

The Hare and the Tortoise

Hare loved to show off. “I am the fastest animal,” he said, running around the field.

All of the other animals were used to his boasts and ignored him. Tortoise was slowly plodding around the field, looking for a juicy leaf to munch on.

“Tortoise you are so slow!” shouted Hare. “I bet I could beat you in a race.”

“You are indeed very quick,” replied Tortoise. “But I think that I could easily win a race against you.”

The other animals were shocked that Tortoise thought that he could win a race against Hare, for they all knew that Hare was the quickest animal that lived in their field. The animals decided that the race would be held the following day.



1. Which animal loved to show off?

Hare

2. Find and copy another word that means to *show off*.

boasts

3. What was Tortoise looking for?

a juicy leaf (to munch on)

4. Why were the other animals shocked?

Because Tortoise agreed to race Hare and they knew that he would not win (as Hare was the quickest animal).

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The next day, Fox called all the animals over to the start line. Hare and Tortoise were ready to begin their race.

“On your marks, set, GO!” cried Fox. As quick as a flash, Hare ran off, leaving Tortoise plodding slowly behind.

After a few minutes, Hare looked behind him and could see that Tortoise was a long, long way behind. He was feeling very hot and tired and so decided to have a nap. He settled down beneath a tree and drifted off into a deep sleep.

While Hare was sleeping, Tortoise continued to walk along the path towards the finish line. He noticed Hare asleep, leaning against a tree. Slowly, slowly, he continued to walk without stopping. He passed Hare and could see the finish line ahead.

5. Who called all of the animals to the start line?

Fox

6. *'He decided to have a nap.'*

What does the word '*nap*' mean?

a (short) sleep

7. Find and copy a word to show how Tortoise was moving.

slowly

8. Why do you think Hare decided that he could have a nap?

Because he was a long way ahead (so he knew that he could

still win).

Tortoise had almost reached the finish line. The animals began to cheer loudly as they knew that he would win.

The cheering woke Hare up. He sprung to his feet and looked towards the finish line. He could see that Tortoise had almost finished. “Oh no!” he sighed. “I have slept for too long!” and he dashed towards the finish.

Hare was too late. Tortoise had come first! As Hare crossed the line, Fox gave Tortoise a gold medal because he had won the race fair and square.

And Hare, never boasted about how fast he was ever again.

9. How did the animals cheer as Tortoise reached the finish line?

loudly

10. What woke Hare from his nap?

The animals cheering (loudly)

11. What colour medal was Tortoise given?

gold

12. What do you think Hare has learnt in this story?

Any answers below are acceptable:

That he should not show off (boast).

That he should not take for granted that he would win.

That slow and steady wins the race.