



Cooking and Storybooks are a Good Mix



There are many versions of the story “The Gingerbread Man.” Visit your local library and check out a few. Start by reading a traditional version, such as *The Gingerbread Man* by Eric Kummel, where the gingerbread man is made by an elderly couple and in the end is eaten by a sly fox. On another day, after reviewing the previous day’s story, read a version that is slightly different, perhaps one which takes place in a different setting, such as *The Gingerbread Boy* by Richard Egieslski, or one that involves different animals than the first version. After reading the second story, ask children what was the same about the two stories. Be sure to have both books available to refresh memories. After hearing several answers, ask children to name what was different between the two stories. If time and attention spans permit, you may want to chart the children’s comparisons. Finally, read a version on the third day that has a totally different ending such as *The Gingerbread Baby* by Jan Brett.

