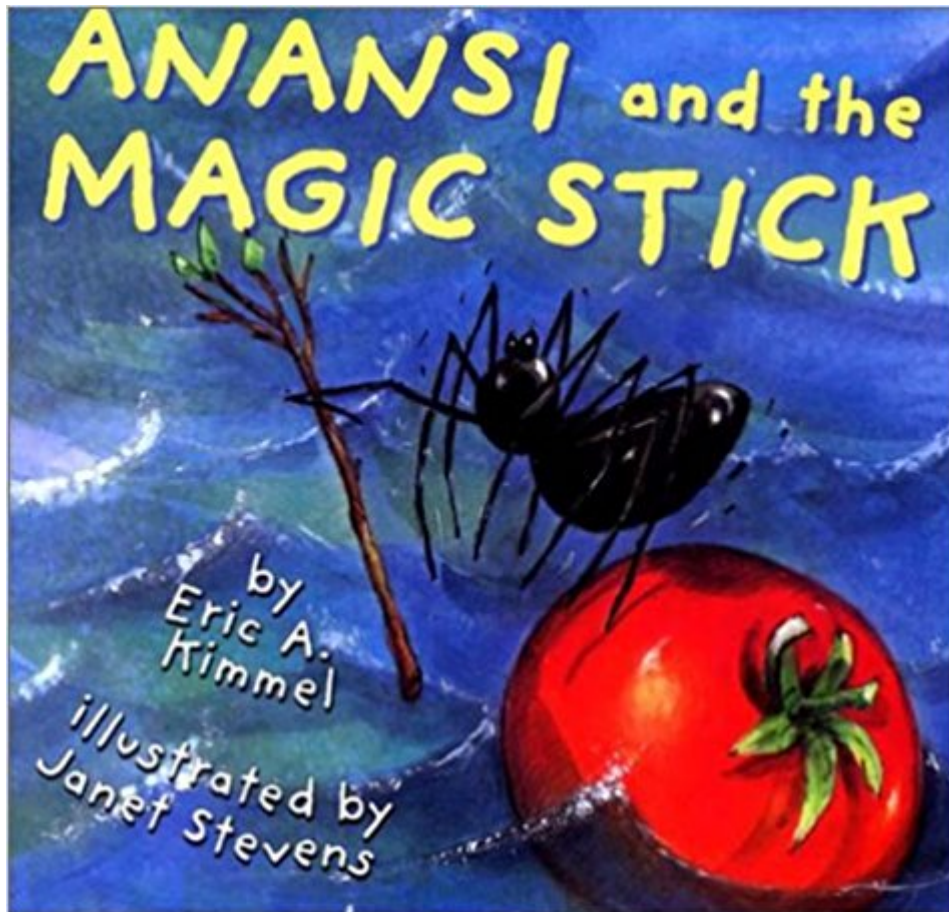




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Anansi And The Magic Stick



Synopsis

It's a fine bright day, and all the animals are working--all except Anansi, that is! He's sleeping, as usual. Warthog, Lion, and Zebra laugh so hard at his messy house that they wake him up. Anansi stomps off in a huff--right into an amazing secret! Hyena has a magic stick that follows his orders. If Anansi steals the stick, he'll never have to work again, and his home will be the neatest one in town. Is the magic stick his secret for success? Or the beginning of disasters he can't even imagine?

Book Information

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Holiday House; Ill edition (September 1, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0823417638

ISBN-13: 978-0823417636

Product Dimensions: 10 x 0.1 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 17 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #145,463 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #12 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > African](#) #4569 in [Books > Children's Books > Humor](#) #7528 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

Customer Reviews

In *Anansi and the Magic Stick* by Eric A. Kimmel, illus. by Janet Stevens, the arachnid goes too far. Anansi steals the napping Hyena's magic housekeeping stick to water his garden. Unattended, the water floods the town. Stevens's comic creatures with their surprised expressions add kid appeal. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

reS-Gr 3-One fine day finds all of the animals working, working, working, except for Anansi, who would much rather lounge and think than work, even though his house and garden are going to ruin. When he notices that Hyena has a magic stick to do all of his chores, he steals it. "Hocus-pocus, Magic Stick./Plant and water./Quick, quick, quick!" That part works well enough, but when the trickster falls asleep, the stick just keeps watering, watering, watering, until his garden turns into a

mighty river and then a lake. When he wakes up, he can't remember the magic words that will stop the stick. Fortunately, Hyena floats and saves the day, but does that teach the spider a lesson? Of course not, and the story ends as he is "planning new tricks, which is just what Anansi does best." This tale has a more traditional ring to it than Kimmel and Stevens's *Anansi and the Talking Melon* (Holiday, 1994), but whimsical illustrations add a modern-day appearance. The stick waters with an assortment of up-to-date hoses, watering cans, and a circular sprinkler, and the characters include a warthog in a bathing cap, a hare wearing water wings, and caricatures of the author in a dinosaur tube and the illustrator clutching a brush in her teeth. The art has a softer focus than in *Talking Melon* but the same bright colors fill the pages, and the whole adds up to an enjoyable offering that is clever, funny, surprising, and traditional all at once. Susan L. Rogers, Chestnut Hill Academy, PA
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This is a fantastic story about a lazy, messy spider whose home is the eye sore of an animal neighborhood. Anansi envies Hyena, who appears to do no work at all, and yet all his house work is completed. His yard is always beautiful; everything seems in perfect order. The mischievous spider shadows Hyena to discover his secret: a magic stick that does its owner's bidding when a special chant is uttered. Greedy Anansi schemes to obtain the magic stick and its power for himself. However, with great power comes great responsibility--as the sneaky spider soon discovers. This beautifully illustrated book captures the fun of the Anansi tale while also teaching the importance of one's personal and social responsibilities. What is very nice in this story is the character of Anansi actually looks like a spider whereas in some children's books, he is shown in a more human-like form. The tale is fun to read out-loud. It echoes the same universal themes as *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*, and some intriguing lessons might come from comparison / contrasts activities.

The children at the school I work loves this and the other Anansi books.

We presented this book to the 2nd grade class where we volunteer for the Junior Great Books program, which includes Anansi stories. The boys and girls love the Eric Kimmel versions of the stories, and the illustrations are captivating.

We LOVED this book and have read it multiple times.

Brilliantly entertaining to read for students!

Brings back memories of my childhood grown up in the caribbean hearing these Anansi Tales

This is a wonderful and colorful book for classroom reading. I have used it both as a read aloud and as a book for students to enjoy on their own.

We really enjoy the Anansi stories. My daughter has been enjoying reading and learning about these tales.

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