January 2026

# Mayor's Book Club

January Book-of-the-Month - The Gingerbread Man

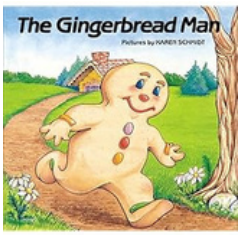
Sponsored by: Hampton City Schools

## Did You Know

Music powerfully engages a child's brain, helping develop language and early literacy. Singing is interactive and repetitive, allowing children to internalize rhythm, hear syllables, build vocabulary, and strengthen memory. Because oral language comes before reading, musical activities naturally prepare children for later literacy—simply through joyful participation.

Ways to support early literacy through music:

- Sing with your child often.
- Play many types of music.
- Explore high/low and loud/soft voices without criticism.
- Practice listening and repeating words, rhythms, or sounds.
- Clap or move to rhythms to help children hear smaller sounds in words.




## It's Fun and Easy!

The Gingerbread Man by Karen Schmidt This classic, energetic tale follows a speedy gingerbread cookie who pops out of the oven and dashes through town with a trail of surprised characters chasing after him. With its fun repetition and playful rhythm, this story invites children to predict, laugh, and join in on the adventure.

Tip #1 – Create your own gingerbread character!

Provide a gingerbread outline on paper or let your reader draw their own. Encourage them to design a new character—maybe a Gingerbread Girl, Gingerbread Puppy, or even a Super Gingerbread! Ask them to name their character and share where it might run off to.

Tip #2 – New word spotlight:

Highlight words like gingerbread, chase, fast, or clever. Say them together, talk about their meanings, and encourage your reader to use one in a sentence. What else is "fast"? What makes someone "clever"?

Tip #3 – Ask your reader:

Who chased the Gingerbread Man, and in what order? Retelling the story helps build sequencing skills. You can also ask: What do you think the Gingerbread Man should have done differently?

## The Gingerbread Man

GINGERBREAD
WOMAN
MAN
BOY
FARMER
PAN
RUN
BEAR
WOLF
FOX

mayorsbookclub.org

757-727-2710

The images in this newsletter were taken from these resources: Bing, Amazon, Pinterest, Lowes, Barnes & Noble

# Community Resources to Bring the Story to Life

Scratch Bakery
19 E Mellen St.
Hampton, VA 23669

Hampton Carousel
602 Settlers landing
Hampton, VA 23669
$1 per ride

Gosnold Hope Park
901 Little Back River Rd.
Hampton, Va, 23669

**Places Where Kids Can Enjoy Winter Themed Activities**

## *Learning Through Play: Gingerbread Man Cookies*

***What You Need***

- *Flour*
- *Brown sugar*
- *Soft butter*
- *Molasses*
- *1 egg*
- *Baking soda*
- *Ginger & cinnamon*
- *Salt*

***Steps***

1. *Mix butter + sugar.*
2. *Add egg + molasses.*
3. *Stir dry stuff (flour, soda, spices, salt).*
4. *Combine everything into dough.*
5. *Chill dough in fridge.*
6. *Roll + cut shapes.*
7. *Bake 8–10 min at 350°F.*
8. *Decorate when cool.*

***How It Helps You Grow and learn***

- *Hands get stronger from rolling and cutting.*
- *Math practice from measuring + counting.*
- *Brain skills from following steps.*
- *Creativity from decorating.*
- *Teamwork when you bake with others.*

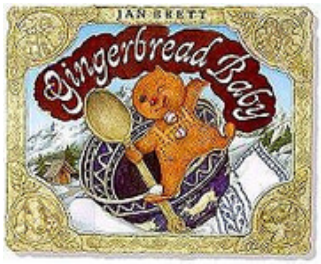
## What's Happening in Hampton

**Storytime at Barnes & Noble**
**January 10, 2026 at 11 am**
**5100 Kilgore Ave, Hampton VA 23666**

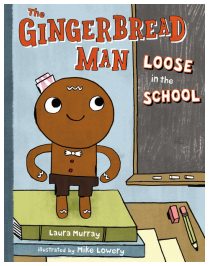
**Hampton University Museum**
**200 Williams R. Harvey Way**
**Hampton, VA 23668**
**Monday-Friday 8am-5pm**

## Book Picks

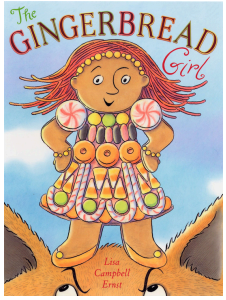
**The Gingerbread Baby**
by
Jan Brett




**The Gingerbread man loose in school**
by
Laura Murray & Mike Lowery




**The Gingerbread Girl**
by
Lisa Campbell Ernst




Thanks to Langley Civic Leaders Association, Air Force Association - Langley Chapter, Exchange Club of Wythe for their monthly support of the Mayor's Book Club