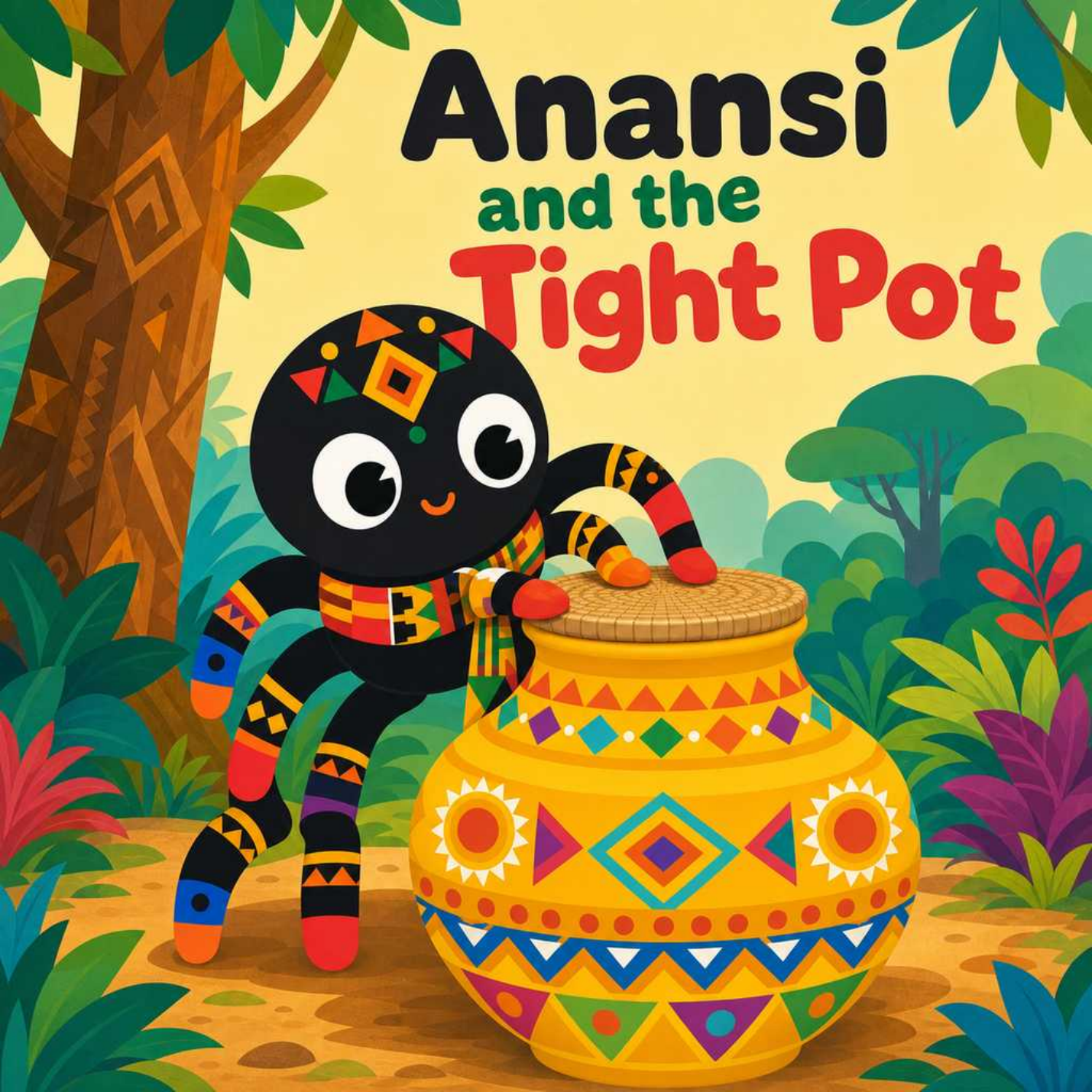

Anansi
and the
Tight Pot

Anansi has a big plan. His face shines **bright.** He will go to all lands and get the wisdom. He will tip it all in one big pot. Then Anansi will be the **wise** one, and all must come to him.

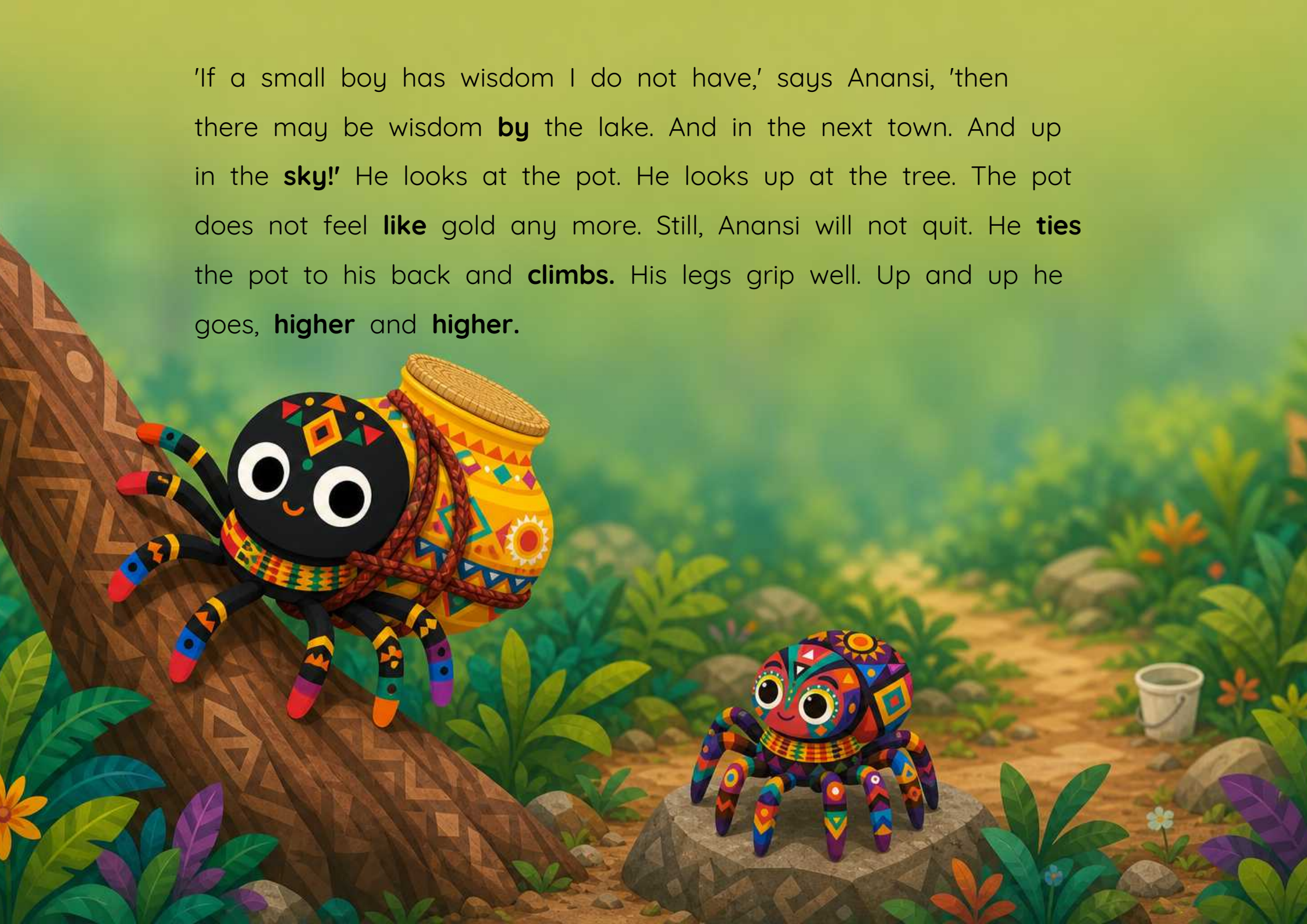
Anansi sets off in the forest and asks all he meets for the best plans. Grey Hornbill tells him how to wait. River-crab says go **side** to **side.** Tortoise says take it on the back. Anansi tips each plan in the pot and claps the lid on **tight.** **By** the tall tree, the pot is very hard to lift.

'I will **hide** this pot **high** up in the tree,' says Anansi. He **ties** the rope to the pot and hugs the pot to his front. He **tries** to go up. He slips. He **tries** one more **time.** He **slides** back down to the roots. He **sighs.** The trunk is no help at all.

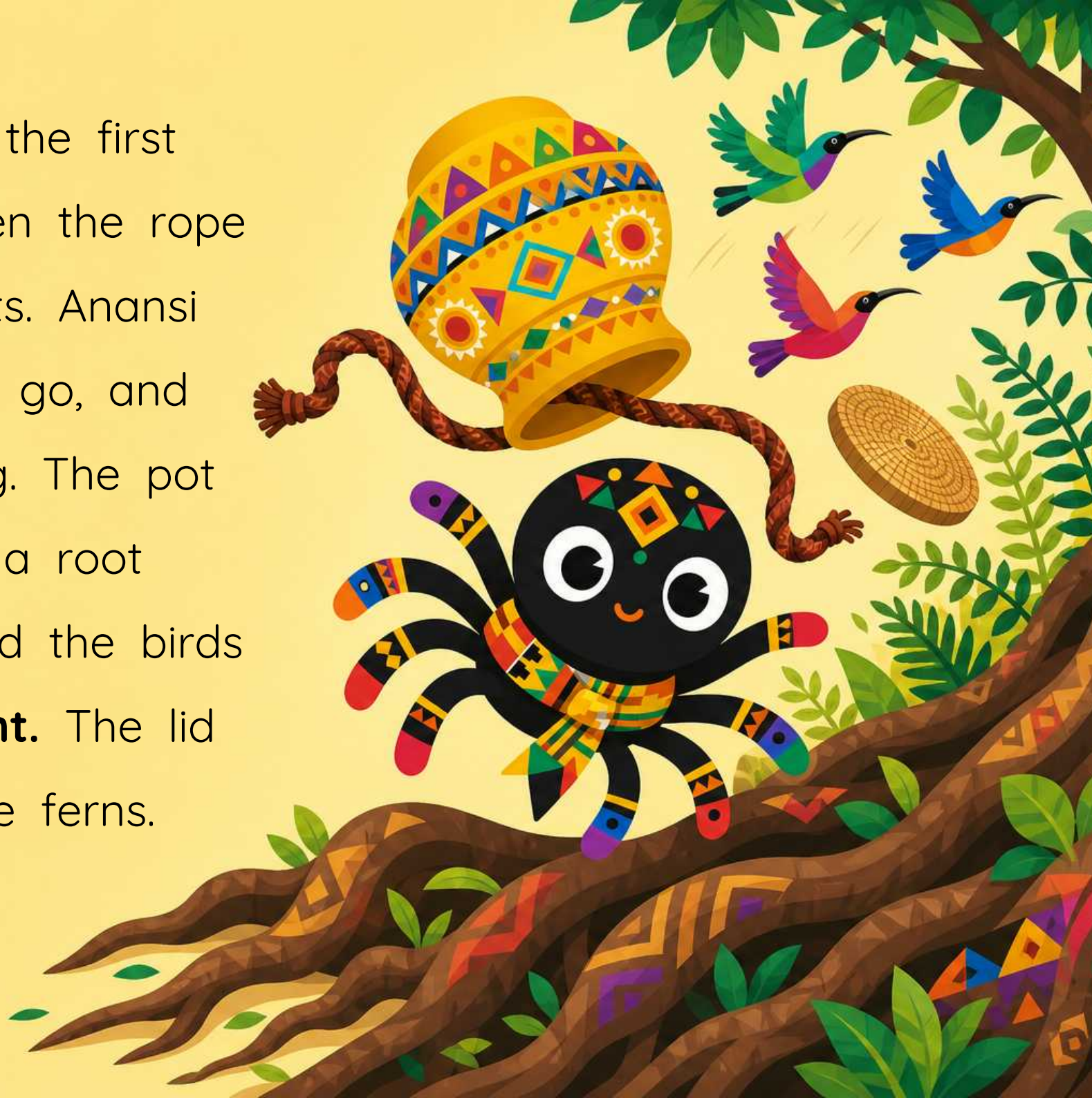
Little Ntikuma sits on a rock. He is out to get wood, yet he stops to look. 'Dad,' Ntikuma calls up, **'tie** the pot on your back, not your front. Then your legs are free.' The fix is so plain that Anansi stops still on the bark.

Anansi feels hot with shame, from his top legs to his back legs. He has all the wisdom in the land in his pot. But his own small boy has a plan that is not in the pot. So the pot does not hold it all. Anansi **sighs** a big **sigh.**

'If a small boy has wisdom I do not have,' says Anansi, 'then there may be wisdom **by** the lake. And in the next town. And up in the **sky!'** He looks at the pot. He looks up at the tree. The pot does not feel **like** gold any more. Still, Anansi will not quit. He **ties** the pot to his back and **climbs.** His legs grip well. Up and up he goes, **higher** and **higher.**



He is almost at the first **high** branch when the rope slips. The pot tilts. Anansi grabs for it, lets go, and then he is falling. The pot falls fast. It hits a root with a crack, and the birds **fly** up in a **fright.** The lid spins off into the ferns.



The wisdom bursts from the pot. It shines and spins and **flies** off on the wind. Some lands in the lilies **by** the stream. Some drifts down on sleeping kids. Some blows far, far away. Anansi lands in the ferns with a soft thud. He is not hurt, but the pot sits split apart. All the wisdom is out.

Anansi sits in the ferns for a long **time.** Ntikuma sits **by** him and says nothing, because that can be the **wise** thing to do. The forest is **quiet** but for the river and the birds. Then a small bird lands on the broken pot and sings three **bright** notes. Anansi looks at his legs, all empty, and he feels **light.**

'Grey Hornbill tells me how to wait,' says Anansi. 'I do not wait. River-crab says go **side** to **side.** I go up. Tortoise says take it on the back. I do not.' He counts on leg after leg, and still there is more to count.

'The wisdom is not in the pot,' says Ntikuma. 'It is in what we do with it.'

Anansi wants to **fight** back. Then he just **smiles.**

From that day on, wisdom lives in the wind, in the songs, in the **daylight,** and in small boys who sit on rocks. When a man thinks he has all the wisdom, a breeze blows his plan away, and all just grin. Anansi tells the story on himself. A **spider** who can **smile** at his own plan is hard to beat.

Nyame looks down from the **sky** and is glad. Not that Anansi fell, but that the wisdom is now in all the forest, not shut in one pot under one tree. And late at **night,** when a kid fixes what the big ones can not, Ntikuma is there in the fix. No one holds all the wisdom, not even Anansi. And that is a very **wise** thing.

MIXED

Anansi and the Tight Pot

Anansi has a plan so big it makes all eight eyes shine: gather every scrap of wisdom in the world and seal it tight in one big pot, high above everyone else. He hugs the heavy pot to his chest and tries to climb, but the smooth trunk sends him sliding back down every time. Will he ever find a way up that tall, tall tree? Written for Jolly Phonics classrooms (Step 3, Unit 6: /ie/ mixed), this book practises words like 'tight', 'climbs', 'tries', 'high', 'sighs'.

Phonics Focus: <mixed>

bright, by, climbs, daylight, fight, flies, fly, fright, hide, high, higher, light, like, night, quiet, side, sigh, sighs, sky, slides, smile, smiles, spider, tie, ties, tight, time, tries, wise

Bookbot is not endorsed by or affiliated with UFLI (the University of Florida Literacy Institute) or Jolly Learning Ltd. UFLI Foundations and Jolly Phonics are trademarks of their respective owners.

Learn to read with confidence

The Bookbot app and its carefully designed decodable books help children practise the sounds and words they are learning, building strong phonics and reading skills one step at a time. In the app, children can listen to stories read aloud, follow highlighted words as they are spoken, and read independently when they are ready. Together, the decodable books and oral reading support help develop accuracy, fluency, confidence and a love of reading. Learn more at www.bookbotkids.com.

CC BY NC SA

www.bookbotkids.com