BRIDGES EDITION

GENRE readers' & writers' WORKSHOP™

Trickster Tales

Anansi and Sky King

Hare and Lion





retold by Cynthia Swain and Brooke Harris

Benchmark EDUCATION

Genre: Trickster Tales
Level: K/20*

GENRE readers' & writers' WORKSHOP™

For teachers' inspection ONLY

LITERARY ANALYSIS
- Respond to and interpret text
- Make text-to-text connections
- Analyze the genre

READING SKILLS
Comprehension
- Analyze story elements
- Make predictions

Word Study
- Description

Tier Two Vocabulary
(see Glossary)

WRITING SKILLS
Writer's Tools
- Personification

Writer's Craft
- How to write a trickster tale

THEME CONNECTIONS
- World Cultures
- Resourcefulness

*The reading level assigned to this text is based on the genre examples only. "Focus on the Genre," "Reread," and "Writer's Craft" features were not leveled. These sections are intended for read-aloud or shared reading.

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The Readers' & Writers' Genre Workshop series includes eleven fiction and nonfiction genres. There are two titles with multiple stories for each genre.

How to use this book

1. Learn about the genre by reading pages 2–3. Get background information about the stories on pages 4–5.
2. Read the trickster tales for enjoyment.
3. Reread the stories and answer the questions on pages 13 and 21.
4. Reread the last story. Pay attention to the comments in the margins. See how an author writes a trickster tale.
5. Follow the steps on pages 22–23 to write your own trickster tale.
6. Complete the activity on the inside back cover. Answer the follow-up questions.

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Anansi and Sky King



Hare and Lion

Two Trickster Tales from Africa

retold by Cynthia Swain and Brooke Harris
illustrated by Sholto Walker

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TRICKSTER TALES

What is a trickster tale?

A trickster tale is a short story in which animals or other creatures talk, think, and act like people. One character, the trickster, uses clever pranks or traps to fool another character. Often the trickster is much smaller than the character he fools. Sometimes the trickster wants to help others, but other times the trickster only wants to help himself.

What is the purpose of a trickster tale?

A trickster tale shows human characteristics and problems in an entertaining way. A trickster tale often teaches a lesson. The tale shows what happens when people make bad choices—although some of the bad choices come from the tricksters themselves!

How do you read a trickster tale?

Pay attention to the title. The title will often tell you which character is the trickster. Each character stands for ways that humans behave. As you read, ask yourself, "What human quality, or trait, does each character represent?" Notice what happens to the main characters. Think about how the events in the story support the lesson that the tale tries to teach.

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Features of a Trickster Tale

The main characters are usually animals.

The trickster may have a flaw.

The story is short and usually funny.

The trickster has a problem or helps someone with a problem.

The trickster outwits another character to solve the problem.

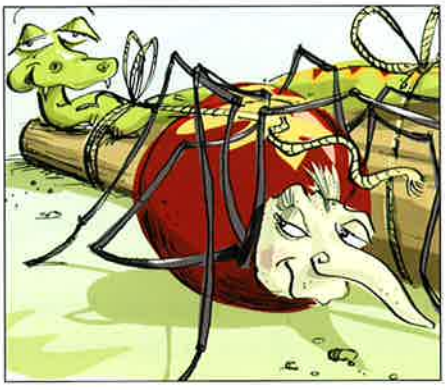


Who invented trickster tales?

Trickster tales originated all over the world, but African and Native American tales are among the most common today. The tales were originally passed down through oral storytelling. In modern times, many have been made into books and films. Some of today's popular cartoon characters are tricksters!

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Meet Some Famous African Tricksters



Name: Anansi the Spider

His Life: Anansi (ah-NAHN-see) was a trickster hero of the Ashanti people in Ghana as well as the Akan people of West Africa. He was said to be the son of a sky god. People admired him because of his cleverness. However, they didn't truly approve of his trickery, which was often the result of greed.

Other African Spider Tricksters: The Zande people of Central Africa told stories of Ture the Spider. The Hausa people of West Africa had a trickster spider named Gizo.



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Name: Zomo

His Life: The hare Zomo (ZOH-moh) was a trickster hero of the Yoruba tribe of Nigeria. He wasn't big or strong, but he was clever. Many storytellers believe the original Zomo stories were meant to teach children that even though they were small, they could overcome great obstacles.

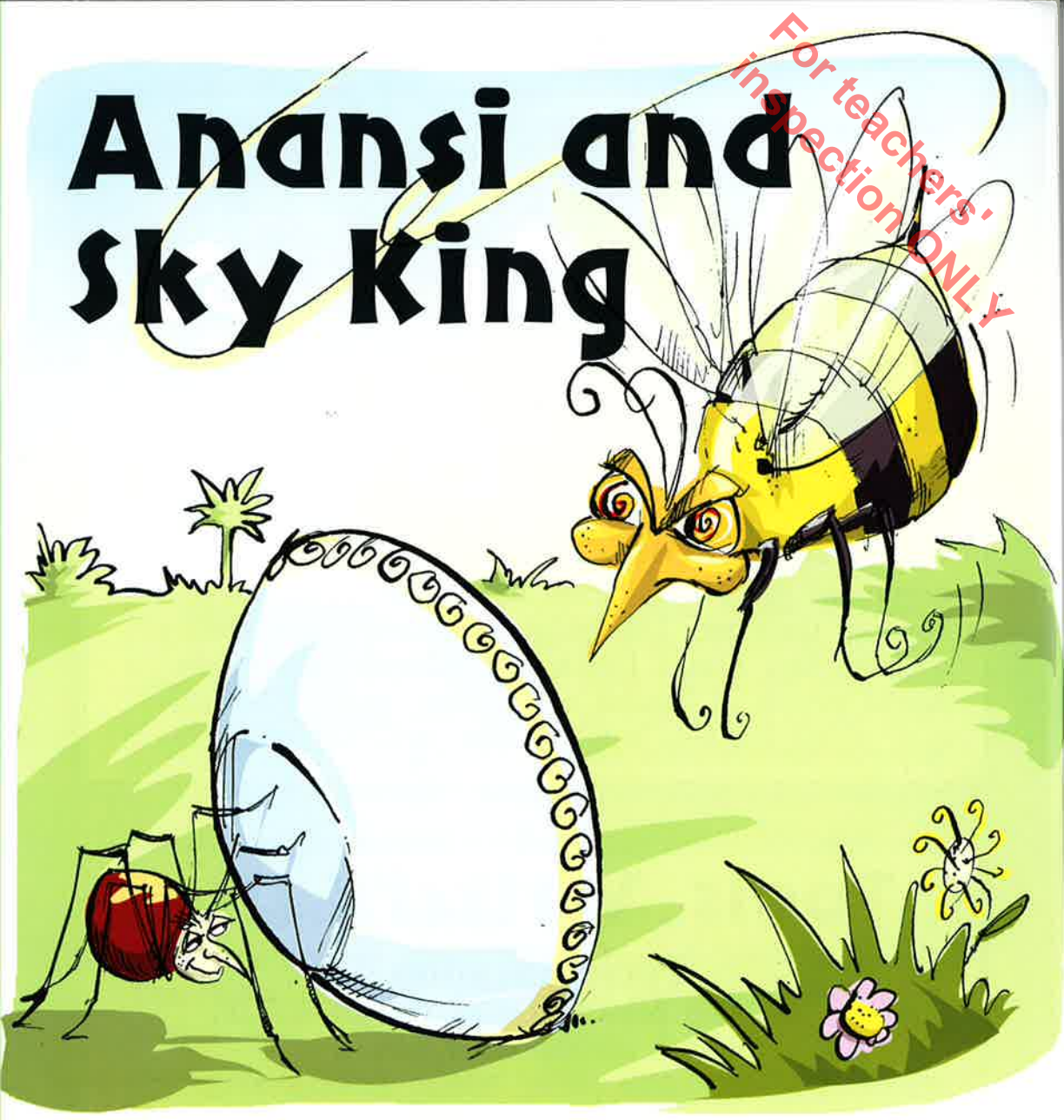
Other African Hare Tricksters: The Swahili people on the coast of East Africa told stories of Sungura the Hare. The Wolof people of Senegal had a trickster hare named Leuck. The trickster hare of the Bemba people of Zambia was Kalulu, and the trickster hare of the Baganda tribe of East Africa was Wakaima.

Tools Writers Use

Personification

Look at the word **personification** (per-sah-nuh-fih-KAY-shun). You will see the word **person** in it. **Personification** means giving human characteristics to animals or objects. In the trickster tales you read, notice how the animals talk, think, and act the way people do. Notice how animals are described as if they had human abilities. These are all examples of personification.

Anansi and Sky King



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Anansi the spider was smart. He was the smartest animal in Africa. He loved to read. He loved stories best. But the king of the sky owned all stories. Even worse, Sky King was greedy. He would not share his stories. But that did not stop Anansi.