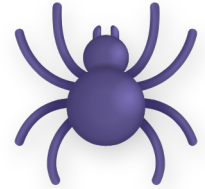


Read the fable carefully. Then answer each question below in a full sentence.

Think about what the character learned and what lesson the fable is teaching.

Anansi and the Yam Feast

Anansi the Spider was known throughout the village for his quick mind and his even quicker appetite. He loved sweet, roasted yams more than anything else! One sunny morning, he spotted a bountiful yam patch, ripe for harvest, and a mischievous idea began to spin in his head.



He decided he would host a grand yam feast, but only for himself. He told all the other animals, 'Oh, dear friends, I am too busy spinning my webs today! Please, help yourselves to the yams, but leave a small pile for me.' Secretly, Anansi planned to arrive late, hoping they would be full and leave plenty for him to devour alone.



The other animals, kind and hardworking, gathered in the yam patch. They dug up many plump yams, roasted them over a crackling fire, and began to share. The air filled with the sweet, smoky smell of cooking yams. Anansi watched from a distance, his stomach rumbling, growing impatient.



Finally, Anansi could wait no longer. He crept into the feast, pretending to be very tired. 'Oh, my friends,' he sighed dramatically, 'I have worked so hard! My legs ache, and I am so hungry!' The generous animals offered him a large plate. But Anansi, still wanting more, whispered, 'I must wash my hands first! It is a special custom for spiders.'

Anansi went to the river, washed his hands, and returned. But by then, all the yams were gone! The animals had finished their meal and gone home, leaving not even a crumb.



Anansi sat alone, hungry and disappointed. He learned that day that greed often leaves one with nothing, and that sharing brings joy to all.



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

(1) Who is the main character in this story, and where does he find the yams?

(2) What problem did Anansi create for himself by being greedy?

(3) Why did Anansi tell the other animals to help themselves to the yams but leave a small pile for him?



(4) Was Anansi's decision to pretend to be tired and then wash his hands a good choice? Use a detail from the fable to support your answer.

(5) What lesson does this fable teach about sharing? How could this lesson help you in real life?

