



The Tortoise and the Hare

(adapted from the fable by Aesop)



Hare was a swift and speedy creature. He could easily hop circles around many animals. Compared to Hare, poky Tortoise was the slowest of all. One brisk, autumn morning Hare came racing up to Tortoise and skidded suddenly to a stop. He began to make fun of Tortoise. "You have short feet and a slow pace!" said Hare unkindly.

"That may be true," answered Tortoise cheerfully. "But even though you are swift as the wind, I can still easily beat you in a race!"

Hare laughed so wildly that he had to stop and gasp for breath. He then challenged Tortoise to a race the very next day. Tortoise accepted immediately and they agreed to meet promptly at noon by the huge, old oak

tree.

The next day, animals lined both sides of the road to watch the race. Tortoise and Hare stepped up to the starting line.

When fox blew the whistle to signal the start of the race, Hare took off so fast he looked like a furry blur! Tortoise began to move slowly and steadily in his usual plodding way. The animals looked at each other and thought, *there is NO WAY Tortoise will EVER win!*


Far ahead, Hare laughed triumphantly! "You'll never beat me!" he boasted loudly. Hare was so sure he was going to win, he decided he had time to stop by a peaceful pond and rest in the shade of the tall grass. With an overconfident smile on his whiskered face, he fell asleep.







Tortoise, meanwhile, continued to plod slowly

along. Step by step, he traveled the racing path. Eventually, steady Tortoise passed Hare, who was snoring loudly. Some time later, a dragonfly landed on Hare's nose and startled him awake. He leapt up and turned his head quickly from side to side. Suddenly, his ears stood straight up and his mouth dropped wide open. He couldn't believe it! Tortoise was nearing the finish line!

Hare began to sprint after Tortoise as fast as he could. His heart raced and his muscles ached from running so fast, but he could not catch Tortoise in time.

Tortoise smiled happily as he stepped over the finish line. He had won! He waited patiently for Hare to reach the end, then politely shook his paw. Hare learned a valuable lesson that day: *slow and steady wins the race!*

 **Sequence the Story: The Tortoise & the Hare**
 Number the pictures in the order they happen in the story.

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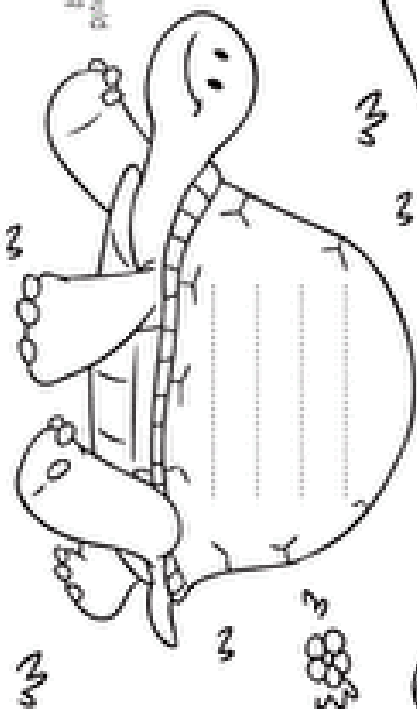
The Tortoise and the Hare - Adjectives

In the story of the tortoise and the hare, the tortoise is known for being slow, and the hare is known for being fast. Look at the adjectives below and decide which words would best describe the tortoise and which ones would best describe the hare.

Which other words could describe the tortoise?



Which other words could describe the hare?



quick deliberate steady speedy
 unhurried hasty plodding swift