

The gingerbread man

Introduction

Do you know what gingerbread men look like?

Imagine if they came alive.

Ann and Seth decided to cook some gingerbread men.

One of the gingerbread men decides he doesn't want to be eaten and he jumps off the tin and runs out of the kitchen.

They chase him. Others join in the chase.

Do you think they will catch him in the end?

Story written by Gill Munton

Illustrated by Tim Archbold



The gingerbread man

Hands, legs, a head ...

Six currants for buttons ...

and the last gingerbread man was finished!



Ann put down the bag of currants.

Her husband Seth pushed the tin of gingerbread men into the hot oven.

That was when the last gingerbread man ... winked!



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9

"I think I will get them out of the oven,"
said Seth at six o'clock.

He pulled the tin out, sniffed,
and bit off a bit of leg.



"Well, I have got to test them," he said.
"Mmmm! Fresh and crisp! Not bad!"

He left the tin next to the bread bin,
with a cloth spread on top.

The last gingerbread man lifted his sticky head
off the bottom of the tin.

He lifted the cloth. He lifted his legs - and jumped out!

He ran out of the kitchen!



"Stop!" yelled Seth.

"Stop!" yelled Ann.

He ran from Seth and Ann, singing,

"Run, run, as fast as you can!

You can't catch me.

I am the gingerbread man!"

11

Ann's black cat Lucky began to run as well.

"Stop!" yelled Seth.

"Stop!" yelled Ann.

"Stop!" yelled Lucky.

But the gingerbread man ran on.

"Run, run, as fast as you can!

You can't catch me. I am the gingerbread man!"



12

Seth's fat dog Bonzo began to run as well.

"Stop!" gasped Seth. "Stop!" gasped Ann.

"Stop!" gasped Lucky. "Stop!" gasped Bonzo.

They ran so fast that their legs felt like lead.

They had to stop to rest.



But the gingerbread man ran on.

"Run, run, as fast as you can!

You can't catch me.

I am the gingerbread man!"

13

Then the crafty old fox began to run.

"Stop!" he yelled. "Let me help you, gingerbread man!"

He licked his lips.



The gingerbread man stopped running
and grinned at the crafty old fox.

"Well, thanks!" he said.

The fox led him along a dusty track.

At the end of it was his den.

The crafty old fox licked his lips ...

and that was the end of the gingerbread man!



1

Questions to read and answer

(Children complete without your help.)

1. Seth got the gingerbread men out of the oven at **eleven o'clock / six o'clock / seven o'clock**.
2. Seth bit off the gingerbread man's **head / leg**.
3. Seth and Ann yelled **go / stop / hello**.
4. The fox led him to his **box / den / oven**.
5. The fox licked his **legs / head / lips**.

17