



## Blue Coat C.E. Infant School

### Nursery Stories

### The Gingerbread Man

Once upon a time, a little old lady lived with her husband in a cottage. They didn't have any children and the husband was often in the garden, so the old lady was frequently lonely.

One day, she decided to bake some gingerbread. As she was shaping the dough and getting ready to put it in the oven, she decided to mould it into the shape of a man. She gave him chocolate buttons for eyes, sweets for buttons and iced-on a smile.



She put the gingerbread man in the oven and waited for it to bake. It smelled delicious. A while later, she opened the door. Shock! Horror! The gingerbread leapt out, ran across the room and threw himself out of the kitchen window.

'You're our dinner!' shouted the old lady. She ran after the gingerbread man, who was now halfway down the garden path.

The gingerbread turned around, cocked an eyebrow and, still running, shouted: 'Run, run as fast as you can! You can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!'

The gingerbread man and the old woman passed the woman's husband, busy in the garden.

'What's going on?' asked the man, watching his wife chase a biscuit.

'He's our dinner!' shouted the wife. 'Help me chase him! He's going to get away!'

The man put down his trowel and joined in.

The gingerbread man glanced over his shoulder and laughed. 'Run, run as fast as you can!' he called. 'You can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!'

The elderly couple ran after the gingerbread man down the lane. The gingerbread man came to a cat. 'You look good enough to eat,' said the cat.

The gingerbread man laughed and called over his shoulder: 'Run, run as fast as you can!' he called. 'You can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!'

The cat joined the woman and her husband, and chased the gingerbread man down the lane.



Soon the gingerbread man came to a dog. 'Stop!' said the dog. 'You look tasty!'

Again, the gingerbread man laughed and shouted: 'Run, run as fast as you can!' he called. 'You can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!'

The dog joined the cat and the couple in chasing the gingerbread man.

The gingerbread man came to a cockerel. 'Stop,' said the cockerel. 'You look delicious!'

'Run, run as fast as you can!' the gingerbread man called. 'You can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!'

The cockerel joined the cat and the dog, the woman and her husband, in chasing the gingerbread man down the lane.

The gingerbread man passed a sty, where a pig was relaxing in the mud. The pig looked, up and saw the gingerbread man running down the lane. 'I do fancy a piece of gingerbread for my tea,' said the pig.

The gingerbread man laughed. 'Run, run as fast as you can!' he called. 'You can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!'

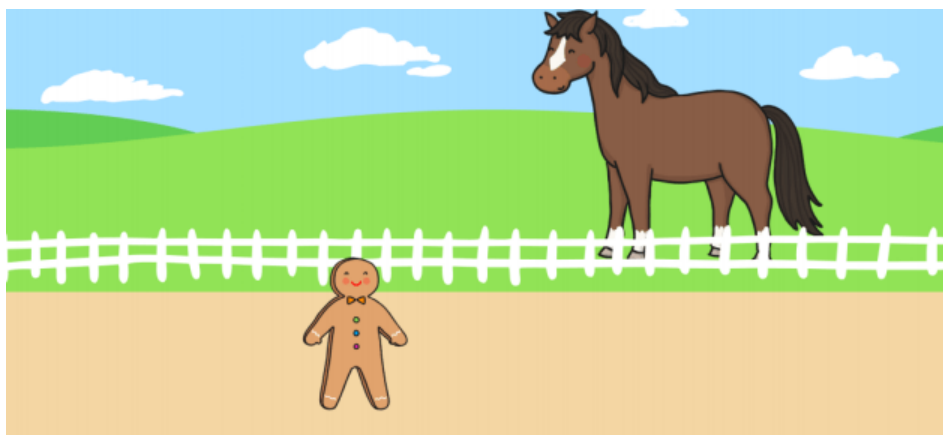
The pig was very hungry, so it pulled itself up from the mud and joined the cockerel, the dog, the cat, the old woman and her husband, chasing the gingerbread man.

The gingerbread man passed a cow, grazing in a nearby field. The cow looked up. 'That looks like a very tasty gingerbread man,' said the cow. 'I fancy him for my tea.'

The gingerbread man laughed and called over his shoulder: 'Run, run as fast as you can!' he called. 'You can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!'

Always one for a challenge, the cow leapt over the fence and joined the pig, the cockerel, the dog, the cat, the old woman and her husband, chasing the gingerbread man.

The gingerbread man ran further down the lane, past a stable. A horse was trotting in the paddock. He looked up and saw the gingerbread man.



'That looks like a very delicious piece of gingerbread,' said the horse.

The gingerbread laughed. 'Run, run as fast as you can!' he called. 'You can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!'

The horse was a very proud horse. He jumped over the fence in one leap and joined the cow, the pig, the cockerel, the dog, the cat, the old woman and her husband, chasing the gingerbread man.

Then, the gingerbread man came to a boy. 'You look delicious,' said the boy.

'Run, run as fast as you can!' said the gingerbread man. 'You can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!'

The boy saw the horse, the cow, the pig, the cockerel, the dog, the cat, the old woman and her husband, all chasing the gingerbread man. He was hungry, so he joined in.

Soon, the gingerbread man ran past a girl.

'Wow,' said the girl. 'I'd love that gingerbread man for my tea.'

The gingerbread man laughed again. 'Run, run as fast as you can!' he called. 'You can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!'

The girl got up and followed the boy, the horse, the cow, the pig, the cockerel, the dog, the cat, the old woman and her husband, in chasing the gingerbread man.



But then, the gingerbread man reached the edge of a river. It was fast-flowing, deep, and the gingerbread man couldn't swim.

'Do you need a ride?' asked a voice.

The gingerbread man turned. Standing behind him was a fox.

'You just want to eat me too!' said the gingerbread man.

The fox laughed. 'You're nowhere near substantial enough for me,' said the fox. 'You're not even a snack. Look, I'm crossing the river anyway. If you want help, feel free to climb on my back. But make your mind up - I haven't got all day.'

The gingerbread man didn't have all day either. The pig, the horse, the cow, the woman and her husband were all hot on his heels. He climbed on the fox's back and the fox started to swim across the water.

But this was a very sly fox. After a while, the fox started to complain that his back was hurting. 'Would you mind moving a bit further up and sitting on my neck?' he asked.

'Sure!' said the gingerbread man. The gingerbread man wiggled up the fox's back until he was sitting on his neck.

'That's better!' said the fox, but soon he was complaining about his neck too. 'You know, it would be much easier if you came and sat on my snout,' he said.

'Sure!' said the gingerbread man. 'Whatever works for you.'



He climbed over the fox's head and sat on his snout. Immediately, the fox flicked his head back, tossed the gingerbread man up in the air and swallowed him in one bite.

And that was the end of the gingerbread man.