“Run, run, run! Catch me if you can,” boasts the gingerbread man. Join the chase as the tasty treat eludes hungry pursuers on a rollicking run through the countryside. Preschoolers will love hearing this delicious favorite fairy tale.

Meet the Writer

Vicky Shiotsu

Like the brave little duck in her favorite fairy tale, The Ugly Duckling, children’s author, Vicky Shiotsu, followed her dreams, leaving her native British Columbia for Los Angeles. Vicky recalls biking to the library each week as a child to pick up a new volume of fairy tales. Now enjoying a fulfilling writing career, she loved penning these new takes on her old favorites.

Meet the Illustrator

Alistar

Italian artist, Alistar, enjoyed illustrating the gingerbread man’s run through the countryside and particularly liked creating all of the animals the gingerbread man meets on his journey. Alistar’s favorite illustration is the story’s cover. It’s colorful, playful, and full of life—just like Alistar!
The Gift of Reading Aloud

Reading aloud to your child is fun for you both. Plus, it’s the best way to encourage a lifelong love of reading and promote the skills necessary for school success. Here are some tips.

Begin at the Beginning

• Set aside a special time to read aloud each day and stick to it.

• Choose a comfortable spot: the couch, your child’s bed, a picnic blanket under a shady tree, a “reading hideaway” created by throwing a sheet over the table, etc.

• Vary the reading materials: different genres (fairy tales, fiction, non-fiction, poetry), children’s magazines on topics from nature to sports, joke and riddle books, newspapers and comics, etc.

• Invite your child to help plan your reading routine.

Experience the Fun

• Read slowly and with expression. Use different character voices.

• Talk about the pictures.

• Stop to answer your child’s questions. Discuss any unfamiliar vocabulary.

• Encourage your child to chime in on repetitive phrases, complete rhymes, and predict what might happen next.

• Follow the words with your finger to reinforce important reading basics, such as text is read from left to right.

A Family Library

Your neighborhood library is a treasure! But a home library demonstrates the value of books to your family. Used book stores, garage sales, and flea markets are all great places to pick up inexpensive books that your family will treasure for years!

Favorite Fairy Tale Activities

Here are some hands-on activities to spark enthusiasm for learning and get your child excited about reading.

Gingerbread Man Treats

Reinforce fine motor skills in this delicious way. Bake gingerbread men from a mix or from scratch. Use canned or homemade icing to decorate the cookies, adding raisins or other small food items for eyes, buttons, etc.

Cookie Cutter Printing

Pour a thin layer of paint in the bottom of a shallow container, such as a clean foam meat tray. Encourage your child to dip cookie cutters into the paint and then use them to stamp their shapes on paper.

Story Sparkers

Use one or more of the following questions to spark storytelling. Write your child’s answer on a piece of paper and have him or her illustrate it.

• How would you catch the gingerbread man if he ran away from you?

• What could you do with a gingerbread man if you didn’t want to eat him?

• Where do you think the gingerbread man was going?
Once upon a time, a little old man and a little old woman lived in a house on a hill. One day, the little old woman made a gingerbread man. She put him into the oven to bake.
When the gingerbread man was done baking, the little old woman opened the oven door. Pop! Out jumped the gingerbread man! He ran across the floor and out the door.
The little old man and the little old woman called, “Stop, stop! We want to eat you!”

But the gingerbread man kept running 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 hill and met a duck. The duck said, “Quack, quack! I want to eat you!”

But the gingerbread man kept running and said, “Run, run as fast as you can! You can’t catch me. I’m the gingerbread man!”
The gingerbread man ran along the road and met a pig. The pig said, “Oink, oink! I want to eat you!”

But the gingerbread man kept running and said, “Run, run as fast as you can! You can’t catch me. I’m the gingerbread man!”
The gingerbread man ran through a field and met a cow. The cow said, “Moo, moo! I want to eat you!”

But the gingerbread man kept running and said, “Run, run as fast as you can! You can’t catch me. I’m the gingerbread man!”
The gingerbread man ran through the woods and met a horse.
The horse said, “Neigh, neigh! I want to eat you!”

But the gingerbread man kept running and said,
“Run, run as fast as you can!
You can’t catch me.
I’m the gingerbread man!”
Finally, the gingerbread man came to a river and saw a fox. He said to the fox, “I ran away from a little old man and a little old woman. I ran away from a duck and a pig. I ran away from a cow and a horse. And I can run away from you too!”
The sly fox grinned and said, “I’m not going to chase you, my friend. I’ll take you across the river. Just hop onto my back.”

So, the gingerbread man hopped onto the fox’s back.
The fox jumped into the river and began to swim.

After a while, he said, “Oh, dear! The water is getting deep. Hop onto my head so you won’t get wet.”
The gingerbread man hopped onto the fox’s head. Suddenly, the fox held his head back and tossed the gingerbread man into the air. The fox opened his mouth wide.
Snap! Crunch! And that was the end of the gingerbread man!