

# Gingerbread Self Portraits for “A Musical Celebration of Reading”

By Darlene Graham Productions  
Created by Darlene Graham and Jim Packard  
10-28-2011

## Description:

Students create child size Gingerbread People Self Portraits to decorate the performance space before the date of the performance. They will create the self portrait using a tracing of their body as the template.

This is an opportunity to discuss human proportions, for example how the tips of people’s fingers come down to the middle of their thighs and their elbows align with their waist.

Students should imagine themselves as a giant cookie and how they would look. They may consider colors of frosting. What foods could be used as decorations (raisins, red hots, chocolate chips, sprinkles, small candies, etc.). How large is a raisin or chocolate chip if it was your size?

Depending on the amount of children in this you can have each child make their own Gingerbread Man or work in pairs, trios etc...

*Teachers are to choose one Gingerbread Man that will be reinforced with cardboard or something sturdy behind it so that this child can present it at the assembly.*

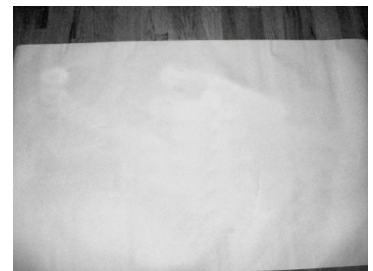
## Materials:

- 36 inch wide brown craft paper or newsprint paper.
- Scissors to cutout Gingerbread People
- Markers to trace students
- Markers, Crayons, paint, glitter, whatever you want to use to decorate
- Tape to hang Gingerbread People Self Portraits in performance space

## Step One:

Roll paper on floor and cut in lengths 6 to 12 inches taller than the student who will be traced.

It may be helpful to lightly tape corners in place for the next step.





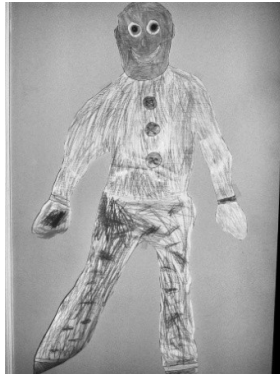


## Step Two:

Students will need to work in pairs at this point.  
Have the students lay down on their back in the position of a Gingerbread Cookie.

They need to work carefully so as not to rip the paper. The removal of shoes makes it easier for the student to step onto paper without ripping it.



<p>Step Three:</p> <p>Have a partner student trace the contours of the student lying on the paper using a marker or crayon. Try to stay as close to body as possible.</p> <p>This is an opportunity to discuss the term contour which is used in drawing maps or outlining people. A Contour is an outline, one representing or surrounding a shape or form of something.</p>	
<p>Step Four:</p> <p>Have student roll gently off the paper once the contour drawing is completed by their partner.</p> <p>This is an opportunity to view how proportion works and to view the contour drawing they have just created.</p>	
<p>Step Five:</p> <p>Color and decorate the Gingerbread man as they wish.</p>	
<p>Step Six:</p> <p>Cut out the Gingerbread Man</p> <p>(This step is optional; the whole sheet of paper could be posted in the performance space.)</p>	
<p>Step Seven:</p> <p>The Gingerbread self portraits will be used to decorate the walls around the performance area.</p> <p><i>Teachers are to choose one Gingerbread Man that will be reinforced with cardboard or something sturdy behind it so that this child can present it at the assembly.</i></p>	
<p>Copyright 2011 Darlene Graham Productions/Packard Creative</p>	