

Read the short story. Then answer each question.

## How to Catch a Cookie

Tommy woke to the sound of shouting and running feet. A big man in a long white apron ran past him shaking a wooden spoon in the air.

“Come back here!” the man yelled. He seemed very upset.

What is going on? Tommy wondered as he sat up in the grass beside a dirt path.

The big man stopped running and turned back to look at Tommy. “Did you see that?” he asked, still shaking his spoon.

“No. I’m sorry sir, I didn’t,” Tommy said.

“Gone. Just gone,” the man said and gave a deep sigh. “How will my bakery ever stay in business if my gingerbread men keep running off?”



“Excuse me, but did you say your gingerbread men can run?” Tommy asked.

“Of course, they can run. I gave them legs,” the baker replied. He stepped closer and offered his hand to help Tommy up. “What’s your name son?”



“I’m Tommy, sir.”

“No need to call me sir, Tommy. I am Chef Shiraz and I bake the best cookies you’ll ever taste, if you can catch one. The spice in my recipe gives them the snap to jump right off the pan once they’re cooked.”

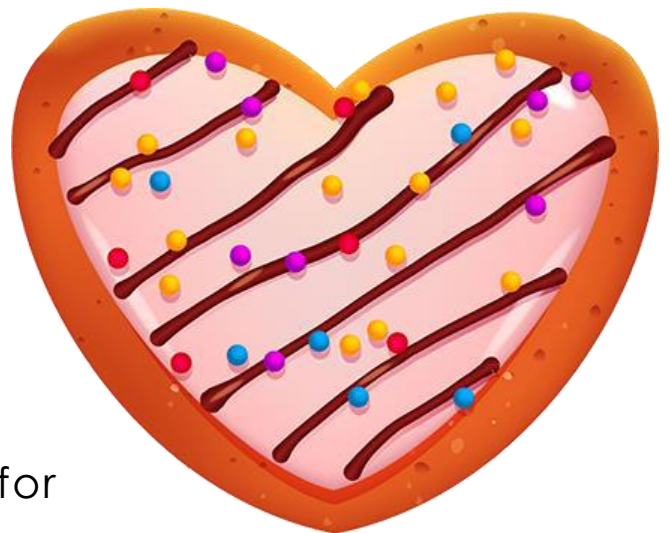
“That’s amazing Mr. Shiraz!” Tommy said. “I’d like to taste one of your cookies. Maybe I can think of something to help. What if you locked the bakery doors before you took the pan out of the oven?”

“Tommy...Tommy...Tommy,” Chef Shiraz said and shook his head. “I tried that once. What a mess! I had gingerbread running wild all around the bakery. They ran into me, into the walls and into each other. Nope. That kept them inside my bakery, but it didn’t keep them still.”

“What if you wrapped licorice around their legs before you put them into the oven?” Tommy asked.

“Tommy...Tommy...Tommy,” the baker said as he bowed his head to think. “I believe licorice will melt in a hot oven. Nope. That won’t even slow them down.”

“I know!” Tommy said. “In Germany they have a cookie that is something like a gingerbread. They cut them into the shape of hearts. What if you used a heart shaped cookie cutter for your gingerbread?”



“Tommy...Tommy...Tommy.” Chef Shiraz put his hands on Tommy’s shoulders and began to gently shake him.

“Tommy.” Tommy opened his eyes to find his mother gently shaking him.

“Wow Mom! You’re never going to believe the dream I just had.”



**Exercises:**

## 1. Multiple Choice

What gave the baker's cookies the snap to jump off the pan?

- a. eggs
- b. flour
- c. spice
- d. batteries

What did Chef Shiraz believe licorice would do in a hot oven?

- a. He believed the licorice would stretch.
- b. He believed the licorice would melt.
- c. He believed the licorice would become hard.
- d. He believed nothing would happen to the licorice.

What happened when the baker locked the bakery doors?

- a. The cookies stayed in the pan.
- b. The cookies burned.
- c. The cookies hid inside the oven.
- d. The cookies ran wild inside the bakery.

2. Fill in the blanks.

a. A \_\_\_\_\_ man in a long \_\_\_\_\_ apron ran past Tommy shaking a \_\_\_\_\_ spoon.

b. How will Chef Shiraz's \_\_\_\_\_ stay in business if his \_\_\_\_\_ men keep running off?

3. How would you solve the baker's problem?

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**Answers:**

## 1. Multiple Choice

What gave the baker's cookies the snap to jump off the pan?

c. **spice**

What did Chef Shiraz believe licorice would do in a hot oven?

b. **He believed the licorice would melt.**

What happened when the baker locked the bakery doors?

d. **The cookies ran wild inside the bakery.**

## 2. Fill in the blanks.

a. A **big** man in a long **white** apron ran past Tommy shaking a **wooden** spoon.

b. How will Chef Shiraz's **bakery** stay in business if his **gingerbread** men keep running off?

## 3. Answers will vary.