



## Anansi and the Magic Stick

by Eric A. Kimmel

illustrated by Janet Stevens

### Summary

Anansi the trickster is as lazy as usual. One day he spies Hyena using a Magic Stick to complete his chores and decides to “borrow” it for himself. See how Anansi’s laziness creates havoc for his friends this time!

### Ideas for Classroom Use

#### Discussion Questions

Encourage the children to find examples from the story to document their answers

- Why do the other animals make fun of Anansi?
- Is he really as lazy as they say?
- What lesson did Anansi forget in using the magic stick?
- In the ending a happy one for the animals? for Anansi?
- Could the story happen in real life?  
List some events that prove this story could or couldn’t happen?

### Responding to the Text

#### Art

##### Creating Magic Sticks

Each child will need:

- A stick from nature - you could also use a small dowel or a chopstick
- Ribbons, plastic jewels, sequins, etc.; and other glittery things to decorate
- Glue

After Reading the story, encourage the children to create their own magic stick using some of the collected materials above.

Have the children create, then draw and write about how they would use their magic stick. “Would it do some of their chores? Which ones? What else would they use the stick for?” (See Blackline response to follow)

##### Before and After Mural (Whole Class Project)

Paint or draw what the animal’s neighborhood looked like before and after Anansi used the magic stick. Be sure to encourage the children to use bright vivid colors in their paintings or drawings and to imagine the biggest and brightest animals and garden vegetables. Be sure to include all of the characters in the mural. Children can pair up to work on painting large animal characters, houses, the scenery, vegetables, etc. Then, use the mural as a visual model for the retelling the story.



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### **Cooking**

#### **Create a New Recipe**

If you ended up with tons of enormous vegetables, how would you use them? Brainstorm a list of favorite vegetable dishes and create some recipes for using giant tomatoes, broccoli, lettuce, corn, carrots, etc.



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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Draw a Picture of your Magic Stick:**

**If I could, I would use my magic stick to:**

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