Literature Central Message

Grade 3 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

Name _____ Date _____

Circle the answer.

READ THIS FIRST

Anansi and the Pot of Wisdom

Long ago in West Africa, people say, all the wisdom in the world was kept in one clay pot. Nyame, the sky god, gave the pot to Anansi the spider. "Share it with everyone," Nyame said.

Anansi looked inside the pot. He saw ideas about planting, building, cooking, and healing. Every time he peeked, he learned something new. He learned how to find water in dry places. He learned how to build a roof that kept out the rain.

"Why should I share this?" Anansi thought. "If I keep it all, I will be the wisest one of all. Everyone will have to come to me for answers."

So Anansi decided to hide the pot. He would place it at the very top of the tallest silk-cotton tree, where no one could reach it.

Anansi tied the heavy pot to the front of his body with a vine. Then he began to climb. But the pot bumped against the tree trunk. It got in the way of his legs. He slipped down again and again. Anansi grew tired and cross, but he would not stop.

Anansi's young son, Ntikuma, was watching from below. "Father," he called, "why not tie the pot on your back? Then you could hold the tree with all your legs."

Anansi stopped. His face grew hot. He had all the wisdom in the world, yet a small child had thought of a better plan.

In that moment, Anansi understood something new. No one, not even a clever spider, can hold all the wisdom alone. Good ideas can come from anyone.

Anansi was so surprised that he let go of the pot. It fell to the ground and broke into many pieces. A strong wind blew the wisdom across the land. A little landed in every village and in every home.

That is why, the story says, everyone has a little bit of wisdom today. And when people share their ideas, they all grow wiser together.

1. What is the central message of this folktale?
   - Tall trees are the best places to hide things.
   - Good ideas can come from anyone.
   - Children should always do what parents say.
   - Spiders are the cleverest animals of all.

2. Why did Anansi want to hide the pot?
   - He was afraid the pot would break.
   - He wanted to be the only wise one.
   - He wanted to save it for his son.
   - Nyame told him to keep it safe.

3. Which detail first shows that Anansi was being selfish?
   - He looked inside and saw ideas about planting.
   - He tied the pot to the front of his body.
   - He slipped down the tree again and again.
   - He asked himself why he should share the pot.

4. What problem did Anansi have while he climbed?
   The vine was too short to hold the pot.
   Ntikuma kept pulling on his legs.
   The tree was too wide to wrap his legs around.
   The pot on his front got in his way.

5. How does Anansi change in the story?
   He stops thinking he is the only wise one.
   He becomes afraid of climbing trees.
   He decides to keep the pot forever.
   He stops trusting his son's ideas.

6. Which event shows the central message most clearly?
   Anansi peeks inside and learns something new.
   Anansi ties the heavy pot on with a vine.
   Nyame gives the pot to Anansi to share.
   A small child thinks of a better plan than Anansi.

7. What does the word wisdom mean in this folktale?
   knowing what is true and what is best to do
   gold and other shiny treasure
   a kind of strong, heavy clay
   the power to climb very fast

8. If Ntikuma had not spoken up, what would most likely have happened?
   Anansi would have shared the pot right away.
   The wind would have carried Anansi away.
   Nyame would have come to take the pot back.
   Anansi would have kept slipping down the tree.

9. How does the folktale explain why everyone has some wisdom today?
   Nyame made a new pot for every single home.
   Ntikuma climbed the tree and shared the pot.
   Anansi went from village to village teaching.
   The pot broke, and the wind spread the wisdom.

10. Which advice fits the lesson of this folktale?
    Always tie a heavy load onto your back.
    Climb carefully when you carry something heavy.
    Keep important things in a safe, high place.
    Listen to ideas from others, even small children.

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Answer Key - Grade 3 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

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