Runaway Trail

Directions: Read the short passage summary below. Think about how each **cause** (what happens first) leads to an **effect** (what happens next). Complete the **Cause-and-Effect Chain** by filling in the missing links. Write a short reflection on how cause-and-effect helps us follow the story's action.

Once baked, the Gingerbread Man leapt from the oven and ran away. As he sprinted, different characters began to chase him: the old woman, the cow, the horse, and finally the sly fox. Each chase happened because the Gingerbread Man ran away from the one before. In the end, the fox tricked him and caught him.

Fill in the missing events:

1. **Cause:** The Gingerbread Man jumps out of the oven.

   Effect: _____

2. **Cause:** He escapes the old woman.

   Effect: _____

3. **Cause:** He runs away from the cow.

   Effect: _____

4. **Cause:** He runs from the horse.

   Effect: _____

5. **Cause:** He trusts the sly fox to carry him across the river.

   Effect: _____

Reflection Question: Why does understanding cause-and-effect help readers better follow the Gingerbread Man's adventure?