**The Gingerbread Man**

Once upon a time, a little old woman and a little old man lived by themselves in a little house by the side of a road.

One day the little old woman decided to make a special treat. “I will make a gingerbread man,” she said.

So the little old woman made a gingerbread man and put him in the oven to bake. But before long, she heard a tiny voice calling, “Let me out! Let me out!”

The little old woman went to the oven to listen. Then she opened the oven door. The gingerbread man jumped right out! He skipped across the kitchen and ran straight outside.

The gingerbread man was on his way down the road before the little old woman and the little old man were out of the house. They couldn’t run nearly as fast as him.

“Stop! We want to eat you. Stop little gingerbread man!” they cried, quite out of breath.

But the gingerbread man just sang,

“Run, run as fast as you can, you can’t catch me I’m the gingerbread man!”

Soon the gingerbread man met a cow.

“Stop little man!” mooed the cow. “You look very good to eat!”

But the gingerbread man just ran faster and he sang,

“Run, run as fast as you can, you can’t catch me I’m the gingerbread man!”

The cow ran and ran, but she could not catch the little gingerbread man.

Farther down the road, the gingerbread man met a horse.

“Stop little man!” said the horse “You look very good to eat and I’m hungry!”

But the gingerbread man just ran faster. The horse galloped and galloped as fast as he could, but he wasn’t fast enough to catch the gingerbread man.

“I have run away from a little old woman, a little old man and a cow,” cried the gingerbread man. And he sang as he ran,

“Run, run as fast as you can, you can’t catch me I’m the gingerbread man!”

The little gingerbread man ran on and on, going faster and faster. He was very proud of his running, and quite pleased with himself. At last he met a sly old fox. “Stop! Stop little man,” said the fox, grinning and licking his lips. “I want to talk to you.”

But the little gingerbread man didn’t stop to listen. He just sang,

“Run, run as fast as you can, you can’t catch me I’m the gingerbread man!”

The cunning old fox could run very fast indeed, and he ran after the gingerbread man. He followed him all the way down the path through the forest.

Before too long they came to a river. The gingerbread man didn’t know what to do.

The cunning old fox wasn’t far away. I’ll help you,” he said, smiling to himself. “If you jump on my tail, I will take you across. You will be quite safe and dry.”

So the little gingerbread man jumped onto the fox’s tail and the fox began to swim across the river. Very soon the fox said, “You are too heavy for my tail. Jump onto my back.”

The little gingerbread man jumped onto the fox’s back. Very soon the fox said,

“Little gingerbread man, you are too heavy for my back. Why don’t you jump onto my nose?”

And the little gingerbread man jumped onto the fox’s nose.

Finally they reached the other side of the river. The fox threw back his head and tossed the gingerbread man high in the air. Then down fell the gingerbread man and snap! went the old fox.

And that was the end of the gingerbread man.