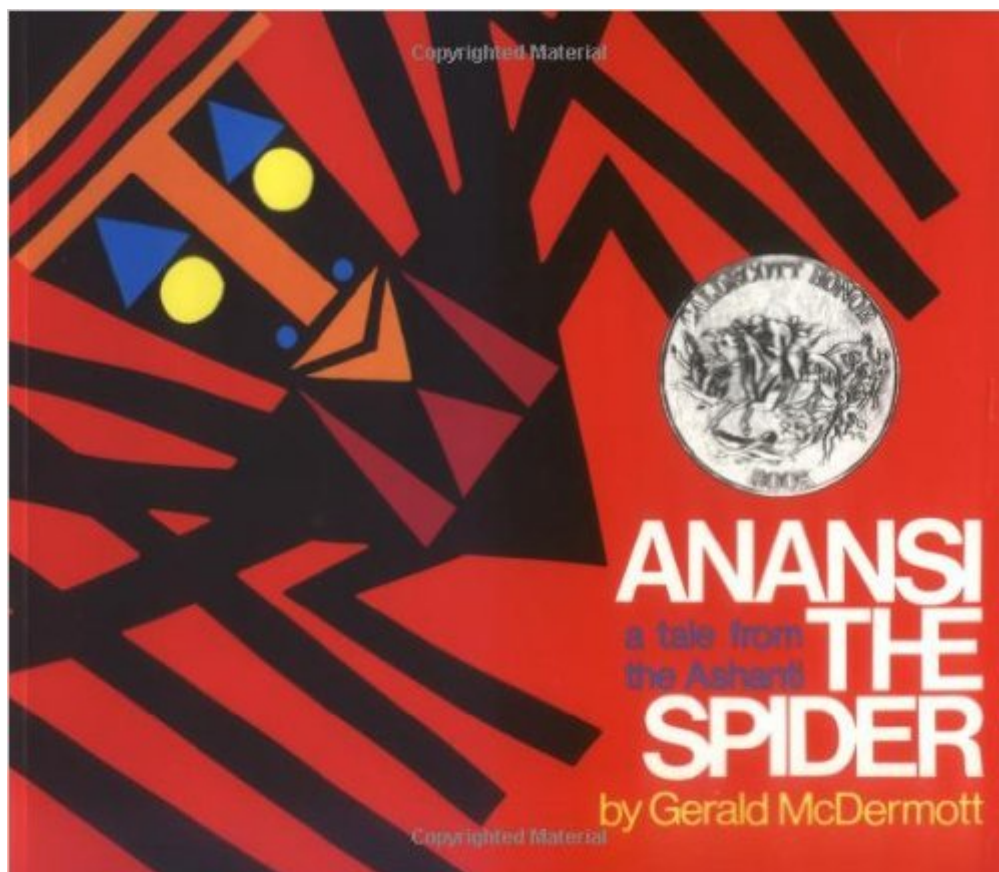


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# Anansi The Spider: A Tale From The Ashanti



## Synopsis

Anansi the Spider is one of the great folk heroes of the world. He is a rogue, a mischief maker, and a wise, lovable creature who triumphs over larger foes. In this traditional Ashanti tale, Anansi sets out on a long, difficult journey. Threatened by Fish and Falcon, he is saved from terrible fates by his sons. But which of his sons should Anansi reward? Calling upon Nyame, the God of All Things, Anansi solves his predicament in a touching and highly resourceful fashion. In adapting this popular folktale, Gerald McDermott merges the old with the new, combining bold, rich color with traditional African design motifs and authentic Ashanti language rhythms. *Anansi the Spider* is a 1973 Caldecott Honor Book.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD290L (What's this?)

Paperback: 48 pages

Publisher: Henry Holt and Company; 1 edition (March 15, 1987)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0805003118

ISBN-13: 978-0805003116

Product Dimensions: 8.7 x 0.2 x 7.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (79 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #20,180 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) [#13 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Africa](#) [#24 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Multicultural](#) [#59 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Bugs & Spiders](#)

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: 3 and up

## Customer Reviews

I am a big fan of the Anansi tales, and the spider's adventures are delightful as well as thought-provoking. For edutainment (educational entertainment) and discussion, I include them in my high school / college level introduction to mythology / humanities survey courses. All ages can enjoy a clever trickster hero who possesses many human qualities, the good and bad--who makes us think about our own deeds and behavior. In *Anansi The Spider: A Tale from the Ashanti*, Gerald McDermott retells an Anansi story with warmth, cultural sensitivity, and bright, attention-seizing

illustrations. Among the children's books about Anansi, McDermott's efforts stand in a unique place because the text is used sparingly and with great effect, conveying important events only and not burying key ideas in lavish descriptions or dialogues. In this book, the elaborate, geometric illustrations paint the "descriptions" that the text omits. Features that I like... The map in the opening that shows the continent of Africa and the country of Ghana. (I'm always happy to see a bit of geography dropped into stories, especially those designed for children.) The Prologue, which describes the importance of folklore, mythology, and legends. I especially appreciate this statement: "Folklore prepares man for adult life. It places him within his culture." Rather than beginning the story with the familiar "Once upon a time...", the author uses "Time was..." which is cool! :) Each of the spider sons in the story is unique in design, appearance, and talent, which makes him easy (and fun) to identify as the tale unfolds. The six sons are See Trouble, Road Builder, River Drinker, Game Skinner, Stone Thrower, and Cushions.

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