grandma?

To hide the beans from Grandma, Anansi put them in his hat.

6. Fill in the missing words.

Grandma told Anansi that she would make him spicy beans for **lunch** if he did a good job planting the **beans**.

7. Imagine that you are Grandma Spider.

What would you say to Anansi at the end of this story?

Pupils' own responses such as: I would say, "Anansi! How dare you eat my beans after I told you not to! I cannot believe that you have been so mischievous."

Anansi and the Pot of Beans



It was a hot day in summer and Anansi the spider was bored. "I know," he said to himself, "I'll go and visit Grandma Spider; she'll give me something to do."

When Anansi arrived, he knocked on the door of Grandma's house and greeted her with a big hug. "Grandma!" he grinned, "How good it is to see you!"

Grandma, who was always wary of visits from Anansi, replied, "What are you doing here on this fine day?"



Anansi explained to Grandma Spider that he was bored and needed something to do to stop him from getting into mischief. Grandma explained to him that she needed some beans planting in the garden. She took Anansi to a patch of soil and carefully explained what he needed to do. As she walked back to the house, she turned and called back to her grandson, "I forgot to mention that I'm making your favourite spicy beans for lunch. If you do a good job, I'll let you have some."

Anansi was so excited. Grandma Spider's spicy beans were the best food he had ever tasted. His mouth began to water as he thought about eating spoonfuls of the delicious beans. Still thinking about the beans and with the midday sun beating down upon him, Anansi started to lose concentration. Beans and holes were scattered all around the garden but Anansi hadn't noticed; all he could think about were those delicious, spicy beans and how good they were going to taste. Eventually, Anansi could take it no more and he made his way towards the house where a note was waiting for him:

Anansi,

I have gone to the shop for some spices. Do NOT touch the beans until I return. They are VERY hot.

Grandma





Anansi ignored the note and went straight to the pot of beans. Using Grandma's wooden spoon, Anansi scooped the delicious food straight into his mouth.

Suddenly, he heard the sound of eight feet travelling down the path towards the house. "Oh no! It's Grandma!" Anansi cried. Wanting to hide the remaining evidence, he took the hat from his head, filled it with boiling beans and replaced it.

The moment that Anansi put the bean-filled hat upon his head, the beans started to escape. Instantly, hot bean juice slid down Anansi's face and across the back of his neck.

"What on earth are you doing?" questioned his grandmother.

"This is my welcome home hat dance!" replied Anansi, who was now wriggling and shaking from the effects of the burning hat.

It was clear from the look on Grandma's face that she knew that Anansi was up to no good. Eventually, he could take the pain no more and threw the hat to the ground. The boiling bean juice had destroyed his hair and made him completely bald! Shocked and not wanting to face Grandma Spider, Anansi ran into the tall grass to hide. It is rumoured that, if you look carefully, you can still find him hiding there today.



Questions

1. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- The boiling bean juice destroys Anansi's hair.
- Anansi ignores Grandma's note.
- Anansi begins to think about Grandma's delicious beans.
- Anansi decides to visit his grandma.

2. What does Anansi do immediately after putting the beans on his head? Tick one.

- hides in the tall grass
- hopes that grandma spider won't come home
- celebrates that he has managed to find a great hiding place
- wriggles and shakes because they're burning his head

3. **Grandma, who was always wary of visits from Anansi...**

Tick the one word which is closest in meaning to the word **wary**.

- excited
- scared
- suspicious
- surprised

4. If you wanted to meet Anansi now, where would you have to look? Tick one.

- Grandma Spider's house
- some long grass
- a bean field
- inside some spicy beans

5. What did Anansi use to eat the spicy beans?

6. Fill in the missing words.

Anansi hadn't noticed that there were _____ and _____ spread all over the garden.

7. What type of character is Anansi? Explain your answer.

8. How do you think that the end of the story would be different if Anansi had followed his grandma's instructions? Explain your answer.

Answers

1. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- 4 The boiling bean juice destroys Anansi's hair.
- 3 Anansi ignores Grandma's note.
- 2 Anansi begins to think about Grandma's delicious beans.
- 1 Anansi decides to visit his grandma.

2. What does Anansi do immediately after putting the beans on his head? Tick one.

- hides in the tall grass
- hopes that grandma spider won't come home
- celebrates that he has managed to find a great hiding place
- wriggles and shakes because they're burning his head**

3. **Grandma, who was always wary of visits from Anansi...**

Tick the one word which is closest in meaning to the word **wary**.

- excited
- scared
- suspicious**
- surprised

4. If you wanted to meet Anansi now, where would you have to look? Tick one.

- Grandma Spider's house
- some long grass**
- a bean field
- inside some spicy beans

5. What did Anansi use to eat the spicy beans?

Anansi used his grandma's wooden spoon to eat the spicy beans.

6. Fill in the missing words.

Anansi hadn't noticed that there were **beans** and **holes** spread all over the garden.

7. What type of character is Anansi? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses such as: Anansi is a troublesome character because Grandma is worried about him coming over so he must have caused trouble in the past. Also, he ignores Grandma's note and eats the beans anyway.

8. How do you think that the end of the story would be different if Anansi had followed his grandma's instructions? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses such as: I think that the end of the story would have been happier for Anansi because he would have been able to eat the spicy beans with his grandma and he would not have had a burnt head.

Anansi and the Pot of Beans



It was a hot day in June and Anansi the spider was bored. "I know," he said to himself, "I'll go and visit Grandma Spider; she's sure to have something for me to do."



When Anansi arrived, he knocked on the door of Grandma's house and greeted her with open arms. "Grandma!" he exclaimed, "How good it is to see you!"

Grandma, who was always sceptical of an unannounced visit from Anansi, replied, "What brings you here on this fine day?"

Anansi explained to Grandma Spider that he was bored and needed something to do to prevent him from getting into mischief. Grandma, now less concerned than before, explained to him that she needed some beans planting in the garden. She took Anansi to the bare patch of soil and carefully explained what he needed to do. As she walked back to the house, she turned and called back to her grandson, "Oh, I forgot to mention that I'm making your favourite spicy beans. If you do a good job, I'll let you have some for your lunch."

Anansi was so excited. Grandma Spider's spicy beans were the best food he had ever tasted. He began to subconsciously dribble as he thought about eating spoonful after spoonful of delicious beans. With beans on the brain and the midday sun beating down upon him, Anansi started to lose concentration. Beans and holes were scattered haphazardly all over the garden but Anansi hadn't noticed; all he could think about were those delicious spicy beans and how good they were going to taste. Eventually, he could take it no more and he followed the smell towards the house where a note was waiting for him:

Anansi,

I have gone to the shop for some spices. Do NOT touch the beans until I return. They are VERY hot.

Grandma





However, the smell was so good that Anansi ignored the note and went straight over to the bubbling pot. Using Grandma's wooden spoon, he scooped the hot, delicious beans straight into his mouth.

Suddenly, Anansi heard the sound of eight feet travelling down the path towards the house. "Oh no! It's Grandma!" he cried. "What shall I do?" Wanting to hide the remaining evidence, Anansi took the wide-brimmed hat from his head, filled it with boiling beans and replaced it.

The moment Anansi put the bean-filled hat upon his head, the beans started to plan their escape. Instantly, hot, slimy bean juice trickled down Anansi's face and across the back of his neck.

"What on earth are you doing?" questioned his grandmother.

"Oh, this?" replied Anansi, who was now wriggling and shaking from the burning hat, "This is my welcome home hat dance!"

It was clear from the look on Grandma's face that she knew Anansi was up to something. Eventually, Anansi could no longer take the pain and he ripped the hat from his head. The boiling bean juice had destroyed his hair and caused him to go completely bald! Shocked and not wanting to face Grandma Spider's wrath, Anansi ran into the tall grass to hide. It is rumoured that you can still find him hiding there today.



Questions

1. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- Anansi stops paying attention to his planting.
- Anansi asks for something to stop him getting into mischief.
- Anansi pretends that he is dancing.
- Anansi begins to eat the spicy beans.

2. Why does Anansi ignore his grandma's note? Tick one.

- he did not see the note
- the smell of the beans was too good
- he wanted to get into mischief
- Grandma's handwriting was difficult to read

3. Read from the beginning of the text until "**What brings you here on this fine day?**"
Find and copy one word which means **suspicious**.

4. Give one reason that Anansi started to lose concentration when planting the beans.

5. Why did Anansi tell his grandma that he was doing a **welcome home hat dance**?

6. Do you think that Anansi did a good job of planting the beans?
Explain your answer.

7. Compare Anansi at the start of the story to Anansi at the end of the story.

8. Do you think that Anansi will listen to his grandma in the future? Tick one.

yes

no

Explain your answer.

Answers

1. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened in.

- 2** Anansi stops paying attention to his planting.
1 Anansi asks for something to stop him getting into mischief.
4 Anansi pretends that he is dancing.
3 Anansi begins to eat the spicy beans.

2. Why does Anansi ignore his grandma's note? Tick one.

- he did not see the note
 the smell of the beans was too good
 he wanted to get into mischief
 Grandma's handwriting was difficult to read

3. Read from the beginning of the text until **"What brings you here on this fine day?"**

Find and copy one word which means **suspicious**.
sceptical

4. Give one reason that Anansi started to lose concentration when planting the beans.

Accept one of the following: The midday sun was beating down on him; he couldn't stop thinking about beans.

5. Why did Anansi tell his grandma that he was doing a **welcome home hat dance**?

Accept answers which reference Anansi wriggling from the burning hat, such as: Anansi told his grandma that he was doing a welcome home hat dance because he was trying to pretend that his wriggling wasn't because of the burning beans on his head.

6. Do you think that Anansi did a good job of planting the beans?

Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I do not think that Anansi did a good job of planting the beans because it says that he had lost concentration and that beans and holes were everywhere.

7. Compare Anansi at the start of the story to Anansi at the end of the story.

Pupils' own responses provided that an accurate comparison is made, such as: At the beginning of the story, Anansi asks for a task to keep him out of trouble. However, at the end of the story, he completely ignores Grandma's note and isn't worried about keeping out of trouble any more.

8. Do you think that Anansi will listen to his grandma in the future? Tick one.

Accept either a yes or a no response providing that a full explanation is also given, such as: Yes, I think that Anansi will listen to his grandma in the future because what has happened to him is so horrible that he will have learnt a valuable lesson to do as he's told.