

# ONCE UPON A TIME . . . WITH COOKIES

By Cindy Taft

Once upon a time there was a little girl named Sarah. She loved to eat cookies while reading nursery rhymes and fairy tales. She could not imagine anyone reading one of those wonderful stories without enjoying a delicious cookie and a glass of cold milk to go along with it.

Sarah had a marvelous imagination. As she read through each adventure, she always placed the kind of cookie she was eating in the story. For example, one of her favorite stories was Little Red Riding Hood. Whenever she read this story, she would eat Chocolate Chip cookies. She would imagine Little Red carrying some warm, gooey Chocolate Chip cookies to grandma's house in her basket. She wondered how many of those cookies ever made it to grandma's house after Red was finished with her trek through the woods, not to mention how many of those cookies she had to give away to the wolf when she came upon him in the forest. Poor grandma! She probably never got to taste any of them.

Another great fairy tale to read while enjoying cookies was Goldilocks and the Three Bears. This story called for Oatmeal Raisin cookies. As she enjoyed a few, Sarah always envisioned a big platter of them sitting on the counter in the bear's kitchen, but what she could never understand was why on earth would Goldilocks prefer yucky, cold porridge to cookies? Oh well, she didn't write the stories, she just enjoyed reading them and eating her cookies.

Peter, Peter Pumpkin Eater was a fun nursery rhyme to read while eating Spice cookies. Sarah reasoned that if Peter had his wife living in a pumpkin shell, she must have had a lot of spices she added to all the pumpkin pies she made out of the pumpkin from that shell. She surely made a batch of Spice cookies once in awhile to change things up a bit.

Around Christmas time, Sarah would always pull one of her favorite holiday books off the shelf and some serious baking would begin. The story was the Night Before Christmas, a story she had heard time and time again, but what would the Night Before Christmas be without Santa eating some cut-out Sugar cookies (duh!). Sarah's favorite cut-out was a Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer cookie. A red hot was always placed on the end of Rudolph's nose, along with frosting and some sprinkles.

Sarah had always wondered about the story of Jack and Jill. Why were Jack and Jill going up that hill to fetch that pail of water? Was it to get

something to drink to wash down their cookies? (Of course, milk goes much better with cookies). But why did Jack fall down and break his crown – hmmm? Could it be he and Jill were fighting over who got the last Shortbread cookie? Maybe.

Oh, the irresistible lure of cookies. Sarah knew she had to be careful and eat only a few cookies at a time. She remembered what had happened to Hansel and Gretel when they couldn't resist the temptation of the witch's Gingerbread cookie house. Guess they never heard of self control.

The Three Little Pigs was another fun story to read and enjoy yummy cookies. Sarah knew the truth about why the wolf was always trying to huff and puff and blow down the little pig's door. It was not to get to the little piggys – oh no. He had his sights set on some serious Peanut Butter cookies that were waiting for him on the other side of the straw, stick and brick house doors. Those cookies were his motivation for all the huffing and puffing, not the fat little piggys.

Sarah's favorite cookie of all was Double Chocolate Fudge cookies. She ate these while reading Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. Sarah knew the real reason Snow White had fallen into that deep sleep. It wasn't a poison apple. Snow White ate one too many Double Chocolate Fudge cookies the dwarfs made one night and she went into cookie shock. The prince came along when the cookie shock was wearing off. Thank goodness the glass case she was lying in had air holes. You never know how long a cookie shock will last if you over-do-it on cookies. Snow White found this out the hard way.

Sarah's love for reading made her one of the best readers in her class. One day, Sarah's teacher asked her, "Sarah, what is your secret for becoming such a great reader?" Sarah smiled a big grin and said in a loud voice, "It's all about the cookies!"

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