



## The Gingerbread Man Loose in the School

*Laura Murray , Mike Lowery (Illustrator)*

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When a class leaves for recess, their just-baked Gingerbread Man is left behind. But he's a smart cookie and heads out to find them. He'll run, slide, skip, and (after a mishap with a soccer ball) limp as fast as he can because: "I can catch them! I'm their Gingerbread Man!"

With help from the gym teacher, the nurse, the art teacher and even the principal, the Gingerbread Man does find his class, and he's assured they'll never leave him behind again.

Teachers often use the Gingerbread Man story to introduce new students to the geography and staff of schools, and this fresh, funny twist on the original can be used all year long. Includes a poster with fun activities!

## The Gingerbread Man Loose in the School Details

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Author : Laura Murray , Mike Lowery (Illustrator)

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## From Reader Review The Gingerbread Man Loose in the School for online ebook

### Melisa says

Really cute, love a great rhyming book.

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### Pam says

We really liked the rhyming in this book, and the "flip" of having the Gingerbread Man do the chasing for a change. We also liked that he didn't seem to be in danger of being consumed at all. The illustrations were interesting...seemed like one of the kids could've done them. (Maybe that was the point.) We liked it a lot.

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### Rachel says

I feel the this book can be used to teach children about school? In the begin the children learn to bake and create a gingerbread man. This little ginger man goes on an adventure looking for his school friends. He goes to the gym, the nurses office, the cafeteria, and the principals office. This book can teach children where to go for specific needs for help in the school.

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### Dolly says

This is a fun story about a gingerbread man who gets left behind and then searches all over the school (with some bumps along the way) for his class. The rhyming narrative is entertaining, but I must admit that I don't love the illustrations. The story is presented in a graphic novel-style format, with lots of cartoonish frames. Our borrowed copy didn't have a poster mentioned by other reviewers - there was a pocket for it, but it was missing.

The story reminded us of our youngest's daughter's kindergarten adventure last year, where the class had to go from the gymnasium to the music room to the library and then back again to their classroom to find the gingerbread men who ran away. At each location, the children found a note that gave them a clue of where to go next. It was a big hit with the kiddos and after we read this book, our youngest enjoyed telling us again about her memories of that day.

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### Sophia says

Very cute twist on the traditional Gingerbread man story. A classroom bakes a gingerbread man and leaves him to cool while they go off to recess. Except he thinks he was purposely left behind he and wanders around the school to find his class. I like the fact that he visits the gym, the nurses' office, the art teacher, and the

principal; but there are so many other places he does not visit (hmm, the library, for instance) that I feel could have been visited. That being said, I still enjoyed the rhyming text and the newer choruses he shouts out as he visits places.

I loved the bright and bold color choices of the illustrations in this book. They are done in panes, as you would find in an comic book. Some pages are full spreads. The font used in this book is also playful, which really compliments the illustrations and the Gingerbread man himself.

I read this to my very first group of Kindergartners today in the library. They really enjoyed it. I purchased this book for my school library with the 1st grade teachers in mind because they always do a big Gingerbread Man unit around Christmastime. I think this one will quickly become a favorite!

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### **Tam says**

My 6-year-old loved this fun, rhyming story.

Excerpt from the book:

"I began in a bowl. I was not yet myself--  
just a list of ingredients pulled from a shelf,  
chosen by children who measured and mixed  
my smooth, spicy batter while sneaking quick licks . . .  
A sprinkle of ginger, some cinnamon too,  
molasses, soft butter, and eggs as my glue.  
Then in their classroom, the children began  
to roll me and mold me to look like a man.  
They added some sweets to make me complete  
and I baked on a pan in the warm oven heat.  
I heard a small DING! and the pulled out the pan.  
Finally, I thought. I'M A GINGERBREAD MAN!"

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### **Green Bean says**

"I began in a bowl. I was not yet myself--just a list of ingredients pulled from a shelf, chosen by children who measured and mixed my smooth, spicy batter while sneaking quick licks..." When the cooking class kids run off to recess, this smart cookie rollicks after them, rhyming all the way! En route he meets the school nurse, who band aids his gingerbread toe back on, the art teacher who almost has him for lunch, and Principle Peacock who helps reunite him with his culinary classmates! In the shape of a comic book and sweet as molasses, this story will satisfy both your sweet tooth and your silly tooth! A back-to-school poster, activity prompts and a recipe for whipping up your own gingerbread adventurers come tucked inside!

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### **Deja says**

Review: I thought this book was so sweet and short not so long for kids in between 4 or 5 years old. I knew my nephew would love it because he like seeing all the outcomes they gingerbread had to go through and

also at the end we baked and gingerbread cookie.

Utilize: I would have this book as ongoing assessment through the year. Meaning this is perfect for new students coming to the classroom because they feel so scared and and left out. That reading this book would let them knew we do not want you to feel left out so we would get you evolved and you will never be left behind. Also have the student helps out with new students coming into our classroom coming up with a new buddy pair system.

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## **Mary Ann says**

*short review:* With its bouncy rhythm and rhyme, this is a terrific book to share as kids are getting used to a new school. A freshly-baked gingerbread man runs through an elementary school trying to find his class, discovering the gym, the art room, the principal's office on the way. A favorite read-aloud!

*long review:* Children love listening to the wild chase in the classic folktale The Gingerbread Man, and many teachers read this folktale and its variations to preschool and kindergarten classes. I was thrilled to discover The Gingerbread Man Loose in the School, by Laura Murray - it combines a fun story with great rhyme and rhythm, one that will be perfect for reading aloud at the beginning of the year!

As he tells in this delightful story, the gingerbread man is put together by a classroom full of kids. But as soon as he comes out of the oven, the children all go outside to recess. And so begins a familiar chase, but this time the gingerbread man is chasing the class, instead of the familiar animals chasing him!

"I'm the gingerbread man, and I'm trying to find the children who made me, but left me behind!"

Laura Murray combines good-natured humor with lively, dynamic rhythm and rhyme in this story that begs to be read aloud. The gingerbread man's adventures take him on a tour of the school: to the gym, the art room, the principal's office. In each place, he meets the teacher who helps him follow his class. This story lends itself perfectly to kindergarten classes just getting to know their new school, or preschoolers looking ahead to a larger school. In fact, Laura Murray has a great collection of related activities on her website. At its heart, though, this book will be a favorite because of the great read-aloud quality to the language that Murray has used.

Mike Lowery's art also has great appeal, with panels and drawings that draw on comic book traditions. Kids will enjoy the bright colors and funny drawings, which fit both the folktale and school themes. The drawings are detailed enough for repeated readings, but are not overly busy and crowded. They are perfect for this audience and story.

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## **Heidi says**

Each year the kindergarten teachers at my school start the year off with a gingerbread man unit, where the students decorate their own gingerbread man (paper). When I first saw this book, I thought it would be

perfect to share when the students came to the library for the first time. The kindergarten teachers give me a gingerbread man that they have decorated with each class, and we pretend that it 'ran' away, (it's really fun to pretend not to know where it came from, I hide it in the book). Well, it turns out the book worked very well. The teachers liked it and the students liked it. And I liked it because (SPOILER) the gingerbread man doesn't get eaten at the end. In addition the book comes with a fun poster, with a maze, coloring page, and lesson ideas on the back. The author's website also has a complete reading guide. I kinda wish that I'd had time to prepare the gingerbread hunt for the students. I think it would have been fun.

Review wise the writing is clear and crisp and reads well out-loud (it does rhyme). The refrain changes slightly as the gingerbread man moves through the school (runs, skips, limps, etc.). The illustrations are really cute and compliment the story beautifully. The format is simplified comic with panels and speech bubbles and a fun font. The emphasized phrases help with reading out loud, the reader knows when to add emphasis. A winner in every way, I highly recommend it.

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### **Leanna DIY says**

So in a school they made a gingerbread man. But lost them one day. But teachers and the principal helped him find his way.

### **I DO NOT LIKE BOOKS I LOVE BOOKS**

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### **Kimberly says**

The Gingerbread Man Loose in the School would be considered a beginners graphic novel. I have found that this book is a fun read and kids love it. It is the story of a gingerbread man who gets lost in a school while trying to find the children who made him. He has many adventures, one being he rounded a corner and became stuck to the side of a volleyball. Is the gingerbread man able to run as fast as he can to find the children who left him behind?

Text to Self – This book reminded me of how I felt every time I started a new school. I felt tiny and lost. But once I got familiar with the school, met people and knew my way around I felt more confident and comfortable with my surroundings.

Text to Text – This book is similar to the Gingerbread Man, except he is trying to find his makers instead of run away from them. The gingerbread man has adventures along the way, some scary and some fun. This book is written in rhyme and is very fun to read to children.

Text to World – This book show kids to keep trying and they can accomplish what they set out to. The Gingerbread Man faces obstacles such as being stuck to the side of a volleyball, a missing toe, and landing in someone's lunch, but he keeps plugging along until he finds his missing class.

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## **Megan Moriarty says**

This is such a cute book about a class of children that make a gingerbread man. After the children take the gingerbread man out of the oven, they go outside for recess. But, the gingerbread man wants to go with them. So, he gets up off of the pan and goes around the school looking for the children. He runs into many obstacles and teachers that try to help him along the way. Finally, he reaches the principal and she shows the gingerbread man all of the "Missing Gingerbread Man" signs that the children made and she helps him back to his classroom. This book is intended for young elementary students around kindergarten or first grade. This book is entertaining and a good fit for them because it introduces rhyming. As a teacher, you can come up with so many activities to go along with this book, such as making a gingerbread man, hiding him in the school, and going on a hunt for the missing gingerbread man. You could also have the students create "Missing Gingerbread Man" signs.

Murray, L., & Lowery, M. (2011). The gingerbread man loose in the school. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons.

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## **Laura5 says**

To start off the year a gingerbread man goes missing and the kindergartners at my school go looking all over the school for him. Along the way, they get to see all the different areas of the school (the gym, the office, the library) and meet the folks (like me the librarian) associated with those areas. They come into the library with a sign they made of what he looks like, and ask if I have seen him. I get to introduce myself and say "he was here running in and out of all the shelves, but then he ran that way," and wish them good luck on their search.

They eventually find him and get to eat him. Which is always a big hit.

Gingerbread Man Loose in the School will be a fun title to share with them the next time I see them. It is nice twist on their "hunt".

Website connections:

<http://sprintsweets.com/>

<http://www.starfall.com/n/holiday/gin...>

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## **Hapzydeco says**

Kindergarten students will have fun with this one. What better way to get to know your school and introduce lessons of citizenship than reading this book aloud at the beginning of the school year.

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