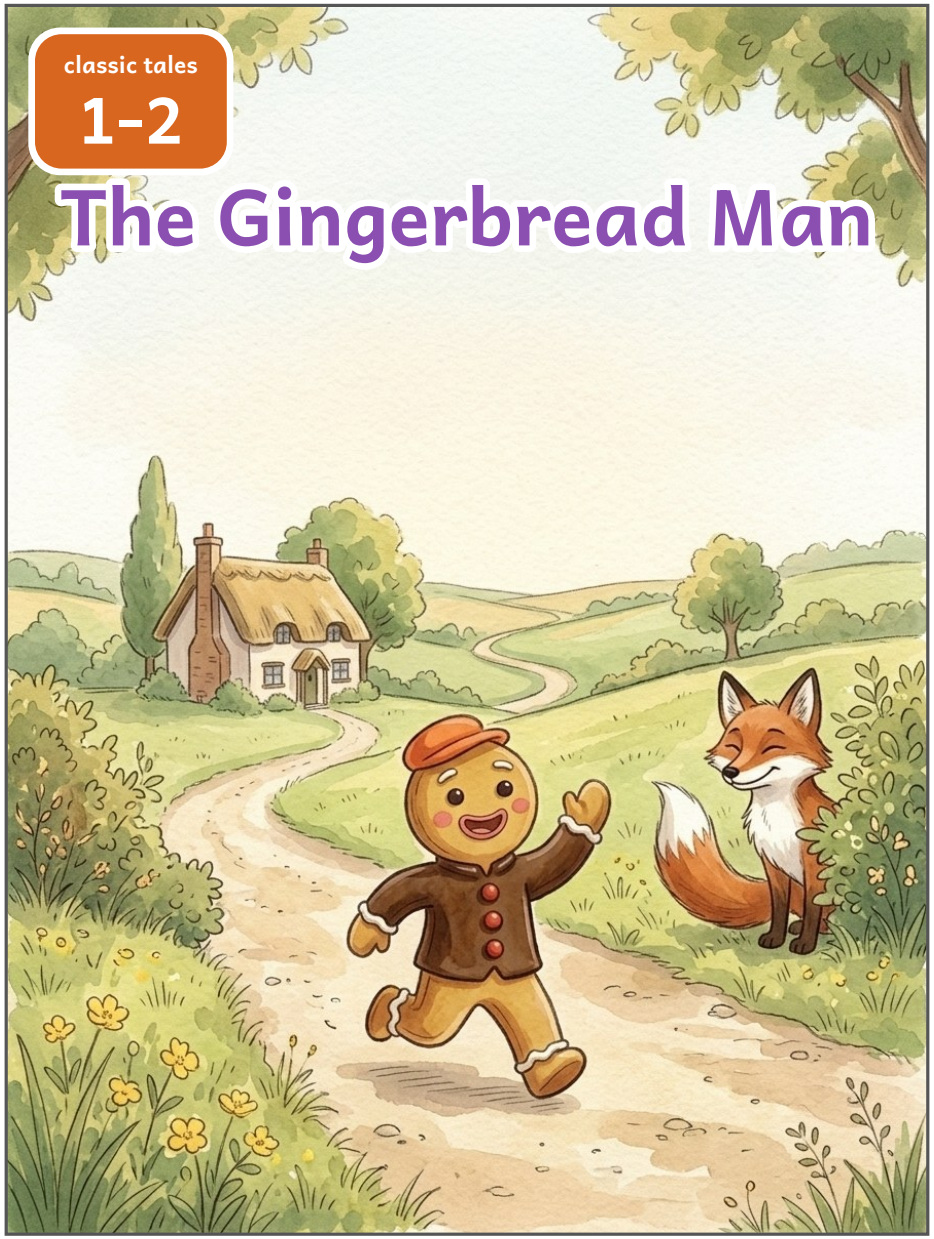
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classic tales
1-2

The Gingerbread Man



A Classic Tales Reader • Grades 1-2

Printable Scholar Readers



Once upon a time, a little old woman and a little old man lived all alone. One day, the little old woman made a boy out of gingerbread. She gave him a chocolate jacket, cinnamon buttons, currant eyes and a cap of orange candy.



When it was time, she opened the oven door and pulled out the pan. Out jumped the Gingerbread Man, and away he ran!



The little old woman and the little old man ran after him, calling, “Stop! Stop!” But he only laughed and shouted, “Run, run, as fast as you can! You can't catch me, I'm the Gingerbread Man!”



He ran on and on until he met a cow. “Stop, little Gingerbread Man! I want to eat you!” said the cow. But he ran faster, and the cow couldn't catch him.



Next he met a horse. “Please stop, little Gingerbread Man. You look very good to eat,” said the horse. “I have run away from a little old woman, a little old man and a cow, and I can run away from you, I can!” he said.



Then he came to a field full of mowers. “Wait a bit! Wait a bit!” they called. But he ran faster than ever, and they couldn't catch him either.



By now, the Gingerbread Man was very proud. Then he came to a river. He could not swim across, and everyone was getting closer and closer!



A fox sat by the river. “I would not catch you if I could,” said the fox. “Jump on my tail, and I will take you across.” So the Gingerbread Man jumped on.



The water got deeper. “Jump on my back,” said the fox. Then, “Jump on my shoulder.” Then, “Jump on my nose, and I can hold you out of the water.” So the Gingerbread Man jumped on his nose.

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The minute the fox got to shore, he threw back his head and gave a snap! And after that, the little Gingerbread Man never said anything more at all.

Talk About It

1. Why couldn't the cow, the horse or the mowers catch him?

2. Why did the Gingerbread Man jump on the fox's tail?

3. Was the fox telling the truth? How do you know?

Words to Know

oven • cow • horse
mowers • river • fox

Read me 3 times!

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