

Stories Shared Aloud

Identify African American oral traditions and folktales.

SS.2.AA.1.2 "Identify oral traditions and folktales of African Americans (e.g., Anansi the Spider, Tale of the Midnight Goat Thief)."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the names of the folktales. Underline details that tell how the stories were shared.

Folktales Travel

- ① Pretend you are sitting with family members after dinner. One person tells a story aloud. Another person retells it later. Stories shared by speaking and listening are called oral traditions. They can carry memories, humor, lessons, and community history.
- ② Many African American oral traditions grew as people told stories to family and neighbors. Anansi the Spider came from West African storytelling, including Akan traditions. Enslaved Africans carried Anansi stories to the Americas, where storytellers kept sharing clever spider adventures.
- ③ Tale of the Midnight Goat Thief is another African American folktale. Like Anansi stories, people could share it aloud from one person to another without needing a printed book. Listening closely helps you notice a tale's characters, problems, and repeated details.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What are the two folktales named in the passage?

2 How did Anansi stories become part of African American oral traditions?

3 Why could people share Tale of the Midnight Goat Thief without a printed book?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Make up a title for a folktale that could be shared aloud. Write two sentences. Name a character and include words that a storyteller could repeat.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle the names of the folktales. Underline details that tell how the stories were shared. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What are the two folktales named in the passage?	Anansi the Spider and Tale of the Midnight Goat Thief.
2	How did Anansi stories become part of African American oral traditions?	Enslaved Africans carried Anansi stories to the Americas, and storytellers kept sharing them.
3	Why could people share Tale of the Midnight Goat Thief without a printed book?	People shared the tale aloud from one person to another.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Turtle and the Rainy-Day Drum is a folktale about a turtle who finds a drum in the rain. Each time Turtle taps it, the storyteller says, "Tap, tap, share the sound!"

Accept the exact folktale names or clearly recognizable spellings. For the open response, accept an original title and two sentences that name a character and include a repeatable phrase.