The Tortoise and the Hare

Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: A **fable** is a short story, often with animals that talk and act like people. It ends with a **moral**, a lesson about how to live.

Find the moral: What mistake did a character make, or what wise thing did they do? What should we learn from it?

The Tortoise and the Hare



A hare loved to brag about how fast he was. "No one in the whole forest can beat me," he boasted to everyone he met.

One day, a tortoise said quietly, "I will race you." The hare laughed so hard that he fell over. "You? You are the slowest animal I know!" But the race was set for the next morning.

When the fox shouted "Go!", the hare shot off like an arrow. Soon the tortoise was far behind. The hare looked back and couldn't even see him.

"This is too easy," the hare said. "I have time for a nap." He lay down under a shady tree and was soon fast asleep.

Meanwhile, the tortoise kept going. Step, step, step. He never stopped and never hurried. He passed the sleeping hare and kept on walking.

When the hare finally woke up, the sun was low in the sky. He raced toward the finish line as fast as he could, but it was too late. The tortoise had already crossed it, and all the animals were cheering.

Moral: *Slow and steady wins the race.*

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1. Check your understanding

Circle the best answer.

1. What did the hare like to brag about?

(a) How smart he was
(b) How fast he was
(c) His long ears

2. Who started the race?

(a) The fox
(b) The owl
(c) The hare

3. Why did the hare take a nap?

(a) He was sick.
(b) He thought he had plenty of time to win.
(c) The tortoise asked him to.

4. How did the tortoise win?

(a) He ran faster.
(b) He kept going and never stopped.
(c) He took a shortcut.

2. Write your answer

Answer in complete sentences. Use details from the text.

1. **Which character traits caused the hare to lose?**

2. **In your own words, what is the moral of this fable?**

Answer Key

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1. What did the hare like to brag about?

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2. Write your answer

Sample answers. Students' wording will vary.

1. **Which character traits caused the hare to lose?**
   He was boastful and overconfident, so he stopped to nap instead of finishing the race.
2. **In your own words, what is the moral of this fable?**
   Slow and steady wins the race.