

Children's Favorite Authors and Illustrators

Creative Response

Anansi the Spider

by Gerald McDermott

**Materials**

- Large black tag board
- Assorted colors of construction paper
- Masking tape
- Dowels or craft sticks
- Scissors
- Crayons

Geometric Spider Masks

Overview

Students create geometric spider masks in the style of Gerald McDermott's *Anansi the Spider*.

Directions

1. Review the pictures in the book *Anansi the Spider*. Look at the use of geometric shapes. Note the repeating patterns and simple designs.
2. Brainstorm a list of spiders and animals in the story.
3. Each student should choose a spider or animal for his or her mask.
4. Distribute one-half of one piece of black tag board to each student.
5. Give each student a crayon. Use the crayon to outline the mask. Only include the face or head. Encourage students to use as much of the tag board as possible.
6. Demonstrate how to cut construction paper into squares, triangles, circles, and rectangles.
7. Show students how overlapping the shapes can create effects similar to those used by Gerald McDermott.
8. After arranging the desired design, glue down the construction paper shapes.
9. Cut out the mask.
10. Tape the dowel or craft stick to the back of the mask. Make sure the dowel goes at least half-way up the mask to prevent the mask from falling over. Use five or more pieces of tape horizontally and five or more pieces of tape vertically over the horizontal tape to ensure the dowel stays in place.
11. Remind students to be careful with their masks.