

## The Gingerbread Dancer Cookie

It was the night before Christmas Eve, and Mrs. Claus was preparing the Elves Feast for Christmas Night, when they would celebrate the completion of all their hard work preparing the toys for Santa's sleigh ride around the world. Mrs. Claus **lifted** the Turkey into the Roasting Pan, and **rubbed** spices all over it. Then, she **mashed** the cooked potatoes to make them soft and creamy. Lastly, she began the baking of the special Christmas cookies she made each year.

**Opening** the special bag of magic flour, Mrs. Claus **shook** 8 cups into a giant bowl. She **added** sugar and spice with her special shaker, and then she **cracked** four eggs to add in. With both of her hands **clasped** together Mrs. Claus **mixed** the whole bowl with her whisk as fast as she could go. To add her special ingredient: "magic dancing dust", Mrs. Claus **spoke** her special words: "**Dance in the hall. Dance in the yard. Dance with the moon. Dance to your bed. These are the words for my little elf friends.**" And with that Mrs. Claus **clapped** her hands together four times quickly, **sprung forward with her toes** in three magical points, and **turned around** once in a piroette. Lastly, she **gathered** up the magic in the air and **blew** it over the cookie dough, **shaking** her fingers in a shimmy pattern until all the magic had entered the cookies.

Next, Mrs. Claus found her special cookie cutter, and **rolling** out the dough on her cutting board, she **cut** many, many cookies and **placed** them on the cookie sheets. **Putting** them in her big oven, Mrs. Claus cooked her Gingerbread Dancer's and let them cool on the kitchen table afterwards.

On Christmas Day, all the elves were very excited for they had finished their work just in time for Santa to head out on his sleigh, and now they could have their special party. **Sitting** at the table with their hands **folded** in their laps, the elves waited for the big feast. They **ate** their turkey with cranberries and mashed potatoes and then, they **drank** their milk. Waiting eagerly with **big, wide eyes**, they all **smiled from ear to ear** as they caught sight of Mrs. Claus and her giant batch of special Gingerbread Dancer cookies.

Eagerly they each **took a bite** of the cookies and immediately their feet felt light and tingly. Soon, they felt the magic move to their heads, and before they knew it, they were **out of their seats** and **leaping** around the room **on their toes**. The Gingerbread Dancer cookies were wonderful. The Elves **began to spin round and round**, and then **their hands began to draw circles in front of them**. This was their favorite part. The **put their heels together** and **opening their knees into a diamond, their hands flew up in a circle**. This always made **the elves chant** : "Merry Christmas!!!".

**After dancing and dancing as fast as they could** the Elves became tired and **started to yawn**. **Covering their mouths and rubbing their eyes**, the Elves began to **flap their toes** up the stairs to the bedrooms. **Shuffling their feet** as they put their pajamas on, the Elves **brushed their teeth**, and **galloped** to bed. And, before they could **wink their eye at Mrs. Claus** and thank her for the wonderful dinner, the Elves were **fast asleep, snoring in their beds**.

Mrs. Claus snuck upstairs to look at the Elves as they rested, and smiled to herself. The Gingerbread Dancer cookies were always a hit, and the Elves had so much fun dancing their way into Christmas slumber. Now she would save the last cookie for Santa, when he returned from his deliveries and needed his rest.

“Merry Christmas to All and to All a Good Night!”