Learning Activity Sheet
Developing Ideas and Their Relationship through Effective Organization

A. Read the following passages. Underline the correct transition word or phrase given in the parentheses. The first one is done for you.

> (<u>First</u>, Outside), the woman called the manservant. (Next, At last), she gave him some money and gave him instructions. (Then, Opposite to), a woman neighbor came and knocked at her door. (Alongside, While) she was giving the manservant some instructions, the men in the cockpit started to shout. (Meanwhile, Soon), the shouts stopped and the game was over.

B. Compare the two versions of a sentence. Circle the statement that observes parallelism. 2 points each.

1. He either likes you or loved you.

   He either likes you or loves you.

2. Some people would rather give orders than taking them.

   Some people would rather give orders than take them.

3. His writing reveals not only intelligence but also humor.

   His writing reveals not only intelligence but also it is humorous.

C. Read again the story "Anansi's Tales." Identify the events in it using the story map graphic organizer below. Write your answers inside the boxes. 10 points.

Anansi's Tales

Adapted by Harold Courlander (1908–1996)

(Western African Folktale)

In the beginning, all tales and stories belonged to Nyame, the sky god. But Kwaku Anansi, the spider, yearned to be the owner of all the stories known in the world and he went to Nyame and offered to buy them. The sky god said, "I am willing to sell the stories, but the price is high. Many people have come to me offering to buy, but the price was too high for them. Rich and powerful families have not been able to pay. Do you think you can do it?

Anansi replied to the sky god: "I can do it. What is the price?"

"The price includes three things." The sky god said. "I must first have Mmoboro, the hornets. Then, I must have Onini, the great python. I must also have Osebo, the leopard. For these things, I will sell the right to tell all stories to you."

Anansi said: "I will bring them."

He went home and made his plans. First, he cut a gourd from a vine and made a small hole in it. He took a large calabash and filled it with water. He went to the tree where the hornets lived. He poured some of the water over himself so that he was dripping. He threw some water over the hornets so that they too were dripping. Then he put the calabash on his head, as though to protect himself from a storm, and called out to the hornets, "Are you foolish people? Why do you stay in the rain that is falling?

The hornets answered: "Where shall we go?"

"Go here, inside this dry gourd," Anansi told them.

The hornets thanked him and flew into the gourd through the small whole. When the last of them entered, Anansi plugged the hole with a ball of grass, saying: "Oh, yes, but you are really foolish people!"

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He took the gourd full of hornets to Nyame, the sky god. The sky god accepted them. He said: "There are two more things."

Anansi returned to the forest and cut a long bamboo pole and some strong vines. Then he walked toward the house of Onini, the python, talking to himself. He said, "My wife is stupid. I say he is longer and stronger. My wife says he is shorter and weaker. I give him more respect. She gives him less respect. Is she right or am I right? I am right. He is longer. I am right. He is stronger."Anansi returned to the forest and cut a long bamboo pole and some strong vines. Then he walked toward the house of Onini, the python, talking to himself. He said, "My wife is stupid. I say he is longer and stronger. My wife says he is shorter and weaker. I give him more respect. She gives him less respect. Is she right or am I right? I am right. He is longer. I am right. He is stronger."

When Onini, the python, heard Anansi talking to himself, he said, "Ah, I have had a dispute with my wife. She says you are shorter and weaker than this bamboo pole. I say you are longer and stronger."

Onini said, "It's useless and silly to argue when you can find out the truth. Bring the pole and we will measure."

So, Anansi laid the pole on the ground and the python came and stretched himself out beside it.

"You seem a little short," Anansi said.

The python stretched further.

"A little more," Anansi said.

"I can stretch no more," Onini said.

"When you stretch at one end, you get shorter at the other end," Anansi said. "Let me tie you at the front so you don't slip."

He tied Onini's head to the pole. Then he went to the other end and tied the tail to the pole. He wrapped the vine all around Onini until the python couldn't move.

"Onini," Anansi said, "It turns out that my wife was right, and I was wrong. You are shorter than the pole and weaker. My opinion wasn't as good as my wife's. But you were even more foolish than I, and you are now my prisoner." Anansi carried the python to Nyame, the sky god, who said, "There is one thing more."

Osebo, the leopard, was next. Anansi went into the forest and dug a deep pit where the leopard was accustomed to walk. He covered it with small branches and leaves and put dust on it so that it was impossible to tell where the pit was. Anansi went away. When Osebo came prowling in the black of night, he stepped into the trap that Anansi had prepared and fell to the bottom. Anansi heard the sound of the leopard falling, and he said, "Ah, Osebo, you are half-foolish!"

When morning came, Anansi went to the pit and saw the leopard there.

"Osebo," he asked, "what are you doing in the hole?" "I have fallen into a trap," Osebo said. "Help me out."

"I would gladly help you," Anansi said, "but I'm sure that if I bring you out, I will get no appreciation for it. You will get hungry, and later on, you will want to eat me and my children."

"I swear it won't happen!" Osebo said.

"Very well. Since you swear by it, I will take you out," Anansi said.

Anansi's Tales

Characters:
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Setting:
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Problem:
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Theme:
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Solution:
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