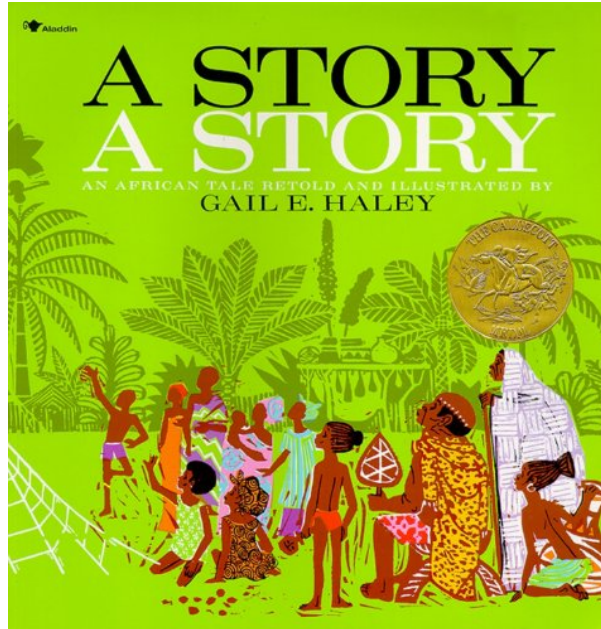
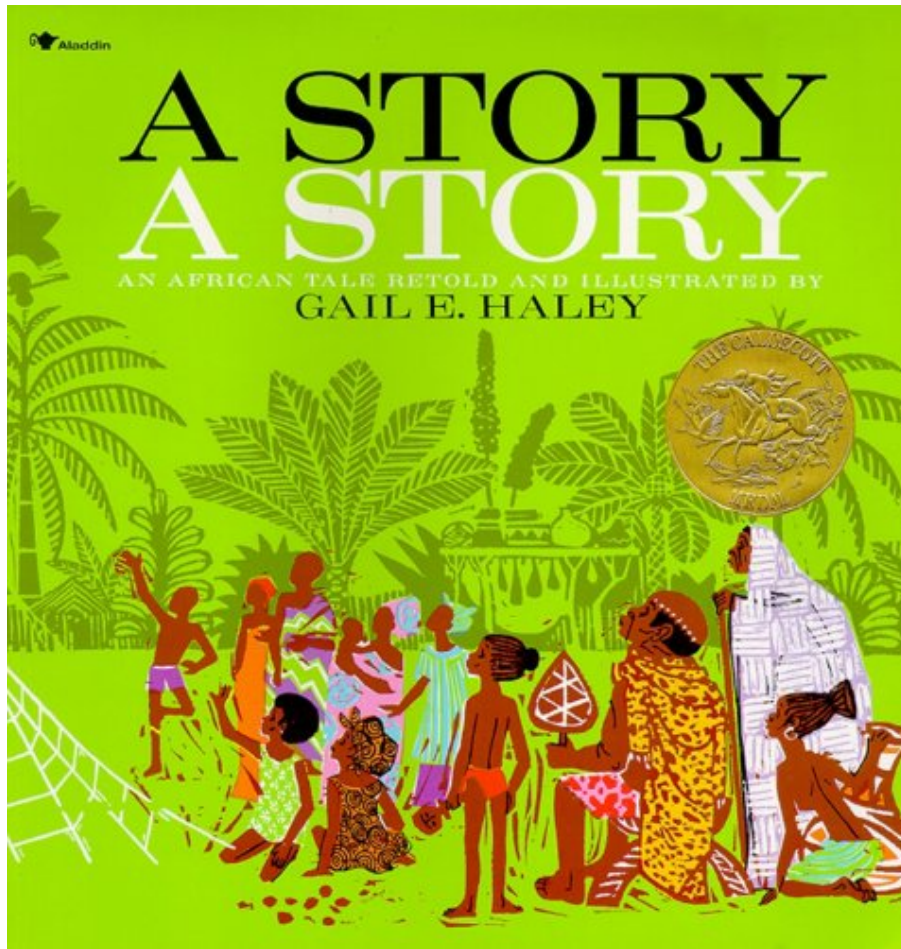


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From Publishers Weekly

The Caldecott Medal-winning African folktale of how Ananse took all the stories in the world from Nyame, the Sky God. Ages 4-8.

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From the Back Cover

Many African stories, whether or not they are about Kwaku Ananse the 'spider man, ' are called, 'Spider Stories.' This book is about how that came to be.

About the Author

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STORY, A STORY BY GAIL E. HALEY PDF

This story of how we got our own stories to tell is adapted from an African folktale.

Once, all the stories in the world belonged to Nyame, the Sky God. He kept them in a box beside his throne. But Ananse, the Spider man, wanted them--and caught three sly creatures to get them.

- Sales Rank: #742327 in eBooks
- Published on: 2012-03-06
- Released on: 2012-03-06
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Most helpful customer reviews

19 of 20 people found the following review helpful.

Spider man, spider man. Does whatever a spider can.

By E. R. Bird

My husband grew up in Atlanta, Georgia and well remembers the Anase stories that were told to him and his companions in their youth. For myself, Anase was not a character I heard much about as a child. This is a pity when you consider that books like, "A Story A Story" were striving to teach children about the great

African (I apologize for not knowing the exact region) folktales. Based on one of many spider stories, "A Story A Story" is a variation on the Prometheus tale. In this case, however, the desired gift of the gods isn't fire but that of stories themselves.

As the tale tells us, long ago all the stories in the world belonged to the Sky God. On behalf of mankind, Anase (presented here not as a spider but as a kind of old spider man) spins a web into the sky and requests the Sky God's stories. The big man upstairs is amused by the request and presents Anase with a series of three near impossible tasks. If the spider man is able to accomplish them, he will be granted the stories. Using his wits and some clever techniques, Anase accomplishes each trial and in the end the world receives a golden box of the Sky God's stories.

Just looking at this tale I realized that it was a perfect companion picture book to Marcia Brown's "Once a Mouse". In both cases woodcut illustrations decorate a well-known fable from a land other than America. In this particular book, children at all familiar with the Brer Rabbit tarbaby story will instantly recognize elements of it in "A Story A Story". Adults could then let their kids know that slaves from Africa would often bring their stories with them, changing them in their new land with some subtle variations. The book itself is illustrated beautifully with what looks to be a series of brightly colored woodcuts. Be sure to locate other fine Anase stories (they exist in abundance, doncha know) if this one suits your fancy. It reflects beautifully the cleverness and richness of a story not too new to our American ears.

16 of 17 people found the following review helpful.

A wonderful introduction to fables

By G

My daughter was not particularly interested in hearing a story the first time we opened this book, but within a few pages, the magic of the story, and the wonderful cadence of the words, captured her attention. She was spell bound to the end. The story was an opportunity to talk to her about another culture, teach her about the concepts of fables and oral traditions, and to just plainly entertain her.

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

An African tale of Anase's quest to get the world's stories.

By A Customer

A Story A Story contains perhaps the most beautiful art in any children's book ever. But it's more than vibrant colorful pictures. This African folk tale captures the imagination of children of all ages. Anase the spider man uses his brains and wits to complete difficult tasks in order to release all of the world's stories, held by a powerful god. The story is timeless is exciting.

See all 33 customer reviews...

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