

THE GINGERBREAD MAN

Once upon a time there was a little old woman and a little old man who lived on the edge of a wood. Every day the little old woman would bake wonderful pies, cakes and cookies for the little old man because he just loved to eat her delicious treats.

One day the little old woman decided to make an extra special treat for the little old man. She mixed up some gingerbread cookie dough, rolled it out on the table and cut out a cute little gingerbread man. She gave him raisins for eyes, a red candy nose and buttons and a licorice mouth. Next she popped him in the oven to bake. When the gingerbread man was done, she decorated him with white icing trim and a bright green icing bow tie. He was the best treat the little old woman had ever made.

The little old woman left the gingerbread man on the table to cool and went out to work in the garden with the little old man. As soon as the little old woman was out of sight, the gingerbread man sat up. He jumped out of the pan, off of the table and ran out of the door.

As he ran past the little old woman and the little old man, they yelled, "Stop! Stop!"

But the gingerbread man just laughed and said, "Run, run as fast as you can. You can't catch me. I'm the gingerbread man." And with that he ran faster.

Next he ran past a brown and white cow who was chewing her cud in the field.

When the cow saw the gingerbread man, she thought how good he would taste and she yelled, "Stop! Stop!"

But the gingerbread man just laughed and cried, "Run, run as fast as you can. You can't catch me. I'm the gingerbread man. I got away from the little old woman and the little old man and I can get away from you. I can. I can!"

And the gingerbread man ran still faster.

By and by the gingerbread man ran past a big brown bear who was getting some honey from the bees. When he smelled the wonderful gingery aroma, the bear thought how good the gingerbread man would taste with his honey so he yelled, "Stop! Stop!"

But the gingerbread just laughed and yelled, "Run, run as fast as you can. You can't catch me. I'm the gingerbread man. I got away from the little old woman, the little old man and the brown and white cow and I can get away from you. I can. I can!"

And the gingerbread man ran even faster.

By and by the gingerbread man came to the river and he did not know how he would cross it without getting wet. A wily red fox saw the gingerbread man and decided that he would eat him.

The fox stepped out from behind a bush and said to the gingerbread man, "I will take you across the river. Just hop on my tail."

"If I do, you will eat me," said the gingerbread man.

"Oh, no," replied the sly fox. "I don't like gingerbread."

When the gingerbread man saw the little old woman, the little old man, the brown and white cow and the big brown bear all running toward him, he quickly agreed to let the fox take him across the river. He jumped on the fox's tail and the fox started across the river.

Soon the water was lapping about the toes of the gingerbread man.

"Fox, I am getting wet," cried the gingerbread man.

"Jump on my back," said the fox.

So the gingerbread man jumped on the fox's back. But soon the water was lapping about the toes of the gingerbread man.

"Fox, I am getting wet," cried the gingerbread man.

"Jump on my head," shouted the sly fox.

So the gingerbread man jumped on the fox's head. In no time at all the water was once again lapping at the toes of the gingerbread man.

"Fox, I am getting wet," cried the gingerbread man again.

"Jump on my nose," yelled the fox.

The gingerbread man jumped on the fox's nose and "Snip!" "Snap!" the fox gobbled him up! But after all, isn't that what a gingerbread man is for!

The End