

The Gingerbread Man

Once upon a time, there lived a little old woman and a little old man. One day, the little old woman was baking a delicious gingerbread man. When she opened the oven, the gingerbread man jumped off the baking tray and ran out of the house! The little old woman and the little old man ran after the cheeky gingerbread man, yelling, "Stop! Stop!" Sadly, they could not catch him. The gingerbread man just laughed and said, "Run, run, as fast as you can! You can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!"



The gingerbread man ran until he came to a cat. "Stop! You look good enough to eat!" said the cat. The little old woman, the little old man and the cat ran after the gingerbread man. The gingerbread man just laughed and said, "Run, run, as fast as you can! You can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!"



The gingerbread man ran until he came to a dog. "Stop! You look good enough to eat!" said the dog. The little old woman, the little old man, the cat and the dog ran after the gingerbread man. The gingerbread man just laughed and said, "Run, run, as fast as you can! You can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!"



The gingerbread man ran on, then he came to a cockerel. "Stop! You look good enough to eat!" said the cockerel. The little old woman, the little old man, the cat, the dog and the cockerel ran after the gingerbread man. The gingerbread man just laughed and said, "Run, run, as fast as you can! You can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!"



The gingerbread man ran down the lane and came to a pig. "Stop! You look good enough to eat!" said the pig. The little old woman, the little old man, the cat, the dog, the cockerel and the pig ran after the gingerbread man. The gingerbread man just laughed and said, "Run, run, as fast as you can! You can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!"



A little further on, the gingerbread man came to a cow. "Stop! You look good enough to eat!" said the cow. The little old woman, the little old man, the cat, the dog, the cockerel, the pig and the cow ran after the gingerbread man. The gingerbread man just laughed and said, "Run, run, as fast as you can! You can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!"



The gingerbread man ran on, until he came to a horse. "Stop! You look good enough to eat!" said the horse. The little old woman, the little old man, the cat, the dog, the cockerel, the pig, the cow and the horse ran after the gingerbread man. The gingerbread man just laughed and said, "Run, run, as fast as you can! You can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!"



It was not long before the gingerbread man came to a boy. "Stop! You look good enough to eat!" said the boy. The little old woman, the little old man, the cat, the dog, the cockerel, the pig, the cow, the horse and the boy ran after the gingerbread man. The gingerbread man just laughed and said, "Run, run, as fast as you can! You can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!"



The gingerbread man kept running and came to a girl. "Stop! You look good enough to eat!" said the girl and joined in the chase.



The gingerbread man ran on, until he came to a river. He stopped as he could not swim! Just then, a fox came by. "I can help you cross the river," said the fox. "Just hop onto my tail and I will swim across." The gingerbread man saw the others coming. He knew that if he did not go with the fox he would be eaten, so he jumped onto his tail. Soon the gingerbread man began to get wet. "Climb onto my back," suggested the fox, so the gingerbread man did. The water was getting even deeper. This time the fox said, "Jump onto my nose so that you don't get wet." The gingerbread man climbed onto the tip of his nose. Just then, the fox tipped back his head and the gingerbread man flew into the air. The fox opened his mouth and SNAP! That was the end of the gingerbread man.



The end.

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1. Why did the gingerbread man run away?

2. Which is your favourite word or phrase in the story. Why?

3. Write down two phrases that are repeated throughout this traditional tale.

4. Which characters chased the gingerbread man **before** he came to the cow?

5. Why were the characters chasing the gingerbread man?

6. Which characters chased the gingerbread man **after** the cow?

7. How do you think the gingerbread man was feeling when he was on the baking tray, when he was being chased and when he met the fox?

8. Explain whether this story has a happy ending for all the characters.

9. Describe the fox using three adjectives.

10. What would you have done if you were the gingerbread man at the river? Why?

