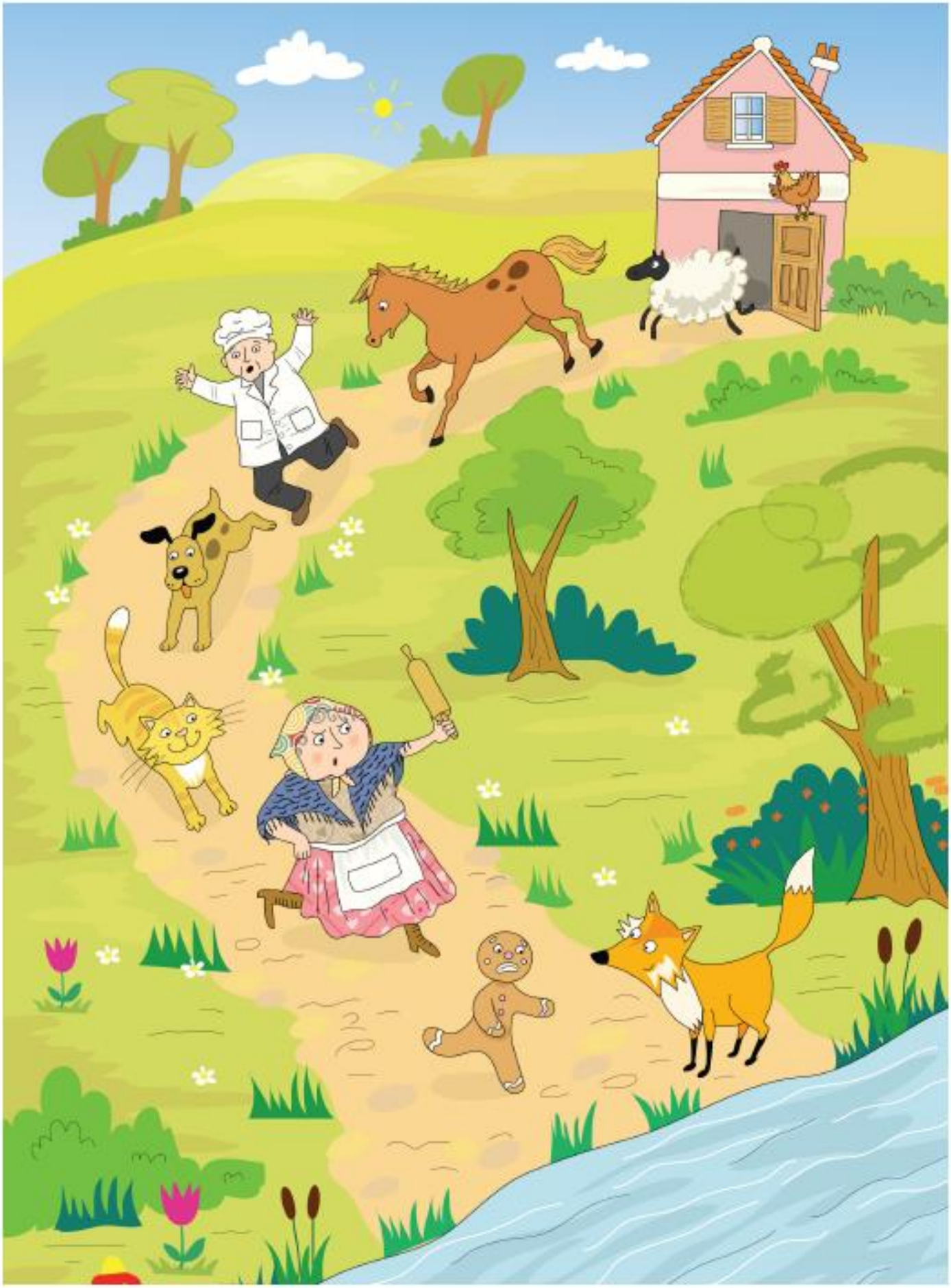
The Gingerbread Man



The Gingerbread Man

Once upon a time, there lived a little old woman and a little old man. One day, the little old woman made a gingerbread man. When she opened the oven, the gingerbread man jumped off the baking tray and ran away! The little old woman and the little old man ran after him, yelling, "Stop! Stop!" but they could not catch him.

The gingerbread man just laughed and said, "Run, run, as fast as you can! You can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!"

The gingerbread man ran until he came to a cat. "Stop! You look good enough to eat!" said the cat and chased him. The gingerbread man just laughed and said, "Run, run, as fast as you can! You can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!"

The gingerbread man ran until he came to a dog. "Stop! You look good enough to eat!" said the dog and chased him. The gingerbread man just laughed and said, "Run, run, as fast as you can! You can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!"

The gingerbread man ran on, then he came to a cockerel. "Stop! You look good enough to eat!" said the cockerel and chased him. The gingerbread man just laughed and said, "Run, run, as fast as you can! You can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!"

The gingerbread man ran down the lane and came to a pig. "Stop! You look good enough to eat!" said the pig and chased him. The gingerbread man just laughed and said, "Run, run, as fast as you can! You can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!"

A little further on, the gingerbread man came to a cow. "Stop! You look good enough to eat!" said the cow and chased him. The gingerbread man just laughed and said, "Run, run, as fast as you can! You can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!"

The gingerbread man ran on, then he came to a horse. "Stop! You look good enough to eat!" said the horse and chased him. The gingerbread man just laughed and said, "Run, run, as fast as you can! You can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!"

It was not long before the gingerbread man came to a boy. "Stop! You look good enough to eat!" said the boy and chased him. The gingerbread man just laughed and said, "Run, run, as fast as you can! You can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!"

The gingerbread man kept running and came to a girl. "Stop! You look good enough to eat!" said the girl and joined in the chase. The gingerbread man ran on, until he came to a river. He stopped as he could not swim!

Just then, a fox came by. "I can help you cross the river," said the fox. "Just hop onto my tail and I will swim across." The gingerbread man saw the others coming and worried that he would be eaten, so he jumped on. Soon the gingerbread man began to get wet. "Climb onto my back," suggested the fox, so he did. The water was getting even deeper. The fox said, "Jump onto my nose so that you don't get wet." So he did. Just then, the fox tipped back his head and the gingerbread man flew into the air. The fox opened his mouth and SNAP! That was the end of the gingerbread man.

The end.

The Gingerbread Man

1. What did the gingerbread man jump off at the beginning?

2. Who did the gingerbread man run away from?

3. Which is your favourite word or phrase in the story?

4. What does the gingerbread man say over and over again?

5. What did each of the characters say when they saw the gingerbread man?

6. Who were the first five characters that chased the gingerbread man?

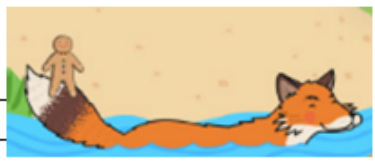
7. How do you think the gingerbread man was feeling when he was being chased?

8. Why was it tricky for the gingerbread man when he reached the river?

Extra Challenge

9. Explain how the fox was clever in trapping the gingerbread man.

(look at the pictures for clues)



The Gingerbread Man **Answers**

1. What did the gingerbread man jump off at the beginning?
   The gingerbread man jumped off the baking tray.

2. Who did the gingerbread man run away from?
   He ran away from the little old woman and the little old man.

3. Which is your favourite word or phrase in the story?
   (Answers will vary, accept any reasonable response.)
   E.g. I like how the gingerbread man teases everyone who's trying to catch him by saying, "Run, run, as fast as you can! You can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!" because it's funny that he manages to run away from everyone.

4. What does the gingerbread man say over and over again?
   The gingerbread man says, "Run, run, as fast as you can! You can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!" over and over again.

5. What did each of the characters say when they saw the gingerbread man?
   They say, "Stop! You look good enough to eat!"

6. Who were the first five characters that chased the gingerbread man?
   The little old woman, the little old man, the cat, the dog and the cockerel ran after the gingerbread man.

7. How do you think the gingerbread man was feeling when he was being chased?
   (Answers will vary, accept any reasonable response.)
   E.g. When he was being chased he would have been feeling frightened but also pleased / smug because nobody could catch him.

8. Why was it tricky for the gingerbread man when he reached the river?
   (Answers will vary, accept any reasonable response.)
   E.g. When he came to a river he stopped as he could not swim! The gingerbread man saw the others coming and worried that he would be eaten, so he had to jump onto the fox, even if he didn't trust him.