

Anansi and the Turtle



Anansi had just baked a batch of yams and sat down to eat them. Turtle had been walking all day. He walked by Anansi's house. He could smell the delicious food. It was a custom that if someone comes by at dinnertime, a meal is offered. Turtle knocked on Anansi's door.

"Come in!" Anansi said. "Would you like to share a meal with me?"

"Indeed," said Turtle. He took a seat at the table.



Now, Anansi was selfish. He invited Turtle to dinner. But he did not want to share his food. Anansi said, "Turtle, your feet are dirty. You must wash up before you eat."



Turtle's face turned red. He left Anansi's house. He walked down to the river. But Turtle was slow. By the time he returned, Anansi had eaten all the yams. Anansi had tricked Turtle out of a meal!

"I'm sorry, Turtle," Anansi said. "Please come back again. I will make enough for both of us to share."

The next day, Anansi woke up hungry. He thought, "I'll go to Turtle's for dinner. I am sure he has something good to eat today."

That night Anansi went to Turtle's houseboat.

"Are you here for dinner?" Turtle asked.

"Yes, if you are eating," Anansi said.

"Very well. Come with me. I am serving dinner under the water tonight."

Turtle dove to the bottom of the pond. He had set a table. It was full of fish, beans, and corn.

Anansi saw the yummy food below. But he was smart. He knew that he was not heavy enough to stay on the bottom of the pond. He would just float to the top. So, Anansi put on an overcoat. He filled it with rocks. Then Anansi jumped into the water. He sank into a seat at Turtle's table.



Turtle looked at Anansi. He frowned. Turtle said, "It is not polite to wear an overcoat at my table. Please take it off."

Anansi took off his overcoat. He rose to the top of the pond. Anansi shook off the water. He walked off in a huff.

A smarter turtle had fooled Anansi, the tricky spider.