

• FOLK TALES FROM AROUND THE WORLD •

Why the Spider Has Long Legs

An African Folk Tale



written by Charlotte Guillain ✨ illustrated by Steve Dorado

• FOLK TALES FROM AROUND THE WORLD •

Why the Spider Has Long Legs

An African Folk Tale



written by Charlotte Guillain ✨ illustrated by Steve Dorado

Heinemann
LIBRARY
Chicago, Illinois



Characters



© 2015 Heinemann Library
an imprint of Capstone Global Library, LLC
Chicago, Illinois

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, taping, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

Edited by Daniel Nunn, Rebecca Rissman, Sian Smith, and Gina Kammer
Designed by Joanna Hinton-Malivoire and Peggie Carley
Original illustrations © Capstone Global Library Ltd 2014
Illustrated by Steve Dorado
Production by Victoria Fitzgerald
Originated by Capstone Global Library Ltd

18 17 16 15 14
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Cataloging-in-publication information is on file with the Library of Congress.
ISBN 978-1-4109-6701-5 (paperback)
ISBN 978-1-4109-6715-2 (big book)
ISBN 978-1-4109-6722-0 (eBook PDF)
ISBN 978-1-4109-7991-9 (eBook)

Anansi the spider



Kima the monkey

Swala the antelope



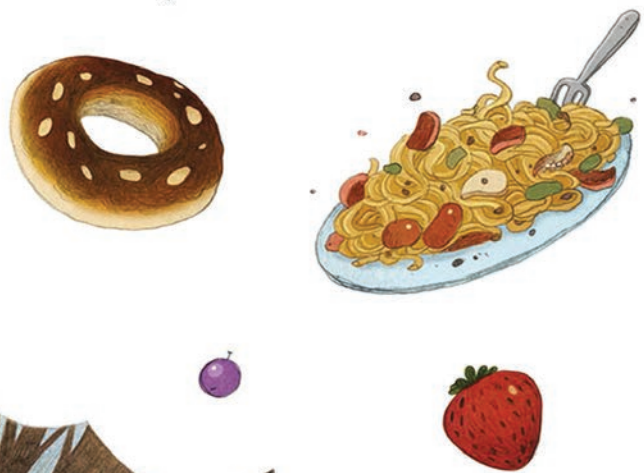
**Kiboko the
hippopotamus**



Long, long ago, a spider called Anansi lived in Africa. Anansi looked very different from the spiders you see today. Instead of long, thin legs, Anansi's legs were short and thick!



Anansi was a very clever spider. He was also always hungry, but he was too lazy to cook. Instead, he would visit his friends at dinnertime, and they would feed him.





One day Anansi went to Kima the monkey's house and smelled a lovely dinner cooking on the fire.



"I'm cooking beans!" said Kima.
"They will be ready in about
half an hour."

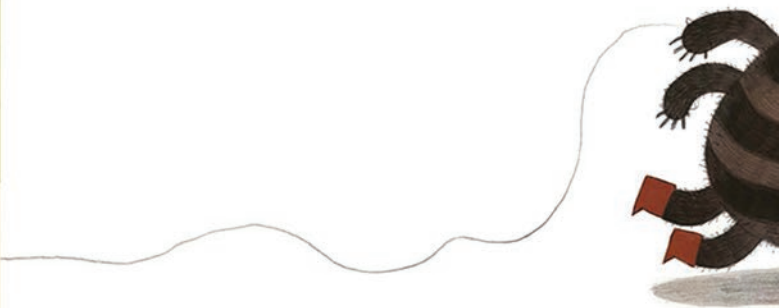


But Anansi could not wait.



Anansi tied a silk thread around one of his legs and gave the other end to Kima.

"Pull this thread when dinner is ready," Anansi told Kima, and off he went.



Next Anansi went to Swala the antelope's house.

"I'm cooking vegetables!" said Swala. "But they are not quite ready yet."



So Anansi tied a thread around another leg and asked Swala to pull the thread when dinner was ready.

Anansi went on to Kiboko the hippopotamus' house.



Once more Anansi tied a thread around another leg and asked Kiboko to pull it when the food was ready to eat.



At every house Anansi visited, he did not want to wait for his dinner. He tied a thread around each of his legs and asked his friends to pull when their food was ready to eat.



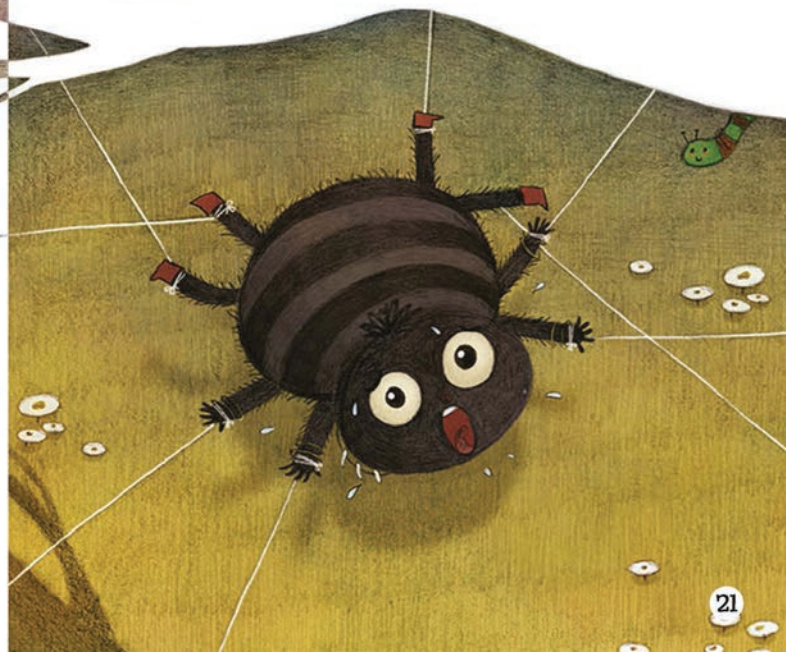
Anansi went down to the river and lay in the shade. He felt very pleased with himself, but his stomach was rumbling. He was feeling very hungry now.



All of a sudden, someone
pulled one of the threads
on Anansi's legs.



Then another friend pulled
a thread, and another! All of
Anansi's legs were being
pulled in different
directions!



Anansi's legs stretched and stretched until they were long and thin. He never looked the same again. And today Anansi uses his sticky threads to catch his own dinner!



The Moral of the Story

Many traditional stories have a moral. This is a lesson you can learn from the story. The moral of this story is that you usually have to work to get the things that you want. It also warns you not to be too greedy!



The Origins of *Why the Spider Has Long Legs*

Nobody knows who first told the story of *Why the Spider Has Long Legs*, but it was first told in Ghana in West Africa. This story has been passed on by African storytellers over hundreds of years, with different storytellers making their own changes to it over time. There are many stories about Anansi the spider. People used to tell stories like this for entertainment before we had TV, radio, or computers. Eventually, people traveled to other countries, and the story spread around the world.

• FOLK TALES FROM AROUND THE WORLD •

Why the Spider Has Long Legs

An African Folk Tale

This book tells the story of why the spider has long legs, a traditional African folk tale. In it, Anansi the spider learns that you usually have to work to get the things that you want and that it is never a good idea to be too greedy!

• FOLK TALES FROM AROUND THE WORLD •

Each book in this beautifully illustrated series presents a different folk tale from around the world. Although the collection includes tales from around the world, like all good folk tales each story has a moral lesson highly relevant to young readers.

About the author

Charlotte Guillain is an experienced children's author and editor. She has written nearly 100 books, both fiction and nonfiction.

Titles in the series:

The Empty Pot: A Chinese Folk Tale	978-1-4109-6697-1
Finn MacCool and the Giant's Gouseway: An Irish Folk Tale	978-1-4109-6699-5
The Foolish, Timid Rabbit: An Indian Folk Tale	978-1-4109-6700-8
The Tree of Life: An Amazonian Folk Tale	978-1-4109-6698-4
The Unhappy Stonecutter: A Japanese Folk Tale	978-1-4109-6696-4
Why the Spider Has Long Legs: An African Folk Tale	978-1-4109-6701-5



a capstone imprint CapstoneClassroom.com