

STORY CUE CARD

Bibliographic Information of the best version for telling using this format: “story title,” *book title*, retold by, publisher, date, inclusive page numbers for your story):

Kimmel, Eric A. (2001). *Anansi and the magic stick*. Holiday House.

Background Research on Ethnic Origin, Culture, Geography, Place of Storytelling in Society, etc.:

This is a West African folktale from the Ashanti people living in what is present-day Ghana. Anansi is a beloved trickster character, and the original “spiderman,” as he could transform between being fully human and being fully arachnid. One folktale shares how Anansi won stories from the Sky God, Nyame, explaining why all stories are considered *Anansesem* or “spider tales.”

If your story is a folktale, list several motifs you can find in it from the Storyteller’s Sourcebook?

D1254 Magic stick

H987 Tasks performed with aid of magic object

Q5 Laziness punished; industry rewarded

If it’s indexed in the *Storyteller’s Sourcebook*, under what motif is the *story synopsis* found?

Not indexed in the *Sourcebook*

Running Time: 12-14 minutes

Story Emotions:

What emotions do your important characters feel (be selective of the ones you want to focus on)?

CHARACTER(S)	EMOTION(S)
Anansi	Curious at how Hyena does work without effort, devious when planning theft, delighted to have stick, desperate when flooding occurs
Hyena	Happy with magic stick, angry at having it stolen

What is the *primary* emotion you want to evoke in your audience (i.e., what’s your point in telling it)?
Humorous awareness of consequences.

Scenes (no more than six scenes):

Anansi wonders why Hyena’s house and yard are so clean, sees magic stick

Anansi steals magic stick and makes it work: cleaning, painting, mulching, watering

Anansi sleeps while stick waters, eventually flooding whole area

Anansi ashamed so he hides in bushes and corners

Plot synopsis of entire story:

Anansi gets laughed at because his house is so messy (he's incredibly lazy). He finds Hyena's house is being cleaned by a magic stick, so he listens to how Hyena activates the stick, and then Anansi steals it. He has the stick clean up around the house and then decides to let it water his garden. All of the effort has tired him out, so he falls asleep while the stick continues to water, creating a massive flood and a new lake. Anansi hides from other animals from the shame of it.

Rhymes/Special Phrases/"Flavor":

Audience: K-4th grades

DEVELOPMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS (cite sources)	HOW DOES THE STORY ADDRESS THEM?
Initiative VS. Guilt (Erikson): developing a sense of social responsibility	Anansi's theft jeopardizes the whole community
Pre-operational thinking (Piaget): importance of repetition	Three tasks that magic stick completes
Concrete operational thinking (Piaget): cognitive conceit	Anansi feels he is smarter than Hyena

COMPLETE Bibliographic information on other versions/variants (at least two)?

- We have not been able to find a different version of this or even the Liberian version on which Kimmel's story is "loosely based."
- Tremearne, Major A.J.N. (1913). *Hausa superstitions and customs: An introduction to the folk-lore and the folk*. John Bale, Sons and Danielsson, Ltd.
 - Mentions a superstition of the "magic hoe that cannot be held down on the ground." (p. 167)
- Talbot, P'Amaury. (1923). *Life in Southern Nigeria: the magic, beliefs and customs of the Ibibio tribe*. Macmillan.
 - Mentions a be-spelled hoe that attaches itself to a thief. "Unconsciously the man's fingers clasp themselves round the haft. He is bent down by a power there is no resisting, and finds himself forced, against his will, to hoe and hoe. Not for a moment can he pause, even to straighten his back, so long as a single weed remains on the farm, a single yam needs banking, or one clod of earth would be the better for breaking ; so long must the ill-doer continue to work for the man he had intended to rob. Only when the owner arrives on the scene, should he take pity, can the magic hoe be released from the hand of the thief." (p. 64)