

STORY GUIDE

The Tortoise and The Hare

Original story by: Aesop

Read by: Lisa DiSimone



morals and themes

Hard Work, Slow and Steady Wins the Race

general comprehension questions

- Where does the story take place?
- Who are the characters?
- Who is your favorite character and why?
- Which character don't you like and why?
- What are the problems the characters face?
- How do they solve these problems?
- How does the story end?
- What lesson does this story teach you?

discussion questions

- Why did the tortoise challenge the hare to a race?
- Why was the hare so sure that he would win the race?
- How did the tortoise win the race even though he is slower than the hare?
- Why do you think the author chose to use animals as his characters?
- Why do you think the author used a tortoise and a hare as the main characters?
- Discuss the concept of a fable with your students. What are some other examples of fables?

extension questions

- What other stories does this remind you of?
- How does this story relate to your own life?
- Write an alternate ending for the story.
- Write your own version of what happens next.

research activity

Use the internet or library to research the landspeed of animals.

- How fast does a tortoise run? A hare?
- How fast does a human run?

notes on this adaptation

Though there are debates about the origin of this story, it is commonly attributed to Aesop, who was known for writing fables featuring animal characters. Because the nature of the animals chosen fits so well with the plot and message of the story, the main elements of the story are rarely changed in retelling. There are similar stories about competitions between animals, notably the Mayan folk tale "The Rabbit and the Crab."