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

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

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

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

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

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

7. What does the word wisdom mean in this folktale?
   gold and other shiny treasure
   a kind of strong, heavy clay
   knowing what is true and what is best to do
   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.
   Nyame would have come to take the pot back.
   The wind would have carried Anansi away.
   Anansi would have kept slipping down the tree.

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

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

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Answer Key - Grade 3 Reading Worksheet - Challenge Me

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