

Dietrich Children's Theatre
presents

THE GINGERBREAD MAN

STUDY GUIDE

This Study Guide includes the story of the play, discussion topics, vocabulary words found in the play, related activities and a recommended reading list.

The Story

Fox greets us and tells us not to be afraid; though foxes are usually sneaky, she insists that she is good, and in fact has become a vegetarian. Ginger bounces happily out but is afraid when he sees Fox. She convinces him that she is here as a friend to help him with his story. Ginger proves to be very conceited and wants everything to be about him, because he is the star of the show. Fox has gone to a lot of work to line people up for Ginger's story. First the Little Old Lady and Little Old Man are surprised to meet Ginger. He runs taunting them, but they are too tired to chase him. Ginger is perturbed and tells Fox he wants someone faster to chase him. A Cow and a Sheep meet Ginger, but Cow is on a no-gingerbread diet, and Sheep is too distracted by clouds to chase him. A quick Squirrel and a lumbering Bear think Ginger looks tasty, but they are too busy fighting over a nut to chase him. A French Chef and his Lowly Assistant think Ginger might be dangerous, and they won't chase him either. Fox grows despondent over her failure to find someone who will chase Ginger, and is afraid he will be angry with her. Fox is tempted to chase him herself, but quickly remembers that she has turned over a new leaf. She asks for audience volunteers to help her, and decides that children are the best choice to catch Ginger. Ginger is very annoyed with Fox for not finding anyone good enough to chase him. She promises him she's found the perfect choice. Two obnoxious children, Philomena and Aloysius, are very anxious to meet and eat Ginger, and a brisk chase ensues. But as the children begin to argue loudly over him, Ginger stomps and whines that no one is paying attention to him. Fox finally loses her temper, sends the children to their room, and berates Ginger for being so selfish and mean. Fox reminds him that if he is caught, he will be eaten, which Ginger has forgotten. And since there is no one left to chase Ginger, Fox jumps at him and he runs, terrified now of being devoured. Fox catches him and gulps him down with a big chomp, and warns us to remember our manners and appreciate our friends, or we just might get eaten.

Vocabulary words found in the play:

stereotypes

delectable

interrupt

recipe

vegetarian

honorable

apologize

sushi

exalted

Discussion topics:

The theme of The Gingerbread Man is friendship. Sometimes friends don't always agree, and they have to compromise. What does it mean to compromise? Which characters compromise in the play?

Do good friends argue? Which characters argue in the play? What do they argue about?

Do good friends share? Which characters don't share in the play? Why is it important to share with your friends?

What does respect mean? Do good friends treat each other with respect? Which characters are not respectful in the play?

Is Ginger a good friend to Fox? Why or why not?

Would Fox have eaten Ginger at the end if he were nicer to her?

Which character is most like you? Why?

Read More About It!

The following books are other tales of the Gingerbread Man. All books are available at the Tunkhannock Public Library.

Russian Fairy Tales (The Kolobok) by Aleksandr Afanasev

One Hundred Favorite Folk Tales (The Pancake) by Stith Thompson

English Fairy Tales (Johnny Cake) by Joseph Jacobs

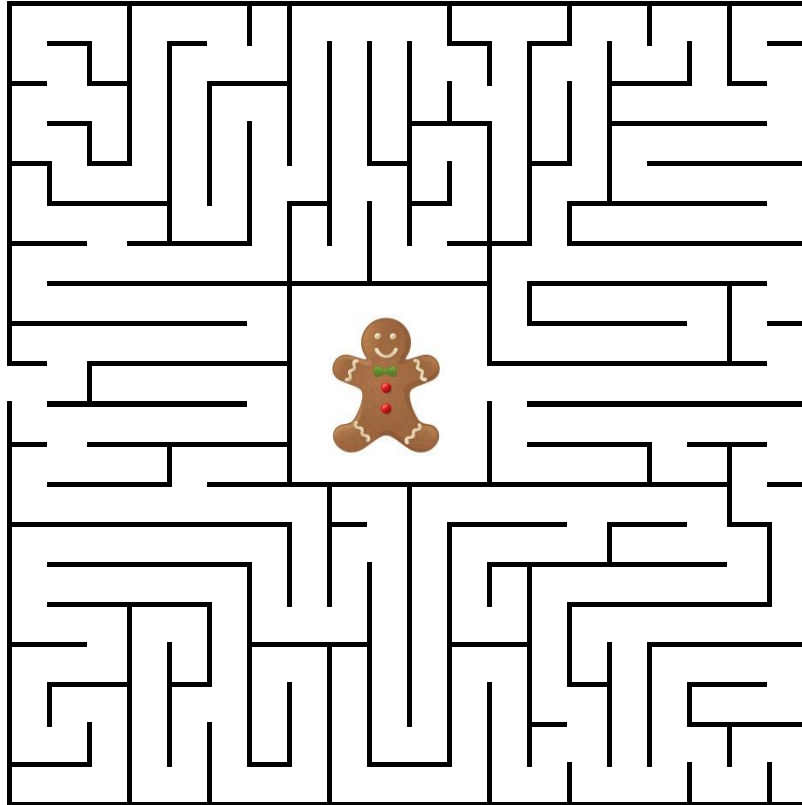
The Runaway Tortilla by Eric A. Kimmel

The Runaway Latkes by Leslie Kimmelman

Stop That Pickle! By Peter Armour

The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales by Jon Scieszka

Help the hungry fox get to the tasty gingerbread man!



Unscramble the words found in the play:

deeggrbanir

erirqlus

owc

epseh

fhce

ttisasasn

celteut

dihfprensi

ghrnuy

Key to word scramble:

gingerbread, squirrel, cow, sheep, chef, assistant, lettuce, friendship, hungry

Color the gingerbread man

