1. A version of the story assigned to be read from *Favorite Folktales from Around the World*. It is found all over the world and Jane Yolen claims its sources are quite ancient (page 490).

2. The late Mary Carter Smith (1919-2007) was famous for this one, which relocates the famous old European folktale to a black neighborhood of Baltimore, Maryland, EE.UU. You have a text version of this story as a handout, and we will watch it in class.

3. **Anansi** or “Buh Anansi” is an African Trickster figure from the Ashanti culture of West Africa, often changing into “Nancy” in some Caribbean stories collected early in the twentieth century. Here is Bobby Norfolk’s home page.

4. An Americanized African story collected by Zora Neale Hurston and found in both *Mules and Men* (page 131) and *African American Folktales* (page 85). This is a version written by Virginia Hamilton for an award-winning illustrated children’s book *The People Could Fly* (1993) and read here by James Earl Jones.


6. Another one from Virginia Hamilton’s book, read by the author. It’s based on a typical “John and Massa [Master]” slave story; in this one “John” is called “Jim.”

7. This famous African American ballad is based on an actual murder that took place in 1895 in St. Louis, Missouri, EE.UU. It has been widely recorded, here by a modern African American duo from Virginia. In *African American Folktales* you’ll find a bawdy street version collected by Roger Abrahams in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, EE.UU. (page 238).

8. To be told in class, this version comes from Virginia Hamilton’s book and is based on “How Jack Beat the Devil,” collected by Zora in *Mules and Men* (page 47) and also found in *African American Folktales* (page 255). “John” is the African American equivalent of the Anglo-European Trickster figure “Jack.” Folklorists classify this story as a complicated mixture of fairy tale types. Here the Hamilton text version is told by James Earl Jones.

--David Fenimore