

The Tortoise and the Hare

Once, there was a strong, young hare who bragged about how fast he could run.

Tired of hearing him boast, the wise tortoise challenged the hare to a race. The hare agreed at once, thinking that he would beat the tortoise easily.

All of the animals gathered at the finish line to watch the race.



As soon as the race started, the hare dashed ahead. He ran down the road but within minutes, decided to pause for a rest.

"How do you expect to win this race when you are walking along at such a slow pace?" he said smugly to the tortoise.



The hare stretched himself out next to a tree and fell asleep thinking, "There is plenty of time to relax. That tortoise will never beat me!"

The tortoise walked slowly past the hare. He walked and walked. He persevered until he got to the end of the race.

The animals cheered as they saw the tortoise reach the finish line. "Tortoise, you are the winner!" they shouted. The hare heard the cheering and woke with a start.



He zoomed as fast as a rocket towards the finishing line, but it was far too late. The tortoise had already crossed the line.

"It's not fair!" complained the hare. "I was asleep, we have to do the race again!"

But this time no-one listened to the hare. After that, the hare always reminded himself, "Don't show-off about your speedy pace. Slow and steady won the race!"

Keep trying, even when things seem hard.

Questions

1. Who are the main characters in the story? Tick two.

- ☐ a hedgehog
- ☐ a hare
- ☐ a tortoise
- ☐ a squirrel

2. Why did the hare think it would be an easy race to win? Tick one.

- ☐ because it was a short race
- ☐ because it was nice weather
- ☐ because he knew the tortoise would be very slow

3. What did the tortoise do? Tick one.

- ☐ He ran as fast as he could.
- ☐ He kept going.
- ☐ He used his bike.

4. Why did the hare want to do the race again? Tick two.

- ☐ because he had been asleep
- ☐ because he thought that it wasn't fair
- ☐ because he thought that the tortoise had cheated

5. What is the message in the story? Tick one.

- ☐ Keep trying, even when things seem hard.
- ☐ Tortoises are better than hares.
- ☐ Being the fastest is the best.

Questions

1. Which words are used to describe the hare in the first sentence? Tick two.

- ☐ short
- ☐ strong
- ☐ thin
- ☐ young

2. Why did the hare decide to stop for a rest?

- ☐ because it was a sunny day
- ☐ because he thought that the tortoise was so slow that he would never beat him
- ☐ because his feet were hurting

3. Draw a line to complete the sentences. One has been done for you.

The tortoise walked slowly	the hare dashed ahead.
"It's not fair!"	and woke up quickly.
As soon as the race started,	complained the hare.
The hare heard the cheering	past the hare.

4. In the story, the tortoise is described as 'wise'. Tick one word which means the same as 'wise'.

- ☐ funny
- ☐ clever
- ☐ angry

5. What is the moral of the story?

Questions

1. The story says that the hare 'bragged' about how fast he was. What is another word that means the same as 'bragged'? Tick one.

☐

talked

☐

boasted

☐

shouted

2. Why did the tortoise want to race the hare? Tick one.

☐

because he was tired of listening to him boast

☐

because he knew that he was a faster runner than the hare

☐

because tortoises love racing

3. Why did the hare stop for a rest?

4. The moral of the story is to 'keep trying, even when things seem hard.' What else can we learn from the story?

5. Do you think that the hare has learnt his lesson by the end of the story? Explain your answer.
