

ALISTAIR CAMPBELL'S
“ANANSI”
SAMPLE QUESTIONS

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1. The title of a play plays a crucial role in giving readers a glimpse into the plot or characterization. Campbell used the title of his play to provide insight into the culture. Write an essay discussing the significance of the title in helping us understand the culture of African and West Indian communities.
2. African folklore is significant to the West Indian culture.
Write an essay that assesses the value of the African folklore as a technique in exploring West Indian culture.
3. Many Anansi stories speak to his wit as well as him being the champion of the underprivileged.
Write an essay that discusses the way that the Anansi stories help the slaves on their journey to the West Indies. In your essay you should also identify ONE literary technique that can help with understanding the value of Anansi stories.
4. History shows that the journey of slave trade was a horrifying experience for the slaves as they were taken to the West Indies.
With close references to the play, write an essay that discusses:
 - a) the challenges that the slaves faced on the journey.
 - b) how the Boy and Girl deal with these challenges.
5. Write an essay that assesses how the Girl uses the stories of Anansi as inspiration for strength on her journey.
6. The woman is like a mother to the younger girl. She helps her through the rough and challenging journey with stories of Anansi.
Based on your reading of the novel, write an essay that discusses the role of women and how does this help to shape the girl's perception and attitude.
7. Plays are often structured with acts and scenes. An act is a major division of a play while a scene occurs within an act. Campbell does not conform to the traditions of writing a play, instead he presents aspects of the story in the form of events.
Based on your knowledge of the play, write an essay that discusses how Campbell intertwines the events in:
 - a) The Hold
 - b) The Cabin
 - c) The forest/ Stories of Anansi.
8. Write an essay that discusses the significance of Campbell's unusual

structure of the play. You must include an analysis of BOTH settings.

9. Campbell uses allusion to history as a means of sharing a more urgent theme of the strength of women. With close reference to the play, write an essay that discusses the strength of the older woman and how her strength helps the Girl to assimilate into the challenges that she faces on the journey.
10. The Captain has no sympathy towards the slaves and he expects his crew to be the same. Write an essay that explores the attitudes and behavior of the Captain towards his son and the slaves. In addition, choose one literary device that is used to bring across this action and comment on its effect on the readers.
11. The stories of Anansi teach lessons to the enslaved and the readers. Write an essay that discusses ONE moral lesson that can be learned from the stories of Anansi.
12. Write an essay that compares any TWO of these characters:
 - a) The Captain
 - b) The Boy
 - c) The Women
 - d) The GirlIn your essay make sure that you list at least TWO similarities and TWO differences. Discuss the effectiveness of this contrast in analyzing these characters.
13. Tiger and Anansi are symbols in the play. Write an essay that evaluates the function and effectiveness of these two characters.
14. Irony is one of the major literary devices used in the play. With close reference to the play, critically assess the use of irony in the name of the ship. In addition, refer to one other instance of irony and discuss the effectiveness of its use.
15. Write an essay that explains the use of contrast to distinguish between the main plot and the subplots. In your essay, you should also discuss the mood and atmosphere of the forest as well as the ship.