

Anansi Sees Magic



Deep in the forest
lives Mmoatia. She is
small, but her voice
rings like a bell.

Mmoatia has a
magic spoon. It can
fill any pot with food,
if the hand that holds
it is a giving hand.





Anansi sits in the web,
hungry as ever. Down the
lane, little ones munch
sweet roast food.

Then Parrot zooms in.
'Mmoatia the fairy has a
magic spoon,' says Parrot.
'It can fill any pot!'

'**Gee!**' yells Anansi, and he
jumps up on each leg he
has.

Anansi creeps into the deep wood and peeks out from a fern.
Mmoatia stirs her pot and sings. The pot fills with nut stew, then
rice, then sweet roast food. It is more than one wee fairy can
eat. So she fills **large** leaf bowls and sets them out for the
beasts. A hand that gives fills each pot. Anansi can see it is true.



Anansi looks at the spoon. It is dark wood with a **strange** curl, and it glows gold as it stirs. Then Anansi sees it: when Mmoatia stops to eat, she sets the spoon down. The pot goes still. That is the moment Anansi needs.



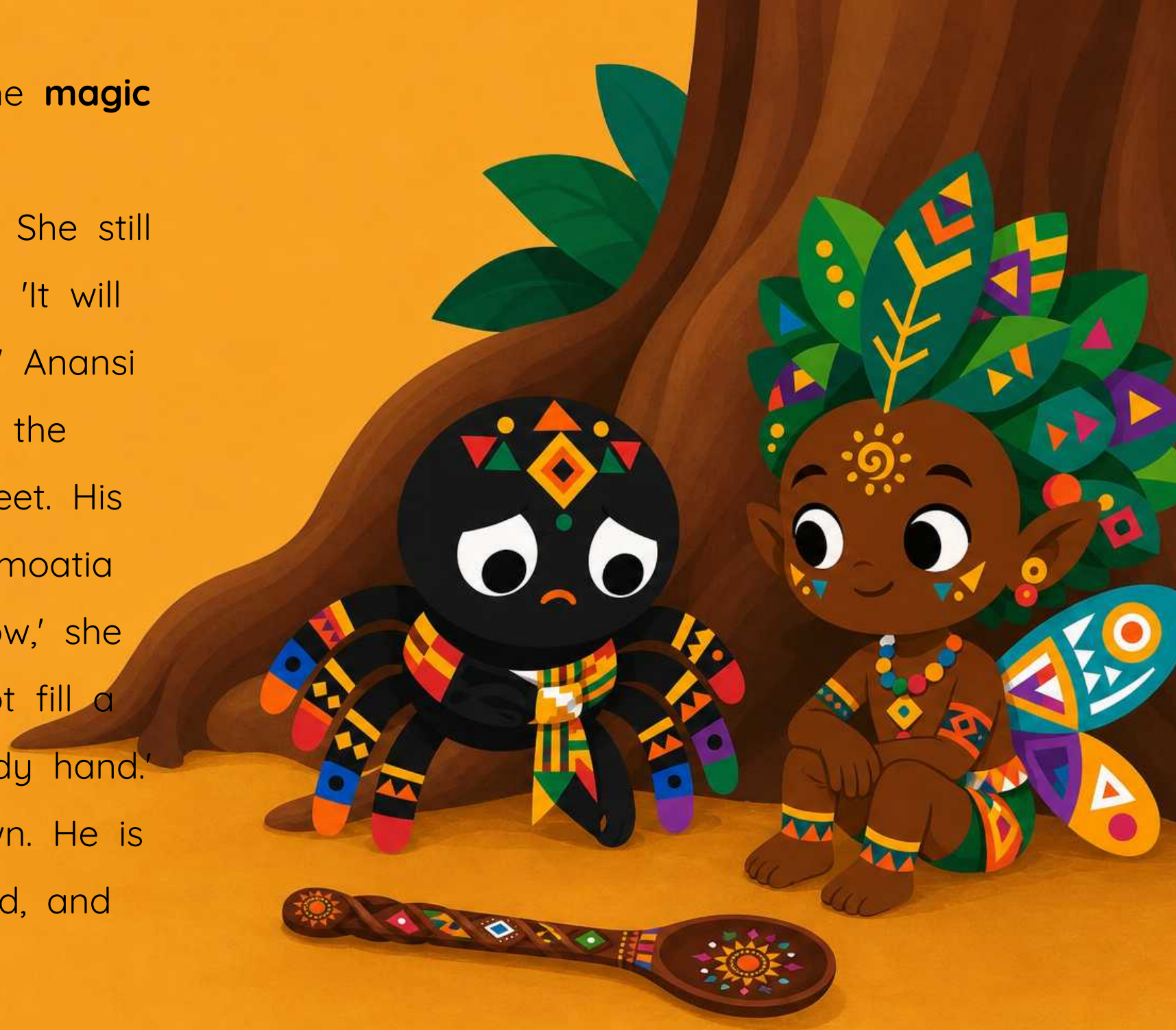


Anansi waits for Mmoatia to set the spoon down. Then he darts in, quick as a raindrop, grabs the **magic** spoon, and runs. He is deep in the forest before Mmoatia looks up. She does not chase him. She does not yell. She just lets him go.

Anansi runs home and sets his **large** pot on the floor. He dips the **magic** spoon and stirs. Nothing. He stirs fast. The pot stays empty. He shakes the spoon, blows on it, and taps it on the rim. 'Fill up, spoon!' Anansi yells. 'Fill up now!' The spoon glows for one moment, then goes dark and cold.



Anansi takes the **magic** spoon back to Mmoatia's root. She still sits by her pot. 'It will not fill my pot,' Anansi says. He drops the spoon at her feet. His belly growls. Mmoatia looks up. 'I know,' she says. 'It can not fill a pot for a greedy hand.' Anansi sits down. He is hungry, and sad, and still hungry.





'A giving hand fills all pots,' Mmoatia says.

'The **magic** spoon will stir for a hand that means to give.' Anansi thinks. His belly thinks too. 'What if a hungry chap stirs it,' he says, 'and gives out a bit? Does that count?'

Mmoatia looks at him.

'Try,' she says.

Anansi picks up the spoon and thinks. He thinks how Mmoatia fills leaf bowls for the beasts. He thinks how the little ones in the town give out sweet roast food. He stirs the pot, slow this time, no grabbing, no yelling. The curl on the spoon glows like a **gem**, and the spoon hums with **energy**. Stew **surges** up, rich and hot and sweet with spice.



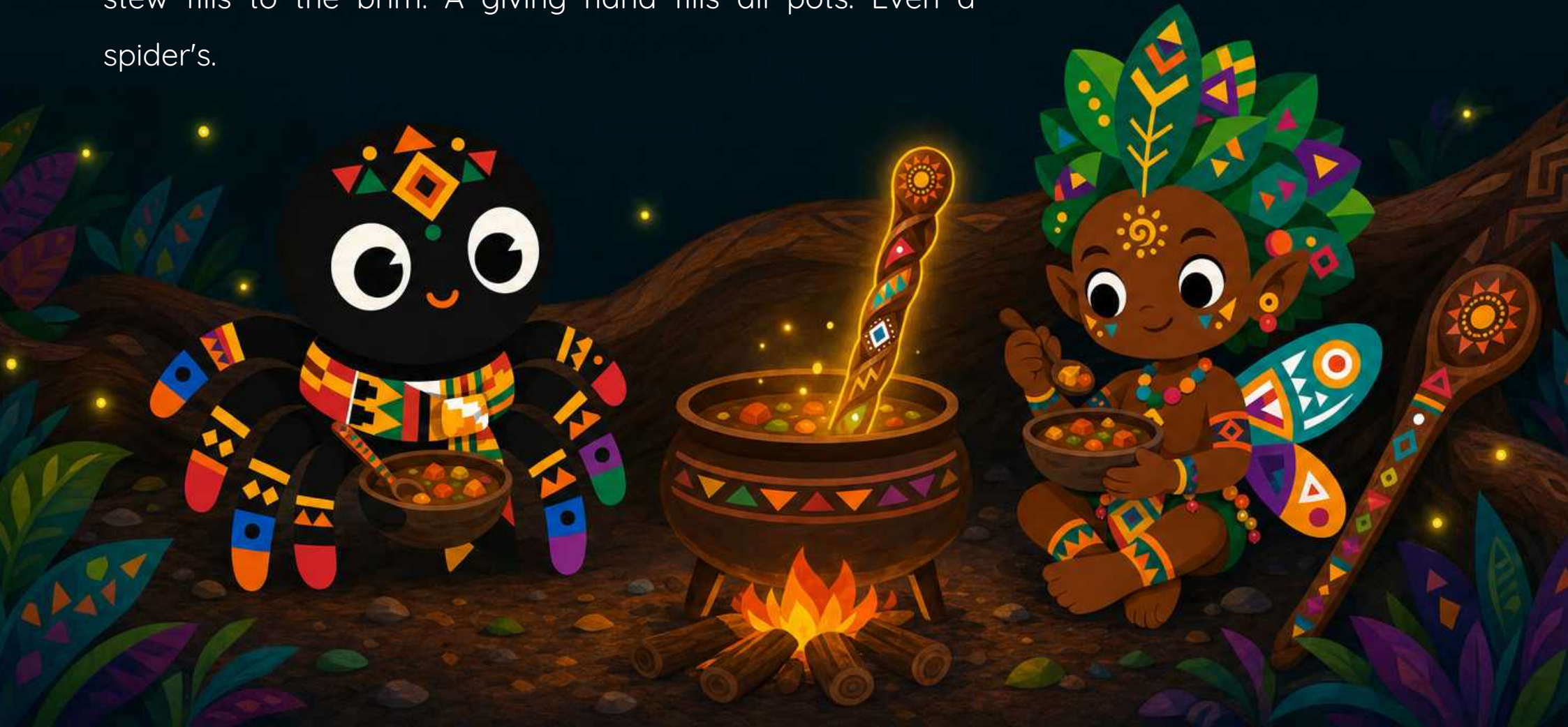
The stew fills the pot to the brim. Anansi dips the spoon and looks at Mmoatia. He looks at the pot. He looks at the spoon. His belly booms like a drum. He has a **huge urge** to eat it all. But he fills the first bowl, the best bit, rich and hot, and sets it down for Mmoatia. Then he fills a bowl for himself and eats.





The stew is the best thing Anansi has ever had. He eats till he is full, for the first time in **ages**. Then, not quite meaning to, he packs the extra stew in a big leaf. He sets it on the path by the town for the little ones to find. He tells no one. Anansi walks home in the moonlight, light on all his feet.

Mmoatia still lives in the forest, and the **magic** spoon still fills pots, but just for an open hand. Anansi visits her. He tries to think up a clever plan to grab the spoon. That is Anansi. But when he picks it up to keep it all, the pot stays cold. When he sets a bowl for Mmoatia first, the stew fills to the brim. A giving hand fills all pots. Even a spider's.





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Anansi Sees Magic

Anansi is hungry, and he has just heard about a fairy with a magic spoon that fills any pot with food. He sneaks close, watches her stir, and notices she always sets the spoon down before she eats. Could that be his chance to grab it? Written for Jolly Phonics classrooms (Step 3, Unit 3: soft g as in giant), this book practices words like 'gem', 'huge', 'urge', 'large', 'energy'.

Phonics Focus: <soft> <g>

ages, energy, gee, gem, huge, large, magic, singe, strange, surges, urge

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