

Q1.

The Spider Weaver

Once, long ago, in an Ashanti village in the country of Ghana, there lived two expert weavers. One weaver was called Kofi. The other one was Yaw.

These men wove a simple cloth called nwen-ntoma. And everyone from the king of the Ashanti people to the poorest child wore it.





Late one night, Kofi and Yaw were returning home from a walk in the great Ashanti Forest. All of a sudden Yaw stopped. The light from his lantern had fallen on an amazing sight, glowing like moonbeams against the midnight sky.

“Come look, my friend,” Yaw whispered to Kofi. “I see a small miracle.”

The small miracle was actually a web. But never before had either of them seen such a wondrous design! Yet it had been woven with a single unbroken thread – a thread that was even finer than a strand of human hair.

“Let’s bring this treasure home with us to study,” Kofi whispered to Yaw.

Yaw carefully detached the web from where it held fast to a banana tree. But as he did, the web collapsed, sticking to his fingers.



“Oh, it is ruined!” Kofi cried. “Now how will we ever learn to weave this beautiful design?”

Saddened, the weavers walked home. Their discovery was lost forever.

When the men entered their village at dawn, Yaw’s wife, Amma, came out to meet them and offered them a gourd filled with cool water to drink.

Neither man spoke as he ate, and for this reason Amma could sense that something was wrong.

“Please tell me what troubles you,” she said.



“It is a beautiful web,” her husband answered sadly. “When we tried to bring it home from the forest to study, it crumpled in my hands and was ruined.”

“Do you think you could find another one like it?” Amma asked quietly.

Kofi was doubtful. “This web was very different – very special. And no creature ever spins the same web twice.”

“Perhaps what happened was a blessing,” Amma suggested gently. “Though you cannot find the same web again, perhaps you can find the same weaver.”

And that is what Kofi and Yaw set out to do. Early the next morning, they eagerly made their way through the forest. They found the banana tree where they had first seen the extraordinary web.

Sure enough, in front of them were the beginnings of a new masterpiece.

In no time, a slender black leg emerged from the shadows and rested lightly on the silk threads. Yaw and Kofi could see the creature clearly now. The Master Web Weaver was a lovely, large, yellow-and-black spider.

As soon as they saw the spider, the men felt terrible for wrecking the magnificent web the night before. Now they could see that the web was the beautiful spider’s home.

Longing to take the web home with them, the weavers looked at each other. But neither of them wanted to destroy the spider's home a second time. They were about to leave when the spider looked directly at them and began a weaving dance.



Dip! Twist. Turn and glide. The spider made her way across and back over the web. She moved like a woman dancing, regal and very graceful.

The spider wove on and on into the afternoon, and the weavers stood in admiration as they watched her.

At dusk, the tired but satisfied spider completed her creation.

The spider moved sideways to the edge of her web. But before disappearing into the shadows, she turned in the direction of Yaw and Kofi. In that brief moment, the men were quite certain she smiled at them.



Then, in the blink of an eye, she was gone.

The beautiful spider had shown the weavers how to weave new, intricate designs. What a wonderful teacher she had been! What a wonderful gift she had given them!

With great joy they returned to their village.

In time, the weavers redesigned their looms so they could imitate the spider's weaving dance. At first, they copied her patterns in black and white thread but soon they dyed their threads in bright colours and developed many new patterns themselves. And they named this new cloth ken-te-nwen-ntoma – which today is commonly called ken-te cloth.



Everyone in the village wanted to wear this new cloth, but, at first, only the king of the Ashanti people wore it on special occasions. However, as time passed, others were allowed to wear the new cloth, too.

Soon the two weavers were well known across Ghana. And, because of the spider's generous gift, they created designs and patterns that are still worn throughout the world today.

Q2.

The Spider Weaver

(page 3)

1 Where were Kofi and Yaw when they first saw the web?

Tick **one**.

in the
village

at home

in the
forest

in the dark

(page 3)

2 Which words tell you how special the web was?

Tick **three**.

miracle	<input type="checkbox"/>	sticky	<input type="checkbox"/>
detached	<input type="checkbox"/>	amazing	<input type="checkbox"/>
wondrous	<input type="checkbox"/>	collapsed	<input type="checkbox"/>

(page 4)

3 Why did the web break?

Tick **one**.

Yaw was not being careful.	<input type="checkbox"/>	It fell from Yaw's fingers.	<input type="checkbox"/>
It was on a banana tree.	<input type="checkbox"/>	It was delicate.	<input type="checkbox"/>

(page 5)

4 Amma said 'Perhaps what happened was a blessing.'

Why did she say it gently?

(page 5)

5 What did Amma suggest to Yaw and Kofi?

Tick **one**.

They should find the weaver.	<input type="checkbox"/>	They should weave their own.	<input type="checkbox"/>
They should find another web.	<input type="checkbox"/>	They should forget about the web.	<input type="checkbox"/>

6 Which words tell you the way the spider moved as she spun her web?

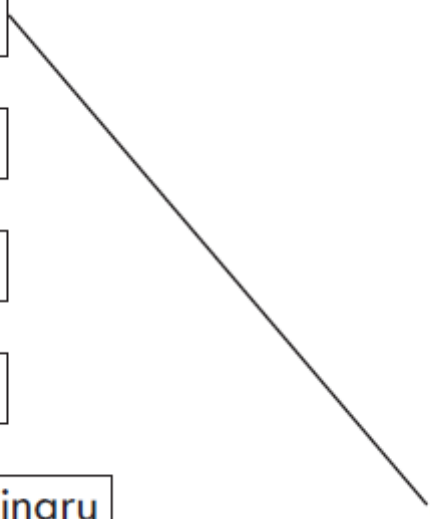
7 Why did Yaw and Kofi stay and watch the spider for so long?

8 Why did the weavers change the design of their looms?

(question about the whole story)

9 Find these words in the story. Draw a line to match them to their meaning. The first one has been done for you.

intricate	skilful
imitate	thin
slender	copy
expert	strange
extraordinary	complex



(question about the whole story)

10 What did Yaw and Kofi learn in this story?

Tick **three** things.

How to pick up a spider's web.

That a problem can sometimes be a

How to weave a new kind of cloth.

That small creatures can do wonderful things.

blessing.

That the forest is a terrible place to live.

How to travel throughout the world.

(question about the whole story)

11 What is the purpose of this story?

Tick **one**.

To teach you to be kind to other people.

To teach you to live in the forest.

To explain how spiders spin their webs.

To explain how ken-te cloth was first made.

Mark schemes

Q2.

The Spider Weaver

- 1 In the forest 1
- 2 miracle ✓
detached
wondrous ✓ sticky
amazing ✓
collapsed
- All 3 words ticked
correctly for
1 mark**
- 3 It was delicate. 1
- 4 *Award 1 mark for answers that show an understanding of Amma's sympathy or the men's sadness, eg:*
Because she knew they were upset/sad.
Because she was trying to make them feel better.
She was being kind. • trying to help.
To comfort them.
To give them support.
- Unacceptable:** *Answers that focus on Amma's sadness without reference to men(s) feelings, eg:*
Because she was sad/worried.
Because something was wrong. 1
- 5 They should find the weaver. 1
- 6 Dip! Twist. (Turn and glide).
Like (a woman) dancing • like a weaving dance
• like a regal, graceful dancer.
- Also accept:*
Across and back.
Sideways and across/back. 1
- 7 *Award 1 mark for answers that clearly refer to the weavers Learning how to improve their weaving, eg:*
So they could learn how to copy her design patterns.
Because they thought the spider was teaching them.
Because the spider was giving them an idea.
- Also accept:*
Answers that refer to the weaver's feelings of wonder/ admiration when watching the spider weave her web, eg:
Because they had never seen anything so amazing before.
Because they were amazed/interested.
They enjoyed watching her • they stood in admiration.

*Because the spider was making a pattern on her web.
 They wanted to see what would happen next • because
 they wanted to see the finished web.
 It was beautiful/amazing/magnificent/exciting/fascinating.*

Unacceptable: *Imprecise answers that do not refer to either
 the weavers learning how to improve their
 weaving or their sense of wonder, eg:
 Because it took her so long • went on into the after noon.
 They liked it • it was nice [not specific enough].
 Because of the web [needs adjective].
 Because they wanted to weave [needs reference to new
 design, eg: new/different/better].*

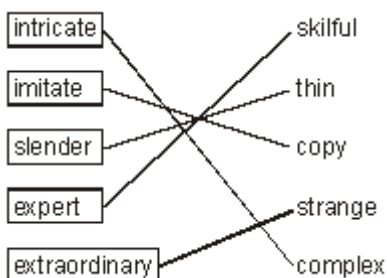
1

- 8 *Answers should refer to how the weavers incorporated the
 spider's designs into their own weaving, eg:
 So they could copy/imitate the spider's web/patterns/designs/dance
 So they could weave like a spider.
 Because they liked the spider's patterns/weaving/designs (better than theirs).
 Because they had learnt a new way of weaving.
 To create new designs and patterns.
 So they could make a new/nicer/another/different cloth.*

*Do not accept unspecific answers, eg:
 Because they had seen the spider's web.
 New pattern/design
 So they could weave.*

1

9



4 correct = 2 marks
 2 or 3 correct = 1 mark

- 10 That a problem can sometimes be a blessing.
 How to weave a new kind of cloth.
 That small creatures can do wonderful things.

Unacceptable: (more than 3 ticked).

All 3 ticked correctly
 for 1 mark

- 11 To explain how ken-te cloth was first made.

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