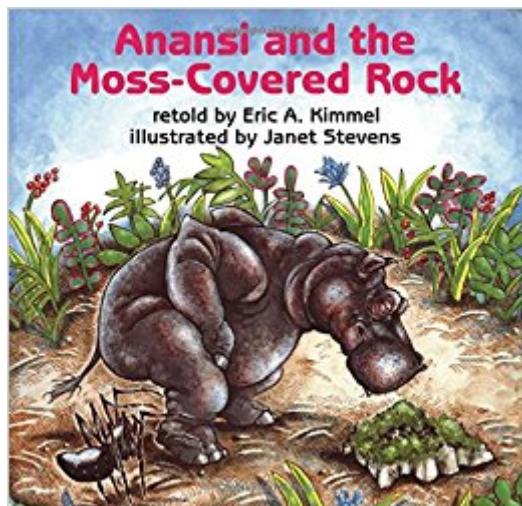


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# Anansi And The Moss-Covered Rock



## Synopsis

Anansi the Spider tricks all the animals, until he's taught a lesson.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 380L (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Holiday House; Reprint edition (January 1, 1988)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0823407985

ISBN-13: 978-0823407989

Product Dimensions: 9.6 x 0.1 x 9.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 48 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #35,299 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #5 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > African](#) #1097 in [Books > Children's Books > Science](#)

[Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy & Magic](#) #1641 in [Books > Children's Books > Humor](#)

Age Range: 3 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

Grade 1-4 Anansi the Spider happens upon an unusual stone that magically puts him to sleep for an hour. The master trickster decides to use the rock to get the food stores from the rest of the local residents. Each animal is taken in turn to the strange moss-covered rock, says the magic phrase, and promptly falls asleep to have its food pilfered by Anansi. All the while, however, Little Bush Deer silently watches. Ultimately, it is small and shy Deer who outwits Anansi and returns the food to its rightful owners. Although no specific source is given, Kimmel has retold a West African tale (said to be known in Caribbean culture). The text is rhythmic, nicely building suspense to the inevitable conclusion. Stevens' complementary, colorful illustrations add detail, humor, and movement to the text. Here, Anansi is portrayed as a large eight-legged arachnid; his expression is in his motion. The other animals are almost realistic, although with facial expressions that are characteristic of the artist's work. This new picture book Anansi tale will be welcomed by all trickster fans. Maria B. Salvadore, District of Columbia Public Library Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Janet Stevens received her B.F.A. from the University of Colorado. She has illustrated and adapted *The Town Mouse and The Country Mouse*, *The Tortoise and the Hare*, and several Hans Christian Andersen tales. She has also illustrated *The Big Bunny and the Easter Eggs* and other popular books. She lives in Boulder, Colorado, with her husband and two children. Eric A. Kimmel is Professor of Education at Portland State University and a past president of the Oregon Reading Association. The author of a number of picture books, he is a regular contributor to the children's magazine *Cricket*, as well as a storyteller. For years he has told *Anansi and the Moss-Covered Rock* to enthusiastic audiences. Originally a West African tale, the moss-covered rock story is familiar in Caribbean culture, where Anansi is a beloved folklore character. Sometimes, he assumes the form of a man; other times, he is depicted as a spider. Dr. Kimmel and his wife live in Portland, Oregon.

This book includes one of my favorite Anansi tales, and I love how the clever spider is portrayed by the illustrator--as a "real-looking" spider rather than some sort of spider / human hybrid that seems to grace the pages of many children's books. This more "spidery" persona of Anansi makes him appear all the more crafty, sneaky, and greedy--much to the delight of readers. It's brilliant how the animals maintain a taste of realism while also sporting some recognizable human qualities too--like sitting in porch chairs and rocking chairs! This is a refreshing approach, and the illustrations are so fun! A joy to look at! You just have to laugh at a fainting hippo and a dejected lion. The story is well told too. We all wait for Anansi to be outwitted by Little Bush Deer after his reign of trickery and food collecting! Readers who enjoy this book may also enjoy "*Anansi and the Magic Stick*," which is created by the same author / illustrator pair: Eric A. Kimmel and Janet Stevens. For readers who like an Anansi that is a spider that has a human face, check out Verna Aardema's "*Anansi Does the Impossible*." This book makes a great addition to the family and / or school library.

My grandson who is not able to read loves this repetitive humorous story, and even acts it out! He is 9 and this story is ageless. A great buy for anyone!

Excellent product and service! Recommend highly!

This was a favorite book of mine when I was little. I bought it for my five-year-old son and he loves it. He's learning how to read using this book and he gets so excited when it's time for Anansi or the other animals to have "their moment."

This title in the Anansi series is one of my favorites to share with children from Kindergarten to Grade 3. Anansi the spider is a trickster who gets caught in his own trap in the end. Kids can appreciate the sly bits of humor and the way that Anansi tries to fool the other animals. The appealing, brightly colored illustrations are large enough to share with a group and also work well in one-on-one reading sessions. "Anansi and the Magic Stick" is another title I like to share. While there are many Anansi stories based on the old folktales from the African tradition, I like the Eric Kimmel illustrations the best.

If you need a fresh approach to teach main idea, you need this book. Anansi and Little Bush Deer provide language in their interactions that lend themselves to answering the Main Idea questions: Who, Did What, When Where, Why, and How.

So much fun! Excellent expressive pictures that capture the silliness and absurdity of the tale. Written in a rhythmic cadence that makes it fun to read and listen to.

One of my favorite stories of all time. I like to tell the story and then give the book to children to whom I told it. I have bought several copies and will continue to do so. It's a story that practically tells itself.

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