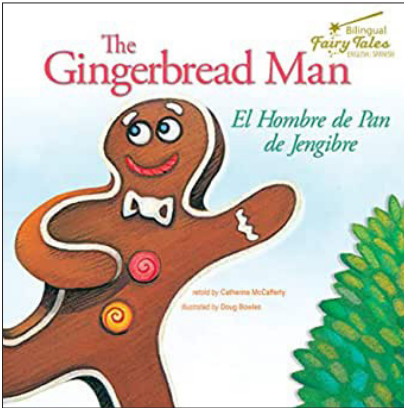


Gingerbread Folktales from Around the World with Picture Books



Run, run as fast as you can.
You can't catch me,
I'm the Gingerbread Man
— The Gingerbread Man, a folk tale

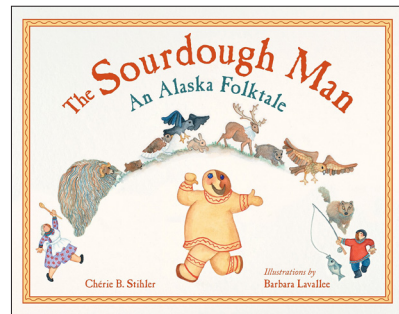
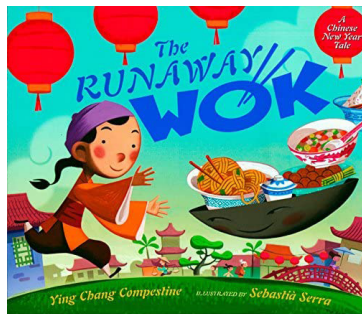
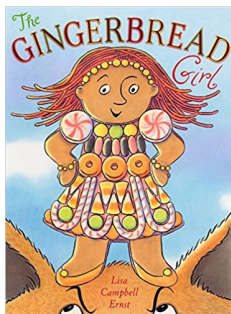
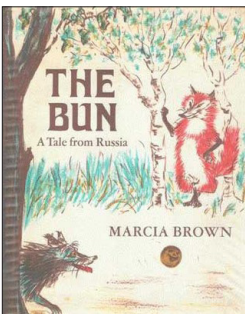
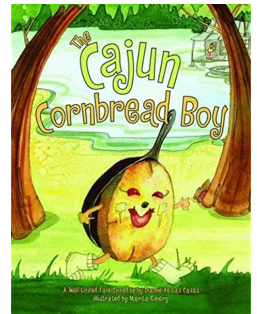
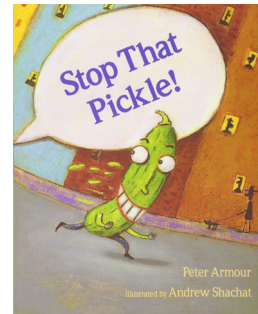
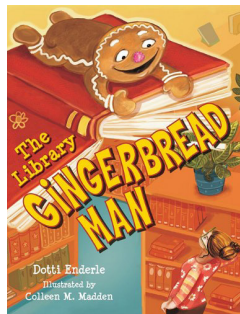
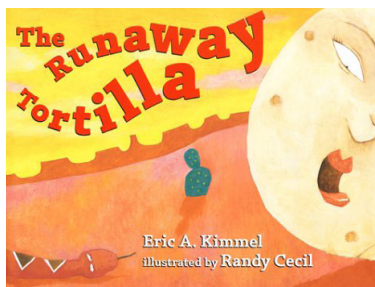
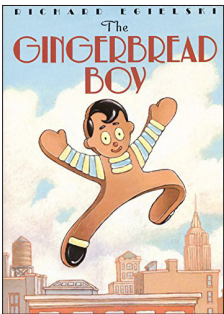
What is a folktale?

Originally, a folktale was memorized and retold aloud, and the story did not have a single author. A folktale develops over time as it is told by different people. It is passed down through the generations and usually has a moral, or lesson, attached to the story.

The Gingerbread Man is a folktale about runaway food. The fleeing food could be a pancake from Germany, a dumpling from Hungary, or a bun from Russia. There are different versions in the United States—from pickles to cornbread!

All books below are available in the Monroe County Public Library System. The books are also available on YouTube—simply type the title of the book into the search bar to find a read-aloud video of the story.

Before your visit to see Sweet Creations at the George Eastman Museum, explore these folktales



- *The Gingerbread Man / El Hombre de Pan de Jengibre* by Catherine McCafferty, illustrated by Doug Bowles
- *The Gingerbread Boy* by Richard Egielski
- *The Runaway Tortilla* by Eric A. Kimmel, illustrated by Randy Cecil
- *The Library Gingerbread Man* by Dotti Enderle, illustrated by Colleen M. Madden

- ***Stop That Pickle!*** by Peter Armour, illustrated by Andrew Shachat
- ***The Cajun Cornbread Boy*** by Dianne de Las Casas, illustrated by Marita Gentry
- ***The Bun: A Tale from Russia*** by Marcia Brown
- ***The Gingerbread Girl*** by Lisa Campbell Ernst
- ***The Runaway Wok*** by Ying Chang Compestine, illustrated by Sebastià Serra
- ***The Sourdough Man: An Alaska Folktale*** by Chérie B. Stihler, illustrated by Barbara Lavallee

Learning Experiences with Gingerbread Folktales from Around the World

This activity is designed for an adult and child to do together. Adults can read the questions and write down the child's responses, the child can write their own responses, or the adult and child can simply talk about the questions and responses together.

1. **Choose three of these folktales and compare the book covers. What is the main character on each book cover?** How would you describe each character in detail? What is the expression of each character's face? What type of food is each character? Describe the foreground and background of each book cover.
2. **Read the title of each story. Does the title provide additional clues to the story?** Does the title support the illustration on the book cover? By reading the title and observing the book covers, can you make a prediction about each story? Write down a prediction for each story. What do you think will happen in the story?

3. **Mapping the story: After reading each story, create a story map to one of the folktales.**

Fold a blank piece of paper in half and have the child draw a picture of the main character on the left side and the setting on the right.

Then fold another blank piece of paper so there are four quadrants and have the child describe the Beginning of the story in one quadrant, the Middle of the story in the second quadrant, and the Ending of the story in the third quadrant. In the last quadrant, ask the child what they think the Moral of the story is. You can also map the story verbally.

4. **Discuss the repeated phrase in each story.** What does the phrase tell you about the character? Does each story have a repeated phrase? If so, which one do you like the best and why?
5. **Retell your favorite story of the three folktales you chose.** What happened First? What was the Next event? Then what happened? What was happened Last? Have the child describe their favorite part of the story.

Run, Run as Fast as You Can . . . To Sweet Creations at the George Eastman Museum

Dozens of cleverly designed and deliciously decorated gingerbread houses fill the mansion. This beloved holiday tradition provides a visual and aromatic treat for visitors of all ages. See eastman.org/holidays for details.