

Anansi and the Melon

Anansi the spider was sitting in a peach tree watching Goat work in his garden. Goat was growing melons. Anansi loved melons but was too lazy to grow them himself. Whilst Goat was having his lunch, Anansi lowered himself onto Goat's juiciest looking melon. Using a thorn, he made a small hole and crawled inside.

The melon was delicious. Anansi ate and ate and ate. When he couldn't eat any more, he tried to get out but he couldn't fit through the hole. His bulging tummy was too full of melon. He decided to wait until he was thin again. Anansi was not very good at sitting and waiting. To pass the time, he decided to play a joke on Goat.

When Goat came back, he picked the melon that Anansi was trapped inside. Anansi let out a yelp.

"Who was that?" asked Goat, looking around.

"Me," replied the melon. Goat blinked and took a step back.

"Melons don't talk," said Goat.

"This one does," said the melon.

"This is incredible!" said Goat. "I must show the king!" He hurried toward the palace.

Inside the melon, Anansi was rolling around, trying so hard not to laugh out loud.

On the way to the palace, Goat passed a rattlesnake.

"Where are you going in such a hurry?" asked the rattlesnake.

"I need to show the king my talking melon," replied Goat.

"That is the silliest thing I have ever heard," laughed the rattlesnake. "Even sillier than a..."

"Rattlesnake?" shouted Anansi from inside the melon.

The Rattlesnake tried to knock the melon out of Goat's hands.

"See," said Goat. "This melon really does talk."

When Goat got to the palace, the king frowned.

"Why have you brought me a melon?" he asked. "I already have



the sweetest and juiciest melons in the land.”

“This melon talks,” said Goat.

“Don’t be ridiculous. Get out of my sight!” snapped the king.

“Just listen,” begged Goat, but the Melon was silent.

The king grabbed the melon and held it in front of his face.

“Ok then melon, I demand you to speak,” said the king, but still the melon was silent.

“Silly melon!” said the king.

“Silly melon?” echoed the melon. “You’re the one talking to a melon, you silly king.”

The king turned bright red and launched the melon out of the window. He threw it so far that it flew all the way back to Goat’s garden and landed with a thud. Melon splattered everywhere and out crawled Anansi with a grin on his face. Anansi crawled back up the peach tree chuckling to himself. By this time, he was hungry again, so he crawled inside a peach.

When Goat finally got back, he kicked the remains of the splattered melon.

“Stupid melons. I’m never listening to them again,” he said.

“Good idea,” said a peach, high up in the tree. “Melons are nothing but trouble”.

Anansi giggled to himself and carried on eating the inside of the peach.



Questions

03

- 1 What fruit was Goat growing in his garden?

- 2 What did Anansi use to make a hole in the melon?

- 3 Why couldn't Anansi get out of the melon? (tick)

- ☐ The hole had got smaller.
- ☐ The hole was blocked up by the thorn.
- ☐ He was lost inside the melon.
- ☐ His tummy had got too big to fit through the hole.

- 4 What does the sentence below tell us about Anansi?

Anansi was not very good at sitting and waiting. (tick)

- ☐ He is impatient.
- ☐ He is lazy.
- ☐ He is a joker.
- ☐ He is cheeky.

- 5 Who let out a yelp when Goat picked up the melon? (tick)

- ☐ The melon
- ☐ Anansi, pretending to be a talking melon
- ☐ Goat
- ☐ Nobody

- 6 Who was the second person that Anansi fooled?
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- 7 Which part of the text shows that the king was embarrassed and angry? (tick)

- ☐ The king frowned.
☐ The king turned bright red.
☐ "Silly melon!" said the king.
☐ The king grabbed the melon and held it in front of his face.

- 8 Why did Anansi have a grin on his face when he crawled out of the splattered melon? (tick)

- ☐ He was pleased to finally be out of the melon after being stuck for so long.
☐ He was pleased to be home.
☐ He was pleased that he had managed to fool everyone.
☐ He was pleased to have survived the crash landing in the melon.

- 9 Who was the voice of the peach?
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- 10 Which word best describes Anansi? (tick)

- ☐ a trickster
☐ a comedian
☐ a liar
☐ a thief

Score:

Answers

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- 1 What fruit was Goat growing in his garden? melon
- 2 What did Anansi use to make a hole in the melon? a thorn
- 3 Why couldn't Anansi get out of the melon? ☒ His tummy had got too big to fit through the hole.
- 4 What does the sentence below tell us about Anansi?
Anansi was not very good at sitting and waiting. ☒ He is impatient.
- 5 Who let out a yelp when Goat picked up the melon? ☒ Anansi, pretending to be a talking melon
- 6 Who was the second person that Anansi fooled? Rattlesnake
- 7 Which part of the text shows that the king was embarrassed and angry? ☒ The king turned bright red.
- 8 Why did Anansi have a grin on his face when he crawled out of the splattered melon? ☒ He was pleased that he had managed to fool everyone.
- 9 Who was the voice of the peach? Anansi
- 10 Which word best describes Anansi? ☒ a trickster