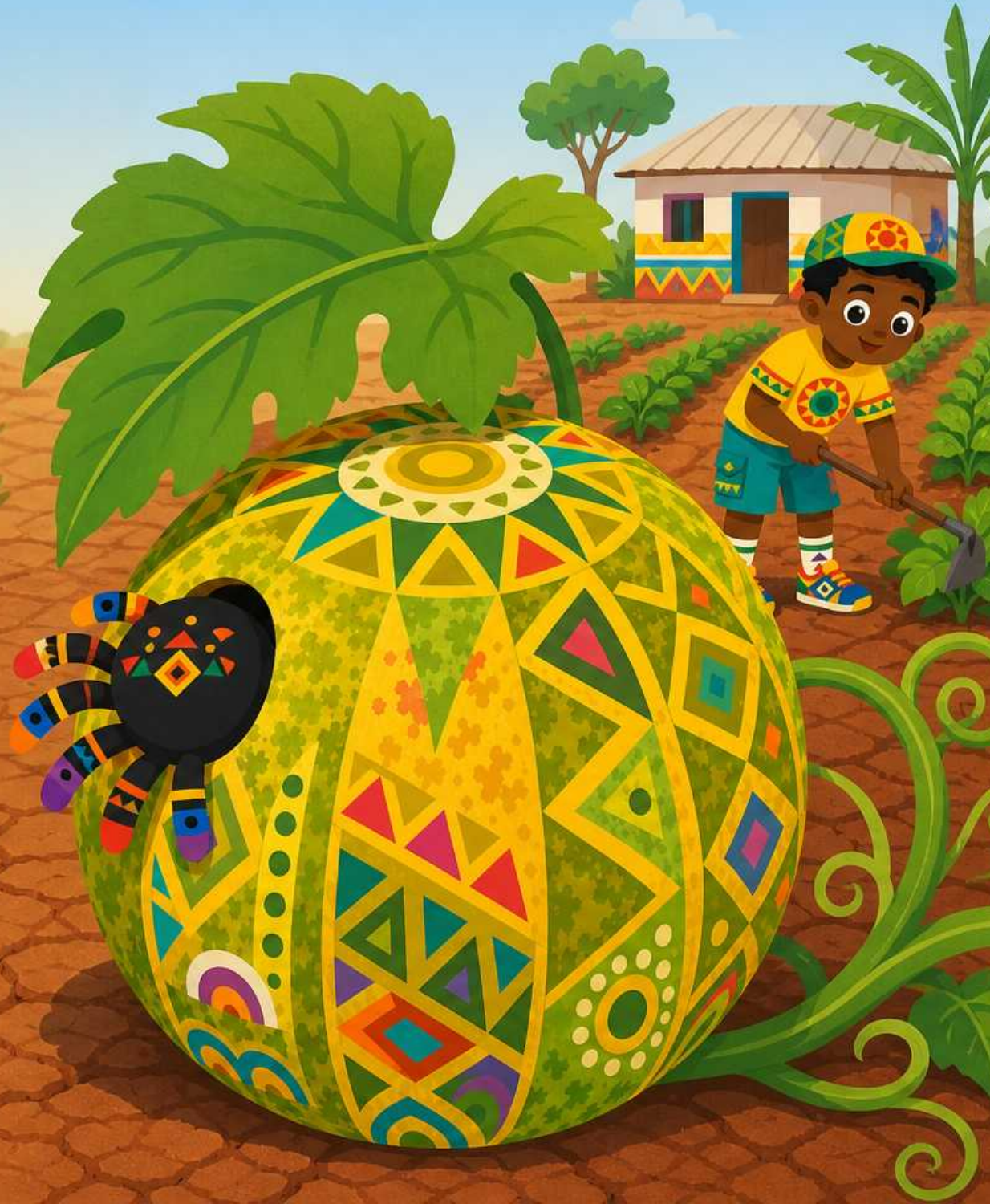


Anansi Is Stuck



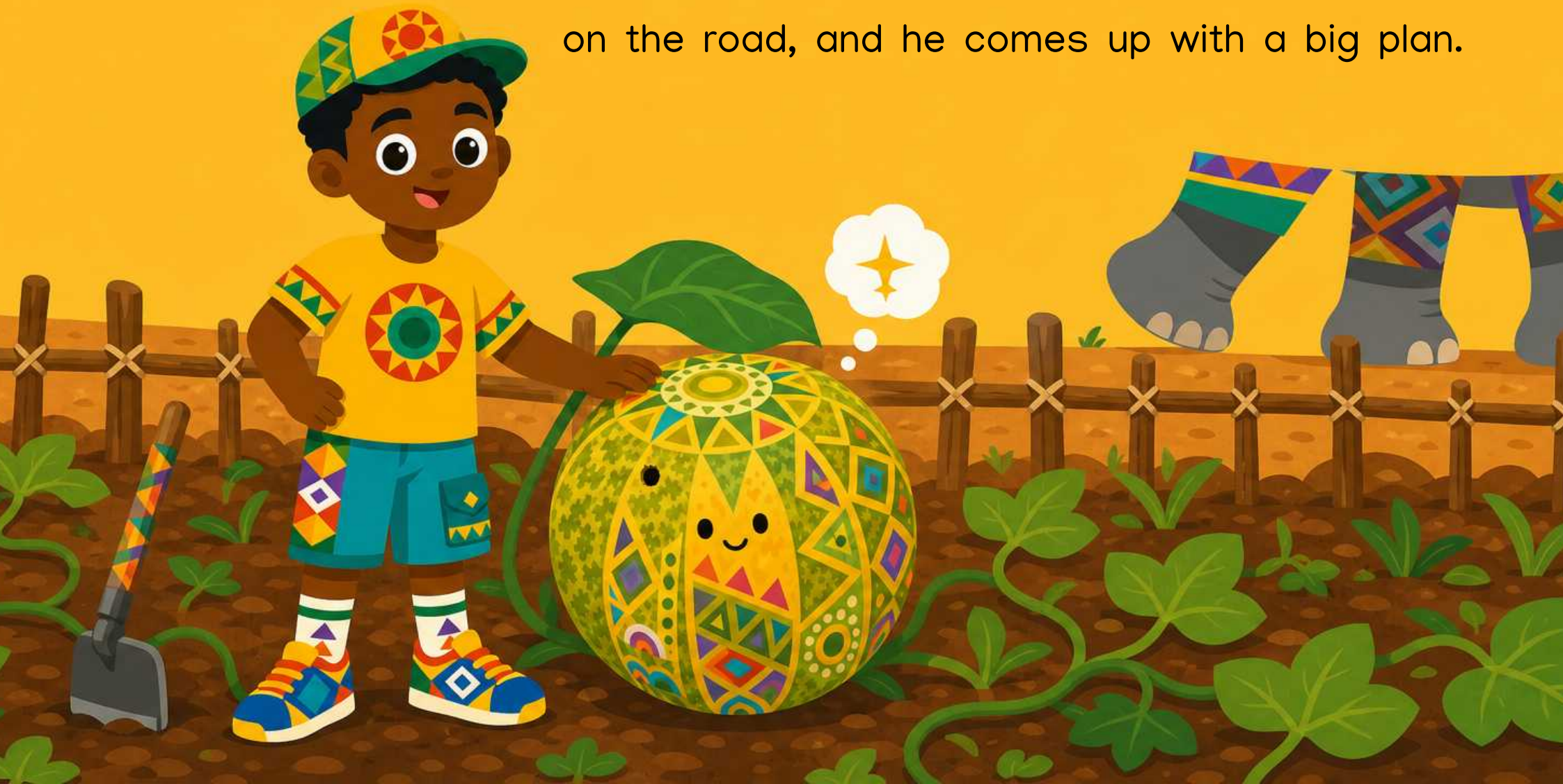
It is hot and dry.
Kofi has a big
green crop, cool in
the shade. Anansi
sneaks in for a
treat. He eats and
eats, then falls off
to sleep.





Now Anansi is a fat, round **beast**. He is stuck! The hole is small, and Anansi is not. He pulls and twists, but he can not get out. Kofi is near, so Anansi sits still.

Kofi pats his crop and walks off. Anansi is stuck. There is still a lot to eat, and the shade is cool. Then Anansi sees a huge beast on the road, and he comes up with a big plan.



'Good day, Elephant!'
the crop says. Elephant
stops and looks. No
one is on the road.

'Down here,' says the
crop. 'Elephant, you are
a big **beast**.' Elephant
takes a step back,
then runs off fast.





The tale spreads fast.
By dark, all the town
has heard that Kofi's
crop can talk. A big
crowd comes to see.
'The rains come back
in ten days,' says the
crop. The crowd leans
in. 'Who ever heard a
crop talk?' says an old
one.

The King hears the tale too. He wants the crop sent to his court. Anansi feels **weak**. This is not the plan! But four strong men lift the crop up on a cloth and take it off.



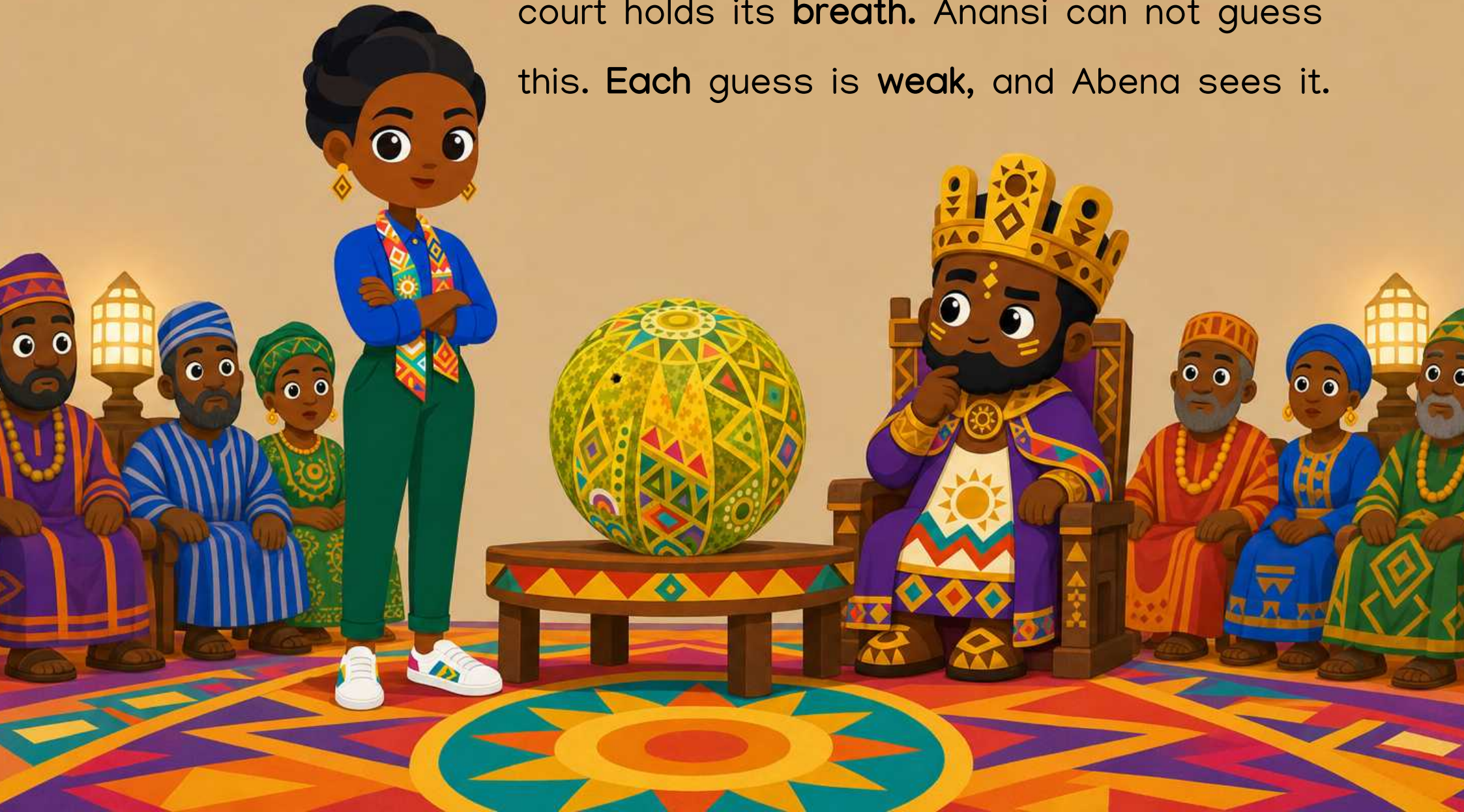
The court is full. The King sits on his seat in his gold cloth. The crop is set on a stand. 'We hear you speak,' says the King. 'Please, speak.' Anansi thinks fast. He will not stay still.





Anansi gives it all.
The crop tells the
King what his soup
needs. It tells where
the lost stick is, back
by the pot. Each
guess is real! The
King is pleased. But
Kofi stands at the
back and looks mad.

Then Abena, a sharp one, steps up. 'I have a test,' she says. 'Crop, what is in my head?' The court holds its **breath**. Anansi can not guess this. Each guess is **weak**, and Abena sees it.



'The crop thinks of what you think,' says Anansi at last. The King stands up slow. 'This crop makes a fool of my court,' he says. His talk goes mean and stern. 'Take it off. Quick.' Then he throws it.





The crop hits the floor with a crack. It bursts! Seeds and bits go all round, and out rolls one fat, weak Anansi. He rolls by a bench and stays still. Kofi looks at Anansi. 'Who ever heard a crop talk?' he says.

The King sends Anansi home with a stern word and a bag of seeds for Kofi. Anansi walks back, still a bit green, and picks seeds from his legs. He was smart, but he did not get out in time. Now Kofi looks at his crop **each** day.





Anansi Is Stuck

Anansi the spider sneaks into Farmer Kofi's giant melon for a cool, sweet snack, and gobbles until he is far too round to squeeze back out. When Elephant strolls by, what will a stuck spider do? Soon the whole village believes the melon can talk, and even the King wants a word. Can Anansi talk his way out before someone guesses his secret? This EA level practices the 'ea' sound with words like 'beast', 'eats', 'speak', 'weak', and 'seat'.

Reading Skills: <ea>

beast, breath, each, eat, eats, head, heard, leans, mean, please, pleased, real, seat, sneaks, speak, spreads, treat, weak

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