

Runaway Trail Answer Key

Completed Cause-and-Effect Chain

1. **Cause:** The Gingerbread Man jumps out of the oven.
Effect: The old woman begins to chase him.
2. **Cause:** He escapes the old woman.
Effect: A cow joins the chase.
3. **Cause:** He runs away from the cow.
Effect: A horse joins the chase.
4. **Cause:** He runs from the horse.
Effect: He meets the sly fox.
5. **Cause:** He trusts the sly fox to carry him across the river.
Effect: The fox eats him.

Reflection Sample Answer

Understanding cause-and-effect helps readers see how one action leads to the next. In *The Gingerbread Man*, each escape causes a new chase, building suspense until the ending. This shows how small actions can create big consequences.

Teacher Notes

- Emphasize that cause-and-effect is like a **domino effect**: one event pushes the next forward.
- Scaffold by providing visuals of each pursuer for younger learners.
- Extension: Ask students to imagine a different ending. What if the Gingerbread Man had not trusted the fox?