

The Gingerbread Boy USA

Now you shall hear a story that somebody's great-great-grandmother told a little girl ever so many years ago:

There was once a little old man and a little old woman, who lived in a little old house in the edge of a wood. They would have been a very happy old couple but for one thing -- they had no little child, and they wished for one very much. One day, when the little old woman was baking gingerbread, she cut a cake in the shape of a little boy, and put it into the oven.

Presently she went to the oven to see if it was baked. As soon as the oven door was opened, the little gingerbread boy jumped out, and began to run away as fast as he could go.

The little old woman called her husband, and they both ran after him. But they could not catch him. And soon the gingerbread boy came to a barn full of threshers. He called out to them as he went by, saying:

I've run away from a little old woman,
A little old man,
And I can run away from you, I can!

Then the barn full of threshers set out to run after him. But, though they ran fast, they could not catch him. And he ran on till he came to a field full of mowers. He called out to them:

I've run away from a little old woman,
A little old man,
A barn full of threshers,
And I can run away from you, I can!

Then the mowers began to run after him, but they couldn't catch him. And he ran on till he came to a cow. He called out to her:

I've run away from a little old woman,
A little old man,
A barn full of threshers,
A field full of mowers,
And I can run away from you, I can!

But, though the cow started at once, she couldn't catch him. And soon he came to a pig. He called out to the pig:

I've run away from a little old woman,
A little old man,
A barn full of threshers,
A field full of mowers,
A cow,
And I can run away from you, I can!

But the pig ran, and couldn't catch him. And he ran till he came across a fox, and to him he called out:

I've run away from a little old woman,
A little old man,
A barn full of threshers,
A field full of mowers,
A cow and a pig,
And I can run away from you, I can!

Then the fox set out to run. Now foxes can run very fast, and so the fox soon caught the gingerbread boy and began to eat him up.

Presently the gingerbread boy said, "Oh dear! I'm quarter gone!" And then, "Oh, I'm half gone!" And soon, "I'm three-quarters gone!" And at last, "I'm all gone!" and never spoke again.



Source: Retrieved April 11, 2008 from <http://www.pitt.edu/~dash/type2025.html> : *The Runaway Pancake* folktales of Arne-Thompson type 2025, translated and/or edited by D. L. Ashliman © 2000-2006. Originally published in the *St. Nicholas Magazine* (May 1875), pp. 448-449.

Reading Activities:

1. The teacher reads the story aloud while students listen. Guided by the teacher, students contribute to the retelling of the story to demonstrate they know the main story line.
2. Talk about new vocabulary:
 - a. Grandmother – have students tell who their great grandmother is then their great great grandmother. Other relatives can be included in the example for practice.
 - b. “edge of a wood” can be demonstrated using “edge of a table,” “edge of the paper”
 - c. Oven – distinguish between an oven (inside) and a stove (on top)
 - d. Thresher – a person who beats the grain to separate the seeds from the plant
 - e. Barn – a building for storing grain, farm animals or vehicles
 - f. Mowers – people or machines that cut the grain or hay
 - g. Show pictures of the animals: cow, pig and fox.
3. Write the refrain on the board indicate each sentence that gets added when it is repeated. As you read the story, the whole class says the refrain at the appropriate time. Have a student point to the additional phrase that is added each time.
4. Groups of 6-10 students can act this play out.
5. Students can draw a cartoon strip with 5 sections illustrating the actions in the story. They can add speech bubbles or write a retelling of the story below the cartoon.

Recipe to make a Gingerbread Boy from Janet Morrissey, morrissey@stsci.edu

Here's my Grandma's recipe for gingerbread men (or should that be Gingerbread people). Retrieved April 11, 2008, Annie's Gingerbread Page Links <http://www.annieshomepage.com/gingerbreadlinks.html>.

1 cup shortening (lard/butter/margarine)
1 cup sugar
1 egg
1 cup molasses (treacle)
2 Tbsp. vinegar
5 cups sifted all-purpose flour
1 1/2 tsp. baking soda
1/2 tsp. salt
2 to 3 tsp. ground ginger
1 tsp. ground cinnamon
1 tsp. ground cloves



Cream shortening and sugar. Beat in egg, molasses, and vinegar. Sift together dry ingredients and blend into creamed mixture. Chill 3 hours.

Roll dough on lightly floured surface to 1/8 inch thick. Cut into shapes.

Place 1 inch apart on cookie sheet. Bake at 375F (190C) for 5 to 6 minutes.

Cool slightly on cookie sheet and then remove to rack. Makes about 5 dozen.

Prepare the Gingerbread Boy cookies in the class.

- * Introduce new vocabulary by showing the ingredients and miming the actions of mixing the ingredients together.
- * Teach quarter, half, three-quarters and whole: using spoons or cups. Have the students work in pairs one tells the other a measurement and the other fills a cup to the correct measurement using sand or water.
- * Ask students to help measure the ingredients. (Practice measuring with sand and water first if students need practice measuring.)
- * Have students smell the different spices and ingredients and associate their name in English with the smell. Play a game where one student is blind folded and smells an ingredient then tries to remember its name in English.
- * While eating the cookies, ask students to describe the taste, write the words on the board.