

Anansi and the Ant

[Historia en Español](#)

Anansi the Spider and his son, Kwakutsin, are farmers having a bad year because of a drought. One day Kwakutsin is out for a walk, lamenting the poor harvest, and he sees a hunchback dwarf by the side of the road. The dwarf asks Kwakutsin what's wrong, and when he explains, the dwarf promises to help. He tells Kwakutsin to find two small sticks and tap him lightly on his hump while singing. So tap tap and it begins to rain. Soon the crops start growing.

Anansi thinks he can do better and goes to look for the dwarf himself, making sure to bring two big sticks. The dwarf tells Anansi to tap him on his hump again, but Anansi ends up hitting the dwarf so hard that he kills him. Now Anansi is scared because the dwarf was the king's favorite jester, so he puts the dwarf's body in a kola tree and waits.



When his son Kwakutsin comes by and asks his father if he has seen the dwarf, Anansi tells him the dwarf is climbing the tree looking for a kola nut. As Kwakutsin climbs up the tree, the dwarf's body falls down to the ground. Anansi cries out that his son has killed the king's jester, but Kwakutsin knows Anansi's tricks and replies that the king was actually angry with the dwarf, and now he could go to the king and collect a reward. Knowing there is a bounty, Anansi exclaims that he had killed the dwarf.



Anansi arrives at the king's court and discovers, the king was not angry with the jester, but now he's certainly angry with Anansi. The king orders the body of the dwarf to be put in a box, which Anansi must carry on his head forever, unless he finds someone else to carry it. Eventually Anansi comes across Ant, and asks him to hold the box while he goes to the market, and wouldn't you know it, Ant falls for it. This is why, to this day, we see ants carrying great burdens.