

The Gingerbread Man

Once upon a time a little old woman and a little old man lived in a house at the edge of the forest. One day, the little old woman mixed the flour, eggs, butter and spices together in a big bowl. She rolled out the dough and cut out a gingerbread man. She put raisins for his eyes, a currant for his nose, chocolate chips for his mouth, and icing on his head for hair. Then she put him in the oven, and when it smelled good, she opened up the door to take a peek and out jumped the gingerbread man.

"Stop, gingerbread man!" said the little old lady. "I want to eat you!"
"No!" said the gingerbread man. "I can run away from you!"

*Run, run, as fast as you can!
Can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!*

He ran until he got outside, where he saw the little old man.
"Stop gingerbread man! I want to eat you!" said the little old man.
And the gingerbread man said, "NO! I ran away from the little old woman, and I can run away from you too!"

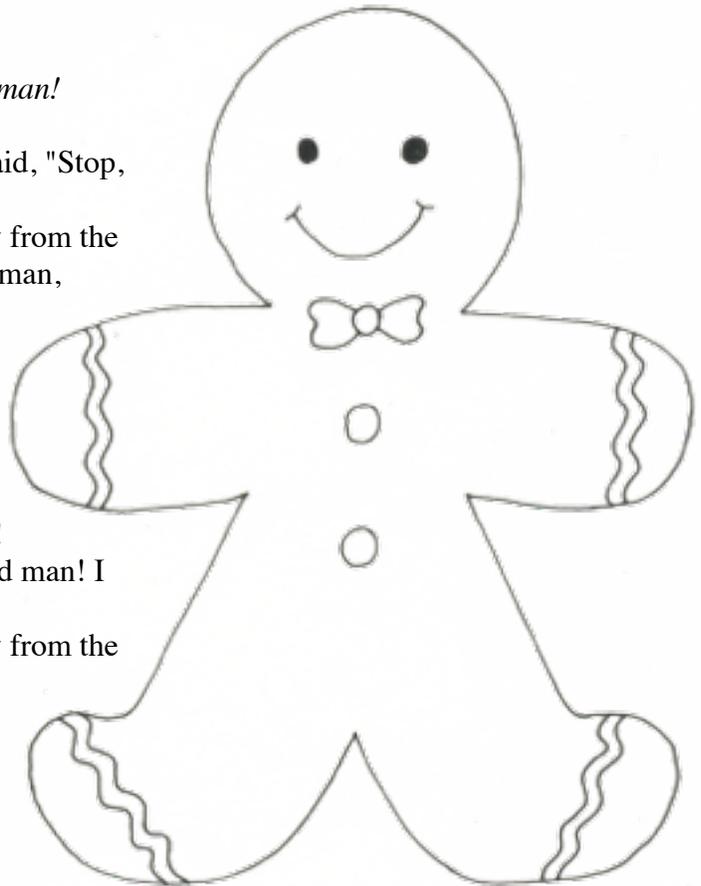
*Run, run, as fast as you can!
Can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!*

He ran till he came to the pigsty. And the pig said, "Stop, gingerbread man! I want to eat you!"
But the gingerbread man said, "NO! I ran away from the little old woman, I ran away from the little old man, and I can run away from you too!"

*Run, run, as fast as you can!
Can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!*

He ran till he came to a house. And in front of the house was a dog. And the dog said, "STOP! Stop stop stop stop stooooooooooooop, gingerbread man! I want to eat you!"
But the gingerbread man said, "NO! I ran away from the little old woman, and the little old man, and a pig, and I can run away from you too!"

*Run, run, as fast as you can! Can't catch me,
I'm the gingerbread man!*



He ran till he came to a field full of cows. And the cows said,
"Mooooo! Stooooooooop, gingerbread man. We want to eat you!"
But the gingerbread man said, "NO! I ran away from the little old woman, I ran away from the little old man, and a pig, and a dog, and I can run away from you too!"

*Run, run, as fast as you can!
Can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!*

He ran till he came to a river. And next to the river was a fox. The fox said, "Hello little gingerbread man."

The gingerbread man said, "HELLO! I ran away from the little old woman, I ran away from the little old man, and a pig, and some cows, and I can run away from you too!"

*Run, run, as fast as you can!
Can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!*

The fox said, "Run all you want, I'm not going to chase you. But-- I *would* like to ask you a question. How are you going to get across that river without getting wet? I mean, if you get wet, you'll get soggy, right?"

The gingerbread man didn't say anything, but he looked very thoughtful.

Then the fox said, "I have an idea. I'm going to swim across the river right now. If you want, you can hitch a ride on my tail."

The gingerbread man said, "OK," and grabbed the fox's tail. The fox started to wade into the water.

After a few steps, the fox said, "Oh, gingerbread man. The water is getting deep. I'm afraid you might get wet. Why don't you climb up onto my back?" The gingerbread man looked, and said, "Gee, the water is getting deep," and he climbed up onto the fox's back.

After a few more steps, the fox said, "Oh, gingerbread man, the water is getting even deeper, I'm afraid you might get wet. Why don't you climb up onto my neck?" The gingerbread man looked, and said, "Gee the water is getting deep," and he climbed up onto the fox's neck.

After a few more steps, the fox said, "Oh, gingerbread man, the water is getting even deeper, I'm afraid you might get wet. Why don't you climb up onto my head?" The gingerbread man looked, and said, "Gee the water is getting deep," and he climbed up onto the fox's head.

After a few more steps, the fox said, "Oh, gingerbread man, the water is getting even deeper, I'm afraid you might get wet. Why don't you climb up onto my nose?" The gingerbread man looked, and said, "Gee the water is getting deep," and he climbed up onto the fox's nose.

And the fox went-- SLLLURP!-- and that was the end of the gingerbread man.