

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# The Gingerbread Man's Lament

By Ruth Donnelly



Dear Santa,

I write my Christmas letter  
By the oven's fiery glow.  
'Cause I've got dreams and wishes,  
Though I'm only made of dough.

I wish I had some cowboy boots,  
And a pair of stonewashed jeans.  
I know I'm just a cookie,  
But my fashion sense is keen.

A leather jacket would be great,  
Or, failing that, a sweater.  
These candy buttons aren't so cool—  
A zipper suits me better.

I'd really love some Ray-Ban shades  
To hide my raisin eyes.  
And a purple wool fedora,  
If they make them in my size.

So, thanks for listening, Santa.  
I thought it worth a try.  
But you'd really better hurry—  
They're finished with their pie!



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1. The title of this poem is "The Gingerbread Man's Lament." What does the word *lament* mean? (Use a dictionary if you're not sure.)
  - a. to express sadness or sorrow
  - b. to beg or plead for something
  - c. to express joy and happiness
  - d. to list things you want to have

2. List the six items the Gingerbread Man asks Santa for.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

3. At the end of the poem, the Gingerbread Man says,

*But you'd really better hurry--  
They're finished with their pie.*

Why does he say this?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Where is the Gingerbread Man when he writes this poem?

\_\_\_\_\_

## ANSWER KEY

# The Gingerbread Man's Lament

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1. The title of this poem is "The Gingerbread Man's Lament." What does the word *lament* mean? (Use a dictionary if you're not sure.)

- a. to express sadness or sorrow**
- b. to beg or plead for something
- c. to express joy and happiness
- d. to list things you want to have

2. List the six items the Gingerbread Man asks Santa for.

**cowboy boots**

**stonewashed jeans**

**leather jacket**

**sweater**

**Ray-Ban Shades**

**purple wool fedora**

**Also accept: a zipper**

3. At the end of the poem, the Gingerbread Man says,

*But you'd really better hurry--  
They're finished with their pie.*

Why does he say this?

**Santa had better hurry because he might be eaten soon.**

4. Where is the Gingerbread Man when he writes this poem?

**He is in the oven, or near the oven.**