



Readers Theater: The Gingerbread Man



Characters

- Narrator
- Gingerbread Man (brave and clever, always thinking on his feet)
- Baker (loves baking but isn't quick on his feet)
- Farmer (surprised by the gingerbread man's speed and spirit)
- Horse (curious and tries to keep up with the gingerbread man)
- Fox (sly and clever, with a hidden agenda)

Optional Props:

- **Apron and Rolling Pin:** For the Baker to represent their role.
- **Gingerbread Man Cutout:** A small gingerbread man figure or a decorated gingerbread cookie to represent the character.
- **Farmer's Hat:** For the Farmer to add character.
- **Horse's Bridle or Mane Accessory:** To give the Horse character a bit of costume (like a headband with horse ears).
- **Fox's Tail or Ears:** A tail or fox ears headband for the Fox character.
- **River:** A small sign or blue cloth to represent the river scene.
- **Notebooks and Pencils:** If the students need to take notes or make quick sketches during the performance.
- **Cookie Sheet:** For the baker to prepare the cookies.
- **Backdrop:** A background with seasonal decorations like snow, christmas decor, etc., to set the scene.

Narrator:

Once upon a time, in a small village, a baker decided to make a special treat—a gingerbread man. But this wasn't an ordinary gingerbread man. As soon as the baker opened the oven, the gingerbread man leapt out, ready for an adventure.

Baker:

(Gasping) Whoa! Where do you think you're going?

Gingerbread Man:

(Laughing) I'm not staying here! I'm the Gingerbread Man, and I'm way too fast for you!

Narrator:

And just like that, the Gingerbread Man ran out of the bakery, leaving the baker in his floury dust.

(Scene: The Gingerbread Man runs past a farmer in the field.)

Farmer:

(Surprised) Well, I never! A running gingerbread man?

Gingerbread Man:

(Calling back) That's right! You can't catch me—I'm the Gingerbread Man!

Narrator:

The farmer tried to keep up, but the Gingerbread Man was much too quick.

(Scene: The Gingerbread Man continues down the path and meets a horse.)

Horse:

(Curious) A cookie with legs? Now that's something you don't see every day! Where are you going in such a hurry?

Gingerbread Man:

(Grinning) You won't catch me, horsey! I'm the Gingerbread Man, and I'm too fast for you!

Narrator:

And just like before, the Gingerbread Man zipped past the horse, leaving him astonished and lagging behind.

(Scene: The Gingerbread Man reaches the edge of a river, looking at the flowing water with concern.)

Gingerbread Man:

(Talking to himself) Oh no... how am I going to cross the river? I'll get hungry if I try to swim!

Narrator:

Just then, a fox appeared, seeing the Gingerbread Man with a cunning smile.

Fox:

(Grinning slyly) Well, what a gingerbread snack. You seem to be in a bit of a pickle, friend.

Gingerbread Man:

(Desperate) I need to get across, but I can't swim!

Fox:

(With mock innocence) I can help you. Just hop on my back, and I'll carry you across safely. No tricks, I promise.

Narrator:

The Gingerbread Man hesitated but with no other choice, so he climbed onto the fox's back.

(Scene: The fox wades into the river, with the Gingerbread Man holding on tightly.)

Fox:

(After a moment) You know, the water's getting deeper. Why don't you move up to my neck to stay dry?

Narrator:

The Gingerbread Man moved up to the fox's neck, still unaware of the fox's plan.

Fox:

(Closer to the middle of the river) Hmm... even deeper here. Maybe you should sit on my nose instead?

Gingerbread Man:

(Trusting) Okay, if it'll keep me dry.

Narrator:

As soon as the Gingerbread Man moved to the fox's nose, the fox flicked his head, sending the Gingerbread Man into the air and right into his mouth!

Fox:

(Satisfied) Well, that was the fastest snack I've ever had!

Narrator:

And so, the Gingerbread Man's daring adventure came to an end, reminding everyone that sometimes, being clever isn't enough if you're not careful who you trust.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Why did the Gingerbread Man run away from the baker?

What problem did the Gingerbread Man face when he reached the river?

How did the fox trick the Gingerbread Man?

Baker



Gingerbread Man



Farmer



Horse



Fox



Narrator



Teacher Suggestions:

Assigning Roles: Consider your students' reading levels and confidence when assigning roles. Encourage students to practice their parts at home or during independent reading time.

Practicing Fluency: Have students practice their parts multiple times to build fluency and expression.

Props & Costumes: Use the optional props list to create simple, engaging props.

Character Labels: Students can also use the provided character names to either cut out to hang around their neck to help identify characters to the audience or alternatively draw and illustrate what they imagine their character to look like.

Performance: Arrange a space in the classroom where students can perform. Invite other students to watch the final performance to boost students' confidence and make it more special.

Reader Response Questions: Use the provided questions to facilitate a post-performance discussion. This will help assess comprehension and encourage students to think critically about the play.

Extension Activities:

- **Create Your Own Gingerbread Story:** Have students write or illustrate a different ending for the Gingerbread Man. What if he escaped the fox? Where would he go next?
- **Trust Exercise Discussion:** Discuss with students the importance of being cautious about who they trust. Relate it to everyday situations in their lives.
- **Gingerbread Art Project:** Let students design and decorate paper gingerbread people. They can add details like clothes, expressions, or items their gingerbread person might carry on an adventure.