

The Gingerbread Man Loose at the Zoo

Adapted from a book by Laura Murray

Illustrated by Mike Lowery

Character	Student Playing the Character
Gingerbread Man	
Narrator One	
Narrator Two	
Narrator Three	
Teacher	
Class	
Zoo Guide	
Giraffe (one line)	
Riddle 1	
Riddle 2	
Crocodile (one line)	
Monkey (silent actor)	
Naked Mole Rat (one line)	
Kangaroo (nearly silent)	

- Consider having each character highlight their lines.
- Possible PROPS: Magnifying glass, Zoo signs, long blue tongue, riddle papers, rope for vine, animal hats or ears on headbands
- SET: Chairs for bus, scenery for zoo

[Gingerbread Man waking up in bed.]

Gingerbread Man: I woke to the sound of a rumbling

[Teacher is at Gingerbread Man's window. Gingerbread Man cannot see her at first, only hear her.]

Teacher: ROAR!

Gingerbread Man: and hooting and howling and growling galore. I ran to my window to see this strange creature.

Teacher: GRRR!

Gingerbread Man: Imagine my shock when I saw my own teacher! My classmates all giggled.

Class: Hee Hee Ha Ha

Gingerbread Man: I joined in their game. We matched all her sounds to an animal's name.

Teacher: Hoo Hoo

Class: OWL!

Teacher: Ribbit Ribbit

Class: FROG!

Teacher: Ahh Oooo

Class: COYOTE!

Teacher: Sssss

Class: SNAKE!

Teacher: It's Zippity Zoo Day! Get ready to go. Let's load up the bus and find out what we know.

Teacher: We'll go on a scavenger hunt to the zoo! Here are some animal riddles for you.

Gingerbread Man: I'll be a detective. I know that I can! I'll solve all these clues. I'm the Gingerbread Man!

[Class arrives at the zoo. One student can hold up a zoo welcome sign.]

Zoo Guide: Have a wild day!

Class: ...said a man at the front as we pulled out our riddles to start on the hunt.

Riddle #1: I'm spotted. I'm gentle. I'm tall as a tree. A branch full of leaves is the best snack for me. I have a new baby, and she is my calf.

Class: Ah-ha! We all shouted. The answer's GIRAFFE!

Class: We followed the signs as we raced down the trail, 'till we spied her long legs and her thin spotted tail.

Gingerbread Man: I jumped on the railing to get a good look, and out popped her tongue like a curvy blue hook.

[Giraffe holds up a long blue curvy foam tongue, or wide blue ribbon to swirl around GB Man]

Narrator One: She scooped him up high as her tongue curled around, but nobody noticed below on the ground. His classmates were busily reading clue two.

Gingerbread Man: Oh no!

Narrator One: He cried out.

Gingerbread Man: "She's beginning to chew!" I'll wiggle and jiggle, as fast as I can. I'm not a green leaf. I'm the gingerbread man! I tickled her nose and she let out a sneeze.

Giraffe: Ahhhhhhhhhh chooooooooooooo!

Narrator One: Then he zoomed through the air to some tropical trees.

Narrator Two: A long loopy vine twisted down and around. So he whipped up his courage and swung to the ground.

Gingerbread Man: Weee!

Narrator Two: He glanced at his paper then knew what to do-

Gingerbread Man: By solving the riddles, I'll find my class, too!

Riddle #2: I scurry, I screech and I swing from my tail. I'm hanging around on the small primate trail. I love sweet bananas. I'm feisty and spunky.

Gingerbread Man: I know it!

Narrator One: He shouted.

Gingerbread Man: It must be a Monkey!

Narrator One: He heard a loud rustle and turned in surprise to a small cheeky monkey with curious eyes.

[Monkey starts to paw at his buttons.]

Narrator Two: He picked at his buttons, then tried for his hat.

Gingerbread Man: No way, silly rascal! I can't give you THAT! I'm not a banana,

Narrator Two: he said as he ran.

Gingerbread Man: I must find my class. I'm their gingerbread man!

Narrator Three: He stayed on his tail as he dodged through the grass, but he squeezed underneath the tall habitat glass. He followed the riddles and found the big cats,

All Narrators: MMMMMMROOOOOOOW!

Narrator One: the elephants,

All Narrators: RRRROOOOOOO!

Narrator Two: bears

All Narrators: GRRRRRR!

Narrator Three: and the naked mole rats.

Naked Mole Rat: Hi

Narrator Three: He waved to the zebra, the rhino, the seal, who was slurping down fish for her afternoon meal. The crocodile opened his big toothy trap. He eyed him like he'd make a good ginger...

Crocodile: SNAP! *[Extend arms like a crocodile mouth. Clap hands on "Snap!"]*

Narrator One: The fox licked his chops, so clever and sly. His classmates had warned:

Class: “Stay away from that guy!”

Gingerbread Man: I’ve got to keep looking. I know that I can! I’m not giving up. I’m the gingerbread man!

Narrator Two: He read the last riddle.

Gingerbread Man: I’ve got it!

Narrator Two: ...he said, then spied the right sign on the trail up ahead. He raced down the path and his feet fairly flew. Then out from a shrub popped a small kangaroo.

Narrator Three: She started to whimper

Kangaroo: [*Whimpers*]

Narrator Three: hopped this way and that, then snuffled, and shuffled, and slumped as she sat.

Gingerbread Man: Are you lost, little joey? I’ll help you get back. I’m kind of lost, too, but I’m on the right track. I’m following animal clues to the zoo, and I’m willing to bet that you know this one, too.

Gingerbread Man [*riddle*]: I love eating grasses. My ears are quite long. I use my strong legs as I’m hopping along. My mom has a pouch where I play peekaboo.

Narrator One: He looked as his friend.

Gingerbread Man: See? This clue’s about YOU!

Narrator One: She opened her pocket and pointed inside. He tucked himself in and said

Gingerbread Man: Thanks for the ride! We’ll follow the arrows that say kangaroo.

They’ll lead to my classmates and your mama, too! Together we’ll find them. I know that we can! A small kangaroo and a gingerbread man!

Narrator Two: They hopped down the path to the grassy savanna and spied a large crowd near the outback cabana.

Narrator Three: He popped from her pocket and jumped to the ground.

Narrator Two: She sprang to her mom with a long leaping bound.

Narrator Three: His classmates all pointed and let out a cheer.

Class: We followed the riddles and found you all here!

Zoo Guide: What a smart cookie! You helped save the day. Our joey got lost, and you showed her the way.

Teacher: I'm so very proud of my super zoo crew! Now it's time to head back to our habitat, too. Here's one more riddle to solve while we go. The answer is SOMEONE I think you might know.

Teacher [riddle]: I'm smart and I'm tough. I'm a really sweet guy. I have buttons, a hat, and a little bow tie. When problems arise, I cook up a plan.

Class: We've got it!

Narrator Three: They cried.

Class: It's our GINGERBREAD MAN!