

Anansi and the Deep Sleep



Deep in the
woodland, Anansi
finds a big rock. It
is **green** with soft
moss. It **seems** to
hum. He **leans** in
and says a little
spell, and then all
goes dark.





Anansi wakes up in the ferns, flat on his back. He **feels** fine, but he is upset. Did he trip? No. He just said the line, and then a **deep sleep** came. He sits up and **peeks** at the rock. He must test it. 'This is a strange moss-covered rock,' he says one more time. All goes dark. He wakes up one more time, flat on his back in the ferns. Anansi sits up and grins a sly, sly grin.

Then Anansi has a plan, a big sly plan. He can **see** it all.
Elephant **keeps sweet** food in a **tree** to the **east**. Lion hides
fish by a flat stone. Hornbill **keeps three** ripe **treats** in his
nest. Anansi just **needs** to **lead each beast** to the rock and
say the line. He rubs his legs with **glee** and runs to **seek**
Elephant.



'Elephant!' Anansi calls.
'Elephant, come and **see**
this odd rock on the
path.' Big Elephant likes
to **see** new things, so
she comes. At the rock,
Anansi says the spell.
Elephant sits down hard.
Soon she is **deep asleep**.
Anansi **eats** the **sweet**
food, and Elephant
wakes up **feeling weak**
and goes off.





The trick goes so well that Anansi gets bold. He **leads** Lion to the rock, then Hornbill, then the otters, then the pigs. One by one, **each beast** wakes up, and the food is all his. The rock says not a thing. It just sits there, **green** and still. Anansi has such a big **feast** now.

But Bush **Deer** does not follow Anansi to the rock. She is small and smart, and she does not trust sly spiders. She hides by a **tree** and **peeks** out. She **sees** Anansi **lead** Lion. She **sees** him **lead** Hornbill. She **keeps** count: the **sweet** food, the fish, **three treats**, the nuts. She **sees each** trick.



Bush **Deer** goes to **speak** with the gang. At first no one agrees that a little spider can trick them. But the food is not there, and that is that. Lion has no fish. Elephant has no **sweet** food. Hornbill has no **treats** at all.

'Anansi **leads each** one to the rock,' says Bush **Deer**. 'He **speaks** a magic line, and a **deep sleep** comes. I **see** it **each** time.'

Elephant sits down to think, this time because she wants to.



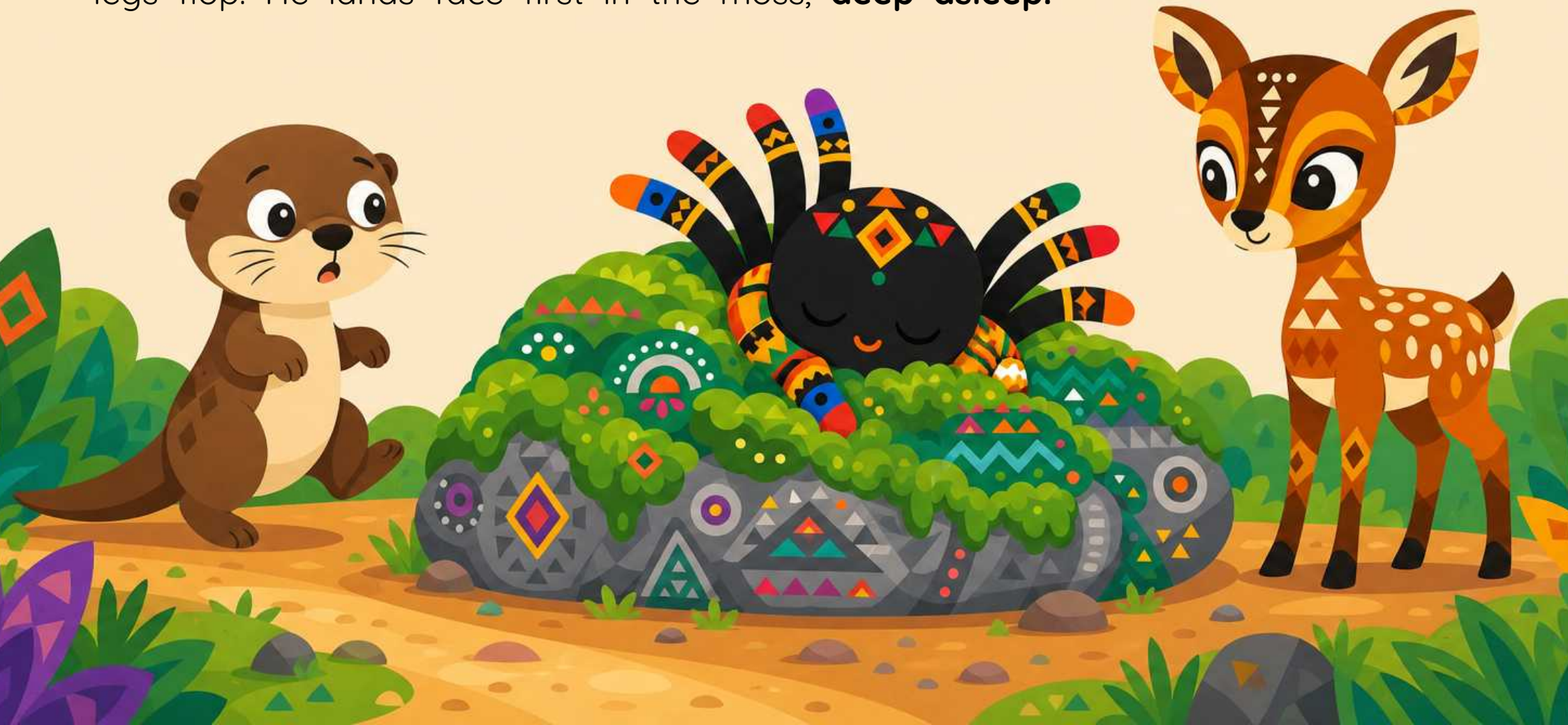


The plan comes from Bush **Deer**, and it is **neat** and **clean**. They will **beat** Anansi with his own trick. He is **greedy**, and **greedy** spiders come back.

Bush **Deer** will wait by the rock. The gang will hide close by. When Anansi comes, Bush **Deer** will step out and **speak** the line first.

They go over the plan **three** times. Then they hide. Elephant hides by a thin **tree**, but the **tree** hides just one leg.

The next day, Anansi comes down the south path, **leading** River-otter's cousin. He stops. Bush **Deer** stands by the rock. 'Anansi,' says Bush **Deer** with a **sweet** smile, 'come and **see!** This is a strange moss-covered rock!' All Anansi's legs flop. He lands face first in the moss, **deep asleep**.



The **beasts** come out from the **trees**. They get all the food from Anansi's stash and give it back. The **sweet** food, the fish, the **treats**. It all goes home. River-otter's cousin gets a **treat** and goes off happy. Then the **beasts** sit in a ring by the rock and **eat** a good **meal**, as Anansi **sleeps** in the moss.





Anansi wakes up and lifts his face from the moss. Full, happy faces grin down at him. Elephant gives him his own **sweet** food, just a **wee** bit. 'Think, Anansi,' says Bush **Deer**. 'Any one at all can **speak** that line.' Anansi looks at his empty stash. He looks at the rock. He looks at Bush **Deer**. He starts to **speak**, then stops. Then he **eats** the **sweet** food, because it is still good, and a sad spider **needs** a **sweet treat**.

From that day on, the **beasts** go to the path in a gang, and they chat as they march. **Each** one brings more food than they **need**, because it is good to give. The rock sits still, **green** and old. And when a new one comes to the woodland, a little voice will call, 'Stay close, and do not say a thing by that rock!' Just to **keep each** one alert.





Anansi and the Deep Sleep

Deep in the woodland, Anansi finds a strange mossy rock that hums and makes him fall into a deep sleep the moment he says a little spell near it. He soon realizes he can trick other beasts into sleeping too and steal their food while they snooze, but sharp-eyed Bush Deer is watching from behind a tree. Will she figure out how to turn Anansi's own trick against him? Written for Jolly Phonics classrooms (Step 3, Unit 5: /ee/ mixed), this book practices words like 'sleep', 'deep', 'sweet', 'treat', and 'agree'.

Phonics Focus: <mixed>

agree, asleep, beast, beasts, beat, clean, deep, deer, each, east, eat, eats, feast, feel, feeling, feels, glee, greedy, green, keep, keeps, lead, leading, leads, leans, meal, neat, need, needs, peek, peeks, see, seek, seem, seems, sees, sleep, sleeps, speak, speaks, sweet, three, treat, treats, tree, trees, weak, wee

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