Anansi and Loki – Two Tricksters, Two Continents

Subjects: English · Ethics · History | recommended from age 11 (A2/B1) | Video: 8:40 min



Watch the video
youtu.be/EW9hSDYEE1U

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

A · Before watching

1. Do you know a character from books, films or games who wins with tricks rather than strength? Name them.

B · While watching

1. What does the name “Anansi” mean, and where does it come from?

2. Which three creatures did Anansi have to catch for the sky god Nyame?

3. Why does nobody own all the wisdom in the world today?

4. How did Thor's hammer and other treasures of the gods come about?

5. How did Anansi become a symbol for enslaved people?

Useful words

trickster	Schelm, Trickser	wisdom	Weisheit
spider	Spinne	shapeshifter	Gestaltwandler
hornet	Hornisse	to bind	fesseln
sticky	klebrig	resistance	Widerstand

C · Put the story in order

Number the events from 1 to 8 in the order they happen in the video.

	The forest spirit Mmoatia gets stuck to a sticky doll.
	Dwarf smiths forge Thor's hammer Mjölnir.
	Anansi wants to own the sky god Nyame's stories.
	Loki cuts off the goddess Sif's golden hair.
	He ties up the python Onini after a length contest.
	Loki is bound underground for Baldr's death.
	He lures the hornets into a gourd with fake rain.
	Anansi's pot full of wisdom smashes on the ground.

D · Think and discuss

1. “Out of cunning, greed and a spark of malice, something comes that helps everyone.” Do you agree? Give an example from the video.

2. Why do people like stories in which someone weak outwits someone powerful?

E · Anansi and Loki compared

Complete the table with information from the video.

	Anansi (Ashanti, West Africa)	Loki (Norse mythology)
Who or what is he?		
How does he change shape?		
What does his trick give others?		
How does it end for him?		

F · Get creative

1. In your exercise book, invent a new Anansi story: what trick does the spider use to get something that belongs to someone more powerful? (about 10 sentences)