



The Hare and the Tortoise

The Hare challenges the animals to a race and taunts them that they are too scared to even try. The Tortoise offers to race but the Hare scoffs that he won't waste his time on the slowest creature in the world. The Tortoise says the Hare must be scared of being beaten, so the Hare agrees to a race.

The Tortoise 'trains' for the race but continues to move very slowly. Nevertheless, there is a large crowd of animals gathered on the day of the race.

The race starts and the Hare roars off. When he stops to look back, the Tortoise has barely crossed the starting line. The Hare says he'll be able to stop for a rest and still beat the Tortoise. However, when the Hare goes to sleep, he sleeps for so long that the Tortoise overtakes him.

The animals cheer as the Tortoise nears the finishing tree. The Hare wakes and runs as fast as he can to catch up, but the Tortoise just makes it to the finish in time. Sometimes slow and steady wins the race.

Sequence of events:

Suggestions for use include: cues for oral storytelling, support for storyboarding, story planning/writing etc.

- Hare challenges animals to a race
- Tortoise responds to challenge
- Tortoise spends a week in training
- Race starts, Hare is so far ahead that he stops for a rest and falls asleep
- Tortoise overtakes Hare while he sleeps
- Cheering wakes the Hare

- Hare races to catch up
- Tortoise finishes just in time and wins

Characters: Hare; Tortoise; Fox; Badger; Crow; Rabbit

Theme(s): Doing things quickly doesn't necessarily mean doing them well; Defeat of arrogance and over-confidence; Courageous underdog

Moral: *Don't be over-confident; Even if you think you can't succeed, it is still good to put in the best effort that you can; Doing things quickly does not necessarily mean doing them well*

Understanding, interpreting and responding to texts:

- Why do you think the Hare shows the other animals how fast he can run? (He wants to show off)
- Why don't most of the animals want to race the Hare? (They know how fast the Hare is so a race would be pointless)
- How do you think the Hare feels when the Tortoise says he must be scared of being beaten? (His pride is hurt)
- What makes it possible for the Tortoise to win the race, despite being very slow? (The Hare decides to go to sleep and the Tortoise chooses to keep going)
- Why does the Hare stop for a rest? (He is over-confident; he wants to mock the Tortoise)
- What makes the Hare wake up? (The cheering of the other animals)
- Why won't the animals listen to the complaints of the Hare at the end of the race? (They are happy that the Tortoise has won; they've had enough of the Hare and his boasting)