



**Little  
Novel·Ties**



# **Anansi the Spider**

**Gerald McDermott**

**A Study Guide**

Written by Garrett Christopher



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## **For the Teacher**

This reproducible **Little Novel-Ties** study guide consists of activities to use in conjunction with the book *Anansi the Spider*. The picture book and its corresponding guide can become an important element in your whole language reading program. The guide contains a synopsis; background information on the author and illustrator; suggested pre-reading activities; exercises that focus on vocabulary; visual literacy, story comprehension, and critical thinking skills; and extension activities that link the story to other curriculum areas.

## **Suggestions For Using Activities**

### **Pre-Reading Activities – Before You Read**

These activities are designed to activate children’s prior knowledge and build concepts or background information. They will motivate children to read and help them to understand the story better. Children can discuss answers to the questions with a partner, in a small cooperative learning group, or with the entire class.

### **Word Study – Sound-Alike Words**

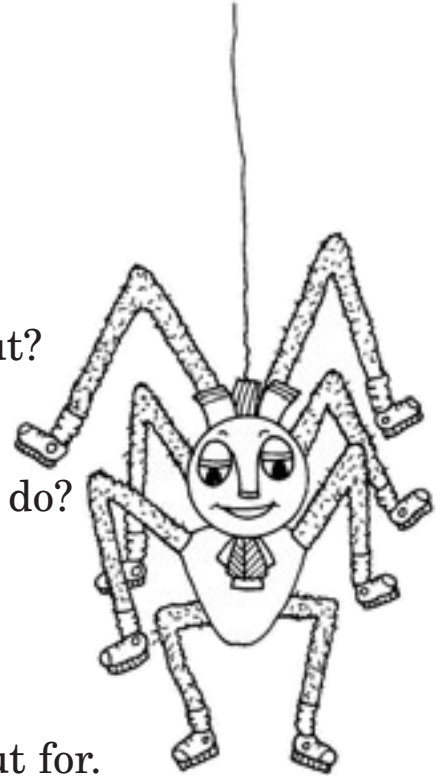
This page presents examples and brief instructional material on homophones — words that sound alike but have different spellings and different meanings. Children are asked to find homophone pairs in sentences.

### **Understanding the Story – Story Questions, Picture Questions**

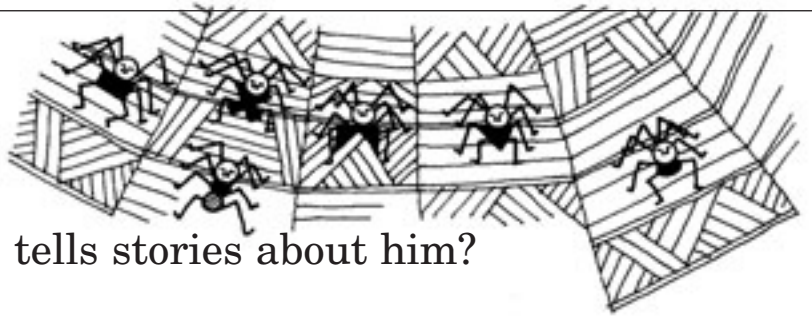
The story questions include a number of literal, inferential, and evaluative questions that help children focus on major story elements. The picture questions help children draw inferences from the illustrations.

## BEFORE YOU READ

1. Read the title of the book.  
Then look at the picture on the cover.  
What do you think this story will be about?
2. Where do spiders live?  
What are some of the things that spiders do?  
What else do you know about spiders?
3. Spiders have many enemies.  
Pretend you are a spider.  
Make a list telling who you would look out for.  
Then share your list with a partner.
4. In this story, six sons help their father.  
Have you ever helped someone in trouble?  
Draw a picture showing how you or someone else helped someone in trouble.



## STORY QUESTIONS



1. Who is Anansi? Who tells stories about him?
2. How many sons did Anansi have? What were the names of the sons?
3. What problem did Anansi have when he went a long way from home?
4. Who saw that Anansi was in trouble? How did Road Builder help?
5. Why did River Drinker take a big drink? How did this help Anansi?
6. What was Anansi's next problem? Which sons helped him this time? How did they help?
7. What did Anansi find in the forest after he was saved? What did he plan to do with it?
8. Whom did Anansi ask for help? What did the spider ask him to do?
9. How were Anansi's sons feeling? Why did they feel this way? What finally happened?
10. Do you think Nyame came up with a good solution? Tell why you think as you do.