

The Gingerbread Man by Mara Alperin
Shortened version of the text

Mr. and Mrs. Baker lived all alone. Day after day, they made lots of delicious treats, but they had no one to share them with and that made them sad. One day, Mrs. Baker made a little gingerbread man to cheer them both up. He had jolly jelly buttons and a big smile.

Suddenly, the gingerbread man popped up and skipped off. 'Run, run, run as fast as you can, you can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!' Mr. and Mrs. Baker chased the gingerbread man, but he was too quick for them and he ran off.

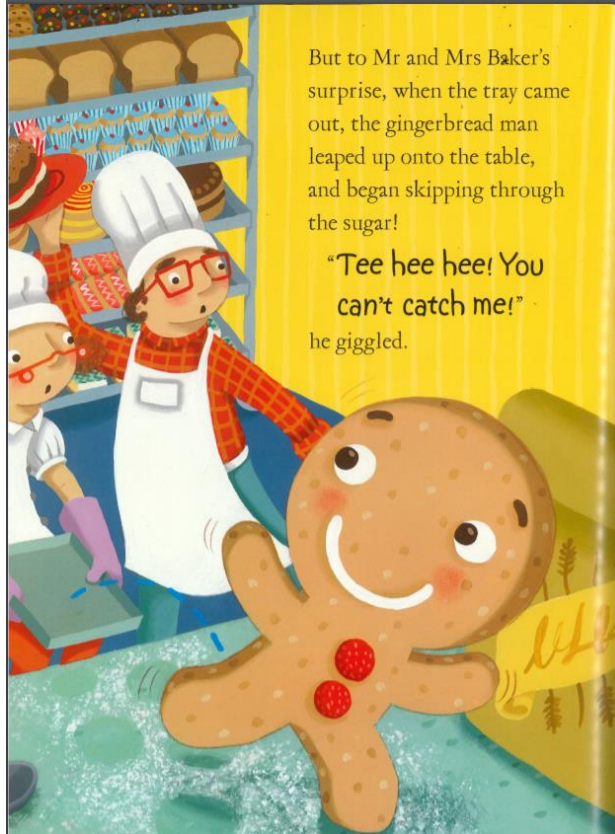
The gingerbread man saw a hungry cow who wanted to eat him. 'Run, run, run as fast as you can, you can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!' He ran away from the cow.

The gingerbread man ran all the way down the hill and got to a river. He stopped. Just then, a fox appeared. 'I can help you cross the river'. The gingerbread man hopped onto the fox's back. 'Climb onto my head' said the fox. The gingerbread man scrambled up. Suddenly the fox tossed the gingerbread man up in the air and opened his mouth wide. SNAP! That was the end of the gingerbread man!

and Mrs Baker lived
d big gooey cakes, sweet crumbly pies and
ng hot pastries. But they had no one
hare them with, and that made
n very sad.



to cheer them both up. He had jolly jelly buttons
and a big icing smile. Dusting the flour from her hands,
she popped him into the oven ...



But to Mr and Mrs Baker's surprise, when the tray came out, the gingerbread man leaped up onto the table, and began skipping through the sugar!

"Tee hee hee! You can't catch me!" he giggled.

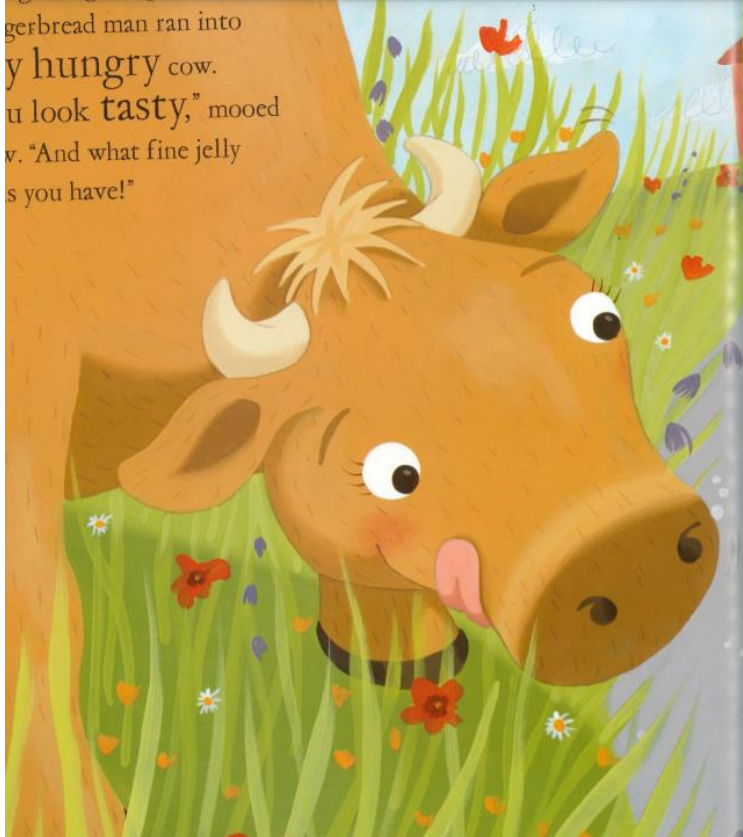


"Bless my cinnamon stars!" cried Mrs Baker as they chased him over pots, under pans and all around the kitchen...

But the gingerbread man was too quick for them, and he jumped right out of the window!




gingerbread man ran into
a hungry cow.
"You look tasty," mooed
the cow. "And what fine jelly
bones you have!"



But the gingerbread man
danced and pranced
"Run, run, run
As fast as you can
You can't catch me
I'm the gingerbread man!"



And off he ran -
his gingerbread legs



gingerbread man
down the hill, he began
to run and sing,
"Hee hee, I'm having fun,
I've run away from everyone!
The curly-haired woman,
The man in a hat,
The cow and a goat,
And a silly, old cat!"

When the gingerbread man reached
the riverbank, he stopped and shivered.
"It's so cold! How
cross?"

Just then, a fox appeared.

"Hello, little gingerbread man,"
he grinned. "Perhaps I can help you?
Just climb on my tail and I'll
carry you across."