

# A-Book-A-Week: Classroom Instruction

## The Gingerbread Man

<b>Activity Card #1</b>	<b>Literacy Development Category</b> Artist's Craft: Retelling Old Tales with Different Characters
<b>Suggested Activity Order</b> <i>In the many different versions of <u>The Gingerbread Man</u>, there are different characters that chase the tasty cookie. Karen Schmidt's version includes the boy, his grandparents, 3 farmers, the bear, the wolf, and the triumphant fox. But, author Jan Brett has just published her own version and her animals include a dog, a goat, a mountain dog, a cat, and a pig. In today's lesson, you and the children will discuss these differences.</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Explain to your students that authors use characters in stories to help make the stories more exciting.</li><li>2. Review <u>The Gingerbread Man</u> with your students, talking through the pictures to generate a list of characters.</li><li>3. As a new character appears, write his or her name on the blackboard.</li><li>4. Show children the masks you have downloaded from Jan Brett's website as well as the photo you have downloaded for her. <a href="http://www.janbrett.com/gingerbread_baby_masks_main.htm">Http://www.janbrett.com/gingerbread_baby_masks_main.htm</a></li><li>5. Explain that Jan Brett has written her own version of <i>The Gingerbread Man</i> which she has called <u>Gingerbread Baby</u>. (You can try to obtain a copy of this newly-published book from your local library).</li><li>6. Compare the animals from Schmidt's version to those in Brett's version. Are any animals the same? Why is this one animal the same in both versions? (Foxes are generally seen as crafty animals. In Brett's version, though, the fox does not get to eat the Gingerbread Baby!!)</li></ol>	<b>Materials Needed:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ Animal masks downloaded from Jan Brett's website</li><li>❑ Jan Brett's picture found at this URL <a href="http://www.janbrett.com/biography.htm">http://www.janbrett.com/biography.htm</a></li></ul>

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<b>Activity Card #2</b>	<b>Literacy Development Category</b> Lots of Links: Baking Gingerbread Men
<b>Suggested Activity Order</b> <i>This activity lays the groundwork for the next 2 activities.</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Download the recipe for Gingerbread cookies from Bryce and Megan's Christmas website. <a href="http://geocities.com/EnchantedForest/4213/christmas_recipes.html">http://geocities.com/EnchantedForest/4213/christmas_recipes.html</a></li><li>2. Gather ingredients to bring to class.</li><li>3. As your first activity of the morning, show children the <b>B</b> picture from the December alphabet and ask what the woman has been <b>baking</b> for Christmas treats.</li><li>4. Show children the recipe that you have downloaded and then unload your bag of ingredients.</li><li>5. Have a child hold the recipe for you as you and the class prepare the cookie dough. Be sure to show and describe for children the teaspoon, the 1/2 teaspoon, the cup and the 1/2 cup. Also be sure to use such terms as <i>measure</i>, <i>sift</i>, and <i>roll</i> when you are doing those parts of the baking.</li><li>6. Chill the dough.</li><li>7. Later in the morning, roll, cut out and bake the gingerbread cookies. You may want to use raisins for the gingerbread men's eyes. You may also want to use jelly beans for buttons, just like Schmidt's illustrations show.</li><li>8. Show the children their cookies on a tray. You may want to give each child a copy of <i>the B for baking</i> page of the winter alphabet to take home to show their families.</li></ol>	<b>Materials Needed:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Chart paper</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>B</b> picture from the winter holiday alphabet (you may want to make copies for students to take home)</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Bryce and Megan's lubkuchen recipe for gingerbread cookies</li></ul>

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<b>Activity Card #3</b>	<b>Literacy Development Category:</b> Language Development - Descriptions
<b>Suggested Activity Order</b> <i>Young children are working to develop their vocabularies. In today's lesson, children will continue decorating their gingerbread men. Then, they will take turns describing their men in terms of the colors of jelly beans and icing they have used.</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. During the course of the morning, assist the children in decorating their gingerbread men. As the children are decorating, help them by describing their gingerbread men -- <i>"Your gingerbread man has raisins for eyes, a pink mouth, and three different colors of jelly beans for buttons -- purple, red, and yellow. He has green stripes to mark his feet and yellow stripes to mark his hands."</i></li><li>2. When all children have finished, gather the group together.</li><li>3. Remind the children of your earlier descriptions of their gingerbread men.</li><li>4. Have the children describe their cookies for the group.</li><li>5. Guide each child in chanting: <i>I have run away from a little boy. Run, run, as fast as you can. You can't catch me. I'm the gingerbread man.</i></li></ol>	<b>Materials Needed:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Gingerbread cookies</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Icing (tubes from the store may be easiest)</li></ul>

Those of you with Internet connections in the classroom may also want to visit the following URL. Children can continue selecting the features to decorate Gingerbread people!  
[http://geocities.com/EnchantedForest/4213/gingerbread\\_game.html](http://geocities.com/EnchantedForest/4213/gingerbread_game.html)

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<b>Activity Card #4</b>	<b>Literacy Development Category:</b> Acts of Writing: Considering Cookie Favorites
<b>Suggested Activity Order</b> <i>Early in the week, let families know that you will be having a cookie tasting on Friday. Ask them to send cookies in on Thursday and Friday for the tasting.</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Display the different cookies to the class.</li><li>2. Create a chart similar to that that appears at the end of this file.</li><li>3. In the left-hand column, list the names of the different kinds of cookies.</li><li>4. Allow children to sample the cookies.</li><li>5. Let the children record their names in the boxes next to their favorite cookies.</li></ol>	<b>Materials Needed:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Cookies that families have prepared</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Chart paper</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Chart (sample at the end of this file)</li></ul>

Jan Brett has a wonderful coloring page available at her website that would make a perfect follow-up for this activity. It features the Gingerbread Baby from her new book. He is surrounded by many different kinds of cookies, decorated in many different ways.  
[http://www.janbrett.com/gingerbread\\_baby\\_coloring\\_page.htm](http://www.janbrett.com/gingerbread_baby_coloring_page.htm)



If you are looking to purchase Brett's new book, Borders.com has a very good price.

<http://search.borders.com/cgi-bin/db2www/search/search.d2w/Details?&mediaType=Book&prodID=51372653>



The idea for today's lesson has been adapted from Judy Nyberg's (1995) Charts for Children. This book is available from [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) for \$10.36. It's a great resource for filling the classroom with meaningful, child-generated print!

# Our Favorite Cookies



Cookie Name	Children Who Love this Cookie!