

Readers' Theater

Scripts for Young Readers

The Gingerbread Man



Primary Concepts®

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- 1 An old woman and an old man lived on a farm.
- 2 One day, the woman baked a gingerbread man.
- 3 When it was done, she opened the oven door.
- 4 Out jumped the gingerbread man. Away he ran.



1 “Stop!” said the little old woman.

2 “Stop!” said the little old man.





3 But the gingerbread man just laughed.

All “Run! Run! Run! Catch me if you can.

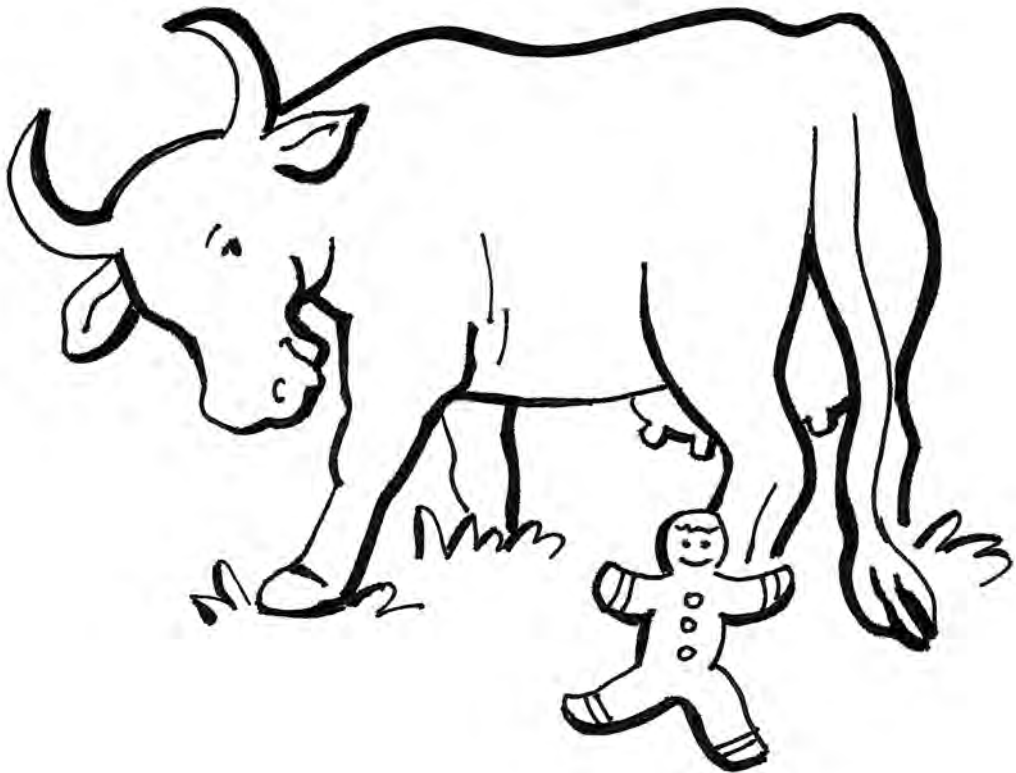
All You can’t catch me, I’m the gingerbread man.

I am! I am!”





3 “Stop!” said a cow in the farm yard.





- All But the gingerbread man just laughed.
- All “Run! Run! Run! Catch me if you can.
- All You can’t catch me, I’m the gingerbread man.

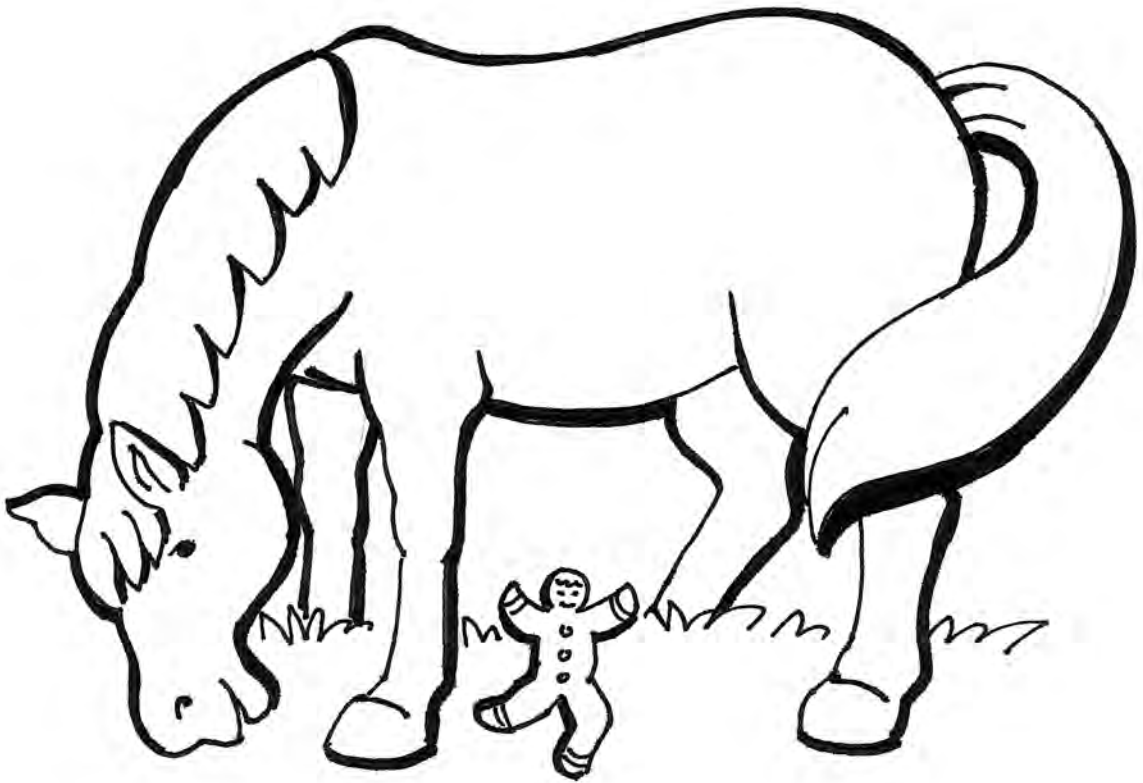
I am! I am!

- 4 I’ve run away from the little old woman.
- 1 I’ve run away from the little old man.
- 2 And I can run away from you. I can. I can.”



4

“Stop!” said the horse in the field.





- All But the gingerbread man just laughed.
- All “Run! Run! Run! Catch me if you can.
- All You can’t catch me, I’m the gingerbread man.

I am! I am!

- 1 I’ve run away from the little old woman.
- 2 I’ve run away from the little old man.
- 3 I’ve run away from the cow.
- All And I can run away from you. I can. I can.”



1 “Stop!” said a fox.





- All But the gingerbread man just laughed.
- All “Run! Run! Run! Catch me if you can.
- All You can’t catch me, I’m the gingerbread man.
I am! I am!
- 2 I’ve run away from the little old woman.
- 3 I’ve run away from the little old man.
- 4 I’ve run away from the cow and the horse.
- All And I can run away from you. I can. I can.”

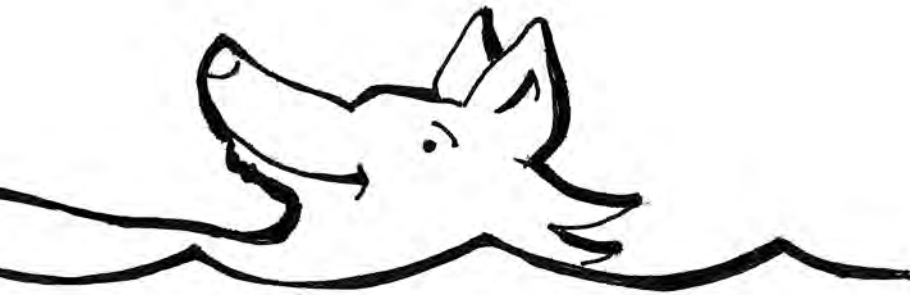


- 1 Just then they came to a river.
- 2 “Let me help you cross the river,” said the fox.
- 3 “Jump on my tail,” he said.
- 4 And the gingerbread man did.





- 1 “The water is deep. Jump on my shoulder,”
said the fox.
- 2 And the gingerbread man did.
- 3 “The water is getting deeper. Jump on my nose,”
said the fox.
- 4 Then the fox opened his mouth.





All And that was the end of the gingerbread man.



A Note to the Teacher

Primary Concepts Readers' Theater scripts are a powerful way to help children develop fluent reading skills as they become acquainted with children's literature classics. Readers' Theater provides the following benefits:

- develops skill in pacing, articulation, phrasing, and expression in oral reading
- encourages children to monitor their own reading for fluency
- builds cooperative skills in a small group
- acquaints young readers with time-honored favorites from children's literature

Readers' Theater is the performance of literature that is read aloud expressively rather than acted. Because the goal is to perform the selections in front of a group, Readers' Theater gives children an incentive for reading familiar text over and over, thus improving their fluency.

Using the Scripts

Students work in groups four. They either choose or are assigned a part (1, 2, 3, or 4) to practice.

Practice Makes Perfect

Each child should be given his or her own script book. The group reads and rereads the text, perfecting their fluency, pacing, phrasing, expression, and the flow from one reader to the next. The group can listen to the audio model of the script, or you may wish to model the reading yourself.

Students typically listen critically to their own readings and try to improve with each reading. Members of the group should be encouraged to listen attentively and give each other feedback on the readings. Remind students how to give positive feedback by first telling what is working, then what might be improved and how.

As the groups become proficient in their readings, you might want to encourage them to experiment with special ways to read the text:

- using expressive voices
- saying some words or phrases loudly and others softly
- slowing down or speeding up text
- shortening or lengthening pauses

Performance Time

After the children have practiced to near perfection, have them read selections in front of an audience: their classmates, another classroom, or parents. Consider inviting parents for a Readers' Theater Tea. Students will enjoy making the invitations. The formal tea will make all their hard work pay off with the applause of pleased parents.

No costumes or props are required for these performances. The main focus is on the celebration of reading.

Other Resources

Readers' Theater script books and audio are available in several genres. For these and other resources for teachers, please consult a Primary Concepts catalog or visit our website at **www.primaryconcepts.com**.