



The Gingerbread Man

About the story

In America this story is known as 'Johnny-Cake'. It is a very popular story that probably every infant knows. Taffy Thomas's version is a really good example of an innovation because he sets the story in his own locality and includes all sorts of local people that he knows.

Getting to know the story well

When telling the tale, start by hiding a gingerbread man in a tin and ask the children to guess what's inside the tin! Once you've watched or told the story, carry out some of the following activities to embed the key elements.

Discuss

- Talk about the sequence of events in the story. Ask: *Why did the gingerbread man run away? Why did everyone chase him? Do you think that everyone wants to eat the gingerbread man?*

Drama

- Hot-seat the characters of *The Gingerbread Man* and some of the animals or people who chase him.
- This is a lovely story to act out in the playground. Set out large apparatus to mark different places that the gingerbread man might visit. Children can play animals in role, wearing masks.

Writing in role

- Write a recipe for baking a gingerbread man – always made more interesting by adding some special 'magic' ingredient that is particular to your class.

Art

- Use a simple gingerbread man pattern for potato printing.

Research

- Look for other versions of the story. For instance, there is a very popular version which features a chapatti man rather than a gingerbread man.
- Find a map of Grasmere and use it to draw a map of the story, showing where the gingerbread man ran.

Story behind the story

- Retell the story from the fox's point of view.



Watch it
Watch this story being told by Taffy Thomas on the CD-Rom.

A baker bakes a gingerbread man.

It comes to life and runs away.

The baker chases it.

Other people keep joining in.

A fox helps the gingerbread man cross the river.

But eats it up instead!