



Celebrate Halloween with an Anansi the Spider Party

Inspired by the fabulous books authored by Eric A. Kimmel

Due to ever-changing school district party policies, many teachers have begun to host classroom harvest, pumpkin or spider parties for Halloween. Using the Anansi the Spider books by Eric A. Kimmel, we are happy to provide you with some ideas to assist you in making your “Anansi the Spider Party” the hit of your fall celebrations.

🕸 The Eric A. Kimmel books Used in preparation for this party are: 🕸

Anansi and the Moss-Covered Rock

Anansi and the Talking Melon

Anansi Goes Fishing &

Anansi and the Magic Stick

Timeline 🕸

At least 1 ½ to 2 weeks prior to Halloween, share the Anansi the Spider stories by Eric A. Kimmel, with your students. On this website there are many ideas for sharing these books with children.

Environment 🕸

As part of the classroom environment, you can display many student book responses around your classroom as they fit nicely with the theme and save on party decorations. For instance,

- One bulletin board might display the webs your children create after reading **Anansi Goes Fishing**. An inexpensive, store-bought spider web might add to the overall web-like feeling of your classroom.
- A table display might include the special “magic rocks” your children create after reading **Anansi and the Moss-Covered Rock** together.
- Another bulletin board might hold the “before and after” mural your children create following the reading of **Anansi and the Magic Stick**.
- Finally, you could display the “magic sticks” created after reading this book, by inserting them into large clear inexpensive vases or buckets and placing them around your classroom.

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Environment 🕸 Cont'd

Labeling Displays

Be sure to create large, beautiful labels for each display, informing your party guests and parents about the displays. Explain that they are book responses and the student thinking that went into creating each response. This will add to the great impression your guests will experience while helping or visiting your classroom during party time.

Spider Decor

Of course, with Halloween growing into another major holiday, you will find a plethora of spider decorations appearing in your neighborhood stores months in advance of Halloween. There are so many spider decorations like webs, hairy spiders and paper products. Remember your budget and read ahead to prioritize your needs for any party you and your children decide to have.

Costumes 🕸

If your children are allowed to come in costume, you might encourage them to choose one of the characters from an Anansi story, such as Lion, Elephant, Rhinoceros, Hippopotamus, Giraffe, Zebra, Little Bush Deer, Warthog, Hyena or Turtle. They could also dress simply in black and wear an animal mask. If you have time prior to the party, children can make their own masks to wear. Another idea is to invite a parent to come in on the day of the party to do face painting for children who'd like to be an animal from one of the Anansi stories.

Planning & Hosting 🕸 the Party

Some of the best classroom parties are the ones where children are involved in activities throughout the entire time of the party. This is most easily accomplished by setting up activity centers for children to visit throughout the party time. Planning the party at the end of the day seems to work best if possible, as most children get very excited about celebrations in general.

A few weeks in advance of the party, send a letter home to parents enlisting their help during party time. This is especially important for kindergarten or younger children. (With older children, the directions for any center can be written down for children to follow after you demonstrate or introduce the centers, although parent help is always welcome.) Within this same letter, you can ask parents who are able, to send in some of the art and craft supplies or paper products that might be needed. Most parents are happy to help in any way if they can.



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🕸 Center Ideas and Activities 🕸

Refreshment Center 🕸

Cookies

One of the activity centers always includes the party food. Young children can use small black tubes of frosting to put a simple web on frosted, store-bought cookies. Add an itty bitty purchased spider and there's your Anansi Cookie.

(For this center, order plain, sugar cookies at a bakery and have parents send in the paper plates, white frosting to spread on cookies, plastic knives and the tubes of black frosting.)

Spider Juice

Put an "Anansi" sticker on plain orange cups and have "spider juice." Any store bought juice sent in will work. When children finish decorating their cookies, they eat them, drink their spider juice, and then go off to another center.

Other food ideas for this center are:

- Decorating personal cupcakes with a web and adding a purchased spider ring
- Have a bakery decorate a spider web on a simple cake

Game Center 🕸

Choose just a few from the following ideas or create some of your own!

Word Search Puzzle

Distribute Anansi the Spider wordsearches for your children to solve by themselves or with a partner. When children find all the words, they can bring it to you or an adult to check. An original Eric A. Kimmel Anansi the Spider Wordsearch can be found at the end of this unit.

Another, factual spider wordsearch can be found at the following website:

<http://www.abcteach.com/Spiders/spidersearch.htm>

Anansi the Spider Bingo

Ask a parent or helper to create Anansi the Spider Bingo boards. Go to the following website at www.print-bingo.com. Using the word list for the wordsearch above, create multiple Anansi Bingo cards. Use simple tokens like pennies or pieces of black tag board to cover the spaces. When someone gets a "Bingo" they could receive a spider ring as a prize.

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Game Center Cont'd

**More complete directions for the following three games can be found at:
www.childfun.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=319

Spider Toss

If you have an eager and willing parent, ask him/her to create a spider web toss game for your children to participate in during the party. The process involves taking an ordinary box, painting a web on it and sewing simple spider bags to toss inside the web. For more complete directions, see the website above. **

Anansi the Spider Pinata

If you have the time, you can have a parent or your children work together to create an Anansi Pinata. Directions for creating one are at the website listed above. **

Anansi Goes Fishing

How fun to fish for flies with Anansi! Bring in a simple swimming pool, attach an "Anansi" to a fishing rod and fish for flies. For detailed directions, go to the website listed above. **

Art Center

Anansi the Spider Hats

These hats are fun to make and to wear! You will find directions for these great hats as well as other simple spider art ideas, at the following website:
www.thefamilycorner.com/family/kids/halloweencrafts.shtml

Anansi the Spider Webs

See the book response idea included in the ideas for reading **Anansi and the Moss-Covered Rock** on Eric's website.

Anansi Book Responses

Any of the Anansi book responses will work great at this party as a center. In fact, you could do several of them. See the book responses listed under each Anansi book on Eric's website for ideas and directions.



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Reading Center

Anansi Books

Place the Anansi the Spider stories by Eric A. Kimmel at a center and have an adult or volunteer read one of the books to children. There's nothing like curling up to a good book to calm everyone down during a party.

Non-fiction Spider Books

Children love to look through non-fiction books. Find several of varied reading abilities to place at a table for children to look at, read and enjoy





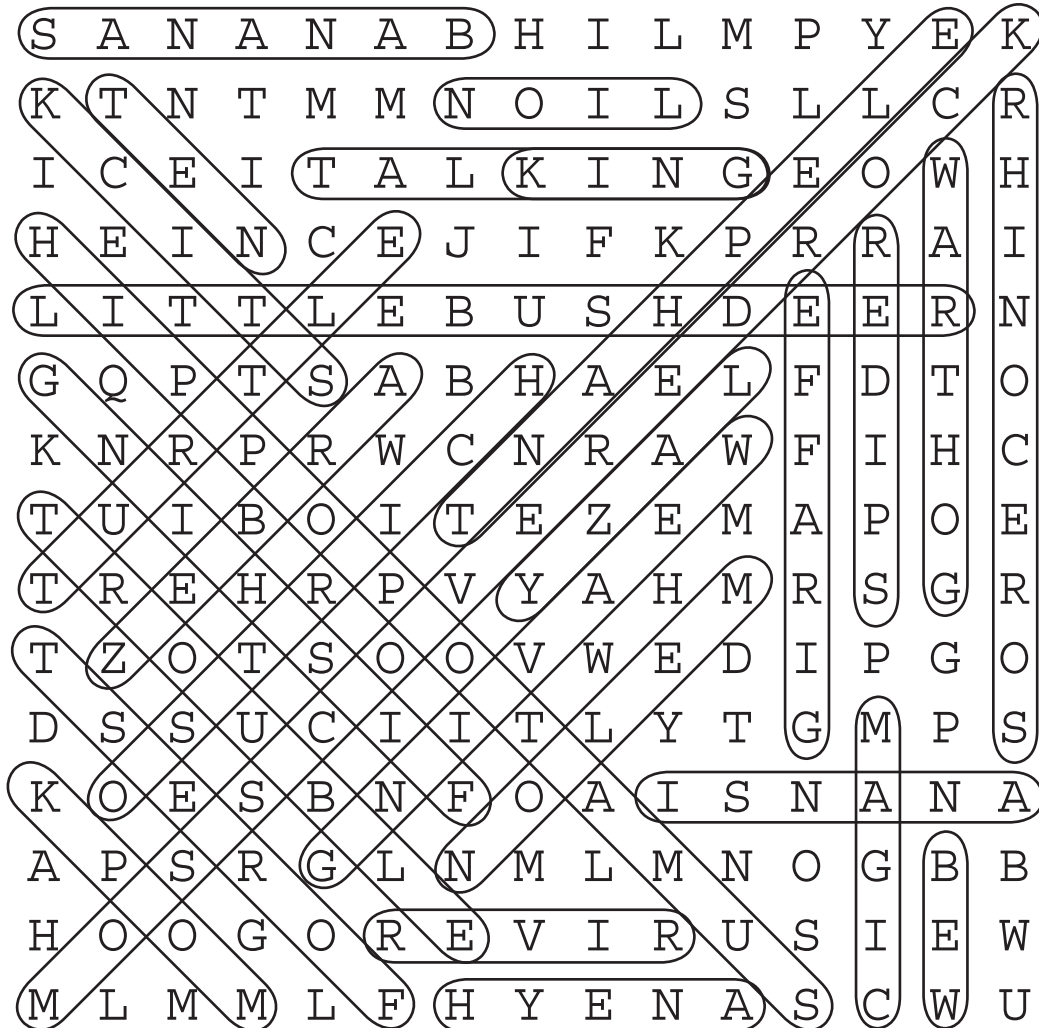
Eric A. Kimmel's Anansi the Spider

S A N A N A B H I L M P Y E K
K T N T M M N O I L S L L C R
I C E I T A L K I N G E O W H
H E I N C E J I F K P R R A I
L I T T L E B U S H D E E R N
G Q P T S A B H A E L F D T O
K N R P R W C N R A W F I H C
T U I B O I T E Z E M A P O E
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K O E S B N F O A I S N A N A
A P S R G L N M L M N O G B B
H O O G O R E V I R U S I E W
M L M M L F H Y E N A S C W U

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|--------------|-------------------|---------|
| ANANSI | LAZY | SPIDER |
| BANANAS | LION | STICK |
| ELEPHANT | LITTLE BUSH DEER | TALKING |
| FISHING | MAGIC | TROUBLE |
| FOREST | MELON | TURTLE |
| GIRAFFE | MOSS COVERED ROCK | WARTHOG |
| HIPPOPOTAMUS | NET | WEAVING |
| HYENA | OSTRICH | WEB |
| KING | RHINOCEROS | ZEBRA |
| KPOM | RIVER | |



Eric A. Kimmel's Anansi the Spider Wordsearch Solution



ANANSI	LAZY	SPIDER
BANANAS	LION	STICK
ELEPHANT	LITTLE BUSH DEER	TALKING
FISHING	MAGIC	TROUBLE
FOREST	MELON	TURTLE
GIRAFFE	MOSS COVERED ROCK	WARTHOG
HIPPOPOTAMUS	NET	WEAVING
HYENA	OSTRICH	WEB
KING	RHINOCEROS	ZEBRA
KPOM	RIVER	