

Module 2



Anansi and the Four Bananas

FICTION

Name _____

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Series developed by **Ruth Miskin**

Speed sounds

f	l	m	n	r	s	v	z	sh	th	ng
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Vocabulary check

wages

money for work

mangoes

sweet fruit

watermelon

a big fruit

curious

wanting to know

Text 1: Anansi and the Four Bananas

- 1 The Anansi stories come from Ghana, in Africa. Anansi is sometimes a spider and sometimes a man. In this story, Anansi the spider shows how clever he is.

It was market day, and all the animals were spending their wages. But Anansi was too lazy to work, and so, he had no money.

“Those golden mangoes look tasty!” he said to himself. “And that round green watermelon – I would love to take it home for my family. Oh, life is so unfair! What can I do?”

Quick check

- 1 Anansi couldn't buy any food because
- a) there were only mangoes and watermelon.
 - b) he was asleep.
 - c) all the other animals had bought all the food.
 - d) he had been too lazy to work for money.

Underline the evidence.



Questions to write about

- 1 Why were the animals at the market?

- 1 Anansi thinks ‘Life is so unfair!’ because he has no money. Do you think he is right? Explain your answer.

2 Then he saw his friend Rat, scurrying along. Rat was carrying a brown paper bag, and Anansi, being a curious sort of spider, wanted to know what was in it.

“Good morning, Rat!” he said slyly. “I see you have bought something in the market.”

“I have bought a bunch of bananas,” said Rat.

“You are lucky,” said Anansi. “I have no bananas, but you have a whole bunch. How can I go home to my wife and tell her that I have no food for the little ones? Baby spiders are always hungry.”

Rat felt sorry for Anansi.



Quick check

- 2 Anansi tells Rat
- a) he has bananas at home.
 - b) he has bought something at market.
 - c) he has no food for his children.
 - d) he feels sorry for him.

Underline the evidence.

Questions to write about

2 Why is Anansi described as ‘curious’?

2 Why does Anansi tell Rat that he is lucky?

3 “I suppose I could give you these bananas,” he replied. “I will buy something else for myself.”

He held out the brown paper bag and Anansi looked inside.

“Oh, dear!” he cried. “There are only four bananas – but there are five spiders in my family. My wife, myself and our three children.”

“Well, I only have four bananas,” said Rat.

“Take them or leave them.”

“I will take them, thank you very much,” said Anansi.

He grabbed the brown paper bag and set off for home.

Quick check

- 3 Anansi complains because
- a) the bananas are mouldy.
 - b) he has only four children.
 - c) he doesn't like bananas.
 - d) there aren't enough bananas for all his family.

Underline the evidence.

Questions to write about

3 What does Rat give Anansi?

3 What does Rat mean when he says 'Take them or leave them' to Anansi?

4 “Look what I’ve brought you from the market!” said Anansi, holding up the bunch of bananas.

“They look delicious, Anansi. But there are only four bananas,” replied his wife. “There are five of us.”

“Oh, don’t worry about me,” said Anansi.

“I will go hungry today. Eat one banana yourself, and give the other three to the children.”

Quick check

- 4 Anansi tells his wife to
- a) go to the market.
 - b) eat all the bananas.
 - c) eat one banana and give the rest to the children.
 - d) go hungry.

Underline the evidence.



Questions to write about

4 What does Anansi tell his wife to do?

5 “You are so kind, my dear Anansi. Always thinking of other people! But you must eat! You can have half of my banana.”

“And you can have half of mine,” squeaked the oldest spider baby.

“And half of mine!” squawked the middle spider baby.

“And half of mine!” squealed the youngest spider baby.

Each of them gave Anansi half a banana. And he ate every single bit.

“Mmmmmm!”

6 How many bananas did Anansi eat altogether?

That’s right – two! Two whole bananas! And his wife, and the oldest spider baby, and the middle spider baby, and the youngest spider baby, only had half a banana each. Clever Anansi!

Quick check

- 5 Anansi’s wife and children
- a) ate all their banana.
 - b) gave their banana to the youngest spider.
 - c) each gave half of their banana to Anansi.
 - d) threw the bananas away.

Underline the evidence.

- 6 Anansi was clever because
- a) he had lots of children.
 - b) he ate two bananas.
 - c) he was greedy.
 - d) he was hungry.

Underline the evidence.



Questions to write about

5 Why does Anansi’s wife think that Anansi is kind? Do you agree with her? Explain your answer.

Text 2: My diary by Anansi

Think about vocabulary

Activity 1

Anansi is:

hungry

furious

cheerful

loving

crafty

bored

sad

hopeful

shocked

cross

silly

sorrowful

lonely

interested

ungrateful

1 The market was swarming with people. Everyone carried heavy bags full of vegetables and fruit for their dinner. My stomach was rumbling and gurgling because I hadn't eaten all day.

2 I knew I couldn't go back home empty-handed. Just as I was thinking up a plan to sneak away a watermelon with one of my back legs, I spied my good friend Rat scurrying along quickly. Spotting his bag full of food, I decided upon a different plan.

3 I called out to Rat and asked him (very politely) what he had in his bag. I knew Rat adored children and wouldn't be able to bear the thought of my three little ones going hungry. Ha! Maybe I wouldn't be going home empty-handed after all!

4 I looked down at the ground.
"My babies are starving, and I have nothing to give them," I said in my whiniest voice.

5 Rat did just as I thought – he gave me the bananas straight away. But instead of thanking Rat, I grumbled.

"There are four bananas, and I have five hungry spiders in my family."

Rat snapped, "Take them or leave them..."

Activity 2

raining

hot

crowded

dawdling

chatting

scampering

teased

frightened

loved

happiest

moaniest

silliest

shouted

complained

whispered

Vocabulary catch

Word	Synonym or meaning

Build a picture

The market was busy.

There were lots of fruit and vegetables.

Composition prompts

Questions to Anansi:

You look happy – what have you been up to?

Have you been working?

How have you been getting food for your family?

How did you get Rat to agree to let you have the bananas?

How did you manage to get more food than your children?

Think about grammar

1. Write A over the adjectives. Write N over the nouns. Underline the noun phrases.

The animals carried heavy bags full of food.

There are four bananas, and I have five hungry spiders in my family.

2. *Change the verbs into the present tense.*

I sneaked away a watermelon with one of my back legs, then I spied my friend Rat scurrying along. I called out to Rat and asked him what he had in his bag.

3. *Add the missing adverb to each sentence.*

I asked for his help as _____ as I could.

[polite politely]

“Take them or leave them,” said Rat _____.

[snappy snappily snapped]

4. *Add the missing punctuation to each sentence.*

i spied lots of mangoes watermelons and bananas [Add 3]

my stomach wouldnt stop rumbling grumbling and gurgling [Add 4]

5. *Add the missing conjunction to each sentence.* [and but or]

Rat adored children _____ wouldn't want my three little ones going hungry.

I didn't know whether to take a watermelon _____ a peach.

Everyone had bags full of food _____ mine was empty.

6. *Circle the correct sentence type. Add the right punctuation to the end of each sentence.*

I have nothing to give my babies [question statement command]

What can I give my babies [question statement command]

Help my babies [question statement command]

Spell Green Words

Dot, dash and arc the Green Words.

see meet week cheese sea weak
meat these complete thief field me

Write the three pairs of homophones in your exercise book.

Spell suffixes

Add the word with the right suffix to each sentence. Remember: DROP the E with an ING.

I will be _____ my homework after tea.

[complete: completed completing]

I am _____ my new teacher before school.

[meet: met meeting]

Lock up your car because there are _____ about.

[thief: thieves thieving]

Spell Red Words

Tick the Red Words you can spell. Circle 5 words you're going to practise.

the you your said was are
of want they to he we me
she be her do does my by
today all call tall small no so
go saw many any one watch
there here who where why

Module 2 Anansi and the Four Bananas

Read Write Inc. Comprehension is a series of 20 weekly Modules each containing a fiction or non-fiction text and a range of comprehension, vocabulary, grammar, spelling and writing activities. The programme has been developed to increase children's reading fluency, their comprehension of and response to fiction and non-fiction texts, and to improve children's writing by developing their vocabulary, grammar and spelling knowledge.

Detailed lesson plans for these Modules are provided in the *Read Write Inc. Comprehension Handbook*.

This pack contains Modules 1 to 5:

- Module 1 Chicken-Licken
- Module 2 Anansi and the Four Bananas
- Module 3 The Wish
- Module 4 The Three of Us
- Module 5 Drusilla's Diary

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