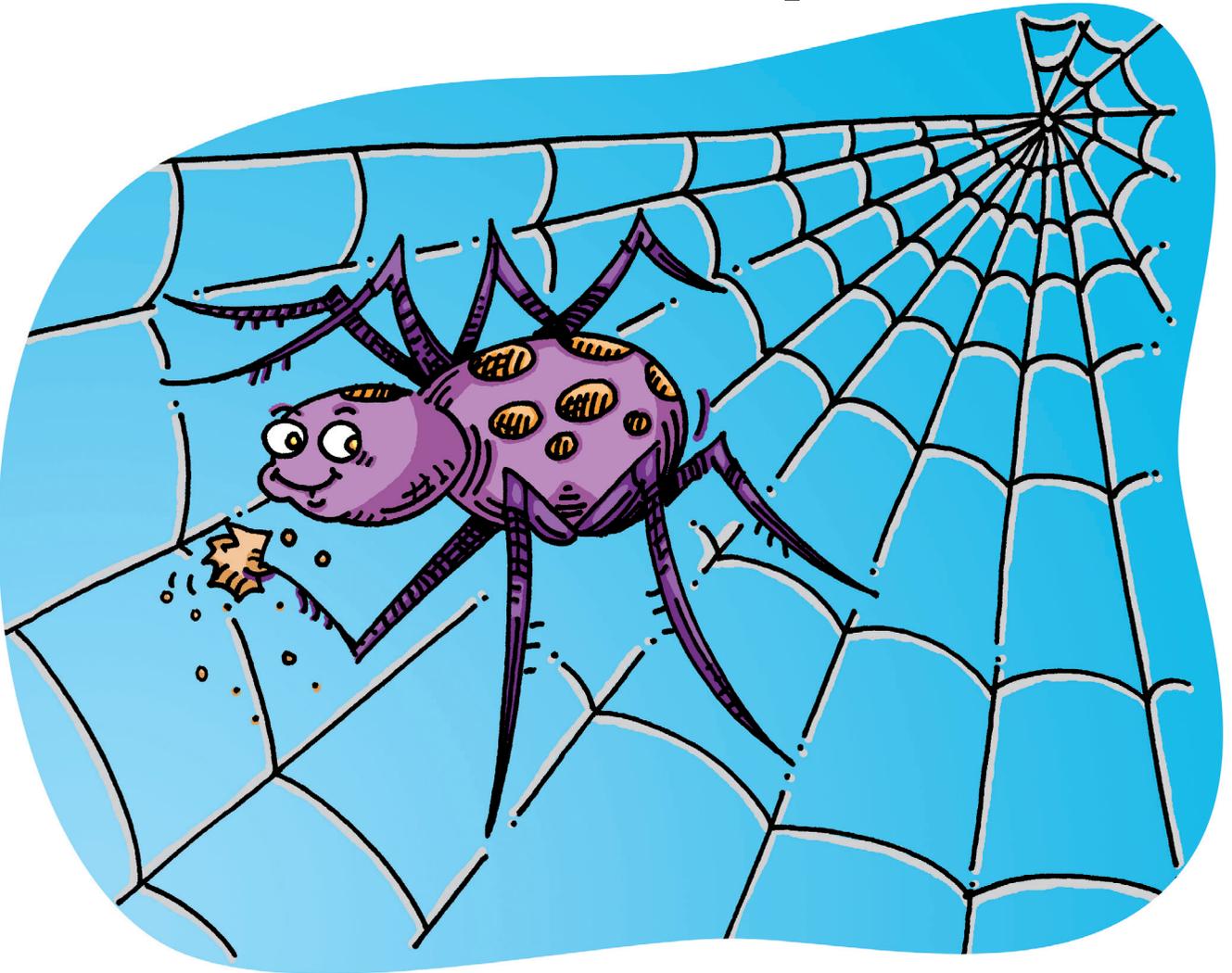


Anansi, the Spider



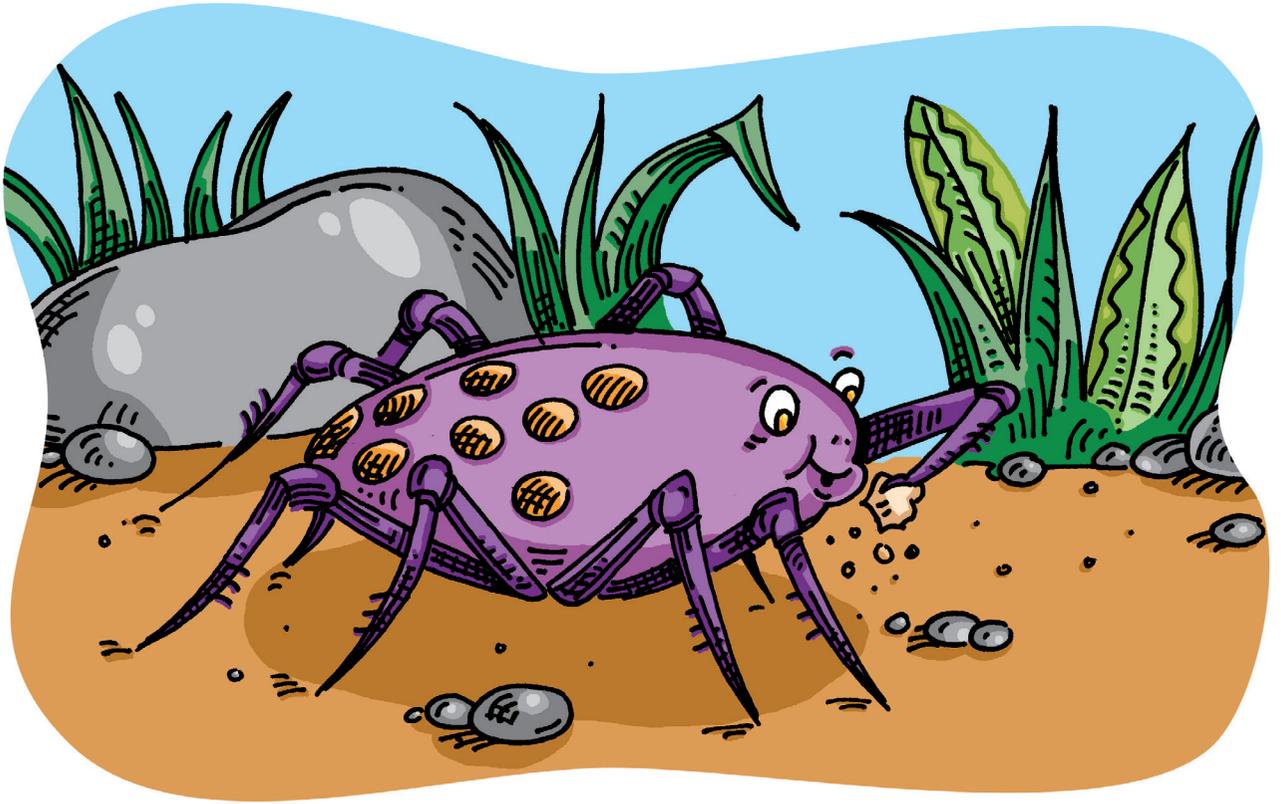
Story adapted by Wendie Old and Laura Burton Rice
Illustrations by Scott Mattern

Green Words and *Challenge Words:

				1
* spider	east	* delighted	could	
waist	feast	would	* another	
* village	peanuts	should	west	
				2
* begin	might	tied	yank	
bright	tightly	vine		
yams				
				3
meanwhile	* body	teeny	* today	
daylight	fight			

Red Words to practice every day:

child	know	both	idea
coming			



A long time ago, spiders had no waist. Anansi was the fattest spider of them all. He ate all the time. He looked like a football.

This tale tells how Anansi got his thin waist.



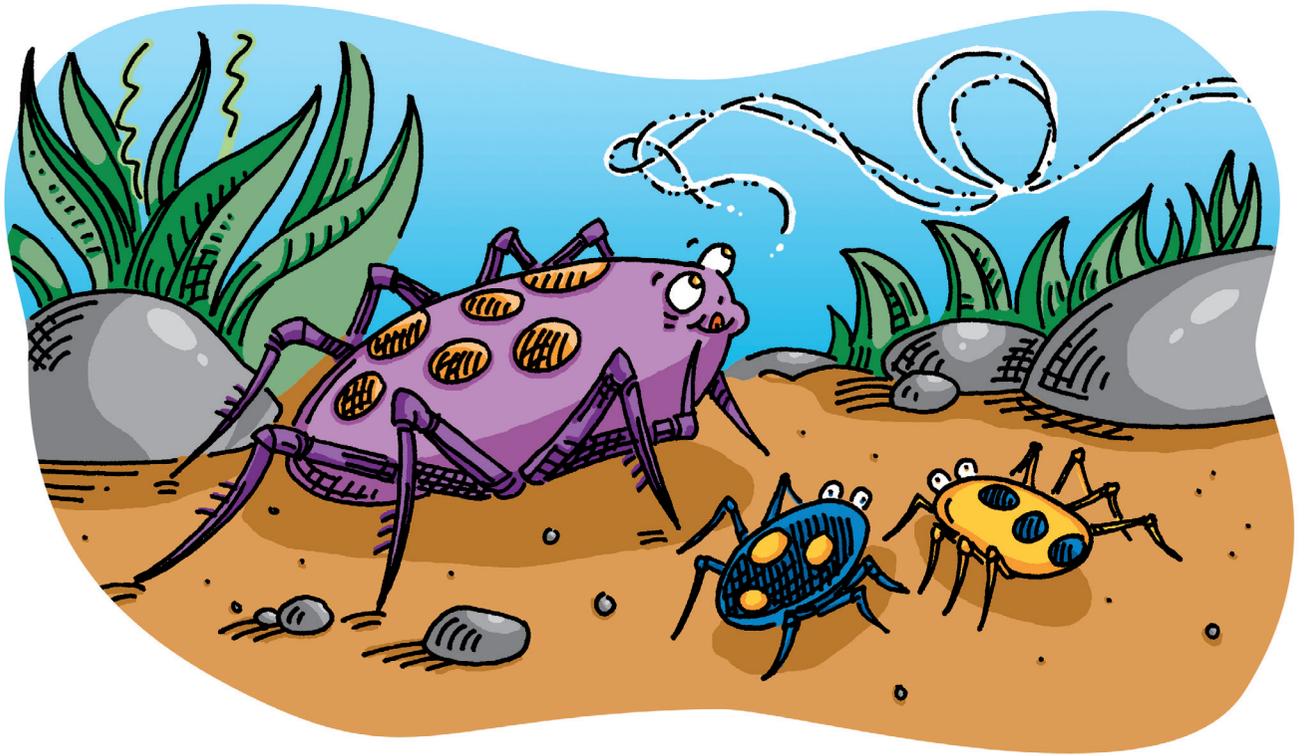
One day, Anansi went to the forest with his children, Osa and Iba. They saw a child running. He was running to the East Village.

“Why are you running?” asked Anansi.

“I am invited to a big feast!” yelled the child.

“When is the feast?” asked Anansi.

But the child was gone.



When the three spiders were alone, Anansi sniffed. He could smell chicken with peanuts. It was coming from the East Village. Anansi was delighted!

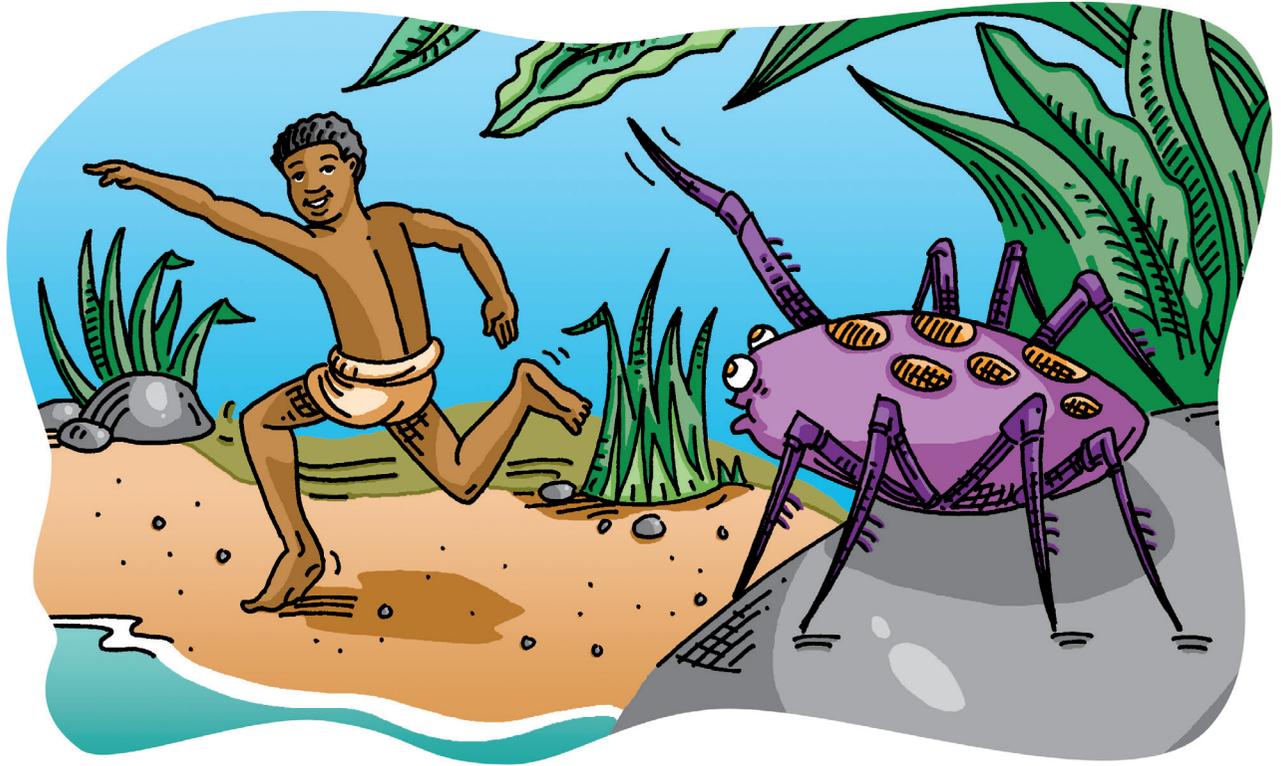
He said,

“I *would* like to go to the feast.

I *should* go, but I don’t know when it is.

I *could* go if . . .”

Anansi stopped.



All of a sudden, Anansi saw another child. He was running to the West Village.

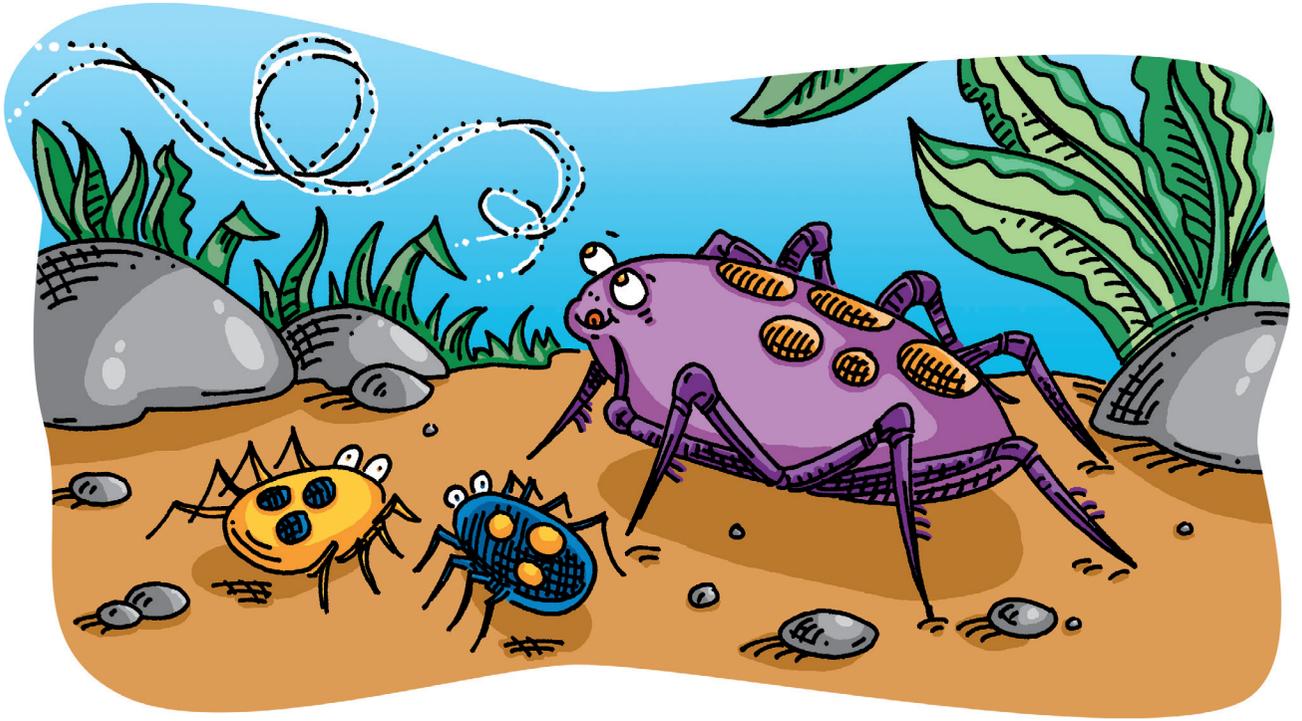
“Why are you running?” asked Anansi.

“I am invited to a big feast!” yelled the child.

“When is the feast?” asked Anansi.

But the child was gone.





When the three spiders were alone, Anansi sniffed. He could smell hot yams and fish. It was coming from the West Village.

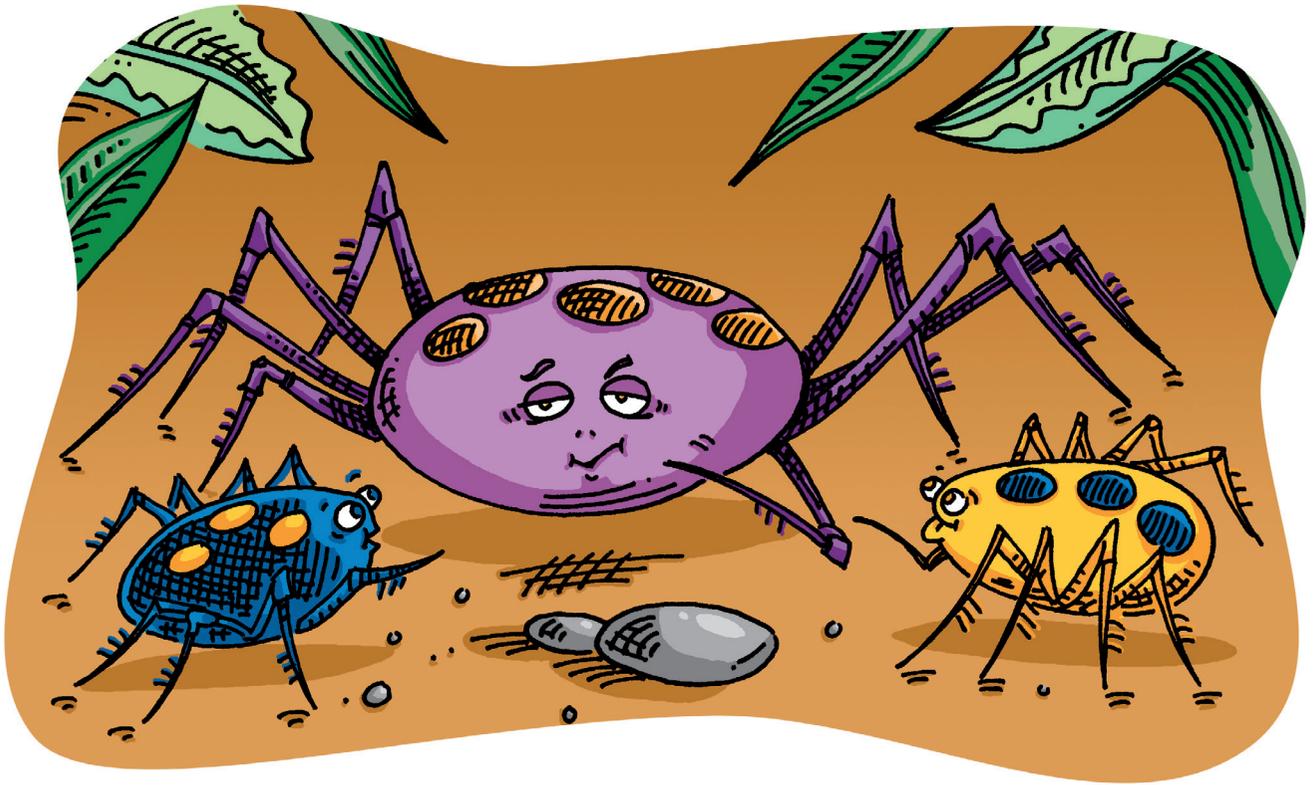
He said,

“*I would* like to go to the feast.

I should go, but I don’t know when it is.

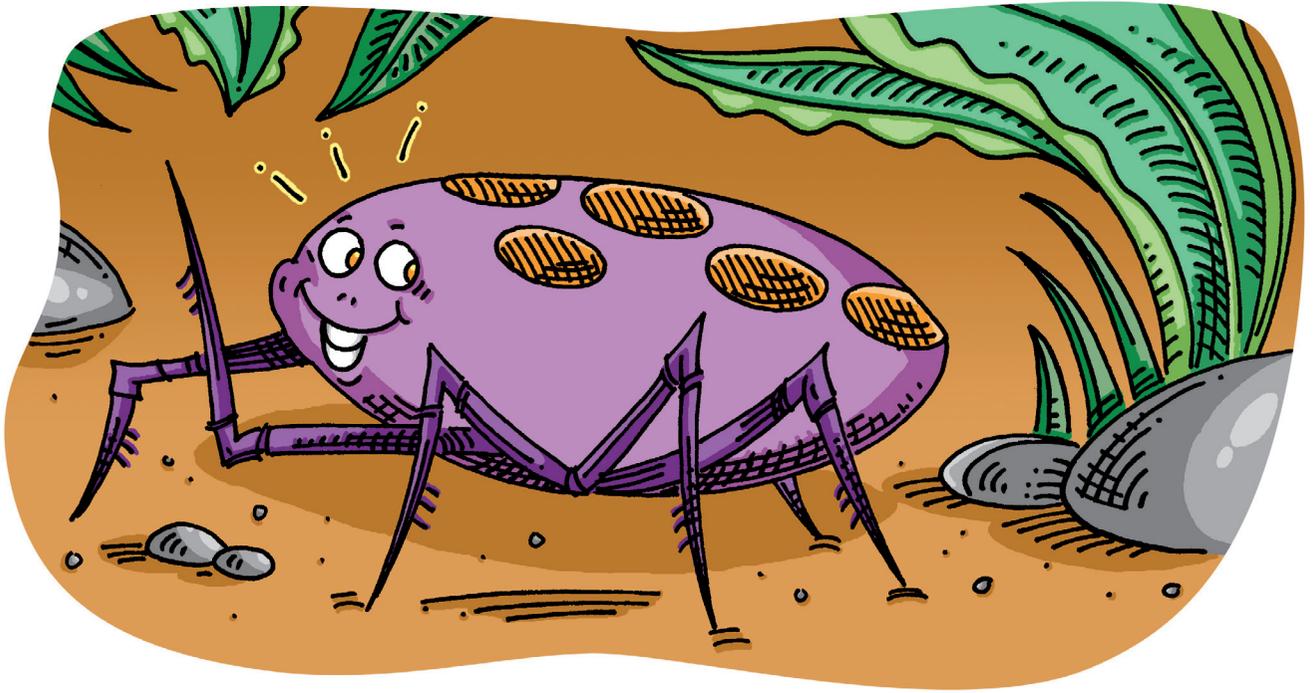
I could go if . . .”

Anansi stopped.



Anansi's children said, "You were not invited to these feasts. You don't know when the feasts begin!"

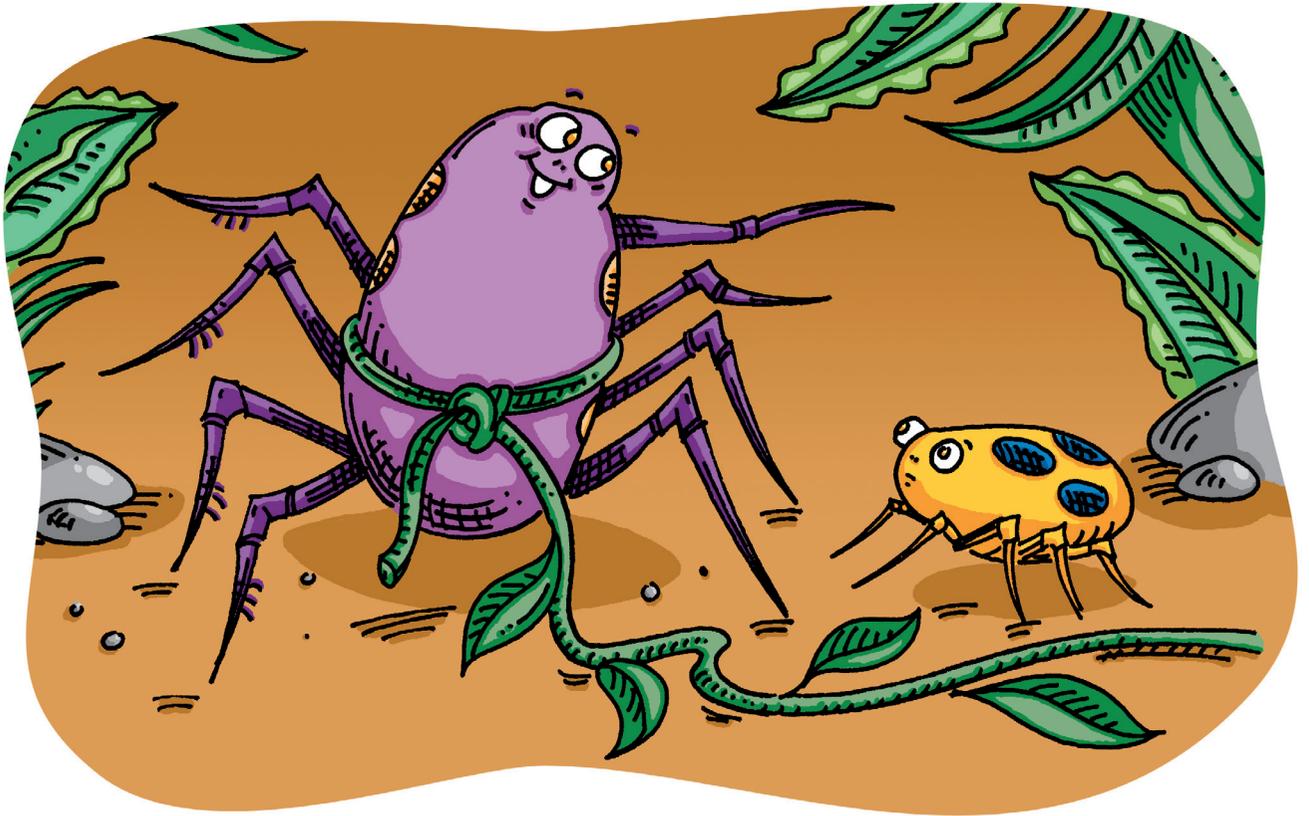
Anansi said to his children, "Be quiet. I could still go. Let me think."



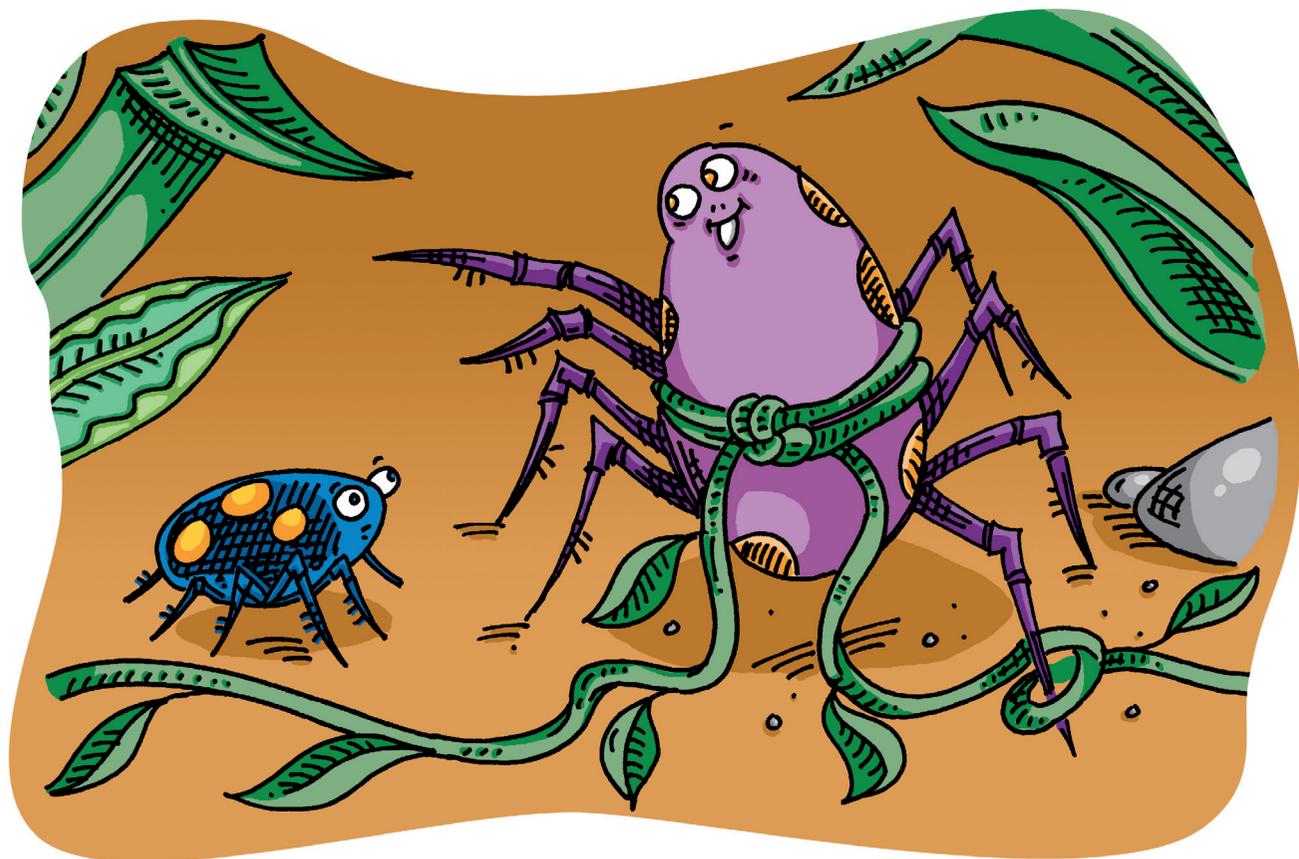
Anansi sat on the path to think. How could he find out the time each feast began? He might miss all the chicken, yams, and fish! Then he had a bright idea.

Anansi said, "I am in between the East Village and West Village. I could go to both feasts."

"How?" asked his children.

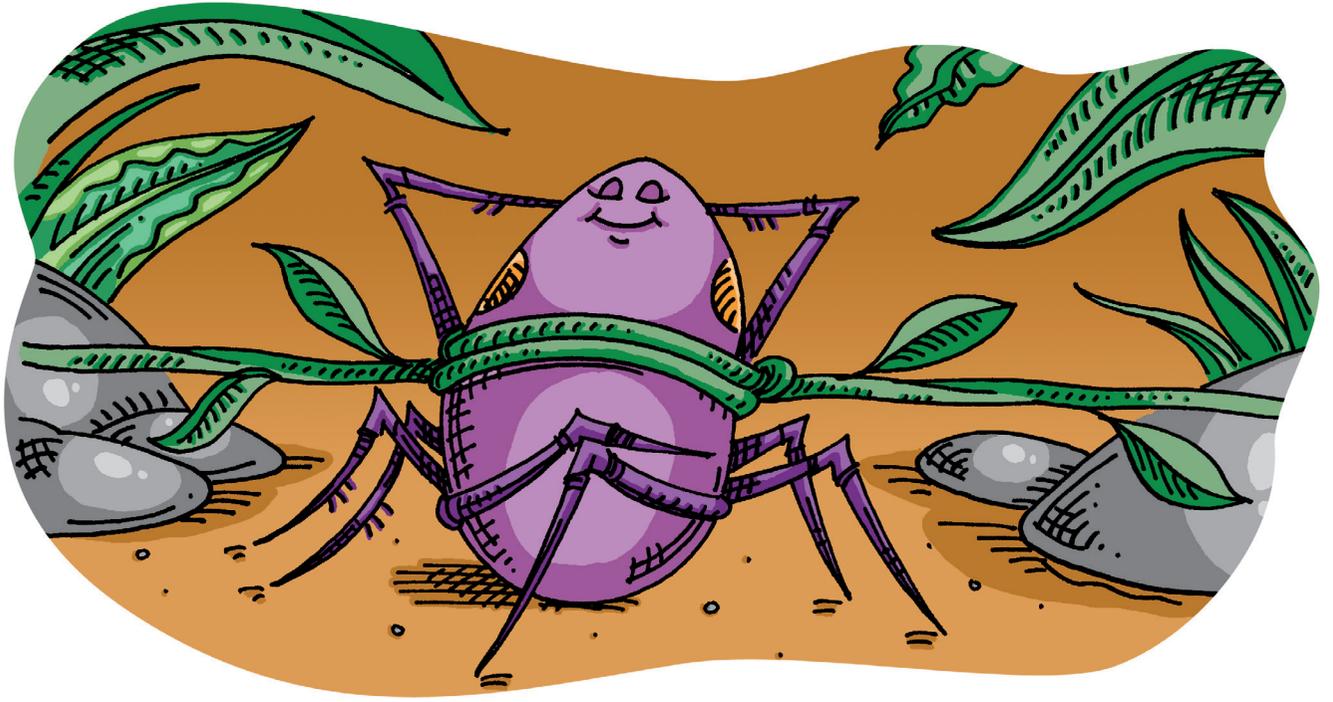


Anansi grabbed a vine and tied it tightly around his middle. He tossed one end of the vine to Osa and said, “Go to the East Village. When it is time to eat, yank the vine. Then I will come to the feast.”

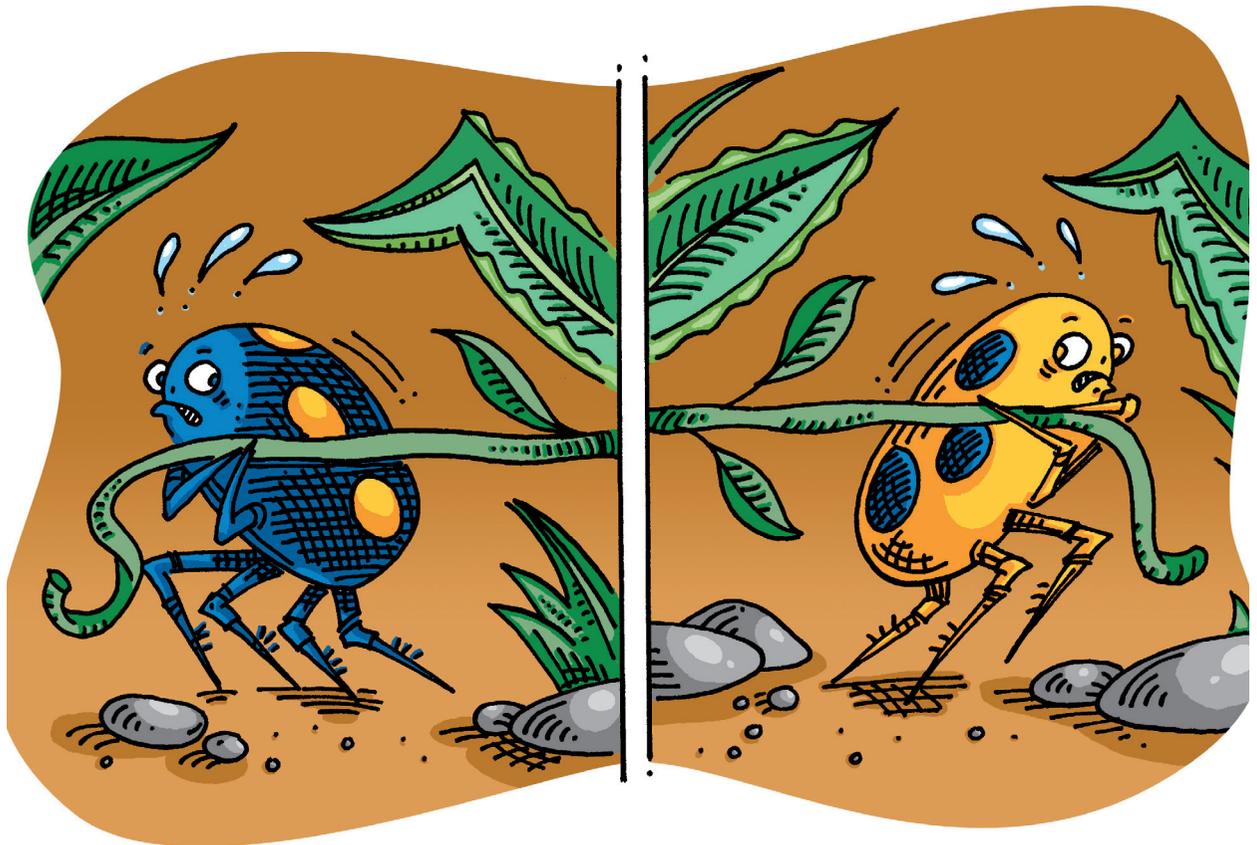


Anansi tied a second vine tightly around his waist. He tossed one end of the vine to Iba. Then he said, “Take this end of the vine. Go to the West Village. When it is time to eat, yank the vine. Then I will come to the feast.”



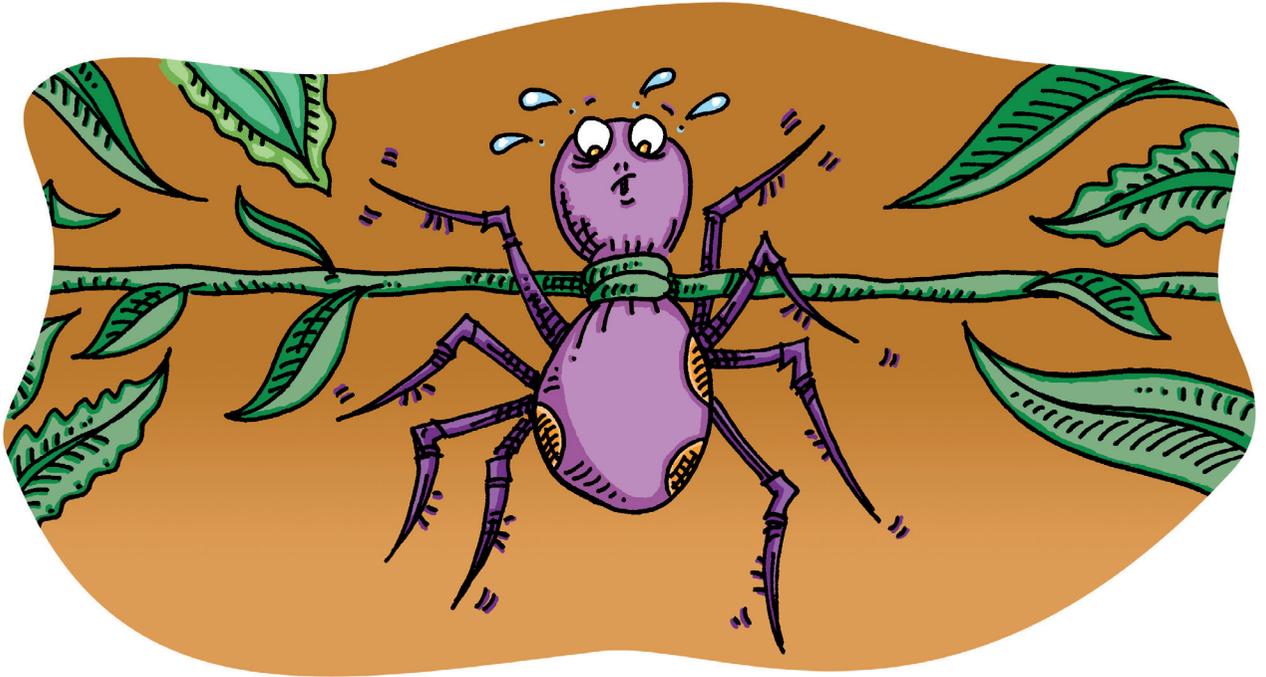


Osa ran with the end of the vine to the East Village.
Iba ran with the end of the other vine to the West Village.
Meanwhile, Anansi rested in the forest so he could eat
a lot.



When daylight faded and night fell, both feasts began.
Anansi's children yanked their vines at the same time!
They yanked the two vines tighter and tighter.

Osa yanked with all her might from the East Village.
Iba yanked with all his might from the West Village.



The vines pulled tighter and tighter. Anansi could not fight the vines.

“Stop! Stop!” he yelled with all his might. But his children were far away and could not hear him.

The vines pulled until Anansi’s waist was thin. His head was still fat. His body was still fat. But his waist in between was teeny and thin. And this is why, today, all spiders have a thin waist.

1. What tells Anansi that a big feast is going on?

2. Write the answer on the blank line.

Which word means a big dinner? _____

A. west

B. east

C. feast

1. How will Anansi's children tell him when the feasts begin?

2. Write the answer on the blank line.

Anansi had a bright idea. To him, it was a _____ idea.

A. smart

B. shining

C. light

1. How does Anansi look at the end of the story?

2. Write the answer on the blank line.

When it is not dark, we have _____.

A. night

B. daylight

C. tight

Reading Roots, Level 4
Anansi, the Spider

“ight”
“ould”



Reading Roots Shared Stories were developed under the direction of Robert E. Slavin and Nancy A. Madden, codirectors of the Success for All Foundation Family of Programs.

Success for All Foundation is a nonprofit education reform organization that develops and disseminates research-based reading and math programs for students in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, elementary and middle schools. These programs were originally developed at Johns Hopkins University.

Illustrations for this book were colored digitally by Jason Lego.

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A Nonprofit Education Reform Organization

300 E. Joppa Road, Suite 500, Baltimore, MD 21286

PHONE: (800) 548-4998; FAX: (410) 324-4444

E-MAIL: sfainfo@successforall.org

WEBSITE: www.successforall.org