

Tortoise, Hare, and Eagle

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Tortoise was a slow and easy-going fellow. He liked to take his time.

Hare was a wild guy. He liked to run all over the place and get there quickly.

One day, Hare was tired of waiting for his friend to get places. Hare said, "You are so slow. It's very sad."

"I'm not slow. I'm just careful." Tortoise replied.

"I could beat you in a race with one leg tied behind my back." Hare declared.

"That's fine." Tortoise really didn't care. He was busy eating flowers and grass.

"Doesn't it bother you being slow?" Hare asked.

"Why do I need to go anywhere fast? I take my home with me. Everywhere I go I'm already home." Tortoise yawned.

Hare thought about that. He did have to get stuff fast and get back to his house underground to sleep. It was also dangerous when things wanted to eat him. Tortoise could just hide in his shell.

Just then, an Eagle swooped overhead. Hare had to run really fast to find a good place to hide. Tortoise just sat down, pulled his legs into his shell, and waited for Eagle to fly away.

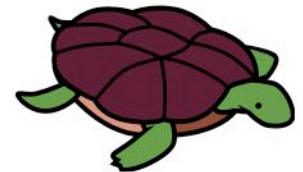
Eagle looked very hungry, but he couldn't catch fast Hare, and Tortoise was too heavy in his shell to carry away. Sadly, the Eagle flew on to look for an easier meal.

When Eagle was gone, Hare came back out to where Tortoise was sitting.

"It's safe now." Hare said.

Tortoise poked his head out and smiled. "I know. I'm just being slow about coming back out of my shell. I took a nap."

Hare never made fun of Tortoise again. His friend might be slow, but he was prepared. Being fast wasn't always the best thing!



The Owl and the Turtle

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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. Which character was not part of the story?
 - A. Eagle
 - B. Monkey
 - C. Tortoise
 - D. Hare

2. Why is Hare making fun of Tortoise?
 - A. Tortoise is silly.
 - B. Tortoise is dumb.
 - C. Tortoise is slow.
 - D. Tortoise is ugly.

3. Why does Tortoise not care about being slow?
 - A. He's always home.
 - B. He likes to take his time eating.
 - C. His legs hurt.
 - D. His shell is heavy.

4. Why does Hare have to run away fast?
 - A. A hungry Eagle is coming.
 - B. A mean badger is coming.
 - C. A big bad wolf is coming.
 - D. An evil witch is coming.

5. Why does Hare stop teasing Tortoise after the Eagle comes?
 - A. Tortoise got eaten.
 - B. Tortoise is angry at him.
 - C. Tortoise was safe in his shell.
 - D. Tortoise ran away.

The Owl and the Turtle – Answer Key

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