

THE REAL STORY OF THE HARE AND THE TORTOISE

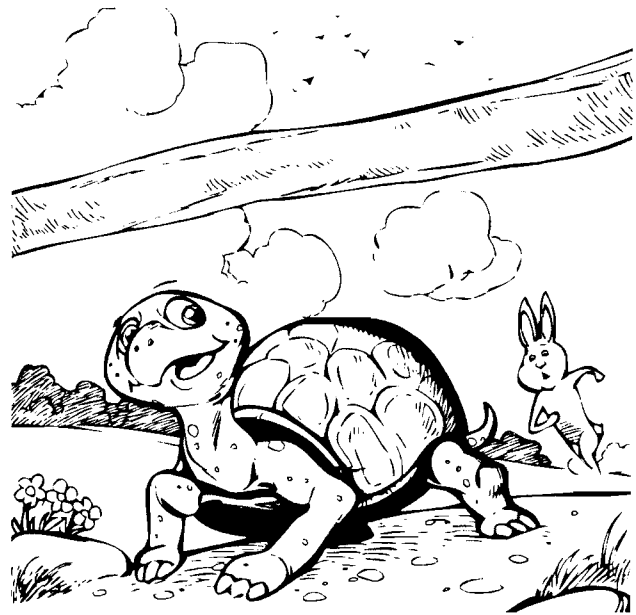
Was the Hare overconfident or was he just being a good friend?

Characters: Forest Animals (as many as desired) Hare, Tortoise, Fox, Narrator

Forest Animals: (chanting)
Pokey tortoise! Pokey tortoise!
Can't see where he's going without his glasses. Slowpoke! Slowpoke! He moves slower than spilled molasses.

Tortoise: I am not *always* slow. I could win a race with Hare if I *wanted* to.

Fox: Beat Hare in a race? Nobody can beat Hare in a race.



Forest Animals: Tortoise brags, Tortoise brags. But in a race, Tortoise lags!

Narrator: Hare overheard the animals teasing Tortoise and felt sorry for the poor fellow. Since Hare knew HE could run faster than anyone, he didn't have to prove it. So he decided to challenge Tortoise to a race and let the poor fellow win. Maybe then the teasing would stop.

Hare: You say you could beat me in a race? I am so fast that no one can beat me. If you think you can, why don't you try? Here is the starting line. We will race down the road, around the bend and past the cabbage field to the bottom of the hill.

Fox: Get Ready, Get set, GO!

Hare: I will fly like a rocket down the road, around the bend and out of sight before Tortoise takes his first step. Then I'll settle down for a nap.

Tortoise: I'm afraid I did too much talking. Now all I can do is keep on walking.

Forest Animals: Did you hear Tortoise brag? As a racer he's a drag!

Hare: Here comes the poor Tortoise around the bend. I will hop into that nearby field and have cabbages for breakfast. No one can see me there. They will think I am far ahead.

Narrator: Poor Tortoise, he just kept trudging along right past the cabbage field and started down the hill.

Forest Animals: Watch that pokey tortoise go. Did you ever see a thing so slow?

Hare: My goodness, look at all this trash folks have left along the road. I will clean it up and then rejoin the race.

Tortoise: Where did Hare go? I see the finish line up ahead. I suppose he has already crossed it. But if so, why aren't his friends cheering?

Fox: Here comes Tortoise. Where is Hare? He has not crossed the finish line yet. Wait, is that Hare way back there at the top of the hill?

Hare: I have to make this look good. Tortoise is almost there. I will leap high and run as fast as I can. I will gasp for breath, but my last leap will be too late.

Narrator: Sure enough, Hare's last leap across the finish line was too late. Tortoise had beaten him across the finish line. The animals were stunned. They looked at each other in disbelief. Tortoise looked at Hare and winked.

Tortoise: Thanks, buddy.

Hare: You're welcome, old friend.

Narrator: As for the other forest animals, they had nothing to say from that day on.



Activities For The Real Story Of The Hare And The Tortoise

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think the other animals teased Tortoise?
2. Did Tortoise know that Hare planned to let him win? Why or why not?
3. How do you suppose the other animals treated Hare after he lost the race? Why do you think so?
4. A *fable* teaches a lesson. What lesson does this fable teach?
5. Would you enter a race that you knew you could not win? Why or why not?

HARE'S EXCUSE

Hare wanted the other animals to believe that Tortoise had won the race fairly so that they would stop teasing Tortoise. When the animals asked Hare why he did not win he needed to think of a good excuse.

Choose four of the items from the list that follows to use in an excuse Hare might give for not winning the race.

rattlesnake
thumbtack
mad bear
green pond
bad shadows
molasses
sick fox

the mailman
\$50.00
bow & arrow
feathers
tomatoes
road tar
mousetrap

jello
blizzard
talking tree
cabbages
flower garden
crazed deer

I did not win the race because
