

ONE WORLD DRUM CIRCLE STORIES

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GHANA – ANANSI & THE WISDOM POT

Once upon a time! There was a spider named Anansi, who was also a man. He was a Spiderman! Anansi was very clever, but he wanted to be wise. So, one day Anansi took his biggest pot and went out to visit his animal friends in the forest. He said, I'll ask my animal friends to share their wisdom with me and I'll keep it all in this big pot.

First, I'll go see my friend the Toucan. I hear that he is very wise about singing. So off into the forest Anansi went. "Hello Toucan, I hear that you are very wise about singing. Will you share your best song with me?" Toucan said, Yes, I will! Anansi said, Oh, I like that song very much. I'm going to put it in my pot! Now I'll go visit my friend the Monkey, I hear that she is very wise about dancing. And off he went to visit Monkey. "Hello Monkey, I hear that you are very wise about dancing. Will you share your best dance with me?" Monkey said, "Yes, I will!" – and the Monkey danced. Anansi said, "Oh, I like that dance very much. I'm going to put it in my pot!" Then Anansi decided to visit his friend the Lion who was very wise about roaring. "Hello Lion, I hear you are very good and wise about Roaring – Can you Roar for me?" Lion said "yes, I will" – and the Lion let out a huge ROAR!!! Anansi said, "Oh, I like that roar very much, I'm going to put it in my pot!" Then Anansi decided to visit his friend the Snake who is wise about hissing and slithering. "Hello Snake, I hear you are very wise about hissing and slithering, can you hiss and slither for me?" Snake said, "Yes, I will" and Snake performed his best hissing and slithering act.

Anansi said. Oh, I like that hissing and slithering, I'm going to put it in my pot."

Now Anansi's pot was getting very full of wisdom indeed. He said, "I'm going to keep this wisdom all for myself. I don't want to share it with anyone. Where can I hide it? I know! I'll hide it on top of that biiiiiiiig tree over there. Now I need to climb it. Climb it with me!" *Climb – climb – climb – climb (voice gets higher and higher until he falls, Aaaaahhhh!)*. "It's so hard to climb with this big pot on my stomach, but I have to try again." *Climb – climb – climb – climb. Ahhhh!* Anansi was getting very frustrated and angry. Just then, his little son Nketia came walking by. He said, "Father, why don't you put that big pot on your back instead of your stomach. Then you could easily climb up the tree." Anansi said, "Oh be quiet Nketia!" Nketia said, "My father never listens to me!" Anansi heard that and asked Nketia to come back. He said, "Nketia, I just realized that you are right! If I put that pot on my back instead of my belly, I could climb the tree more easily. My own son is wiser than I am. I just realized something else! I can't keep all this wisdom for myself. I need to share it with the whole world!"

Anansi did just that! He shook the wisdom pot until all the wisdom scattered everywhere. And that's why you can find wisdom in all parts of the world.

The End."

- a. So was Anansi wise?
- b. How do you become wise? Yes, just like Anansi you listen and learn.
- c. From whom did Anansi learn? From Nketia. So can you learn from someone younger than you? Or older than you? You can learn from anyone if you pay attention.
- d. And what did Anansi learn? He learned to share what he had in the pot

EGYPT- The Well Of Truth

The story is called, "The Well of Truth."

Story: "Now, first I say, then you say...Once upon a time!" (students answer) Once upon a time!

Long ago in Egypt a goat, a rooster and a donkey decided to try their luck at farming. "If we work together, we can grow anything", said Goat. "Let's plant clover", suggested Donkey. They all agreed, prepared the ground and planted the clover seeds.

Soon it began to grow. "Is it ready now?" Asked the impatient donkey. "No, not yet", said Rooster. "If we wait, it will taste nice and sweet," said Goat. Every day Donkey asked, "Surely it must be ready now?". "One more day," said Rooster. "Yes, tomorrow we will have a feast," said Goat.

"Do we have to wait?" whined Donkey. "It's just one more night," said Rooster. So they agreed and they all went home, but Donkey couldn't sleep. "I'm going to the field to have one little taste," he said. But he kept eating until he had eaten the entire field."

The next morning Rooster crowed at dawn and he and Goat knocked on Donkey's door. "Wake up Donkey! It's time to eat our clover!" But Donkey had a terrible stomach ache and he moaned, "I'm not feeling well today. You go ahead and save some for me." When Rooster and Goat got to the clover field, they couldn't believe their eyes. "Someone has eaten our clover!" cried Rooster. "I'll bet it was Donkey," yelled Goat. They marched back to Donkey's house and there was Donkey, lying in bed with a swollen belly.

"We know you ate the clover," said Rooster. "Look how big your belly is" agreed Goat. "Oh no," argued Donkey. "It wasn't me. One of you must have eaten the clover." "We will put this to the test," said Rooster. "Let's go to the Well of Truth." "We will all jump over the well," said Goat. "Anyone who tells a lie will fall in and stay there for two months and one night." Rooster went first. He said:

**"To prove I did not eat the clover
The Well of Truth I will jump over.
If I do lie to one and all -
Into the well I'll surely fall."**

Rooster jumped easily over the well. Goat was next. He swore the same oath and jumped over the well with no problem. It was Donkey's turn. He looked nervously at the Well of Truth. "Go ahead!" challenged Rooster. "Yes, It's your turn, Donkey," said Goat.

Donkey spoke slowly

**"To prove I did not eat the clover
The Well of Truth I will jump over.
If I do lie to one and all -
Into the well I'll surely fall."**

And when Donkey jumped, he fell right right into the Well of Truth. And there he stayed for two months and one night.

The End.

- So who didn't tell the Truth in the story - Donkey
- What happened because he lied? He fell in the well.
- Are you honest or dishonest when you tell the truth? Honest

AUSTRALIA

RAINBOW BIRD AND THE CROCODILE

Long ago in the Land of Australia...far off in **Dreamtime**, the mountains and the rivers were created by the Rainbow Serpent. The people, animals and birds came to live near the rivers and lakes. It was then that fire belonged to one very ferocious animal...the crocodile. (**ARMS SNAP LIKE A CROCODILE**) He lived in the lake near the village. He liked breathing fire. It made him feel powerful for he had something no one else had. But he held the fire in his mouth and refused to share it with anyone. He was selfish. The people that lived in the village nearby were often cold at night and they could not cook their food, because they had no fire. But the crocodile didn't care, he kept it for himself.

In a tree near the water where the crocodile lived, there lived a beautiful Rainbow Bird (**FLAP WINGS**). Each day she sang her song and watched as the people from the village came to ask if the crocodile would share his fire and each day the crocodile, narrowed his yellow eyes, turned his head away and dove deep into the water ignoring them. He didn't care. "That's not very friendly," thought the Rainbow Bird. You see, the Rainbow Bird, was a very generous bird. She shared the berries, seeds, and nuts she gathered to eat with all she knew. She shared them with the kangaroo, the lorikeets and the wallabies. She even dropped her berries in the water near the crocodile so he might enjoy them. She wondered how she might help the people in the village. Could she? She was just a little bird, but maybe she could help. So Rainbow Bird waited and watched. Then one day, the crocodile yawned so wide that Rainbow Bird was able to quickly dart down and take the fire from his mouth. She carried it in her beak and thought where can I put the fire so that the people might be able to use it?

So she put it in the heart of every tree. (**MAKE A HEART**) The people in the village thanked the Rainbow Bird. "You are our hero," they said. Now we will be warm at night and we can cook our food. To this day, because Rainbow Bird put the fire inside each tree, you can make fire by rubbing two sticks from a tree together. When you see a crocodile open and close his mouth it might be that he is still upset because he lost the fire and he doesn't have too many friends.

The End.

- So who was the hero in the story? The Rainbow Bird
- Why was Rainbow Bird the hero? Because she helped the people in the village. She was generous, she was **SHARING**
- Who was so selfish in the story he would not share? The crocodile.
- What happened because he would not share? He lost what he had.

NORTH AMERICA - The First Butterflies

Story: "Now, first I say, then you say...Once upon a time!" (students answer) Once upon a time!

Long ago, when twin babies were born to spirit Woman, she relied on the animals to take care of them. All the animals loved the first human babies and did everything they could to help them. Dog watched over them, Bear gave fur to keep them warm, Wolf hunted for them, Doe provided milk for them, the Birds sang lullabies and Muskrat bathed them. Dog was an excellent guardian. The twins had only to cry and Dog jumped to his feet, his tail wagging. When he found out what was troubling the children, he set it right, or called somebody else who could help. When the babies wanted to be amused, Dog did the best tricks he could for them. He tickled the babies into delighted laughter by licking their noses. Everyone cooperated as a team to help them. They were a good team.

After a long time it was clear that something wasn't quite right with the children. The animals, who were called together by Bear, were worried. Gathering around the twins, Bear said, "Brothers, the children cannot walk. They do not run and play like our children do. What can we do to help them?"

Someone suggested they play their drums to call Nanabush, a great teacher. When Nanabush came to play with the children, the animals told him of their concern. Nanabush thought awhile and then he said. "You have cared for the children very well, in fact they never need to do anything for themselves. All little ones need to reach out for what they want, instead of always having everything given to them. I shall find out what we can do to help the babies learn to walk." So Nanabush journeyed far to the west, he called to the Great Spirit who was the creator of the children and had been watching over them. The Great Spirit would know what should be done to teach the children to walk. In reply to Nanabush's call, the Great Spirit told him to search along the slopes of the mountains. There he would find thousands of tiny sparkling stones. Nanabush did as the Great Spirit had said, he collected hundreds of stones, blue, green, red, and yellow ones. "Take these stones back to the children," said Nanabush.

And so Nanabush took the stones back and emptied them from his pockets. Then Great Spirit whispered to him, "toss the stones into the air", but nothing fell back as he reached to catch them. As Nanabush looked up, to his astonishment, he saw the pebbles changing into shapes. They became butterflies!

The babies laughed with pleasure and waved their legs and stretched out their arms to try and touch the beautiful creatures. But the Butterflies always fluttered just beyond the grasp of the small out stretched hands. Soon the twins began to crawl and then slowly started to walk, and even running in efforts to catch the Butterflies. And so the first Butterflies came to be. Through cooperation and team work, the babies grew healthy and strong.

The End.

- a. Who cooperated to encourage the babies? Bear, dog, muskrat, birds, doe (the deer), Nanabush and the butterflies. Everyone
- b. What is it called when everyone works together? Cooperation.
- c. How can you show cooperation? In the classroom with your teacher, at home, when you play sports, what else?

CHINA - The Story of the Lion Dance

"Now, first I say, then you say...Once upon a time!" (students answer) Once upon a time!

A long time ago during the Teng Dynasty in China, there was a village high up in the mountains. It was a very happy village, filled with Joy. The people loved to dance, drum and tell stories. And they loved to celebrate their New Year. When they had a New Year's party, they would dance and drum and sing. But someone who lived in the mountains did not like the loud drums. He was called the Nian. The Nian decided to put on a scary mask and go to scare the villagers so that they would not have their New Year's party. And so he put on his mask, crept down to the village, and roared. The villagers saw his scary mask and they were so afraid they did not have a party. The Nian got what he wanted and crept back up to the mountains laughing, "he he, now I don't have to hear those loud drums!"

The next year, the villagers wanted to have their New Year's party but they didn't want the Nian to scare them again. But they were lucky! They met an intelligent and very clever, good luck lion who was visiting from his home in the West. They asked the very intelligent, **clever** lion, "would you please help us not be scared of the Nian so we can have our party?" The lion said, "of course I will help you". So he waited while the villagers were making their New Year's food and practicing their drums. When the Nian crept down from the mountains, the lion gave his biggest ROAR (kids roar), and the Nian was so scared he ran back up into the mountains. The Nian didn't like loud noises and the Lion knew this.

The next year, the villagers were getting ready for their New Year's party again. They didn't think the Nian would come back, but he did! The Lion was no longer there to protect them. But one very and intelligent and **clever** villager said, "Hey, we're intelligent, we can be clever too! We can make our own good luck!" They decided to make their own lion costume to scare the Nian. They dressed in red robes, because the Nian didn't like the color red. And they played their drums VERY LOUD! After all that noise, the Nian decided to NEVER COME BACK TO THAT VILLAGE AGAIN! He crept back to his home in the mountains, and the villagers had their New Year's party. In fact, they liked doing the Lion Dance so much, they decided to do it again every year after that, and so they did. The End.

- a. Who in the story was intelligent and clever? The lion and the people in the village.
- b. What did they do that was clever? They saw what the lion did to scare the Nian away and figured out how they could do that too.
- c. What did the villagers learn? That they were as intelligent and as clever as the lion.

IRELAND - The Legend of Finn McCool

Once upon a time! Finn McCool was the biggest giant in all Ireland. He was a great warrior and very strong. He could lift a house and turn it around so it faced the sun. If the weather was bad, Finn would lift the carts, horses and all and carry them to shelter.

In the nearby town lived an old man who was said to know how to get great wisdom. It was said he had promised to reveal it to only the right one. Many people had tried to be friends with him, to wheedle the secret of knowledge out of him. The Baker had brought him fresh baked soda bread. Ms. O'Hanlon brought him a white hen, so he could have a fresh egg for his breakfast. Mrs. Mulligan brought him a load of wood she'd cut herself. He thanked them all for their kindness but he kept his secret to himself.

It was the day after Bridie's visit that Finn came to the old man. He couldn't fit in the house so he sat outside, his hands resting on the roof. "Old man," he called. "It's Finn McCool...will you share the secret of wisdom with me.

The old man came out. "I know who you are, and I was waiting for you to come ", the old man said. I know you're good and kind as well as big. I know you're a great warrior and a friend and a hero to Ireland, but I need to ask you one question. With all that you have why do you need wisdom?

"A man is nothing without it," Finn said. "With wisdom I'll know how to help my friends. I'll be able to answer their questions and speak for all of Ireland.

"The old man nodded. "Yes,...you'll be more with the grace of wisdom added to you. So listen. In the River there lives a fish, a great red salmon. In him is the wisdom of the world. Catch him, cook and eat him and the wisdom will be yours.

"Thank you, sir," Finn said. Two strides took him to the River. He dropped his fishing line. Finally, the great red salmon swam lazily upstream. "Gorra!" Finn thought,. "It's as if it's looking for something". The salmon swam around the line then took the bait and the hook.

Finn pulled in the fish. He looked in its eyes and saw the wisdom, all the knowledge of the world. He saw life. How could he kill it and eat it? He spoke to the fish. "You have the wisdom and I wanted it, but not if I have to kill you," he said. He carefully removed the hook from the fish's mouth. The fish spoke, "I thank you for sparing my life. It seems you had the wisdom to let me go. Why did you let me catch you, for you are wise enough not to take a baited hook?" "Maybe I knew whose hook it was. Maybe I was waiting for you because I had heard there was a great giant that deserved my respect for being such a good man".

Thank you," Finn said, "I will use the gift well." "And I too respect you for being willing to help me". And gently he placed the salmon back in the river and watched it swim away. "Maybe I had the wisdom I was looking for all the time."

The End.

- a. Who did you respect in the story? Finn McCool, the salmon, the old man
- b. How do you earn/get respect? By doing the right thing, by being honest, cooperating, being kind, friendly, by using all the secrets of the heart
- c. Do people respect you? Who do you respect in your life?

PERU - Ampata and the Magic Lake

Once upon a time long ago, in Peru where the Incas lived, there was a girl named Ampata. She lived with her parents and two older brothers. Her family was poor and farmed the land to serve their emperor, the Inca Sun King.

One day they learned the King's son, the prince, was very sick. "Our only hope, sire," said the court magician, "is for your son to drink the water from the Magic Lake at the end of the earth. That is where the sky dips so low that it touches the lake's water and charges it with a magical healing power."

The Inca Sun King announced that whoever could bring him water from the Magic Lake would be richly rewarded, and could become a member of the royal family. Ampata's two older brothers set out on a long journey to the Magic Lake....

They returned home, having never found it, and the Sun King was very angry with them.

Now Ampata wanted to try. She felt compassion for the King, the Prince and for her brothers who had failed. She cared about them all. She thought it was the only way to help the prince and help her brothers receive forgiveness from the king. So her mother and father gave her a bag of toasted corn and nuts, and bid their youngest child farewell.

Ampata climbed the trees to spend the night safely. The next morning she shared her treats with the Macaws, who were also sleeping in the tree. "Kwahh! Kwahh!" The macaws said as they ate. "What is a human girl doing in the trees?" Ampata told them her story. They felt compassion for Ampata. "You will never get there on your own!" said one of the Macaws. "We enjoyed your tasty treats and we know how to help you. These three feathers have magic. Hold them together as a fan. They will take you wherever you want to go, and protect you from danger."

She took wool from her hair and tied the three feathers together like a fan. "I can never thank you enough," she said to the two Macaws as they flew off. Holding the feathers before her, she said, "If you please, take me to the Magic Lake at the end of the earth!" Ampata was lifted far above the trees and whisked to the last mountain peak where the sky touched the water. She had reached the end of the earth. She tucked the fan into her waistband and walked to the Lake's edge. As she walked she faced a giant rattlesnake, then a huge red scorpion and a deadly army of ants. Each fell as she raised the feathers.

Ampata reached the lake and filled her jar with the magic waters. She again pulled out the fan and said, "Right away please, take me to the castle of the Sun King," and suddenly, she was there. She was taken to the prince's room where she placed three droplets onto the lips of the prince. His eyes opened. "You did it!" said the Inca Sun King to Ampata. "You may join the royal family." "If you please, sir," said Ampata, "May I ask three favors instead?" "First, would you forgive my two brothers?" "Consider it done," said the Sun King. "Second, I'd like to return these three magic feathers to my friends, the Macaws." Instantly, the fan rose free of her waistband, spun around and flew out an empty window. Lastly, "My parents have taken such good care of us. Would you grant them a large flock of llama, and land to herd them so they will not be poor in their old age?" "I'll gladly grant this if you promise to visit us often at the castle." Years later after many visits, her friendship with the prince turned to love and she joined the Royal family. And it all happened because of Ampata's compassion.

The End.

- What was Ampata feeling that sent her in search of the water from the Magic? Compassion
- Who did she feel compassion for? Her Brothers, The Prince, Her Parents
- How helped her on her journey? The Macaws
- What did they give her? Three magic feathers.