Anansi and the Moss-Covered Rock  
Retold by Eric A. Kimmel &  
Adapted by Whitney Peterson

Narrator #1: Once upon a time Anansi the Spider was walking, walking, walking through the forest when something caught his eye. It was a strange moss covered rock.

Anansi: How interesting! Isn’t this a strange moss-covered rock!

*Cymbal crash*

Narrator #2: Everything went black. Down fell Anansi the Spider, senseless. An hour later Anansi woke up.

Anansi: I was walking along the path when something caught my eye. And I stopped and said, Isn’t this a strange moss covered rock!

*Cymbal crash*

Narrator #1: Down fell Anansi the Spider again. But this time when Anansi woke up an hour later, he knew what was happening.

Anansi: Aha! This is a magic rock! An when ever anyone comes along and says the magic words... Isn’t this a strange humm-hummmmmmm humm. Then down he goes. This is a good thing to know. And I know just how to use it.

Lion Scene

Narrator #1: So Anansi the Spider went walking, walking, walking through the forest until he came to Lion’s house. Lion was sitting on his porch and at Lion’s feet there was a great pile of yams.

Anansi: Hello Lion! It is very hot today. Don’t you think so?

Lion: Yes, Anansi. It is terribly hot.

Anansi: I am going for a walk in the cool jungle. Would you like to come?

Lion: I certainly would. Anansi, where are we going?

Anansi: You’ll see.

WALKING THROUGH THE FORREST UNTILL...

Lion: Isn’t this a strange moss covered rock.

*Crash Cymbal*

Narrator #2: Anansi ran back to Lion’s house and made off with his yams. An hour later Lion woke up and his head was spinning.

Lion: Anansi where are you?
Narrator 1: Anansi was nowhere in sight. And when Lion got home he found that every single one of his yams were gone.

Lion: Anansi stole my yams! I thought he was my friend. Never trust a spider.

Transition Scene: (Anansi stage left)

Anansi: (laughs) My plan is working. I have all of Lion’s yummy yams, but I wonder if it will work again. I am going to go see if elephant is home.

**Elephant Scene**

Narrator 2: Once more Anansi went walking, walking, walking through the forest to Elephant’s house. At the Elephant’s feet there was a huge pile of bananas. Now Anansi the Spider loved bananas, but he was too lazy to pick them for himself.

Anansi: Hello Elephant! It is very hot today. Don't you think so?

Elephant: Yes, Anansi. It is extremely hot.

Anansi: I am going for a walk in the cool jungle. Would you like to come?

Elephant: Of course, I love nature walks. Anansi, where are we going?

Anansi: Wait and find out.

**WALKING THROUGH THE FORREST UNTILL**

Elephants: Isn't this a strange moss covered rock.

*Crash Cymbal*

Narrator 1: Anansi ran back to Elephant’s house and stole all of her bananas. An hour later Elephant woke up with her head whirling.

Elephants: Anansi where are you?

Narrator 2: Anansi was nowhere in sight. And when Elephant got home she found that every single one of her bananas was missing.

Elephant: Anansi stole my bananas! I spent all morning picking those. I guess you should never trust a spider.

Transition Scene:

Anansi: (laughs) My plan worked yet again. I now have all of Elephant’s tasty bananas, but I wonder if it will work again? I am going to go see if Rhino is at home.

**Rhino Scene**
Narrator 1: Once more Anansi went walking, walking, walking through the forest to Rhino's house. At Rhino's feet were a pile of beautiful watermelons. Anansi the Spider loved watermelon but he was too lazy plant them for himself.

Anansi: Hello Rhino! It is very hot today. Don’t you think so?
Rhino: Yes, Anansi. It is dreadfully hot.

Anansi: I was going for a walk in the cool jungle. Would you like to come?
Rhino: That sounds wonderful! I would love to come. Anansi, where are we going?
Anansi: Somewhere really cool.

WALKING THROUGH THE FORREST UNTILL

Rhino: Isn’t this a strange moss covered rock.

*Crash Cymbal*

Narrator 2: Anansi ran back to Rhino’s house and made off with Rhino’s watermelons. An hour later he woke up feeling very dizzy.

Rino: Anansi where are you?
Narrator 1: Anansi was nowhere to be found. And when Rhino got home he found that every single one of his watermelons were gone.

Rino: Anansi stole my watermelons! I’ve been growing those since last spring. Never trust a spider.

Transition Scene:

Anansi 1: (laughs) My plan worked yet again. I have all of the Rhino’s beautiful watermelons. I wonder if it will work again. I’ll go see if Hippo is home.

Hippo Scene

Narrator 2: Once more Anansi the Spider went walking, walking, walking through the forest to Hippo’s house. At Hippo’s feet was a large pile of pineapples. Anansi loved pineapples, but he was way too lazy to gather them.

Anansi: Hello Hippo! It is very hot today. Don’t you think so?
Hippo: Yes, Anansi. It is very hot.

Anansi: I am going for a walk in the cool jungle. Would you like to come?
Hippo: Yes, thank you for inviting me. Anansi, where are we going?
Anansi: You’ll see.

WALKING THROUGH THE FORREST UNTILL

Hippo: Isn’t this a strange moss covered rock.

*Crash Cymbal*
Narrator 1: Anansi ran back to Hippo’s house and made off with Hippo’s pineapples. An hour later Hippo woke up and she was so wobbly that she could hardly stand.

Hippo: Anansi where are you?

Narrator 2: Anansi the Spider was nowhere insight. And when Hippo got home she found that every single one of her pineapples were gone.

Hippo: Anansi stole my pineapples! I spent forever trying to find those. Never trust a spider.

Little Bush Deer Scene

Narrator 1: But all this time, watching from behind the leaves was Little Bush Deer. Little Bush Deer was small and shy, and very hard to see.

Narrator 2: She watched Anansi the Spider play his wicked little trick again and again on all of her friends.

Little Bush Deer: I think it is time that Anansi should learn his lesson. I am going play a trick of my own on Anansi the Spider.

Narrator 1: So off went Little Bush Deer, she went deep into the forest where the coconut trees grow. Little Bush Deer climbed the coconut tree and threw down a great many coconuts.

Little Bush Deer: Now I will take these back to my porch and wait for Anansi.

Narrator 2: Sure enough along came Anansi walking, walking, walking through the forrest. And sure enough Anansi’s eyes lit up when he saw Little Bush Deer’s stash of coconuts.

Narrator 1: Anansi loved to eat the tender white coconut meat and drink the sweet coconut milk. But he was much too lazy to gather coconuts for himself.

Anansi: Hello Little Bush Deer! It is so hot today! Don’t you think so?

Little Bush Deer: Yes, Anansi. It is horribly hot.

Anansi: I am going for a walk in the cool jungle. Would you like to come?

Little Bush Deer: Yes, I would. Do you have anywhere in mind Anansi?

Anansi: You’ll see.

WALKING THROUGH THE FORREST UNTILL

Anansi: Do you see that Little Bush Deer?

Little Bush Deer: No, Anansi I don’t see anything.

Anansi: You must see, it look very carefully.

Little Bush Deer: No, I still don’t see anything.
Anansi: You must see it. Look over here. Look right where I am pointing. Do you see it now?

Little Bush Deer: No, Anansi.

Anansi: You see it. You just don’t want to say it.

Little Bush Deer: Say what?

Anansi: You know.

Little Bush Deer: Is that I am supposed to say?

Anansi: Yes

Little Bush Deer: All right. Then I will say it to make you happy. ‘You know.’ There! I said it. Are you satisfied?

Anansi: No! Your not suppose to say ‘You know’

Little Bush Deer: What am I supposed to say then?

Anansi: Your supposed to say, “Isn’t this a strange moss-covered rock!”

*Cymbals*

Narrator 2: And as soon as Anansi said the magic words down he fell. Little Bush Deer ran and to go get all the other animals.

Little Bush Deer: I had better hurry and get back to tell all my friends what happened. So that way they can all get their food back.

Narrator 1: Together all of the animals took back all the good things that the Anansi had stolen from them. And sure enough one hour later Anansi the Spider woke up. His head was spinning and Little Bush Deer was nowhere insight.

Narrator 2: And when Anansi got home he found that his house was as empty as before. But if you think Anansi learned his lesson, you’re mistaken.

Narrator 1: Because he’s still playing tricks to this very day.

Narrators 1 & 2: Never trust a spider.