



Module 2

Anansi and the Four Bananas

FICTION

Name _____

Year Group _____

Teacher _____

Partner _____

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Series developed by **Ruth Miskin**

Speed sounds

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Vocabulary check

| | | |
|------------|----------------|------------|
| wages | money for work | sweet |
| mangoes | fruit | |
| watermelon | a big fruit | wanting to |
| curious | know | |

Text 1: Anansi and the Four Bananas

- 1 The Anansi stories come from Ghana, in Africa. Anansi is sometimes a spider and sometimes a man. In this story, Anansi the spider shows how clever he is.

It was market day, and all the animals were spending their wages. But Anansi was too lazy to work, and so he had no money.

“Those golden mangoes look tasty!” he said to himself. “And that round, green watermelon – I would love to take it home for my family. Oh, life is so unfair! What can I do?”

Quick check

- Anansi couldn't buy any food because
- a) there were only mangoes and watermelon.
 - b) he was asleep.
 - c) all the other animals had bought all the food.
 - d) he had been too lazy to work for money.

Underline the evidence.



Questions to write about

- 1 Why were the animals at the market?

- 1 Anansi thinks ‘Life is so unfair!’ because he has no money. Do you think he is right? Explain your answer.

2 Then he saw his friend Rat, scurrying along. Rat was carrying a brown paper bag, and Anansi, being a curious sort of spider, wanted to know what was in it.

“Good morning, Rat!” he said slyly. “I see you have bought something in the market.”

“I have bought a bunch of bananas,” said Rat.

“You are lucky,” said Anansi. “I have no bananas, but you have a whole bunch. How can I go home to my wife and tell her that I have no food for the little ones? Baby spiders are always hungry.”

Rat felt sorry for Anansi.



Quick check

Anansi tells Rat

- a) he has bananas at home.
- b) he has bought something at market.
- c) he has no food for his children.
- d) he feels sorry for him.

Underline the evidence.

Questions to write about

2 Why is Anansi described as ‘curious’?

2 Why does Anansi tell Rat that he is lucky?

3 "I suppose I could give you these bananas," he replied. "I will buy something else for myself."

He held out the brown paper bag and Anansi looked inside.

"Oh, dear!" he cried. "There are only four bananas – but there are five spiders in my family. My wife, myself and our three children."

"Well, I only have four bananas," said Rat.

"Take them or leave them."

"I will take them, thank you very much," said Anansi.

He grabbed the brown paper bag and set off for home.

Questions to write about

3 What does Rat give Anansi?

3 What does Rat mean when he says, 'Take them or leave them' to Anansi?

Quick check

Anansi complains because

- a) the bananas are mouldy.
- b) he has only four children.
- c) he doesn't like bananas.
- d) there aren't enough bananas for all his family.

Underline the evidence.