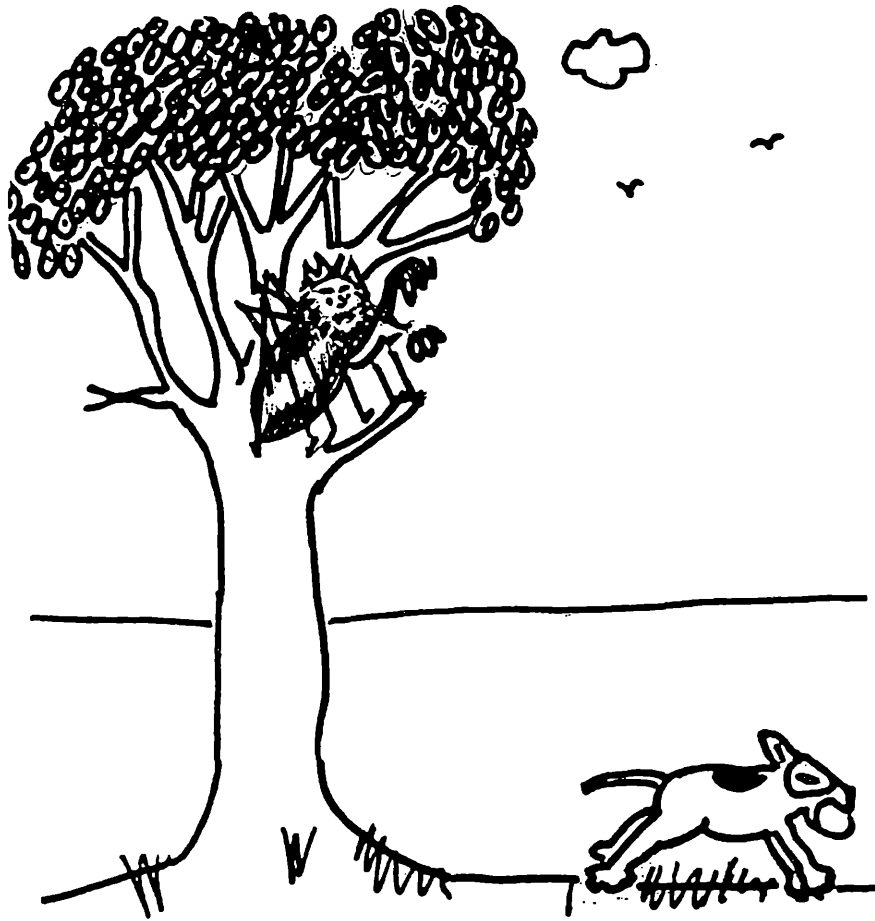


Anansi an di Domplin Chree



Adapted from a narration by
Oswald Sutherland

Illustrations by Leon Hemsley

[English translation can be found at the back of the book.]



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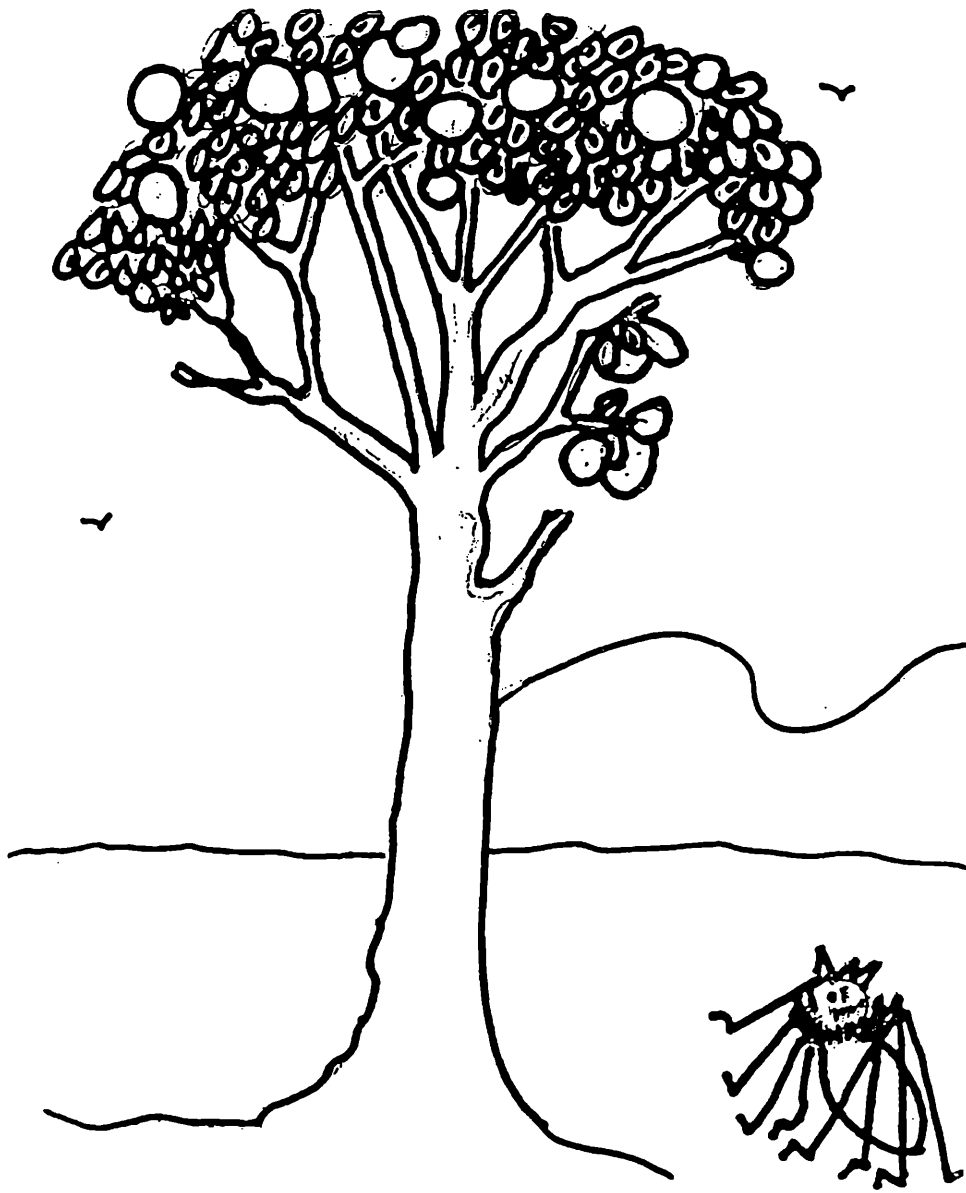
Narrative taken from
CREOLE FOLK TALES FROM BELIZE, VOL. II
Collected and Edited by Ervin Beck
Goshen College, Goshen, IN 46526.
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In the Kriol writing system each letter represents just one sound. There are no silent letters. Following is a brief guide to reading some of the more unfamiliar symbols:

- 'long a' = 'ay' as in 'wayt' (wait)**
- 'long i' = 'ai' as in 'bwai' (boy)**
- 'long e' = 'ee' as in 'teech' (teach)**
- 'long o' = 'oa' as in 'bloa' (blow)**
- 'long u' = 'oo' as in 'hoo' (who)**
- 'double short a' = 'aa' as in 'yaad' (yard)**
- 'nasalization' – 'hn' nasalizes the vowel as in 'kohn' (come)**
- 'tr' – 'chr' as in 'chrai' (try)**

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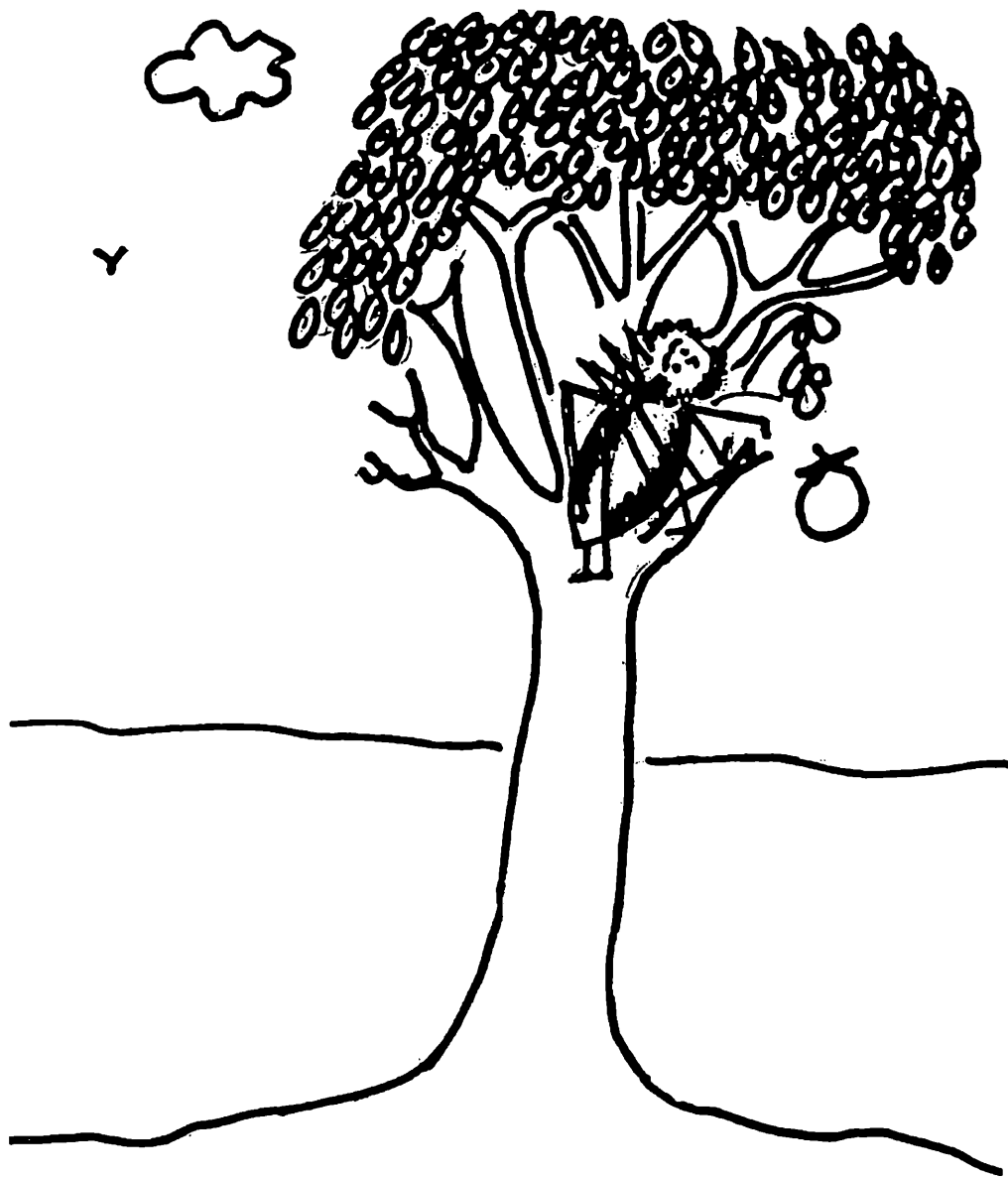
Dis da wahn taim wen taim da-mi taim.
Anansi gaan da bush an ih di waak, ih di
waak til wahn day ih bok op pahn wahn big
chree. Wen ih luk, ih si ih mi ful op wid
loan domplin.



Anansi tek wan an ih eet ahn - "Mmmm, oo man, dis ting oanli nais!"

Soh evri day Anansi goh eet wan, kaa wan domplin kudda mi ful ih beli.

An ih gaan an ih gaan til oanli wan domplin mi lef pahn di chree.

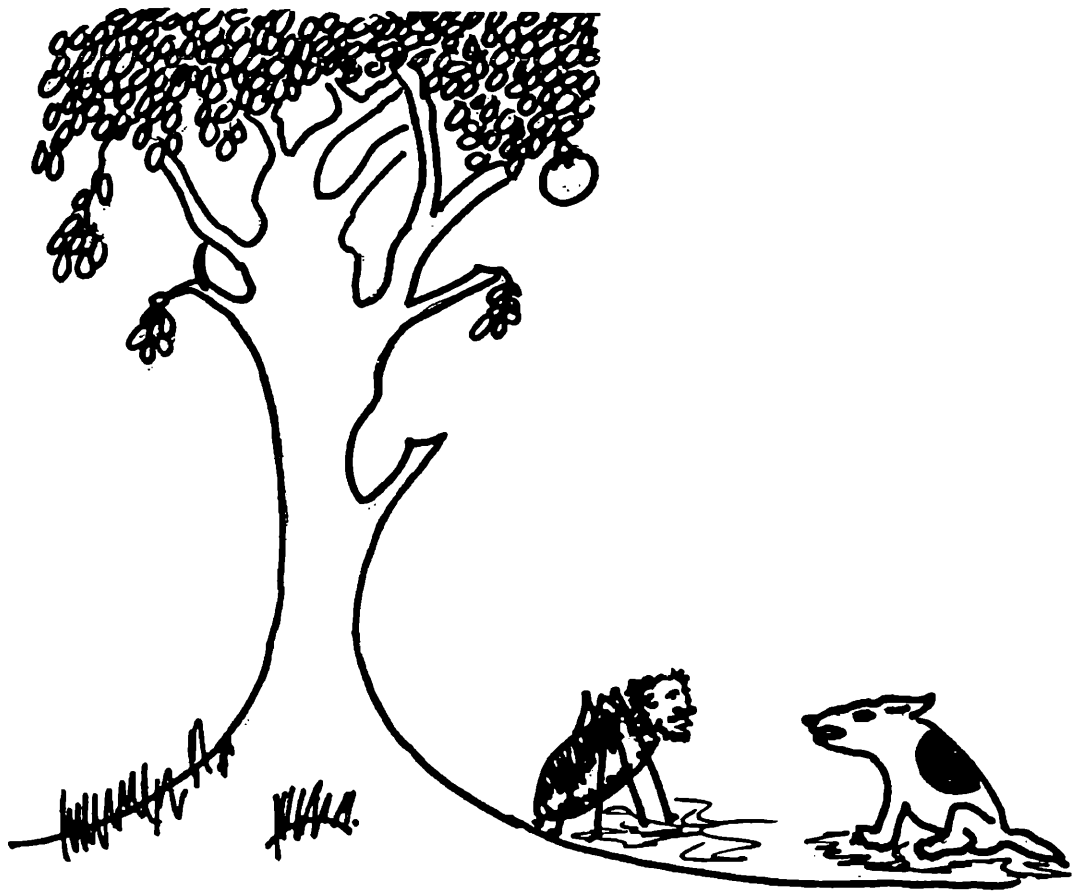


Soh da laas day Anansi gaan, an ih klaim pahn di chree fi get da tap weh paat di domplin mi deh. Bot wen ih reech fi get it, di domplin jrap da grong.

Wen ih kohn da grong fi pik op di
domplin, di domplin jomp bak pahn di chree.

An Anansi mi-di goh op an dong, op an
dong, til at laas ih sidong fi tink bowt weh
ih gwain du.



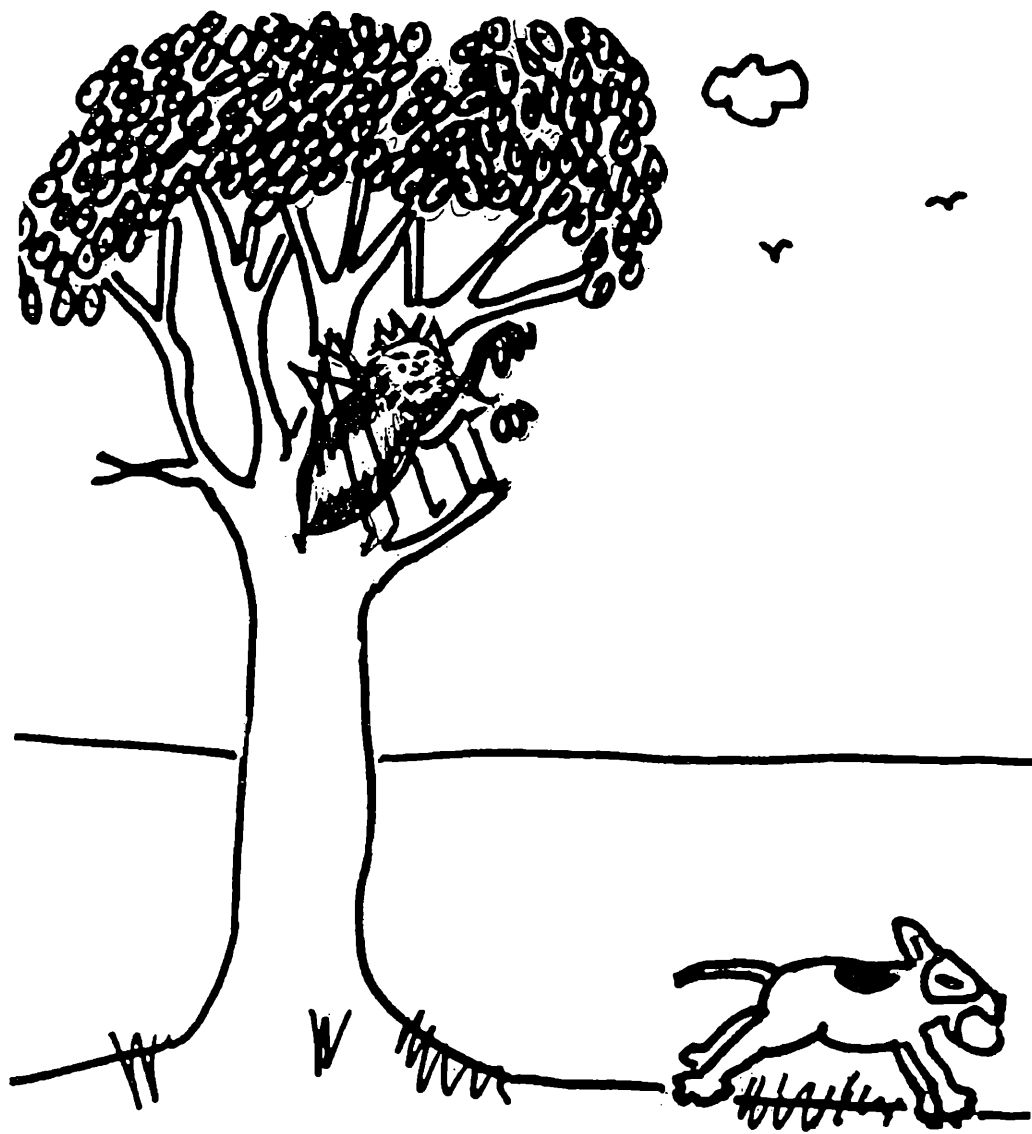


Wail ih mi-di tink, ih si Daag di paas.
Ih seh, "Kohn ya, Bra Daag."

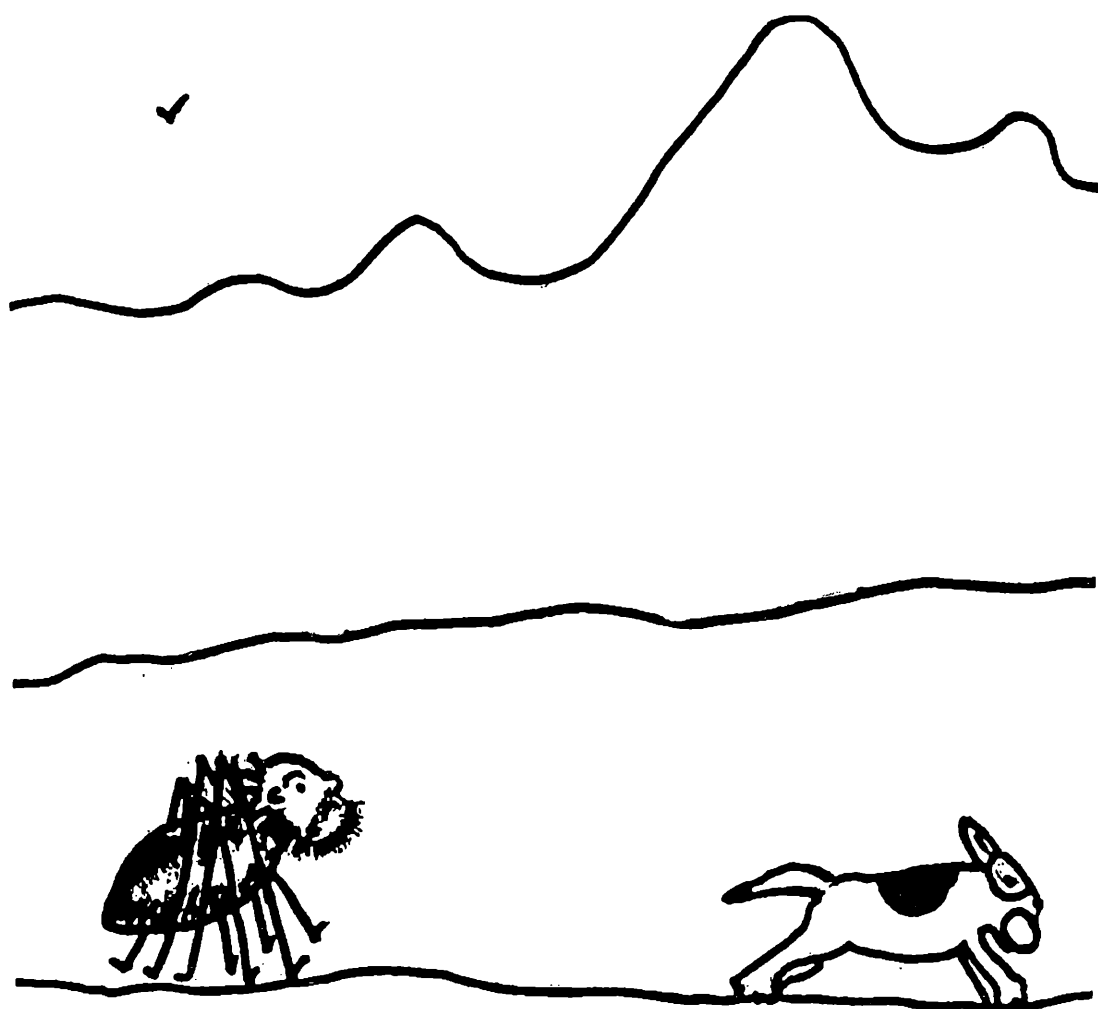
Daag seh, "Weh hapm?"

Ih seh, "Luk op deh. Yu si da domplin
deh? Wen Ah klaim di chree, Ah wahn
shayk ahn. An wen ih jrap, yu kech ahn
mek ih noh mash op. Den wen Ah kohn
dong, wee wahn shayr ahn haaf haaf."

Daag seh, "Shoar, man!"

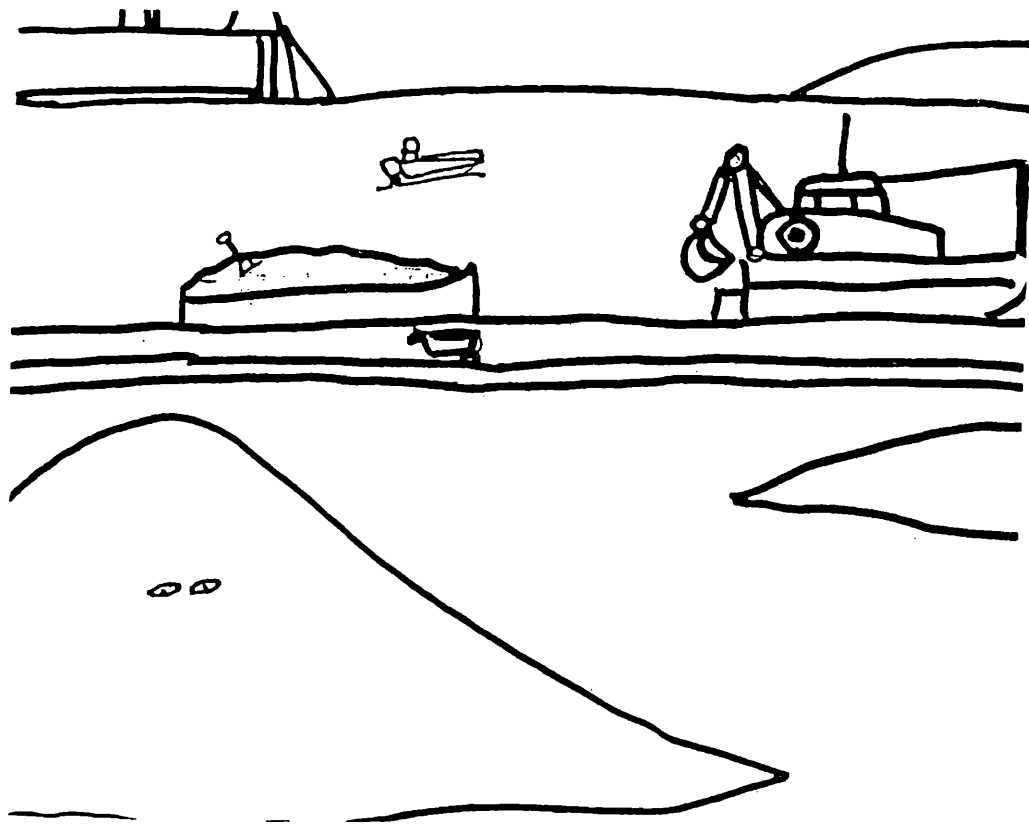


Soh Anansi klaim di chree.
Ih reech fi di domplin an di domplin
jrap.
An wen ih jrap, Daag grab it an ih
tek fut.



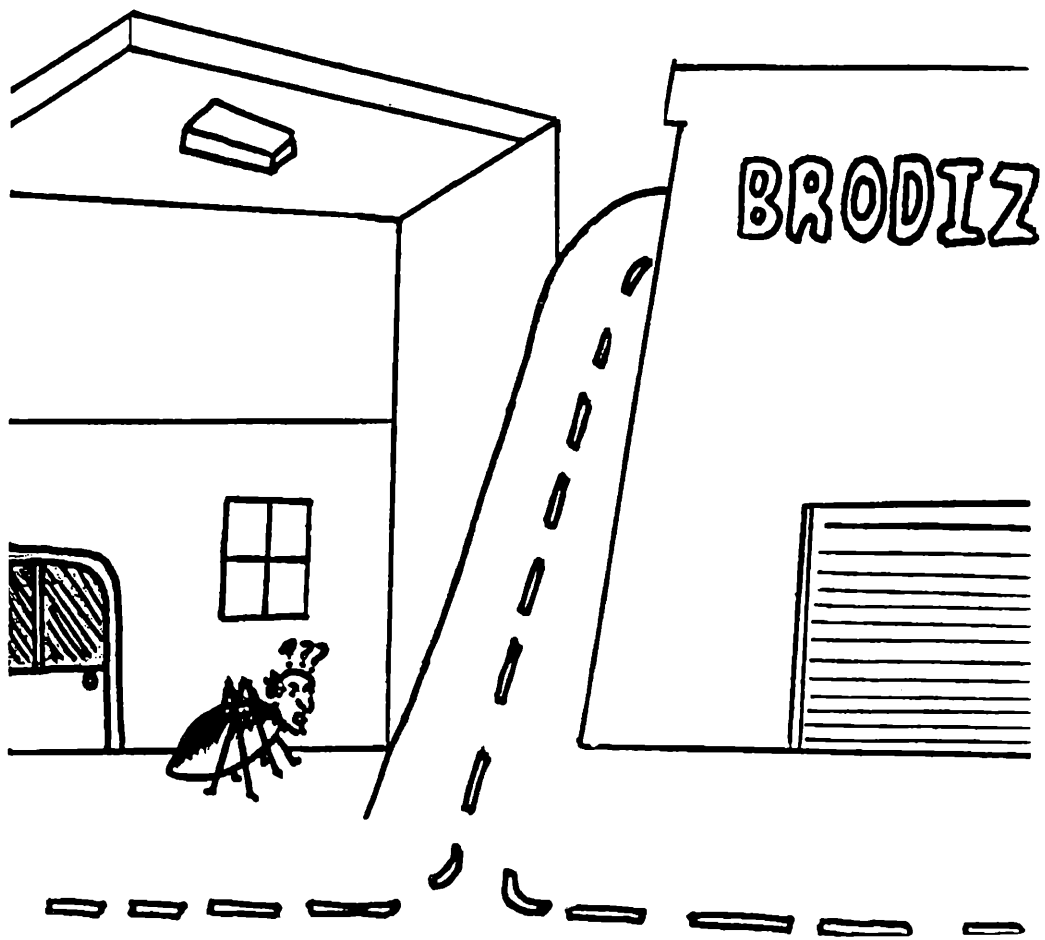
Wel, Anansi jomp dong an ih gaan afta
Daag, bot ih kudn kech ahn.

Di chree mi deh bak a tong, rait da
Bileez ya, an Daag hed fi Koathows Waaf.
An wen ih get deh, ih swala di domplin.



Eena dehn dayz deh, dehn sandiga mi-
di dig san fi sel, an aal di taim yu di si pail
a san owt a Koathows Waaf.

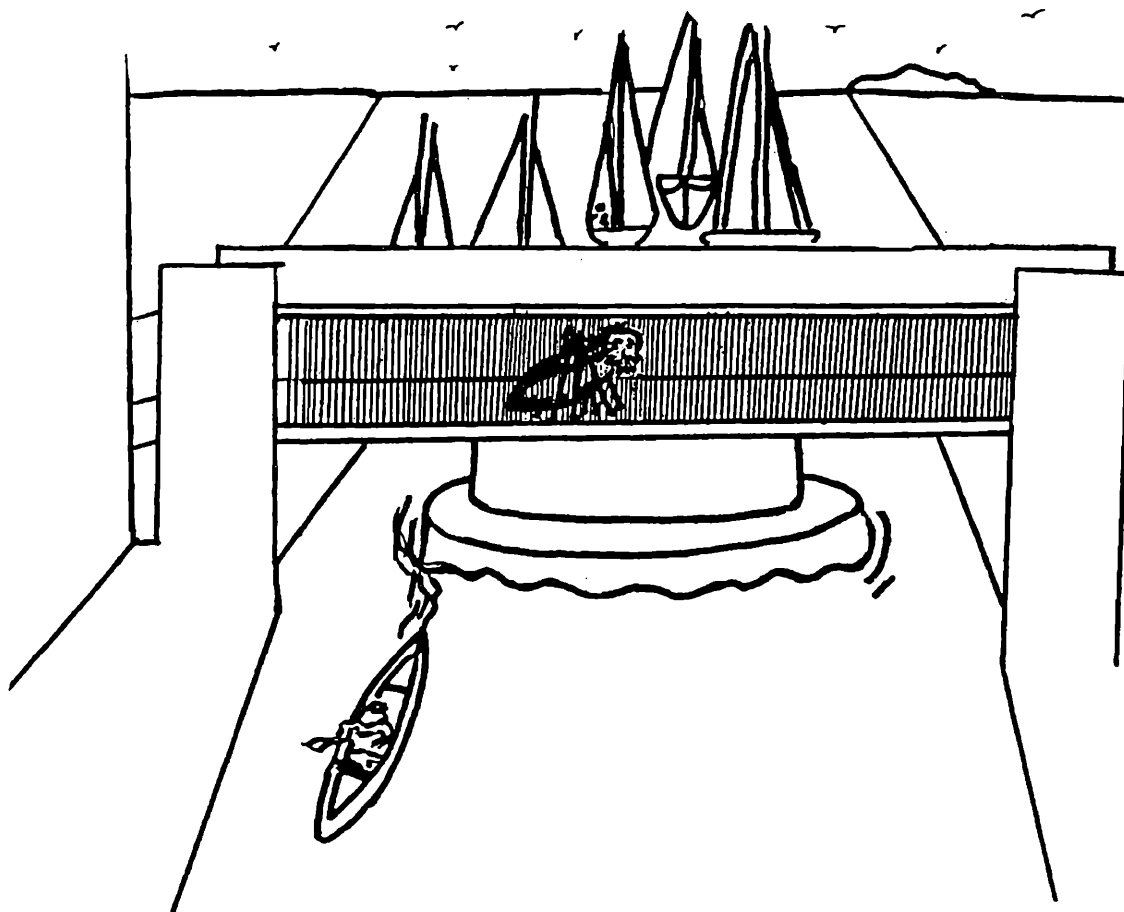
Soh Daag gaan an beri ihself eena wan
a dehn sanpail. Yu oanli kudda mi mek owt
ih aiy.



Wel Anansi waak rong maakit, an ih
neva si Daag.

Ih waak rong Skach Choch an ih neva si
Daag.

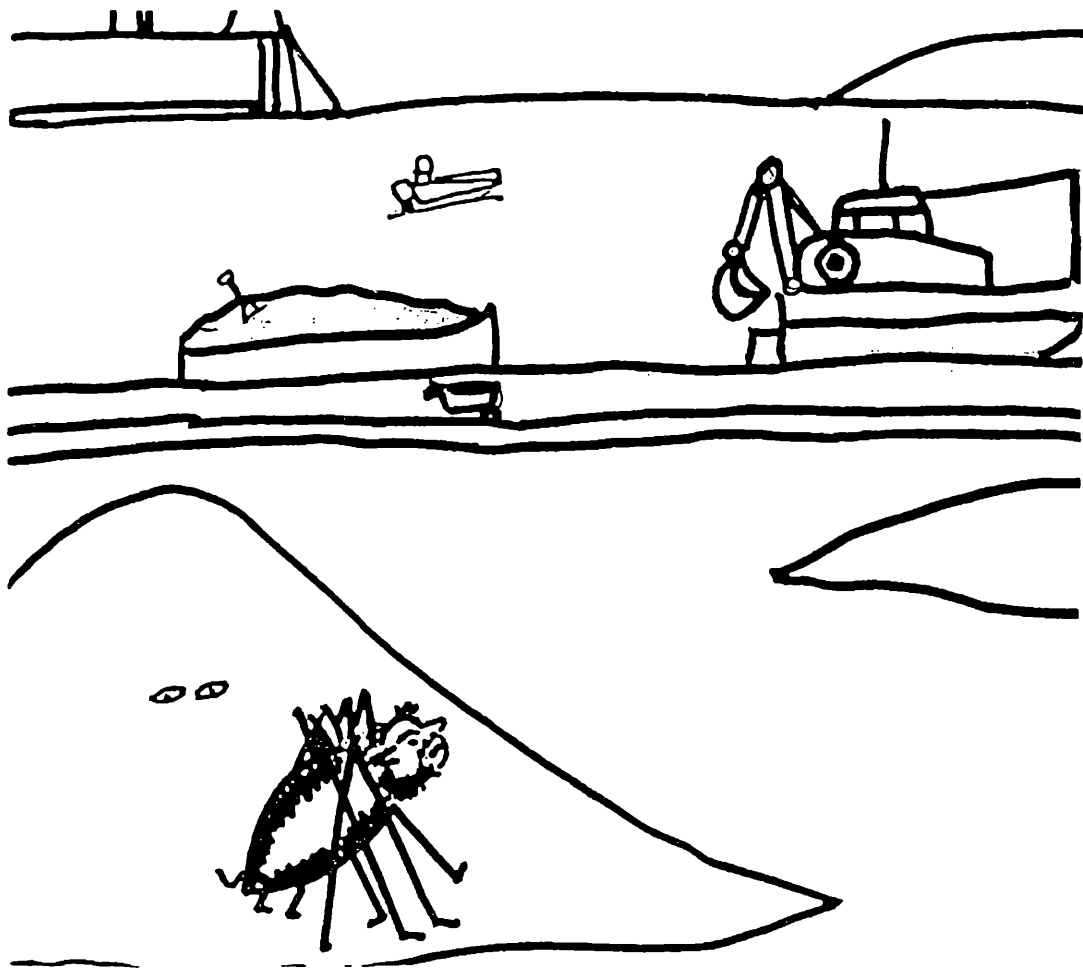
Ih gaahn rong bai Brodiz, ih neva si
Daag.



Ih kraas di Swing Brij an ih gaahn bai
di poas aafis, ih neva si Daag.

Ih luk da Voag, ih neva si Daag.

Den Anansi gahn bak oava di Swing Brij,
an ih gaan da Koathows Waaf now.



Bai dehn taim deh, Anansi mi taiyad, an
ih gaahn leen gens dis pail a san.

Ih di wanda tu ihself, "Man, weh Daag
deh? Ah neva bileev ih wudda teef mi!"

Ih leen op pahn di san, an sohn a di san
geh eena Daag noaz.

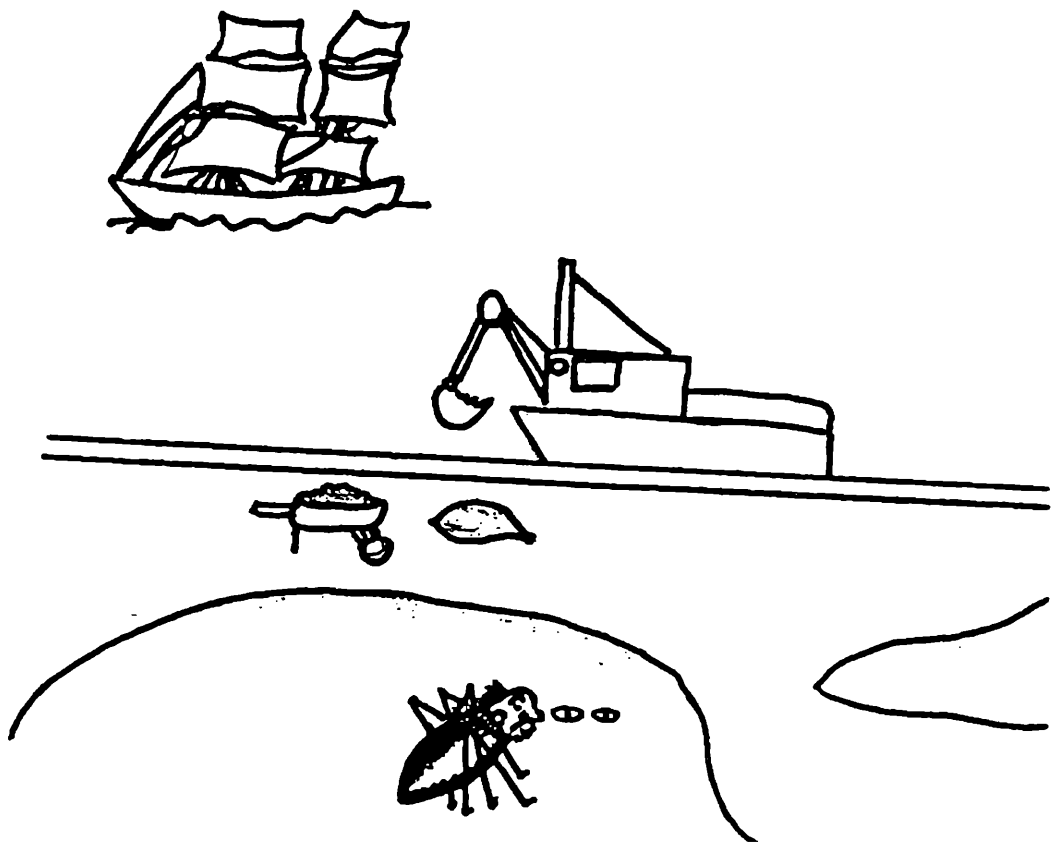
Soh Daag sniff, sniff an ih bloa owt ih noaz.

Sayhn taim Anansi luk rong an ih si Daag too aiy dehn.

Ih seh, "Bot gudnis, Ah neva noa dat san gat aiy tu!"

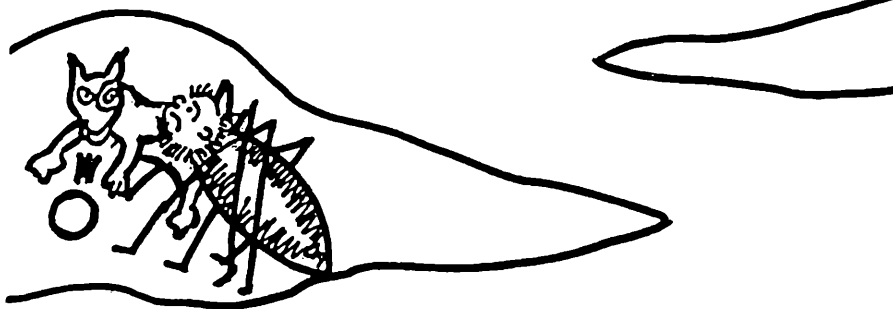
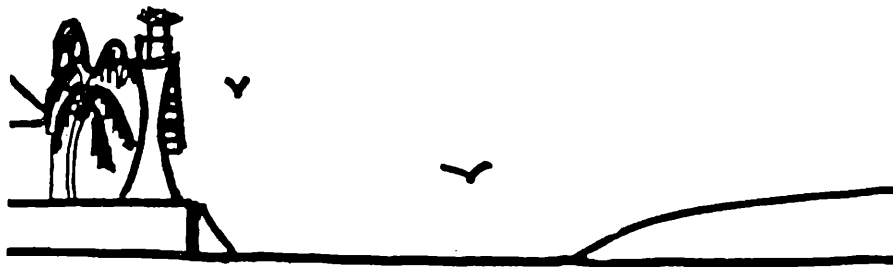
Ih seh, "Mek Ah luk beta."

Anansi ben dong fi luk.



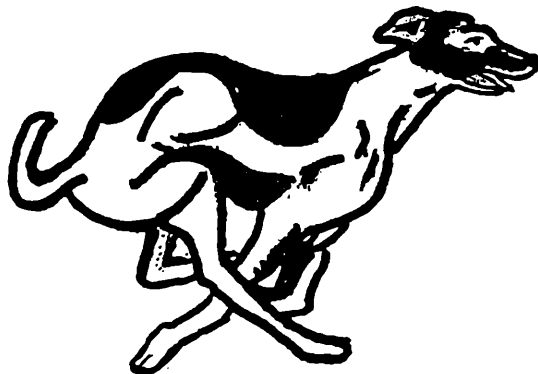
Daag jomp op. Bot di san mi saaf an ih kudn get weh.

Soh Anansi grab Daag an ih skweez ahn. An ih skweez Daag. Ih skweez ahn til ih get owt di domplin.



Fahn da day deh til tideh, aal dehn
daag maaga da dehn beli. Yu noatis dehn
ches, dehn ches big big. Bot dehn bak
maaga jos laik dehn grayhong.

Da sayk a weh Anansi mi skweez owt di
domplin.



Anansi and the Dumpling Tree

This happened during the time when time was time.

Anansi went to the woods and was walking around until one day he came upon a big tree that was full of dumplings. He took one and ate it.

"Mmmm! This is really delicious," he thought.

So every day he went and ate one, because a single dumpling could fill his entire stomach. He kept going until there was only one dumpling left on the tree.

That last day Anansi went and climbed the tree to pick the dumpling. But when he reached for it, it dropped to the ground. When he climbed down to get the dumpling, it jumped back on the tree. Anansi climbed the tree several times to get the dumpling but it kept going back on the tree. Finally, Anansi sat down to think what he should do.

While he was thinking, he saw Dog passing by.

He said, "Come here, Brother Dog."

Dog said, "What's the matter?"

Anansi said, "Do you see that dumpling up there? I'm going to climb the tree and shake it. When the dumpling drops, you catch it so that it doesn't get squashed. Then when I come down, we will share it together."

Dog said, "Sure, friend!"

So Anansi climbed the tree. He reached for the dumpling, and it dropped to the ground. When it dropped, Dog grabbed it and took off.

Well, Anansi jumped down and went after Dog, but he couldn't catch him.

The tree was right on the outskirts of Belize City, and Dog headed for Courthouse Wharf. When he got there, he swallowed the dumpling.

In those days, people used to dig sand to sell. You could see piles of sand all over Courthouse Wharf, so Dog went and buried himself in one of the piles of sand. Only his eyes were visible.

Well, Anansi walked around the market looking for Dog, but he couldn't find him. He walked around the Presbyterian Church and then went around Brodies, but he still couldn't find him.

Then he crossed the Swing Bridge and went by the Post office. He still didn't see Dog. He went over to Vogue's Store. Still no Dog!

Finally Anansi crossed the Swing Bridge again and went to Courthouse Wharf.

By that time, Anansi was tired, so he went and leaned against this pile of sand. He asked himself, "Where on earth is Dog? I never would have thought he would have stolen from me!"

When Anansi leaned against the sand pile, some of the sand got into Dog's nose and caused him to sneeze. He sniffed and snorted.

Just then Anansi looked around and saw Dog's two eyes. He said, "Goodness! I never knew that sand also had eyes! Let me look closer," and he bent down to look.

At that point Dog jumped up, but the sand was soft and he couldn't get away. So Anansi grabbed him and squeezed him hard. He squeezed him until he got out the dumpling.

From that day till today, all dogs have skinny stomachs. If you look at their chests, they are very big, but their hind quarters are skinny just like those of greyhounds.

That's because Anansi squeezed out the dumpling.