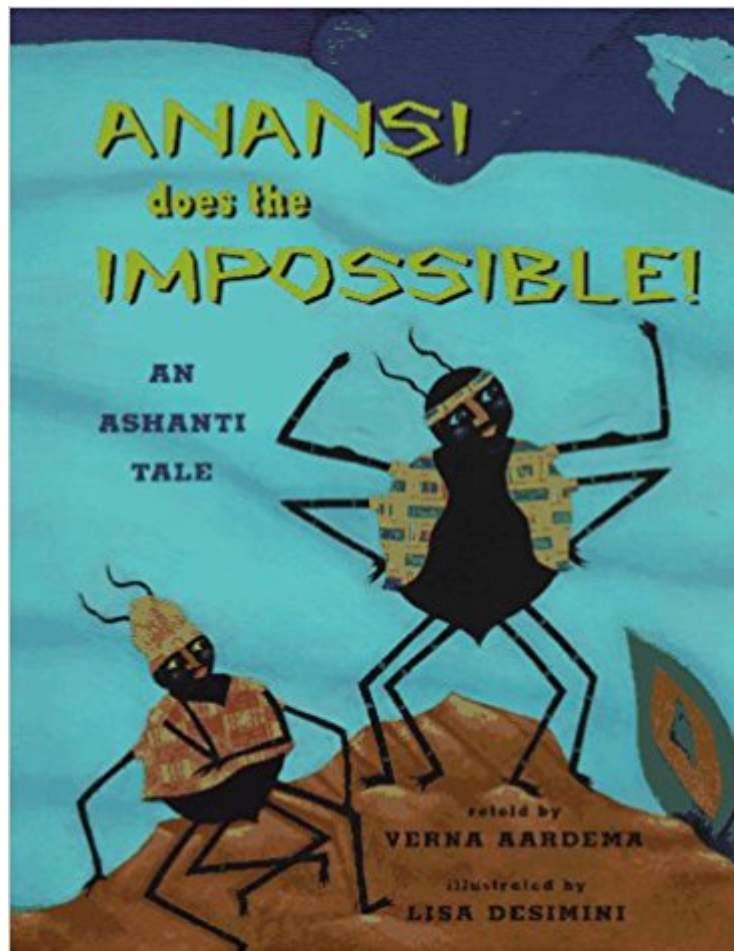




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Anansi Does The Impossible: An Ashanti Tale



Synopsis

The Sky God owns all the stories of the world and refuses to give them back unless Anansi, a small spider, can successfully get him a live python, a real fairy, and a bunch of stinging hornets, so Anansi sets out to accomplish his mission in order to have his beloved stories once more."

Book Information

Age Range: 4 and up

Lexile Measure: 630L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

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Language: English

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

PreSchool-Grade 3. Anansi the Spider is determined to buy back the stories taken from the people and kept by the Sky God. With the assistance of his clever wife, Aso, he takes the Sky God the live python, the real fairy, and the 47 stinging hornets required to regain the stories. Retold from Aardema's *The Sky God Stories* (Coward, 1960; o.p.), the tale rollicks along at a rhythmic merry pace, full of descriptive ideophones (sounds that express movement or emotion). The lively narrative is perfect for reading aloud, and the inclusion of Aso is a particularly nice touch. Desimini's textured collages portray the spider couple as cheeky and cherubic in their boldly patterned clothing. The extravagant, vibrant illustrations fill the pages and complement the text beautifully. The depictions of the defiant Anansi confronting the Sky God, a gigantic, disembodied head, are particularly effective. Gail Haley's *A Story, A Story* (Atheneum, 1970) tells the same tale, but to compare the two would be to compare apples and oranges. Both retellings have lively, evocative language, although Aardema's version may be more suited to preschool listeners, and both have compelling illustrations that extend and illuminate the narrative. Make room on the shelf for

both. ?Donna L. Scanlon, Lancaster County Library, PA Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc.

I just love this version of how Anansi--with the help of his cunning wife--becomes the owner of stories. The illustrations in this book are wonderful and unique in the realm of Anansi tales for children. The spiders look like spiders--though with gentle, chubby-cheeked human faces as to show their emotions and expressions. Their clothes are colorful and seem culturally appropriate for their setting. It's quite clever how the illustrator shows recognizably human gestures with spidery legs. One of the best images is the prideful Anansi standing "nose to nose" with the Sky God as he boldly announces that he has come for the stories. Viewers can even see the spider's cocky shadow carefully included on this page. A nice touch in this book is the little "Glossary" near the front of the story, which gives pronunciations and definitions of the names and terms used in the tale. Example: pesa (PAY-suh): The breathy sound of whispering. // The glossary is of great benefit to readers who share the story out loud. This book would be worth sharing with classes and with young family members. Even adults can appreciate the resourceful spider couple as they plot to do the impossible. Overall, I was impressed with this tale, and I recommend it for school and home libraries.

Great quality paperback, purchased as a year-end teacher gift, and she loved it!

This story is awesome and the pics are great.

Great book!

I actually have a signed copy gifted to me as a baby (I was born in 1997) and even now as an adult I love to read this story to my younger brother, and younger cousins, but even for myself. Beautiful retelling of the Ashanti tales.

This book was such a delight. My first grade class could not wait to hear what Anansi would do next. For the first time, Anansi uses his trickery to help someone other than himself! It was refreshing to have the author show how Anani's wife, Aso, helped him to reach his goal. I think my readers learned a lot of valuable lessons from this story.

The Anansi series are a great read. As usual the author keeps us in suspense as to who and how Anansi will trick. My first grade class loved it. They were at the edge of their seats. I can't wait to read more to them.

Both of my children, ages 2 and 5, love this book. The two-year-old, normally wiggling and wandering around the room during story time, stays put for this one. They can't wait to see what tricks Anansi and Aso will be up to next!

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